

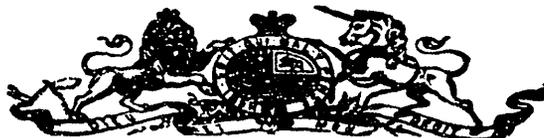
OFFICIAL REPORT
OF THE
DEBATES
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF THE
DOMINION OF CANADA

FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

63-64 VICTORIA, 1900

VOL. LII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE SIXTH DAY OF APRIL TO THE SEVENTH DAY
OF JUNE, INCLUSIVE



OTTAWA
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1900

VOL. II

ERRATA.

Column 3580, line 21 from top.—	For \$154,051,593	read	\$25,734,228
" 3580	" 32	"	After 'cent' insert 'more.'
" 3581	" 42	"	For \$387,237 read \$388,337.
" 3581	" 42	"	For 1897 read 1887.
" 3583	" 25	"	For 'less' read 'greater.'
" 3583	" 15 from bottom.—	For 'assistance'	read 'combinations.'
" 3583	" 14	"	After 'country' insert 'and United States.'
" 3584	" 25	"	For 'Martin' read 'Morton.'
" 3585	" 12 from top.—	For 'they'	read 'we.'
" 3586	" 3	"	After 'speech' insert 'to think.'
" 3587	" 13	"	After 'people.' insert 'But.'
" 3588	" 2	"	After 'pounds' insert 'or more.'
" 3603	" 31	"	After \$604,397,267 insert 'annually.'
" 3603	" 36	"	After 'here' insert 'which would.'
" 3603	" 11 from bottom.—	After 'insurmountable'	insert 'customs.'
" 3605	" 37 from top.—	After 'then a'	insert 'mine of.'
" 3680	" 1	"	Dele 'a year.'
" 3998	" 27	"	For 'cannot' read 'can.'
" 4000	" 17 from bottom.—	For 'placed'	read 'added.'
" 4017	" 5	"	For '\$100,000,000' read '\$10,000,000.'
" 4023	" 22	"	For '\$115,476' read '115,476.'

House of Commons Debates.

FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 131)—from the Senate—for the relief of Edwin James Cox.—(Mr. Montague.)

EXODUS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. H. F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the government to a despatch from St. John, N.B., that I find in a Montreal newspaper :

St. John, N. B., April 4 (special).—The exodus from the maritime provinces to the United States is larger this spring than for many years. Every train and steamer leaving St. John for Boston carries away some young men and women from the city or the interior.

I may say that two or three weeks ago, I was travelling on the Intercolonial Railway train, and every car was so crowded that there was hardly standing room. The baggage car on that train broke down, and it took two hours at Rivière du Loup to transfer the baggage to another car to allow the train to proceed. I would like to ask if the government are doing anything to stop this exodus ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I think it will probably be found that

the people referred to were on the way to Sydney to engage in the great enterprises which are being established there.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Unfortunately, they are going the other way.

Mr. McDOUGALL. A paid government officer was in charge of them to take them across the line to the United States.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am sorry the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is not in his seat, and I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when the report of the Postmaster General will be brought down. It is a very important report, and it is almost impossible to discuss estimates until it is brought down.

THE MOUNTED POLICE ACTS.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). There are on the list of Public Bills and Orders three Bills, one an Act to amend the Mounted Police Pension Act, and if the right hon. gentleman will refer to a speech of his made in 1898, he will find he has accepted the principle of that Bill. Then, there is Bill No. 19, to amend the Mounted Police Act of 1894, and if he will read the discussion that took place in 1898 and 1899, he will find that he promised to consider the legislation provided for here. Then, there is the Land Titles Act, and I think the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick)

will see no objection to the government taking the Land Titles Act in hand, because all that it provides for is that in regard to wills made in the United Kingdom, the same facilities shall exist in the North-west as exists for wills made in eastern Canada.

WELLINGTON BRIDGE, MONTREAL.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the government to an item which appeared in the *Montreal Daily Witness*, on the 2nd of April. It is headed: 'Wellington Bridge; Alarming statement from an Ottawa Civil Engineer':

Mr. J. L. P. O'Hanley, C.E., of Ottawa, has addressed a letter to the Governor in Council calling attention to what he terms 'the dangerous state of railway bridge on the Lachine Canal at Wellington Street, Montreal.' What he finds fault with is the construction of the pivot pier, which, he says, 'with the water out of the canal, and maybe with the water in, is liable to collapse at any moment, and sure to do so sooner or later. Its immunity hitherto has been due to the cohesion of the material of the foundation in resisting the disintegrating action of water. This being an unknown factor, cannot, and should not for an instant be relied on, nor, with precious lives and valuable property in the balance, should it for a moment hold.' This is now so far advanced, he adds, that if anything is to be done it must be done promptly and one of two alternatives chosen—either building a new pivot pier between this and the opening of navigation, which, with fair management, should not take more than three weeks, or to close the bridge to traffic till next winter.

I wish to ask if any inquiry has been made concerning the condition of the bridge, or if there is any proof of the danger mentioned here by the engineer.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The attention of the government has not been called to this correspondence in the *Witness*. But, I may say that I received a letter from Mr. O'Hanley on this subject, and the matter is now being investigated.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

Mr. R. TYRWHITT (South Simcoe). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that reports have been received almost daily from Col. Otter in South Africa, and these reports are not given to the public through the press until possibly the following day. I would like to remind the government that people in this country who have relatives in South Africa take great interest in what is transpiring there, and should receive at the earliest moment information with regard to their friends. I would like to ask if a message was received this morning.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). There was a report received this morning, which will be communicated to the press in a few minutes. It is necessary that the officers of the department should look over the reports before they are given to the public. The reports have invariably been given to the public at the earliest possible moment, and will be so in future.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). I can understand that under certain circumstances it may not be well for the government, for obvious reasons, to communicate all telegrams or information received; and there may be matters which could not be communicated to the House for a similar reason. I am not prepared just now to state what the reason might be. But I may say that when we had similar troubles in the past, though of less importance, but still deeply interesting to the public, the government not only chose to communicate the telegrams to the press, but the Minister of Militia of that day used to communicate to the House every day the telegrams as they came in, that is, when they were of such a nature that they could be made public. I do not at all find fault with the government in the present in-

stance, except that I think it would be much more satisfactory to the public if they were to do as is done in England, when the Secretary or Under Secretary for War communicates to the public information which has been sent to him by the general in command. I think it would be possible for the Minister of Militia and Defence to communicate daily whatever information he receives officially, and that would be satisfactory to the people of Canada, who are so deeply interested in knowing as early as possible the official news from South Africa from the fact that so many of our young men are engaged in that unhappy conflict.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I may add to what I have already said, that, so far as cablegrams are concerned, they are at once given to the press, so that, really, before the meeting of parliament each day, communication has already been made to the press, and the cablegrams are posted up on the bulletins in the city. So far as this report from Col. Otter is concerned, which I have here, it is a report of considerable length, and I think it would be more convenient, rather than reading it to the House, to, at once, have it published in all the newspapers of the country.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Borden). He has the report in his hands and he certainly should pursue the course that is invariably pursued in the British House of Commons. The minister reads telegrams of that kind at once to the House. The first persons to be taken into the confidence of the government are the members of parliament who are here. I do not propose that the report should be held over and kept from the press for a single hour, but, when parliament is assembled, there can be no objection to a statement made on such an important subject being communicated at once, and I am quite certain, that, however anxious we are to get on with the business, we will all be ready to listen to the report which the hon. gentleman has received.

Mr. TYRWHITT. Would the hon. minister kindly inform the House at what time the report was received this morning?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. So far as I know the report was received this morning.

Mr. TYRWHITT. Yes, but at what time?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not know. I was not aware that the report had been received until half an hour ago.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. minister read the report?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The report is as follows:

(From the Officer Commanding 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment, to the Chief Staff Officer of Militia, Canada.)

Paardeberg Drift, Feb. 26, 1900.

Sir,—I have the honour to report upon the part taken by the battalion under my command in the engagement at Paardeberg on the 18th instant.

The battalion arrived near Paardeberg Drift, with the 19th Brigade, at 6 a.m. of the 18th instant, having formed the rear guard of the brigade in its march during the night from Klip Drift, a distance of twenty-one miles.

Within half an hour of the arrival of the battalion orders were received to be ready to parade at 7 a.m., and at 7.20 a.m. the battalion moved out to support the artillery, about a mile away; the men in the meantime had had a biscuit and a cup of tea.

Hardly had the battalion reached the place designated than it was ordered to move to the drift and cross the river.

This was done, and the crossing began at about 8.30 a.m. The current ran nine miles an hour, while the water was sufficiently deep to reach up to the men's arm-pits—two crossings were used, about fifty yards apart, over one of which a rope was stretched, by which the men passed across, holding on to it, and at the other the men passed over in fours with linked arms.

The companies as they crossed were pushed forward, and at 9.30 a.m., 'A' and 'C' companies were in the firing line at about 500 yards from the enemy, who occupied the woods along the near edge of the river, but were totally hidden from view; they also occupied a series of dongas enflading our left flank, but this was not discovered until towards afternoon, when they disclosed themselves, although they were quietly 'sniping' from that direction all day. 'D' and 'E' companies formed the support, while as 'B,' 'F,' 'G' and 'H' came up they formed the reserve.

The remainder of the brigade was disposed of as under, the D. of C. L. I. on our right, the Gordons and Shrops L. I. on our left, in the order named, but on the other side of the hill on our left and behind the artillery. The battalion, however, was practically alone, and during the whole day received no orders or instructions from any one, until about 4 p.m., as noted later on.

In addition to the 19th Brigade, the 3rd (Highland) Brigade was engaged on the south side of the river, besides artillery and mounted infantry.

Firing began at about 9.30 a.m. from the enemy's right and continued along their front towards the centre.

The advance of the battalion took place over perfectly open ground somewhat undulating, and with no cover save the inequalities of the ground, and a few ant-hills.

The firing line attained a position from the enemy varying from 400 yards on the right to 800 yards on the left, where it remained until late in the afternoon. After the establishment of the firing line, the enemy's fire was for some time very severe, and Capt. Arnold, who at the time was doing most excellent service, was mortally wounded, and many others hit. During this time three or four men in the reserve were wounded at a distance of over 1,600 yards.

At about noon 'D' company reinforced the firing line, and shortly afterwards 'E' and part of 'B' company also reinforced the remainder of 'B,' 'F' and 'G' companies, becoming supports, with 'H' still in reserve.

Only one Maxim gun could be crossed, and that was soon got into position by Capt. Bell on the rising ground to the left, at a distance of some 1,000 yards, where it did most excellent service during the day, being in a position to keep down the fire of the enemy, who occupied the dongas on our left. A battery of field artillery occupied the hill on our left rear, and shelled the enemy's lines at intervals during the day. The fire discipline of the several companies engaged was excellent, and perfect coolness, as well as accurate shooting, was maintained throughout.

Throughout the day the fire was maintained, at times being comparatively slack, and then severe. The enemy evidently had the ranges marked, as their fire at certain prominent places was so accurate as to render them almost untenable by us. Interruption to our fire was occasioned several times during the day by the cry from beyond the right of our line to 'stop firing on the left,' as men in that part were being hit from the fire from our left. The fire complained of was, I am satisfied, from the dongas occupied by the enemy on our left, and not from our men.

At about 4 p. m., three companies of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, under Lieut.-Col. Allworth came up, and this officer informed me that 'he had been sent to finish this business,' and 'proposed doing so with the bayonets'; he then asked for information respecting our own position and that of the enemy, which I gave him.

One company of the Cornwall's was at once sent into the firing line, followed in half an hour by the other two, this reinforcement being received by a very heavy fire from the whole length of the enemy's front.

At 5 p. m. Lieut.-Col. Allworth notified that a general advance would take place, and about 5.15 p. m. the whole force, with the exception of parts of 'G' and 'H' companies, which I held in reserve, went forward with a rush; the fire of the enemy became intense, and after an advance of about 200 yards effectively stopped our men; and no further progress could be made. The loss to both the corps taking part in the charge was very severe. Lieut.-Col. Allworth was killed.

The position gained was, however, held, and a continuous heavy fire maintained until darkness set in, about 7 p. m., when I gave the order to collect the dead and wounded and withdraw to the bivouac at the drift. The enemy also withdrew from their position at the same time, to the Boer laager, some two miles up the river, leaving a few men in the dongas on our left, who continued 'sniping' our collecting parties until 2 p. m.

Many instances of individual bravery were displayed, as for example, the case of No. 8110, Pte. Kennedy, who led one of the ammunition mules right up to the firing line, where it was instantly killed. The company stretcher-bearers exhibited great pluck, and five of them were among the wounded; three were wounded in conveying Capt. Arnold from the firing line. The stretcher upon which he was being made a special object of attention by the Boer marksmen. In connection with this incident, I must note the courage displayed by Surgeon-Capt. Fiset, who, when the stretcher upon which Capt. Arnold was being brought to the rear was stopped a

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

short distance from the firing line, but the wounding of one of the bearers, went forward and attended to Capt. Arnold, and subsequently assisted a bearer in bringing him to the rear. Capt. Fiset also attended to many others wounded under fire during the day.

Lieut.-Col. Buchan was in charge of the firing line, which he directed and controlled in the coolest and most effective manner, while my acting adjutant, Lieut. Ogilvy, rendered excellent service in carrying my orders about the field. The following N.C. officers and men distinguished themselves during the day, viz.: No. 6559, Sergt. Utton; No. 7117, Pte. Andrews; No. 7040, Pte. Dickson; No. 7043, Pte. Duncafe; No. 7376, Pte. Page; and No. 7306, Pte. Murphy.

The collection of the dead and wounded of both our own battalion and those of the D.C.L.I., was made by parties of the Royal Canadians, and continued all night. The duty was a most onerous one, and too much credit cannot be given to those who were engaged in it. By 7 a. m. of the 19th inst., all the dead of the battalion were buried, besides many of these of the D.C.L.I., and the wounded sent to the rear. I must here place on record the great services rendered by the R. C. chaplain of the battalion, the Rev. Father O'Leary, who was present in the field all day, and towards the end in the firing line, while during the night he was prominent in the search for the wounded, as well as officiating in the burial of the dead.

Several of the officers accompanied these parties up to midnight, while No. 685, Q.-M. Sergt. Reading; No. 7304, Sergt. Ramage; No. 7302, Sergt. Middleton, and No. 7258, Pte. Whingate, were out all night on this day.

Another incident of coolness and pluck was that of No. 7347, Pte. Hornibrook, who at daylight in the morning of the 19th inst. was down in the extreme right of the lines occupied by the enemy the previous day. He was unarmed, and came suddenly upon an armed Boer, looking for a stray horse. With great presence of mind Hornibrook pretended to be armed with a revolver, and called upon imaginary assistance, at the same time demanding the man's surrender. The Boer at once submitted, and on being brought in proved to be one of General Cronje's adjutants, and a most important officer.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W. D. OTTER, Lieut.-Col.,
Commanding Royal Canadian Regiment,
2nd Battalion.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (Montreal, St. Ann's). I am sorry that the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), has gone out for a moment, because, I think, the matter to which my hon. friend from South Simcoe (Mr. Tyrwhitt), referred, was more particularly relevant to the wounded and ill, who have not been heard of for a long time. I had occasion to ask in the Department of Militia and Defence—and I must say that the minister has been very kind under the circumstances—some information about one of the young privates of the first contingent, but for the last three weeks I have been unable to get any information whatever about him. I think it is the duty of the government—and if the minister does not possess the power, I think he should be vested with it—to obtain, as soon as possible, correct information about the Canadians who have

been wounded or are ill in South Africa, and let their friends and relatives have information about them as soon as possible. I am told that it is utterly impossible for any private individual to obtain information concerning any relative who is wounded or ill at the seat of war. Cables have been sent, but they have had to pass through certain channels and have remained unanswered. The only source of information these people have is through the Militia Department here, and, I think, that the House should see that the minister is clothed with sufficient power to obtain that information in order that it may be transmitted at the earliest possible moment to the families of those suffering.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The information which we receive here is the information which comes through the Commander in Chief, and is precisely the information which is sent to the War Office in England. We get all the information which goes forward to the War Office, and I do not know that any action which can be taken by this House could add anything to our facilities. I think we are obtaining now all the information we could possibly obtain under the existing condition of things in South Africa; all the information which the Commander in Chief thinks it necessary to forward. I would be very glad to have representations made through the proper channels, if it is thought desirable to do so, but I do know that we receive all the information which the people of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other parts of the empire (who are quite as much interested as we are), receive, and with which they seem to be content.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the proposed motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, before I resume the debate upon the motion of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I should like to say that the Private Hornibrook, who was complimented in the official despatches from the seat of war, which have been read to this House, is a member of an old Haldimand family, and a brother-in-law to Mr. William Lount, Q.C., late member of this House for Toronto.

I regret, Sir, that you, yourself, and a large number of the members of this House were absent during the late hours of yesterday's sitting. I think I bear out the opinions of my colleagues who were here, when I say that we were treated to an acrobatic exhibition the

equal of which has scarcely ever been seen in this parliament; and I venture to say that we shall scarcely ever witness its equal again, unless some time in the future the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) should take it into his head to announce to the House that he was the originator of the idea of sending contingents to South Africa, and of proving that the whole matter, in its conception and carrying out, rested with himself. We are not unaccustomed, Sir, to hon. gentlemen upon the Treasury benches swallowing themselves. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) each session since 1896 has swallowed himself in one of those characteristic speeches to which we occasionally listen; but he always does it with a grumble and a growl. The member for North Norfolk last night did it with evident pleasure and satisfaction. I ask hon. gentlemen from both sides to read his speech, and after they have done so, they will, I am sure, conclude with me that the hon. gentleman succeeded in proving, not only that every opinion which he expressed upon trade matters in this House for eighteen years was arrant nonsense and humbug, but that no one with half a measure of sanity would ever have expressed such opinions. There was a time, Sir, when the member for North Norfolk was supposed to have opinions of his own, and to be prepared at all times to express those opinions without the permission and with no fear of any one upon the Treasury benches. But the fleshpots of Egypt have been too inviting and too promising for the hon. gentleman; and if he still holds any opinions of his own, he dropped them, mildly and humbly following at the beck and nod of his masters in the administration, and growing louder even than they in denouncing the policy which he supported only a few years ago. If half a decade of years ago an hon. member of this House had prophesied that in this year of grace 1900 we should find the member for North Norfolk expressing those opinions he expressed last night, the House would have been surprised at the audacity of such a prophet, the opinion, for instance, that upon a trade matter it was dangerous for this House to express an opinion at all, as we might disturb the flow and increase of that Imperial spirit which is filling the empire to-day; so warm a devotion for the motherland that he was not only willing to give our markets for nothing, but to call the man who wanted to get something in return rankly disloyal; the opinion that we should stop truckling to the United States of America, whose policy had always been narrow, unfair, unjust and illiberal towards us. These are the things which *Hansard* says the member for North Norfolk said to this House last night; and by whom, Sir, are they said? They are said by a gentleman who for eighteen years urged and prayed the people of this coun-

try to discriminate against Great Britain; a gentleman who a few years ago poked ridicule at our Canadian volunteers who went to the front when the Fenians invaded our shores; a gentleman who only a few years ago thought it necessary in his speech in this House, to mention 154 times the necessity of getting the market of the United States and discriminating against Great Britain. They are said by the same gentleman who only a few years ago kindly wrote a letter to the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Senate, telling them that their tariff was not as effective as against Canada as it might be, and pointing out the methods by which the United States of America could bring Canada to her knees. No better illustration has ever taken place in this House of the truth of that old poem:

While the lamp holds out to burn,
The vilest sinner may return.

We are glad of it. We are especially glad of it because the hon. gentleman in the old days expressed sentiments that were not likely to do Canada any good. But let me tell the Prime Minister that the hon. gentleman's earnest advocacy of this policy last night is not likely to impress the people of the province from which I come as to the Canadianism of that policy; for I submit, Sir, that knowing the opinions expressed by the member for North Norfolk in the past, the people of Ontario will have a very grave suspicion as to the Canadianism of any policy that is enthusiastically supported by that hon. gentleman, and they have very good reason for that suspicion. Only two or three months ago we had a case tried in the courts of the province of Ontario. It was a case against the province of Ontario brought by the lumbermen of Michigan, who hoped to compel the government of that province to pay some millions of dollars damages for the adoption of a Canadian policy—which, I may say by the way, was forced upon them by Mr. Whitney and his followers; and when that case came for trial, the first man whom the Michigan lumbermen put in the box to prove their contention and to rob the treasury of the province of Ontario was the member for North Norfolk. The hon. gentleman pushes his Canadianism when it costs him nothing; he does not push it when it costs him something. A few years ago we were discussing in this House the question of reciprocity in wrecking, and the hon. member for North Norfolk was opposed to it, while being in favour of every other kind of reciprocity; and during the debate it was established that the why and the wherefore of the hon. gentleman's Canadianism was the fact that he himself possessed a wrecking plant which would have been interfered with had reciprocity in wrecking been established between the two countries.

Mr. MONTAGUE.

Mr. MILLS. And it worked on Sundays, too.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman surely must have reason for his Canadianism and his support of the government policy on the present occasion; and I see it suggested in the press that his reason is not an unselfish one. We hear that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has gone away for his health, and perhaps it occurs to the mind of the hon. member for North Norfolk that by giving that humble and humiliating support to the government of the day, by reaching to expertness in the use of those vinegar-steeped adjectives which have characterized the speeches of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) for many years, and by making himself a very good second of the hon. member for South Oxford, in the science of the acrobat profession, he may take the place of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the government. The hon. gentleman brought forward some arguments to which I shall refer as I deal with the subjects in their proper order, and I venture to say that they will cause no little surprise to the members of the House who had not the pleasure of listening to him last night. When the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce addressed the House the other evening, in that modest manner of his, to which we are accustomed, he chided the ex-Minister of Finance for want of knowledge, want of ability, and took occasion to say that the ex-Minister of Finance had occupied fifty-five mortal pages of *Hansard*. Well, Sir, it is an extraordinary coincidence that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce occupied exactly fifty-five pages himself. Evidently knowing that in quality his speech was inferior to that of the ex-Minister of Finance, he struggled—and Heaven knows the House will never forget how hard he struggled—to supply in quantity what it lacked in quality, and to reach the fifty-five page limit. He stated to the ex-Minister of Finance that there was a very well-known declaration in the sacred book that we should hereafter have to give an account of every idle word used in this life. The hon. gentleman's caution must come home to himself, and I do not think that his chances, upon his final examination, will be the better for the reason of his having attributed to Solomon what belongs to Job. And if the hon. gentleman were here, I would like to give him, in view of the immodest exhibition which he made of his own opinion that he possessed great and superior knowledge, another quotation from his favourite author, words used when Job said to the men who bored him by the tendering of their advice: 'No doubt ye are the people and wisdom will die with you.'

Well, the hon. gentleman went on to give a poetical quotation, which was intended:

to be perfectly crushing, to the ex-Minister of Finance, which, he said, came from the Idylls of the King. Just a moment before, the hon. gentleman had been discussing a chapter in Locke, where that great philosopher had been discussing the wonderful and unseen influence of the association of ideas. The Minister of Trade and Commerce must have been under the spell of that influence himself, for instead of his poetical quotation coming from the Idylls of the King, it came from a poem known as 'The Grandmother.' And, it did, Sir, appear to me eminently fitting that the old lady, who in younger days, had dispensed sweets to these gentlemen opposite, when their house was not nearly so well furnished and their larder was not nearly so well supplied as it is now, should feel that his position as grandmother had been usurped by a much younger—old lady I was going to say—but a much younger gentleman in the person of the Minister of Finance, and that he, himself, in his old days, had largely been forgotten and crowded out. Would the members of the government permit me to give a quotation from Tennyson, too, which, I think, will apply to the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who, simply for the purpose of receiving the emoluments, hangs on to a position which he himself said some years ago should be abolished, because there was no earthly use for it. He has many sharp turns to make. He has many times each day to stultify himself, but with Tennyson he consoles himself.

'Tis the jingle of the guinea
Helps the hurt that honour feels.'

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce never forgets 1874 to 1878. He was bound to go back to that period, and did go back to it, and gave us some interesting information. He said: 'It is true we had hard times in Canada between 1874 and 1878, but there were hard times all over the world then, and I tell hon. gentlemen that the hard times in the world from 1892 to 1896, were like the hills of the Gatineau, compared with the Rocky Mountains, as compared with the hard times between 1874 and 1878.' Well, Mr. Speaker, I took occasion to look up Bradstreet's record to see how correct the hon. gentleman was, and I see that in the United States, between 1875 and 1878, the average liabilities of failures was \$205,307,283, and between 1893 and 1896, the average was \$239,479,510, or \$34,000,000 a year more between 1893 and 1896, than between 1874 and 1878. That settles the fact conclusively as to which was the more disastrous period financially upon this continent. And, how did Canada stand comparatively in these periods? From 1875 to 1878, Canada had failures to the extent of an average of \$25,947,750 per year, while from 1893 to 1896, she had only an average of failures of \$16,100,902, or a decrease as

compared with 1874 to 1878 of no less than nine million per year. Take the worst year, if you will, of these two periods, and you find that in 1878, under hon. gentlemen opposite, the failures in Canada totalled one-tenth as much liabilities as the failures of the United States, and in 1893, they had sunken to one-thirtieth. Does it need any other demonstration upon which to found the statement of a financial newspaper made 'that the one pleasing sight on this American continent, in that terrible time of depression of 1893, was Canada, under the policy of the Conservative party, standing upright, like a chimney amid the ruins of a burnt factory.'

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce made a strong point, which was cheered by hon. gentlemen opposite, when he said that the trade of Canada is to-day, per head, actually twice what the trade of the United States is. Does the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce remember the years when he said Canada was being bled white, that it was being ruined, that it was travelling rapidly on the road to financial destruction? The trade, per head, of Canada in 1893, was \$50, while the trade, per head, of the United States, in that year, was \$25—the same ratio of 100 per cent more in Canada than in the United States, the same proportion of excess as the hon. gentleman now boasts of in 1900, as being the result of the policy of the present government.

Now, the hon. gentleman returned to that favourite subject of his, the exodus; and what he did not say upon it was said by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), when he came to deal with it. And the argument of the Minister of Customs was: We are doing splendidly; the settlers' effects coming in are increasing, and the household goods we are exporting are decreasing. Now, let us take 1899—the settlers' effects that came into Canada in that year were valued at \$2,183,861, and the household goods which were exported were valued at \$963,625—and, by the way, where there is \$963,625 worth of household goods going out, there must be some exodus—the difference in favour of Canada being \$1,220,236. Now, what about 1894, which, the Minister of Trade and Commerce says, was the worst year in our record? The settlers' effects which came in that year amounted to \$2,665,893, and the household goods which were exported were \$940,709, a difference in favour of Canada of \$1,725,184, as against \$1,220,236 in 1899. The cry of these gentlemen as to the exodus was the cry of office seekers. It never had any sense in it, and it injured Canada severely. I am only quoting these figures, Sir, to show how senseless was the bellowings of the Minister of Trade and Commerce and his ilk when they grasped at this cry to injure their opponents—not caring how much injury was done to the country.

Now, the hon Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), when he was pleased to make his budget speech, added, for the information of the House, some very interesting tables. They are what might be called tables at sight—illustrations, so to speak. And I hope that every Conservative in the country will read them, for they are a commentary upon these hon. gentlemen's record as statesmen in this country. There are some omissions, to which I wish to refer in a moment; but, in the meantime, I wish to point out some admirable things in these tables. Those who look at them find that the deposits in chartered banks in 1874 amounted to \$65,000,000, and, after four years of Grit statesmanship, they amounted to \$62,000,000, while, after a few years of Conservative rule, the deposits in chartered banks increased to \$185,000,000. They find that in 1874, the amount in the savings banks was \$14,000,000, and in 1878, under Grit rule, they were still \$14,000,000; while in 1896, the amount had increased to \$85,000,000.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What were they in 1899?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have not the figures here; but, no doubt, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) will be able to give them. The hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce went back to 1874—1878, and I am following him there. Then, let us take the discounts in banks—in 1874, they amounted to \$135,000,000; in 1879, they were \$110,000,000, and in 1896, they had increased to \$228,000,000. The deposits made with loan companies in 1879 were \$9,500,000, and in 1896, \$19,000,000. The failures in Canada in 1875 to 1878 averaged \$27,000,000 per annum in liabilities, while in 1893, they had fallen to \$14,000,000. At confederation, there were 2,278 miles of railway in operation. Under Liberal rule since that time 3,149 miles had been added, and during the Conservative regime the railways built amounted to 12,233 miles, as against 3,149 miles under the Liberals—not a very good showing for gentlemen who claimed to be nation-builders and empire-makers.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. How many years in each case?

Mr. MONTAGUE. That depended on the will of the people. The first term of Liberal rule was too long for the people; and I fancy the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) has had about all the years he will have in this term, and that very shortly, hereafter other gentlemen will make these statistics and publish these tables.

Now, as I have said, there are some notable omissions from these tables. When I come to examine these tables, I notice there is no column for debt; there is no column for expenditure, no column which would show that extravagant increases un-

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der hon. gentlemen opposite—but that is excusable, because there was no room on the page, the column was so long. I trust that when the hon. Minister of Finance republishes these tables of last year, he will add tables to illustrate the debt and expenditure; and, if the suggestion be not out of place, I would suggest that he add to these tables a picture of the Minister of Trade and Commerce—two pictures, in fact—one showing the Minister of Trade and Commerce out of luck and one showing that hon. gentleman in luck; because, for all time, these pictures will illustrate the disinterestedness and unselfishness of Liberal statesmen in this country.

I do not intend to go into details in regard to the expenditure, but in order to make the facts which I am presenting somewhat connected, I desire to repeat some figures. Robbed of all special pleadings and special explanations, the facts are that in 1896 we spent \$36,969,759, and in 1899, we spent \$41,903,502, or an increase of \$4,933,750. This is on consolidated revenue account alone. The per capita expenditure was, in 1896, \$8.14, and in 1899, \$9.72, or about one dollar and fifty-eight cents more for each man, woman and child in Canada or about nine per family. Oh, says the Minister of Trade and Commerce, there is a great difference, though! There is a difference, and what is it? The difference is that the hon. gentleman is in power now, and he was out of power in 1896; and he believes with the late lamented Hosea Bigelow, whom he has quoted very frequently in this House:

I do b'lieve the people want
A tax on teas and coffees;
And nothin' ain't extravagant,
Pervidin' I'm in offis.

The hon. gentleman may be satisfied, but the people of this country are not satisfied. I would like to read to him the opinion of a paper which the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) will bear me out in saying, is one of the strongest Liberal papers in the Dominion of Canada; I mean the *Oshawa Reformer*—its name suggested its politics. On August 25, 1899, that journal expressed this opinion upon the expenditure of the Liberal government:

The government has done many good things, but, notwithstanding, the public expense is altogether too high and out of all proportion to the means of the Canadian public. The expenditure is growing at far too rapid a pace. The government might as well understand this at first as at last, that the financial part of their undertakings is not in keeping with their professions and that they are not approved by the people of Canada.

There is no gentleman in this House who will not say that that paper is one of the strongest Liberal papers in this country. Does the Minister of Trade and Commerce or the Minister of Finance wonder at what it says when he remembers the cries of ex-

travagance which hon. gentlemen opposite raised before we went out of office. I was amazed when, the other day, instead of charging extravagance against the ex-Minister of Finance, he described as the parsimony of the ex-Minister of Finance in starving the public works of this country. Well, I am informed that no such charge can be brought against the present Minister of Finance. Certainly, no such charge can be brought by his own constituents at any rate against a gentleman who, I am told, asked this House last year to vote money for fourteen harbours in the constituency which he represents himself, and for 173 miles of railway in which his constituency is more or less interested. Certainly, if parsimony belonged to the ex-Minister of Finance, it does not belong to the gentleman who occupies that place at the present time, at least for the riding where he hopes to be elected again.

Now, Sir, as to taxation. In 1896 the customs taxation of Canada was \$3.94 per head; and in 1899, \$4.84; and it will need more than all the thunder of the Minister of Customs, and all the poetical quotations of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and all the sunny smiles of the Prime Minister of this country, to make the people of Canada believe that they are not taxed more than they were in 1896. The Minister of Customs says, though, that they are saving a great deal to the farmers of Canada upon agricultural implements and tools of various kinds.

Mr. COCHRANE. That is a joke.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not think it was a joke, I think it was really intended to be taken in earnest. But there is not a farmer in Canada who will not believe that it is a species of humour of which the hon. gentleman has attempted to be guilty. He gives in parallel columns what the duty would have been in 1896 and what it is in 1899. But I will read the whole table showing the saving to the farmers according to his figures:

Farm and field rollers.....	\$ 16
Pronged forks	1,095
Hay tedders	35
Hoes	250
Hay knives	10
Manure spreaders	35
Post-hole diggers	28
Potato diggers	34
Rakes	490
Scythes, snaths, sickles, reaping hooks...	3,736
Spades, shovels, &c.....	2,000
All other agricultural implements.....	2,207
Wind-mills	1,800
Threshers and separators.....	3,600
All other portable machinery.....	4,974
Wire fencing, &c.	3,200
Stoves	3,300
Axes	4,100
Saws	1,800
Files and rasps	4,200

Adzes, cleavers, hatchets, hammers, picks, mattocks
Tools, hand or machine 29,000

On cutlery \$19,000 is paid more than in 1896, his table shows.

Altogether, \$87,602, which he says he has saved to the farmers of this country upon these articles. Now, I want to make a calculation. The farmers did not use all these stoves. I think out of the 3,200, it is fair to take 1,500 for other people. I am taking his own figures, and do not question their accuracy for this argument. He says that \$4,100 were saved on axes. Well, I think probably the lumbermen will use half of them, and I will take \$2,000 off that figure. Then \$1,000 were saved on saws. I suppose the mechanics will use half of these, and I will take half away. Files and rasps, farmers do not use in most cases, and I take them all away. And so I go on with the rest of the list, taking out what I think very fairly may be said to have been used by other classes of people, and I find that for all Canada, according to the hon. gentleman's own figures, he has saved to the farmers of this country \$53,000 on these articles. Now, then, there are, according to the returns of the Department of Agriculture, 416,600 farmers in Canada, and taking his own figures, which the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) has shown to be absolutely astray and misleading, he has saved to the farmers of this country exactly 12 cents each. There are six members in each family on the average, which is 2 cents each. But then, when you come to figure up what has been undoubtedly demonstrated to this House, that on the one item of coal oil alone the consumers of Canada are paying about \$600,000 more than they did in 1896, 12 cents appears at a great disadvantage. And yet, after giving these figures, the hon. gentleman, in a voice that would waken sleeping generations, says: This is the most magnificent policy which the parliament of Canada has ever passed.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why did you leave out barbed wire and binder twine?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I just took the table which the hon. gentleman gave himself. I am afraid the hon. gentleman did not like to put barbed wire and binder twine in, because they would not look well just now. The hon. gentleman says he relieved the farmers of the price of binder twine. Will he tell us how much percentage on the stock was paid by the Brantford Binder Twine Company? Will he tell us that any industry that is run under fair rules of competition in this country, can pay 100 per cent to the men investing their money in it? Yet that is what the stockholders of the Brantford Binder Twine works got last year. A man who had \$500 in stock got \$500 of dividend, and the farmers of Can-

ada paid it, and they paid it because this gentleman's government promoted and aided that combination, and made it possible for it to squeeze the farmers to this extent.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. Even so, that would not justify you leaving it out.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It would not justify the hon. gentleman leaving it out, and I took his table just as I found it. At least I intended to. If I am mistaken I shall gladly stand corrected. Now, the hon. gentleman had a good deal to say about a surplus, he said that the surplus was \$4,837,749. Now, what is a surplus? A surplus is what is saved over after the necessary expenditure has been met out of ordinary income. In order to know whether we are exactly right in our comparisons, we must know whether the same policy has been pursued as was pursued in the past. I am rather astonished at the Minister of Finance who made this statement in his budget speech:

Let it be clearly understood that the accounts of the government, as respects these two classes of expenditure—

The consolidated revenue fund and capital account.

—are kept to-day exactly as they were in former times; and therefore the comparisons we make are those we have a right to make with the expenditures of former administrations.

Sir, I dispute that in the most emphatic manner. Two years ago we discussed Intercolonial Railway matters in this House. I will not turn up the debate now, but I will if the hon. gentleman wishes to see it. The Minister of Railways and Canals was asking us to vote his estimates, and what did we prove in this House? We proved, what the hon. gentleman had to admit, that the reconstruction of bridges, the repairs of bridges, the replacement of bridges, done by this government, were being charged up to capital, while the hon. gentleman was compelled to admit that in 1896, and previous to that time, they had been charged up to revenue account alone. We cautioned the hon. gentleman, we warned him, that, when he was making that change, in the way of voting that money, he was destroying for all time to come the figures, so far as comparisons between different years, as regards expenditure on the Intercolonial Railway, on consolidated fund account are concerned. And then, too, what does the hon. gentleman do in order to make a good comparison with the last year of my hon. friend, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster)? He charges up, to 1896, \$2,394,000 of indebtedness assumed by this government, of the North Shore Railway Company in 1882, which has not been paid, which was not paid by the past government, and which is not paid to-day. What did we do? We paid

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each year, the interest on it, and the hon. gentleman is doing just the same thing. He is doing just the same thing, and yet, he charged up to 1896, not only the payment of \$2,394,000 of capital, but the interest as well, in order to make the comparison show well for himself, as affecting his own expenditure. Sir, here is an illustration. The hon. gentleman got some running rights over the Grand Trunk Railway in 1898. We are paying for that \$140,000 a year. If we charge up that \$2,394,000, which we did not pay, en bloc, and upon which we are paying the interest annually, it would neither be honesty, nor good bookkeeping nor fair-play, not to charge up the whole sum which we became responsible to the Grand Trunk Railway for in 1898. And what would that amount be? Capitalized, Sir, at 2½ per cent it would be between five and six million, which, if we are to charge up the \$2,394,000 in 1896, should be capitalized and charged up to 1898. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), upon being challenged, when he was discussing it, went around the question, and never attempted to answer that challenge.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. There is all the difference in the world between the two.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the difference? There is no difference at all, the one being the assumption by the Dominion of a debt owed by another party, on which we are paying the interest, while, in the other case, the hon. gentlemen made the debt themselves, and paid the interest on it. If there is any material difference between the two, I should like the hon. gentleman to explain it. After all, are these surpluses good things? I think I see the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), in 1883, pounding this desk at which the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), is sitting now.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. No, it was the next one.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The next one? Well, it is a little more used up than this one. What did the hon. gentleman say in 1883?

When the government find that they have beyond doubt a surplus, when they can calculate to a certainty on having one, it is their bounden duty to reduce taxation.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. That is what we did.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), tell us where he did it?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. In our 33½ per cent reduction in the tariff.

Mr. MONTAGUE. We shall see about that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson), continues:

It is no part of the duty of the Finance Minister to extract more money out of the pockets

of the people than is absolutely wanted to carry on public affairs.

Fancy—

Said he—

—what would be said of a Chancellor of the Exchequer in England if he could not estimate the requirements of the public service nearer than \$2,000,000. He would be ridiculed as unable to grasp the financial conditions of the country.

In regard to the reduction of taxation how do these figures stand? The hon. ex-Minister of Finance did reduce the taxation. We have, at last—at long last—this admitted by hon. gentlemen opposite. We had it admitted by the hon. Minister of Customs the other night. He said: I admit that you reduced the taxation \$5,900,000. The hon. gentlemen, instead of reducing the taxation, since they came into power, have, as I have shown, increased the taxation, and, as I want to show just a little further. In 1891, the customs taxation was \$23,399,301. Then the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), began to reduce taxation. In 1893, the customs taxation was \$20,984,003; in 1894, it was \$19,198,114. He reduced the taxation again. In 1895, the customs taxation became \$17,640,466. That is what I call the reduction of taxation.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is a reduction of revenue.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And the revenue comes from taxation. What did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), do? When the present government came in the customs taxation was \$19,000,000. He reformed his tariff so as to reduce taxation, he says, and lo, and behold, we have, this year, a customs taxation of no less than \$25,000,000. My hon. friend, the ex-Minister of Finance, reduced it from \$23,000,000 to \$17,000,000, while the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), increased it from \$19,000,000, to over \$25,000,000. But, say the hon. gentlemen who compose the government, and the hon. members who support them: We have always guarded the interests of the people in the expenditure of this money; we are doing nothing of a political kind, but doing all for the public good. I want to say just a word or two as to the comments of a newspaper published in the city of Montreal, which is a tolerably strong friend of hon. gentlemen opposite. That newspaper discusses the question of the appointment of the harbour master in Montreal. It is the *Montreal Witness*, and it is a tolerably strong supporter, no better in the city of Montreal, of hon. gentlemen opposite. The *Montreal Witness* goes on to say that: Under the old regime, the harbour master got \$3,400 of a salary, and Captain Bourassa, his assistant, \$1,000, or in all, \$4,400. I am giving this as an instance of how hon. gentlemen are working in the public service. While a new appointee, a Liberal helper, a worker, a gen-

tleman who had to be satisfied by hon. gentlemen opposite, is getting \$3,000 a year, his assistant gets \$2,500. And why, says the *Witness*: Because the harbour master who was appointed, knows nothing about the business, and had to have a man to perform the duties, and in order to retain his assistant and make him look after the duties of the office, his salary had to be increased to \$2,500 a year, making a charge of \$5,500 upon the shipping of the port of Montreal, as against \$4,400 under the old regime. Of that large increase the *Witness* says:

Therefore the shipping interest of Montreal pays so much more than in what the Liberals would call the palmiest days of Tory corruption.

As the individual cannot offend against common honesty with impunity, so the government will hardly escape some retribution for such flagrant offences against the public trust as these.

Hon. gentlemen will say that it is the harbour board, but the harbour board is a creature of this government, according to the statement of the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Préfontaine). He said when challenged in regard to the position he had taken: I cannot do anything else; I must vote for this man, because it is a political appointment. In other words, politics first, business second, at the expense of the shipping trade of the port of Montreal. Now, then, what does the *Witness* say further?

Captain Howard was a fit man; James McShane is not. Deputations should be appointed to protest against such an appointment. By this means the government might be compelled to submit to reason. . . . It is a glaring act on the part of the government.

We know of just such instances all through Canada where the public interests are being neglected for the support of hon. gentlemen opposite. I would like to point out another matter in connection with the trade of Montreal. We had a discussion with regard to elevators in this House last year. We had the discussion as to whether elevators should be built by the government or whether they should be built by individuals. We had an application made by a Buffalo syndicate for the best place in the harbour of Montreal and for the best place in the harbour of Port Colborne to build elevators through which the wheat carried on our canals would have to go. Well, that application was refused by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who had given it out as his policy: that they should be government elevators for the protection of the people of Canada. He was decided. He was strong upon that question. But at once a member of the Ontario government bobs up serenely. He joins the syndicate; he waits upon the Minister of Public Works, and the Minister of Public Works changes his opinion and hands over to the Buffalo syndicate the best part of the harbour at Montreal, and the

best part of the harbour at Port Colborne, and so these men are going on with that great elevator scheme at the present time. Are there any dangers from it? Let the hon member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), a tolerably strong supporter of the government, the chief whip of the party, indeed, and a practical transportation man; let him say what he thinks with regard to that subject. On page 9263 of the *Hansard*, in 1899, the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson) said this:

I would like to point out to the government of the day the danger of elevators becoming the property of private individuals. It would be quite within the mark for any company in Buffalo to erect an immense elevator in the harbour of Port Colborne, getting a site from the government; getting one also in Montreal, and they could practically tie up all the work which the government has constructed at an expenditure of millions of dollars, by making the tolls so excessive that the grain would have to be shipped via Buffalo instead of via the Welland Canal.

Mr. GIBSON. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson) gives assent to it, and I knew he would. He knows the danger from this policy. He dreads the results which may flow from it, and he is right. It is one of the most dangerous embargoes which has been placed on the transportation trade of this country, and it was done by wirepulling and not in the public interest, nor in the interest of the trade and commerce of Canada.

Now, Sir, the Prime Minister made an explanation in Winnipeg with regard to the expenditure. He is always happy in his illustrations. I think just then he was giving a promise with regard to the prohibition question, and he said to the people:

You have it in your own hands; our policy is to give a plebiscite, and if the people vote for prohibition they must have it.

They voted, but they have not got it. What was the hon. gentleman's illustration? He will remember it I am sure. He said this:

In olden days there was a king, one of whose subjects owned a donkey, and the king said to his subject: Can you teach the donkey to speak, and the subject said he could. The king said: I will give you ten years to teach the donkey to speak, and if at the end of ten years you cannot get the donkey to speak, then off goes your head. The subject accepted the terms, and one of his friends said to him: But why did you accept such onerous terms as that? Oh, he said, it makes no difference, for at the end of ten years either the king or the donkey or myself will be dead.

Well, Mr. Speaker, on the prohibition question, neither the king, nor the donkey, nor himself is dead, but it appears to me, that on that as well as upon the expenditure somebody's head will come off when this parliament is ended and the people have a chance to speak at the polls.

Mr. MONTAGUE.

There are many things upon which the government ought to be congratulated. They ought to be congratulated upon their good luck, the Minister of Trade and Commerce says. Yes, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) ought to be congratulated on being able to reap where others have sown. I congratulate the government (and I am not anxious to spare my congratulations), upon having secured for Canada a place for her securities in the charmed circle (as the Minister of Trade and Commerce told us) of the trusts in Great Britain. I not only congratulate him on having got that for Canada, but I congratulate him in this instance specifically on having been able to reap where the labours of others sowed years ago for Canada and Canadian interests. In 1889 an order in council was passed by the Canadian government calling for this justice to the securities of Canada. That order in council—the hon. gentleman will see if he looks up the records of his department—was transmitted to the present leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) who was then Canada's representative at home. And what did Sir Charles Tupper do? He called together the representatives of all the colonies and they waited upon the Treasury Board of the Imperial government with reference to this question of Canadian securities. The Treasury Board heard their presentation of the case and agreed to appoint a committee to deal with that subject. Fortunately, I have here the minute of the Treasury Board on that matter, and here it is:

Mr. CLARKE. What are you quoting from?

Mr. MONTAGUE. From the minute of the Imperial Treasury Board laid upon the Table of the House of Lords in response to a motion in that august body. This minute of the Treasury Board is dated November 1, 1889. The minute says that on July 9, the board had received representations from Sir Charles Tupper and other colonial representatives upon the question of the colonial securities. The Lord Chancellor deals with several phases of the question, and then goes on to say that they had decided to appoint a committee to deal with the subject, and then adds:

'But from communications which have taken place since last July he learns that the Agents General of the Colonies have elected to be represented on such committee by Sir Charles Tupper, Sir F. D. Bell and Sir Graham Berry, that the Lord Chancellor has consented to be represented by Mr. Muir Mackenzie; that Mr. Greene, one of the directors of the Bank of England, had been good enough to place his services at the disposal of the government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer therefore recommends that a committee be now appointed consisting of Sir Charles Tupper, Sir F. D. Bell, Sir Graham Berry, representing the colonies; Mr. Green, the Bank of England; Mr. Mackenzie, the Lord Chancellor; Mr. Bramston, the Colonial

Office; Mr. E. W. Hamilton, the Treasury; and that Mr. Jenkyns, parliamentary draughtsman, should be asked to serve on that committee.

What did that committee do? They met and discussed this question—the Imperial government represented, the Bank of England represented, the Treasury Board represented, the colonies represented, the Lord Chancellor represented, the colonial department represented. That committee, Sir, made a report, and that report was in the form of a Bill to legalize the investments of trusts funds in these colonial securities, the Bill being drawn up by Mr. Jenkyns, parliamentary draughtsman who was asked to serve upon the committee for the specific purpose of draughting their conclusions into a Bill which would be introduced into the Imperial parliament. That Bill I now hold in my hand. It had all been agreed to by the Imperial authorities, but unfortunately at the moment came the crash in Australia, which, as hon. gentlemen know, was a most severe one, and for the moment the matter had to be dropped. Let us inquire, to whom is the credit for this due? The credit is due to the present leader of the opposition, who took hold of this matter, who had sufficient influence and standing with the Imperial authorities to press successfully upon them the high standard at which Canada's credit had reached. And let me ask the hon. gentleman whether we could ever have influenced the Imperial authorities with regard to this question if the credit of Canada had remained where it was when hon. gentlemen opposite went out of office, with our 4 per cents considerably below par, selling only at 90 or thereabouts, whereas, when the ex-Minister of Finance went out of office, in 1896, our 3 per cents were selling at a premium of 7 or 8 per cent. That is, Sir, briefly to say that when hon. gentleman left office in 1878, the bonds of Canada paying 4 per cent were only worth 90 cents upon the dollar, while in 1896, when the Conservative party left office, the bonds of Canada paying not 4 per cent but 3 per cent interest were worth 107 to 108 cents upon the dollar. I should like to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he claims any credit for establishing the credit of Canada in the Imperial money market. The credit of Canada reached its high water mark during the career of the Conservative government of this country.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I claim no credit for it, but as a matter of fact the 2½ per cent loan placed by the present government was the best loan ever placed by the Dominion of Canada. I have not attempted to make any political capital on that ground, but my hon. friend should not make the statement he does.

Mr. MONTAGUE. As I understand, the hon. gentleman borrowed money at about 2½ per cent.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. When did any other government borrow for less?

Mr. MONTAGUE. We borrowed for 28-10ths per cent, which is pretty near the same figure, just a little less. The hon. gentleman cannot claim credit for raising the credit of Canada to that pitch, for our 3 per cents are four or five points lower to-day than they were in 1896.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If the hon. gentleman makes a comparison with the English consols, he will find that Canadian credit stands relatively higher to-day than ever before.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend is trying to get out of it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, but my hon. friend is making a statement of fact, which I think he will find on inquiry to be wrong. He says that the credit of Canada reached its high water mark under the late government. In that he is mistaken, though in saying so I am not throwing any discredit on the late government.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman admits that it was under the Conservative regime that the credit of Canada in the money market of Great Britain went up to such a pitch that our 3 per cents were selling at 107 or 108.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not remember the quotations.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman had better look them up, and he will find that that is the case.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That does not touch the statement which the hon. gentleman made, namely, that the credit of Canada reached its high water mark under the late government. That is the only point I am discussing, and on that the hon. gentleman is mistaken. The figure at which our 3 per cents were selling at the time does not affect the question.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It affects the question to this extent, that had it not been for the fact that the credit of Canada had reached that high water mark, the hon. gentleman would not have been able to borrow money afterwards at so low a rate as he did.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is about as appropriate as it would be for my hon. friend to say that if Christopher Columbus had not discovered America—

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, if Christopher Columbus came back now, he would never recognize the Liberal party. The bare facts which I have mentioned tell that under Conservative government Canada's credit climbed to a most enviable place in the

money market of the world. But I want to point out that just at the time the credit of Canada was reaching that high point, and when Sir Charles Tupper was practically securing those advantages from the Imperial government, another agency was at work. It was the agency of the hon. gentleman who sits next to the Finance Minister—the agency of the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright); and what was he doing? Promoting Canadian credit? No; he was writing to the London *Economist*, telling the people of England that they had better look out for Canadian securities, because Canada was being ruined and her people were being bled white, and the country was on the road to destruction. Another thing: I want to ask my hon. friend in all candour whether he thinks that in 1893 we would have been in such a good position as we were had we adopted the policy of unrestricted reciprocity in 1891. We had an election in this country in 1891. It was the election in which the hon. gentleman and his friends were supporting unrestricted reciprocity with the United States of America.

Mr. McMILLAN. And what was the election brought on for, but for the government then in power to get authority to go down to Washington to discuss that very question?

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend is disturbed at these facts.

Mr. McMILLAN. Not a bit. I am disturbed at statements that are not facts.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask the hon. Minister of Finance if he will answer the question?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend does not seriously want me to answer that question. He asks me whether I think the position of Canada would have been as good in 1893 if the Liberal party had won in 1891. He would not take my judgment on that question, I am sure. I believe Canada would have been in a better position.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am delighted at the hon. gentleman's answer. What he has stated is that this country would have been in a better position in 1893 if unrestricted reciprocity had carried in 1891, with discrimination against Great Britain. The opinion he expresses is not the true and heartfelt opinion of two men who sit on his own side of the House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You do not know that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentlemen are there to answer for themselves. Why, Sir, the Minister of Finance says we would have been better off under unrestricted reciprocity. Why, then, are the men behind him ashamed to admit that they ever sup-

Mr. MONTAGUE.

ported that policy? We should have had, as the hon. gentleman knows now, and as every business man in Canada knows now, the same sort of disastrous financial panic as they had in Australia.

Now, while we are touching the question of unrestricted reciprocity, I should like to have a word with my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). At his innocence I am greatly astonished. The hon. gentleman sat for many years on this side of the House; he campaigned in many parts of Ontario; and yet he had—I will not say the hardihood, but the assumption to get up here the other night and say that his party so far as he knew never had advocated the absolute removal of the restrictions on trade between this country and the United States. He said: 'I always thought that we should have a free list and a dutiable list, that there would be some things on which we could agree, and other things on which we could not agree, and that is the policy of the Liberal party of Canada.' I want to ask the hon. gentleman's friends behind him whether they corroborate that statement. As my leader suggests, why did the Hon. Edward Blake leave them if it was only an ordinary reciprocity that they advocated? Is there a gentleman on the other side of the House who was engaged in that campaign of 1891, who does not know that the cry of hon. gentlemen opposite from the greatest to the smallest was for absolutely unrestricted trade between this country and the United States of America—continental free trade, unrestricted reciprocity? Let me tell the hon. Minister of Customs what his leader said.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What did your leader want?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I shall come to that in a moment. He wanted a limited reciprocity which would give us a quid pro quo, but which would leave us in control of our own tariff, and with no discrimination against Great Britain. Of all the little attempts to answer an argument, the smallest is the attempt of my hon. friend to saddle on the gentlemen on this side of the House the policy which he is so ashamed of now that he declares he never supported it. What did the hon. gentleman say the other night? We proposed a broad treaty of reciprocity. 'I do not think anybody contemplated anything else than that there would be a scheduled list of goods upon which the parties might not be able to agree,' said he. One of his leaders said in Toronto, in September, 1899:

The policy which we advocate is the removal of every commercial barrier which exists between this country and the United States. The Liberal party, as long as I have anything to do with it, will stand by this policy. I am not expecting to win in a day, but am prepared to remain in the cool shades of opposition until this cause triumphs.

That is the speech of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The next year the hon. gentleman made another speech, in which he said 'the offer made by the government is a limited offer. Which government?' The government of the Conservative party he means. 'While our offer is of unlimited reciprocity.' All that pretty much disposes of my hon. friend's pretension.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It does not refer to the same thing.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Here are the words of the hon. gentleman:

It is an offer of unlimited trade such as my hon. friend to my left proposes.

That was my hon. friend from South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright).

My hon. friend has proved to the satisfaction of every one who will take a calm view of the matter that absolutely unlimited reciprocity is preferable to limited reciprocity.

No words could be stronger. If words mean anything, they mean that the policy of these gentlemen was the absolute removal of every barrier to trade between this country and the United States, and I say that if that policy had prevailed in 1891, this country would have been in the maelstrom of financial failure in 1893, just as were Australia and the United States.

But, there is another hon. gentleman who spoke on that question, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). The hon. Minister of Customs said that nobody in the Liberal party had ever advocated any such thing, so far as he knew. But, he must have heard this speech, because he is a tolerably good attendant in the House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think I said commercial union.

Mr. MONTAGUE. No, unrestricted reciprocity, but, as the hon. gentleman mentions commercial union, I will, if he likes, read the description given by the hon. member for North Norfolk of commercial union too. They are both on the one page. As to unrestricted reciprocity the member for North Norfolk said:

I do not profess to speak for the world and all men. I speak for myself. I understand by unrestricted reciprocity an arrangement that would admit into the United States all the natural and manufactured productions of Canada, all the productions of Canada of any nature, character or name whatever, free of duty, and that the same thing would be given by the other country in return.

There is a definition which, I submit, is pretty clear, of absolutely unrestricted reciprocity, which the hon. gentleman said he never supported, and which was not the policy of his party, although every one in this country knows that it was in 1891. I come now to deal with another matter for the moment. The hon. Minister of Customs said, when discussing the question of industries:

The hon. gentlemen boast of having brought capital into this country. They boast of the millions invested in the iron industry through their policy. Where are these millions which they invested?

That is the question asked by the hon. gentleman. Let me tell him that some were invested in a town called Brantford, once represented by the hon. gentleman, but which rejected him in 1896.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I was speaking of the iron industry.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman was speaking of general industries, and afterwards specified the iron industry. In the town of Brantford, which rejected the hon. gentleman in 1896, because it had no confidence in his policy, because it believed he was about to do what he said he would do, viz., uproot protection absolutely—in that town I am told that in 1878 the Massey-Harris Company employed 100 men, and in 1896, 400 men. The Waterous people employed 150 in 1878 in that same town, and 230 in 1896. The Buck stove works gave employment to 100 in 1878 and to 215 in 1896. The Cockshutt works had 10 men employed in 1878 and 70 in 1896. I am told that between 1878 and 1896 the bicycle works began with 300 men, a cotton mill was established with 250 men, a carriage works was removed from the United States with 150 men, a binder twine factory with 50 men, the Gould, Shapley & Muir Company with 100 men, and the Verity Plough works with 200 men.

I am told, too, that there is an industry in Brantford called the William Paterson Company (Limited), which makes biscuits, candies, pickles, jellies and jams, and in the history of the county of Brant, published in 1883, I find a paid notice written, of course, by the dictation of the firm themselves, giving a description of that business, in which there is this statement:

The Paterson business has doubled itself in the past five years, from 1878 to 1883, and has reached such dimensions that he is obliged to increase his facilities and enlarge his quarters.

Mr. COCHRANE. Have they reduced the duty on biscuits?

Mr. MONTAGUE. No. That would be disinterested patriotism. The high protection on these articles is kept up. I am told, too, that they have increased those quarters twice since 1883, so that, I think, so far as the hon. gentleman's locality is concerned, his answer is met by the record of his own business. Now, then, he asks where are the iron industries that were established under the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite? I remember when those iron duties were put on in 1887. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce thundered against them. The then Finance Minister (Sir Charles Tupper) was abused right, left and centre by hon. gentlemen opposite in connection with

those duties. It is true that the advantage resulting from them was not so great for the time, but the day came when we were able to take advantage of them. There came a time, in 1894, when the city of Hamilton began a great iron industry. When I made that announcement, seated where the hon. Minister of Customs is now, that there was about to be erected in Hamilton an iron industry which would expend \$600,000, and employ some 200 or 300 men, the hon. member for North Norfolk and the hon. Minister of Customs laughed so that you could hear them all over the Chamber. I remember very well, because I took occasion to stop and answer them. I need only refer to the member for Hamilton to-day to show that those works have not only been established, but are increasing their capacity, at an expense of \$6,000,000. There is a great increase going on in other portions of Canada, as the Minister of Finance himself says, in connection with the iron industry.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I said it took place under us.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman knows very well that if he and his friends had had their way there would not have been a tariff and bounty under which the shadow of an iron industry could have been established in this country. He says that they did not come in under the Conservative party. If they did not, it was because capital is nervous, and is not anxious to invest where it might very shortly, by adverse legislation, be destroyed, and here was the announcement of the financial critic of hon. gentlemen opposite when those iron bounties were voted. The hon. member for South Oxford said:

I disapprove of the whole business altogether. For my part, I refuse to be bound by it, and I say, expressly for the benefit of the manufacturers, that I for one utterly refuse to be bound by any such proposition. I take the opportunity to protest against it in advance, so that parties hereafter, should there be a change in the policy on the part of the people, may not be able to say they never had any warning.

What does that mean? It means to say to every man who was likely to invest a dollar in Canada in the iron business: If we get into power, we will take off the bounties, we will do away with this protection, and will destroy your investment without regard to yourself or your capital. Under these circumstances you could not expect much capital to be invested in this country under the iron bounties and iron tariff. But there came a change. There came a time when hon. gentlemen opposite came into power, when it was demonstrated that they were not going to do as they said they would do; and then, Sir, capitalists were no longer nervous because they had confidence in the policy of hon. gentlemen who now sit on the opposition benches, and they

were willing to invest their capital because the time had come, it was thought, when both parties were agreed upon the promotion and protection of Canadian interests and Canadian industries. Sir, if we had not given more protection and more bounties in 1887, we should to-day have no iron industries. More than that, Sir, if the hon. gentlemen between 1878 and 1896 had not by their never-ceasing howl against protection and their declaration if they ever got into power they would destroy it root and branch, we should have had many millions more, how many millions we shall never know, invested in Canadian enterprises. The hon. gentlemen prevented development, and they did it for party gain.

Now, I wish to say a few words on subjects of particular interest to the farmers of this country. Some men, Sir, are born too modest ever to be great;—but that is not the fact with regard to the members of the present government. And I think it is less the fact, perhaps, with regard to my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and his department than any other branch of the administration at the present time. Among the loudest boasts that have been made by hon. gentlemen opposite, is the boast that they have done a great deal for the farmers of Canada, and first of all by appointing such a Minister of Agriculture. I am sorry the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) is not here, because, I should like to refer to him in his presence rather than in his absence. The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), at a meeting held in the province of Ontario, said this: I have given to you one of yourselves; I have given you a practical farmer. I have given you a horny-handed son of toil, to be your Minister of Agriculture. An hon. gentleman near me suggests that this was spoken at Orillia, but I think it was at Kincardine. At any rate, I have no desire to dispute the popularity of the Minister of Agriculture at five o'clock teas and other agricultural gatherings; but I submit that he can hardly be called a horny-handed son of toil, as he is described by the Prime Minister. The Minister of Agriculture boasts a great deal of his achievements. And I am prepared to admit that he is not without genius. We are told that there is a genius creative and a genius perceptive. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) has not much genius creative, but he has a good deal of genius perceptive and receptive; and he has done what hon. gentlemen opposite in other departments have sometimes failed to do—he has accepted what was done by his predecessors, and has had the good sense to continue the work. What can a government do for the farmers of Canada? In the first place, the government can make experiments for them at the public expense, it can establish experimental farms and experimental stations; then it can secure and preserve the

markets for the farmers and can aid them in getting their produce to those markets as cheaply and in as good condition as possible; and, by proper regulation of the tariff, it can regulate to some extent the prices of articles which the farmer consumes. Now, I go back to the period between 1874 and 1878. I do not find any experimental farms in Canada. I do not find any experiments being made for the benefit of the farmer at the public expense. I do not find dairy commissioners at work or any interest taken on either branch of the dairying industry. But when I come to 1879 and thence onward, I find seed testing being carried on at experimental farms established by the Conservative party; I find seed being distributed in every portion of the country for the benefit of the farmers; I find manures being tested at the experimental farms for the benefit of the farmer; I find noxious weeds and insects being investigated, and the best means of limiting these evils developed at the experimental farm. I find the dairy industry being encouraged. I find the government establishing creameries, managing these creameries for the farmers, and marketing their products. All this goes on up to 1896. And I find no advance has taken place in these things from 1896 to the present year. The hon. gentleman continues the work, just as we had engaged in it long before he became Minister of Agriculture. Now, the Minister of Agriculture has been making some speeches in which he has taken credit for the relief of the depression in Canada by reason of the splendid condition of the dairying industry and of the facilities for cold storage—to which I shall refer in a moment. Now, I have here the report of the Minister of Agriculture published in 1897 and signed by himself. And what does that report deal with? It deals with the dairy industry in this country and shows what the government, the Conservative government, remember, has done for that industry. It takes one of the provinces, for instance, and I take that because it is a very good sample of the Dominion, because it is small and compact and you can grasp the figures in a moment, though what is true of the work which the Conservative party did for Prince Edward Island is true to a greater or lesser extent of what we did in every province, and especially the North-west and Manitoba. And not only do I take it for that reason, but I take it because it was virgin soil when we began in 1892, and therefore you can measure exactly what effect was produced. Here is what the report of 1897, signed by Sydney A. Fisher, says—and of course, the report refers to the work which the previous administration had done:

In Prince Edward Island the work of the dairying service was continued during 1896, but a less number of factories were managed by the agricultural and dairy commissioner than in 1895. In 1892 there was only one dairy station on the

island. The building was put up by a joint stock company of farmers at New Perth. The Dominion government loaned the machinery to fit up that one factory on Prince Edward Island. All the cheese factories and creameries erected and equipped there since have been built and fitted up at the expense of joint stock companies of the farmers themselves. In 1893, eleven dairy stations were managed by the dairy commissioner. The farmers supplied the milk; a charge of 1½ cents per pound was made for manufacturing the cheese and marketing the same. After the cheese was sold, the proceeds, minus the manufacturing charge, were distributed to the patrons according to the quantity of milk which they furnished. In 1894 there were sixteen cheese factories and two creameries on the island; they were managed on similar terms. In 1895 there were twenty-eight cheese factories and two creameries, and they were managed on similar terms.

In other words, Sir, we, the Conservative party, when it administered the Department of Agriculture, found Prince Edward Island in 1892 without a dairy industry. We left it with 28 factories for cheese-making and two creameries in 1896, and exporting about \$60,000 worth of dairy products to the markets of the world. That is a result of which we, Sir, are proud, and have reason to be proud. I ask my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to deny the wonderful change we worked in the prosperity of that Island. Now, while I am touching on this matter—and I am sincerely regretful that the Minister of Agriculture is not present—I cannot allow a matter to escape me which has been submitted in the report of 1897. It is in regard to the 'Patent Record,' which is published for the Department of Agriculture. I read in this report of 1897, the following:

A change has been made in the manner of publishing the 'Patent Record,' which is now printed at the Government Printing Bureau, whereby the work is better and more economically done, the type, paper and illustrations being much superior to what they formerly were.

And the report adds, Sir, that a large saving is being effected. Now this is in the report signed by the Minister of Agriculture himself, and I submit to the House that what it is intended that the people of the country should think is that that change was made under the administration of the present Minister of Agriculture. The report is of 1897, and the change is mentioned without giving any dates. He simply says a change has been made, and so forth, and thereby great economies have been practised. Well, Sir, I pick up the report of the public printing and stationery for 1898, and I find there a report made by the Queen's Printer, who deals with this very subject of the change in the method of printing the Patent Record. This is what he says:

The work was taken into the Printing Bureau first in 1892.

The report of the Minister of Agriculture in 1897, says: A change has been made in the printing of the Patent Record, we have taken

it out of the hands of a contractor, and we are having it done more efficiently at the Printing Bureau. Yet the change was made four years before the hon. gentleman took office at all, according to the report of Dr. Dawson, the Queen's Printer of Canada for 1898, published under the authority of this government.

Now, the next thing a government can do, is to secure and retain markets for the farmers of this country. On that point the Liberal party of Canada have a most unenviable record. They have never secured any market, and they have usually failed to keep the markets which naturally belong to our farmers. Let us see what took place between 1874 and 1878. In 1878, 2,071,513 bushels of oats came in free from the United States; of wheat, 1,519,703 bushels; of flour, 311,706 barrels; of lard, 2,345,807 pounds; of bacon, 2,825,169 pounds; of pork, 10,248,020 pounds; of corn, 3,400,562 bushels. These grains came in absolutely free. When we went to the border of the United States we had to pay a tax upon every pound of meat, upon every barrel of flour, upon every bushel of agricultural produce which we sold to that country. In other words, in 1878, Canada sold to the United States, \$12,000,000 worth, on which she had to pay a tax of \$4,000,000. The United States, under the regime of the hon. gentlemen in the same year, sold to Canada that year, \$15,000,000 worth, and had not to pay 1 cent to get into our market. Between 1874 and 1879, we imported from the United States, \$59,000,000 worth of agricultural produce free. 100,000 farmers petitioned to change that, and to hold our markets for ourselves, but the answer was given by the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Mills), who declared that if the farmers lost the market, the railroads at least made money in carrying this produce which was imported into this country to take the place of produce which was raised by our own farmers. Sir, we changed that all in 1879. We said to the people of the United States: If you do not give us your markets you cannot have ours. And what did the present Minister of Agriculture say with regard to that a few years later? He thinks they were right between 1874 and 1878, for he says:

I am prepared to believe that the farmer can exist without protection. The protection which has since 1878 been given to our farmers is a delusion and a snare.

Sir, what do the farmers of Canada think of that opinion? Well, Sir, now we come to 1890. The ex-Minister of Finance had the question pressed upon him by many leading members of the Conservative party. It was found we were importing 33,000,000 pounds of lard, bacon, ham, shoulders and sides, from the United States. Why were we importing it? Prices were cheap there, and they could raise these products and ship them over here and

undersell the Canadian farmer in our own market. Our duty was not high enough. What did we do? The Conservative government increased the duties, we put up the wall, and we put it up in spite of the protest of hon. gentlemen opposite. When the ex-Minister of Finance brought that tariff down, the hon. member for South Oxford, the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), moved this resolution:

That the additional taxation now sought to be imposed will still further increase the burthens of the people.

And my successor, the present Minister of Agriculture, used these words:

This kind of protection, instead of helping the farmers, hurts them. The intention may be good, but the results will not be good. I do not believe the home market will do much for our farmers. How can this kind of policy help the export trade in meats? The thing is nonsense.

Now, let us see. I may say that six members of the present government, including the Minister of Customs, voted for that amendment, against retaining the market of Canada for the meats produced by the Canadian farmers. What was the result? In 1890, 33,000,000 pounds, as I have said, of these meats, came in. When the hon. gentlemen took office in 1896, there were only 5,000,000 pounds of meat coming in, in other words, we had given to the farmers of Canada a market to the extent of 28,000,000 pounds of meat for each of the years between 1890 and 1896. What was the result as regards the prediction of the present Minister of Agriculture, that it would not help the export trade? Why, Sir, it gave the farmers of this country their own markets, and the possession of these markets gave them confidence. It gave them encouragement to go into the raising of hogs, and the result was that whereas the export of this same kind of meats in 1891 was 8,000,000 pounds, in 1896 it had grown to 55,000,000 pounds, and Canadian meats were known in the largest and best markets of the world. We kept our own markets. We supplied them ourselves, and we encouraged the industry so that we reached out with millions of pounds to the other markets of the world. Sir, we continued to cultivate the home market and what we did in meats we did in every other produce which the farmer had to sell. In 1896 an estimate was brought down here by which we hoped to open depots for the sale of Canadian products in the great cities of London, Glasgow, Bristol, Liverpool and Dublin. We proposed to advertise those products of the farmer in the markets of Great Britain, to give him all the advantages of their excellence, and to spend the money of this country in putting those products of our Canadian farms in the best possible shape before the consumers of Great Britain. Well, hon. gentlemen need only

look at the record to see that they would not allow a single dollar of that estimate to go through, and thus stopped the great scheme which would have been of immense benefit to the farmers of Canada. Now, as to what we did for the dairy industry in putting our dairy products upon the market of Great Britain, I want to give the opinion of the American Department of Agriculture. It was published in 1895, in the form of a circular of that department:

The department believes the dairy industry of the United States should receive immediate attention, and efforts should be made to improve its condition by collecting and distributing information on this subject, and in that matter educate dairymen. The results obtained in Canada—

Mind you, this was in 1895, one year before the hon. gentlemen took office.

—in this direction are very interesting and instructive. It is not many years ago that the dairy products of the United States were preferred to the Canadian products abroad, and brought a higher price. The Canadian government, however, began a systematic effort to educate the dairymen of the country, printed information was distributed, practical men were sent to demonstrate improved methods, and the importance of making a higher grade of products was constantly taught. The result of these systematic and persistent efforts has wrought such an improvement that Canadians have much enlarged their foreign market and secured better prices for their products.

I do not think that we could have a better testimony as to the nature of the work—and the result of that work too, Sir—which was being done by the Department of Agriculture under the predecessors of the hon. gentleman who now is in charge of that department. We are told by the hon. gentleman that we never increased the market for Canadian products in Great Britain. I would like the hon. Minister of Agriculture to look at the export of Canadian cattle to Great Britain, and I would like him to look at it for the year 1878, when we shipped a total of live cattle to Great Britain of 7,433 head, of a value of \$686,700. The present hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) and his colleagues, took up the question of getting Canadian cattle exceptional treatment in the markets of Great Britain. He secured the advantage that we had for a long time of our cattle going into the British market without embargo, and in 1891, the export of Canadian cattle was not 7,433 head, but it was 107,689 head, of a value of \$8,425,396. The embargo was then put on, and it was from no fault of ours that that embargo was not removed. I see that the hon. gentleman, in his last report, tells many things which he did in the old land, but I do not see that he even discussed the question of the removal of the embargo against Canadian cattle. Well, there was a time when we gave this preference to Great Britain, when, if hon. gentle-

men did not want to do a huckstering or a Jewing business as they said, they might very well have suggested to the Imperial authorities: You had better remove the embargo against Canadian cattle. They gave the preference, and they never made any such suggestion. The objection of the right hon. Prime Minister was that if he asked for anything in return he would be asking the people of England to desert free trade and go back to protection, but, on the contrary, if he had asked for the removal of the embargo, he would have been asking them to desert protection and to go back to free trade, because the embargo, as was admitted to me by a member of the Imperial government, was a domestic policy. They know our cattle are healthy. But, it is to please the farmers of Great Britain with whose cattle Canadian cattle come into competition that that policy is continued by them.

Mr. McMULLEN. No, no.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) says no; I say yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman knows nothing about the subject whatever.

Mr. McMULLEN. I know a great deal more about the subject than you.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman does not know what he is asserting. What is he saying? That our cattle are unhealthy! I speak of what I know—and of what I heard from the lips of a member of the Imperial government. The hon. Minister of Agriculture made a speech recently in the town of Sherbrooke. It was a speech in the Sherbrooke election, and that speech is reported in the *Montreal Herald*. I see that the hon. gentleman was given a very warm reception, that three beautiful little ladies stepped forward with flowers, and that each was rewarded with a kiss by the gallant bachelor Minister of Agriculture. This pleasing circumstance should have put the hon. Minister of Agriculture in a sufficiently good humour, to, at least, have not misrepresented his opponents, but, I am afraid that it did not have any influence upon him whatever. What does he say to the people of Sherbrooke? He says: If you now have a market of \$3,000,000 in the United States of America, it is due to my efforts, whereas Dr. Montague tried for three years to remove these quarantine regulations and failed. I was only in the Department of Agriculture for six months. I must have been interfering with some one else's duties, but, the hon. gentleman is quite wide of the mark, because nobody ever tried to secure the removal of these quarantine regulations against us in the United States of America. Why were these quarantine regulations placed against us in the United States?

They were placed against us because we had a ninety days quarantine against them. We were the aggressors, and why? Because, to hold our free entry into the markets of Great Britain, to secure that market without an embargo being placed against us, we made a solemn compact with Great Britain that we would keep a ninety days quarantine against American cattle. We could have got the quarantine removed at any single moment we liked, but we did not attempt to get it removed, and we did not attempt to get it removed, because we were anxious to keep the compact that secured us a still greater market, the market of Great Britain, which we had the right to enter upon terms which we had obtained some years before, and remember this, Sir, hon. gentlemen never attacked us for keeping that quarantine up against the United States. They attacked us for not making it stricter and more severe. They hounded us because they said we were neglecting it. Well, Sir, the hon. gentleman says: I have at last secured this great boon to you, a boon which we could have got in very short time providing we had abandoned the hope of securing the removal of the embargo which was against us in Great Britain. By the way, I may remark here, that, when the Prime Minister was up in the province of Ontario, he told the farmers there that the hon. Minister of Agriculture had got free trade in cattle for them, free entry into the markets of the United States, evidently not knowing the difference between quarantine regulations and duty, the quarantine regulations being removed and the duty still being enforced. There was after the time that I had discussed this subject fully with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and with the Right Hon. Walter Long—the present Minister of Agriculture in England, and I came to the conclusion that if this was a domestic policy, as they said it was, if this was a protective policy, as they really admitted it was, there was no use in demonstrating further, as it had been demonstrated by Sir Charles Tupper and successive ministers of agriculture, that our cattle were perfectly healthy, and just before I left office I instructed the gentleman in charge of the cattle quarantine to enter into correspondence with Dr. Salmon, chief of the quarantine branch in the United States, believing that this policy, being a domestic policy in Great Britain, there was no use of doing anything more in the way of trying to get the embargo removed. In other words, I felt that the time had come that it was useless to try further to get the embargo removed in Great Britain, and that we might better get any advantage we could by lessening the quarantine restrictions. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman boasts of his market. I want to ask hon. gentlemen opposite where the promise is to-day to get the markets in

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the United States for the farmers of the province of Ontario and elsewhere. I do not need to recount these promises. On every platform the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), the hon. Minister of Customs and other hon. gentlemen, held the hope up to the farmers of Ontario that: If you put us in power, within six months, yes, within a shorter period, you shall have reciprocity, you shall have free entry of your products into the markets of the United States. What is the result? The result, as I told the House the other night is, no markets, but a bill of \$36,000 for a pleasure trip to Washington and Quebec. What does the hon. member for North Norfolk say now? Once he wept for reciprocity with the United States, once he declared that the government was mean, was unfair, was unstatesmanlike in dealing with the United States. What did he say last night? I take it from his utterance, notwithstanding the statement of the right hon. Prime Minister, that his mind is set against it, and that all hope of reciprocity has disappeared from the hon. gentleman's mind. He says in various places: The United States have been very illiberal, that their treatment of us has been very illiberal, that our treatment of the United States has been too liberal, and that, therefore, he is not in favour of reducing the duty. He says that he is not in favour of reciprocity, because they do not deserve it. And at page 3427 he said:

Everything in connection with the trade policy of the United States, everything in connection with the treatment we received at their hands, points to a narrow, selfish and unfriendly policy.

And then he adds—and I would have expected he would have added to it,—though no member of the government has said it, but it comes with full force from the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) because he was a member of the commission:

In our negotiations at Washington we met hostility on every turn, because of the preference we had given to England.

Now let us see just how the hon. gentlemen stood when they went to Washington to get reciprocity. They had given free corn to the United States; they had given away one of the things that we had to trade—they are great at giving things away for nothing in return.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. 'There is that that scattereth and yet increaseth.'

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Minister of Finance, I have no doubt recognizes to the full the meaning of the quotation which he has just given. He says: There is that which scattereth and still increaseth. That is quite true. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) is lavishly scattering the funds of this country with the hope of increasing his term of office. He scatters it especially in

his own county. Do not forget, Sir, those 14 harbours and 163 miles of railway.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Now let us see what the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) thought of free corn to the United States. He says:

I hold that to give the Americans free admission for their corn is granting them a concession to which they are not entitled.

That is good sense.

I hold that we ought to retain corn in the dutiable list until we can get some consideration from the United States in return. I know that the American farmers of the west hold our market for their corn as an important one, and I know that in the great majority of cases they will say to us: We will not object to giving you free admission of hay, free admission of potatoes and free admission of barley, in some cases, if you will give us free admission of corn.

Well, Sir, despite the protest of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) this government gave away this thing to the United States of America, this thing which we had to trade, and then they went to the United States of America to try and get something in return.

What else did they do? They gave to Great Britain a preference without getting anything in return, and as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) says: when they got down to negotiations with the United States, they were immediately faced with the preference which had been given to Great Britain and which, as he says himself, aroused hostility in the minds of the American people at every turn. I have said that these gentlemen on the Treasury benches are great at giving away things for nothing. I remember one morning when there were some gentlemen who made the air blue in the city of Hamilton. We have a large coasting trade in this country. That coasting trade has been rapidly increasing. As the prairies of the North-west have become cultivated the millions of bushels of grain have been coming down, and our shipbuilders and shipowners have been doing their very best to reap the advantage of that trade, and recently the shipping industry has developed a very great deal indeed. Some capitalists in the city of Hamilton put their money into a great enterprise; they organized a company, subscribed their stock, paid in their funds; sent their agent to Great Britain to order ships in order to accommodate this increased coasting trade of Canada. And after their man had gone to Great Britain and ordered their ships, they awakened one morning to find that these gentlemen in the government opposite, who give things away for nothing, had passed an order in council—absolutely illegally—turning the coasting trade of Canada over to the United States without getting a single thing in return. Well, Sir, the words

which were spoken in Hamilton that morning are not to be found in the psalms of David, and these gentlemen came down to the city of Ottawa. My hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood) knows these things just as well as I do. He was interested in the company; interested in its success. They came down to Ottawa and they told this government opposite: You cannot do that for if you do we will turn you out of office. And turn them out of office for what? For giving away that for which they did not receive anything in return. That is just what I say: the farmers of Canada to-day would be justified in turning these gentlemen out of office because they are giving away of the farmers' products, what they are getting nothing in return for. It is a return to the old Liberal policy for the pursuance of which the farmers of Canada ejected these people from office, in 1878. Let me add here, not only have their promises to get reciprocity with the United States not been carried out, but to-day they know there is not a shadow of a chance of that being secured. We told them they would fail. Who was right? We told them they were humbugging the people, and the people have been humbugged accordingly.

As to the coasting trade, the Conservative government had placed upon the statutes a statutory offer, which said to the United States: 'When you give our vessel owners a part of your trade you can have a part of ours, but not until you do that can you participate in our coasting trade' Were we right? Yes, Sir. Every sensible man in Canada says we were right.

Now, Sir, how shall we get to the market of England in the best possible shape. At the present time, that can be accomplished by having cold storage for a large amount of our products, and upon this question of cold storage the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) has taken every bit of credit in connection with its establishment in Canada. True, the other night he did say, that a one-horse system existed before 1896,—that is quite an admission from him. But just a moment before he used the phrase 'one-horse system,' he gave us some figures and these are the figures. He told us that in the following years, the amounts stated were paid the railways for cold storage:

1895.....	\$2,807 45
1896.....	2,526 37
1897.....	3,734 17
1899.....	3,275 52

Who started the cold storage system? These figures answer, Sir—the Conservative government. And I submit to this House that if the expenditure of 1896 being \$2,526. is a one-horse concern, the expenditure of \$3,275, in 1899, is not a full team.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It was only one horse and a donkey.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition says it was only one horse and a donkey, and most people will agree that he is right. Now, Mr. Speaker, these are the sums which were paid by the government of Canada for cold storage on the steamships :

1895.....	\$10,294 38
1896.....	7,718 09
1897.....	26,000 00
1898.....	33,090 78
1899.....	38,695 61

But as to the question: Who established the cold storage system in Canada, let me settle that once for all by referring to the hon. gentleman's own report. This is the report signed by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), in 1897, and it tells the history of the cold storage movement. It says, and remember the report was made very shortly after the hon. gentleman took office, and therefore it refers to what had been done in our time :

A cold storage service for the safe carriage of butter was begun in 1895. Arrangements were made whereby refrigerator cars for carrying butter were run during the summer on the main lines of railways leading into Montreal. These cars were used to pick up small lots of butter as offered at the different railway stations. Shippers by these cars were allowed to ship butter at the usual 'less than car-load rates,' without any charge for icing or special service. As far as space permitted, merchants were allowed to use these cars for the shipment of dairy and creamery butter between points at which the cars touched. During 1895 cars were run for at least part of the season on the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways.

Arrangements were also made for the chilling of fresh-made creamery butter at the warehouses of the Montreal Cold Storage and Freezing Company, Montreal.

Arrangements were made for the fitting up of insulated and refrigerator chambers on steamships from Montreal to Avonmouth, Liverpool and Glasgow. The chambers were constructed to thoroughly insulate their contents, and thus prevent them from being heated during the voyage by any rise of temperature outside the chamber. Galvanized iron cylinders were filled with ice to cool the interior of the chamber and the outside of the packages of the butter, in so far as they were heated during the cartage from the cold storage warehouses to the steamships. Ten steamships were fitted up in 1895.

For the season of 1896 arrangements were made for the fitting of three steamships with mechanical refrigerating plant and insulated chambers, having a capacity of about 20,000 cubic feet each. It was proposed that the steamship company would carry, in cold storage, butter at a charge of 10 shillings per ton, and cheese at a charge of 5 shillings per ton, in addition to the current charge for freight on butter and cheese. Other steamships were to be fitted up with insulated compartments for the carriage of chilled butter. Owing to failure on the part of the company which had agreed to put in the refrigerating plant to do so in time, the arrangement for fitting up steamships with mechanical refrigerating plant was not carried out. In consequence, a number of the steamships between Montreal and Avonmouth

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were fitted with large insulated chambers for the carriage of chilled butter.

Arrangements were made for extending the area served by the cold storage cars on railways during 1896. Refrigerator cars were run on terms similar to those in 1895 on the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific railways leading into Montreal. The increase in the quantity of butter exported from the port of Montreal may be noted from the following figures:

Exported from Montreal during the shipping season of 1894, 32,055 packages.

Exported from Montreal during the shipping season of 1895, 69,664 packages.

Exported from Montreal during the shipping season of 1896, 157,321 packages.

Showing, Sir, that our cold storage was not only established, but was having a most admirable effect upon the exports of Canadian products to Great Britain. By reading these statements in the report of the hon. gentleman himself, I think I have settled for all time in this House and out of it, the question as to which government and which party established cold storage for the benefit of the farmers of Canada.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

GASPE SHORT LINE RAILWAY COMPANY.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 70) to incorporate the Gaspé Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Lemieux.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 14.

Mr. JOHN McALISTER (Restigouche). I would ask that the section of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway be inserted so as to remove any doubt as to what part of the line the amendment covers.

Mr. R. LEMIEUX (Gaspé). I think that by the Act passed in 1891, there can be no question that the Baie des Chaleurs section is intended to be covered by the Baie des Chaleurs Railway. However, to satisfy my hon. friend, I would have no objection to insert in my amendment the words, 'the Baie des Chaleurs section of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway.'

Mr. McALISTER. The Baie des Cheleurs section proper is from Metapedia to Paspebiac.

Amendment agreed to. Bill reported with amendments, and amendments concurred in.

RESTIGOUCHE AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 73) respecting the Restigouche and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 5,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I cannot understand why you are asking us to grant additional powers, under this section, to a corporation created by the legislature of New Brunswick, and not declared to be a work for the general advantage of Canada.

Mr. McALISTER. I do not think there are any powers asked for beyond what are granted by the Nova Scotia legislature.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We can let the Bill go through and hold over the third reading.

Bill reported.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 104) respecting the Montfort and Gatineau Colonization Railway Company.—(Mr. Bourassa.)

Bill (No. 88) to incorporate the St. Mary's River Railway Company.—(Mr. Oliver.)

Bill (No. 96) respecting the Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. Talbot.)

Bill (No. 84) respecting the Bay of Quinté Railway Company.—(Mr. Hurley.)

Bill (No. 91) respecting the Oshawa Railway Company.—(Mr. Burnett.)

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 113) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Frost and Wood Company.—(Mr. Cowan.)

Bill (No. 114) respecting the Toronto Hotel Company.—(Mr. Osler.)

Bill (No. 115) to incorporate the Canada National Railway and Transport Company.—(Mr. Campbell.)

Bill (No. 117) respecting the National Sanitarium Association.—(Mr. Maclean.)

Bill (No. 120) to incorporate the Ottawa, Brockville and New York Railway Company.—(Mr. Frost.)

Bill (No. 123) to incorporate the Yale Mining District Railway Company.—(Mr. Bostock.)

Bill (No. 124) to incorporate the Lake Superior and Hudson Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

Bill (No. 125) respecting the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

Bill (No. 129)—from the Senate—to incorporate the Canadian Steel Company.—(Mr. Calvert.)

Bill (No. 130)—from the Senate—respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company.—(Mr. Edwards.)

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I had referred before six o'clock to the statement of the Minister of Finance, that he had accomplished the work of getting certain securities placed upon the Trust Fund List in Great Britain. I wish to refer for a moment to a cablegram which I notice in the daily press of this day:

London, April 5.—In the House of Commons this afternoon Mr. F. F. Begg, representing the St. Rollox division of Glasgow, asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether Canadian government securities were being raised to the rank of trust investments.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach replied that no final settlement had yet been arrived at, but arrangements were in progress which, it was hoped, would lead to a satisfactory settlement of the question.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). That is quite correct.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I hope that the negotiations were at such a stage that they justified the hon. gentleman's announcement, and I am sure the House and the country will hope that nothing will interfere to prevent the accomplishment of this end.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My announcement was that legislation, both by the Imperial parliament and the parliament of Canada was required, and that when these Bills were passed, then the matter would be final.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It certainly requires Imperial legislation, because the list of securities is given in the Bill passed by the Imperial House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I so stated in my speech.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Before six o'clock I referred to the contention of the Minister of Agriculture that he had secured a great market, which we had failed to secure in the United States, for our cattle, by reason of a change in the quarantine regulations so that our cattle sent in there were quarantined for ninety days. I think I forgot to remark, as I was passing, that so far from the hon. gentleman having aided us to get these quarantine restrictions removed, there was the severest possible attack upon us from all sides among hon. gentlemen opposite because we did not keep up those regulations as strictly as we should have done for the purpose of securing the removal of the embargo against our cattle in Great Britain.

I have touched upon the question of the markets, and I think I have shown that from 1874 to 1878 hon. gentlemen opposite failed to keep the market of Canada for the Canadian farmers; that in 1879, under the national policy, that condition of affairs was changed, and the Canadian

farmer was given the advantage of supplying at least the people in Canada. In 1879, we put upon the statute-books the tariff known as the national policy, and hon. gentlemen and the House know that it contains the agricultural protection clauses to which I have already referred. The statement I desire to make now is absolutely borne out by the facts, namely, that every time an effort was made in this House by the Conservative party to preserve the home markets for the Canadian farmers, that effort has been opposed by the Liberal party, and by the members of the Liberal government who have charge of public affairs at the present time. Not only did they fail to keep our markets for us here, but they have never got for us any markets in foreign countries. I want to state here to-night that the reciprocity negotiations with the United States are, to every intelligent thinker, practically a matter of the past. The Prime Minister says that the negotiations are still alive, that the High Commission will meet once more; but we had a member of the High Commission last night decrying the whole question of reciprocity, and saying that the United States are mean and illiberal. It means that these hon. gentlemen have found out the impossibility of making any arrangement with the people of the United States, and I want to add that not only have they lessened their chances by giving free corn to the farmers of the United States without getting anything in return for it, but, I want to assert, and it is an assertion, which, I think, hon. gentlemen opposite will appreciate in a moment, that the contention as to the condition of Canada, the helplessness and the hopelessness of the Canadian farmer and of Canada generally, made by hon. gentlemen from 1878 to 1896, put the American people into a frame of mind to imagine that they could get much greater advantages out of Canada and a much better bargain than any party in Canada could ever, with the approval of the people, concede. When they went to Washington their speeches rose up against them and destroyed them in their efforts to secure reciprocity for this country. Sir, these hon. gentlemen said to the farmers of Canada: 'Put us in power, and if we do not get you reciprocity and a market for your products in the United States within a very short time, turn us out.' The people, Sir, will take them at their word on many another count beside that. The right hon. Prime Minister, speaking at Brampton, I think, in 1894, made this statement: What do you farmers want? You want markets; I say you want markets, and it is the mission of the Liberal party to give you markets. The mission of the Liberal party, if that were the mission of the Liberal party, has been very badly fulfilled indeed. We have gone from 1896 to 1899, and what have the government to announce in the way of mar-

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kets for the farmers of Canada? Only this, that negotiations are pretty well advanced for free trade between this country and the Island of Trinidad, a very unimportant island, which is absolutely unknown, I venture to say, in a great many of the agricultural sections of the Dominion of Canada. But, the hon. Minister of Customs, when he was speaking, said to the farmers of Canada: We have got you markets by reason of our preferential tariff. These are his words:

We have to-day, by virtue of our preferential tariff—there is no doubt about it in my mind—a decided preference in the British market. If it is not a legal preference, it is a preference through the good-will of the British consuming public themselves, who by this preferential tariff had their hearts drawn towards Canada as they never had before.

What does it mean to the great agricultural class?

Wealth to the great agricultural class of this country, which means wealth and prosperity to every man who dwells in it. Who will deny it? I have given you figures most gratifying had their hearts drawn out towards Canada as they never had before.

But if it had not been for our preferential tariff we could not have done it. He says that Canadian products exported to Great Britain in 1895-6, amounted in value to \$62,718,941, and in 1898-9 to \$85,114,555, an increase, roughly estimating it, of 33½ per cent. He gave another table in regard to the exportation of animals and their products. In 1895-6 the exports from Canada to Great Britain of animals and their products amounted to \$42,074,384 and in 1898-9 to \$62,000,000. The hon. gentleman, in making his subtraction was in error, or the reporter, in taking down his figures, may have made an error. The difference appears in *Hansard* as \$17,000,000, but there is \$21,000,000 of an increase, or about 40 per cent from 1895-6 to 1898-9, and I desire to give the hon. gentleman's argument full force. I looked up the figures to ascertain the increase from 1892 to 1896 when there was no preferential tariff in existence, when we were going along in the same way that we had gone along for years, and I found, that, in 1892, we exported, of animals and their products, \$24,068,008, and that in 1896 we sent \$32,523,071, or an increase of 33½ per cent, showing that the hon. gentleman is quite wrong in his contention that the increase in the exportation of these products to Great Britain has been brought about by the preferential tariff. It has come in the ordinary course of events. England has been importing more, and we have been prepared to ship more. I have shown how this came about in my figures in relation to meats and also by the facts I have given in regard to the dairy industry and cold storage. And in addition to that we see that the same increase took place where no preferential

tariff had ever been passed in favour of Great Britain. I refer, Sir, to the United States of America. The United States of America give England no preference whatever, and yet hon. gentlemen will be amazed if they have not looked the figures up, at the increase in the exports of agricultural products in the last few years from the United States to England, bearing out this statement I have made that England has been importing more, and that, therefore, the people on the continent of America are able to sell her more. The following partial table will show the increases that have taken place :

Agricultural products imported into Great Britain from United States, 1895-1899.

	1895	1899	Increase. p.c.
Hams and bacon.....lbs.	452,199,328	662,201,232	45
Beef, fresh.....lbs.	232,360,128	308,761,152	33½
Pork, fresh.....lbs.	967,456	31,004,848	3,000
Other meats.....lbs.	15,246,784	21,708,288	40
Lard.....lbs.	180,109,104	232,014,384	25
Butter.....lbs.	15,853,936	17,823,344	14
Eggs.....doz.	477,030	1,941,050	400
Wheat.....bush.	57,297,150	64,681,209	12
Oats.....	14,996,479	23,296,000	60
Corn.....	54,854,600	78,920,800	45
	1896.	1898.	
Cornmeal.....	205,553	810,532	390
Oatmeal.....	245,302	477,647	90
Flour.....	8,906,856	10,307,245	20
Poultry and game..	\$92,564	\$189,157	95

In these things, Sir, the increase has been very much greater indeed from the United States to Great Britain in the same period than it has been from Canada to Great Britain, and I want to know from the hon. Minister of Customs, if, in the face of these figures, which he will find in the trade returns of Great Britain, he will say that the increase we have made, come as a result of the preferential tariff passed by this House in 1897. I notice by *The Miller*, an American publication, that the United States sell 63 per cent of their barley to Great Britain, 43 per cent of their corn, 36 per cent of corn meal, 46 per cent of their oats, 60 per cent of their wheat, 58 per cent of their wheat flour and 45 per cent of all other breadstuffs, showing conclusively, I think, to any fair-minded man, that the preferential tariff has not had the effect that the hon. gentleman claims, in giving us a market, in Great Britain, much enlarged, by reason of the sympathy of the British people of Canada and for Canadian products. I do not believe that the government are spending money enough to assist the farmers of Canada to capture the market of Great Britain. There is no subject to which the government can, with better advantage to the country, pay increased attention, than to this subject. We are, as I have already said, in flowing times. We are in times when the treasury is full, and I am prepared, this night, to vote, if necessary, a million dollars, if well and ably spent, to im-

prove our cold storage, to improve our transportation and to advertise, upon the markets of Great Britain, the produce of the farmers of Canada. It will be money well spent if well handled, for as we all know the prosperity of the great agricultural masses in Canada is the prosperity of Canada as a whole.

Now, Sir, I want to say a word—I do not desire to be considered offensive, when I say it—to some gentlemen who specially claim to represent the farmers' party in the Commons of Canada. You will remember that in 1896, there were off-shoots from the Liberal party and from the Conservative party, and that a new party was formed, called the Patrons of Industry. I have no hesitation in admitting that the great mass of people who joined that organization, were thoroughly conscientious, believed that they were doing right, and did it with a view to promote the interests of the agriculturists of Canada. But, I have no hesitation in adding too, that the men who were managing the concern, were not looking after the farmers—they were farming the farmers in the interests of themselves. Well, what do we find? We found that shortly after the elections of 1896, some of those leaders, whose hearts were bleeding for the farmers, took positions under the Liberal government. That was what they had been labouring for, and their only hope to get a government place, was to displace the Conservative party, and to put the Liberal party in power. They helped to elect the Liberals in many constituencies—these gentlemen have got their reward. In the celebrated letter to the Patron organ, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), wrote these words on October 1, 1894 :

To the patrons ; your plan is to remain distinct but friendly.

Well, Sir, they remained distinct, but friendly, and I may say in that they have their representatives in this House who still remain friendly to the government—but not distinct. Let us see. I do not say it at all to injure the feelings of my confreres in this House who were elected by the Patron support, but I do it as a matter of fairness to the people who supported these gentlemen, and may be asked to support them again for the same reasons as were advanced in the campaign of 1896. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), making a speech recently at the nomination of my hon. friend from East Hastings (Mr. Hurley), said :

Mr. Hurley is an excellent representative ; when there is a vote the government whip has not to whip him in.

I wonder if the hon. member for North Wellington himself has ever had to be whipped in to support the extravagance of this government. Sir, the same compliment might be paid to our Patron representatives in the House of Commons at the present

time. My experience has been, and the experience of the House of Commons has been, that when the government needed a vote, no whip had to be sent to get these gentlemen in. They were always in the House to vote, grateful for the patronage which they had received; always exercising, I am told, the patronage of the government in their ridings. And my hon friend opposite, Mr. Pettet (Prince Edward), takes off his hat and agrees to it. That being so, I say to the hon. gentleman: that no member exercising the patronage of a government in a riding ought to come before the people again and ask support as belonging to an independent party. I leave that statement in the hands of the House and the hands of the country. I felt it was my duty to make it because some of these gentlemen are going back for election as independent candidates. There seems to be a quiet understanding between them and the government. There is sitting over there, my smiling friend from West Bruce (Mr. Tolmie). He is in a constituency that is irretrievably and hopelessly Liberal. He was elected as a Patron. He could not be elected as a Patron again, and so my right hon. friend, the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) goes up and gets him the Liberal nomination.

Mr. TOLMIE. He has not got it yet.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is the best thing to be done in that riding, and where it is the best thing to be done to defeat the Conservative party to let them run as Patrons again, they are permitted to run as Patrons. I felt it my duty to say this word of warning to my friends in the various constituencies in Ontario, that having been once misled, they should not be misled upon these same lines by these same gentlemen again.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have said that the government have neglected the interests of the Canadian farmer. I now desire to say that the government have also neglected the interests of that other great class of this country—I mean the industrial class, the labouring class, the artisans who are engaged in toil in our various industries in almost every portion of Canada. We had the government a little while ago saying that they would adopt an alien labour law. A Bill was promoted by a private member of this House, and we had the statement of the Prime Minister that the government were unanimous upon it, that they adopted it; that they would support it and carry it through. Well, that Bill went up to the Senate, and what did we find there? We found a member of the government at every stage saying he was opposed to it, and trying to persuade the senators to drop it, and if not to drop it, to defeat it. Was it a game from the start? It looks very much as though there was an understanding between the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State (Mr. Scott), that the Prime Minister should favour the Bill

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in the Commons to catch the votes of the labouring classes and that the Secretary of State should defeat it in the Senate. The Senate, I am glad to say, having a majority of Conservatives, was true to the labouring men of Canada, and so the Senate passed that Bill.

The parliament of Canada passed that Bill, but what has become of it? Who has heard of it? Is it being operated? 'Oh, no,' says the Prime Minister, 'we have a modus vivendi between the United States and Canada, that pending these negotiations, that Bill shall be inoperative.' That means that in practice, Sir, the United States operated it, and we did not. Having failed to defeat it in the Senate, the government has allowed it to lapse, and the spectacle has been presented time and again in this House by the member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), by the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson), by various other gentlemen; of men being brought to Canada to take the place of the toilers who are trying to get a fair rate of wages from the great corporations and great industries in this country; and hon. gentlemen opposite have sat in their seats and made no effort whatever to prevent that state of things. We are told that the alien labour law has not been in operation in the United States. I see that a deputation waited upon the Prime Minister the other day, representing the Labour Congress of this country, and what did that deputation say to the right hon. gentleman? So far from it not being in operation and pushed in the United States, they told him that \$87,000 had been spent last year to put that Bill in operation there. They told him that there were no less than 300 deportations under that Bill from the United States, and what was the right hon. gentleman's answer? I am told he said: These men who were deported cannot be from Canada; they must be from somewhere else. If the Prime Minister lived along the border; if he lived in the county of Welland; if he lived in the county of Essex; if he lived in the city of Hamilton—

Mr. CLANCY. Or in Lambton.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), says is quite true. If the Prime Minister lived in any of these places, he would have known that not a week passes by that the United States inspectors do not send back people who go over from Canada to earn their bread in the United States, and not a week goes by that dozens do not come into Canada from the United States to earn the money of Canadian producers and to make their living on Canadian soil.

Mr. McDOUGALL. It is the same in the maritime provinces.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is the same in the maritime provinces, and I have no doubt it is the same in every province of this

Dominion, and notably in British Columbia, where the miners are up in arms because of the fact that foreigners are coming from the United States, and taking their bread out of their mouths—and yet this government sits silent in the face of these things. Another thing was pointed out by that deputation. That deputation said they were in favour of the Bill of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), which declared that there should be on government works, the current rate of wages paid. Surely the deputation must have been misled. I have not heard of the Bill. Has any member of this House heard of it? I have heard of a resolution which was moved in this House, and I have heard of the amendment moved by my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), which amendment proposed that the spirit of that resolution should be crystallized into a Bill. I had heard also that the government objected to it, and would not allow that resolution to pass. Sir, it is the same old game, as the game of the alien labour law. We are in the face of an election campaign, and hon. gentlemen opposite desire to catch the votes of the labour men of Canada upon a sham resolution passed by this House. I see that my hon. friend the Minister of Customs, was speaking at Brantford the other day. I have his speech here as reported in the *Toronto Globe*, and I see that he said there :

They had enacted that in all public works there should be a clause in the contract that the contractor should pay for the labour he engaged at the current rate of wages in that section of the country.

The hon. gentleman was speaking to the labour men in the city of Brantford. I tell him they had not enacted it. I tell him that an enactment of this House is a law of this House; but a resolution of this House may be broken as was that famous resolution moved a little while ago in the legislature of Ontario by a member of the provincial government that no civil servant should hereafter take part in election campaigns, while he turned and winked to the civil service, 'Go on and do your best;' and they did their best in every part of the province of Ontario in the election campaigns. Another word, Sir. I think it was in 1876, when labour was at a very low ebb in this country, when the industries were silent, that a deputation of labour men came and waited on the government here. Their families were in want; there is no question about that. Goods were coming here, manufactured by American and other foreign artisans, while our artisans were without employment, and their families in some instances, without bread. They sent a deputation here, and what did the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) say about that deputation? He said they were a raging mob, not many of whom appeared to be hungry, but a great many of whom

appeared to be drunk. I say that is an insult to the labouring classes of Canada which they will resent when they get the opportunity. The right hon. First Minister smiles. To him it is a joke, but it was not such a joke to the men who were out of employment and out of bread.

The hon. Minister of Customs in his speech on the budget asked, what is the evidence that industries came into Canada under the national policy? I have some figures under my hand, which show as nothing else can the measure of the industries of this country, the quantities of certain raw materials used largely in the industries of the country, imported in 1878 and in 1896 respectively :

	1878.	1896.
Crude rubber.....lbs.	458,000	1,716,925
Cotton..... "	8,000,000	40,000,000
Sugar tons.	9,000,000	117,815,000
Bituminous coal..... "	292,387	3,299,025

The production of bituminous coal in our own country was : In 1879, 1,126,497 tons ; and in 1896, 3,745,716 tons. The differences in working into finished articles the importation and production of the raw materials imported is the measure of the increased labour given to Canadian artisans in that period.

Now, I want to say a word or two as to the prosperity of Canada. I am prepared to admit at once that Canada is prosperous. Every gentleman on this side of the House, not only admits it, but is glad of it. We not only know that Canada is prosperous, but we know to what that prosperity is due. It is due to the policy which the Conservative party maintained for years in spite of the attacks of hon. gentlemen opposite. But these hon. gentlemen claim a great deal of credit for the prosperity of the country. As an evidence of what good luck, as the Minister of Trade and Commerce calls it, they have had, I want to show what a fortunate time they have struck as regards one particular matter—the total mineral production of Canada. They will not claim that their policy has had anything to do with that. In 1896, 1898, 1899, the total mineral production of Canada was :

In 1896.....	\$22,584,513
In 1898.....	38,661,000
In 1899.....	47,225,000

This was entirely independent of and uninfluenced by the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. Another thing which has given them a great harvest has been the mining companies which were registered in England, and the capital of which was raised there and brought to Canada. In 1896 there were fourteen of these companies registered in England, in 1897 forty-three, in 1898 thirty-one, and in 1899 nine. They had got on to the management of the Yukon in the meantime. In these companies, according to one of the London journals, no

less than \$82,000,000 was actually subscribed and paid by British stockholders, which money came to Canada to help to swell the commercial prosperity of this country.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Hear, hear.

Mr. **MONTAGUE.** My hon. friend says 'hear, hear.' Of course he knows that the change of government had nothing to do with that at all. It had to do with the mismanagement of the Yukon, however, and if that had not existed, we may be reasonably certain that the investment of British capital in Canadian mining fields would to-day be a great deal more than it is. The hon. gentleman cannot meet a British investor or the representative of a British investor who has come back from the gold fields of the Yukon who will not say that the condition of things there is simply outrageous—so outrageous that if it continues the investment of British capital there will be entirely stopped.

There is another reason why trade is booming and the manufacturers are busy. It is because they have got over their doubts a good deal, says the hon. gentleman. The factories were silent, the shelves were empty, the stocks of goods were low in 1896—why? Because the manufacturers were waiting anxiously to know what hon. gentlemen opposite would do. The late hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), whose decease I regret, speaking either outside or inside of this House, I do not now remember which, said: 'Business is paralyzed, and will be until the tariff is settled.' When hon. gentlemen opposite decided to bring down their tariff, which was practically at that time a re-enactment of the tariff of the Conservative party, at once the mills began to be busy, the shelves began to be filled, confidence was re-established, and business was a great deal better in Canada than it had been before. What was the reason? These hon. gentlemen had swallowed themselves; they had swallowed their convictions; they had compelled the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce to swallow his. That was the reason why confidence was established again in the country.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Are you denouncing your own tariff?

Mr. **MONTAGUE.** Not at all. My hon. friend may think that exceedingly clever, but I do not see that it is. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) last night discussed the question of the increased preference. In fact, he devoted to it the main part of his address. Now, I desire to say a few words upon that preference; and I have no desire to say them in any doubtful or hesitating way whatever. The old preference was largely a humbug. It was so constructed that I did not think it could do a great deal of harm to Canadian

industries. It remains to be seen whether the new preference is as little dangerous.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** Hear, hear.

Mr. **MONTAGUE.** My right hon. friend says 'hear, hear,' but time will tell. We are enjoying good times now, our manufacturers have orders ahead, our woollen mills have orders ahead for months, but let the ebb of the tide begin, let hard times come, and then we shall find whether this reduction of the protection to our manufacturers will not work serious results to the industrial classes and the people who have invested their money in these establishments. Perhaps all this may mean that the right hon. gentleman has some idea of carrying out his old policy. Perhaps it may mean that the hon. gentleman is thinking of his policy announced in 1896. It is interesting to read the speeches of the Prime Minister just then:

Our policy, he said, is the removal of every vestige of protection. That is our goal which we will ultimately reach, but the government cannot do it at once. It will have to be done gradually step by step, and I pledge you my word that in the end it will be done.

Beside this, Sir, we have the statement of the hon. Finance Minister that the end is not yet. The Minister of Trade and Commerce says: 'There is a great deal more in this than hon. gentlemen see.' And we have the announcement of the hon. member for North Norfolk last night: 'I say, make the preference greater than it is at present, and I will support the government in doing it.'

These hon. gentlemen seem still to be enamoured of their old doctrine of giving something and getting nothing in return. They have given free corn, free binder twine, free barbed wire, they have given our coasting trade, and they have given 12½ per cent and 25 per cent, and are now giving 33½ per cent reduction, so far as the goods imported from Great Britain are concerned. Are they gradually coming to the destruction of every vestige of protection which has been placed upon our statutes for the benefit of our industries? Let me tell the hon. Minister of Finance that he never spoke wiser words than when he said that confidence and stability of tariffs is the foundation stone of success; and if we are not to have that stability of tariffs, the hon. gentleman will see that the investment of capital will be retarded and the industrial life of the country as well.

But, there is another reason for this preference, and, perhaps, it is the main reason. These hon. gentlemen made a mistake upon the contingent matter. They waited to be pressed into service. They raised technical objections, they could not send the contingent without money they said, and they could not get money without parliament. But, these objections were overcome when the voice of the people spoke loudly in favour

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of assisting Great Britain in this her time of trouble. But, there has always been, and always will be, in the minds of the people, the conviction that these hon. gentlemen sent the contingents only because the force of public opinion compelled them to do so. The right hon. gentleman, I am reminded, said so more than once. At any rate, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), and the hon. member for Laprairie (Mr. Monet) made the statement down in the province of Quebec, just about the beginning of this debate, that the Prime Minister only sent these contingents because he was compelled to do so by Sir Charles Tupper, backed up by the strength of public opinion. Knowing that they missed an opportunity in connection with the contingent, and desiring to catch the electorate upon the cry of loyalty, we have them extending the preference to Great Britain, while at the same time they sent down to the province of Quebec, Messrs. Bourassa and Monet to say that the government only sent these contingents because they were compelled to.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) voted with you against the preference.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is an exceedingly pertinent remark. I stand by the position I took on the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell). I say that in this country, struggling along as a new country, while we have the very strongest devotion for the motherland, that is a matter of sentiment and an entirely different thing from business. When we come to business, it is the duty of the government to get something in return for what they give to the American manufacturers and the British manufacturers as well. Our last man, our last dollar in defence of the empire, but when it comes to business let us deal with it in a straightforward business way. And I am not alone in holding those sentiments. The hon. Minister of Customs smiles exceedingly, but let me draw his attention to the speech which the right hon. Prime Minister made in Brampton, when you, Mr. Speaker, were present. On that occasion, the right hon. gentleman gave his pledge that all the promises of the Liberal party would be fulfilled. I am not going to ask you now, Sir, to rule if they were, because that would place you in an exceedingly awkward position, but we have this statement of the Prime Minister on that occasion, which, in view of the statement I have made, I wish to present to the House, this is what the hon. gentleman said:

I think England can look after her own interests. And if I know John Bull at all he expects his son to follow his example and do the same, viz., to look after No. 1. I think he would have a contempt for a son who would not turn an honest penny.

All I ask this government to do is to look

after No. 1—to look after Canadian interests and Canadian artisans, and see that they get a fair show in supplying the markets of our own people.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is exactly what I am doing.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Let me call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to this, that these words were not spoken when the right hon. gentleman was dealing with the preferential tariff in favour of Great Britain, but when he was defending discrimination against Great Britain and unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. And if his words were forceful then, in defence of discrimination against the motherland, how much more forceful are they now in defence of a fair and reasonable reciprocal agreement between the motherland and Canada.

At North Bay, the right hon. gentleman going westward on that splendid trip of his, made another speech—and I am quoting from *Globe* reports:

It was not a question of sentiment. He had no objection to trading with the colonies if sentiment were cash, but no banker would take sentiment and credit your account with it.

At Brantford he said:

The government went to the United States for an example and England for a market. He would reverse that when he got in.

But here is the essence of the whole thing, and I now ask the hon. Minister of Customs to smile again, as I again quote from his right hon. leader:

Business was business and sentiment was sentiment, but he did not believe that sentiment was business any more than business was sentiment.

These were the words of the Prime Minister in the city of Brantford, discussing not the question of preferential tariff, but the question whether we had a right to discriminate against Great Britain by unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. That was previous to the elections of 1896, just when the hon. gentleman was starting on his trip to the North-west Territories and British Columbia. I did not follow him any further west; I fancy he got still more businesslike as he went west and approached the Pacific coast. Now, what do we find the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) saying last night. We have had members of the government saying it was childish this idea of bargaining with Great Britain—

Mr. WOOD. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Who says 'Hear, hear?'

Mr. WOOD. I do.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) says 'hear, hear.' I

want to know from that hon. member whether he would give five pounds of nails one cent cheaper to a British subject than he would to an American? Would he give binder twine to the people of Canada cheaper than he would to the people of the United States. Why, if you went to buy nails or razors or axes from the hon. member from Hamilton, even if you were his great uncle, he would say: Business is business, sentiment is sentiment; I respect you as a relative; but I want full price for these articles. We find these hon. gentlemen saying that it is childish to think of bargaining with Great Britain. Are not all questions of international trade, whether between the motherland and the colonies, or between the colonies themselves or between different nations—are not they all questions of discussion and bargaining and arrangement? Will the hon. gentlemen opposite tell me that England ever asked us to do this? She never expected us to do it, she never wanted us to do it; she knew that we had a fight for life here, that we had a work to do in building up a nation that calls for all our energy. She knew that we had a great competitor to the south of us; she knew that we had to meet circumstances that she had not to meet, that we had to deal with conditions instead of theories. Therefore, she never asked us to give her any of our patrimony, to yield for her benefit any of our advantages; she was willing, and more than willing, that the revenues of the Canadian people, their zeal and their industry should be used by us as British patriots to build up a great British nation on the northern half of this continent, that in times of peace should be an honour to her, and in times of trouble might prove, as it has proven, an arm of strength and defence. What does the hon. member for North Norfolk say in his highness and in his mightiness, as to getting a return preference for the preference we have given? He says that it is useless, that it is senseless, that it is deceiving, that it is dishonest, that it is shameful, that it is sublimely and infinitely impudent, that it is positively disloyal. I said this afternoon that by the acquirement of facility in the use of bitter adjectives the hon. gentleman was qualifying for the position of Minister of Trade and Commerce, and I think I have proved it by the expressions I have just quoted. Well, Sir, if to seek a preference from Great Britain is useless, senseless, is deceiving, dishonest, shameful, sublimely and infinitely impudent and positively disloyal, what does the hon. gentleman think about his leader? The hon. member for North Norfolk says that it was positively dishonest to go to the country with any such policy as this—namely, a policy saying that we hoped to get a preference in the markets of Great Britain according to the lines of our resolution. Let the hon. gentleman

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ask his leader what he promised the people of the province of Ontario in the city of London; let him ask him whether he did not say that it was a good policy; let him ask him whether he did not say that that practical statesman, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain had practically extended an invitation, and let him ask him if he did not say that the moment he got into power, he would send a commission to Great Britain to get for Canada this preference in the markets of Great Britain. And when he gets his answer from the Prime Minister, I will be able to tell him whether we are dishonest in regard to this policy which we are expounding for the people of Canada, and upon which we are prepared to take up the fight for supremacy in the confidence of the people. What did the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) say in London:

That practical statesman, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has come to the conclusion that the time has come when it is possible to have within the bounds of the empire a new step taken which will give to the colonies of England—

What? Where are those adjectives? I have lost them now, but I hope they are on *Hansard*.

—a preference to their products over the products of other nations.

I think I may very well leave the hon. member for North Norfolk in the hands of his leader; I think I may well let him put his adjectives against the argument of the Prime Minister. Now, what does the right hon. gentleman still further say? He says that the leader of the opposition, when he stated that the Prime Minister had betrayed Canada when he went to the old country, was making an outrageous statement for which there was no foundation. What did the Prime Minister do when he went over to the old country? Mr. Chamberlain extended to these gentlemen an invitation to discuss this question. The Prime Minister did not ask for it, he would not even consent to discuss it on behalf of Canada, though the promise was still ringing in the ears of the London audience that he would send a commission to get preferential trade with the mother country. He said: No, we do not want anything in return; we give it to you as a gift—

Mr. DOBELL. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And one hon. gentleman, the originator of the bottle-necked steamship idea in this country says, 'hear, hear.' And I say that the Prime Minister of this country—knowing the promise he had made to the electors of Canada, and to his audience in the city of London and refusing to even discuss the question with these statesmen, betrayed Canada and the best interests of Canadian industries.

Now, the hon. member for North Norfolk says it is nonsense to talk of this, because

we never can get it unless we adopt England's system of free trade.

Mr. CAMPBELL. That is what Mr. Chamberlain said.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Oh, no—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, only two days ago.

Mr. MONTAGUE. We will discuss that some other time.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Now is the time.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am going to quote what the hon. gentleman's leader said—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Give us Mr. Chamberlain's words.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the Prime Minister is a more important man in this House. I want to see how these hon. gentlemen agree among themselves. The hon. member for North Norfolk says that any man with half a brain will see that it is absolutely necessary, if we wish this preference in the markets of Great Britain, to adopt the free trade system of England. Now, this is what the Prime Minister said in London :

England does not expect that we should take her own system of free trade, such as she has it ; but I lay it before you, that the thing the English people would expect in return is that, instead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff, pure and simple. These are the conditions on which we can have that boon.

There is no free trade there. What did the Prime Minister mean ? He meant that we should lower our tariff to Great Britain, and they, in return, would give us a preference in their markets over the products of the various parts of the world. Well, why did the hon. gentleman go back upon his promise in England ? He has never opened his mouth with any explanation. Was it for fear he would offend the Minister of Trade and Commerce ? Was it for fear that when he came to negotiations with the United States, a mutual preference would work against him in discussing these questions with that country ? Was it love of the 60,000,000 market, and an idea that he would be able to get a wide reciprocity treaty with the United States ? It makes no difference what it was. I say that the leader of the opposition was right when he said that the Prime Minister having in view his promise in London, betrayed Canadian interests when he refused to discuss this subject. What did the Prime Minister do then ? He put arguments into the mouths of those people in Great Britain who are opposed to that mutual preference ; he said : ' It would be almost a crime to interfere with your fiscal system, we do not ask you to do it, we give it to you as a free gift.' What was the statement of the hon. member for North

Norfolk last night ? When he was discussing this subject and practically appealing to the loyalty of the people of Canada, he said : It is positively disloyal to ask that we get something in return for the advantages which we are willing to give to Great Britain. Now, Sir, what is the hon. gentleman's resolution which he read, but which he cannot move ? I want to say to that hon. gentleman that all through the discussion of trade questions in this House, he, more than anybody else, he and the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), are responsible for misleading public opinion in the United States. They made the people of the United States believe that we were willing to do anything to get reciprocity, that we were in a bad way, that our very existence depended upon getting trade with the people to the south. He does the same thing now, and he puts the same arguments into the mouths of those people in Great Britain who are opposed to mutual preference. What does he say in his resolution, a resolution which would be funny if it were not upon a serious subject, a resolution written by himself, which he says he would move if he had an opportunity. Among other things it says :

So long as Canada furnishes not more than 5 per cent of the total foreign and colonial trade of Great Britain, this thing is impossible.

The hon. gentleman is a good negotiator for Canada. The hon. gentleman is fighting for Canadian interests as he fought for Canadian interests in days gone by, and he is putting into the mouths of men in Great Britain who are opposed to this argument, that perhaps they would not have thought of, to prevent Canada securing this boon in the markets of Great Britain !

Mr. DAVIN. And a fallacious argument.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, a fallacious argument, as the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), showed last night when he came to contradict the figures. But the Minister of Finance says : ' Oh, but this will bring it'—not exactly in those words.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This or nothing ; if we cannot obtain it this way, we cannot obtain it at all.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am satisfied, he says, to stand our chances of getting it. Well, that is an interesting off-hand statement. The Prime Minister says they do not want it ; the Minister of Finance says we will stand our chances of getting it ; the member for North Norfolk says it is positively disloyal to think about it. They seem to disagree upon this question. The member for North Norfolk says we are not entitled to it, and the *Montreal Herald* says that we never dreamed of getting it. The *Montreal Herald*, I fancy, expresses exactly the opinion of those gentlemen upon this question. Here is what the *Herald* says : ' Journals

which imagine that the British preference was proposed by the government in the hope that Great Britain would offer a preferential tariff in return, and that Canadian Liberals are disappointed because their action has not had that result, are imagining a vain thing.' The hon. gentlemen knew that their preference would not get it, and they knew that by giving that preference, and by increasing it, they were putting off the day when this policy should be accomplished, as it will be accomplished before the empire is very much older.

I say, Sir, that the speech of the hon. member for Norfolk last night was a poor imitation of the speeches of the little Englanders who helped to keep England back in so far as the development of her colonies was concerned. What did the hon. gentleman say last night? He said: England has not time in these hours of competition, and is not in a position to deal with her colonies, she is meeting the severest form of competition in all her manufactures, she is being driven by the United States iron manufacturers practically from the markets of the world. I say, aye, aye, to what the hon. gentleman said; I say that England's hope for the future, England's hope of maintaining her strength and of increasing her influence, is to hold, as she holds to-day, the mistressship of the seas; and to people the colonies with sturdy British toilers, and to have a mutual preference between herself and those colonies as the best means of consolidating the empire. Sir, England's weakness to-day is not only that she has to meet with great competition; but her weakness in war is that her food supply must come from other countries, that she has to depend upon hostile peoples, peoples who may become hostile any day, for her food supply; and while she is depending upon those hostile peoples for her food supply, millions of acres of fertile soil in her colonies are lying waste. I say that the policy for England to adopt is the policy of a still greater Britain, the policy of sending her sons to cultivate those fields and to give them a preference in her markets at home, and thus to consolidate an empire which shall stand not only for this century but for all the centuries to come.

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (West Quebec). I desire to add a few words to this debate, and in doing so I feel as if I were almost trespassing upon the time of the House, because the subject-matter which I desire to touch upon is hardly pertinent to a debate on the budget. However, as the hon. leader of the opposition and his first lieutenant, the member for York N.B., (Mr. Foster), expended some time in talking about that unfortunate fast line enterprise—which I think it was rather needless for them to do—I may perhaps be justified in dealing with that question briefly. In doing so I feel the absence of my hon. colleague and friend the Minister

Mr. MONTAGUE.

of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), but I shall try and refute some of the statements to which the hon. gentlemen opposite have given such prominence. I may say that not only in this House but also as late as last week the hon. leader of the opposition in a speech he made in Quebec, reiterated very strongly the version of the negotiations which he claimed took place with Her Majesty's government with respect to this project. Now, Sir, before I sit down I hope that I shall satisfy not only the members of this House, but also my constituents in Quebec, that there is little ground for the statement that was made by these hon. gentlemen. If they were not experts, if they were without knowledge, if they had not the check of parliamentary experience, I would make some allowance for them. But, these hon. gentlemen, and none have a keener appreciation of what is necessary than they have—make the astonishing claim that they had made an engagement with Her Majesty's government and that the contract for the fast Atlantic service was only awaiting completion by the signature and acceptance of this country. I think I can show that this is a visionary assertion, and it has been made, not once or twice, but repeated in different parts of this Dominion, and many times repeated, that the fast line contract was made by Messrs. Allan, that it was accepted by the British government, and that it only awaited the approval of this country. I will read the exact words which fell from the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). Speaking of this government, he said when they came into power:

They found at their hand, when they came here a contract ready to be signed which would have put into work an ocean fast service in July of last year.

The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), spoke in an even stronger way. He called it a magnificent project, and he used these words:

The contract was ready for signature, the British government joining with Canada and giving £75,000 sterling a year for ten years to enable us to have a fast Atlantic service. . . . When that contract was ready for signature, it was not signed, although the British government were perfectly satisfied.

What I wish to state, and very briefly, is that the British government had not even considered the document which had been submitted to them. It never was a contract. At the best it was only a submission, and that submission was for a contract to be made, but it was so one-sided that the contracting parties had several months allowed them before they became obligated, while they wanted to obligate this country at once. The document was merely a proposal, asking for an option to do this work. I know it was never submitted to the Treasury Board of Her Majesty's govern-

ment, I know it was never considered by the Colonial Office, and I do not believe the submission was ever read over by the Colonial Office. This is a strong statement, but, I have good reason for claiming that it is correct. I ask the hon. leader of the opposition and his first lieutenant can go about the country, stating deliberately and distinctly that they had made an arrangement with Her Majesty's government, which only required the consent of Canada to have it carried into effect? I think I am perfectly correct in what I say. I want to say one word more about this contract. I would very much prefer that I had not to draw attention to it, but it is forced upon me by the remarks made by the hon. leader of the opposition. It is reported in *Hansard* that he said that this government had made a waste of money by sending gentlemen across the ocean to negotiate a fast line contract. As I was the only gentleman that was sent on that mission, I feel, perforce, that I must defend myself in this House, and I think I shall not have much trouble in showing that there was very little waste of public money. It is quite true that I went three times across the Atlantic. I will not say that it was not sometimes at considerable personal inconvenience, but, I always went willingly, because I had a very strong desire that this project should be carried to a successful end. I think, as I said before, that, in trying to carry it out, there was little waste of public money. The question of waste and extravagance, of care and economy are mere matters of comparison, and it is necessary to weigh one expenditure with another before extravagance can be estimated. It is not necessary to dwell upon the comparison I will draw. The hon. leader of the opposition left London, carrying with him the high office of High Commissioner for this country in England. He came to this country, and shortly afterwards he accepted the honourable post of leader of the government. But, I find that he charged this country with no less a sum than \$1,762 for the expense of coming to this country. I want merely to state that the expense of the gentleman who went across the Atlantic, and he made six passages, was nothing like as much as the expense of the one passage made by the gentleman who became the leader of the present opposition. Therefore, I think he should be the last man in this House to draw attention to the waste of public money in the endeavour to carry out this fast line project. I will only say one word more about this undertaking. The hon. gentleman says that we have abandoned it. We have not abandoned it, but, to-day, the cost of iron and steel has increased, and the expenditure to be made on these fast line steamers is more than double what it would have been two or three years ago, and what I believe it will be in two or three years to come, or less. We shall have a great fall in the cost of materials.

Not only is the cost of material far too high to-day, to entertain such a project, but every shipbuilding yard is fully occupied building steamers, very largely, for Her Majesty's government, which prevents any reasonable attempt being made to carry out this fast line project. I believe there is nothing in this country that will bring such great credit, or will do us more good and establish us as a great commercial nation, more readily than having the very finest possible steamers we can put on the route from Great Britain up the St. Lawrence to Quebec, and Montreal. There was a statement made by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), which deserves more serious attention than the matter I have already spoken of. The hon. gentleman made a very extraordinary statement. He said:

But, if you will think it over, not a single work which they have commenced, not a single expenditure that they have made, has yet come to the point of completion.

This is one of these extremely irresponsible statements which sometimes is used by men to draw off the attention of the people from more serious subjects. In answer to such a statement, I need only call attention to the completion of our great canal system, and I believe, Sir, that if that work, which has been completed by the Liberal government in three years, were left in the hands of the Conservative government and carried on as they proposed, it would not have been completed for ten years, during which we would have been losing the interest on all the money that has been expended on these canals for many years. I need not refer to the many other public works which the Liberal government have carried out, but I will mention some as they present themselves to my mind. One is the completion of the telegraph system to the mainland opposite the island of Belle Isle; I believe that before the end of the summer we shall have a cable laid to Belle Isle itself, so that nevermore shall we have an accident in any part of our Dominion such as that to the steamer *Scotsman* where the passengers of a steamer could remain isolated and their hardships unknown and uncared for during a period of eight days. I have listened with some attention to the debate, and I have listened for five hours to one gentleman piling up figures upon figures, with the sole object of trying to mislead and to throw dust in the eyes of the people. I believe, Sir, with the rank and file of the people of Canada, that the proper appreciation to make of the prosperity we enjoy now, is much as in the case of that poor unfortunate man who was born blind, and whose sight was afterwards restored, and, when his friends began asking him questions as to the reasons, how and why, of the things he saw, his only answer was: All I know is that I was blind and now I see. So, Sir, Canada may see to-day. She was in darkness for eighteen years; she is

in the full sunlight of prosperity now, a prosperity which, I believe, will increase, and the keynote of which prosperity is the effort this government is making to carry out the pledges and promises which they have given to the country. Notwithstanding all that was said by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), notwithstanding all the piles of figures we listened to from the member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), I believe we can show conclusively that we have honestly, earnestly and diligently carried out our pledges, with all proper consideration for the vested interests that have been established for eighteen years and longer, in the shape of industries, and which we should have killed if we had jumped into what has been called an extreme free trade policy. I listened with a great deal of pleasure to the speech made by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and his remarks were so pertinent and so forcible that I should like to read them for the benefit of the House to-night—

Mr. BERGERON. Oh, don't.

Mr. DOBELL. I shall give the substance of them.

Mr. WALLACE. Read them.

Mr. DOBELL. I am sure that hon. gentlemen opposite forget them, because I noticed that when the hon. Minister of Customs began his heavy fire one by one of these gentlemen opposite retreated from the Chamber. I saw the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) lean down and hide his head as the Minister of Customs poured out his artillery on gentlemen opposite. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) could not stand the charge. Shot after shot was fired by the Minister of Customs, against the arguments of gentlemen opposite, and so withering was the fire that when we looked across the floor, there were only three gentlemen present, one the member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy).

Mr. WALLACE. How many remained on the other side.

Mr. DOBELL. A good number remained here to hear the eloquent and truthful words of the Minister of Customs.

Mr. BERGERON. There were seven or eight, and they were sleeping.

Mr. CLANCY. I was safe, because they were blank shots.

Mr. DOBELL. At all events, they made the gentlemen on the other side of the House retreat. I should like to mention a matter which is of considerable importance to the future of this country.

Mr. WALLACE. You have not given us the speech of the Minister of Customs.

Mr. DOBELL. To oblige the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) I will give him the sub-

Mr. DOBELL.

stance of it in order that he may mark and learn. The Minister of Customs told us that while hon. gentlemen opposite charged us with jeopardizing and injuring the manufactures of this country, we were actually stimulating the manufacturers to fresh exertions to improve their machinery, to produce a first-class article, and to economize in everything, so that our manufacturers would be able to compete, not only with the manufacturers of this country, but with the manufacturers of England and the world. And if Canada wants to take a proper position in the world's competition, if she wants to trade with other countries, then, she must get rid of all the barriers and all the hindrances to a free and open trade with all the world. I believe that Canada could live and her manufacturers could thrive under such conditions, but we must give them time. We all know that if you grow certain plants in hothouses, it would be folly to put them out on a frosty night. So, you must give our manufacturers time to get accustomed to less protection and less pampering. They must be trained up to stand alone, and to be free and independent, and then will our industries be established on a firm basis. I hope the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) is satisfied with the theories of the Minister of Customs, which I perfectly believe in.

Mr. WALLACE. Sweet are the uses of adversity.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Are you finding it so?

Mr. WALLACE. I am pretty well content.

Mr. DOBELL. I was about to say a word in reference to the permanent lighthouse at the Traverse, and in that connection I shall read an extract from a letter which I received only this week from a practical ship-builder in the old country. He says:

As an old Canadian trader, I am deeply interested in everything that pertains to your splendid country. I quite agree the longer you can keep your navigation open the better it will be for the best interests of Canada. I am of opinion that with the ice bridge at Cap Rouge and the effective lighting of the lower St. Lawrence by permanent lighthouses (not light-ships), it will be possible to navigate the river as far as Quebec with safety until the month of February. Indeed, as you know, we have offered to prove this by one of our own steamers, commanded, of course, by a most experienced captain in the trade. The port of Quebec would thus be raised at once to a position of great importance. . . . As you are aware, my firm have decided to open direct steam communication between Quebec and London this coming season, and for this purpose we are setting apart four of our large steamers in order to provide a weekly service.

That letter is from Mr. Hine, of Maryport, who is the owner of nineteen steamers, many of which have been trading in the St.

Lawrence for many years. He is a thoroughly practical man; he has been here three times himself; he has looked into this question, and I am perfectly satisfied he would not risk his steamers here, as he has agreed to do up to the month of February, if he was not perfectly satisfied that the scheme was feasible and could be carried to success. I must not forget to draw attention to the vote for the bridge at Quebec, and in this connection let me give an example of what I call a political promise. How lightly it must sit upon the minds of conscientious men. In the year 1891, the hon. leader of the opposition went to Quebec and delivered a speech in Tara Hall. There he distinctly promised that the bridge should be built, and although his party remained in power five years from that time, not one dollar was voted, even for preliminary surveys to enable estimates to be made for its construction. Directly we came into power work of this nature was begun, the bridge company was met with the serious difficulty, because instead of finding rock bottom in the St. Lawrence, which previous surveys had indicated, they found that they would have to go sixty feet below the bottom of the river to get a proper foundation, and this increased the cost of the bridge very materially. Notwithstanding this, the government voted the bridge company a million dollar subsidy, and have extended to the company no idle promises, but sympathy and practical assistance.

I will only add one word more, and that will be with reference to preferential trade. I maintain that the words uttered by our Premier when he landed in Liverpool struck the keynote of all the future success which will attend our present fiscal policy. England has given us so much, and is giving us so much that we should do for her all we possibly can. She takes everything we can send her almost free; and if we make an effort to extend to her these preferential advantages, whether she asks for them or not, it will benefit us, and it will, I believe, eventually lead to Great Britain entertaining some scheme which will give us what we all want, which we shall get, not by bargaining for it, but by meeting her liberally and openly; that is, trade within the empire. And in saying that, I would wish that we could embrace in that trade a still larger empire. In such an arrangement I believe we ought to embrace our neighbours in the United States, and I believe that we shall live to secure fair reciprocal relations with that country, notwithstanding the fact that in the past they have treated us so selfishly, so ungenerously and so unfairly. But the very fact that we are drawing so close to Great Britain and that our trade with Great Britain is increasing at so great a ratio will, I believe, make the United States desirous of joining in such an arrangement. The United States are acquiring responsibilities in other

countries, the Imperial spirit is growing among their own people, and they will be desirous of having not only closer trade relations, but better relations politically and otherwise with the British Empire than they have ever had before, and the advantage of that will accrue to Canada; and not only the advantage, but I believe also the credit and the thanks of the mother country will be given to Canada for making the effort to bring about such a result. Mr. Speaker, I thank you.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) who has just taken his seat must have imagined that he was working off some poetical quotation when he repeated that portion of Scripture which says, 'Whereas, I was once blind, now I see.' But it was very strange that the hon. gentleman had not his sight improved until he was honoured with a portfolio by the present government. From the way he discussed questions to-night from a party standpoint, one would imagine that he had been a Liberal of the old school all his life, whereas, I believe, he was a Conservative, upholding the policy which he has been opposing to-night, up to the time the Liberals came into power. While not desirous of prolonging the debate, and recognizing the difficulty of contributing much that would prove of an original character after the able and eloquent speeches we have heard from members on both sides of the House, still I desire for a short time to avail myself of one of the two opportunities occurring during the session to discuss the general policy of the government, without any restriction being placed on debate. The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was a very curtailed one, the opposition being desirous of getting down to business, were perfectly satisfied to rest their case as presented by the hon. leader of the opposition and the ex-Finance Minister, and they allowed the address to pass without further criticism. The government, however, not having their work prepared were caught napping, and so put up man after man to prolong the discussion on the resolutions to provide for the payment of the contingents, until they could whip something into shape to place before the House. It seems, though, utterly impossible to please hon. gentlemen opposite. Last session when the opposition in the exercise of their right subjected the speech from the Throne to a month's criticism, the government, the members supporting the government, and the Liberal press throughout the country raised a hue and cry that the opposition were pursuing a policy of obstruction. This session when we allow the debate to come to a close with but two speeches on this side of the House, we are derided, accused of having no case, and that the opposition had utterly collapsed.

So that no matter what tack we may take, how anxious we are to facilitate business, or how we endeavour to meet the wishes of hon. gentlemen opposite, they are so inconsistent they will not be satisfied, but must carp at and condemn every act of their opponents. However, as we have a duty to perform to our constituents, and as we are the better judges as to how that duty should be performed, the question of whether it please or displeases hon. gentlemen opposite is of minor importance. The Finance Minister and those who have followed him on that side of the House lay great stress on the prosperity which they claim Canada is enjoying at the present time, and attempt by implication on the part of some of them, and by actually claiming in so many words on the part of others less intelligent and less well informed, that this prosperity is due to the beneficent administration of the government of the day. That trade has improved, our exports and imports have advanced and our revenue increased as a consequence, are matters for congratulation, and to no class of our people is this fact more acceptable than to Her Majesty's loyal opposition. By no word, by no action, on the part of any member of the opposition either in this House or out of it, has an attempt been made to belittle whatever prosperity we are enjoying to-day as a country, or to gain party capital by decrying the fair fame and credit of our country. In this respect our action will compare more than favourably with those of hon. gentlemen opposite under similar circumstances, who, when on this side of the House, never missed an opportunity to injure the credit of Canada and advertise it as an unprofitable field for immigration by their speeches both in and out of parliament, and lauding the country to the south of us. Recognizing, however, that we owe a higher duty to our native land than can be offset by any party advantage, we cheerfully join with our opponents in welcoming this expansion of trade, though taking issue with them as to the cause of that expansion. A party whose doctrine has always in the past been that good times are not the production of legislative enactments, who when in office from 1873 to 1878, repudiated the idea that the government could create prosperity, is scarcely in a position to-day to lay claim, consistently at any rate, to being the authors of whatever prosperity we are enjoying at the present time. If they attribute it to their trade policy, it is but paying another compliment to the policy of their predecessors which has been adopted by them, and entirely owing to the fact that the ruthless hand of the destroyer has been stayed, and they have preferred meeting with the ridicule of political friend and foe alike, and hearing truthful accusations of gross breaches of faith hurled against them, promises unfulfilled and pledges broken, confidence betrayed and an outraged public deceived,

Mr. ROCHE.

rather than run the risk of reversing the policy they had been abusing for eighteen long years. No better evidence of the character of the tariff of the present day is required than that afforded by the address of the president of the Canadian Manufacturers Association at their annual meeting which was held in Toronto a short time ago. And, remember this is an organization that was always referred to by our political opponents as a political organization for the purpose of assisting the Tory party when it was in power, and in whose interests it was charged the protective tariff was being maintained. This is what the president said:

The association has been in existence twenty-five years. The object of its formation was to educate the country on the advantage of protection to native industries, and greatly through its efforts was the present tariff enacted; and, while it is still necessary to carefully watch that this great principle be not interfered with, it is now felt that it is not a political issue, both parties admitting that protection is now here to stay. This object being, therefore, an accomplished fact, the association should further extend its usefulness by giving its attention to other matters.

Do you suppose, Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian Manufacturers Association, hard-headed business men, some of the brightest minds in the business world of Canada, would have given this certificate of character to the tariff of this government if it were a free trade tariff—as these hon. gentlemen promise it would be, though they have since tried to repudiate their utterances on that score—or if it were a tariff for revenue only, as the right hon. Prime Minister and some of his more servile supporters pretend it is, or if it were anything else but a protective tariff. Still, in spite of this declaration on the part of those manufacturers of the Red Parlour, whom hon. gentlemen opposite have so frequently stigmatized as 'robbers great and robbers small' we have these hon. gentlemen proclaiming that they have fulfilled their pledges.

Let me read you an article that appeared in the official organ of the Manufacturers Association on the 15th September, 1897, after the present tariff had been adopted by the government:

As long as the main issue presented at our general elections was the maintenance of protection or a radical departure from it, just so long did the advocates of it receive the support of the manufacturers, and thus maintain their control of the government.

That is, the Conservative party received the support of the manufacturers.

Unfortunately for the party in power previous to the last election, they allowed other issues to become uppermost and of greater importance than that of protection; and, as might have been expected, having become neglectful of the vital interests of the manufacturers, they were retired to the cold shades of the vanquished. Having through their own unwise act forfeited the support of the manufacturers and the control of

the government, and observing that the party now in power fully recognize the imperative necessity of maintaining the policy that so strongly attracts the manufacturers, they are unhappy, and seek to regain their lost prestige by shouting that their tariff clothes have been stolen and are worn by the other fellows. It won't do. The other fellows could never have captured the clothes if they had not been unwisely laid off.

What does that mean? That means that because the Conservative party, suiting the tariff to the times and circumstances of our country had enacted in the interests of the consuming population two or three tariff revisions, being convinced that some of those manufacturing establishments had enjoyed protection for a sufficient length of time to withstand competition from their rivals in foreign countries, the manufacturers, through their official organ, said that the Conservative party had laid off their protection clothes and that if they had not done so the Liberals would not have been placed in a position to put them on. The article goes on:

As long as those in power maintain the policy of protection, the manufacturers will ask for no change. The existing status is quite satisfactory.

That did not appear to meet the wishes of the western liberal representatives who declared in this House, in 1897, that they were not satisfied with the tariff brought down, but only regarded it as an instalment of what was to come. The manufacturers, however, seem to be perfectly satisfied.

The hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who, I am sorry, is away from the country at present, knowing the dissatisfaction that exists in the west because of this duplicity that has been practised on the people, attempted during the recess to stem the tide against the government and against himself in particular, by visiting that country accompanied by the Minister of Customs, the Boanerges of the cabinet, and other Liberal members of parliament on what the *Winnipeg Free Press* was pleased to term an educational tour. But their schools of instruction were very poorly attended, and try as he might, beat the air as he would, stir up the faithful of the party to the utmost of his powers, he could create no enthusiasm. The people were too intelligent to be again deceived, and in many places his reception was so cool that he could scarcely summon a corporal's guard to listen to his eloquence, and those who did hear him were not slow to express their disappointment. The man who prior to the elections of '96, harangued the people of that western country on the crying evils of a protective policy and pledged the faith of the Liberal party to redress those grievances which he declared our farmers were labouring under; the man who denounced protective duties as so much robbery practised on the people, who

were bled white for the purpose of amassing huge fortunes for the bloated monopolists of the east; the man who held up the Canadian Pacific Railway to the odium of the public as a soulless corporation that dominated the government of the day, that took one-half the farmers' crop to move the other half out of the country; the man who condemned the voting of large subventions of land and money by parliament to enrich railway corporations, and denounced in extravagant language anything savouring of corruption in elections, of scandals in connection with public enterprises and promised good, honest and clean government on behalf of his party; the man who denounced the subsidizing of steamships between Australia and Canada, that landed on our shores Australian mutton and subjected the mutton raised by our farmers to unfair competition—that man must indeed have found a difficult task confronting him, when addressing those same people, to explain why each and every one of those promises have been unfulfilled, why he now declares the tariff is a dead issue, why many of those manufacturers are now in the enjoyment of more protection than when the Liberals came into power, why he himself is one of the most servile instruments in the hands of that same corporation the Canadian Pacific Railway, ready and willing at all times to do its bidding, why millions of dollars are still voted for railway subsidies each session, why the steamships are subsidized exactly as they were prior to the Liberal party coming into power and cargoes of Australian mutton still landed on our shores.

Taking all these things into consideration, how embarrassing it must have been to him to explain away his maladministration of the Yukon with its opportunities for plundering the public treasury, opportunities taken full advantage of by his officials, party colleagues and those in authority to the consequent disgrace to our country and refusing an investigation by an impartial judicial tribunal. And no easy task was it for him to persuade the intelligent electors of the west that everything was square, honest, and statesmanlike in connection with the Mann and Mackenzie railway deal, the Drummond County Railway deal, the Crow's Nest Pass contract and other public actions of the government of a questionable character. Nor, I venture to say, did he touch upon that delicate subject of purity in elections which he so much lauded prior to his acceptance of office. Is it not a fact that his own entry into the cabinet was signalized by an immoral bargain, politically speaking, in connection with the settlement of the school question? And his subsequent actions amply prove that he betrayed his fellow-countrymen of the west for the sake of the emoluments of the office. And in the face of the recent exposures in the

courts where it was proved not only bribery of a most unblushing character prevailed, but also that seats had actually been stolen from their Conservative opponents by means the most disgraceful in our country's history, by the operation of 'the machine,' controlled by a gang of disreputable men moving from constituency to constituency. Is it surprising the reception accorded the hon. minister was of a freezing character though from a naturally hospitable people, for the inhabitants of that portion of Canada pride themselves on their independence and never fail to chastise their public men when once convinced of their dereliction of duty. But, not only was the Minister of the Interior's trip to the west a failure, so far as Dominion politics are concerned, but his friend, or ex-friend, the ex-Premier of the province of Manitoba, gives him credit for having accomplished the defeat of his government. And, I have no desire to detract from whatever credit is due to the hon. Minister of the Interior on this score, but am quite ready to concede that he played no small part in contributing to that highly laudable and commendable object, even though unwittingly. This being the case, I have no doubt that the people, in the exercise of that charity for which they are noted, may throw the mantle of forgetfulness over many of the minister's shortcomings, seeing that he assisted, though unintentionally on his part, in having turned out of office, a cabinet of disreputable politicians whose disgraceful actions have only recently been disclosed. The lesson taught by the Manitoba elections, is plain, and our Dominion ministers, if they desire to consult their own interest will do well to profit by it. That lesson is that they cannot with impunity override the wishes of the people; they cannot preach one set of principles and practice another; they cannot play fast and loose with the sentiments of the public without meeting with well-merited punishment at the first opportunity that offers. I am aware that members of this government have been warned time and again by members of their own political household, that, unless the Liberal party purged itself of those vicious elements that are dragging it down and are causing it to be a by-word, if they do not strike off the shackles that bind the party to these people, a similar fate awaits them when next they appeal to the electorate. However, they seem to be living in a fool's paradise, eating and drinking and being merry, knowing that to-morrow they politically die.

The victory of the Conservative party in Manitoba is one which even many of that party do not fully appreciate. It was a glorious victory, particularly taking into consideration the enormous odds we had to contend against. It was not only a fight against the local government, but against the Dominion government as well—the combined influence of both with their hordes of

officials openly and offensively working for the Liberal candidates, to say nothing of the large corporations, whose influence was thrown in the scale against us. I am sorry that the Minister of the Interior is not here, and that the acting minister also is absent, because I desire to draw the attention of the acting minister to something in this connection that I am sure the minister himself has cognizance of—and that is that officials of his department took an offensive part in elections. Some of these officials obtained their positions through their predecessors in office having been dismissed for their supposed partisanship. I can give two cases in my own constituency. Two officials had written letters, one to myself and one to a member of my committee, asking if they could not do something for me that would not expose them to the charge of partisanship, and expressing a desire for my success. This was the substance of each letter. The letters were not even replied to. These men never lifted a finger on my behalf, and not a single charge of partisanship has been entered against them; no suggestion has been made that they had taken part in elections. But these letters were stolen from the office of one of my committee men, and were sent to the Minister. And, because of these letters, he decapitated these men. And it will be remembered that on the floor of the House, the minister was asked how these letters came into his possession, and his reply was, that he was not at liberty to disclose that fact. In other words, the minister was in possession of stolen correspondence that properly belonged to myself, and on the strength of that he dismissed these innocent officials. This is the high politics he is noted for practising. But the point I desire to make is this—that the very men who superseded these gentlemen—the very men who took the places left vacant by their dismissal, left their offices, buttonholed electors, engaged in a personal canvass and resorted in some cases to means of political warfare which only the lower elements of the party would resort to. In an open and disgraceful manner, left their offices and canvassed electors, using their positions as government employees to influence votes, and in other respects resorting to acts that reflects anything but credit on them. His Yukon officials were on hand, debauching the electorate by the illegal and wholesale distribution of money, his timber inspectors, his homestead inspectors, his forest rangers, and other officials co-operating with provincial officials, setting at defiance the law laid down in this House, that officials must not take part in elections. Let the hon. gentleman, if he has any regard for consistency, institute inquiries into these cases, and I will furnish him with the names of officials and undertake to prove my accusations to the letter. We all remember the eloquent address of the Prime Minister in the first session of the

present parliament, when he declared that no man would be dismissed without a fair trial, that no official would be dismissed because of his political opinions, that no man would lose his official position because of the exercise of his franchise; but if any official desired to be a partisan and engage openly in political warfare, the opportunity would be afforded him to do so freely by being dismissed from the service of the country. What hypocrisy it is to enforce such a law against Conservative officials, while permitting and approving similar actions on the part of Grit officials. It is quite certain that these officials would not risk their positions and engage in political warfare without being directed by their superiors in office to do so. The Minister of the Interior may view this question very much in the same light as did the ex-Attorney General of Manitoba, Mr. J. D. Cameron. When an hon. member of this House who was an engineer of the Department of Public Works of the province, the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Macdonnell), was accused of being an offensive partisan, Mr. Cameron's reply was: 'He is not offensive to us.' That made all the difference in the world. I desire, in connection with this, as an illustration of how the official axe has been wielded, to draw attention to a despatch sent from the city of Ottawa recently, to the *Free Press*, the organ of the Minister of the Interior. This is evidently an inspired despatch:

The Official Axe.

It Works Both Ways—Two Winnipeg Government Employees Dismissed.

('Free Press,' Feb. 13, 1900.)

Ottawa, Feb. 12.—The Dominion government has dismissed Mr. Dan. Smith, inspector of public works in Manitoba, and R. S. Parks, formerly inspector of homesteads, and now of the Dominion Land Office, Manitoba.

This is where the venom comes in:

This has been done in view of the action of Hugh John Macdonald's government in dismissing provincial officials.

It was not because they were offensive partisans; had they been offensive partisans, they would have been dismissed three years ago. It was simply by way of retaliation for the action of Hugh John Macdonald in dismissing, in the undoubted exercise of his right, certain officials of his government. Because this was done, because this Czar was not consulted, he decapitated two officials who had taken no part in the elections whatever, simply because they were Conservatives. The despatch goes on:

Others will follow, and names will be given. There is said to be a considerable list ready, which will probably wait for the future action of Hugh John Macdonald's administration.

You see the threat held over the head of these gentlemen. But, any person who knows the Premier of Manitoba, will know that he will not be intimidated by such a puerile

threat as this—he is not built that way. But this action of the Minister of the Interior is due to the fact that one of these officials who was dismissed by the Manitoba government, was his own father, who held a position which was created for him, a useless position. The hon. member for Selkirk was engineer of the Public Works Department. Hon. Hugh John Macdonald dismissed him. But the hon. member (Mr. Macdonnell), will not find fault. In fact, he stated on the floor of the House, that he expected to be dismissed. He admitted that he was a partisan. Hugh John Macdonald combined his position with the position held by the father of the Minister of the Interior and saved the salary that had been paid to the latter. He saved one salary by combining those two positions, and because he dared to do that, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), swipes off the head, to use a vulgarism, of those two innocent officials. It is just such actions as those on the part of the Minister of the Interior that have caused his political death in the west, and while no greater service could be rendered to the Conservative party than the retention in the cabinet of the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), still we recognize that it is at the expense of the good name of our country; something which all true Canadians will prize more highly than any mere party advantage. I desire to state also as a confirmation of this, that the Minister of Public Works had promised one year ago that not a hair of Mr. Smith's head would be injured, that he was one of his best officials in the Dominion of Canada; and when he was interviewed a short time ago as to why he had dismissed him, he admitted it was the Minister of the Interior who brought pressure to bear upon him to dismiss this man, admitted it was done in the way of retaliation. It seems, therefore, that the Minister of the Interior, not content with doing what he said he was going to do when he came down here, run his own department, so far as dismissals of officials are concerned, he is going to run some other departments as well. You would imagine that the Minister of the Interior claims a patent for this dismissal business.

Now, the government take a great deal of credit to themselves for the so-called success of their immigration policy, without specifying the particular character of a considerable portion of those immigrants. I do not know if the Minister of the Interior is as much enamoured of the Gallians and Doukhobors as he was prior to his departure for the west. If he is, it only shows that he has been blind to public sentiment on this question. Possibly no portion of the hon. gentleman's speech, delivered as it was upon many occasions on that tour, fell flatter upon his audience, acted more as a wet blanket, than when he

pledged his reputation, of no great weight to be sure, but such as it was, to the statement that within five years these people would be among the most desirable class of our settlers. I say he has failed to appreciate the objections of the people to that class of settlers. Even the Liberal candidates at the late provincial contest, knowing how unpopular these people were, attempted to shoulder the responsibility on to the late Conservative administration; they repudiated all responsibility on behalf of the Greenway government for the location of these people on the western prairies. The *Winnipeg Free Press*, the organ of the Minister of the Interior, a paper which, by the way, deserves the thanks of every Conservative for having assisted the Minister of the Interior in placing the Hon. Hugh John Macdonald where he is to-day, attempted to prove that it was entirely owing to the policy of the late Minister of the Interior, the Hon. T. M. Daly, that the off-scourings of Southern Europe were dumped on to those prairies. The Minister of the Interior seems hard to be convinced on this question, but I can assure him that while the people of the west are desirous to see the country peopled by a good and desirable class of settlers, men with whom the people can feel that they have something in common, people of the Anglo-Saxon race whom we know by experience will become successful settlers like the Icelanders and the Scandinavians, they do object to the wholesale immigration of those Slavs from Southern Europe, who are reared in superstition, ignorance and filth, whose morals are of a low type, and who are grouped in large colonies where they may retain their own habits, and customs and language, refusing to consolidate with the general public, which if it took place, would have the effect of improving their condition. No doubt one object of the Minister of the Interior in encouraging a large immigration of those people was for the purpose of enfranchising them at the earliest possible moment and utilizing them, through the instrumentality of his officials, for party purposes. Now, however, that their own Franchise Act is about to react as a boomerang against themselves, by the adoption of the provincial lists, and as it is the intention of the present government of Manitoba to apply an educational test and refuse to enfranchise those foreigners until they have been long enough in the country to understand British institutions and a British form of government, and to know what the ballot means, the hon. minister may decide that further importations of a similar character are not desirable. I saw an article in a paper to-day stating that fifty of these Doukhobors were leaving Winnipeg for California, whither they were being taken by an immigration agent to work at 50 cents a day. The immigration authorities are becoming alarmed, as there

are signs of a general movement in the same direction. The reason given by the Doukhobors for leaving Manitoba is that the country is too cold, a reason which I do not admit, because the country is a very comfortable country to live in.

Now, the Minister of the Interior made another trip to the west immediately prior to his departure across the ocean, no doubt to count the noses of those who have survived the election of December 7. The loss of those six constituencies out of nine in his own Dominion constituency has proved to be a sharp thorn in his side. So he goes westward to hold an organization meeting and see if he could not regain those laurels which he lost on December 7. At that meeting he made a speech, during the course of which he made some remarkable statements, remarkable in the light of his previous utterances upon these questions. During the course of his speech he got in a backhanded slap at his former friend, Mr. Greenway.

In order to clear his own skirts of any complicity in those secret railway deals perpetrated upon the people by the late Liberal administration, he says: I have nothing whatever to do with it. I was never consulted in reference to your Manitoba railway policy except cursorily. But, says he, I feel confident that my friend Mr. Cameron would not deliberately tell a falsehood upon this question. If he stated officially that a certain line of policy was beneficial, I believe that was true. But he had not a word to say about Mr. Greenway. He had known Mr. Greenway's record in the past for veracity, and he had not a good word to say about him. He only hoped that when the local legislature would meet Mr. Greenway would make a statement and give a plausible explanation to suit his own friends. That is all he had to say for Mr. Greenway.

But what did he state in reference to the duty upon agricultural implements? Probably if there was one question upon which the Liberals were united in 1896 it was in regard to the duty on agricultural implements. Every constituency was placarded with the words: 'Vote for the Liberal candidate and free agricultural implements.' They made a speciality of it, and they obtained the votes of thousands of our farmers upon this question that they would not have otherwise received, men who had broken away from their old-time party proclivities, and gave their votes to the Liberal candidates upon the strength of those pledges. When the Conservatives tried to persuade them that the Conservative government had been the true tariff reformers, by reducing the duty from 35 to 20 per cent, the Liberals would not hear of it, they stated that 20 per cent was still an outrageously high protective duty, that manufactures were being built up at the expense of the farmers in the west, that if the

agricultural implement makers deserved raw material free, the farmers were as much entitled to raw material free of duty as they were. This was their cry on this question in 1896. But something took place since. The Minister of the Interior is now a cabinet minister; possibly that fact and the \$7,000 he receives annually may have changed his views. There is, I think, another reason. He has been touring in the east with the manufacturers of those implements. He was, I believe, in the company of the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), when he made that celebrated speech wherein he declared that the tariff was a dead issue, which produced such consternation among his friends in the west that they took him to task, inquiring how he could make so foolish a statement as that. Well, he was reported in the Liberal papers, and no one has denied the report, as saying: Yes, I did say that the tariff was a dead issue between the political parties, because the Tories have come round to our way of thinking on the question. A more simple and puerile explanation never fell from the mouth of man, let alone a cabinet minister, and I fear the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville is responsible for inoculating the Minister of the Interior with a good deal of his protectionist theories. He comes back now, but he does not say that 20 per cent is an outrageously high protective tariff, but he says: Gentlemen, when I was speaking in 1896, I was entirely ignorant of what I was telling you, or I was deliberately deceiving you. He must say either one of these things or the other, he cannot avoid one issue or the other. He now claims that far from the 20 per cent duty being a protective duty, it is not even a revenue tariff. He states that while the manufacturers of Canada have to pay 35 per cent on their raw material, the manufacturers on the other side of the line can send the finished product in for 20 per cent. The only deduction you can draw from this is, that, in order to make this duty a revenue tariff it would require to be raised another 15 per cent, making it what it was prior to 1894. The 20 per cent tariff was a protective tariff in 1896, while now it is not even a revenue tariff. When hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House attempted to explain their position, and when it was stated that year after year had gone by and no reduction had been made on agricultural implements while the duty upon the raw material entering into them has been reduced, he tells them not to look upon these questions from a narrow provincial standpoint, but from that broad Dominion standpoint that the hon. minister looks upon them himself. It was in his spirit of narrow sectionalism, that, in 1896, the hon. Minister of the Interior asked the people of Manitoba to strike down the Tory candidates because,

if the Liberals get into power they would have free agricultural implements. I do not know what the Prime Minister must have thought of the indiscretion of the hon. Minister of the Interior touching the question of the duty on lumber when, for the purpose of self-laudation, the hon. Minister of the Interior told the people at Brandon that a deputation came down to Ottawa and waited upon the government that they were representing millions of dollars, that they had more power and influence in the constituencies than the whole province of Manitoba would be worth to the Liberal party, that they declared that they would give the government twelve months to put a large duty on lumber, and that if they did not do it they would support the hon. leader of the opposition. To say the least of it the hon. Minister of the Interior was divulging cabinet secrets. He said: I was called in, and I told the Prime Minister that if this were to be made the policy of the government I might as well write out my resignation. Then, of course, the whole fabric would tumble to the ground, the keystone being removed, so the coon came down. He states that every member of the government would be politically benefited by the imposition of a duty on lumber except himself. Is this a case of the tail wagging the dog, or Napoleon ordering his subalterns to duty their duty and obey his commands. It seems that tariff questions are decided not so much in the interest of the people as in regard to political exigencies.

What has been the policy of the government in regard to the binder twine industry? The House will remember that when the late Sir John Thompson was Minister of Justice it was claimed that a large binder twine combine had been formed in the Dominion of Canada to increase the price of binder twine. Our prairies were becoming more thickly populated, a greater acreage was brought under cultivation every year, and an increasingly large supply of binder twine was required by our farmers. Sir John Thompson installed a plant in the Kingston penitentiary for the purpose of giving the farmers cheaper binder twine, which they did receive during the time of the Conservative administration. But, when our Liberal friends came into power they disposed of this twine, from year to year to their own political friends, to such men as Hobbs, of London, who was a member of the combine, and who held up the farmers, to Bate, of Ottawa, who, if not a member of the combine himself, disposed of his purchase to Hobbs, and it was controlled by the combine. These men, playing into each other's hands and into the hands of members of the combine held up the farmers and extorted from them hundreds of thousands of dollars out of their pockets more than they should have been called upon to pay. Yet, hon. gentlemen say that they are giving a great boon to the farmers because they are

allowing them the privilege of purchasing twine at factory prices up to the 1st of May instead of up to the 1st of March. Every businessman and every representative of a rural constituency knows that there is not a farmer in five thousand who will buy a pound of twine before the 1st of May. Our farmers have not got bank accounts, they do not have sufficient money lying idle that they can afford to pay out money four months in advance of the harvest, they do not know how much grain they will have, they do not know the amount of twine they will require, and therefore this privilege is a valueless one. If the farmer had been accorded the privilege of purchasing twine during the whole of the season at manufacturing prices it would have been some advantage to him. As it is the government are simply playing into the hands of their own political favourites, such men as Hobbs, of London, and Bate, of Ottawa, who buy the binder twine for 4 cents a pound and sell it to the farmers at 14 cents and 15 cents a pound.

Mr. CLANCY. The combine has fixed the price.

Mr. ROCHE. Yes, the combine has fixed the price.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will not trespass further on your time, but will merely say that a government with such a record as this, may well dread the honest verdict of the electors and put off the evil day as long as they possibly can, but come when it may, the people will bear in mind their deception and maladministration and ask them, how comes it that a party that promised reduced expenditure have increased it by \$10,000,000; that promised a reduction of the national debt and have increased it \$7,000,000; that promised free trade and have maintained protection, receiving the endorsement of the Manufacturers' Association in so doing; that promised a reduction of cabinet ministers and have increased them by two; that promised a fast Atlantic service and have entirely failed to secure one; that were so desirous to preserve the dignity of parliament and its independence, that the present Postmaster General, when in opposition, introduced a resolution into this House making it a misdemeanour for any member of parliament to accept a position of emolument under the Crown until two years after he had ceased to be a member, and who, since coming into power, have appointed fifteen or sixteen members of parliament to public positions? How comes it that the same hon. gentleman introduced a resolution providing for the reduction of the Governor General's salary, claiming it was outrageously high for a country like Canada to pay Her Majesty's representative, but who evidently thinks it all right now, for no move has been made to effect such a

Mr. ROCHE.

reduction? Why is it that a party that preached purity in elections, purity in administration, and purity in our public men, have given unmistakable evidence of a desire to shield the guilty, to stifle investigation, and to condone offences when committed by members of their own party? What is the reason that a party who railed against the Senate as the repository of worn-out political hacks, defeated candidates and men in their dotage, have since appointed, time and again, men who have been rejected at the polls, discredited politicians, such as a recent Manitoba appointment, and other youthful appointees only 83 years of age, who promised that with a Liberal government in power reciprocity with the United States would be sure to follow as a matter of course, and who, after having spent months in begging for this so-called boon, and spending thousands of dollars of public funds in visits to Washington for this purpose, now declare that the people of Canada do not desire reciprocity; who pledged themselves to introduce a prohibitory liquor law if the result of the plebiscite was favourable, and having expended \$200,000 out of the public treasury for the taking of that plebiscite, afterwards refused to carry out their pledges, because of a secret agreement amongst themselves imposing an impossible condition, requiring at least 50 per cent of the total vote on the list to be polled in its favour.

It is because of all this and much more of a like character that might be enumerated, that it does not require a person to be blest with any great spirit of prophecy to foretell the result of the next contest. I have too much respect for the intelligence of the people of Canada, too much confidence in their judgment, too much belief in their uprightness and their integrity, to think it likely that they will condone these offences on the part of our public men. I believe, Sir, that the people of Canada will hold this government strictly to account for their boodling propensities and for their maladministration.

Mr. HEYD moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, April 9, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to mention to the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that there are two or three orders, made quite a while ago now, that have not been complied with, amongst them one calling for the correspondence between the Department of the Interior and Mr. Fred. White, the comptroller, and any person in the North-west Territories respecting contracts for supplying the North-west mounted police, more especially, with tea. There was an order made about six weeks ago, and no return has been brought down. I have been searching in the office. There was also an order made for a return in reference to the amounts paid for printing for the North-west Territories for ten years.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It seems to me that has been brought down.

Mr. DAVIN. I have been upstairs, and I find that it has not been brought down.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is, two. I think the hon. gentleman said there were three.

Mr. DAVIN. There is a third, but it has escaped my memory for the moment. I found the order upstairs.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) when we may expect the report of the Militia Department to come down, and whether, when it is brought down, it will contain the report of the Major General Commanding.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The report, I think, is in the printer's hands now and has been for several days. The report will contain such portions of the General Officer's report as I think proper to submit.

GASPE SHORT LINE RAILWAY.

Mr. R. LEMIEUX (Gaspé) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 70) to incorporate the Gaspé Short Line Railway Company.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Mr. Speaker, I just wish to mention to the House, that, in reference to this Bill, I received, this morning, two telegrams, one from Gaspé and the other from Paspébiac. The purport of the telegrams is that docu-

ments were mailed yesterday to Ottawa, and asking if the Bill could be held over until they arrived. I do not see that anything is harmed by holding over the third reading, and we will see what they are. I do not know what they are. I just suggest to my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) that it would be well to allow the third reading to lie over until these documents come from Gaspé and Paspébiac.

Mr. LEMIEUX. I have received several petitions, within a month or so, favouring the purchase of this Baie des Chaleurs Railway by a good, sound company, from all parts of the county of Gaspé. I have received, also, petitions against the extension of any delay to the present company. The five years have lapsed for the construction of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway from Paspébiac to Gaspé Basin. This Bill has been discussed several times before the House, and I do not see why such opposition should be brought against the Bill. I have received a number of petitions, and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has also received quite a number in favour of the Bill.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). The very reasons which my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) has given, the number of petitions which he has received from his constituency, and also the strong influence which is brought to bear on him as representing that constituency, are good reasons why we should not hesitate to allow the delay of a day for the purpose of seeing these documents. It would look, in the light of the information which the hon. gentleman has received, as if he wished to hasten the passage of the Bill without knowing exactly what these documents, which are sent forward, will disclose. They may possibly be in favour of the position taken by the hon. gentleman, and if they are not, the hon. gentleman, with the strong support which he has received already, must be quite convinced that he is running no great danger in allowing this short delay for the purpose of allowing these papers to be laid on the Table of parliament.

Mr. FOSTER. If there were anything lost by the delay I would not press it. But, I do not see that there is. I am not offering it any factious opposition at all.

Mr. LEMIEUX. If the documents coming from Gaspé and Paspébiac, which are expected by my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), are in favour of the Bill, I do not need to delay for them. If they are against the Bill, as I presume they may be, the parties who have signed these documents had ample opportunity of presenting themselves before the Railway Committee and of presenting their views during the week or so that the Bill has been before the House. I have waited a long time, and I think I should be given a chance of having my Bill

passed. Any opposition can now be made before the Senate.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In view of the statement made by the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) that he has no desire to impede the passage of the Bill, but simply to present reasons, if there are any reasons, why it should not be passed, I think my hon. friend (Mr. Lemieux) should accept that. The Bill is sure to come up on Wednesday evening, and it can pass then.

Mr. FOSTER. I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

RESTIGOUCHE AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. JOHN McALISTER (Restigouche) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 73) respecting the Restigouche and Western Railway Company.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). There is a considerable amount of money still due by this company to Mr. Pigott, a constituent of mine, and I wish to ask the hon. gentleman if it is his intention to see that that amount will be paid?

Mr. McALISTER. The railway that my hon. friend (Mr. Wood) refers to is a railway incorporated by a local charter and running from Campbellton to St. John. This Bill is for a bridge to enable this company to cross the St. John River at or near Grand Falls. So far as the claims of the hon. gentleman or his friends are concerned, they have no connection with this Bill at all.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I have knowledge of a claim against the very company that is seeking this legislation. It is a claim by the widow of the son of the late Dr. Jack, of St. John, who was an engineer on that road and who never was paid. I would like to have some assurance that that account would be paid.

Mr. McALISTER. I cannot give any security or guarantee. Mr. Malcolm Ross and the others in the company have undertaken to pay all just claims against the road, and I am sure they will. I have nothing to do with giving a guarantee.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). We can get a guarantee by putting a clause in the Bill to that effect.

Mr. McALISTER. This Bill is for a bridge and not for part of the railway at all.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is for the very same company.

Mr. McALISTER. But you cannot put a clause like that in this Bill.

Mr. LEMIEUX.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). You can do anything in this parliament. If that bridge is to be built by the company who built the railway and they have not yet paid their debts, then if it is worth while coming to parliament for this Bill they ought to pay what they owe. We inserted a similar clause two or three years ago with respect to a Hamilton Bill and I think we should do the same thing here. I would have brought this matter up in the committee but the papers only came to my hands a few days ago.

Mr. McALISTER. How long ago?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Within the last week. This is a peculiarly hard case. This young man had to go to work in British Columbia and died there, and the widow ought to have this money.

Mr. McALISTER. What is the amount of the claim?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Some five or six hundred dollars, and it is certified by the regular officers of the company.

Mr. BERGERON. Have they gone before the courts?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No. This is the best way of getting before the courts without cost.

Mr. JOHN COSTIGAN (Victoria, N.B.). I would not like the House to come to the conclusion, from the discussion that has taken place, that the company asking for this charter, and who have undertaken to construct the Restigouche and Western Railway, are defaulters in the payment of their engineers or any other employees; or in respect to any debts whatever contracted by them. I know nothing of the claim referred to by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser), but I do know that if, as he states, the account has been certified by the proper officers of the company, it would not be necessary to insert a clause in this or any other Act to insure the payment of one hundred cents in the dollar by this company for any just claim against them. They do not owe one dollar in Canada and they have never been one day behind in the payment of a dollar. Perhaps this claim may have arisen through a former company. That I do not know, but so far as the present company is concerned they do not owe any money that they are not prepared to pay. I do not think that the engineer referred to, the late Mr. Jack, was ever employed by this company; if he was ever employed upon that survey at all.

Mr. WOOD. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Costigan) appears to know a good deal about this.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I do know considerable about it.

Mr. WOOD. Will he tell me if the debt against this road owed to Mr. Pigott has

been paid, and if Mr. Pigott has got his money?

Mr. COSTIGAN. All debts contracted by this company have been paid at 100 cents on the dollar, and always will be.

Mr. WOOD. It is not the Restigouche and Western Railway?

Mr. COSTIGAN. Yes.

Mr. WOOD. There is some \$600 owing to Mr. Pigott by that company and it has not been paid yet.

Mr. McALISTER. How did that liability attach to the Restigouche and Western?

Mr. WOOD. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McAlister) knows quite as well as I do how it occurred.

Mr. McALISTER. I am sure I do not know.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I have no doubt in my mind but that the hon. member for Victoria, N.B., (Mr. Costigan) is entirely correct in the statement, that the claim of the late Mr. Jack, which my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) has referred to, is not a claim against this company, but is a claim against another company, namely, the Restigouche and Victoria. The matter has been before me on several occasions and in different ways, and when the fight was on between the Restigouche and Victoria Railway Company and the Restigouche and Western Company, as to which of these two companies should be finally possessed of the charter and proceed with this work; an agreement was arrived at between the two contestants under which they were to submit the claims that were in contention between them; the liabilities of the old company, and I was to examine them and to determine as a sort of referee what amount I thought would be fair and reasonable for the Restigouche and Western Company to pay. A good deal of money no doubt had been expended by the Restigouche and Victoria—or a good many debts were incurred by the Restigouche and Victoria—and upon examination of these outstanding liabilities I became very well satisfied in my own mind that the whole claim, or that even a major part of the claim would not be a legitimate one to saddle upon the Restigouche and Western Company. I went over the items with some care, and I came to a conclusion with regard to the amount of the liabilities which I thought the Restigouche and Western should pay, and it was agreed that out of the first moneys which should be coming to the Restigouche and Western Company, that the amount I determined upon should be adjusted. I am free to say that the conclusion I arrived at was not satisfactory to either party. The Restigouche and Victoria people thought I had allowed too little, and the Restigouche and Western people

thought I had allowed too much. However, the agreement was that they should abide by the conclusion I arrived at, and, out of the first moneys, according to the arrangement, half of this sum which had been fixed upon by me, was reserved out of the payment coming to the Restigouche and Western. One-half of the amount was distributed among these claimants; the other half, if my memory serves me, still remains, and will not be available until the next amount of the subsidy is earned by the Restigouche and Western Company. That is the way the matter stands. I know that the Messrs. Pigott had a considerable claim, but I could not see that they were entitled to be paid it in full. I went over the items which constituted their claim. I struck off a large portion of them, and they will be paid the balance. More than that I do not think it would be possible to do. I may add that I think it would be very unfair to introduce any clause into this Bill which would impose a liability in respect to those matters upon the Restigouche and Western Company. I believe they are carrying out the arrangement they made in good faith. I can discover no evidence of any unwillingness on their part to pay as they agreed. Therefore, I would not favour placing any clause in this Bill fixing any further liability upon them.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That is all right as far as it goes; but I do not think we in this House should be bound—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am going to put myself right. I suppose I can move the adjournment?

Mr. SPEAKER. Only by consent of the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time and passed.

COMOX AND CAPE SCOTT RAILWAY.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 35) to incorporate the Comox and Cape Scott Railway Company.—(Mr. Morrison.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 8.

Mr. A. MORRISON (New Westminster) moved to amend section 8, by inserting after the word 'in,' in the third line, the words following: 'Wellington district, thence northerly to a point in.'

Mr. BERGERON. What is the object of that?

Mr. MORRISON. It is to supply an omission made by the solicitors who drafted the Bill. Without the amendment, the point of commencement will be Comox, whereas they wish the railway to commence at Wellington.

Mr. BERGERON. Has that only been found out since the Bill was in committee ?

Mr. MORRISON. Yes.

Mr. W. W. B. McINNES (Vancouver). This is a very important amendment to the Bill, and no public notice whatever has been given of it. The notice to the public was that application would be made to incorporate a company to build a line from Comox to Cape Scott. A Bill was presented for that purpose to the Railway Committee, and the Railway Committee considered it and adopted it in the form in which it has come to this House. I think there should be some explanation as to the necessity for this amendment, which goes to the extent of increasing the powers obtained under this Bill as applied for by one-third. The distance from Comox to Cape Scott is about 150 miles. The proposition now is to start from Wellington, a point seventy miles south of Comox, and build a line from there to Cape Scott. This is a very considerable difference. The amendment makes another important difference, and it is this: The parties who control the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, are the principal applicants for this charter. Under their Act of incorporation, they have a right to build their line to Comox, so that there is no necessity, so far as I can see, for giving the additional power proposed by the amendment to this Bill. Should the amendment pass, other amendments would have to be made to conform the Bill to the amendment. For instance, the bonding privilege from Comox to Cape Scott, provides for \$20,000 a mile, which for that portion of the road would not be unfair; but the portion from Wellington to Comox would be a very easy road to build, and, therefore, the bonding privilege should be cut down. Since we have had no explanation of why this proposed amendment is necessary, and no public notice has been given of it, I think it would be more satisfactory to refer the whole Bill back to the Railway Committee for reconsideration.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) The hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes), says that this Bill provides that the railway must be built from Comox. I would draw his attention to the fact that it says the Comox district, which is entirely a different thing from the town of Comox.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Do you not go through the Wellington district in going to Comox ?

Mr. MORRISON. No. The Comox district is north of Wellington. The hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes), stated that this railway began at Wellington. The amendment does not say so; it says at a point in the Wellington district—the town of Wellington or one of the terminals of the Esquimalt and Wellington Railway. I think the hon. gentleman is going a little too far in the statement he has made. I do

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not see what difference it makes whether there is a charter for another railway traversing part of the Wellington district or not. The terminus of this road is not apparently at Wellington, but at a point in the Wellington district, and I am advised by the solicitors who have charge of this measure, that the omission of these words was an inadvertence. The road is to be extended from some point on the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway up to Cape Scott. Speaking for myself, I consider it an objection that this charter does not explicitly say that the road shall begin at Wellington. What the people of Vancouver Island and British Columbia want is unbroken connection from Victoria up to Cape Scott. Then the scheme of this road could be carried out, namely, to get through connection to as near Alaska points and the Yukon from Victoria as possible. The idea is to have through connection from Victoria, at the south end of the island to Cape Scott, at the most northerly extremity, so as to have the whole island operated by a company which would see that the public were catered to in a proper manner. At Cape Scott, the passengers and traffic brought there from all parts of the continent would be transhipped on board the various steamers and taken out to the most important points in the north. This House ought to be glad of the opportunity of assisting people in a Bill of this kind. And I think the hon. gentleman ought to be one of the very last men to throw any obstacles in its way. The road goes right through his constituency, and I should think that his constituents would hail with delight the opening up of a district in which there are now no railways.

I can quite see the objection to beginning the road at Comox, which is some sixty or seventy miles from Wellington, the other terminus of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo road, so that there would be a distance of some sixty miles without a road at all. I am advised by the solicitors that these words were left out entirely through inadvertence, and I think my hon. friend should raise no objection.

Mr. McINNES. If it were through inadvertence that the solicitors left these words out, that is most extraordinary. If the intention was to run the line from Wellington to Cape Scott, that should have been expressed in the Bill, and the road called the Wellington and Cape Scott Railway Company, and not 'the Comox and Cape Scott Railway Company.' There is no inadvertence about it at all. As I have already pointed out, the people who control the E. and N. charter are the same parties who control this application, and they already have power to build to the Comox district. It was most natural, when they wanted to extend their line to the North End, that they should ask simply for power from Comox to Cape Scott. At this hour

it is rather strange that they should endeavour to slip in an amendment giving the power to build from Wellington district. There is a reason for it, and this House should not deal with this thing in the dark.

Mr. PRIOR. What is the reason?

Mr. McINNES. If there is a reason it should be forthcoming.

Mr. PRIOR. What does the hon. gentleman imagine the reason is? Has he any idea?

Mr. McINNES. I have an idea, but do not care to assign any reason unless absolutely positive, and it is incumbent on those in charge of the Bill to submit some sufficient reason for this amendment.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). If I understand the hon. gentleman rightly, there is serious objection to this Bill. There is a petition in favour of building a particular line of railway, which was referred to the Railway Committee, and now, after the committee has passed on the Bill, we are asked to amend it and give something entirely different from what the petitioners ask. If this amendment alters the petition and is not included in it—as it cannot be, because it would make the road seventy miles more than the petitioners ask—I do not see how we can consent to the amendment. The first thing the Railway Committee does is to see if the railway is within the bounds of the petition, but what is the use of the committee doing that, if, after they have passed on the Bill, we are going to put through an amendment which makes the road entirely different from the one asked for.

Mr. MORRISON. There is a misapprehension in saying that there is a difference of sixty miles.

Mr. HAGGART. So I understood from the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes).

Mr. MORRISON. He is not correct in that. You will notice, the Bill is for a line from a point in Comox district, and the amendment asked that the road should begin at a point in the district of Wellington. It may be that there would not be half a mile of difference, so that it is not quite correct to say there is a difference of sixty or seventy miles or even ten miles.

Mr. COCHRANE. What does the petition ask for?

Mr. MORRISON. I have not seen the petition. I had nothing to do with drafting the Bill, but am simply stating what I am advised by the solicitors. The gravamen of the objection of the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) seems to be that there is another charter existing. I am advised that there is none such, either local or federal, traversing this same district.

The hon. gentleman's objection to this has developed within the last few days. I have no interest in the matter, except that I feel that we should not arbitrarily oppose an application of this kind, and I cannot free myself from the impression that the hon. gentleman's real objection is not the one he gives, and I am not saying that in an offensive spirit at all. I do not think that his objection is a valid one, or at least one cogent to us, and which would justify in losing the time it would take to have this thing referred back to committee. I have no ulterior motive; it is immaterial to me whether this thing passes or not, except that I think it is important to the people in business in these parts and to the people of Vancouver Island generally that this road should be built. I submit that the objection is not sufficiently strong to justify us taking the time that would be necessary to have this matter go back to the committee. I strongly urge that the amendment be allowed to pass.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me that the objection to the passing of this amendment is very strong. It would be most unreasonable if this House should pass a Bill providing for the building of a railway to points not covered by the petition. It would be a most unusual course, and even contrary to our rules. It is of great importance that we should consider the matter very carefully before passing such an amendment. It is an easy matter to get the petition. I have sent for it. And if it be found that the amendment is not covered by the petition I think that would be a very strong objection.

Mr. MORRISON. There is no doubt that the words sought to be inserted are not in the petition. But I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) if he would consider the objection a fatal one in any case. Supposing this made a difference of only a mile, supposing that they were adjoining counties and that Comox was used instead of Wellington, would the hon. gentleman consider that a sufficient objection? Is it not a matter of degree, a matter of distance? There is nothing to show that this is a matter of more difference than a mile.

Mr. SPROULE. It may be a difference of only a mile, but we have no knowledge as to whether it is one mile or one hundred. The only notice that the public has had is similar to what was in the petition, which asked for a charter to construct a railway between certain points; and now it is proposed to start at a different point. Thus, the public will have had no notice of the point from which it is really proposed to start.

Mr. McINNES. I have seen the notice which has been given and also the petition, and the amendment which my hon. friend

(Mr. Morrison) proposes is entirely outside of the petition, and of the notice which has been given to the public. Now, a few moments ago, the hon. gentleman said that he had been advised that there was no charter in existence ever granted by this parliament or the local legislature of British Columbia authorizing a railway company to build up to Comox. In the statutes of British Columbia, 1883, is the Act relating to the Island Railway Company, and section nine of that Act reads as follows :

The company, and their agents and servants, shall lay out, construct, equip, maintain and work a continuous double or single track steel railway of the gauge of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and also a telegraph line, with the proper appurtenances from a point at or near the harbour of Esquimalt, in British Columbia, to a port or place at or near Nanaimo, on the eastern coast of Vancouver Island—

Now, listen to this :

—with power to extend the main line to Comox and Victoria, and to construct branches to settlements on the east coast, and also to extend the said railway by ferry communications to the mainland of British Columbia.

There is no doubt at all but that the Island Railway Company already has power to build to Comox. That is a well understood fact by those who are familiar with the railway affairs of Vancouver Island. I have no objection, as has been insinuated by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), to the passing of this Bill in its present shape, with an amendment which I intend to propose later on, but I have a decided objection to the amendment that he proposes. Now, the Bill in its present shape will give the people of British Columbia every advantage which they can have under the amendment proposed of having a line from one end of Vancouver Island to the other. Under the section that I have read the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company have the right to build to Comox. By defeating the amendment that the hon. gentleman proposes, we do not defeat the object of having a line throughout the length of the island. For the life of me, I cannot see any sufficient or proper reason why this amendment should be proposed. As I said before, there must be some reason, but no reason has been assigned ; and I am going to be very slow in assigning any reason until I know that my hon. friend (Mr. Morrison) or whoever else has charge of this on behalf of the applicants has exhausted his resources in giving reasons.

Mr. MORRISON. Perhaps, in making the remarks I am about to make, I may say that which will be regarded by some hon. gentlemen as an argument in favour of going back to the committee. But in justice to the promoters I may say there is no charter, local or federal, from Wellington to Comox, and the evidence in support of

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that is the section read by the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes). The power given under that charter is to build from Vancouver to Comox, but the points I mentioned were Wellington and Comox, the point covered by the amendment which I have proposed. The petition did not contain the words 'Wellington district,' and it is for the House to decide whether it is a sufficiently serious and fatal objection that it is proposed now. It strikes me that the hon. gentleman's objection is the fact, as he alleges, of the existence of another charter covering the same route. But I repeat there is no charter along that route, and if that is his only objection, I think he should not—

Mr. SPROULE. Is that charter not in existence now ?

Mr. MORRISON. From Nanaimo to Comox, yes, but this amendment reads, Wellington and Comox—a different matter.

Mr. McINNES. The E. and N. company have already built to Wellington under that charter.

Mr. MORRISON. I am not familiar with the geography of that particular district of British Columbia, but the E. and N. railway, were they to extend, would go by way of Nanaimo to Comox, may take a different direction from the road going from Wellington to Cape Scott via Comox district, which is a very large district. Now, the termini of the Nanaimo and Esquimalt road built or for which power has been given to build are Victoria and Comox, where there is a shipping point, wharfs, and so on. This goes from Wellington to Cape Scott through the district of Comox. It may be miles from the northern terminus of the Nanaimo and Esquimalt road. These remarks may be regarded by some hon. gentlemen as reasons why we should go back to the committee so that the matter could be explained. But I wish to place myself right, and to express my regret that an hon. gentleman is raising a point which seems to be that he objects to this going on because there is a charter covering the line, for such is not the case.

Mr. COCHRANE. Why did not you have this proposed in committee ?

Mr. MORRISON. I was not in committee when the matter came up ; and I am advised by the solicitors, who are reputable solicitors, that the omission was quite an inadvertence. The solicitors in Victoria omitted this, and a gentleman from Victoria who happened to be here and knowing the nature of the undertaking pointed out that it was evidently a mistake, and advised the Ottawa solicitors to put in an amendment ; and they put in an amendment, and I gave notice of it. As I understand the objection it is, that there is another charter covering the same route.

Mr. SPROULE. No, that is not the objection, so far as I am concerned. The objection that I urge is that we are proposing to build a railway where the petition never asked for it, so that the public have no notice of the legislation that is really proposed. Perhaps they would have taken objection to it if proper notice had been given, and if it was understood from the first that the proposition was to build a railway in that locality. But, the public know nothing about it, and the Standing Orders Committee could know nothing of it except what was placed before the committee, and they passed that upon the strength of the notice that was given for the building of a railway in a certain place mentioned in the petition. But this is an entirely different place. It makes no difference, in my judgment, whether there were a dozen railway charters in existence or none at all.

Mr. MORRISON. I have the utmost respect for the hon. gentleman's views upon matters of this kind, and I would ask him frankly if he considers this a sufficiently serious objection, and if he wishes to press his objection.

Mr. SPROULE. I do so consider it, and will press the objection.

Mr. MORRISON. Of course, under the circumstances, perhaps it is just as well to send it back to the committee.

Mr. PRIOR. No doubt there is a difference between the petition and this Bill, and sooner than antagonize the House, I think it would be better for the hon. gentleman who has charge of this Bill to let it go back to the committee. There is no other company that I know of, that wishes to build this road, or who opposes it. I think when the whole matter is explained, it will only show inadvertence on the part of the solicitors who framed this Bill, and when the matter is placed fairly before the House, there will be no opposition.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman must be very particular, because if it went to the Railway Committee and if the Railway Committee reported it to the House, and if objection was taken before the Speaker, he would rule out the Bill. Even if the Standing Orders Committee reported that it had passed a petition for an entirely different line, I doubt whether, if objection was taken in the House, the Bill would not be thrown out.

Mr. MORRISON. I can see that the objection goes to the root of the matter. It is an objection ab initio, and makes it very doubtful whether a reference back to the committee will remedy the trouble. I have doubts about it. In order to avoid the complications that must necessarily arise upon referring the Bill back, I would strongly urge the committee to consider whether they would not be justified in allowing it to go

on. There is no objection to the charter extending from Wellington north, the objection is that they did not put it in the petition. I would ask the committee if they cannot see some way of allowing the Bill to go on.

Mr. HAGGART. Would the Bill, if not reported, be of any use to you? Hadn't you better get it through as it is?

Mr. MORRISON. That idea occurred to myself, but I am not sufficiently instructed as to whether that would satisfy the promoters.

Mr. PRIOR. I would ask the hon. gentleman whether it could not be altered in another place. Put it through as it is now, and have it amended in another place, after it has passed this House.

Mr. McINNES. Before the Bill is reported, I beg leave to move that the following clause be added to section 16:

No Chinese person shall be employed in the construction or operation of the railway or undertaking authorized hereby, under a penalty of \$5 per day for each and every Chinese person employed in contravention of this section, said penalty to be recoverable by summary conviction on the complaint of any person.

I would like to say a word in connection with this. In the first place I would like to point out that this charter is entirely provincial and local. It contemplates, as it stands, the building of a line from Comox to Cape Scott, a distance of 150 miles only. Now, inasmuch as this is entirely a provincial affair, I strongly urge upon this committee that the views of the people of British Columbia should prevail in relation to it. The people who are applying for this charter have applied to this parliament instead of the provincial legislature, notwithstanding that the work is entirely local and provincial in its nature. Now, if these parties had applied to the local legislature of British Columbia for this charter, there would, undoubtedly, have been a clause, similar, word for word, to the one which I have just read, inserted in it. Every charter which has been granted by the legislature of British Columbia since 1898, has included the following section:

No Chinese or Japanese person shall be employed in the construction or operation of the undertaking hereby authorized, under a penalty of \$5 per day for each and every Chinese or Japanese person employed in contravention of this section, to be recovered on complaint of any person under the provisions of the Summary Convictions Act.

That section would, undoubtedly, have been inserted in the charter, had these parties applied to the legislature of British Columbia. In 1898, as you are aware, the Turner administration was in power in British Columbia. Succeeding them came the Semlin administration, and they following the same course, inserted the same clause in all private legislation, and the same way last ses-

sion. So that every charter for the last three sessions in British Columbia, has had this clause inserted in it. If these parties who are now applying for this charter, had applied for it there, they would have had to submit to a clause of this kind being inserted. We may take these facts as absolute evidence that there is practical unanimity in British Columbia upon this matter.

Moreover, so far as the district affected by this charter is concerned, I may say that the proposition to extend this railway to the north end of the island is not a new proposition by any means; it is a question that has been discussed for years, it has been a live question in both Dominion and provincial elections for some years. During the last election it was a prominent issue in the part of the district affected by this proposed Bill; and feeling was strongly expressed there that should any application be made to this parliament for powers to construct a line to the north end of the island, some such amendment as I am now proposing should be inserted in the Bill. So I feel that so far as I am personally concerned in this matter, I have a direct mandate from the people who are most interested in it. Now, there can only be one reason, so far as I can see, why the applicants have applied to this parliament, instead of to the legislature of British Columbia, and that is simply to evade the undoubted desire of the people of British Columbia, in regard to this foreign labour question. The excuse is often submitted by parties who apply here instead of to the provincial legislatures for charters, that it is much simpler to finance under a Dominion charter than under a provincial charter. So far as these particular applicants are concerned, there can be no force in that argument at all for the reason that they represent what is probably the wealthiest family in British Columbia. It would be a small undertaking for them, out of their own resources, to construct the whole of this line. There is no reason, I submit, why these applicants should apply to this parliament for this charter except one, and that is simply that they may defeat the wishes of the people of British Columbia in regard to the employment of Chinese and Oriental labour. I was met with the objection, when I proposed an amendment of this kind in the Railway Committee, that this is a large question, that it must be dealt with in some comprehensive way, and it was insinuated or suggested, by some hon. members, that the government was preparing a Bill which would deal with this matter. I pointed out that so far as any contemplated action by the government is concerned, so far as I know, it only contemplates dealing with the immigration of Orientals into the country. I have never heard it suggested that the government contemplated doing anything to deal with the situation which has already been created in

the province of British Columbia by the presence of these Orientals who are there now, and it must be apparent to every hon. member, that if it is desirable at all to keep out the Chinamen, it is just as desirable to deal with the situation that their presence in the country gives rise to. There is a particular reason, even if a general Bill cannot be introduced into this House and passed dealing with this whole matter so as to make it applicable to every one, why such a provision as I have proposed should be inserted in this Bill, dealing with these particular applicants, and that reason is that these applicants at present own and control the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, they own large collieries in British Columbia, and wherever they have been brought into contact with the labouring element, they have pursued an unyielding course of hostility to them, they have done everything in their power to lower wages, and they have used their influence to degrade the conditions of labour.

Mr. PRIOR. No. no.

Mr. McINNES. My hon. friend (Mr. Prior) will have an opportunity in a moment of denying everything I say, but I may tell my hon. friend that I am brought into as close contact with the labour element of British Columbia as he is, and I state, on the floor of this House, that what I say is a fact. What makes the treatment of labour, by these applicants, acting under another corporate name, more exasperating is the fact that they have probably received larger bonuses and subsidies from the people of Canada for a smaller return than any other corporation in the Dominion of Canada. For building a small line of railway from Victoria to Nanaimo, a distance of only seventy-two miles, they received \$750,000 by way of a cash subsidy, they also received a land grant of 2,000,000 of acres, half of Vancouver Island, they have received extraordinary foreshore rights, they have been accorded the privilege of bringing in all their railway appliances and rolling stock free of duty, they have received an absolute exemption from taxation upon their land grant, indefinitely, as long as it remains their property, and notwithstanding the generous way in which they have been treated by the people, both provincially and federally, they have, as I say, treated the public with the greatest indifference, and the result of that characteristic has been particularly displayed in regard to their employees and labourers who are working for them. We heard, a few weeks ago, in this House, considerable in regard to fair wages. Every one seemed to be in favour of fair wages. If this amendment, which I propose to this Bill, is incorporated in it, it simply means that it will be a guarantee that, if this road is built, it will be built by white labourers, and these white labourers will receive fair wages. In view

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of these general expressions in regard to fair wages which we heard here a few weeks ago, I look forward with some confidence to this House passing this amendment.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) if this is an amendment of which he gave notice.

Mr. McINNES. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Yes; then it will be regular so far. I take very strong objection to the ground upon which the hon. gentleman asked that this amendment should pass, and that is, that the company who propose to build this railway have been largely subsidized for doing so. I do not think that should be taken into consideration at all. It is, in my judgment, an important question whether we shall say that we will not allow people who have a right to come into the country, after paying a consideration for coming, to have the same freedom of labour as others who are in the country. I think the proposal of the hon. gentleman is wrong, and that it is unfair. If it is desirable that Chinese should not be employed on such works as this, there should be some general law applicable to the case instead of making an amendment to a railway charter limiting these Chinese, who have paid \$50 a head for the advantage of living in the country and earning their living here, stating certain lines of employment in which they cannot be employed. It would be a drawback in the building of railways, because, one of the objects in the building of railways should be to get them built as cheaply as possible, and one of the elements in cheapness would be the element of labour. If the Chinese can do the same amount of work, and do it as well and more cheaply than others, that would be one substantial advantage to the localities where railways must be built. I think that the principle involved in the amendment is radically wrong. If it is in the interest of white labour in the country, or in the interest of the country, that these people should be excluded, they should be excluded by a law for that purpose, and not by this means.

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Chairman, I quite agree with a great deal that the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) has said regarding the objectionable features of employing Chinamen in the province of British Columbia, or in any other province in the Dominion of Canada. There may be a great deal of truth in all he has said about the name of Dunsuir, one of the firm, being somewhere attached to, or connected with this Bill. Doubtless they are disgustingly rich. They, doubtless, have received a great many subsidies, and franchises, but, so long as there has been nothing objectionable in the process of acquiring these things, I do not know why we should dwell long on this phase of this question, or why it should

be even referred to. For the sake of argument, I will coincide with every word that the hon. member for Vancouver has said, and I might go further even than he went in my references to the feeling in British Columbia about the employment of Chinese. I might go on and prove to him conclusively that it was the most fatal thing, the most pernicious thing, that could possibly happen in the history of British Columbia that Chinamen should be allowed to come in and work there. At the same time, I say that it does not touch the point, and that is not the point of this amendment. The hon. gentleman is a lawyer; there are a number of lawyers in this committee, and I would ask them to reflect upon the effect of this amendment. The sole charter upon which and from which we must proceed before we can refer to or discuss matters here is the British North America Act, and if there is one thing clearer in that Act more than another it is the provision setting out what this parliament may do and what it may not do, and designating what the provincial parliament may do and what it may not do. Almost in the very first page of the British North America Act, from which we cannot escape, it is provided that this parliament may not touch on any matter of a local character coming within the purview of the provincial legislatures, and that it can deal with no matters except those of a most general import. I shall ask my hon. friend the Solicitor General to take part in this debate and if possible to corroborate what I am saying, and there are some other gentlemen here whose views I would like to hear. I submit that although it is competent for this parliament to say, that although no man from Halifax to Vancouver may employ Chinamen, yet we cannot go so far as to say that the individual, Mr. John Smith, of Comox or Nanaimo, in the province of British Columbia, may not employ Chinamen. I submit further, that while it is competent for us to say that no railway, which is being built in Canada, may employ Chinamen, yet I do not believe it is our constitutional right to say that the Comox and Cape Scott Railway especially may not be built by Chinamen. That is a local matter, it does not affect any other province or any other part of a province except that remote part of British Columbia. My opinion is—and I would only be too glad to find that my opinion was wrong in this particular instance—my opinion is, that if we passed this amendment it would not be worth the paper it is written on.

Mr. McINNES. If this is such a peculiarly local and provincial matter, why should we deal with it here at all. Why does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Morrison) withdraw the Bill and let the people of British Columbia deal with it, if it is so local in its nature as he says.

Mr. MORRISON. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) knows that I have nothing to do with the conduct of the Bill, except in the sense, as he himself might do, allow his name to be attached to it. My name being to the Bill does not signify that I have any interest in it, and I trust that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) will not endeavour to associate me with it in any such sense as if I wanted Chinamen to be employed on that road. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) in his objection to employing Chinamen. But we are not all school children and we ought to know our position here. I am not going to shut my eyes to our constitutional powers whilst I am a representative in this House, nor should I even if I were not a member of this House. I cannot, in reason, support an amendment which, in my opinion, it is not competent for this parliament to insert in legislation which we pass. No matter how strongly I may feel or how much I may be in favour of the sentiment sought by the amendment, I cannot support it while I believe it to be unconstitutional. I have taken the trouble to hunt up authorities on this question and I have referred the hon. gentleman to them, and I do not suppose there is a lawyer in this House who has not at his finger ends two or three of these well known constitutional cases which bear on the point which I have raised in this instance. I refer the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) to the case of *L'Union vs. Belle Isle*, Law Reports 6 P.C. Appeals. Dealing with this aspect of our constitution, Lord Selbourne says in that case :

Their lordships observe that the scheme of enumeration in section 91 of the British North America Act—

That is referring to the matters which this parliament may deal with :

—is to mention various categories on general subjects which may be dealt with by legislation. There is no indication in any instance of anything being contemplated except what may be properly described as general legislation.

That is, it would be quite competent for us to insert in this Bill that no railways in Canada should employ Chinamen, but it would be contrary to the judgment in this case to pass such an amendment as this, and make it applicable only to a small piece of road in a particular province. In the case of *Hodge vs. The Queen*, a very well known case, Mr. Justice Burton, quoting Lord Carnarvon, says :

The real object of the Act is to give to the central government these high functions and almost sovereign powers by which general principles and uniformity of legislation may be secured in these questions that are of common import to all the provinces.

Mr. Justice Gwynne, in another case, refers to these matters, which are to be within the category with which this parliament may deal as follows :

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Matters in which, as being of a general quasi-national and sovereign character, the inhabitants of the other provinces may be said to have a common interest.

In the *Queen vs. Robertson*, the Supreme Court of Canada decided :

That the British North America Act gave to parliament the right to legislate in regard to matters of national or general concern; such general laws as are for the benefit of the public at large.

There are numerous other cases to show that our legislation in this parliament must be of a general character. It might be argued that there may be a potential aspect to this, and that potentially this parliament might pass legislation of that kind. There is no precedent for it, and it would be absolutely against usage in this parliament if any such amendment as that moved by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) should pass. Holding that view, I cannot see how the hon. gentleman, being a lawyer, and understanding that aspect of the case, can expect to successfully maintain the stand which he has taken in introducing this amendment. I contend that if the amendment were passed the promoters of this Bill could forthwith resort to the courts and be sustained by the legal authorities which we find in abundance. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) chooses to ignore the constitution in a case so palpable as this, for my part I shall stand by the constitution, though in the next moment my support of the constitution should result in sending me to political oblivion. It is a most dangerous stage to arrive at, if we should come here feeling so strongly on a certain matter that we should ignore the principles of law which govern us, and say: 'The constitution be blowed, let us get this law in and throw the onus on the other people to have it rectified.' As I have already said, I would not take a second place to the hon. member for Vancouver in my feeling in regard to this Chinese matter, but it seems to me there is a right and a wrong way to redress our grievances—and we have grievances. The government have assured us that they are going to bring down legislation dealing with the Chinese question in British Columbia. I believe the government will do so, and I am quite confident that that legislation when it comes before the House will be ample and satisfactory. Before that legislation is brought down, attempts at piecemeal law-making of this sort, in my opinion, do more harm than good. Let me refer to the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) for a moment. There was a Bill before this House in his name the other day called the Cowichan Valley Railway Bill. It went through its different stages in this House, and that company got an extension of time for their charter. Now, that Cowichan Valley Railway is in the province of British Columbia and on the Island

of Vancouver, and I am curious to know why the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) did not add a similar amendment to the Cowichan Valley Railway Bill as that which he seeks to add to this Bill.

Mr. McINNES. I will tell the hon. gentleman in a moment why. I did not do so because the applicants in that case did what was eminently proper. They applied to the British Columbia legislature for a charter, and in receiving that charter they had to submit to an amendment such as I propose to this Bill.

Mr. MORRISON. That means nothing. I would ask the hon. member (Mr. McInnes) what has become of the Disallowance Acts. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) stated that the reason these people came here to get this amendment inserted was that they were evading the legislature of the province of British Columbia. I say that the hon. gentleman has not given a fair statement of the case. I am not a champion of the Dunsmuirs; I do not know them, and I care less so far as that is concerned, but all the same it seems to me that we might deal fairly with these people. If the facts were known I do not think that the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McInnes) would be considered as having the slightest foundation in fact. Suppose they had gone to the legislature of British Columbia this session, what would have happened? I presume that the Dunsmuirs or whoever are seeking this charter have applied to this parliament for the simple reason that they wanted to get their charter, whereas, if they had applied to the legislature of British Columbia, I think it would take a wiser man than either the hon. member for Vancouver or myself to say what would have happened; for we know what a broil that legislature is in at present. I know that the legislature were not inserting an anti-Chinese clause in their legislation, and I think they are entitled to a great deal of credit for their sagacity in leaving it out. It would have been child's play to have inserted it in face of the fact that this parliament would have disallowed it; and even if it had not done so, being ultra vires of the legislature of British Columbia, it would have been utterly useless, and would have been so declared by the courts. Therefore, I cannot see where any one of the objections urged by the hon. member for Vancouver has any foundation in fact or in law. The hon. member is not doing justice to the Dunsmuirs in saying that they came here for the purpose of avoiding the provincial legislature. They might have got their charter there, for the only time in which there were anti-Chinese clauses in their railway Bills was in 1898.

Mr. McINNES. They began in 1898, and they have had them since.

Mr. MORRISON. Precisely; they began in 1898. There was one session in which

the Attorney General inserted anti-Chinese clauses, and they were disallowed. The next session was the last one, in which they were not inserted.

Mr. McINNES. I can inform the hon. member for New Westminster that they were inserted in every Bill reported from the Railway Committee to the legislature.

Mr. MORRISON. That is a matter of provincial history. I think the fact will be found to be that the day before the Semlin-Cotton government were dismissed by the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Cotton, the Minister of Finance, got up on the floor of the House and read a telegram from the Dominion government, and stated that inasmuch as that government contemplated bringing down legislation against Chinese immigration, he would not insert the anti-Chinese clauses in the Bills then before the House. The meaning of that position can be gathered from the fact that the next day, before the legislature had time to pass any of these Bills, that government were out of office.

Mr. McINNES. I received Bills containing the clauses two weeks before that telegram was sent.

Mr. MORRISON. Grant for the sake of argument that since 1898 they did insert these clauses; that was not because they considered them constitutional, or expected them to remain there, but, as they allege, for the purpose of forcing this government to bring down the legislation which they had promised; and on getting the assurance from this government that they would bring down that legislation, they said, we will not add these clauses. That is the view the last legislature of British Columbia took of this matter. They did not go as far as the hon. gentleman says; and if he has a mandate from that portion of the province, I think *a fortiori* they have a greater mandate. Of course, at present we do not know who has a mandate, so far as the provincial legislature is concerned. As the amendment proposed by the hon. member is not constitutional, and cannot stand the test of the courts, we ought to be satisfied to wait for the legislation promised to be brought down by the government. It will do those of us who are urging anti-Chinese legislation more harm to keep tinkering at it in this irregular, unconstitutional way, than to leave it alone until the proper time and the proper occasion arise.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). I am disposed to agree with most of the views expressed by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. I cannot, however, agree with him on this one point. It seems to me quite clear that this parliament can attach any condition it pleases to a charter which it grants to a company. There is no question in my mind that this parliament can provide, as a condition to the

granting of this charter, that no Chinese labour shall be employed on the railway. But, Sir, the question of Chinese labour is a question too large and too important to be decided by a side issue of this kind. It seems to me, whether we accept or reject the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Vancouver, Chinese labour is a question which must be decided as a matter of policy brought down by the government and voted on by parliament. It is a question more germane and more intimately connected with immigration than any other question that has come before parliament. If the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Vancouver were accepted by this parliament, it would simply mean that this company will not be permitted to avail itself of Chinese labour in the construction of its railway; and would there not be an anomaly in the fact that one company building a railway would be deprived of the right to utilize Chinese labour, while the next company might be granted a charter without this amendment, and would therefore be allowed to use Chinese labour? If, as the hon. gentleman has suggested, the government have decided to introduce a policy upon this very important question—important not only to the province of British Columbia, but to the Dominion at large—I do not think this House should discriminate against one company in respect to Chinese labour, when other companies have the right to use that labour. In view of the relations which exist between Great Britain and China, this question is one which requires on the part of the government all the attention they can bestow upon it; and if their promise to bring down a policy on the subject is not like some other promises which have not been carried out absolutely, it seems to me it would be far better to wait until it is submitted to parliament than try and get over this question by side issues and amendments tacked on to railway charters.

J. H. BELL (P.E.I.) I have every sympathy with the hon. members for British Columbia. They are dealing with a question which in that province is a live issue, namely, Chinese and Japanese labour. If the demands of these hon. gentlemen are reasonable, it is the duty of the House to accede to them; but if unreasonable, the House should reject them. The amendment to exclude Chinese labour from this railway, involves a principle, the adoption of which would be made a precedent for future action. We should, therefore, be exceedingly careful what course we take upon the amendment submitted by the hon. gentleman. British Columbia has been trying to exclude the Chinese altogether by imposing a tax of \$500 per head upon all proposing to enter the province. They tried that by an Act of their local legislature, but

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

failed because the Act was ultra vires. They imagined that under the head of immigration, they could deal with the matter, but the highest authorities decided that such action would be an interference with trade and commerce, and consequently ultra vires of the local legislature. Then they tried to accomplish their object by passing through their legislature an Act to prohibit the employment of Chinese labour, but the Act was disallowed because opposed to public policy.

Mr. MORRISON. To which Act does the hon. gentleman refer?

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) The Act of 1898, preventing Chinese and Japanese labour from being employed on certain works.

Mr. MORRISON. You refer to mining?

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) Yes.

Mr. MORRISON. That went to the Privy Council.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) It was disallowed mainly on the ground that it was opposed to public policy. It was considered impolitic, from the standpoint of Canadian and British interests, and consequently disallowed. What now are these gentlemen doing? Finding they could not accomplish their object through the local legislature, they have come to this parliament and seek to get inserted in a Dominion charter a provision, which in a local Act would be ultra vires.

I think that this parliament ought to take a wider view of matters. It is our duty to look at all questions from the Canadian and the British, and not merely from the provincial standpoint. Britain has her interests in China and Japan. She has been extending her sphere of influence over a large portion of China, she has many millions of Chinese as her subjects, and there is no doubt it would be contrary to Britain's policy, for the Canadian people to do what is contemplated by this amendment.

More than that, Canada has her interests in the far east, as distinct from those of Great Britain. We have our trade with China and Japan, which we are developing, and it would be contrary to our interests to do what would be construed as an act of hostility by the people of either country, and this House ought to hesitate before committing itself to an act which would involve a policy of hostility against any country with which we have trade relations, and with which we hope to have better trade relations in the future.

There is another reason. The Canadian Pacific Railway has been built across this country, largely by Chinese labour. At any rate, its construction has been expedited by Chinese labour. All the railways across the American continent have been built largely by Chinese labour. These Chinese, say what you like about them, have been a

great benefit to this continent, and, I think, it would be ungrateful on our part, not to recognize the benefit these people have done us in the past, and exclude them from working on the construction of future railways. I do not think it will be in the interests of Canada, or even the province of British Columbia, to take the step proposed by this amendment, and for these reasons, I am opposed to it.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). I am sorry that I do not find myself in sympathy with the hon. members who can find reasons from all the four corners of the earth why they should oppose the amendment, but who cannot find reasons from the interests of the people or any section of the people of this country why they should support it. I confess that my views are narrowed to some extent by the circumstances of the constituency which I am called upon to represent and to safeguard. I am so narrow-minded that I am perfectly willing to let the people of China take care of themselves, so long as they are in China. I am perfectly willing to let the Chinese and the British governments run their own business, and I am so near-sighted, that I am anxious to use my position and vote in this House to protect and serve, as far as possible, the interests of the people of this country, or even a section of the people. I take it that the question of the protection of labour is just as important and as proper for this parliament to consider as many other of the questions which, from time to time, have occupied the time—if they have not commanded the interest—of this House. So, when, on the discussion of a railway charter, the question of the protection of labour in a certain province or a certain part of a province of this country comes up, I, for one, am prepared to consider it on its merits. This country as a country, and this parliament as a parliament, has a direct interest in the welfare, in the well-being, in the well-doing of the labouring people of Canada, and there is no means whereby the House can shirk its responsibility. We are placed face to face in the province of British Columbia with a certain condition of affairs in regard to labour there. We find our fellow-countrymen, the men who, from time to time, are referred to as the bone and sinew of the country, crowded out of their occupation by another class of people, who, in themselves, may be a very good kind of people, who may be very desirable people from some points of view, but who are not our people. Inasmuch as they displace our people, displace our citizens, as they make life harder for our people who are compelled to earn their bread in our country; inasmuch as they are building up an alien, not to say a hostile, people and civilization in that province—in so far as they are doing that, it is our duty as a House, to prevent its

being done; whether as a matter of general or of particular legislation I care not—it is something that should be done, and I am one to cast my vote to do it whenever the opportunity arises. For that reason, I support the amendment.

Mr. ROBERT HOLMES (West Huron). I am sorry I cannot agree with the hon. member (Mr. Oliver) who has just taken his seat; and I think if he had made himself a little more familiar with the circumstances in British Columbia, he would have known the people of that province are not a unit on this question. The people of British Columbia, or a large number of them, are as anxious that the Chinese should be employed, perhaps, as any other people in the Dominion. The Chinese may not be a people I would like to engage, they may not be a class I would like to associate with personally, but—

Mr. OLIVER. Why not?

Mr. HOLMES. That is all right—never mind—but they are a class of the community, and if you allow legislation of this kind to come in, the question will arise where you shall draw the line. Whom does my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) consider as Canadians? We are endeavouring to assimilate all classes of people—English, Irish, Scotch, French, Teutons, Scandinavians and others. If you endeavour to prevent the Chinese securing employment, especially after paying a fee to come in, or to draw a line of distinction as against them, you will certainly be asked to pass legislation against other classes in the community. I think it is a very narrow platform for us to endeavour to embody in the form of legislation in this House. I cannot agree with the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Oliver's) remarks; but, while I am willing, as far as possible, to protect the interest of the Canadian labourers, and would gladly do all I can in this direction, my hon. friend ought to know, as an employer of labour, that the more he interferes, so to speak, with the free action of labour, the more injury he does labour. I think, therefore, the resolution ought to be voted down.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am sorry that I cannot agree with the last speaker (Mr. Holmes). The hon. gentleman is supporting the present government, which is a protectionist government, supporting a policy that protects the capitalists and even the combinists. That being so, he ought to give support to a clause which sounds the note of protection to labour. I do not see any principle calling upon us to oppose this clause of my hon. friend. On the part of this government and parliament this Bill hands over certain of our sovereign power to this company. Now, this parliament and government represent not merely the capitalist, not merely the shopkeepers and stockholders, but they re-

present also the workmen; and, that being the case, in handing over certain powers to the capitalists, it is our duty to say: We will secure, at all events, as regards the men who shall work on this road, conditions which will prevent the bringing in of cheap labour, labour that can sell itself at a price that means starvation and degradation for the white man—we will see to it that that condition shall not meet our Anglo-Saxon, to use a phrase so dear to the Prime Minister, and our German, our Teuton, when they come to labour on the railway. I have no hesitation in saying that is a clause which ought to be made part of this Bill.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). I think this clause should be adopted. If the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), has stated his whole case, he might well accept this amendment without objection. I am inclined to agree with the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), but say that if this was a case of General Railway Act, we should not insert such an amendment as this, but should deal with the question of Chinese immigration first. But this is merely a local matter. This is a railway to be constructed wholly in British Columbia. It is pretty well known where the citizens of British Columbia stand on this question of Chinese labour and Chinese immigration. In an Act of this kind, if granted by the provincial legislature, a clause such as is here proposed would be inserted. This company, by coming here, recognizes that we have the power to grant this Act, and they must recognize that we have the power to insert such a clause as this in it. It need not be said that we have no power or no right to insert such a clause. If we can grant such a charter as this, we have the power and the right to name the conditions upon which it shall be granted. If the company do not like the conditions, they can apply to the British Columbia legislature. The hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes) shows, by the comparison which he makes between the Chinese and other immigrants, that he has not paid much attention to this question. The United States, Australia, and New Zealand have barred out the Chinese; Canada still has the door open, and we know that there is grave danger, and parliament should recognize that. British Columbia has tried hard for years past to impress this upon this parliament, but whether the warning has sunk deep into the minds of hon. gentlemen or not it is hard to say. I would ask hon. members to remember that this is not a question of Chinese immigration generally; it is a question of one railway charter and one condition that is proposed to be inserted in it. I think the proposition of the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) should be accepted.

Mr. DAVIN.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The discussion that has taken place in this House shows that there is some division of opinion as to whether this clause should be adopted. In my judgment there is a paramount reason why it should not be adopted. This question was discussed before the Railway Committee and the Bill was passed by that committee. Now, the policy, which, for my part, I have endeavoured to follow, and the policy which I think preceding governments have also endeavoured to follow in proceedings in this House, is to sustain the report of the Railway Committee as a rule. All these questions are amply discussed in that committee, and unless paramount reasons are given why the decision of that committee should not be sustained by the House, the House has usually sustained its decision. The Railway Committee having considered this question, have come to the conclusion not to accept the amendment of my hon. friend from Vancouver (Mr. McInnes), and I have not heard anything so far in this debate which should induce the House to refuse to sanction the conclusion of that committee. There may be a good deal to be said in favour of the contention of my hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), who argued that this legislation was hardly within our constitutional power. I am not prepared to offer an opinion on this point, but it is a point worthy of consideration. Another reason which seems to me absolutely unanswerable is that which has been given by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), namely, that as this is an Act of special, not of general legislation, we are not now called upon to consider whether Chinese immigration is desirable or not. We hold in this House that it is not desirable, because we have put restrictions upon it, and the government has in contemplation to introduce a Bill to deal with the general question of immigration. But so long as Chinese are admitted into this country, I think the argument of the hon. member from East Grey is unanswerable, that we should not refuse them the privilege of working, for which they have come here. Either exclude them altogether, or, if you allow them to come in, give them the privilege of earning their living. But it would not be right to force them to pay a tax at the frontier to the Canadian government and, having allowed them to come in on condition of paying that tax, to deny them the privilege of working. We must take either one view or the other of this question: Admit them, or prevent them altogether from coming. But as long as we maintain our present policy of restricting them, but not absolutely shutting them out, putting obstacles in the way of their coming, but not absolutely excluding them, as is done in some other countries, it seems to me that the position taken by the hon. member from East Grey is absolutely sound,

and that we should not deny them the privilege of working that is granted to every other class of residents.

Bill reported.

Mr. MORRISON moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. McINNES. Before this Bill is read the third time, I beg to move in amendment:

That the Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of adding thereto the following section:

No Chinese person shall be employed in the construction or operation of the railway or undertaking authorized hereby, under a penalty of \$5 per day for each and every Chinese person employed in contravention of this section, said penalty to be recoverable by summary conviction on complaint of any person.

House divided on amendment (Mr. McInnes):

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bell (Addington),
Bennett,
Clancy,
Davin,
Ganong,
Gilmour,
Henderson,
MacLaren,
McCleary,
McDougall,
McInnes,

McLennan (Inverness),
Morin,
Oliver,
Fettet,
Prior,
Puttee,
Roche,
Taylor,
Tyrwhitt, and
Wilson.—21.

NAYS :

Messieurs

Bazinet,
Bell (Pictou),
Bell (Prince),
Bergeron,
Bethune,
Blair,
Borden (King's),
Britton,
Broder,
Calvert,
Campbell,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),
Casey,
Champagne,
Christie,
Cowan,
Davies (Sir Louis),
Dobell,
Douglas,
Edwards,
Erb,
Fielding,
Fitzpatrick,
Flint,
Fraser (Lambton),
Gould,
Haggart,

Harwood,
Heyd,
Holmes,
Hurley,
Kaulbach,
Lang,
Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Legris,
Lemieux,
McGugan,
McHugh,
McMillan,
Meigs,
Mignault,
Morrison,
Parmalee,
Paterson,
Powell,
Proulx,
Ratz,
Rogers,
Ross,
Russell,
Screrville,
Sproule, and
Wood.—53.

Amendment (Mr. McInnes) negatived.

Motion (Mr. Morrison) agreed to ; Bill read the third time and passed.

CARRIAGE OF MAIL BETWEEN VANCOUVER AND NANAIMO.

Mr. McINNES asked :

1. Who carries the mail between Vancouver and Nanaimo cities? Is it carried under contract, and at what cost?

2. Is there any provision in the law or contract (if any) whereby the carriers can be compelled to carry the mail regularly? If so, what is it, and has it been enforced?

3. Is the Postmaster General aware that the said mails have been carried lately very irregularly, to the great inconvenience of the business and corresponding public of Nanaimo?

4. Have any or will any steps be taken to secure regularity in the said mail service?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. This is a water service, which is being performed by the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway, at an annual cost of \$2,504. They refused to execute a written contract. 2. It is not possible to give a definite reply to this question. 3. The Postmaster General is not aware of the mails having been, lately, very irregular. No complaints of such irregularity have reached the department.

CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS AT MASKINONGE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Is there at Maskinonge a cigar manufactory, the property of Sauciere et frères?

2. What amount of customs duty do they pay yearly?

3. Has Mr. Romuald Henault been appointed customs officer?

4. When, and at what salary?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1. I have not the answer to the first question. 2. The department informs me that they are unable to answer this inquiry. It is not probable, however, that any customs duties were paid by this factory. Excise duties may have been paid. We have no customs officer at Maskinonge. If any customs duties were paid by the factory, the payments were made at some principal port or outport. 3. Mr. Romuald Henault has not been appointed as customs officer. 4. The answer to question three covers this.

I.C.R.—C.P.R. AND G.T.R. SHARES OF PASSENGER AND FREIGHT CHARGES.

Mr. POWELL asked :

1. What was the total amount of the Canadian Pacific Railway share of passenger fares and freight charges during the year ending June 30, A.D. 1899, collected off the Intercolonial Railway and accounted for to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and what was the total amount of the said fares and charges for the year ending June 30, 1897?

2. What was the total amount of the Grand Trunk Railway share of passenger fares and

freight charges during the year ending June 30, A.D. 1899, collected off the Intercolonial Railway and accounted for to the Grand Trunk Railway, and what was the total amount of the said fares and charges for the year ending June 30, 1897?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The total amount of the Canadian Pacific Railway share of passenger fares and freight charges collected off Intercolonial Railway, and accounted for to the Canadian Pacific Railway, for the years ended June 30, 1899, and June 30, 1897, is as follows: 1899—Passenger fares, \$178,534.89; freight charges, \$354,644.21. 1897—Passenger fares, \$111,040.22; freight charges, \$323,467.18. The total amount of the Grand Trunk Railway share of passenger fares and freight charges collected off Intercolonial Railway, and accounted for to the Grand Trunk Railway for the years ending June 30, 1899, and June 30, 1897, is as follows: 1899—Passenger fares, \$25,559.15; freight charges, \$404,838.60. 1897—Passenger fares, \$27,553.50; freight charges, \$525,240.15.

I.C.R.—ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS EMPLOYED.

Mr. **FOSTER** (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

What is the number of additional offices created or additional officials employed on the Intercolonial Railway since July 1, 1896, and what are the names of such officials or persons appointed to such offices, and their salaries?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The number of additional offices created or additional officials employed on the Intercolonial Railway since July 1, 1896, and names, positions and monthly pay of such officials, are as follows :

Retired—

A. H. Harris, general traffic manager.. \$416 33

Promoted—

J. E. Price, general superintendent.... 200 00

James Hardwell, assistant general freight agent 208 33

H. J. McGrath, inspector of works..... 115 00

Wm. Robinson, general travelling agent.. 175 00

Promoted—

H. A. Price, assistant general passenger agent 141 66

J. B. Lambkin, assistant general passenger agent 141 66

Promoted—

W. H. Price, New England agent..... 100 00

A. T. Leblanc, canvassing agent..... 51 66

James Kelly, " 41 66

A. Lemieux, travelling passenger agent.. 50 00

Owen Cameron, freight claims agent..... 108 33

Promoted—

W. G. Robertson, division freight agent 125 00

D. H. Story, " " 125 00

W. H. Olive, travelling freight agent.... 115 00

Promoted—

G. H. Pick, weighing inspector..... 141 66

H. Girard, travelling auditor..... 91 60

Retired—

W. K. Reynolds, press and advertising agent 83 33

M. L. Tracy, inspector car cleaner..... 60 00

Herbert Ryan, car tracer..... 41 66

Mr. **POWELL**.

On the Drummond Line.

W. W. Houston, track master..... \$ 90 00

E. L. Desjardins, chief train despatcher.. 100 00

E. A. Fortin, despatcher..... 60 00

J. Delisle, " 60 00

D. Fournier, " 60 00

J. H. Tessier, assistant engineer..... 100 00

R. H. Cushing, engineer increased accommodation (temporary work), St. John. 100 00

J. W. Allison, U.S. agent (without salary)

Mr. Harris, retired July, 1898. Mr. Reynolds, retired December, 1899. Mr. Tracy, retired March, 1900.

ANNUAL MILITIA DRILL.

Mr. **BELL** (Addington) asked :

1. What portion of the volunteer force will be ordered out for annual drill in camp in June next?

2. And what number will be ordered out in September?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell, Addington), wishes me to designate the particular corps that are to be drilled in June, it is impossible for me to do so now as the programme for the annual camps has not been made out, but, I may say to the hon. gentleman that the major portion of the militia will drill in June as usual, and the remainder in the month of September.

Mr. **BELL** (Addington). A larger proportion will drill in June than in September?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. Yes.

SURVEY OF LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE.

Mr. **MARCOTTE** (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Whether an appropriation of \$3,000 was granted, giving or promised, for the making of a survey with a view to the lowering of the level of Lake Temiscamingue?

2. If so, when, and to whom?

3. What report was made?

4. Has the government in its hands a report from Rev. Father Paradis on the subject?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1 and 2. There is no record of any such promise having been made. 3 and 4. Yes. A report was submitted to the department in 1887, but it was destroyed in the fire of February, 1897.

LIGHTHOUSE TOWER AT OAK POINT.

Mr. **FOSTER** (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Have tenders been called for the construction of a lighthouse tower at Oak Point, N.B.?

2. If so, what tenders have been received, and for what amount?

3. Has the lowest or any tender been accepted?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Yes. 2 and 3. As no tender has yet been accepted, it is contrary to the policy of the department to make the amounts public.

I.C.R.—DEFECTIVE WHEELS UNDER WAGNER CARS.

Mr. FOSTER (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

How many cars were purchased by the Railway Department from the Wagner Car Company, when, and of what class?

Have any defects since become apparent in the wheels of said cars?

Have they, or any of them, been condemned by the mechanical superintendent or other competent officer?

Was any order issued that these cars go back into the shops for examination or repairs or for the replacement of wheels?

Have any changes or large repairs or replacement of wheels been advised or carried out?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Sixteen cars were purchased from the Wagner Car Company. They were received on the road in May, 1899, and were of the following classes: Eight sleeping cars, four dining cars, four first-class cars. During the winter, defects became apparent in some of the wheels of said cars. The cars have been taken into the shops and the wheels are being removed and replaced with new ones. The wheels which were supplied under the cars by the Wagner Company, and which failed, were made by Krupp, the celebrated gun founder of Germany, who has a great reputation for the quality of his wheels. The Intercolonial Railway made a claim upon the Wagner Company and they informed Krupp, who sent his agent to Moncton: after examination Krupp assumed the responsibility and undertook to furnish new wheels without charge. Some Krupp wheels furnished the Intercolonial by the Crossen Company and the Rhodes Curry Company, under cars built by them about the same time, and some Krupp wheels bought direct from Krupp's Canadian agent about the same time, have also shown defects, so that it is probable a mistake has been made in the manufacture of a particular lot of steel, as the Intercolonial has used Krupp wheels and tires for many years and found them satisfactory.

MAINTENANCE OF LUNATICS FROM N.W.T. IN MANITOBA ASYLUM.

Mr. DAVIS (by Mr. Flint) asked :

1. How much per head per day does the government of Canada pay to the government of Manitoba for the maintenance of lunatics from the North-west Territories in the Manitoba asylum?

2. Is the government aware, from the Public Accounts of Manitoba, how much per head per day such maintenance costs in the Manitoba asylum? If so, what is the amount?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. \$1. 2. No.

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY.

Mr. FORTIN (by Mr. Flint) asked :

Has the government received a report from the commissioners who have investigated into the affairs of Dorchester Penitentiary?

If so, will the government bring down such report and place it upon the Table of this House?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. Yes. 2. The report of the commissioner is being printed as an appendix to the annual report of the department.

HENRY J. PINEO.

Mr. MARTIN (by Mr. McCleary) asked :

1. Is Henry J. Pineo at present in the employ of the government or of any member thereof, and if so, what is the nature of such employment?

2. Did the said Henry J. Pineo come to Ottawa in connection with such employment, and if so, was there any correspondence between the Minister of Marine and Fisheries or his deputy or other officers of his department and the said Henry J. Pineo, before his coming to Ottawa, and what was the object and nature of such correspondence, if any?

3. Is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries aware that the said Henry J. Pineo is a member of the legislature of Prince Edward Island, and does the minister approve of the appointment of members of the legislature to positions which prevents them from attending to their legislative duties during the session of the legislature?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Henry J. Pineo is not at present and never was in the employ of the government, or any member thereof. 2. If the said Henry J. Pineo came to Ottawa seeking any such employment he did not communicate with me, or, so far as I have been able to ascertain, with any of my colleagues, and I cannot say whether he came to Ottawa or not. There was no correspondence between the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and his deputy or other officers of his department and the said Henry J. Pineo before his coming to Ottawa, directly or indirectly. In answer to the third part of the question: The Minister of Marine and Fisheries is aware that within the last twelve months a gentleman of that name has been elected a member of the provincial legislature of Prince Edward Island, but the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has never met him, has had no communication with him verbal or written, and would not know him if he did meet him.

SASKATCHEWAN LANDING—DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICER.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether the government is aware that Geo. F. Smith, the deputy returning officer at Saskatchewan Landing, in the taking of the ple-

biscite in September, 1898, has not yet been paid?

Is the fault with the department at Ottawa or with the returning officer?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). The Auditor General furnishes the following answer :

In reference to this question, let me say that no account from Geo. F. Smith has reached this office, but that on July 12, 1899, the returning officer for West Assiniboia, Mr. Jas. Balfour, forwarded an account from Mr. Geo. G. Smith for services and expenses as deputy returning officer at poll No. 55. A cheque was sent to the returning officer July 18, 1899, to enable him to pay this account—the items being as follows :

D. R. O. fee, \$5; poll clerk's fee, \$3.....	\$ 8 00
Mileage: D. R. O., \$18; clerk, \$3.60.....	21 60
Rent of polling booth	4 00
	\$33 60

The returning officer acknowledged the receipt of this cheque on July 25, and should have paid the amount to Mr. Smith.

SUBSIDY VOTED TO NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved for :

Copies of all correspondence between any member or members of the executive of the North-west Territories, or any member or members of the legislative council or legislative assembly, and any member or members of the Dominion government, respecting the amount of subsidy voted for the carrying on of the government of the North-west Territories, and the amount which should be voted.

2. Also copies of all memorials from the North-west council or the legislative assembly of the North-west Territories, to the Governor General in Council on the subject of the said subsidy.

He said: With the permission of the House, I will slightly amend this motion so as to save the department some trouble;—assuming that the motion will be carried as a matter of course. As it reads at present the motion might sound too wide and with the permission of the House I will confine it to any correspondence within the last two years and up to the end of last year. I find in the estimates that there is an increase of \$50,000 for the item :

Grant for schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c., to be paid half-yearly in advance.

And under the item :

Grant to North-west government to enable them to restore public works lately destroyed by floods.

There is a special vote of \$92,000. You will see, Sir, that these sums of \$92,000 and \$50,000 make up \$142,000. If that were in addition to the grant it would be, in my opinion, quite insufficient. It will, however, be at once apparent to the House that the \$92,000 is not in addition to the grant. As

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it reads here, it is specially confined to the present year and to the specific purpose of restoring the public works lately destroyed by floods. There is then no guarantee that next year the sum of \$142,000 will appear in the estimates. I may say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the sum of \$142,000 extra is quite inadequate for the needs of the Territories at the present time. The Territories have been making great progress; progressing in the area of land under crop; progressing in the wealth of the community; progressing in population, and owing even to the manner of the increase in the community in the North-west Territories special expenses are entailed upon the local government. I find that the reasons which were placed before the government for giving a larger grant are to be found in the journals of the legislative assembly, where it is specially mentioned that the Doukhobor immigration has entailed special expenses. On page 21, I read as follows :

The introduction into the Territories of colonies of people from European countries has not any tendency to simplify the education question or to reduce expenditure to a minimum. In the interests of the state, the children of these people must be educated, but they themselves are not of a class from whom assistance may be expected. The illiteracy and poverty of the parents are too powerful agents working against the attainment of any high ideal. It has already been found necessary to undertake nearly the whole cost of maintaining, for a time, certain schools in the Territories in districts occupied by foreign settlers and half-breeds, and a similar necessity may be anticipated wherever colonies of people are established who are unable, for any reason, to properly appreciate the advantages to be derived from the education of their children.

Now, last year, before the House met in 1899, there was an estimate, as I gather, laid before the government of \$535,000 for the Territories, but the amount that was voted here was \$292,979. Of course, there is a great disparity between those figures, and I have been led to infer that it has resulted in great inconvenience and in retarding progress. You will notice, Sir, the language I used: 'that I have been led to infer'; and the House might very properly say to me: Is it possible that you come to us to bring before us the needs of the North-west Territories, and you use the language 'that you have been led to infer': are you not in a position to place before us categorically and statistically the needs of the North-west Territories? Unfortunately, Sir, I am not in that position, and I will tell you why; and I will point out, moreover, that the fact I am not in that position, when taken in connection with the utterances of the gentleman who would be in a position to instruct the members of this House, implies the unreasonable on his part. I have here what might be called the budget speech delivered by Mr. James H. Ross, on the 26th of April, 1899, and he there states that they

have framed a budget on the basis of asking from Ottawa the sum of \$535,000. He mentions the services for which that sum would be required, and he gives a very curious argument which seems to imply that he does not want provincial government, but he wants a very much increased grant. Having given the figures that would result from taking the basis on which the subsidies to the provinces are calculated, he says:

In view of these figures, was there any man willing to believe that an arrangement on Manitoba's basis would be a good bargain for the Territories to make?

Later on, he says:

They believed the Territories should demand the accounting by the Dominion of the whole land area excepting those portions homesteaded. They believed that we were entitled to possession of all the public lands, and more than that, they believed that an accounting should be made for the lands which had been given away or alienated—given for railways, some of which were not built in the Territories. Those lands so alienated had been given by Dominion vote for Dominion purposes. Land was practically the only revenue-producing asset which a province could have—an asset which grew in value with the growth of population—the only asset capable of maintaining an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. Mr. Ross made a computation of the lands. There were altogether 300,000 square miles—190,000,000 acres. One-half this area—the even-numbered sections—were set apart for homesteading; calculating pre-emptions, one-quarter of the one-half gave 120,000,000 acres. Then, 35,000,000 acres had been given away as subsidies to railways. It was fair to argue that those 35,000,000 acres had been used in lieu of Dominion cash. In Canada about \$200,000,000 has been spent in subsidies to railways, and these land subsidies should be considered in the same light as cash subsidies—Federal payments for Federal purposes; and when local resources are used for Federal purposes, the province or the Territories whose resources are thus taken, should be given credit.

So, if 35,000,000 acres of our lands have been taken for railway purposes, the price should be capitalized for our benefit. One dollar an acre would be a low rate for these lands, and it would be fair to ask that interest be paid by parliament to the Territories on a capital account of \$35,000,000 on account of lands so alienated. That would give a revenue of \$1,000,000 a year. Then, there was the 85,000,000 acres not alienated, and which should be handed to the Territories. Set apart 35,000,000 acres of that, which probably the Federal government could properly claim represented the cost of having surveyed and administered the lands, and there was left 50,000,000 acres to be taken by the Territories as a revenue-producing asset, a tangible capital account, which would grow in value with every cent's expenditure, which would be made more valuable by every dollar's expenditure on schools, on road improvements, on any and every provincial object. As population increased, that asset would increase in value, because the law of supply and demand governed the price of land, as everything else. So, as our needs grew our revenue would also grow. This was the class of proposition that this government proposed to the people of the Territories. When they asked for provincial establishment, they would certainly ask for the power to borrow.

The proposition, as to the large amounts to which the Territories are entitled, is not a new one, for, as the House will remember, I made a statement some years ago in this House, that we were entitled to far more than we were receiving. I made a reasoned statement on that head, contending that we were owed vast sums in consequence of the fact that from year to year, we had been receiving less than we were entitled to. Mr. Ross thus concludes this part of the subject:

The lines between Grit and Tory should be obliterated for the time being, until the Dominion be brought to admit the principle that those lands were ours.

For my part, if the obliteration of the lines between Grit and Tory would be conducive to the prosperity of the Territories in any way, I should have no objection to it. But, this suggestion comes from a gentleman who is the most ardent and active Liberal politician in the North-west Territories, who spoke the other day at a Liberal meeting at Moosejaw, who attends all the little caucuses and conventions of the Liberal party. It sounds somewhat amusing to have this gentleman, who is an ardent Liberal, and ready to take part in all the small activities of the party, proposing that we should obliterate the distinction between Grit and Tory. I may say in passing that from any observation I have been able to make, whether in New Brunswick or elsewhere, I have never come to the conclusion that the destruction of party distinctions can be of any advantage in a community which endeavours to carry on government on the British system. I confess I cannot see how that constitutional system can be carried out effectively without party. It seems to me that the only guarantee against corruption is to have party. It may sound very unpleasant in the ears of some gentlemen, but I have read what Mr. Goldwin Smith writes, and I have read what others have written and have discussed this subject with able men, and I have never been able to get from any man opposed to party, a statement of a working formula that would be effective in carrying out the British constitutional system without it.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. DAVIN. When the House rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was discussing the question whether the fact that a people is divided by party allegiance renders it the less effective in carrying out any great project that might be in the interests of the country, and I was expressing the obiter opinion, that I could not understand how the British constitution could be worked without party. As Voltaire said, 'If there were not a god, we would have to invent one,' so, if there were not parties, we would

have, in order to work the British constitution, to invent them.

Whether we have party in local politics in the North-west or not, I am quite sure that all North-west men, whether they call themselves Liberals or Conservatives, will be ready to sink differences of any kind should these differences conflict with the great object, so important to the Territories and to all Canada, of developing those territories, enriching them, and giving them every possible chance.

I was quoting from Mr. James H. Ross's speech, and let me further quote this sentence :

It was the duty of our representatives in parliament to act in concert on this question, which was the most momentous that could engage their attention probably this term.

That was on the 26th of April, 1899, and Mr. Ross seemed to think that we should have had some discussion of this great question in this parliament. But I never received the slightest information from him as to what his views were, or what he expected from us, and I am told by all of my friends in the North-west, except one to whom I have not spoken—and no doubt he would tell me the same—that Mr. Ross never asked them to give him the least assistance, either with the ministers of the Crown or in this House. A remark such as that I have quoted, being read throughout the Territories, would leave the impression on the people that we were divided on this most momentous question, and were, in some sense, derelict in our duty. But, Mr. Speaker, if we did not act in concert, it was because no question was ever presented to us on which to take action. I never heard much complaint about the inadequate vote that was brought down by this government last term. I know that responsible men in the Territories consider that the government did not do the right thing in bringing down so small a vote, and I should be very much surprised if Mr. Ross was not greatly disappointed. I believe that when the vote came down to this House, he was in the far North-west, beyond Edmonton, settling Indian treaties, and I have heard that when he learnt what the vote was he used anything but prayerful and pious language. Still, we did not hear anything of that, or even the echo of it, in the North-west Territories. Objurgatory eloquence of that sort does not do much good, unless it is heard by those against whom it is directed or by an audience to whom are responsible those against whom it is directed. It reminds me of the case of a man brought up before the magistrate in Cork, who, when asked how he could have been guilty of the offence with which he was charged, was very meek, and got off with a very small fine. But, when a considerable distance on his way home, he began to curse the magistrate, and in this way relieve his feelings, and when he got home,

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he told his people all he had said and how he had got off so easy. His brother, some time afterwards, was brought before the same magistrate for the same offence, and put the same question. Remembering what his brother had told him, he cursed the magistrate up and down, and was not only fined for the original offence, but also for contempt of court. When he got home he complained to his brother that he had fared much worse, although he had acted precisely the same, but his brother said : You fool, I was seven miles out of Cork before I ever said a word against the magistrate. On the Peace River, the use of a little strong language against this government would do it neither good nor harm.

The statement of the case which I have in my hand is one that seems to have been made before the Minister of Militia in January, 1899, and was intended to affect the amount that was brought down last session, and although that doubtless gives not the full case and the grounds for demanding more money, still it gives some idea. But, last session I could not possibly have had that before me. I had nothing before me, nor had my colleagues from the North-west, and yet here is Mr. Ross, the Provincial Treasurer, declaring from his place in the local legislature that he expected the North-west members to act in concert on this question. Again this year, Mr. Ross, the Provincial Treasurer, came up to Ottawa. He did not communicate with me. The bare fact that he is opposed to me politically never interferes with our social relations. We met at the same dinner table and in the same drawing room, and are very good friends socially. That being the case, and he appealing to us, that 'lines between Grit and Tory should be obliterated for the time being,' there was nothing to prevent him coming to me when he was here this year. But, if the fact that I am on this side of the House should constitute a reason—as, of course, it should not—for his not coming to me, there is no reason why he should not have gone to my colleagues who sit on the Liberal side. But he did not go to them. And, now I have before me a very good speech of a friend of mine in moving in the assembly the address in reply to the speech from the Throne. And, I must say, that my able friend, who made the speech, is under a complete misconception as to the attitude of this House to the North-west Territories. He is discussing the question whence they are to get what is absolutely needed if the Territories are to go forward—an adequate income to meet the needs of our ever-growing and ever-expanding life there. He says :

He did not believe we need look to Ottawa for any such increase as the circumstances demand. The case had been pressed at Ottawa for years, and while some increases were obtained, every year shows a bigger disparity

between the amount we got and the amount we require. Has our case not been properly presented at Ottawa? He (Mr. Brown) thoroughly believed that our case had been presented as properly, as well and as forcefully as it could be presented. The leaders of the assembly, who understood the case at least as well as any man or collection of men alive, had gone year after year to Ottawa hat in hand, as had been said—

Well, I really do not see why they should come hat in hand. They are representing a rightful claim, or they are not. If it is a rightful claim, there is no necessity to come hat in hand.

He believed that the Federal government understood the case now as well as it can be hoped that they ever will understand it.

Well, we ought to have that case. I consider that, as a citizen of the North-west Territories, not to speak of a member of this House. I ought to know what that case is that the members of the government that control me in local affairs have presented. I think the whole North-west Territories ought to know what the case is. And, certainly this House ought to know what the case is, and the reason this House should know the case will be made plain in the succeeding sentences I am going to quote :

On this subject he did not believe that Ottawa's action depended on whether a Conservative or Liberal government was in power. Any government would do the best it could.

So, he credits the government, whether it is Liberal or Conservative, with doing the very best it can. And, yet, the proposition is laid down that the amount voted is utterly inadequate, and that from year to year, the discrepancy between the needs of the North-west Territories and the amount voted gapes wider.

Any government would do the best it could. Did the matter depend wholly on the government—the cabinet ministers—probably we might expect adequate remedy from Ottawa, from either a Liberal or a Conservative government. But it did not lie with them wholly. There were more than 200 members of parliament to be consulted, only four of whom were sent from the Territories.

So the idea that my able friend is setting forth in that speech in the assembly, is this—that any government, Liberal or Conservative, is ready to give what money is needed for the Territories, and that is demanded by the executive, but that the two hundred members, some on this side and some on that, frighten the government from its propriety and prevent it bringing down the amount they would otherwise bring down. That shows a complete delusion as to the attitude of this House, and as to the way the action of the government is regarded in bringing down votes for any such purpose as this. Why, I believe if this government were to bring down to-morrow a vote and say: We want a million of money for the North-west Territories, there would not be a quiver in the way this House would vote

it. I have been seventeen or eighteen sessions—going on this anyway—in this House, and I have never known, whatever government was in power, these 200 members who were supposed to have to be consulted, I have never known them to overawe a government in any way as to the amount they should bring down, but I have seen the leaders of the Liberal party sometimes carp at what was suggested should be done for the North-west; and I think it is very important that we should disabuse the minds of the members of the assembly and people of the North-west Territories as to the attitude of this parliament, and of members of both sides of this parliament, to the North-west Territories.

He did not want to convey the impression that the eastern provinces were hostile to us or that eastern members would not grant us what they thought was just and right, because he did not think that would be a true impression. The fact was that eastern men, notwithstanding their increased interest in and growing faith in this country, had no real understanding of its magnitude or needs, and could not be expected to have.

Now, I want to call the attention of the members of the House to this matter, because I know that every man in the House will repudiate this view—not with anger, because I am certain that my hon. friend in the local assembly who makes this statement, is not making it with the idea of being unjust to this House. There was a time when the House had to be educated into interest in the North-west, but that time has long been past.

He was not ranging in a speculative field. He was speaking of something that was well known to be the fact.

Now, of course, a speech like that made in the assembly by a leading member emphasizes the position I stated—that those of us who take a special interest in North-west matters should be posted thoroughly by those gentlemen who are in possession of all the facts as to the ground upon which they make demands. This year again something like the same amount has been asked for, something over \$500,000, and something like \$110,000 less than was asked for is given, and the greater part of that is given in a temporary form. But I am in ignorance. The treasurer was down here and saw the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). We learned from him that he discovered a paper relating to the North-west town sites that has been printed in extenso, but the vital thing as to the case he presented to the Minister of the Interior, we do not know. And how can any man say in this House that the government or that the Minister of the Interior have been unreasonable in the amount that they have brought down? I do not know the arguments that have been placed before the government, and the reasons urged as to why more should have been given. I cannot say whether the Provincial Treasurer

is satisfied or not; I do not know whether the executive is satisfied; but I say as a North-west man that I am not satisfied with the amount in these estimates. I do not think it is at all adequate for the needs of the Territories; I do not think it is commensurate with what justice demands, and even supposing it was commensurate with what justice demands, there might be more demanded by expediency. I can easily understand how a powerful case might be made out. Those vast areas, the need for schools, the need for public works—I can understand what a powerful case could be made out for far more money than is in these estimates.

I want, now, to look back a little at the facts, because I see that a paper in the North-west Territories that cannot make any reference to me without speaking falsehoods, has indicated that for the sake of patronage I might be in some way influenced against the Territories. I am sorry to have to refer to this kind of writing, but I am forced to do it. Why, Sir, the first thing that I did in 1888 when I came here was to bring in a Bill providing for provincial government for the Territories, and I was then told that it was a very foolish proposal, even from my own point of view, because at that time a North-west member had ten times the influence of a member from any other part of the country, and why should a North-west member want to denude himself of all the influence and patronage: I said I didn't care a pin: what I wanted was to see the country go ahead; and I used language that my right hon. friend afterwards used himself, probably it was a case of two minds jumping on the same string. I said as early as that: Loose the young giant and let him free. My right hon. friend, when speaking in 1894 in Winnipeg, used language somewhat similar or identical. But on that occasion in 1888, Sir John A. Macdonald had a Bill before parliament dealing with the North-west Territories, but only touching the fringe and details of administration. When I brought forward this Bill of mine he called me over to him and said: You are going to oppose my Bill. Well, I told him, I was sorry to say he had the power to vote me down. But I will tell you what he did, he withdrew his Bill, and when it re-appeared he had in it a clause providing for the Advisory Board, which was the germ of the subsequent movement towards complete responsibility. In the next session I made the same argument, as will be found in the *Hansard* of 1889, page 353; I made an argument in favour of giving the North-west Territories an income based on the same calculations as the income that is given the provinces. In 1890, again, as you will find in *Hansard*, page 4470, I contended for a revenue on the same basis as the provinces. In 1892, when a gentleman of great influence representing the North-west was down here, he dealt en-

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tirely with the government in secret, as has been done ever since. It may be the best way, but if it be the best way it is not fair for any man who does that to speak as Mr. Ross did in the assembly, and imply that he expects us to be able to put the case here for him. In 1892, the demand was made for a lump sum, and for provincial control within the limits of the vote. But the gentleman who was here came to me and said that the government refused to grant what he wanted, and he asked me to bring it before the House. Of course I had to say to him: This is somewhat unreasonable, after being refused by the government you come to us. If I move in the House now my action can be translated into direct hostility to the government, whereas if I moved earlier there would be no such hostile aspect to my action. I said to him: How much will satisfy? He told me how much would satisfy, and I called the senators and members of parliament together, and I went before Sir John Abbott and we got the satisfying minimum he specified. Then in 1895 I again took a deputation of senators and members of parliament before Sir Mackenzie Bowell to press the argument in favour of consideration for the North-west Territories on a provincial basis. I cannot myself see that we can go on any other basis than that: we cannot demand, I think, more than a province of similar extent, of the same population: but I think we may fairly demand that. I think that so far as this vote falls short of what would be given under these circumstances it is wanting in justice to the Territories. Now, I have here a statement of the case presented in January, 1899. Of course we have not the reply of the Minister of the Interior to it. I see that certain papers have been brought before the assembly that will probably give us a little more light. The heads under which demands are made are as follows: Civil government: administration of justice. Under the head of administration of justice, the executive of the Territories consider, and they set forth their reasons at sufficient length to make their argument, that they practically ought to be placed, as to the administration of justice in the North-west Territories, in the same position as a province. They argue that if that were done not only would the administration of justice be more effective, but it would be more economically carried out. I quite agree with them. As regards the registrars of land titles, they think that registry offices should be placed under their control, and I agree with them. They point out the great needs of public works, the growing needs from education and the needs of helping agriculture by supplementing what the hon. Minister of Agriculture here does, and there again I entirely agree with the demand they make. They think that they ought to get \$15,000 for hospitals and \$10,000 for deaf mutes. Does any one

doubt that they ought to be placed in a position to deal with that afflicted but interesting portion of the North-west community? One of the most pressing needs for giving them, at as early a day as possible, full provincial powers is the need of dealing with exemptions. The vast areas of lands exempted can be far better dealt with under the full powers of a province. The claim that is made that the present government of the Dominion should be treated as a trustee for the North-west Territories, and should be called to account for all the land that has been administered, for all the land that has been given to railways, is a stupendous one, but we should have a reasoned statement supporting it. I, myself, believe that a strong case can be made out. I consider that the demands, so far as I can infer them from the documents before us, made by the executive of the North-west Territories, are just demands, and that the amount that is in the main estimates is utterly inadequate to meet them. I move for these papers believing that in them we will be able to get the full case. I must say that I never can escape from the conviction that nothing more effective could be done in order to get any government, whether Grit or Tory, Liberal or Conservative, to do the most possible for the North-west Territories, whoever may be representing the North-west Territories, or whoever may be in power in Regina, when deputations come down here, than that they should say to themselves: Not only do we go with full powers, with our full case and the strength of our convictions before the government, before the Governor in council, before the Prime Minister, before the Minister of the Interior, but, we will go backed up by the representatives in the House of Commons, and, Sir, can any one doubt, for one minute, that the most powerful weapon any deputation can use that comes here to Ottawa, is the weapon of the influence of the men who happen to represent whatever part of the country that deputation came from? Hon. members of this House can give their support to the government, they can withdraw their support, they can threaten the government with adverse votes, and every student of free institutions knows that there is nothing so nervous as a constitutional government. There is nothing that a minister fears and hates so much as to hear an adverse vote behind him or to witness an adverse vote among his own ranks, and, therefore, there is no better lever for a deputation that wants to influence a constitutional government than the influence of even one member, but, in proportion as you multiply the number of members, you multiply the power; you raise the fulcrum and lengthen the bar. If you could multiply them sufficiently you would be able to coerce any government. I have pointed out the misconception of my friend, Mr. Brown, one

of the ablest men in the territorial assembly, which he exhibited in his speech, as to the attitude of this House. He thought that the government was afraid to bring down an adequate sum, fearing the two hundred members of the House, and actually being convinced that no government, Liberal or Conservative, though desirous, would be ready to give an adequate sum for the fear of these two hundred members. This emphasizes the necessity of doing what I have done here to-night, as I have done a dozen times before, to bring before the House the needs of the North-west Territories, and urging upon the consideration of my brother members the pressing on the government, the bounden duty of doing everything they can to keep back these territories, not to grudgingly dole them this sum here that sum there, but to give them a full vote up to the measure of their needs, to meet the justice of their demands, and thus place the local government of the Territories and the local assembly in a position to develop to the utmost that great portion of the Dominion of Canada on whose prosperity the prosperity of the Dominion depends.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I am glad to hear that loud cheer.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no objection at all to bring down these papers, but on the contrary, they will be laid on the Table of the House with great pleasure. The government of the Territories have been very energetic in pressing demands which they think this government should grant. It is true that up to the present time, we have not been able to meet their demands to the extent that they have been presented to us. This year in the grant voted to the Territories, we make an addition of \$142,000 over the grant of last year. I am sorry to hear from my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) that he does not think the sum adequate, for it is his opinion that we should give at least half a million dollars or more. If the government have not given more this year than we have given, it is not because there is any hostility towards the government of the North-west Territories on the part of any one of the 213 members of this House. The government, however, cannot give, according to its own wishes in this matter, any more than it can in other matters, for we must follow some rule in these grants. The hon. gentleman stated that the North-west Territories should have at least the full measure of their needs. I submit to the hon. gentleman that there is not one province in the seven which form this Dominion, which today believes that it is receiving from this government the full measure of its needs. Every one of them thinks it should have more from the exchequer of the Dominion

than it receives under the Confederation Act. We have to be guided by the rule of the constitution with regard to the provinces, and although with regard to the Territories the constitution is silent, still it is right that we should be guided at least by the spirit of the constitution, and that we should not attempt to give more to the Territories than we do the provinces; although in point of fact I believe I am within the mark when I say (keeping in view the population of the North-west Territories) they receive proportionately more from the Dominion treasury than any one of the provinces. We do that because they are a new community, and not so well able up to the present time to help themselves as the older provinces are. Although we exceed the rule laid down for the provinces in our grant to the Territories, still after all we cannot depart from it very much, and that is the reason why we have not done more for the Territories than we have done this year. There is no other reason. Every member of the House would be glad if we could do more, but we have not only to consider the Territories, for we must take into account all the other provinces that form the Dominion. As we have to be guided by this rule we cannot adopt any other that I know of. I will have great pleasure in bringing down these papers, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), will see that the council of the North-west Territories have not only been very diligent, but very energetic in pressing their claims.

Mr. DAVIN. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I would regret very much indeed if the people in the North-west Territories should be under the misapprehension, that the members of this House are disposed to be parsimonious towards them in supplying the requisite funds to enable them to carry on the government of that country. For my own part, during the last ten or twelve years I have had the honour of a seat in this House, I can safely say that from no political party have I heard it said that we should withhold from the North-west Territories anything to which they are entitled. That is a great country, and will be a greater country. Immigration is increasing, we are told, very rapidly, and during the past year or two large numbers of people have been brought into the North-west Territories. It is hardly reasonable for us to suppose that the whole responsibility for providing educational institutions for those immigrants should be thrown upon the settlers there. We are putting settlers in that country, not only to benefit the country itself, but to benefit all Canada, and if we are to derive increased customs taxation and other revenue from that increased immigration, we certainly ought increase our grants to enable them the better to administer the affairs of that country, and to provide for the

education and government of those people. We have besides many going into that country from Ontario, from Quebec, and from the eastern provinces, and it would be very poor encouragement indeed for the young men from the older provinces if they were to appear to be neglected by the government of Canada in providing what was requisite for carrying on the administration of that country, and providing at least proper educational facilities. For my part, I would hardly regard the appropriation as the fair amount of money that ought to be contributed by the Dominion for the support of the North-west Territories. Considering the large extent of territory, the sparsity of population, and the character of the immigration, it would seem to me to be essential that we should be more liberal towards that section of the country in the distribution of public moneys than we are even with regard to the other provinces.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Without entering into the general question, perhaps the House will be interested in knowing that the present government have not been unmindful of the needs of the North-west Territories. I find that in the year 1896-7, when this government came into power, the general appropriation for schools, clerical assistance, and miscellaneous items—which is the largest item in the appropriation—was \$242,000. This government appears to have increased the amount almost immediately by \$6,000—I am judging now from a hurried glance at the figures—and a year later there was an increase of \$40,000, and this year we are adding a further increase to the annual allowance of \$50,000, besides which we are making a special appropriation this year to restore works destroyed by floods to the amount of \$92,000. The estimates for 1896-7, compared with the coming year show that whereas in 1896-7 the sums appropriated under head of 'Government North-west Territories,' amounted to \$309,000, for the incoming year the estimates laid on the Table amount to \$499,859, or within a fraction of half a million dollars, as against \$309,000 voted the year that this government came into power. I do not offer any opinion as to whether this is or is not a sufficient sum, but in view of the discussion which has taken place, the attention of the House ought to be drawn to the fact that there has been under the present government a very large and a very liberal increase for the growing needs of the government of the North-west Territories.

Mr. DAVIN. Before you put the motion, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that it would be very extraordinary if there was no increase.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Certainly.

Mr. DAVIN. The country is expanding; it is growing.

The PRIME MINISTER. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. The growing time is not confined to places geographically extra to the North-west Territories, and, as is pointed out in Mr. Haultain's report, the number of Doukhobors that the Minister of the Interior sent in entails additional expense.

Mr. CLARKE. Some of them are going out.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, I have noted that reported. The Minister of Finance must remember that if he looks back to the years previous to 1896, he will see there was a proportionate increase in the grant as population increased, and he overstates the amount voted along the lines of the estimates from the North-west. Instead of \$499,859, the amount is only \$424,979. But, the Finance Minister does not answer the demand merely by saying that the regular income has been increased by so many thousands of dollars, and that there is a special vote of \$90,000, making altogether \$142,000. The question is, is that what justice demands. I have in my mind the way we dealt with Manitoba. We allowed Manitoba so much because we kept her lands. Look at the vast lands in the North-west Territories—the millions of acres. Look at the millions of acres tied up, exempted, in the North-west Territories, and then you will see—

Mr. CAMPBELL. Who exempted them?

Mr. DAVIN. The government of Canada. The hon. gentleman says, who exempted them? Does that interfere with the argument I am making?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman should not make a second speech.

Mr. DAVIN. This is a substantial motion, and I am replying. My hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), should rise a little above mere party feeling, in speaking of a country where in local politics we have theoretically no party. That we have so much land in the North-west Territories controlled entirely by the Dominion government, that we have so much exempted, and that so much has been given to railways, are all reasons why, on the same basis on which you calculated what should be given to the people of Manitoba, we should get a larger grant. The right hon. Prime Minister spoke of applying to us the same rule that is applied to the provinces. If he makes a calculation on the same basis on which the subsidy to Manitoba was calculated at the last settlement, he will find that we do not get, by a good deal, as much money as we are entitled to. I am very glad to hear that the Prime Minister takes such a kindly view of the matter, but I could not read into his remark anything like a definite promise that more would be done. As for the Finance Minister, the tone he took, alarmed me, because it was a

tone of definite refusal and denial; it was the tone of a man who will not do more for us. Even if the \$142,000 was an annual sum, it would not be enough. When the people of the North-west come to read the speeches of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, I am afraid they will be disappointed.

Mr. TAYLOR. They will never read them.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, yes; the people of the North-west are among the most intelligent in Canada, and they are curious to see if this government will do anything for the North-west. To show you our disabilities at present, I may say that in the early part of the session, I spoke to my hon. friend, the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), about the need of placing the North-west Territories in a proper condition of defence, and I think he promised me across the floor of the House, as well as privately—at any rate, he twice promised me privately—that he would deal with the rifle associations in the North-west Territories, independent of any Militia Act, and independent of any restrictions upon the course I proposed, as suggested to him. I fear, by his deputy minister, and others. Well, nothing has been done; and on the 7th, in the North-west assembly, my friend, Mr. R. S. Lake, member for Grenfell, a son of a distinguished Indian officer, Col. Lake, proposed that they should urge on the Dominion government, the imperative necessity of extending the militia system to the Territories. This was supported by Mr. Bennett from Alberta, Mr. McKay from Prince Albert, and Dr. Patick. My friend, Mr. Haultain, also supported it, and it was passed unanimously. As the Minister of Militia has not dealt with the rifle association question in the North-west Territories, it is perfectly clear that the sooner we get up to the point of complete provincial organization in the North-west Territories, so that we shall be able to put forward all the powers and influences that are under the control of a province, the better it will be for us. I do not doubt for a moment that the two gentlemen who were down last year and this year—because they are able men and both friends of mine, although one is a political opponent—pressed their case strongly, and left no stone unturned; but if each man of them was a Pitt and a Burke rolled into one, if they had all the power of Pitt and all the diplomacy of Dufferin, I say it would be a strength to them to have the support of the members for the North-west in this House in going to the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior; because, after all—and this is the conviction clearly in the mind of my friend, Mr. Brown—it is in this House that the fight is to be made, as it has been made in the past; and if there is a strong case for the Territories, all we have to do, is to have that case properly placed before this

House, and have it go from this House to the country, and we may be perfectly certain that we should have a public opinion so strongly in favour of doing everything, financial and otherwise, that should be done for the North-west Territories, that no government, Liberal or Conservative, would be able to come forward with a little cheese-paring vote, such as the Minister of Finance has boasted of, but it would have to submit to this House a large and liberal policy, applying statesmanlike provisions to that greater Canada of ours.

Motion agreed to.

JOHN C. McNEVIN'S CLAIM.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan) moved for :

Copies of all letters and documents of every description between the Department of the Interior, or any member of the government, and D. H. Macdowall, ex-M.P., or any other person, respecting the claim of John C. McNevin, of Kirkpatrick, Saskatchewan, for compensation for losses incurred during the North-west rebellion of 1885.

He said : I may say, Mr. Speaker, that I have brought this matter up in the House several times already. The case of Mr. John C. McNevin was, I understand, brought before the commission appointed by the late government to investigate claims for losses in connection with the rebellion in the North-west Territories in 1885. He produced his evidence and proved his claim, but although the commission promised that his claim would be paid, up to the present he has never had compensation for the losses he incurred. This is only one of hundreds of other cases in the Territories connected with the rebellion. This commission appointed by the late government took the evidence of a great many parties on the claims they put in, and afterwards arrived at a decision as to what claims should and what should not be paid. In nearly every case, the political friends of the late government were paid, but the other claimants who do not appear to have stood in with that government, either never got a cent or were practically paid nothing. A few of them got 5 to 10 per cent of their claims, while other parties, with a pull, friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, who had put in claims four or five times the amount they lost, were paid in full, or nearly so.

Mr. McNevin informed me that he had a great deal of correspondence with the late government and the late member Mr. Macdowall) in connection with his claim. During a couple of election campaigns, he was told by Mr. Macdowall that the government had promised him his claim would be paid, but up to the present he has received nothing. To show that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the North-west, I would like to read a couple of letters out

Mr. DAVIN.

of the many I have received—and I am receiving them by hundreds—from parties dissatisfied with the way the commission acted. Here is a letter from Mr. Carter :

Dear Sir,—Re 'rebellion losses' claim, of which I have as yet only received \$15, but for no other reason, I believe, but that I was not a good enough Conservative, for when I asked Mr. Macdowall his reasons for not paying mine as well as my neighbour's in full, he said that he wanted to make my native neighbours—

That means the half-breeds in that district, very respectable farmers—

—native neighbours loyal to the country and the Conservative party when the next general election took place. Dr. Bain said he would see that Mr. Macdowall got my losses claim in full—

Doctor Bain was then president of the Conservative Association, and I believe is still. This Mr. Carter is a responsible man and a good farmer, living close to Prince Albert, and he says that Doctor Bain told him that if he would vote for Mr. Macdowall he would get his claim paid. Unfortunately, those gentlemen, after making promises, failed to deliver the goods and Carter had not yet had his claim paid. Carter said :

He said Mr. Macdowall could get my claim paid in full, but it was impossible now, as he was not certain how I had voted. He said that there was a lawyer by the name of McCliesh, who was solicitor for a great many half-breeds, not only at Batoche, but around Prince Albert, after the rebellion, who was pressing their claims on the government.

This is the same gentleman, who issued the famous circular to the half-breeds during 1889, informing them that if they did not vote for the Conservatives, the government would not recognize their claims. We have copies of that circular. This McCliesh is a prominent member of the Conservative Association, one of its leading stumpers, who made use of his position as solicitor to those parties to try and make them vote by holding this threat over their heads, that if they did not vote as he wanted them, they would not be paid. They did not vote that way and were not paid and have not been paid up to the present.

If it is not too much trouble for you to investigate, and see if anything could be done, I would be much obliged.

Your obedient servant,

WALTER C. CARTER.

There is sufficient in that letter, but I could go on reading dozens of others to the same effect. The Conservative candidate and the officers of the Conservative Association went about promising people that if they would vote in the proper way they would get compensation for rebellion losses. I do not think that that is the proper spirit in which to approach this subject, and there is a great deal of dissatisfaction. In the near future, a commission should be appointed to investigate and see that any one who has a just

claim should be paid. Some parties may put in large claims to which they are not entitled, but any one who has a claim is entitled to have it investigated and to be compensated if he can establish it. It is not fair that one should be taken and the other left.

Hundreds of claims were presented and a portion paid and others got nothing at all. Those people will never be satisfied until there is a proper investigation and their claims passed on by a proper commission.

I have here another letter from a place called Henrietta, dated 9th of March, 1900:

Dear Sir,—Hearing that you are bringing up some rebellion losses in the House, I would like to write you with reference to the matter, and state some of the facts. As you are personally aware, I was the first prisoner taken in Batoche, on the charge of communicating with the police, and this being true, Riel said I ought to be shot. I did not have the fortune to be put in the cellar, but there were worse places than the same cellar where the prisoners were confined, namely, in a house close by, where I was threatened daily by the Indians, and no guard to protect me as the other prisoners had. The prisoners confined in the cellar received \$500 apiece for their imprisonment, but I got nothing. I was no friend of T. McKay, who was the commissioner appointed for the district of Saskatchewan, or I might have got my claim paid

Yours truly,

GEORGE NESS.

Ness was one of the few friends in the district of Batoche the government had during the rebellion, and gave some valuable information at the risk of his life to the authorities. Some of the other prisoners confined by the Indians were paid \$500 apiece, but Ness never got anything up to the present. I do not think that is fair—he happened to belong to a different political party from the gentlemen who were paid—I suppose that must be the meaning of it. I have another letter from a gentleman by the name of Dreaver, and he makes complaint that he was not properly treated in connection with this matter. Taking all this into consideration, I hope the government will, in the near future, do something to open up this matter and see that these people, irrespective of politics, are treated with justice.

Motion agreed to.

PROHIBITION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Mr. SPEAKER having called the motion (Mr. Flint):

That this House has affirmed the principle that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and has also declared that as soon as public opinion would sufficiently sustain stringent measures, it was prepared to promote such legislation.

That the plebiscite of 1898, wherein a majority of the votes polled throughout the Dominion,

including substantial majorities in all the provinces but one, were ascertained to be in favour of such legislation, as well as satisfactory evidence from other sources, shows that such measures will be thoroughly supported by the people of Canada.

That this House is now of opinion, in view of the foregoing facts, that it is desirable and expedient that parliament should, without delay, enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favour of such prohibition.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I do not propose to move this motion this evening, but I would ask the Prime Minister to give me and the seconder of the resolution and the House generally the opportunity of a special day for the discussion of this resolution. We are on the eve of the adjournment for the Easter recess. The hour is late, and very few observations could be made, and there would be practically no opportunity whatever given for the general discussion of and interchange of opinion, and possible moving of amendments, which, in the ordinary course of events, will be necessary for full consideration of the subject. Considering these facts and considering the importance of the question and the wide general interest taken in it, I would ask the leader of the House if he would name a day when this resolution could be taken up.

An hon. MEMBER. Go on now.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No, I think the importance of this motion is such that it should not be entered on at this hour of the evening. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) could not do more than present his case, and there would be no opportunity for reply. Besides, the House is very thin. Moreover, I think it would be better that in the case of such a motion, notice should be given in advance, so that parties who take an interest in it—and they are very numerous—should have an opportunity of being present. Should the House concur in the suggestion, I would ask my hon. friend to take up this question as the first order of the day, after private Bills, the first day after the Easter recess.

Mr. U. WILSON (Lennox). I think it is unfortunate that the mover of this resolution has seen fit to allow it to lie over from time to time without bringing it up—

The PRIME MINISTER. It is called now for the first time.

Mr. WILSON. I think it has stood from time to time.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). It has only been called when we were going over the unopposed motions.

Mr. FLINT. This is the first time there has been an opportunity for discussion. I

have been here every time when the motion has been called.

Mr. WILSON. I thought there had been an opportunity for discussion before. I am glad a day has been fixed, though I must say, from the action the government has taken heretofore, we have very little to hope for from anything they may do.

The PRIME MINISTER. You are hard to please.

REBELLION OF 1885—SCRIP FOR SCOUTS.

Mr. SPEAKER having called the motion (Mr. McInerney):

That during the rebellion of 1885, half-breeds at Wood Mountain and Maple Creek and at other points in the Territories were employed as scouts. That a number of persons who were employed as scouts during the rebellion aforesaid received scrip. That as a fact the half-breeds at Wood Mountain, at Maple Creek, Swift Current and Moosejaw, with one or two exceptions have not received scrip. That in the opinion of this House scrip should be given to those who are found to be entitled to it.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). An hon. gentleman who takes an interest in this question is not present this evening, and I would be glad if the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would allow the question to stand. If not, I will go on.

The PRIME MINISTER. Stand.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR— PROTESTANT AND IRISH CATHOLIC CLERKS.

Mr. SPEAKER having called the motion (Mr. McInerney):

Return showing total number of Protestant clerks on the permanent staff, inside service, Department of the Interior, classified into chief clerks, first-class clerks, second-class clerks and third-class clerks, total salaries thereof, with promotion and increase granted in each individual case since July 1, 1896, to present date. the total number of Irish Catholic clerks on the permanent staff, inside service, Department of the Interior, classified into chief clerks, first-class clerks, second-class clerks and third-class clerks, total salaries thereof, with promotion and increase granted in each individual case since July 1, 1896, to present date.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Dropped.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I would like to know according to what rule certain resolutions are dropped while others are allowed to stand? In going over these motions, a few moments ago, we came to one standing in the name of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), but in his absence, at the request of the Prime

Mr. FLINT.

Minister, it was allowed to stand. But, when we come to the motion of the hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) it is dropped. Is it with that hon. gentleman's consent that the resolution is dropped?

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). It is evident to hon. members on this side of the House, that if a resolution was to be dropped, it should be at the direction of the Prime Minister, or some other hon. gentleman leading the House. I was pained to observe one hon. gentleman, the hon. member for Kent, Ont., (Mr. Campbell) I think, when one resolution was reached, call out 'dropped.' We should have our proceedings conducted on some better principle; and, referring to what my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) has said, I think there should be one rule laid down for both sides of the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. The rule of the House is that if a motion is called and the hon. member in whose name it stands is not present, it shall be dropped, unless it stands at the request of the government. When a motion is called, it drops as a matter of course. It so happens, that sometimes, hon. members anticipating that they will not be present when a motion is called, come and ask the government to allow it to stand, and we do so. A moment ago, at the suggestion of my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), I asked a motion appearing in his name be allowed to stand. As to this motion of the hon. member for Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney) I have had no intimation that he intended to move it. The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), I know, wants to speak to his motion, and mentioned the matter, and it was for that reason that I asked that the motion be allowed to stand.

Mr. U. WILSON (Lennox). What objection can there be to giving this information asked for by the hon. member for Kent, N.B.?

The PRIME MINISTER. There is none.

Mr. WILSON. In the absence of the hon. member (Mr. McInerney), if the hon. leader of the government has no objection, I will move the resolution.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is no objection. The moment a desire is expressed to let a motion stand, I will let it stand.

Mr. WILSON. Then, if the hon. leader of the House will allow the motion to stand until the hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) comes—

The PRIME MINISTER. I have no objection at all.

Mr. SPEAKER. Stand.

TIGNISH, P.E.I.—CUSTOM DUTIES COLLECTED, 1898, 1900.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's) moved for :

Return showing the amount of customs duty collected at Tignish, P.E.I., from January 1, 1898, to January, 1900, by whom paid, and upon what articles.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The House, I am sure, would never grant such a motion, as it calls for a statement of the amount of duties paid by individuals. It would never do to expose private business in that way, so I hope the hon. member (Mr. Macdonald, King's) will drop the resolution.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's). Dropped.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS.

Copies of all correspondence, memorials, petitions, &c., in possession of the government, or any member or official thereof relating to the resignation of Mr. John McPhee as postmaster at Murray Harbour Road, in Prince Edward Island, and the appointment of his successor.—(Mr. Martin.)

Copies of all correspondence between George Hood and others and the Minister of the Interior or other members of the government in reference to the rising of the waters in Lake Duphin.—(Mr. Roche, by Mr. Taylor.)

Copies of all papers, correspondence, report of the physician, &c., relating to permanent night duty imposed upon certain officers of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary.—(Mr. Fortin, by Mr. Talbot.)

Copies of all papers, petitions, correspondence and reports relating to a request made to the authorities of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, for the carting of waste stone along the banks of Rivière des Prairies, in St. Vincent de Paul, to prevent damage being caused by said river to the public highway, in said locality.—(Mr. Fortin, by Mr. Talbot.)

Copies of all correspondence, charges, investigations, reports and other papers in connection with the dismissal of J. P. Alexander from the position of sub-collector of customs at Deloraine.—(Mr. Rutherford, by Mr. Davis.)

Copies of all papers and correspondence between the government and the harbour commissioners of Montreal and the Connors Syndicate, in connection with the proposals made by the latter, and the arrangement finally made with them.—(Mr. Casey.)

CALLING OF PARLIAMENT ON A FIXED DAY.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). With the permission of the House, I will go on with the motion that stands in my name, as this may be the last opportunity we may have of discussing it. I move :

That in the opinion of this House, the calling of parliament on a fixed day annually, or on a day between certain fixed and narrow limits, in December or January of each year, would be in the public interest, and would best consult

the convenience of those who have business to bring before that body, and of the members thereof.

It is within the knowledge of all of us who have been members of this House for some time, that not only has the length of the session been gradually increasing, but that on the average the House has been called at a later date in the past eight or ten years than formerly. When I first became a member of this House three months was looked upon as a good long session. I remember well, when the late Mr. Holton pointed out as a consequence of increasing business, that we must expect the House to sit in the future three months or very nearly three months, and we thought that was a desperately big undertaking. Of late years we think we are getting off rather easily if the session closes at the end of four months ; I do not know how it may be this year. But when the session only lasted three months, or three months and a half, the date at which the House was called did not matter so much, we were sure to get away by late spring or early summer. We all know how far that is from being the case at present. We all know that for some years back the session has virtually spoiled the whole summer ; for everybody who has the honour and glory of being a member of this House has to pay for that honour and glory by the practical loss of all the winter and all the summer from any other business he may have. It goes without saying that members of this House universally feel, I think, that the session should be called earlier than it is usually called, in order that we may get away from here by Queen's Birthday at latest, which used to be the old-fashioned date for the ending of the session. In order to effect this with a four months session, we have to begin pretty well back, at all events with the opening of January.

Now, every government will be able to answer this argument with the claim that they have called the House as early as they possibly could under the circumstances then existing ; that they have made every effort to call it earlier, and to have business ready to proceed with when the House did meet. On certain occasions we have had to recognize that there were good reasons for a late session. When negotiations were pending with the United States about matters which were to come before the House, there was a reason to some extent for delaying the opening of the session. I need not go into all the cases which have occurred, in which there may have been an apparent reason for not calling the session as early as it should have been called. I beg to urge, in reply to all these excuses that, in the average of years, and in the average of circumstances, less mischief will be done by having a fixed day for the meeting of the House, than by leaving it to the convenience or the whim of the government

of the day. In Great Britain, in the United States, I believe in France, in most self-governing countries, the legislature meets at a fixed time—not always on a fixed day—but always within a very narrow limit at the same season of the year. The convenience of this to members of the House need hardly be explained in this Chamber; it need hardly be explained outside. Suffice it to say, that for any man who has any business at all, outside of politics, it would be more than a convenience to be able to arrange that business beforehand in such a manner that he could be ready to attend the meeting of the House at the time when he knew it was going to be called. The convenience of a number of gentlemen, who are, as I suppose we may call ourselves, amongst the leading people in the country, is certainly no trifling consideration, especially when the manner in which we discharge our duties in this House, depends in a large manner upon that convenience being consulted. A man who has business calling him away every second day from the House, cannot attend to his duties as well as he otherwise could. And a man who does not know within a month or two when he is going to be called away here will not be able to arrange his business so that he will be able to give his whole time to the discharge of his parliamentary duties as he should.

But, the convenience of the outside public, now, more than in years past, should be consulted. Every year there is an increase in the amount of private Bill business done by this House, and it is essential. No, I will not say essential, to consult the interests of those who have business to bring before this parliament, but, it is highly proper that their convenience should be consulted, and that those who wish to apply for incorporation should know that they must apply before a certain time in order to have their Bills considered. In the present state of affairs, with the meeting of the House uncertain, people go on advertising their intention to apply for legislation, they go on taking the preliminary steps for the formation of companies, and when the House meets they are not ready. Consequently, the Private Bills Committee, the Railway Committee, and the Banking and Commerce Committee have to ask this House to lengthen the time allowed for putting in petitions, breaking the rules of the House, practically, in order to consult the convenience of those who have business before the committees. All this could be avoided if there were something like a fixed day of meeting.

The question, to my mind, resolves itself into asking: When should we meet? I think that nine-tenths of the people of the country would answer that we should certainly meet, at the latest in January in each year. I think that those of us who have had the most experience in the work-

Mr. CASEY.

ings of the House, would say that it would be still better to meet in December.

Mr. PRIOR. No.

Mr. CASEY. I hear a gentleman from the far Pacific coast uttering a sound indicative of dissent to the view of the question. It must undoubtedly be admitted that some inconvenience would be caused some members from the Pacific coast, but, I would remind older members in the House, that that inconvenience, if it be a real inconvenience, was submitted to without complaint in December of the year 1880, when this House was called together to consider the bargain then made with the syndicate for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The result of the session was such that it impressed upon my mind the great convenience of meeting in December. We could assemble here about the middle of the month or a little earlier, take two weeks to get the business of the House under way, introduce such Bills as were ready, strike the committees of the House, and get the address out of the way, then adjourn for a couple of weeks for the Christmas holidays. During most of that time the printing of Bills and the preparation of reports for the House could go on. Then, we could meet at an early day in January with the preliminaries out of the way, set to work at business, get the Order paper cleared off, and get ahead with the affairs that we ought to busy ourselves with. We all know how it is in the early part of the session. We are busy enough for the first week or two with the address, with the introduction of Bills, and with notices of motion, and then a long period intervenes, two or three weeks perhaps, when there is little or nothing at all to do, when we get into long discussions, move the adjournment of the House, and do things of that kind, which are productive of no benefit, and which are sometimes productive of a good deal of ill-feeling. If we met in December, adjourned for the Christmas holidays, and came back all ready for work in January it would suit the convenience of all the members except those from the greatest distances.

Mr. PRIOR. How are we going to get home?

Mr. CASEY. You cannot have an arrangement that will suit the convenience of every one. The question for the consideration of the House is whether the convenience of the the most, or that of the fewest, should be considered.

While I express my own preference for a meeting in December, it is possible that the needs of the case would be served very fairly by the adoption of a resolution that the House ought to meet in the first half of January. I do not think that the House ought to meet later than that. There will always be the objection from the

heads of departments, that they cannot get the business of the departments ready in time, and there will always be the objection on the part of the ministers, that they cannot be ready with the business, if the session is called at such an early day, but, that sort of objection will always be urged when any change is sought to be introduced. Those who are being hustled up on account of change, always do object and always will object to the change. This objection could be cured, even suppose it is made, in this way; if the House met about the 1st of January, and if it got through with its business in May, there would be two more months left for the ministers and the permanent heads of departments to get through with the business of the departments and prepare the new business for the House before the next session in the January following. For one year the working time of the ministers and their departments would be shortened, but after that they would have just as long before the session as they have now, and after a trial, they would be more ready to admit that this change would be suitable to their convenience. I think, if not now, at an early date, the convenience of the public and of members of the House must be consulted in settling that date of calling this House together. That date cannot be easily put later than the middle of January, and I think the ministers would be consulting their own interest by allowing this change to be resolved upon by the House. At all events, I would ask them to express what views they may feel on this question, and to allow their followers and supporters to vote on the matter as their own opinion indicates. I may say for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as for the benefit of many on this side of the House, that the late Sir John Thompson was quite willing to agree to an arrangement by which the House should meet within certain fixed dates, either in the second half of January or the first half of February. I had a conversation with him upon the subject and he promised to give his attention to it in the coming session, but, unfortunately, to the great regret of us all, he was not with us in that next session.

I leave the question in the hands of the House. It is one which concerns us individually, which concerns us collectively, which concerns those whom we represent, and I would ask for a full expression of opinion upon it. I do not hope for as full a discussion of the matter just before the Easter holidays as we might have had at another period during the session, but I have availed of this opportunity such as it is to bring the matter before the hon. members of this House with the hope that they will take some interest in it.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Although the suggestion, if carried out, might

be convenient to members, it would appear to me that it is impossible under our system of government to carry out such a scheme. The responsibility of calling and proroguing parliament must belong to the Crown, and I have no doubt that the exigencies of the situation will always govern the calling of parliament. It seems to me that this scheme would be unworkable because in the event of parliament being called and the government being defeated on some question of public policy, an appeal would be made to the country, and perhaps if the supplies were not voted parliament would have to be called immediately.

Mr. CASEY. A special session could be called.

Mr. SPROULE. Then that would interfere with any law calling parliament at a fixed time.

Mr. CASEY. This motion is only intended to apply to the regular annual sessions of the House, and would not at all prevent the calling of a special session under such circumstances as those mentioned.

Mr. SPROULE. And if the time for the regular session followed immediately, would it be called then?

Mr. CASEY. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Then it would be absurd, because the one session might overlap the other just as in the Congress of the United States, one session is sometimes not finished when another commences. It would undoubtedly suit the convenience of a great many people if a definite time could be fixed, and it seems to me that the most suitable period would be some time after the holidays in January. I believe, however, that it would be impossible to carry that idea out.

Mr. CASEY. I do not propose in this motion to enact a law fixing a special date for the calling of parliament. In England there is no law on the subject, but the House meets by custom in the early part of December and no difficulty has been found under such circumstances as have been alluded to. If the government is defeated and goes to the country a new session is called afterwards. This very autumn, on the occasion of the South African war, a special session of the British parliament was called, and it did not interfere with the regular session at the regular time.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies).** The difficulties in fixing a date for the calling of the session of parliament in this country are somewhat greater than they are in Great Britain. If you fixed a date in the early part of December you would not have these papers ready which are deemed essential before you can do a large amount of practical business. For instance, it would be

impossible to get the Auditor General's Report.

Mr. CASEY. Why?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because this document has become so bulky in form that although the Auditor General has a very large staff working at it, he cannot get it ready now when the House meets in the beginning of February.

Mr. CASEY. He would have to get it ready.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then, again, there are the reports of the different departments which are brought up to the end of the year; of course, I do not mean to say that you could not change that. At all events, there would be a great deal of inconvenience caused by such a change. As my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior) reminded my hon. friend (Mr. Casey) there are more interests to be considered than the members who live in the vicinity of Ottawa. The maritime province members would find it very inconvenient to come up here before the Christmas holidays, then go home for Christmas, and then return here again, and I suppose that the members for British Columbia, Manitoba and the Territories would find it equally inconvenient. My hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Sproule) has pointed out that this parliament is unlike the Congress of the United States. In the Congress they may vote down the policy of the President or vote in support of it, but it does not affect the administration in the slightest, whereas if the policy of the administration were condemned in this House the government of the day might advise having an election immediately and if their advice were accepted this whole arrangement would be upset. So long as you preserve the prerogative of the Crown in calling parliament together, and unless you say by statute that that prerogative shall not be exercised, there are difficulties almost insurmountable under our system of government in adopting the principle of this motion. I believe with my hon. friend (Mr. Casey) that a great deal could be done by ascertaining the desire of the members and conforming to that desire from year to year. I think the growing desire of members on both sides is, that the session should be called as early in January as the business of the country makes it possible shall be called. That has been the desire of the members and that has been the desire of the government, and I have no doubt that whatever government is in power they will find that desire expressed so strongly that they will conform to it.

Mr. CASEY. I did not conceive that the resolution would be so misunderstood as for any one to suppose that I proposed there should be a law on the subject. This is an
Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

expression of opinion on the part of the House, that the interests of all would be served by calling parliament at such a time. It does not prevent parliament being called for extraordinary reasons at any other time. I think the resolution is perfectly clear on that.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). It is certain that the convenience of members would be better suited if there were something more definite about the calling of parliament each year. It is a sort of understood thing that the session is to be called as early in January as possible, and we have all looked forward to that time for assembling together; yet, the rule has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance. It seems to me that parliament ought, in the interest of the members, to have more regard to some definite time of meeting than has been the case in the past. There is a general consensus of opinion, so far as I know, that early in January is the best time; and if it were understood that parliament would be called then, there are two things that would likely be accomplished of great benefit to the members. First, the members could arrange their own business matters with some definiteness, and with the minimum of inconvenience to themselves; and secondly I think the government would be more likely to be ready with their measures. We are all liable to the sin of procrastination, putting off things to the last moment, and I do not think that governments are any more exempt from it than individuals. If there were some rule under which parliament should meet at a fixed time, the departments would be instructed to have their business ready at that time, and the sessions would not be as long as they have been in the past, and as this one bids fair to be. The law being as it is makes it still more uncertain when parliament is to be called, because there must be a session within a year from the end of the preceding session; and if the sessions extend to such a length that the normal session is one of five months, all the greater uncertainty exists with regard to the time at which the next one will commence. If nothing better can be accomplished by the motion of the hon. member for West Elgin than what has been said by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), it will, at all events, be of some advantage to us to know that it is the intention of the government in the future to have the session begin as early as possible in January of each year.

Mr. CASEY. The House is not full enough to make a vote on this question of any great importance. I had hoped to have had a full discussion of the question, which I know interests many members; but, as there are very few of us here to-night, I do not intend to press it to a vote, and will

ask leave to withdraw it. I take the words of the hon. gentleman who spoke for the government, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to represent the views and intentions of the government to call the House as early in January as the business of the country will allow; and I consider that having that much put on record is a very substantial result of the discussion.

Mr. SPROULE. That was the aim and the intention for years. That understanding was come to years ago.

Mr. CASEY. It was the understanding come to several times and not carried out; and it was for that reason that I wished to renew the discussion on the subject. I should have liked to have replied to some of the arguments used against this proposal, but I suppose it would hardly be in order to do so on a motion to withdraw. Therefore, for the reasons I have given, I move for leave to withdraw this motion.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). Mr. Speaker, before you put the motion, I should like to make one observation: that, after all, there is very little use in calling the House together unless the public business is ready and unless the public documents are ready to be submitted to parliament soon after it meets. Without that, what is the good of being here, whether the time be in January, or February or March? I have made no investigation further than a general remembrance, and I do not believe that the business of parliament increases very much notwithstanding the extent of the country; but, undoubtedly, the amount of talking increases. Whether calling the House in January would affect that or not, it is impossible to say. When my hon. friend submits his motion again, if he adds another section to it which will define absolutely the date of prorogation, I think it would be far more satisfactory than to define the date of the opening.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). Mr. Speaker, I think it would suit the members generally very much better to have parliament called in January; but, under our system, I do not see how the date of meeting can be fixed definitely. There is a very important matter, however, that might be attended to, that is, to have the business ready when the House meets, including the departmental reports of the previous year. I do not say this government is worse than other governments in that respect. I think it has been the custom in this country to call parliament, and then to waste a month at least before getting down to business. In my judgment, that is not right. I think parliament ought not to be called until the business is ready, and then we should get down to business. If we did that, three months would be long enough in all reason for a session.

Motion withdrawn.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). As we have now gone through the Order paper, as far as notices of motion are concerned, as I do not see some of the gentlemen ready with public Bills and orders, and as the House is thin, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 10.10 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 10, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 134) respecting the incorporation of Live Stock Associations.—(Mr. Fisher.)

Bill (No. 135) to amend the Experimental Farm Station Act.—(Mr. Fisher.)

REPORT OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. H. BOSTOCK (Yale and Cariboo). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether he has received the report of the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, about which I asked him a question the other day?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In answer to the question of my hon. friend (Mr. Bostock), I have to say that the report was received last night.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day, I call the attention of the government again to some incomplete returns which have been brought down. I have three times spoken of the incomplete return from the Minister of Customs with reference to the case of Mr. Lemieux. It seems to me that there is a good deal to be added to the correspondence.

The PRIME MINISTER. When the hon. gentleman spoke of this matter before, he mentioned that a petition had been sent to the Minister of Justice, and he wished to have the opinion of the Minister of Justice upon it. I find that the petition was sent to the Minister of Justice, but referred to the Department of Customs, and nothing else was done by the Department of Justice.

Mr. FOSTER. That would be important even to have that fact. I did not suppose that the minister would give a report, but it must seem strange that such a matter would be brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice without his doing anything in the premises.

The PRIME MINISTER. Very well.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, the correspondence is not complete with reference to the order in council allowing United States vessels to take part in our coasting. Again, the Post Office Department has not brought down, either for this year or last, the contracts and prices of carrying the mails into Dawson, as the order of the House called for. I have other complaints in this direction, but I shall not take up the time of the House now.

The PRIME MINISTER. I cannot speak at this moment with reference to the Post Office return, but the other two will be brought down immediately.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—COMMISSIONS IN THE IMPERIAL SERVICE.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the government to an item which appears in the *Empire*, of London, Eng., on the 28th of March last. It is as follows :

War Notes.

Lord Tennyson, Governor of South Australia, has been notified by Mr. Chamberlain that the War Office offers 114 commissions to Australians in the Infantry and Royal Artillery. Candidates must be between 20 and 30 years of age, and their selection is entrusted to the governors and military commandants.

I ask the leader of the government whether the offer made to Canada of a certain number of commissions in the Imperial service was made under the same condition, namely, that the selection of the candidates was to be entrusted to the Governor General and the military commandants of Canada. I see in the newspapers of yesterday the following statement :

Lt.-Col. Kitson, Commandant of the Royal Military College, says that the fourteen commissions recently granted to cadets were not cancelled because of any discourtesy of his towards the Minister of Militia. The statement that the commandant had sent the list direct to the War Office is untrue. The names were submitted through the Minister of Militia. The cancellation was due to a semi-private communication by Lt.-Col. Kitson to the Marquis of Lansdowne, suggesting to what class of cadets the commissions should be granted. The minister took the occasion of the presentation of the list of names to demand respect for his office.

I ask whether it is the intention of the government to insist upon being allowed to name the gentlemen who are to take these commissions, or whether it is understood that the selection will be left to the Governor General and the Commandant of the Royal Military College, as seems to be the case in Australia ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that I am not in a position to give information upon that point at this moment. If the hon. gentleman gives this as a notice, I will endeavour to have the information brought down.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). This is not a question of anything being brought down. It is information of the most urgent character that is wanted immediately. What I infer is about to take place will be one of the most fatal blows which can be inflicted upon this country, namely, the subordination of our militia to party politics. I believe we are in danger at this moment of having that militia system, which we are all so interested in maintaining in the very highest plane of efficiency, I believe we are threatened with having it dragged down into the arena of party politics, and made, by this government, subservient to party politics. This is a most urgent matter, and demands the fullest and most satisfactory explanation. I am sorry that the Minister of Militia is not in his place, as he ought to be at this period of the session and at times like these. We are told that the dignity of the Minister of Militia—the dignity of this Minister of Militia—is absolutely standing in the way of the nomination by the Governor General and the Commandant of the Royal Military College, of the cadets that the British government have offered commissions to in the Imperial service. Now, Sir, we have been accustomed for a good while to the mode in which the Minister of Militia has sustained the dignity of his office. We have had opportunities again and again of seeing that, apparently, his only object is to turn all the patronage of the Imperial government and of this government into a partisan channel.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will conclude with a motion, Mr. Speaker.

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, I appeal to my hon. friend. No notice has been given of this, and I am not in a position to give him any information on the subject at the present time. Therefore, he should not attempt to discuss the matter now, and that is the reason I appeal to him.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend is entirely out of order. I am in order, because I have said that my intention is to conclude with a motion, and the hon. gentleman knows that it is the privilege of parliament, not to be required to give notice at all on matters of urgency, and this is an urgent matter. I am glad to see the Minister of Militia in his place ; and before it is too late to intervene, I want to call his attention and the attention of the government to an outrage of the most flagrant character attempted to be perpetrated on the militia service of Canada, and on the whole interests of the country. The Minister of Militia came to me some time ago, and stated that a despatch had been received from the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, pointing out the great importance of having a man of the highest ability and standing, and in close touch with military affairs in Eng-

land, appointed to the position of General Officer Commanding the Militia of Canada. Mr. Chamberlain had suggested that a large addition should be made to the salary of that officer; and the hon. minister wished to know if I would be prepared to support that suggestion. I said, certainly, I would be prepared to support this government in anything that was necessary to place the militia service of the country in a state of the highest possible efficiency. To my amazement, this session, the Minister of Militia got up and stated that his proposal was, that we should not have an Imperial officer at all, but should sever the connection with England.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Does the hon. gentleman say that I made that statement in the House?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I deny it most emphatically.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will refer to *Hansard*, and will show that the statement made by the hon. gentleman was that he was not undertaking to speak for the government, but that in his opinion, the time had come when we should have a Canadian.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, what I said was this: I thought the time had come, when the door might be opened to include the Canadian militia as a field from which an officer might be selected in the future, if a fit one were to be found.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has exactly confirmed my statement.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes. What was my statement? My statement was that the Minister of Militia, in his place in this House, had proposed to change the law by which we are bound to have an officer of the British army occupying that position, in order to enable him to appoint to the position an officer who was not an officer of the British army. Therefore, my statement is confirmed by the statement which the hon. gentleman himself has just made. Now, I say, to approach this side of the House with a proposal to increase largely the salary of the Officer Commanding the Militia in Canada, and ask our support to that proposal, and then to get up in this House and state that he proposes to change the law in such a way as to get rid of the obligation which this parliament deliberately adopted of having the Imperial force connected with our militia force, is in my judgment adopting a course most fatal to the best interests of Canada. I do not mean to say that a Canadian might not be found capable of filling that office, but it is not necessary to go outside of the law for that purpose, as the hon. gentleman knows. There are 80 Canadians

at this moment holding commissions in the British army, and, no doubt, many of them will soon reach the position necessary, under the law to qualify them to be nominated to that position; and with the ability which they have shown in the British army, there is no doubt that there will be a large choice under the law as it stands. But, I understand the hon. gentleman's movement. From the moment he became Minister of Militia, down to the present moment, he has had no conception of the responsibility and importance of the office he has filled. He has only used it for the purpose of giving all the petty patronage and the supplies to partisans of his own at double prices. My hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) brought up a flagrant case in which the law had been violated, and the government had paid an exorbitant price for clothing to partisans of the hon. gentleman. But, when I find the statement made that the hon. gentleman had interposed to prevent the issue of the commissions which had been assigned by Her Majesty's government to the Royal Military College, it is time that this House understood that the purpose of hon. gentlemen opposite, is to degrade the whole militia service of this country down to the level of partisan politics. Take the statements made a few days ago, as to the manner in which the hon. gentleman had withdrawn his own appointment of persons who were to go to the Royal Military College for instruction, on some charge of politics. Does anybody in this House believe that either the late Commanding Officer of the Militia of this country, or Colonel Foster, ever dreamed of such a thing as introducing party politics into the militia of this country? Yet we find the position taken by the hon. gentleman, that appointments absolutely made should be cancelled, because the parties were not political partisans of this government; and the hon. gentleman has himself avowed on the floor of this House, as Minister of Militia, that he is prepared always to give the doubt in favour of his own party, and to make the militia of this country partisan as far as he is able to do so. Now, Sir, I happen to have a statement in *Hansard*, which the hon. gentleman made, and it confirms exactly what I say. He said:

In this connection let me refer incidentally to one matter which is of some importance, and, I think, which was referred to by nearly all who have spoken—the question whether we should limit ourselves any longer to the Imperial army as the source from which we should draw a commander of the militia force of Canada.

Does that bear out what I said or not?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) dare, in the face of this—

Mr. SPEAKER. I would like to draw my hon. friend's attention to the fact that he is reading from a past debate.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If you wish, Mr. Speaker, to interpose, and prevent my giving evidence of the accuracy of my statement, I bow to your ruling. It is absolutely necessary to a discussion of this question that I should have the opportunity—and I think it is the first time, under similar circumstances, any question has been raised as to the impropriety—

Mr. SPEAKER. It is not because the hon. gentleman is concerned, that I make this rule, but I feel that for some considerable time we have been drifting into the habit of referring to past debates of this session, and unless a check is put to this habit, we will continually have questions springing up for discussion again which were supposed to have been settled by a past debate.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No doubt you are quite right, Sir, but at the same time I am sure you will feel, as I do, the difficulty of discussing a question of this kind without making reference to a previous debate; more especially when the statement I made as to what had taken place has been challenged. I have the evidence in my hand of the accuracy of my statement, and it would have been more satisfactory to the House if I had been allowed to complete the sentence and then been reminded that it was a little out of order.

What is the ground of intervention stated in this article? I have no hesitation in saying that if, when Her Majesty's government offers to the Kingston Military College a certain number of commissions, the Minister of Militia is allowed to interpose and say that those commissions shall not be issued as customary in accordance with the invitation of Her Majesty's government, this country will rise in revolt and strike down the college as an institution made to subserve party purposes. A more flagrant wrong cannot be done to Canada than to weaken the respect and confidence the people have in our militia service. Anything calculated to make the people believe that the whole thing is to be dragged down into the arena of politics by hon. gentlemen opposite will injure not this government merely—for that will pass away and the injury could easily be repaired—but injure the whole force and prevent our having a thoroughly organized, completely trained and independent militia force in this country.

The story we have this morning that these commissions have been withheld and cancelled on the ground that the commandant had made the recommendation without first submitting them to the Minister of Militia is flatly contradicted by the commandant:

Lieut.-Col. Kitson, Commandant of the Royal Military College, says that the fourteen commissions recently granted to cadets were not cancelled because of any discourtesy of his towards the Minister of Militia.

The commissions, therefore, had evidently been cancelled. These commissions offered by Her Majesty's government to the cadets

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of the Royal Military College had been cancelled according to the statement of the commandant. I had that information before I saw this in the paper, but was unwilling to believe it. People who had sent their sons to the college were indignant to learn that the commission had been cancelled by the order of the Minister of Militia. Here we have Lieut.-Col. Kitson saying:

The statement that the commandant had sent the list direct to the War Office is untrue. The names were submitted to the Minister of Militia. The cancellation was due to a semi-private communication by Lieut.-Col. Kitson to the Marquis of Lansdowne, suggesting to what class of cadets the commission should be granted. The minister took the occasion of the presentation of the list of names to demand respect for his office.

Is that the point to which we have come? Are gentlemen paid out of the treasury of Canada large salaries, because of their high military qualifications, to be sent to the right about, not because they have failed in their duty, but because the dignity of the Minister of Militia forsooth has been offended? The very object of having a high class official from the Imperial army, versed in the most recent discoveries in the science and art of war, is that we may have some one at the head of the college who will not be the mere puppet of a gentleman who knows nothing about the service, such as the present Minister of Militia, whose one object, ever since he has taken office, has been to sacrifice everything at the shrine of partisan politics. We have had two gentlemen of the highest standing and character turned down because it is pretended they said something about politics. Why, in our great exemplar, the British parliament, officers of the army and navy are allowed to sit as representatives of the people and to give expression to the strongest condemnation of the government. We had an illustrious example the other day of a gentleman high in the navy, leaving to take command of a most important section of Her Majesty's navy, giving utterance to the strongest criticisms and animadversions on the policy pursued by the government. But if, in this country, promotion is to be barred except to those who are subservient to the government of the day, if every gentleman in the militia service, who will not kneel at the feet of our dignified Minister of Militia, is to be turned down, then we can have very little confidence in our militia. And never, in the history of Canada, down to this hour has any government taken the position taken by the Minister of Militia to-day. The late Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, who founded the Royal Military College, to his great credit be it said, took the ground that the head of the college must be an Imperial officer of high standing and of high character, and must have a free hand in matters which he understood better than the government of Canada understood them. That policy has been adhered to down to the present hour. Now, we are

told that the commissions awarded by Her Majesty's government to the cadets of that college are to be refused and cancelled at the instance of the Minister of the Militia, who may choose to say that he wants advantages for the members of his own family or political friends. We were taunted not very long ago by being told that there was a contrast between the two sides of the House in the position occupied in relation to this war. They said: Every other gentleman on the Treasury benches has a son fighting the battles of England in South Africa; where are the representatives of the gentlemen on the other side? Had they been treated the same as hon. gentlemen on the other side more would have been heard of them. But the son of one hon. gentleman on this side resigned his position as captain and went into the ranks as private in order that he might assist in fighting the battles of England in South Africa. And to-day he lies low in illness, caused by the hardships of the campaign. But these others are gentlemen, who have the advantage of official position. There is not one member of the Treasury benches who has a son fighting in the ranks as a private. I may say that the only son of my only daughter is there to-day, a private in the ranks. And yet we are taunted by these gentlemen who have commissions galore to scatter among their relatives. Most of these gentlemen of whom they boast were officers in the British army whose duties compelled them to go there whether they wished to do so or not; and the others are persons who by favour of the Minister of the Militia were able to secure commissions. I would not have taken up a moment of the time of the House, if this matter were not one that I feel to be of an urgent character, one in which the character and standing of the militia of Canada are at stake. Some means must be found by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to smooth the ruffled dignity of the Minister of Militia, that British officers may work with him in a manner in which British officers expect to work with whatever government may be in power. I do not hesitate to say that feeling has been stirred up in this country by this course alleged, and that I know to be absolutely true, the cancellation of these commissions at the dictum of the Minister of Militia—a course never before followed by a gentleman occupying his position, and one that must greatly injure the militia service of Canada. I move the adjournment of the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). As one who has taken and still takes a deep interest in the development of our national force, I should like to say a few words in reference to the matter which has been, very properly, brought up on this occasion. I think it would be fatal to the militia force of Canada if anything like what the

paper read by the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) states approaches the truth in reference to the manner the department has taken of disposing of the commissions offered by England. This is not a new case. Hon. gentlemen will recollect that when in Egypt, Arabi Pasha rose in arms against the Khedive, England offered fourteen, as far as my recollection goes, fourteen additional commissions to the cadets who secured the highest points in the Royal Military College. The emergency having arisen, England required additional officers; and the position which had been gained by the Royal Military College of Canada was such that England turned with confidence to Canada to find some of the men she required, and offered fourteen additional commissions to the best men that that college could turn out. What was the course followed on that occasion? We followed the course which had been traditional in the Royal Military College from the very day that college was organized. Hon. gentlemen who have taken an interest in the matter will know that the six commissions regularly given by the Imperial government were given to the cadets who had secured the highest points in the examination. The one who stood highest was given the first choice, that choice being generally exercised in favour of the engineers. The next highest generally took the artillery, the one following the cavalry—although first, in rank, from the expense attached to that branch of the service was not often selected—and then the infantry. When these additional commissions were to be given, the commandant followed the traditional course. No politics interfered with the selection. I trust that what is reported in the paper read by the leader of the opposition will be contradicted by the Minister of Militia. Many men make large sacrifices of money to send their sons to the Royal Military College. It is supposed that by doing so, they secure for their sons an education equal to anything that can be found, not only in Canada, but at West Point, or Sandhurst or any other of the great military institutions. And this is actually the case, as shown by the fact that the Royal Military College cadets who have left Canada and have taken commissions in the British army have, when examined in competition with the men from Sandhurst and other military colleges, generally carried higher points than their English competitors. And the result is well known to men who have paid any attention to this matter. The men who have left Canada and gone into the Imperial service are to-day in the most important positions in the British army. Take Girouard, who was one of the great factors enabling Lord Kitchener to conquer the Soudan when he did; for that great general had with him, in

Girouard, a man whose knowledge, whose experience, whose training were such that his commander could rely upon him to construct probably the most difficult railway that ever was constructed in the world, designed to carry to the front the troops, ammunition and ordnance and everything else required for the military movement that had been planned. Now, Sir, I say that I hope this will be contradicted. If the people of Canada must believe that after a man has made great sacrifices to educate his son, the merit of the son will not be recognized, but that another man will be preferred to him, though his only merit is that he has political protection, I say that it will be not only detrimental, as the leader of the opposition has said, to the position of the Royal Military College, but I think it will completely kill the militia system that obtains in Canada. I cannot express myself too strongly upon this point, because I think the true policy to follow is that which was followed during the Egyptian campaign, when commissions were sent to Canada, and the man was chosen who had the highest points, having passed the examinations of the Royal Military College, after the six ordinary commissions had been given. I say that the others followed according to merit, those who had preceded them; they were given commissions because they had followed a course in the Royal Military College, and they were entitled to the commissions from the points which they had obtained in their examinations. There was no attempt to drag politics into the Royal Military College. I fully believe, as the leader of the opposition has said, that the Commandant of the Royal Military College should have as free a hand as possible. I maintain, as I have always maintained, that every officer commanding, whether coming from Great Britain, or whether he is picked up from the ranks of the Canadian militia, must be under the control of the Minister of Militia and Defence; when the heads of that department occupy the prominent position of the officer commanding the forces and the commandant of the Royal Military College, they must necessarily be under the control of the Minister of Militia and Defence. But, I say that the Minister of Militia and Defence must recognize that the position which he holds in this country is different from the position of any other of his colleagues on the Treasury benches. He has to deal with the national forces of the country, he has got to make every man know that when he shoulders his rifle to fight the battles of his country or the battles of the empire, he is looked upon as a soldier, and he must be subject to military laws without regard to politics, owing no submission to politicians like ourselves, which, to my mind, would destroy his usefulness as a soldier, and would destroy the

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usefulness of the force which we are building up.

Although I cannot refer to a previous debate, I can refer to a question which is always new and always important to Canada, that is, the question whether the officer commanding the Canadian forces should be an Imperial or a Canadian officer. Sir, if there is any man who believes that Canada should be for the Canadians, it is myself; I do not pretend to love Canada more than anybody else, but I do contend that I love her as much as any other gentleman in this House or outside of it. The reason why I consider it all important that the officer commanding the militia forces of Canada should be an Imperial officer, I wish to state to this House. Mr. Speaker, is it necessary in these last days of the century, when we are engaged in a war in South Africa, for me to state that the science of war is developing every day and becoming more important, even to people who are imbued with the most peaceful ideas, as I claim that the people of Canada and of England are? Any nation who keeps up an army does so for the purpose of protecting its rights and defending its flag, and how can this be done unless you have at the head of your army a man who is thoroughly up to date in all that regards military science? Now, Sir, in Canada we have men whose abilities are equal to the abilities of any foreign officers, although we have not been placed in the same conditions to follow up the developments and progress of the science of war. I have always contended, and still contend, that the officer commanding the forces in Canada should be changed every five years, for this reason, that every year you have new developments going on in armaments and in the science of war, in discipline, in drill, and in everything connected with the preparation of bodies of men to fight the battles of their country. I know very well that some of the men who have been in the Imperial service for a number of years would be very useful as commanders of the Canadian militia; but I claim that it would be a mistake to make the change in the law which the hon. gentleman has suggested, because I think it is of the greatest importance that the militia of Canada should be commanded by a man who is in touch with the developments taking place every day in that very important branch of human knowledge called the science of war.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I must ask my hon. friend the leader of the opposition to excuse me if I do not take seriously the scolding fit of which he gave an exhibition a moment ago, nor can I take seriously, either, the more solemn sentences of the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron). What I complain of on this occasion is, that the hon. gentlemen have sprung upon the House a discussion upon a mere newspaper report

which, at the proper time, the government will be able to show, is absolutely inaccurate, but which I do not discuss at the present time for a reason. I appeal to hon. members on both sides of the House that such a method of procedure is not only against the rules of the House, but against the well understood principle hitherto governing both sides, that no matter should be brought up for discussion except after notice is given to the other side. Not only does this rule apply to formal debates in the House which cannot be undertaken without notice put on the Order paper, but even to urgent matters that it may be necessary to discuss. I submit to hon. gentlemen opposite that it is only fair that notice should be given to the minister interested, and no business can be carried on unless this rule is observed. If the hon. member for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior) intended to bring this matter up to-day it was his duty to inform the Minister of Militia and Defence of his intention to speak upon it. But, instead of doing so, he has brought the matter suddenly before the House when neither the minister nor the government are in a position to discuss it. The hon. gentleman knows as well as I do that a matter of this kind, concerning which despatches have been exchanged with the Imperial authorities, can only be discussed by the government after preliminary communication is had with His Excellency the Governor General. In this case we have had no opportunity of making such communication. I have only to repeat to the hon. gentleman what I said a moment ago, that after due notice is given the government will be only too glad to bring down all the information they have. I say we had a right to rely upon the sense of fairness of the House in these matters, and to ask that notice should be given of an intention to discuss a subject like this, so that we may communicate with His Excellency and get permission to bring down all the information which it is permissible to bring down upon the subject. When this is done, the government will be ready to discuss the question, we have nothing to conceal; and the hon. member for Three Rivers will find that he has expended in vain a good deal of eloquence for which there was absolutely no occasion. We had the benefit of it all the same. But, we found that he would give himself undue pain in rounding the period with which he favoured the House a moment ago. I appeal to the sense of business and of fair-play of the House to give us an opportunity of placing the matter before the House before it is discussed, and especially discussed on a mere newspaper report.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I was only asking for information.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). It was not the proper way.

Motion (Sir Charles Tupper) negatived.

MARINE HOSPITAL, VICTORIA, B.C.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders are called—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. PRIOR. As soon as hon. gentlemen are finished I will go on. I want to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries to a statement I have seen in the Victoria papers in regard to the rumour that the Marine Hospital in Victoria is going to be taken by the Militia Department for barracks. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) whether there is any truth in the statement, as, by the British North America Act, the government is bound to maintain a marine hospital in Victoria.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It is true that the Department of Marine and Fisheries have consented to give the Marine Hospital as a temporary barracks to accommodate the 60 men of the Provisional Battalion for a month or two, until the time comes when they can go under canvas.

Mr. PRIOR. It is just temporary?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Just temporary.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty.

Mr. C. B. HEYD (South Brant). Mr. Speaker, I desire, as briefly as I can, to say a few words in connection with the subject that is now before us, and I propose to confine myself exclusively to the trade and financial aspects of the question. I know that it is customary to go over the four quarters of the earth for material, but I do not think it is desirable on an occasion like this. I will try and save, if possible, the 23 minutes which the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) wasted last Friday afternoon when he abused personally the hon. representative of North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). I do not consider it is necessary for me at all, in the interest of the country to abuse anybody, and, therefore, I will immediately come to the consideration of this question. The first proposition that the hon. member for Haldimand advanced was on the question of failures. It was a gloomy subject, but, he opened the discussion of the problems that are before us by discussing the failures that took place during the hard times in the seventies, and he told us that the failures in Canada were one-tenth as great as those which took place in the United States. He showed us how much better off we were from 1893 to 1896

because the failures were only one-thirtieth as great in Canada as they were in the United States. This is exceedingly gratifying, because our friends on the other side of the House have been trying to make us believe that the last three years of their rule were famine years, and because they claimed that we need not take praise to ourselves for the prosperity that ensued. I am sorry to say that the Doctor made a mistake of 100 per cent, if *Hansard* represents him correctly. The failures in 1896 were \$16,000,000, while the failures in 1899 were, on average of three years, \$11,000,000, so that, on the question of failures, we need not reproach ourselves. Turning from the question of failures, the hon. gentleman adverted to the savings of the people. There is quite a contrast between the two subjects. Yet, even from the standpoint of the savings of the people we have nothing at all to reproach ourselves with. I noticed with what joy he alluded to the fact, that, during eighteen years, from 1878 to 1896, the deposits of the people in the banks increased by \$118,000,000. I am willing to admit that \$118,000,000 is a large sum of money, but it becomes small when we divide it by eighteen years, which gives us an actual average per year of \$6,500,000. I am exceedingly glad that during the national policy period we were able to increase the deposits of the people by \$6,500,000 a year. But, what would hon. gentlemen have said if the people had been able to do what they have done since 1896 and 1897? During the fiscal year 1896-7 they increased their deposits by \$18,000,000, in 1898, by \$26,000,000, and in 1899, by \$31,000,000, or \$75,000,000 in three years. The hon. gentleman would have done better by not alluding to failures or to savings, because, in respect to either one of these, the condition of the country is so much better than it was that it is apparent to every one. He found fault, however, with the present government in consequence of the condition in which the binder twine industry is, and in order to make a point he alluded to the fact that the Farmers' Binder Twine Co. of Brantford, was able to declare a bonus of \$65,000. Because their capital stock was \$65,000 they declared the ordinary dividend and in addition a bonus of 100 per cent. The hon. gentleman found fault with that and blamed it on the government. Although I have listened carefully to what has been said in this House, I do not see where the government is to blame because binder twine went up. He tried to connect the Kingston binder twine with the condition of the binder twine industry in this country, but I do not see any connection at all. Raw material will advance, and it did advance in spite of anything this government could do, and that was the actual condition. If the Farmers' Binder Twine Company had sold their raw material at the price they were offered for it, and had not con-

Mr. HEYD.

verted it into binder twine at all they would have been able to have declared a bonus of not \$65,000, but of \$250,000. But, they did not do that. They brought this raw material into the country, they converted it into binder twine and sold it for, at least, \$175,000 less as a manufactured product than they could have sold the raw material for. I do not think that our friends on the other side of the House should reproach the government for that; neither do I think they should, incidentally, cast a reflection on the management of the Binder Twine Company of Brantford. They have been eminently successful, they have been manufacturing the highest qualities of binder twine and selling it to the people at a slight advance on cost. They have had a tendency for years to keep down the price of binder twine, they have not gone into any combination, they have never joined any monopoly, and they have been a power in this country for some years back, keeping binder twine down to the low point it is at. When we take into consideration the fact that binder twine has free access to this country, that the duty upon it has been removed, there is nothing to prevent the Deerings, the McCormicks and those great binder twine producers on the other side, from coming into this country and selling their goods if they like. Yet, hon. gentlemen blame the government, when the government are in no way to blame. The government, surely, were not to blame because there was a war in the Philippines. If a combination exists, as it is charged, the government are powerless to deal with it because binder twine has been placed upon the free list. If a combination exists in respect to an article that is the subject of duty, we can remove the duty and put the article on the free list, but when you talk about free goods, what can the government do? At their institution down in Kingston where, I have been told, they turn out a low grade of twine, how could they influence combinations like the McCormicks, the Deerings and the great binder twine industries which have the power to combine? The reason why binder twine advanced in price was because the cost of the raw material advanced in price, on account of the war in the Philippines.

Mr. SPROULE. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd), say that the raw material increased in price in the years 1896, 1897 and 1898?

Mr. HEYD. I know that hon. gentlemen opposite have been alluding to a particular year, when twine had increased to 14 and 15 cents a pound, and I know that the reason for that increase was that the price of raw material went up, because of the war in Manila.

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman looks at the Auditor General's Report, he

will find there was no increase whatever in the actual money paid out for the raw material, for the twine at Kingston Penitentiary in these years.

Mr. HEYD. I am not prepared to go into that question just now, but it strikes me that the binder twine produced in the Kingston Penitentiary was disposed of by the present government, before they had any reason to be aware that there was going to be a famine in binder twine.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague), found fault with the position of our securities in Great Britain, and he told us they had receded four or five points, and that, therefore, because of this depreciation our credit is not as good in the British markets as it was during the regime of the Conservative government. Well, there is no argument in that at all. If the hon. gentleman could have shown us that of all the 3 per cent securities similar to ours, Canadian securities, were the only ones that had shrunk 5 per cent, then he would have had a case. But, when he admits that all securities similar to the Canadian securities had depreciated to the same extent, then he has no argument at all. The facts of the case are these: The investors having large sums to invest at remunerative rates are not going to buy 3 per cents at a premium of 5 or 6 per cent, when they can get better investments for their money. The circumstances are entirely different now from what they were a few years ago. Large amounts of capital have accumulated, and capitalists finding more profitable employment for their money invested elsewhere, and so Canadian bonds have depreciated in common with all the bonds of all other countries in the English market. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague), alluded to the great manufacturing industries of the city of Brantford, for the purpose of trying to have a fling at the Minister of Customs. Well, Sir, I am very glad that the manufacturing industries of Brantford were prosperous, even during the reign of the Conservatives. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague), gave us a table, showing us the increase that had taken place in these industries up to 1896, and in order to enlighten him a little more on the subject, I will complete that table.

The number of employees in the factories he mentions, in 1896, was 2,816, and in 1898, they had increased to 3,381, an increase of 565 men. And, not only did the number of men increase, but the hours of labour increased also, because the factories were running from 12 to 15 hours a day, and for six days in the week, some of them were running night and day; the result being that they paid out for labour \$1,150,000 and exported one-twelfth of the entire manufactured product that is exported out of this country. That, Sir, is the position of the Brantford industries, and one of the most successful among them I am glad to say—no matter what gentlemen on the other side

may think—is that owned and controlled by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), which shares in that same prosperity which is now enjoyed by all manufacturing industries in Canada, where they are managed with intelligence, economy and honesty. The hon. member (Mr. Montague) went further, and he reproached the Minister of Customs with being rejected by the people of South Brant. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Customs was not rejected by the people of South Brant, because if these electors had had an opportunity of expressing their real wishes, Mr. Paterson would have been returned by hundreds of a majority. Our friends on the other side of the House know how the electors of South Brant were prevented from expressing their choice at the polls, and no man knows better than the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), who knew everything that was going on, and who lived in the next county to us. In that election, there were 222 spoiled and rejected ballots. There was enough difference between the spoiled and rejected ballots of 1896, and those in the election which took place some seven months afterwards, to have alone elected Mr. Paterson, quite independent of all the corruption that took place in the 1896 election. Why, there were 300 charges of corruption against the party who carried that seat at the general elections, and on the very first case that was put into court his opponent vacated his seat. When the hon. member (Mr. Montague) reproaches the Minister of Customs for having been defeated, he reminds me of the man who robs his neighbour's hen-roost, and then finds fault because all the chickens were not of pure breed.

Then the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) wandered off into finances, and that is a subject that a doctor should steer clear of, especially if he has not got his figures correct. This is the language used by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague):

The Minister of Customs says, though, that they are saving a great deal to the farmers. I do not think it was a joke. I think it was really intended to be taken in earnest, but there is not a farmer in Canada who will not believe that it is a species of humour of which the hon. gentleman has attempted to be guilty.

Further:

The Minister of Customs gives in parallel columns what the duty has been in 1896 and what it is in 1899. I will read the whole table showing the savings of the farmers according to his figures, and they give altogether \$87,602, which he says he has saved to the farmers of the country.

Now, Sir, if any gentleman turns to his *Hansard*, page 3049, he will see that the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), deliberately omitted one-half of a column of figures given by the Minister of Customs, and which were lying open before him. The hon. member for Haldimand omitted Indian corn, nil under the present tariff, and under the old tariff, \$549,000; binder twine, nil

under the present tariff, and under the old tariff, \$102,000; barbed fencing wire, nil under the present tariff, and under the old tariff, \$126,000; galvanized iron or steel wire, gauge 9, 12 and 13, nil under the present tariff, and under the old tariff, \$42,000; cream separators, nil under the present tariff, and under the old tariff, \$45,000; totalling, with another small article, \$867,000. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) deliberately omitted that, and said that the savings to the farmers were \$87,600, when the actual savings to the farmers by the tariff reductions of the Liberal government, were \$955,156 on the articles alluded to. Let me direct the attention of the House to another statement, that the hon. gentleman made in the line of figures. I may say that I verified these figures by reading the newspapers. I am aware that in the unrevised copies of our *Hansard*, errors may creep in, and I would not like to quote from the *Hansard*, until the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) had an opportunity of correcting the figures if there was any mistake. I do not want to do any man an injustice when I am quoting his argument or his figures. As far as I know, I am quoting them exactly as he used them, and I verified them from the *Mail* newspaper, which I assume would give his figures correctly, and they correspond with those in the *Hansard*. The hon. gentleman, quoting from the speech of the Minister of Customs, said:

We are doing splendidly; the settlers' effects coming in are increasing, and the household goods we are exporting are decreasing. Now, let us take 1899—the settlers' effects that came into Canada in that year were valued at \$2,183,861.

I want to quote all these figures given by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague). If they were my own, I would abbreviate them, at least by the hundred thousand, but my hon. friend from Haldimand quoted them whole, and I must do it because he did. He was wrong there, because the actual imports of settlers' effects, in 1899, were \$2,805,956, or, in other words, he made an error of \$622,095. The hon. gentleman told us that we were exporting, in 1899, household goods to the extent of \$963,000 worth. He is wrong again there, because the exports in that year were \$992,813, or, in other words, he made a mistake of over \$28,000. He goes on to say: 'The difference in favour of Canada being \$1,220,236.' He is wrong again. The difference in favour of Canada is \$1,803,143. He made another mistake of \$582,907. Every time the hon. gentleman quoted figures from the speech of the Minister of Customs, he was right; but every time he relied on his own knowledge of the question, he was wrong. Then he takes up another point:

Now, what about 1894, which the Minister of Trade and Commerce says was the worst year in our record. The settlers' effects which came in amounted to \$2,665,893.

Mr. HEYD.

He is wrong again. They amounted to \$3,322,499; or he made a mistake of \$576,606. He goes on to say: 'The household goods we exported in that year were \$940,709. He was wrong again. They were \$964,000; so that he made an error there of \$23,291. He says: 'The difference in favour of Canada being \$1,725,184.' He was wrong again; the difference was \$2,258,499. The hon. gentleman in that short statement made six errors; the first, \$622,000; the second, \$28,000; the third, \$582,000; the fourth, \$576,000; the fifth, \$23,000; and the last, \$533,000.

I think I have done my hon. friend all the justice which under the circumstances he is entitled to, and I will pass on to another phase of this subject. I want to lay before the House as briefly as I can the trade and financial position in which the country finds itself. In order to ascertain what the real expenditures of the present government and of the last government have been, so as to institute a comparison between them, I find that you have to adopt an entirely new theory. We are no longer to compare consolidated expenditure with consolidated expenditure, as we did in days gone by, because we are told that the total expenditure measures the extravagance of a government. I can see a motive in that, because the expenditures during the past three years have been greater than they were during the three years preceding; and therefore, by adding the expenditure on capital account to that on consolidated account, the expenditures of the present government are apparently greater than those of 1896. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), said:

It is all very well to manipulate surpluses and capital expenditure so as to enable you to make a large capital expenditure, and yet not increase the debt largely.

That is an impossibility. If the hon. gentleman means that it was possible to manipulate the consolidated expenditure and the capital expenditure, he would have been right; but you cannot manipulate a surplus and add it to the capital expenditure without increasing the debt, no matter how you try. He used the wrong word in speaking of surpluses; for he should have used the words consolidated expenditure and capital expenditure. He says:

The plain truth is told by the total expenditure, and it is this plain truth that this House requires and that the country needs.

Now, that is a new theory, and let us analyse it and see where it leads. He says:

The House will notice that the average total expenditure of the late Liberal-Conservative government from 1892 to 1896 was less by about \$400,000 per year than from 1887 to 1891.

What, he asks, is the summation of the whole matter?

It is that the Liberal-Conservative government spent in totality \$388,237 per year less from 1892 to 1896 than from 1887 to 1891, and that the

present government has exceeded the Liberal-Conservative average expenditure from 1892 to 1896 as follows:

In 1897 by.....	\$ 830,992
In 1898 by.....	3 192,518
In 1899 by.....	9,400,872

The hon. gentleman's reasoning is absolutely fallacious. In my opinion, his intent was to mislead the people. If he really believed that you can come to a correct conclusion by comparing the entire expenditure on consolidated and capital account, why did he not go back a little further? Why did he select the years from 1886 to 1892? He had only to select the year 1884 when the combined consolidated and capital expenditure amounted to \$57,860,000, or \$15,000,000 more than it was ten years afterwards. In 1885 it was \$49,163,000. In 1886 it was \$61,837,000. In those three years the average was \$56,000,000 a year, while during the last three years before hon. gentlemen opposite left office it was only \$42,000,000 a year, a difference of \$14,000,000. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that they were extravagant in those years when their combined consolidated and capital expenditure exceeded the average of their last three years by \$14,000,000 a year? No. And during that time they added \$67,000,000 to the national debt. That is easily accounted for. They were building the Canadian Pacific Railway at that time, and the expenditure on capital account was greater by \$20,000,000 a year than it has been in some later years. To compare a year in which you have spent \$20,000,000 on railways with a year in which you have spent nothing is in my opinion the most absurd way to compare the expenditure of one year with that of another. In 1896, the last year in which hon. gentlemen opposite held office, they spent \$44,000,000 on capital and on consolidated account, whereas ten years before, when the country was much smaller, they spent \$61,800,000, a greater sum by nearly \$18,000,000. The absurdity of the contention of the ex-Minister of Finance could not be better illustrated than by this. Suppose the present government came to the conclusion that in the interest of the country it was necessary to buy the Canadian Pacific Railway. I see that that railway is capitalized at \$218,000,000. Suppose the government had bought the railway last year, and added that sum to the \$40,000,000 spent in the regular way; their entire expenditure would have been \$258,000,000. And yet according to the theory that has been advanced by the ex-Minister of Finance, he would say: 'See how much more economical we are than this government; we spent only \$42,000,000 in the year 1896, whereas the new government has spent \$258,000,000.' The absurdity of the hon. gentleman's contention is apparent in every line, and his whole motive in my opinion was to deceive the people and to lead them

to believe that because we spent more on capital account than they did, we must necessarily be more extravagant.

Now, let me direct your attention to the actual condition of the financial affairs of our country, as I understand it, and I have boiled down these figures into the briefest possible compass, in the hope that those who have not the opportunity of working out these matters from the blue-books for themselves can see the actual condition of the country at a glance, and be both interested and instructed. I believe that the only way to arrive at the truth is to compare things that are alike. There is no use of comparing a turnip to a strawberry, nor a gallon of coal oil to a bottle of whisky; there is wanting the essence for a comparison. There is no use of comparing things which are utterly dissimilar. If you want to get at the truth, you must compare things which are alike. Therefore, I will allude to the expenditure on consolidated account, or the running expenditure of the late government. For the three years ending with 1896, that expenditure amounted to \$112,666,000, or an average of \$37,555,000 a year. The expenditure by the present government for the three years ending June last was \$119,085,000, being an average of \$39,695,000, or an average increase over the three years of our predecessors of \$2,140,000. That is a plain and truthful statement, and the people have the right to ask how it is we exceeded the expenditure of the late government by this amount. We reply, in the first place, that we have had to meet obligations which our hon. friends opposite had not to meet. We have had to pay \$253,000 per year additional interest, and that we could not help. Certain public works had to be constructed and the money borrowed for that purpose, and as the inevitable consequence, we had to pay \$353,000 more in interest than our predecessors had to pay in 1896. We also had to pay into the sinking fund \$427,000 per year more than our predecessors had to pay in 1896. What was the reason of this? Because our bonds, which were about to mature, had to be taken up and the credit of this country kept at the high standard it has enjoyed for many years. This is an increase of expenditure which was entirely beyond the control of the government. There is another expenditure of considerable magnitude which we had to make, and that is, the expenditure on the collection of revenue on our railways. Has the country benefited by that expenditure? Well, the hon. Minister of Railways said that that extra expenditure of \$542,000 per year enabled him to put into the treasury \$850,000 more in the shape of earnings, and that, it seems to me, is perfect justification for that increase. Then, there was the expenditure in the Yukon amounting to \$1,674,000, an entirely new item. These four items altogether put

up a total of \$2,996,000, or \$800,000 more than the annual increase in our expenditure. But the increase in the receipts from the Yukon alone amounted to \$1,753,376 last year, and the increase in railway and canal earnings amounted to \$850,000.

Let us approach another aspect of the question. We can justify the increased expenditure because we have assumed other obligations, but the question presents itself: Have we received an adequate return? Let me call your attention to the revenues for the three years, from 1893 to 1896. They amounted to \$106,900,000, or \$35,633,000 a year. During the following three years they amounted to \$125,125,000, or \$41,708,000 a year, showing an increase of \$6,075,000 per year, or in the three years, an increase of \$18,225,000. So that, admitting that our average expenditure had increased by \$2,140,000 a year, we had still to the good \$3,935,000 in the public treasury. I should think that such a financial result on a farm or a mercantile establishment would be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory by the stockholders in the concern. We expended in that period also, on capital account, \$3,450,000 more than did our hon. friends opposite, and what is the result? The increase of our national debt during the last three years of our hon. friends opposite amounted to \$16,816,000, while ours amounted to only \$7,766,000, although we spent \$3,450,000 more on capital account. Thus, we spent \$3,450,000 more on capital account and added \$9,000,000 less to our debt. But, that is not all. While our hon. friends opposite could only show a deficit of \$5,700,000 in their last three years of administration, we can point in our three years administration to a surplus of \$6,052,000, and the final result is that, while we spent \$3,450,000 more on capital account, we added \$9,000,000 less to the debt.

But our hon. friends opposite say that was easy to do, that we did it by simply increasing the burden of taxation. I deny that statement in toto. I say that this government did not increase the taxation. Although the revenue was some millions higher, that was not due to increase in taxation. I am willing to admit that in connection with the increased excise on spirits, the government did increase the burdens of the people, and whether that was justifiable or not I will leave it to the people interested in the liquor problem. I fancy myself that the great temperance classes of this country would be glad to have any obstruction put in the way of liquor drinking, and the obstruction calculated to do most good is to increase the price. Make the price high enough, and you can prevent the consumption of spirituous liquor.

The next charge was that we had raised the tobacco tax. I am not prepared to speak with the authority of knowledge, but I desire to uphold the opinion of men whose opinion is worth having, and I propose to

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give a quotation from the *Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal*, devoted to the interests of manufacturers and dealers in cigars, cigarettes and tobacco, and smokers' supplies. That journal says:

Notwithstanding the abuse which this journal, and with it nine-tenths of the trade, heaped on the tobacco tariff when revised by the present administration in 1897, and the statements then made that it was absurd to presume that Canadian tobacco could ever become a factor in the trade, the situation to-day is such that we are compelled in simple justice, and by force of facts, to admit the wisdom of the administration in the measure then adopted. Not only have our farmers grown tobacco quite the equal of that used for plug smoking and chewing by the foreign leaf factories; not only was upwards of \$600,000 left in the hands of Canadian farmers last year that once went to American leaf markets, but the great masses of the people have been given just 50 per cent more tobacco of equal quality for the same money than under the old tariff. Beyond this, a practically new industry has sprung into life; twenty-five new factories are now turning out Canadian tobacco products, and this influx of capital is ample evidence of the importance and wisdom of the measure.

In view of these admissions, it is not right to find fault with the action of the government in increasing the duty on tobacco.

But let us go a little further. There is no doubt that \$4,350,000 has been raised, for our revenue has grown that much bigger. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that the government placed that increased burden on the backs of the people. I deny the statement altogether. There are three ways the government might have treated this financial problem when they assumed office. They might have increased the tariff. If they had done so, this \$4,350,000 of increased revenue might justly have been charged as an increased burden laid on the backs of the people. But they did not do that. Everybody knows that they did not do it. Or, they might have left the tariff alone and neither reduced or increased the burdens of the people. In that case, they could have said: We did not do anything; we simply carried on affairs along the lines of your tariff; we did not raise a hand to either increase or reduce the burdens of the people. In that case hon. gentlemen opposite would have been glad to say that it was evidence of the elasticity of the national policy, that it was because of the successful operation of that policy that this revenue had increased by over \$4,000,000. But the government was not even content to let it alone; they actually lowered the duties so that, had the tariff of 1896 been applied to the importation of 1899, there would have been a positive increase of \$3,000,000. Now, by turning to *Hansard*, page 2658, hon. gentlemen will see that the tariff of 1896 was 19.18 per cent, while that of 1899 was 17.17 per cent. There is a reduction of 10 per cent in the actual duties levied. Now, they acknowledge that if

the tariff had not been revised in 1899, a sum of \$3,000,000 more would have been taken. I am aware for the ordinary mind—I do not allude to the hon. gentlemen in this House, but to ordinary people—it is hard to grasp a great financial problem; and I thought, therefore, it would be interesting for some people who do not conduct their affairs in millions of dollars to have this matter brought down to the every-day transactions that take place in a man's own household. So, these principles that we talk of in millions, I apply to the way the ordinary man manages his own affairs. It may be said that my application of the principle is childish, but you have to present figures in a childish way to make them comprehensible to all classes. Suppose that a father of a family in 1896 buys in a month 46 loaves of bread at 6 cents each—he will spend \$2.76. He might reasonably find fault if the price was increased to 7 cents. But he learns that another baker will sell bread at 5½ cents a loaf, and so to this baker he transfers his custom. In 1889 he finds that his bread bill is \$3.52 when it was, in 1896, \$2.76. He goes to the baker and says: You told me that I would save money if I dealt with you, and here I find my bill is 76 cents higher than when I dealt with the former baker. But the baker would say: I am selling you bread at half a cent lower than you formerly paid; but, my dear fellow, you are using 64 loaves where you used 46 in 1896. Don't you see that your children are better fed, better clothed, that they look healthier than they did before? Surely you do not suppose that you can eat in a month 64 loaves where formerly you ate 46 and still pay no more than you paid in 1896, I have reduced your bread by 10 per cent, and if you will content yourself with what you were compelled to content yourself three years ago, you can effect a saving in a month of 23 cents. But the people are not willing to accept only 46 loaves of bread a month when their children want 64. They were compelled to do without many things three years ago, but to-day, the people of Canada are using millions more of the luxuries and necessities of life than they did; and, because they like to do it they willingly gave this increased revenue to the country. But the government have done exactly what they said they would do. They said: We will reduce tariff rates, we will reduce the restrictions upon trade, and by encouraging trade in this way they have secured increased revenue. That is how it comes that the revenue has been increased.

I have in my hands a table that has been prepared at my request. Table 19, page 124 of the Trade and Navigation Returns is a statement showing the value of imports entered for consumption in Canada from the British Empire and foreign countries for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1899. You will notice, Mr. Speaker, that that is divid-

ed into only two columns, giving the British Empire one side and foreign countries on the other side. There are practically only two countries with which the Canadian people trade, namely, Great Britain and the United States. Canada's dealing with other portions of the British possessions are so small as to be hardly worth mentioning, and the same is true of our dealing with foreign countries, outside of the United States. But, in order to ascertain what effect our free trade was having upon the condition of our people, I asked that the columns should be divided once more, so that we might have one column for Great Britain and one for British possessions outside; and, for foreign countries, one column for the United States and one for other foreign countries. I wanted to see whether the admission of free goods from the United States into Canada was actually injuring the people of Canada as some people say it does. For instance, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) says that since this government have come into power they have given the United States a preference in many things, they have given the United States free corn for nothing, they have given them free binder twine for nothing, they have given them free barbed wire for nothing, and they have given them a cut on iron for nothing. He talks as if things of that kind were injurious to the country. Let me quote to you some words from a man who knows what he is talking about:

It is a self-evident fact that all commerce between nations must be mutually advantageous, or it could not exist for a single decade. Hence it is quite immaterial whether our dealings with this or that country consist more of imports or of exports, or whether the balance of trade be for or against us. If our trade with any country be increasing, it is prosperous, and the ratio of increase will be the ratio of prosperity.

These words I read from 'Forty Years of British Trade,' by Mr. Michael G. Mulhall, one of the greatest statisticians in the world to-day, a man who speaks authoritatively upon trade and financial subjects. To show that in increasing the number of items on our free trade list is the reverse of prejudicial to the interests of the people of this country, that it is not specially beneficial to the people of the United States and that it in no way interferes with the prosperity of Great Britain, let me quote a few figures from this table.

Does any gentleman mean to say that the government, by admitting anthracite coal free into this country has injured the people of Canada? Would it benefit them to put on 50 cents a ton? A reason might be urged why we should put it on soft coal, because we produce soft coal in this country, and we do not wish to injure those who are engaged in that trade. But on hard coal there is absolutely no reason why the people of Canada should pay 50 cents or \$1 a

ton more than it is worth. That would be transferring from the pockets of the mechanic or the consumer of coal in this country, 50 cents or \$1 into the pockets of the government. In buying our coal from the United States we have not conferred any favour upon them at all; they could live if we did not buy their coal. The quantity we buy from them is infinitesimal compared with the total quantity consumed there. But we have no recourse, we must get it there, and getting it there free of duty, it is certainly advantageous to the people. I want to quote a few more figures from this

book, and I would ask the consent of the House to hand them in to be recorded without reading them.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no, read.

Mr. HEYD. I will read them if you like, but I did not wish to waste the time of the House. I thought if they were recorded they would give the people who are interested in the question an opportunity of getting their knowledge collected for them without being compelled to wade through 600 or 700 pages of the blue-book:

STATEMENT showing Values of Imports (Free) Entered for Consumption in Canada from British Empire and Foreign Countries for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 1899.

FREE GOODS.	BRITISH EMPIRE.		FOREIGN COUNTRIES.		Totals.
	Great Britain.	British Possessions.	United States.	Other Foreign Countries.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Produce of the mine—					
Coal.....	362		6,490,147		6,490,509
Diamonds, unset, diamond dust or bort, &c.....	226,481		15,684	140,559	382,724
Ores of metal.....	50	37,415	116,487		153,952
Salt.....	212,885	22,149	8,423	24,063	267,520
All other.....	128,022	10	128,690	22,753	279,475
Totals.....	567,800	59,574	6,759,431	187,375	7,574,180
	627,374		6,946,806		
Fisheries—					
Fish, all kinds.....		385,733	842		386,575
Fish oil.....		37,099	16		37,115
All other.....	272	178	20,461	5	20,916
Totals.....	272	423,010	21,319	5	444,606
	423,282		21,324		
Forest—					
Logs.....		42	406,753	50	406,845
Lumber, timber, planks and boards, sawn, not shaped.....	841	471	2,091,006	16	2,092,334
All other.....	163		402,105	8,027	410,295
Totals.....	1,004	513	2,899,864	8,093	2,909,474
	1,517		2,907,957		
Animals and their produce—					
Fur skins, not dressed.....	215,947	17,608	312,351	236,243	782,149
Grease, rough.....			147,774	312	148,086
Hides and skins, undressed.....	879,685	106,899	1,942,154	943,444	3,872,132
Silk, raw.....			263,540	3	263,543
Wool.....	604,257	76,696	514,084	140,059	1,335,096
All other.....	112,393	667	335,035	30,256	478,351
Totals.....	1,812,282	201,870	3,514,938	1,356,317	6,879,407
	2,014,152		4,865,255		

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STATEMENT showing Values of Imports (Free) Entered for consumption in Canada, from
British Empire and Foreign Countries—*Continued.*

FREE GOODS.	BRITISH EMPIRE.		FOREIGN COUNTRIES.		Totals.
	Great Britain.	British Possessions.	United States.	Other Foreign Countries.	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Agricultural products—					
Broom corn	102		108,149	2,546	108,251
Fruits, green.....		6,662	557,499	2,546	566,707
Hemp, undressed.....	545,044		395,985		941,029
Indian corn			8,966,890	35	8,966,925
Seeds.....	25,856		1,071,685	82,086	1,179,627
Tobacco, unmanufactured for excise purposes	1,056		1,878,725	4,659	1,884,440
All other	21,053	51,531	113,182	35,409	221,175
Totals	593,111	58,193	13,092,115	124,735	13,868,154
	651,304		13,216,859		
Manufactured and partially manufactured articles—					
Binder twine and materials for	575		886,604	8	887,187
Cotton wool and cotton waste	20,712		3,267,202	13,303	3,301,217
Drugs.....	560,140	12,327	1,345,929	407,173	2,325,569
Fisheries, articles for.....	298,252	1,341	233,730	2,705	536,028
Gutta percha, crude.....	9,596		1,606,603	17,017	1,633,216
Jute cloth, not coloured, &c.....	447,140	1,474	1,289		449,903
Metals	1,649,860	33,947	5,057,880	134,376	6,876,063
Rags	143,995		130,046	24,520	298,561
All other	917,869	9,231	1,883,345	219,333	3,029,778
Totals	4,048,139	58,320	14,412,628	818,435	19,337,522
	4,106,459		15,231,063		
Miscellaneous articles—					
Articles for the use of Dominion Government, &c	190,543	97	656,768	11,957	859,365
Articles for the use of Army and Navy	382,625		6,184	285	389,094
Coffee	82,607	39,528		339,218	461,353
Paintings in oil, &c.....	361,896	125	155,977	54,995	572,993
Settlers' effects.....	458,888	12,008	2,183,861	151,199	2,805,956
Tea	786,737	690,660		1,890,457	3,367,854
Coin and bullion.....	128,800	34,986	4,539,993	1,355	4,705,134
All other.....	123,911	4,188	292,264	22,966	443,329
Totals	2,516,007	781,592	7,835,047	2,472,432	13,605,078
	3,297,599		10,307,479		
Recapitulation—					
Produce of the Mine	567,800	59,574	6,759,431	187,375	7,574,180
" Fisheries	272	423,010	21,319	5	444,606
" Forest	1,004	513	2,899,864	8,093	2,909,474
Animals and their produce	1,812,282	201,870	3,514,938	1,350,317	6,879,407
Agricultural products.....	593,111	58,193	13,092,115	124,735	13,868,154
Manufactures	4,048,139	58,320	14,412,628	818,435	19,337,522
Miscellaneous articles.....	2,516,007	781,592	7,835,047	2,472,432	13,605,078
Totals	9,538,615	1,583,072	48,535,342	4,961,392	64,618,421
	11,121,687		53,496,734		

Now, in the case of animals and their produce, to my mind the cause of this tremendous discrepancy between Great Britain and the United States arises from the fact that the conditions existing in the two countries are entirely different. Great Britain we might liken to a huge manufacturing establishment and a large departmental store. Great Britain is a trading and manufacturing people. The United States we might liken to a large manufacturing establishment and a producer of raw material. It is simply because we can buy our raw material at the place of growth, without the intervention of middlemen, that we can buy so many products of the United States cheaper than we can buy them anywhere else in the world, no matter whether you put on a duty or take it off. That discrepancy is more marked when we come to agricultural products. From Great Britain we imported, as will be seen by the above table, \$592,000, of which \$545,044 was undressed hemp. From the United States we got, of green fruits, \$557,499; of Indian corn, \$8,966,890, of which nearly \$5,500,000 were re-exported, and on which a certain profit was made by our dealers.

Mr. CLANCY. What does the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) say to that statement?

Mr. HEYD. He said the same thing. Of seeds, our importation from the United States was \$1,071,685; of goods for excise purposes, \$1,878,733. From Great Britain our imports, exclusive of undressed hemp, amount to about \$48,000. You see there is no competition in these articles with Great Britain, we do not injure Great Britain in the least by allowing these free goods to come in from the United States. It does not hurt us to allow Indian corn to come in. That is a question for the farmers to discuss. For myself I only know that if we can buy \$6,000,000 from the United States and sell it to somebody else and make a profit, it cannot hurt us much. Now I pass on to manufactured and partially manufactured goods. It is in these lines where competition begins, it is only in these lines where Great Britain becomes a competitor with the United States. I think a careful analysis of these figures will convince any one who desires information that it is to our interest to do exactly what we are doing. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to direct your attention briefly to our trade returns; and I take for that purpose the goods entered for consumption and goods exported the produce of Canada:

1894.....	\$113,093,983	1897.....	\$111,294,000
1895.....	105,252,516	1898.....	130,698,000
1896.....	110,587,480	1899.....	154,051,000
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$328,933,658		\$396,043,000
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Average..	\$109,644,658	Average..	\$132,014,000
Difference in three years, \$67,000,000.			

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Now I am willing to admit that the contention that was made by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), is correct that the corn that comes into this country and is re-exported should not be added in this column. I believe that our trade should stand upon its own basis, and when we speak of goods entered for consumption it should mean goods that are consumed by the people of Canada. I realize that if we are to buy \$100,000,000 worth of corn this year and enter it for consumption, and send \$100,000,000 worth out again we would apparently have improved the trade conditions of the country by \$100,000,000; while as a matter of fact it would not be true. But deducting the \$11,000,000 that have been the exports of the country for the past two years, we are still some \$58,000,000 better off than we were three years ago. Now, in the question of exports the produce of Canada, this corn is not included although it goes out of the country as the produce of some other country. In 1894 our exports, the produce of Canada, were as follows:

1894.....	\$104,000,000
1895.....	103,000,000
1896.....	109,000,000
1897.....	123,599,000
1898.....	145,594,000
1899.....	138,462,000

Or, in the last three years a total of \$405,000,000, an increase of \$88,500,000 over the previous three years. I am exceedingly gratified to say in respect to the goods entered for consumption in the first eight months of the present year that the imports amounted to \$115,000,000 being \$5,000,000 more than the average of the three years up to 1896, while our exports for the first eight months of the present year amounted to \$110,058,000 being \$4,338,000 greater than the average yearly imports for the last three years. The exports of foreign goods for the three years ending 1896 amounted to \$30,000,000, while for the year 1899 they amounted to \$52,982,000, or an increase of \$22,900,000. For the first seven months of the present year our exports amounted to \$16,829,000 being \$6,800,000 more than the exports averaged during the last three years. These are the trade problems and I have presented them in such a way that those outside of the House, who are anxious to familiarize themselves with the facts, will have an opportunity of doing so. I shall not have anything more to say on that particular aspect of the question, but, I would like to allude to a new interpretation we had placed before us a few days ago. We have always thought, when we increased our trade that we really had increased our trade. But, I find that we have not done that owing to a new system which has been introduced by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster). I am not going to weary the House with an explanation of this system, but I am going

to read something from the speech of the hon. gentleman which will prove exceedingly interesting. In order to remove the favourable impression which has been created by this tremendous development of trade which has taken place in the last three years, the hon. gentleman introduces what he calls Bradstreet trade barometer by which he seeks to convince us that this increase of trade has not taken place and that we are the victims of some deception. He says:

As every financier knows, there is kept up in the old country and in the United States, and to a certain extent in this country, what is known as a barometer of prices from year to year. There is none better on this continent than that kept by Bradstreet. . . . In 1890 the index price number was 105,996. In 1895 it had gone down to 71,672, or a drop of 47 per cent. What does that mean? It means that the average value of articles in 1895, taking all classes and kinds, was 47 per cent lower than in 1890.

He said, if the prices that ruled in 1890 were applied to the trade of 1895, the trade of 1895 would be increased by 47 per cent, or \$95,645,000, but, fortunately, for the hon. ex-Minister of Finance he made a terrible mistake. He said it was 47 per cent instead of which it is only 32 per cent, and then he goes on and applies this 47 per cent to the trade of the country. He continues:

Suppose we work that out. Taking the exports and imports in 1895, their valuation in Canada was \$203,504,332. We now want to find what the value of that 1895 trade would have been according to the prices of 1890. We add 47 per cent, which is \$95,645,000, and you have \$299,150,000 as the trade of 1895, and that would have been its value had it kept the level of prices attained in 1900.

In this the hon. gentleman made a mistake of 15 per cent. By taking 47 per cent instead of 32 per cent he makes a mistake of \$30,000,000 in his ultimate result. Some people would think that this was a mistake of considerable magnitude, but, what is \$30,000,000 when you consider how hon. gentlemen talk about things in this House. He must have known that this would be found out, he must have seen that somebody would discover an error of such magnitude. Some people might be under the impression that this was done intentionally, but I do not think it was, because, I see where the hon. gentleman made his mistake. He made a mistake of 15 per cent, and on the ultimate result he made a mistake of \$30,000,000. Besides, he made a mistake in his application of 17 per cent which he gives as the difference in values between 1899 and 1896. He applies it to the imports of 1895 which were \$203,000,000, and increased them to \$238,000,000 instead of which he should have applied it on the trade of 1899, amounting to \$292,000,000, and reduced that by 17 per cent which makes \$50,000,000 of a difference. He should have seen that he was wrong because all he had to do was to turn over to the tonnage on the ocean to

have found it out. With all these magnificent evidences of trade values he brought the increased trade down to \$30,000,000 or 14 per cent while the actual increase was \$84,000,000. In 1895 our ocean tonnage amounted to 19,000,000 tons, and in 1889, it amounted to 25,420,000 tons, or an increase in these four years, of 6,319,000 tons, or 33 per cent. He might have also satisfied himself by turning over to the railway tonnage of the country. The railway tonnage, in 1895, was 21,870,000 tons, and in 1899 it was 31,211,000 tons, or an increase of 9,659,000 tons, or 45 per cent. Although he can try to make himself believe that we are only dealing in values he cannot make the managers of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway believe, that, when they declared their magnificent dividends, it was only values that they were carrying. Any one may see, if he looks through the country, that it is not values that is causing the smoke to ascend from the chimneys of the workshops, it is not values that these trains are carrying from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is goods they are carrying; it is volumes they are carrying, and it is because the people have volumes that they are industrious and contented to-day. I may say that it is easy to understand the difficulty that some people would have in wading through Bradstreet's trade barometer, but, a man with the little arithmetical knowledge he may have attained in attending school for a year or two will be able to say: I know that this gentleman must be wrong. The other day an hon. gentleman ventured to quote from the Bible, and he was venturesome enough to say that if it was a friend that questioned the blind man who said: 'One thing I know; whereas I was blind now I see.' It was a Pharisee that did that, and I beg to assure my hon. friend that a great many people and a great many farmers, when they see this involved calculation of the hon. gentleman will say: Whereas I was out of work in 1896 now I have work, whereas I had no money in 1896, I have money, whereas, my land had no value in 1896, now, it has value and is in demand, whereas the workshops were idle in 1896, now, they are deluged with orders, whereas there was poverty in 1896, now there is plenty, whereas I was hungry in 1896, now I am fed.

Mr. BERGERON. What about coal oil?

Mr. HEYD. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) asks me what about coal oil. Any man who is getting 25 per cent more wages than he did in 1896 does not care if he has to pay a cent a gallon more for his coal oil. I have just referred to this point to show how easy it is to make mistakes, and I may add that others have been made of a similar character. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce reproached the hon. ex-Minister

of Finance (Mr. Foster) with making mistakes and the hon. ex-Minister of Finance apologized in this House, but, unfortunately, his apology did not go out of the House. His utterances go into the newspapers and into thousands of houses where they cannot be contradicted. I have referred to these exaggerations on the part of the hon. gentleman in the hope of counteracting the effect of the libels that have been sent broadcast through the country. Now, Sir, I regard this preferential tariff as the most important question that has been presented to parliament for many years, and I wish to discuss it briefly. Let me call your attention to what the Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) classed as luxuries in his speech in this House, in which he said, that the preferential tariff favoured the importation of luxuries. Let me draw attention to what he considers luxuries so that hon. gentlemen in this House may have an idea of the kind of argument he indulges in. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) said :

I do not propose to say much more with reference to this question of preference. It is evident that the preference of 12½ per cent did not have much effect. It is equally evident from the statistics, that the preference of 25 per cent did not have very much more stimulating effect. What is one of the first effects of this cut of 33½ per cent, made hastily, without discrimination as to articles. It is that it places articles of luxury about the lowest on the list of dutiable goods coming into this country. If the 33½ per cent cut is effective it lets jewellery in at 20 per cent. It lets manufactures of gold and silver used by rich people in at 20 per cent; it lets in silks, which are used by the wealthy, at 23½ per cent; it lets in laces at 23½ per cent; it lets in pianos at 20 per cent; it lets in porcelain goods at 20 per cent; it lets ribbons in at 23½ per cent; it lets shawls and rugs in at 20 per cent; it lets in watches at 16½ per cent; it admits high class worsted goods at 23½ per cent; velvets at 20 per cent; Brussels carpets at 23½ per cent; cottons, gray and white, at 16½ per cent, and coloured cottons at 23½ per cent.

It is an acknowledged principle in the levying of tariff rates in every country that what we call the luxuries of life, which can be afforded by the rich and not much wanted by the poorer classes of people, shall pay a higher percentage of duty. Under this cut, if it be effective, these articles will be amongst those which pay the least duty, and our farmers and artisans will not derive any benefit compared with that derived by the richer classes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, assuming that what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) said, was true, and that these articles were really luxuries, was it worth while to try to create the prejudice in the minds of the farmers, the artisans, and the workingmen of this country, that the government were trying to favour the rich? Let us see what foundation he had for that statement, and in inquiring into that, we will discover whether his definition of an article of luxury is right or wrong. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), told us that 'cottons, gray and white will be reduced to 16½ per cent.' Does any man

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in this House believe that common gray and white and coloured cottons, which are used in every household in the land, are articles of luxury? Does it strike any one here, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), was wise in his selection, when he included cottons among the luxuries, which are used only by the rich? Well, Sir, we imported of cottons \$3,891,000 worth under the preferential clause last year, and the tariff being reduced by one-ninth, on these, under the preference, it means that \$100,000 will be saved to the people of this country in reduced duties on cottons, by the preferential rate. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) then quoted worsteds as luxuries, and of these and other woollen goods we imported to the extent of \$7,686,431. Now, are worsteds and woollens regarded as luxuries? I do not think so. I have been throughout the length and breadth of this country, and everywhere I see the people clothed in comfortable woollen garments. Then, they are not luxuries. I do not myself know how the people are dressed in the part of the Dominion from which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), comes, but I can assure him that in Ontario, I have not yet met a man clothed in camel's hair, with a leathern girdle around his waist. We imported of silk, \$800,000—I admit silk is a luxury—and the present duty is 23½, the reduction under the preferential tariff, amounting to \$20,000. Let us ask ourselves the question: How it could be possible that a gentleman who has been Finance Minister of this country, should have made such a selection of luxuries as he did? We will go on now to what might be described as genuine luxuries. Admitting that porcelain is an article of luxury, our importations last year, under the preferential tariff, amounted to \$58,000, and the preferential reduction in the tariff of that item, would be \$1,450. Of jewellery, worn by the rich, as he says, we imported \$30,000, and the reduction being 2½ per cent, the saving to the rich would be \$750. Of gold and silver, we imported \$20,000 (it is still 20 per cent duty), and the saving to the rich on that head, would be \$500. Of ribbons, we imported \$156,000 worth. Now, I am not aware that the rich and the luxury-loving classes are the people that particularly use ribbons. I have noticed in passing through my own native city and the city of Ottawa, how the ladies who are not luxurious, try and ornament themselves and make themselves still more attractive by a discreet use of ribbons. So far as I can see anything, I notice that ostrich plumes, and birds of Paradise are the luxuries of the rich, but for the servant girl and shop girl, and the daughter of the artisan and mechanic, they must content themselves with ribbons, and, therefore, in selecting ribbons as an article of luxury, used by the rich and not the poor, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) made a terrible mistake. Let us see the saving on a few more luxuries

under the preferential rate: Of carriage rugs, we imported \$26,000, saved by the reduction, \$650. Of rugs and mats, we imported \$22,000 worth, and by the preferential rate, there was saved \$550. Of velvet plush, we imported \$183,000 worth, and by the preferential tariff, there was saved \$4,575. Of silks, we imported \$193,000, saving by the preferential rate, \$4,825. Of pianos—pianos, that is where the ex-Minister of Finance strikes. He is amongst that class, of whom the poet said:

The man that hath not music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), therefore, wants to prevent pianos from coming into this country, and suppose he were successful what would be the result? Why we imported last year \$1,764 worth of pianos, so that there would be a saving on that score of \$44 to the rich and luxury-loving classes of this country. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), strikes at watches. Like Old Father Time, he knew that time was coming, and so he closes up with the watch, and he tells us that watches are the exclusive property of the rich. I suppose the farmer is governed by the blast of the tin bugle, and that the artisan in the city is called to dinner by the sound of the whistle, and so, according to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), there is only the rich and luxury-loving classes that use watches. Well, last year we imported of watches, \$1,792 worth, and the preferential tariff would affect that just to the amount of \$45 to the benefit of the rich. But, it is in silk shawls that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), excels himself. Ordinary shawls are included with the woollen luxuries of the hon. gentleman, and so are silk shawls, but they come in under a separate item in the tariff. Of silk shawls we imported to the value of \$551 worth, upon which the saving under the preferential tariff, would be \$19 to the rich and luxury-loving classes of this country. On all these items, I have quoted, from porcelain down to silk shawls, the saving to the rich, would amount when totalled up, to \$17,939, and, I think, it was hardly worth while, in view of that, for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), to make a 15-minutes speech, to try and convince the artisans and farmers of this country, that the rich and luxury-loving classes were being favourably dealt with, by the government of Canada. Let us simmer down this \$17,939, and see what it amounts to. Why, it amounts to exactly three-tenths of 1 cent to each individual in Canada, and it amounts exactly to one-two hundred-and-seventieths of 1 per cent of the total revenue of this country. But, it may be said that by reducing the tariff it will encourage the importation of these things. Well, suppose it does. Suppose it doubles the importation, it will give you \$35,857 worth, and suppose

it trebles it, which I think is not very likely, it will amount to \$53,817 worth, or 1 cent per head of the population of Canada, or one-ninetieth of 1 per cent of the entire revenue of this country. That is all there is involved in these articles that are called luxuries. I do not think our friend was very wise in selecting them. Let me give you some reasons how I believe that this preference will work. In the first place, it is a revenue-producer; in the second place, it is a price producer. I will give you an example to show exactly how the thing works. I will address myself to the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). He is a dry goods man, and can grasp exactly what I mean. Suppose a merchant buys from Great Britain \$1,000 worth of goods, and pays 20 per cent duty on them; that is \$200, which make them cost \$1,200 by the time they lie on his counter. He buys \$1,000 worth of goods from the United States or from any other country in the world to which the preference does not apply; he pays 30 per cent duty on them, amounting to \$300, which brings the cost of the goods to \$1,300 by the time they lie on his counter. Then he puts on his 20 per cent profit, which on the British goods amounts to \$240, making them cost to the consumer \$1,440. His 20 per cent profit on the United States goods amounts to \$260, making them cost to the consumer \$1,560, or a difference of \$120 between the \$1,000 worth of goods from the United States and the \$1,000 worth from Great Britain. Let us suppose that instead of buying \$1,000 worth of goods, a man buys a coat. He buys one in England at \$10 and one in the United States at \$10. The 20 per cent duty on the English coat makes it cost \$12, and the 30 per cent duty on the American coat makes it cost \$13. Twenty per cent profit makes the English coat cost \$14.40 to the consumer and makes the American coat cost \$15.60 to the consumer—both coats alike in every respect. What are the people going to do? They will take the British goods. A man goes into a store, and says: 'What do you ask for that coat?' '\$14.40.' 'What do you ask for that one?' '\$15.60.' 'I don't see any difference between them,' he says. 'There is none,' says the merchant, 'except that the \$14.40 one is English and the \$15.60 one is American.' 'Well, I will take the English coat; it is good enough for me.' The American manufacturer of the coat comes along and says: 'Why are you not selling my coat?' 'It is too dear,' the merchant tells him, and he goes through the whole formula, and shows him that it costs more than the English coat before it reaches the buyer. Then the American says: 'I guess I will have to cut down my price; how much must I reduce it in order to enable you to sell it as cheaply as the English coat?' 'You will have to sell it at \$9.23.' The result will be that the government will get 77 cents more revenue

on the American coat than on the English coat, while the customer gets it at the same price.

Mr. BERGERON. How does my hon. friend explain that the imports from the United States have increased, while the imports from Great Britain have diminished?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Where does the hon. gentleman get his information when he says that the imports from Great Britain have diminished?

Mr. BERGERON. Does the hon. gentleman deny that American imports have increased?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is not the question. The hon. gentleman said the imports from Great Britain had diminished.

Mr. BERGERON. I said the imports from Great Britain had decreased a great deal in proportion to American imports.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. They have not decreased at all.

Mr. BERGERON. Then, the story of my hon. friend does not amount to anything.

Mr. HEYD. I do not wish to get involved in any personal discussion; I have more important work on hand. Now, there is no doubt that some of the manufacturers, those engaged in the woollen and the spinning industries particularly, will come in contact with the reduced cost of goods. They will not be able to sell \$1,000 worth of goods at \$1,300 any longer. They will have to sell them for \$1,200 to meet the English manufacturer. To that extent they are going to suffer from this competition, and I sympathize with them. I say that the increase in the preference can only be justified in so far as it reduces the price of goods to the consumer. In the first preference we did everything that was necessary to show our good-will to Great Britain. The additional one is to assist the government in carrying out the pledge they made that they would reduce the cost of the necessaries of life in this country. The Canadian manufacturer is in this position: 'It is true, my profits will be reduced one-ninth; I do not like that; but one thing I do like is the finality of this thing. I would rather submit to a reduction of one-ninth in my profits and know what is to come in the future than to have the sword of Mahomet hanging over me.' Now, I want to direct the attention of men engaged in business, especially in the woollen and spinning industries, to the following words of the Minister of Finance:

I submit that as things are to-day in Canada, that is a fair revenue tariff, and I do not think

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that the advocates of tariff reduction would ask us to go on that class of articles below the rates we have now named; and inasmuch as tariff stability is very desirable, and inasmuch as confidence in business is the secret, to a large extent, of prosperity, I want to say to all concerned that I regard that rate of 23½ per cent as a fair and reasonable tariff, with which, I think, the country will be satisfied, and I do not anticipate a reduction on that class of articles, for a reasonable time in the future.

The manufacturers of this country know that when the Minister of Finance says that, he speaks for the government, and he means what he says. If they are dissatisfied, they have a remedy provided by our hon. friends on the other side of the House. These hon. gentlemen do not tell them that if they obtain control of the government benches they will rescind that preference. On the contrary, they say it is an accomplished fact, and it is going to remain on the statute-book. There is no use of turning out this government to put them in, so far as the preference is concerned, because it is going to remain. But they have a new remedy, and this is the remedy, as moved by the ex-Minister of Finance:

That this House is of the opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in the commerce between these countries, and would, therefore, promote and maintain the unity of the empire, and that nothing which falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory.

That reads beautifully because of its indefiniteness. Why not round it off by adding: 'And that the said policy should provide for the equal distribution of the benefits resulting to all classes of the community.' Let us analyse this resolution, and see if we can extract any meaning out of it. I venture to say that there are no two gentlemen on either side of this House who, if asked to state what this resolution means, would agree. We are all in a position to put our own construction upon it, and I am prepared to give you mine. Let us read it carefully:

That this House is of the opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in—

I do not suppose there is in this House to-day a man who knows what these words mean: 'greatly stimulate increased production in.' If it had said: 'greatly stimulate production,' I could understand it. If they had said: 'would greatly increase the trade of the country,' or 'greatly stimulate production,' I could understand that, but when they talk of 'greatly stimulating increased production,' that is too much for me and I do not profess to be much of a grammarian. I defy any man to get any sense out of it,

but commenting on this resolution, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) said :

We believe that it will be the essence of fairness, that it would contribute to the good of this country and Great Britain herself, that it would be an immense binding power the empire through, if we could have a mutual preference, giving benefits to both parties, and creating a current in trade matters between Great Britain and all her colonies. No one will dispute that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I dispute it. I do not pose as a great authority, but I dispute that statement in toto, and I am not alone in the opinion I express. I say it would be most disastrous, not only to this country but Great Britain as well. A preference by Great Britain in favour of her self-governing colonies on her imports from them of food products, amounting to \$200,000,000, would involve placing a duty on her imports of foreign food stuffs, amounting to \$941,000,000. A duty of 5 per cent on these would mean a tax of \$47,500,000 on the people of Great Britain.

As regards the effect upon Canada, according to Mr. Chamberlain, the only thing that would induce Great Britain even to consider the question would be free trade among all portions of the empire. This would destroy our manufacturing industries with which British products come into competition and would jeopardize Britain's export trade to foreign countries, amounting to \$991,000,000. Here are two propositions that I believe I can prove to any man who is open to conviction. It may be said that in using the phrase 'free trade between all parts of the empire,' I am drawing on my imagination, but I can assure you, Sir, such is not the case. Let me quote from the speeches of a man who holds this question in the hollow of his hand, and whose opposition would make it a moral impossibility. I have heard argument after argument by hon. gentlemen opposite to prove that we had refused British preference, but I do not think it worth while to take notice of them. Personally, I would refuse such a preference, because it would cost us too much. It would destroy our industries and it would also increase the cost of food to Great Britain. Business is business, and if there is one business which the devil delights to engage in more than another, it is the business of increasing the cost of food to the people.

Mr. hon. friends opposite may take what comfort they can from a forced construction of Mr. Chamberlain's speeches, but I have here the British Empire League report, covering three years, and I cannot find a speech in the whole collection which would convey the impression that we can ever get a preference in Great Britain. The only reference to it is by Mr. Chamberlain himself, and he says we can only get it along the lines of free trade. Alluding to the Ottawa convention, he said :

The principal resolution—principal, at all events, in regard to its importance—which was passed at that conference, was in the following terms: 'That this conference records its belief in the advisability of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and her colonies, by which trade within the empire may be placed upon a more favourable footing than that which is carried on with foreign countries.'

That is a very concrete resolution, which appeals to a man's common sense, because we know what it means. It is not an involved, confused resolution like the one before the House. Let us see what Mr. Chamberlain himself says, and remember where he said it. He said it to an audience of gentlemen representing the colonies of Great Britain, and if there ever was a time when he would strive to make his meaning clear, without at the same time hurting the susceptibilities, it was then. On ordinary occasions, when he was a free agent, he would have scouted the proposition in the most forcible manner, without using any ceremony. This is what he said :

Now, Sir, do not let us minimize the proposition we are asked to consider. It would involve, in the case of the United Kingdom, a most serious disturbance of our trade; it would be a great change in the principles which for many years past have guided our commercial policy. It involves the imposition of a duty, it may be small, but it is a duty, upon food and raw material, and whatever may be the result of imposing such a duty, as to which, if I had time, I could discourse for many minutes—whatever may be the actual results—the tendency is to increase the cost of living, which would increase the pressure upon the working classes of this country. (No, no, and hear, hear)——

The hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill), had he been there, would have shouted 'no, no,' as loudly as any of them.

And it would also have a tendency to increase the cost of production, which would put us, of course, in a worse position than now in competition with foreign countries in neutral markets. I see no use in shutting my eyes to the consequences of the proposition—(cheers)—which I desire to consider with an impartial mind. The first thing is to establish the facts, and the facts are as I have stated.

He goes on to say :

My fourth proposition is that a true Zollverein for the empire, that a free trade established throughout the empire, although it would involve the imposition of duties against foreign countries, and would be in that respect a derogation from the high principles of free trade and from the practice of the United Kingdom up to the present time, would still be a proper subject for discussion, and might probably lead to a satisfactory arrangement if the colonies, on their part, were willing to consider it.

In that case we would, as an indispensable condition, have to arrange among ourselves a strictly revenue tariff.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. HEYD. Mr. Chamberlain goes on to say :

For instance, we cannot admit free trade in spirits or in tobacco, and to any gentleman who has any experience, other articles will suggest themselves, which in one part of the empire or another are the subject of strictly revenue duties, and might, by common agreement, be excluded from any such arrangement.

Mark the words 'strictly revenue duties.' What does Mr. Chamberlain mean? Does he mean that we are going to surreptitiously protect the manufacturing interests of this country? Not at all. He goes on to say :

But the principle which I claim must be accepted if we are to make any, even the slightest, progress is that within the different parts of the empire protection must disappear.

Is not that straight enough and plain enough? He told us distinctly and honestly that we must have free trade. That is the only proposition upon which Imperial preference can be entertained; but, even if we did consent to free trade, the reasons which Mr. Chamberlain would urge against a British preference to the colonies would be still so great that it would be impossible to presume for a moment that we would get it. Let me read you an authority which, if not satisfactory to everybody, will convince some people. Speaking of Britain's trade with Australia, he says :

Imports have grown with extraordinary rapidity, but our exports to Australia have been for some years declining, the colonists showing less disposition than before to take our merchandise.

And speaking of Canada :

This picture resembles that of Australia, imports increasing by leaps and bounds, while our exports to Canada are falling. . . . It is evident, in the case of Canada, as in that of Australia, that the colonists find it convenient to deal more and more with foreign nations, and hence any attempt at an Imperial Zollverein between Great Britain and her colonies would be ruinous to the latter, and would ultimately break up the empire.

These are the words of Michael G. Mulhall, one of the most eminent authorities in Britain. We have now also the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain. It appears that the plain language he used in the Chamber of Commerce was not plain enough, and some of us have gone fooling around after this preference still. Now, he has spoken again, and this is what he says :

We are not going to interfere in the domestic affairs of the colonies. Nor are they going to interfere in ours. I have never advocated, as has been reported, the formation of an Imperial Zollverein, but I have pointed out that if there were to be any kind of fiscal arrangements with the colonies, I believe the only form that would meet with the slightest favour would be an Imperial Zollverein in which there would be free trade between the portions of the empire.

Mr. HEYD.

What is the use of discussing the case? If these hon. gentlemen are honest, they will concede that the resolution they have on the paper is a sham; and if it is a sham, it is a sham of which they certainly ought to be ashamed. Bad as my opinion of them is, I cannot think that they have fallen so low as to go before the country with a policy which is a mere sham. Mr. Mulhall and Mr. Chamberlain have spoken, now let us hear what Lord Rosebery says. I shall quote some extracts from his address before the Manchester Chamber of Commerce in 1897 :

Of all the mad things we have heard in our days, the re-enactment of the corn laws is the maddest we can possibly conceive. (Cheers.)

What is the giving of a preference to Canada but the re-enactment of the corn laws, at least in part. It means making the imports of foodstuffs from foreign countries dearer in order that the colonies may have the benefit. Let us hear what Lord Rosebery says, for he deals with this very problem. We shall then have the opinions of three of England's great men, Mulhall, Chamberlain and Rosebery; but if you could get the opinion of the workshops of England, you would find the same, for it would be upon those who work in British shops that this tax would rest with the greatest weight. There are a great many people in England who are attached to free trade, and it would be difficult to move them. Addressing the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, he would be addressing thousands of such men. He says :

But these are not the sole services that free trade has rendered us. In my judgment, whatever that may be worth, free trade has preserved the empire.

And he quotes a speech of our own Premier :

'There are parties who hope to maintain the British Empire upon lines of restricted trade. If the British Empire is to be maintained, it can only be upon the most absolute freedom, political and commercial. In building up this great enterprise, to deviate from the principle of freedom will be to so much weaken the ties and bonds which now hold it together.' Well, that is a view that I hold, and that I believe you hold in this hall. (Cheers.)

I presume those cheers were from a thousand throats, endorsing that statement.

I believe that anything in the direction of an Imperial commercial league would weaken this empire internally, and excite the permanent hostility of the whole world.

Then he goes on with a nice little bit of humour, which hon. gentlemen, I am sure, will appreciate, even if all do not admit the truth of the statement made :

Now, I begin to feel that in approaching this subject I ought to tread tenderly and delicately,

because, though the proposition has been often made, it has been recently made from a political point of view, and therefore I ought perhaps to avoid it altogether. I treat it, however, not with regard to its recent development—which is only its latest—but as regards the doctrine which has been held forth for many years by men of both political parties, that such a league is eminently desirable. I tread delicately near the subject for another reason, because I believe that the idea is dead. (Hear, hear.) I tread near it with the reverence due to a corpse. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, I respect all serious proposals for binding our empire more closely together. A great part of my life I have been studying those proposals, and I respect their motive and try to support them, but this particular proposal, I believe, would have a directly contrary effect to that which its promoters claim for it. In the first place, it would be a disturbance of free trade. Free trade need not be considered an idol or a fetish, but it is, at all events, the system on which our commercial greatness has grown up and developed, and he would be a rash man that would endeavour to lay hands upon it. (Cheers.) In the next place, the proposal, if I understand it rightly, would tend to interpose checks upon the free import of the food of the people. I believe that that is absolutely impracticable, but that if it were practicable, and were done in the name of the empire, it would only succeed in making the empire odious to working classes of this country. (Cheers.) And there is another objection not less fatal—although it is external and not internal.

Gentlemen, I think it must have occurred to you that such an empire as ours cannot be built up without exciting great jealousies. The aggrandizement of nations is something like the aggrandizement of individuals. If you see a person who was very poor suddenly blossom out with a prodigious fortune, you are apt to envy him, and further, to believe that that fortune may not have been too honestly acquired. I suspect that something of the same sensation comes over foreign nations when they look at the chart of the world and see how largely the British Empire bulks in it. (Cheers.) Well, apply this fact to the proposal to which I have been alluding. Suppose, in the face of this suspicion, that it were proposed to establish an Imperial customs union. I believe that to be an impossibility, but supposing it were possible, it would be something which would place all the nations of the world in direct antagonism to it. It is something which, if possible, they would all combine to destroy.

Our empire is peace, it makes peace, it means peace, it aims at peace. (Cheers.) Its extension under free trade is for the benefit of all nations. Its motto is the old one of the volunteers, 'Defence, not defiance.' A scattered empire like ours, founded upon commerce and cemented by commerce, an empire well defended, so as not to invite wanton aggression, can mean and make for nothing but peace. We have on our side, in the long run, all that makes for peace and free commerce in the world. That is a fact that all nations know in their hearts. It is a fact that no wise statesman can hope to disregard. But an empire spread all over the world, with a uniform barrier of a customs union presented everywhere, would be, in comparison—I will not say an empire of war, but a perpetual menace, or, at least, a perpetual irritation.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. HEYD. Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned at six o'clock I had shown that Lord Rosebery said that any preferential scheme, or any scheme of customs union that would have a tendency to increase the cost of food to the consumers, was a mad scheme, and if it did not disrupt it would jeopardize the empire. I quoted from Mulhall's words to the same effect, that it would ruin the colonies and break up the empire. I also read from Mr. Chamberlain's speech that free trade was the only basis upon which this question could be discussed. I intend to give briefly what I believe to be the reasons that caused these gentlemen to express themselves in this manner. When we are talking of Great Britain and of making a commercial union with Great Britain, let us realize of whom we are talking. Let us realize that we are proposing to make an arrangement, not with a bankrupt country, but with the greatest commercial nation which this world has ever seen. The trade of Great Britain last year amounted, for the first time in the history of the world, to £815,000,000. At \$4.86 to the pound, her trade amounted to \$3,960,000,000. The trade of Great Britain is not paralyzed, notwithstanding what has been said by some hon. gentlemen who profess to be more friendly to Great Britain than is evidenced by their acts. The imports of Great Britain last year over the preceding year amounted to \$70,000,000, while her exports amounted to \$175,000,000 over the figures of the preceding year. The increase of her trade last year amounted to \$246,000,000, as large an amount as the entire trade of this great Dominion of ours. It is to this country that we are making a proposition to alter the trade conditions that have grown up there during the past 40 years. And what do we offer them as an inducement?

Now, let me show you what her exports and imports were last year. I take these figures from the British blue-book, and we will then be able to judge why it is that the scheme of preferential trade is pronounced to be the emanation of brains that are mad. The imports of Great Britain last year from foreign countries were \$1,802,000,000; from her colonial possessions, \$270,000,000, and from her protectorates, \$214,000,000. Her exports were \$991,000,000 to foreign countries; \$214,000,000 to the colonies; and \$223,000,000 to her protectorates. These figures are reduced from pounds, \$4.86 to the pound. Her imports of food products amount to \$1,141,000. I leave out the small items. It strikes me, Great Britain would have to put a customs duty upon these products in order to establish this trade preference with her colonies and naturally to all her protectorates.

A great many gentlemen assume that this will simply involve placing a duty on Canadian wheat. They must realize that

amongst the colonies and protectorates of Great Britain every conceivable kind of food is produced. She would get her fish from one part of the empire, her wheat from another part, her sheep and beef from another part, her tea principally from India. Taking it all in all, there is not an article of food product that goes into Great Britain but comes from some of her colonies or protectorates. Assuming, then, that the intention is to levy a certain rate of customs duty upon the food importations of Great Britain, we have first to ascertain, approximately at least, what that amount would be. That amount, as far as I can make it out, is \$1,141,000,000. Now, what is the sum proposed to be levied upon these goods? Each man, according to his humour, paints strange landscapes, dark or bright. But I heard the ex-Minister of Finance say 5 per cent. He might as well have said 10, or 20, or 50 per cent. But, assuming it is 5 per cent, I have based my calculations upon that figure. At 5 per cent it amounts probably to about 2 cents a bushel on barley, maybe a cent and a quarter on oats, probably 2 or 3 cents on wheat. I have not made out the calculation, but it amounts to a big sum when you apply it to \$1,141,000,000 of importations. Now, let us apply it in that way and what is the result? We find that Great Britain imported from her colonies \$200,000,000 worth of stuff. If she levied 5 per cent on all foreign food products, it would amount to \$47,000,000. If the amount was less than 5 per cent, or did not apply on all goods, it would lessen this amount, and the benefits all round.

Now, I assume Great Britain would levy 5 per cent upon her imports from the rest of the world, amounting to \$941,000,000. Five per cent on that amount would be \$47,000,000, and that amount would be added to the taxes of the people, to enable Great Britain to pay her colonies \$10,000,000 more for their products. That is the first proposition.

Now, take the second proposition. Her exports of dutiable goods to her colonies amount to \$150,000,000. There are no trade returns available, but applying Canada's proportion of dutiable to total imports, that would be the approximate amount—they may be larger or they may be smaller—but, for the purpose of my argument, I assume that they are the same with all countries, the dutiable goods going into the colonies amount to \$150,000,000, while Great Britain's export to foreign countries amount to \$991,000,000. Assuming that we could establish a customs arrangement with Great Britain whereby a tariff wall would be placed against the world, assuming that it would have the effect of enabling Great Britain to supply her colonies with twice, or three times what we are now getting, what would be the result of confining her market to \$450,000,000 worth of her products, she would still have to find a market

for \$691,000,000 worth in foreign countries. In my opinion we would have the world against Great Britain and her colonies. We would have two hostile tariffs, one of the world against Great Britain and her colonies and one of Great Britain and her colonies against the world. I will read to the House a quotation showing how exceedingly close the competition is now in certain markets of the world between Great Britain and the United States, Belgium, Germany, France and other producers of manufactured articles. It would have the tendency that it would necessarily increase the cost price of food, it would increase the cost price of the materials which Great Britain has to export, and as competition is keen now, it would certainly be keener to the extent that this duty upon her food would increase the cost of her products. I will show you how close, in the opinion of the hon. ex-Minister of Finance, the competition is to-day. Everybody knows that the United States towers above every other country in the world in the production of iron, and that she has practically a complete monopoly in her own country, and a very large hold upon every neutral market in the world. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance says:

There is—and everybody knows that the United States of America to-day towers above every other country in the world in her production of iron—that she practically has a complete monopoly in her own country and a very large hold upon every neutral market in the world. To-day there is no competition which faces Great Britain so keen, so threatening, as the competition of the United States in the markets of the world in iron goods of every description.

That is the position which presents itself now. What would be the condition of affairs with a hostile tariff arrayed against Great Britain and her colonies, and with the cost of the production of her goods greater than it is now? You can easily see that to get the limited market that now exists among her colonies and in her protectorates it would never be in the interest of Great Britain to sacrifice the foreign markets of the world. Furthermore, widely separated as her colonies are, is it probable that we could make any combination of that kind without menacing her trade with every other country in the world. The proposition stares us in the face: Will it increase the cost of food products in Great Britain, and if it does increase the cost of food, will it increase wages? If it increases the wages of Great Britain it necessarily follows that it will increase the prices of her wares in foreign countries, because the goods that Great Britain would export would be less able to compete in neutral markets. We know what effect it had upon Belgium and Germany the moment we gave the preference to Great Britain. They immediately wiped us off the list of countries

that were permitted to trade with them under the favoured-nation clauses of existing treaties. It did not take Belgium and Germany long to tell us that we could not send our goods into those countries on the same basis as other people which enjoyed favoured-nation treatment, and how long would it be if England were to adopt the same course until other nations would adopt the same course towards her, and the favoured-nation clauses in treaties would tumble to the ground? In order to be able to sell to the colonies of Great Britain probably twice as much as she sells them now, she would be required to make this sacrifice. In view of such a condition as this, is it reasonable that Great Britain should be expected to sacrifice a foreign trade of a thousand million dollars for the sake of a paltry \$200,000,000 worth of trade with her colonies? Assuming that she would have a trade of \$400,000,000 with her colonies, why should she jeopardize her foreign trade of a thousand million dollars for that consideration? It would unite the world against her, it would destroy her foreign market and it would destroy the colonial foreign market, because the world would raise a barrier against her colonies, and we would be debarred from going into neutral markets, as we expect to be able to do. The result would be that we would be tied down in our trade with one particular country. We believe that nature has placed us in such a favourable position that, within a reasonable period of time, we may become an exporter to the foreign nations of the world, and here, the proposition is made to tie our hands, to strangle every effort we may put forth, to limit ourselves for a period of time, to confine ourselves to trade with Great Britain, with British colonies and with the protectorates of Great Britain. That is altogether too limited for my idea, and it is inconsistent with the destiny of the people of this country. I say, furthermore, that to increase the prices of food products in Great Britain would create a rebellion in the mother country. We have heard to-day from Mr. Chamberlain, from Lord Rosebery, from Mr. Mulhall, but we have not yet heard from the 2,300,000 domestics, from the 1,600,000 commercial men in Great Britain, from the 9,000,000 men engaged in the mines and in the woollen mills and in the various industries of Great Britain, we have not heard from the million mechanics, we have not heard even from the 1,100,000 paupers that there are in Great Britain, we have not heard them state to us whether they are willing to have their food products taxed in order that Great Britain may make a present of \$10,000,000 a year to her colonies. These are the men who will settle this question, and not the men who occupy exalted positions. The men who consume the food, the men who look upon a dinner as a matter of great importance, these are the men who will

decide it over and above any amount of patriotism that people may shout from the platform. These men have not spoken yet. We have not yet heard from the men engaged in the mills and the men engaged in the industries of Great Britain, the men that make and unmake governments, and when they say that you can tax their food it will be time enough to talk seriously about preferential trade. Let us look upon it in a reasonable and rational way. I know that there are manufacturers on the other side of the House, I know that there are some of them shaking in their boots, I know that there are those who are ready to oppose the 33½ per cent preference to Great Britain; what would be the result if they had to face a reduction of 100 per cent? How long would the spinning and woollen mills last if we had free trade with Great Britain? These manufacturers tell us that they cannot compete with Great Britain now. They say that they have to exercise their brain constantly, to be always on the alert, to introduce new machinery, to compete with the cheaper and more expert labour of Great Britain, that here, they are confined to certain lines, while in Great Britain production is largely specialized. These men would rather stand by the present government with the 33½ per cent preference than face a 100 per cent preference in favour of Great Britain. There is no use of us trying to disguise the fact or to look at it in any other light. What does Mr. Chamberlain tell us:

We are not going to interfere in the domestic affairs of the colonies. Nor are they going to interfere in ours. I have never advocated, as has been reported, the formation of an Imperial Zollverein, but I have pointed out that if there were to be any kind of fiscal arrangement with the colonies, I believe the only form that would meet with the slightest favour would be an Imperial Zollverein, in which there would be free trade between the portions of the empire.

Do not let us disguise the facts. Do not let us conceal from ourselves that a man who speaks with the authority of knowledge, and also with the knowledge of authority, declares that it must be free trade. Our Conservative friends opposite have been for eighteen years catering to the manufacturers, who in return have kept them in power, but these gentlemen on the other side now propose a new dodge, and so, they say to themselves that they will tackle the farmer and try to fool him awhile. Do they think that our manufacturing friends are going to stand that? Not at all. Why, if the manufacturers believed that the Conservatives would carry out a mutual preferential tariff based on free trade, the same manufacturers would leave them like rats departing from a sinking ship. But, Sir, the majority of manufacturers in this country believe that this is a political dodge of the Conservative party.

I admit that some men, I won't say they are in the House, believe sincerely in the theory. They sleep with this idea of Imperial federation, and a mutual free trade preference; they carry it around with them, and they dream of it, and the idea has been so incorporated in the molecules of their brains that it becomes a fad with them. Sometimes you find a poor man who thinks he has a snake in his stomach, and sometimes he may think he is the Queen of England. If he gets into that sad frame of mind and cannot help it, I have sympathy with him, but I have no excuse for the men who go around saying that the Liberal preferential tariff is going to ruin the industries of Canada when they do not believe a word of it. I have no sympathy with men who try to play upon the prejudices and ignorance of the people of this country, and endeavour to stir up discontent for the simple sake of trying to make a party advantage of it. Sir, we have others to deal with and to consider in this matter. I am waiting to hear some day of a great meeting in Hyde Park, and you will hear a shout from the people who will have something to say if any attempt is made to increase the cost of food products in Great Britain. I believe that in such a case there would be a revolution in England. We have it on the testimony of such men as Lord Rosebery and Mr. Mulhall that a tax on food would disrupt the empire. No doubt Mr. Chamberlain was as polite as he possibly could be to those gentlemen who waited on him, but if I waited on the government and were turned away with such polite language as Mr. Chamberlain used, I would be sure I would not get anything from the government, and I would not try it the second time. What is the use of my discussing this question any longer.

Mr. BERGERON. Hear, hear.

Mr. HEYD. Yes, it is just as plain to my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron), who said 'hear, hear,' as it is to me, only he has a different motive for his course from that I have for mine. I have only one interest, and that is not to involve Canada in any undertaking that will tie up her hands in the future. On the other hand, it is amongst the possibilities that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) has a political object in saying 'hear, hear,' and that he does not speak quite so disinterestedly as I do on this question. Personally I have nothing to gain, but I have a sincere desire that this great empire of ours should increase and prosper, and I am anxious to do everything in my power to further that end. I have no fear for England from hostile foes without, but my fear is that the power that can injure Great Britain is a power that sleeps within the confines of Great Britain herself. Arouse that inert mass in England that is just beginning to realize their

Mr. HEYD.

power; arouse in them the idea that an increase in the taxation on foodstuffs is done for the purpose of making their condition in life harder, and then the real menace to Great Britain will be found amongst the masses of Great Britain's own population. I am not afraid that anything from South Africa or from the continent of Europe will injure the position of Great Britain, but I do say that the condition of her working classes must be made better, if there is to be real prosperity and happiness. I do say that the great inequalities between the highest classes and the lowest masses of the people must be to some extent removed, for it cannot exist for all time to come that one million one hundred thousand paupers shall receive aid from the state. Something better has to be done for the working classes of England than taxing their food, no matter how good the object of that taxation may be. For my own part I believe that business is business, but I do not want to become a party to any policy which would carry out what I regard as the devil's business. I believe that the idea of taxing the food of the English people is something that could only originate in the brain of a man who does not love his fellow man. I believe that righteousness exalteth a nation. Some people may have forgotten that, as I know some nations appear to have forgotten it, but there are still a few old-fashioned people who believe in the truth of the good saying. If we have a wise direction of our internal affairs in the empire, then I have no fear of a hostile combination against England, whether it be in commerce or by force of arms. With wise and prudent government and proper treatment of the people within the bounds of Great Britain herself, and within the vast territories beyond the seas, which owe her allegiance, I believe with that assurance that is born of certainty, that all the powers in the world cannot combine to injure us, and that we may always be in a position to joyfully sing with the Greater Britain:

Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
God Save the Queen.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). The hon. member (Mr. Heyd), who has just resumed his seat can boast the possession of one characteristic of his party, namely: That we cannot rely on his promise. When he rose to address the House he told us that he would speak for only a few minutes, but he has entertained us here for two and a half long hours. His speech was divided into two parts—the first comprising a great deal of figures, and the second a dissertation on the preferential tariff. Well, I shall not follow him in all his figures—

Mr. WOOD. You cannot.

Mr. BERGERON. It is not for the reason given by my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood), for if necessary I could point him to the statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), that involved and intricate figures were valueless in a speech, because the electors of Canada would never take the trouble of wading through them. During the last few days we have had from the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) what I may call one of the nicest budget speeches I have ever listened to in this House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BERGERON. Of course I must at once say that I entirely dissent from the conclusions at which the Finance Minister arrived. However, he gave us lots of figures, and the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) who sits beside me, rose immediately after him, and if any electors of this country had been listening in the gallery, the result would be that at the end of the speech of the hon. member for York, N.B., the impression left on their mind would be such that they would entirely have forgotten the figures given by the Minister of Finance. Then the Minister of Trade and Commerce spoke, and after him the chief of the opposition conclusively showed that the figures quoted by the Minister of Trade and Commerce had no bearing at all on the facts they were intended to prove. Then the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), spoke and unfortunately he had to address empty benches. However, he made a very long speech, entirely composed of figures, which evidently were not quite understood, for after they had been shown up in their true light by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), the hon. gentleman from South Brant (Mr. Heyd) had to get up in the House to-night to explain the figures of the Minister of Customs. That is my reason for saying that I shall not enter at any great length into figures. Let me dwell for a moment on this preferential tariff which the Liberal party laud so highly and think so much of. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd) made a very favourable speech from the point of view of the English manufacturer and the English workmen, but he seemed to forget entirely that he was a member of parliament for a Canadian constituency. It was perhaps truly said by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that the average elector in Canada would not sit down to study out the percentages on so much, and the comparisons between millions of dollars one year, and millions of dollars another year, but that he would simply take the results of the policy pursued by the government and compare them with the results of the policy pursued by their predecessors in power. I like that better. I shall leave my hon. friend from Brant in the hands of my hon.

friend from Stanstead (Mr. Moore), and my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson). They will have plenty of pleasure from his figures, and they will give the House and the country plenty of pleasure from them. I have read of a man who said that with figures he could do anything. Therefore, I do not want to bother the House with all these millions and hundreds of millions, which I am sure the electors will never read about. There is one thing we are sure of, that is, that the debt is higher to-day than it was in 1896. If my hon. friend from Brant were speaking on the hustings before the electors, and made the beautiful speech he has made to-day, and a man asked him, 'Mr. Heyd, is the debt higher to-day than it was in 1896?' My hon. friend would be obliged to say, 'Yes, it is higher by over \$8,000,000. The man would say, 'That is enough; I am satisfied; you may go and smoke your pipe all night now; you may give me all the explanations possible; but, you promised me before your party came into power, that the debt would not be increased, and it is increased.' Has the annual expenditure increased? That is another question the elector would put. Yes, it has increased, and increased very largely. These are the things that the electors understand. Does the consumer to-day buy cheaper than he did in 1896, I ask my friend the Minister of Customs? Does he buy his coal oil cheaper to-day than he did in 1896? Does the farmer buy his binder twine cheaper than he did in 1896? Do the tradesman, the joiner, the carpenter, the blacksmith, buy their tools cheaper to-day than they did in 1896? On the contrary, the consumer pays more for everything to-day than he did before 1896. Does the farmer sell more of his products at a higher price than he did in 1896? No.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. He may have had bigger crops, but surely the right hon. gentleman will not say that it is due to him and his party, if there have been good crops since 1896. The crops have been larger; but have the prices been better? No. That is what pertains to a government, whether the prices which the farmer obtains for his products are higher than he formerly received—not the fact of his having had larger crops. Is it due to the government if the times are better to-day than they were in 1896?

Mr. HEYD. Certainly.

Mr. BERGERON. Not at all. Will my hon. friend say that the better times in the United States are due to the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite? No; and it is the same all over the world. The thing that is surprising is that with such good times, the debt has increased, the annual expenditure of the government has gone up

and the consumers of the country are not in a better condition, but in a worse condition than they were in 1896. Do the workmen of the country receive higher wages than they did in 1896?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. Not at all. If they do, how can my hon. friend explain the different strikes in the factories that we hear of every day? Less than a month ago, there was a strike in my own county, with thousands of men doing nothing, because they wanted an increase in their wages, which had been decreased; and the same thing is going on all over the country. These are things that should not be satisfactory to those who pretend that they have brought prosperity to the country. Is the country richer to-day than it was in 1896?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose it is, because the debt has increased. I want to say a word to the Minister of Finance about the keeping of books. I read a day or two ago in one of the important Liberal papers of this country, a very severe criticism of the way in which my hon. friend keeps the books of the country, with regard to capital account and annual expenditure. That paper says it is extraordinary how governments succeed each other and how they deceive each other. It says that Mr. Fielding made a very good speech, in which he said he had a surplus of \$5,500,000 this year, and expects another surplus of \$7,000,000 next year. If my hon. friend had been here a few years ago, when the Conservative Minister of Finance brought down his budgets and announced surpluses year after year, he would have heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), then in opposition, criticising these surpluses, and asserting that they meant that the government was stealing from the poor people of this country. This paper goes on to say that the Minister of Finance, instead of boasting of his surpluses, should say that the debt has increased over \$8,000,000; because after all, it is the electors of Canada who pay the debts of Canada, and the expenditures, whether they are charged to capital account, or to ordinary account. I was speaking about my old friend, the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Some of the new members of this House, who did not hear him in the old days, should take a day or two during the recess, and read those speeches. It would do them good. They will find them in *Hansard*—those from 1882 to 1890, particularly, when we had large surpluses. They will find how cleverly the hon. gentleman can change his opinion. The hon. gentleman says now: 'Oh, things have changed; these are growing times; under the Conservative administration, it was wrong to have surpluses, but now that things are blooming everywhere, surpluses are a great boon to this country, because every-

Mr. BERGERON.

body is satisfied.' He is satisfied, and, of course he thinks everybody else is. He never said anything about the money that was spent for the American conference. What was that money spent for? For the benefit of whom? Who will ever derive the benefit of a cent from that \$35,000 which was spent by our ministers in promenading between Quebec and Washington? When we ask them what is the result of that conference, they are divided. Some say it is finished, and we shall never hear of it again; others say, there is a ray of hope that something may yet come of it. I believe myself, that nothing more will be heard of it, except that the country will have to pay the accounts of the gentlemen who took part in it. The hon. gentlemen never said anything about the \$200,000 which was spent on the prohibition plebiscite for the purpose of deceiving the good prohibitionists of this country. They do not say a word about the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, on which nearly \$2,000,000 was spent above what the Conservative government was to pay. We have not heard a word about the Drummond County Railway, for which \$1,600,000 of good Canadian money was paid, which should not have been paid, and in connection with which we have incurred a charge of \$140,000 a year, to be paid to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for 99 years, besides \$300,000 on the Victoria Bridge. This was discussed on a former occasion, and will be discussed again, but the hon. gentleman knows well it was the worst possible route the government could have taken by which to bring the Intercolonial Railway into Montreal.

There is not a word said by hon. gentlemen opposite about the money squandered at Coteau, of course it was but a small amount, \$16,000, but it was money absolutely thrown away, the only object of the expenditure being to help some friends and relatives of the ministers.

When the hon. Minister of Finance discourses on the great things the government have done with the tariff, what has he to say about cotton? That is an article on which the tariff was not lowered. On the contrary, the late tariff, was raised by hon. gentlemen opposite. What their object was I cannot say.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) has changed his mind very often, and there is one question in particular on which those who entered parliament some years ago will remember he pronounced himself with even more than his usual distinctness and positiveness. I refer to the bounty on iron. When the late government proposed a bounty of \$2 per ton on iron, my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, fulminated against it in his most stentorian tones and his best sardonic style and did all he could to prevent the measure passing. But what has he done since? He has supported a bounty

of \$3 a ton until 1907, and given it all the weight of his moral support.

Take my hon. friend the Postmaster General, who would know him to-day as the same man who was so prominent in opposition ten years ago? He has given us penny postage.

An hon. MEMBER. That is a good thing.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes, for those who write many letters. It is a good thing for the business man, but what good is it for the farmer, who writes very few letters in a year. Our farmers will have to pay this deficit of about half a million dollars due to the reduction in postage. Those who do not write letters will have to pay for those who do. That is one of the great boons given to the people by the Postmaster General, and is just on a par with that other boon of which he made such a display the other day, when he brought in a resolution compelling government contractors to pay their labouring men on government contracts according to the rates of pay prevailing in the locality where the work was being constructed. But when we asked the hon. gentleman to convert that resolution into a statute and make it the law, he refused. Why did he refuse? Because the whole thing was simply a device to make the workmen believe that hon. gentlemen opposite were friends of theirs, working in their interests, while at the same time there was nothing serious at the bottom of the resolution at all. We all remember how the same hon. gentleman, when in opposition, was the father of a measure to prevent members of parliament accepting government positions. He then thought it something terrible that a member of parliament should be appointed to a government position during his term of representation. But no sooner does my hon. friend become a minister than all his qualms disappear, and we now find that this government have appointed more members of parliament to office during their short term than the late government did in the eighteen years it held office. No wonder the people of Canada are daily losing confidence in these gentlemen. I am told also that the mail service in the Yukon has been done by the mounted police, and the expense is charged, not to the Post Office Department, but to the Militia Department. It is no wonder then that the Postmaster General, by being enabled in this way to very materially reduce the cost of his administration, can boast that although he has given penny postage there is hardly any deficit in his department.

Then there is my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture, of whom I would not say what I think, if I were to say anything uncomplimentary. I think he has been a good minister, so good that he has carried out what his predecessors in office had started. The only fault I have to find with my hon.

friend is that he arrogates to himself all the merit of establishing cold storage, but I think he should have the decency to remember that that system was established by the Conservative administration. He may have extended it and I hope he has. It would be something dreadful if we could not find some minister in this government who has done something good. But my hon. friend knows very well that the cold storage policy was inaugurated by the late government. In fact we must go still further to find the origin of that policy, because it was the government of the province of Quebec which first advocated it, and the Liberal party then in opposition in that province sneered at the Conservative as a butter and cheese government, pretending that the policy was one which would never amount to anything, but to-day that policy is the thing on which my hon. friend plumes himself the most.

There is another subject, on which nobody thundered more loudly than did my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) and that was the question of railway subsidies. On the iniquity of voting money for railway subsidies, no one carried conviction further than the hon. Minister of Customs because there is no one whose voice carries so far. The money voted for railway subsidies, according to that hon. gentleman, was spent for no good purpose. It went into the election fund, and there is always something crooked at the bottom. Well, when the Liberal party came into power, did they do away with railway subsidies? Not a bit of it. On the contrary they doubled the amount. Instead of giving \$3,200 per mile, they raised the subsidy to \$6,400 per mile. So that if there was corruption by the late government in giving \$3,200 per mile, how much more is there not by the present government in giving double that sum?

Hon. gentlemen opposite are divided on many questions but on none more than the tariff. One of the ministers, whom I do not see here to-day, was strongly in favour of protection. I refer to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). He gave himself a dinner in my county, in 1897, to which he invited the farmers, and I am told that as many as thirty accepted his invitation. He told them there, and his words were published in the papers, that the manufacturers need not be anxious because the protective policy would be upheld by the present administration. So it has been for some time, but I am afraid the hon. Minister of Public Works has lost his grip on his colleagues, because to-day we seem to be drifting towards free trade except in cotton, but that exception may be due to the promise of the Minister of Public Works to the manufacturers at Valleyfield, where there is a large cotton factory, that the tariff would not be changed.

Mr. MONET. Nevertheless there is a strike there.

Mr. BERGERON. Because prices have been lowered. The preferential tariff has brought down the normal tariff to a point at which it is not altogether in favour of the manufacturers, as it would have been if the tariff had not been touched.

There is a word I would like to say to the hon. minister without portfolio at Quebec (Mr. Dobell). We have heard a great deal about the fast line, and we would have had a fast line between Canada and England if the late government had remained in power. I was surprised the other day to hear the hon. member for Quebec West speak as he did in the absence of the leader of the opposition. He said that the leader of the opposition, on two or three different occasions, and also the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), had said that his government, in 1896, had actually passed a contract with the Messrs. Allan for the building of a fast line of steamers to ply between Canada and England. The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) went so far as to say that he had pocketed his self respect and had gone to the Prime Minister and told him: If you will have the Governor General sanction that contract, I and my party will stand by you in the House, because I think it is most important in the interest of Canada. But the Prime Minister, as we know, refused to do so. The other night, for the first time, we heard the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) say that no such thing had ever happened. The hon. gentleman has been in Europe very often; he has been across five or six times since taking office. From what he told us the other day, one would gain the impression that instead of working for the fast line, he was trying to find out whether such a contract had ever been signed. He told us that he had gone to the Treasury Board, and they had not heard of it; he went to some members of the government in England, and they knew nothing of it. It is childish for the hon. gentleman to speak in that way and there is no use attempting to answer him, because there is no answer to give. We have it from the leader of the opposition, and never denied by the Prime Minister, that everything was ready with that contract, so that if it had been carried out, we should have had to-day four steamships crossing the Atlantic giving us the 20-knot service, which is a matter of such vast importance to Canada.

Now, the hon. member for Quebec West spoke about all the good his government had done—the hon. gentleman spoke of it as his government—in the construction of the canals. The canals were nearly all finished when hon. gentlemen opposite came into power. What have they done in the matter? They have broken contracts with

Conservatives and put them in the hands of the Liberals, but I do not think that that has hastened the work very much. They did more than that. To try to make people believe that they had finished the work, they inaugurated the canal last fall. I suppose hon. gentlemen may have read something about that in the papers. The Minister of Public Works inaugurated the canal with great fla-fla. The inhabitants along the canal must have been simply astounded when they saw the beautiful yacht of the Minister of Public Works flying the flags of all nations of the world going down the canal. It was taken down with great care. But the proof that the work was not finished, though they declared that it was, was found in the fact that three or four days after that the Beauharnois Canal broke and navigation was interrupted for five days. Now, to-day, we are told by the member for Quebec West that they have done a great deal in the construction of the canals. But we need not pay very great attention to what the hon. gentleman says on that subject; for we know on one occasion he spoke that way and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) told him that he was quite wrong. I need not increase the hon. gentleman's discomfiture. He forgot to tell us about the Stewart case. The canal is not finished any sooner than it would have been by the Conservatives had they remained in office, but the people of this country will have to pay heavy damages to Mr. Stewart, though they pay as much to the contractors who are finishing the work that he commenced. But Mr. Stewart is a Conservative and the new contractors are Liberals. In fact, that is the whole policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. The hon. member for Quebec West finished his speech by telling us in a paternal way that we want free trade, but that his government has decided to go quietly, that they do not believe in going so quickly as to frighten the manufacturers. Who would suppose that that hon. gentleman was elected as a Conservative on the 23rd of June, 1896. For eighteen years he was preaching protection, and now he is the Minister of the Exterior in a government speaking on behalf of whom he says that their policy is to go on toward free trade, but very quietly.

I come now to the second part of the speech of my hon. friend who spoke before me, in which he dealt with the subject of the preferential tariff. We hear of preferential trade, Imperial federation; and, in fact, to read the papers which come from different parts of the country, it seems evident that they do not know where we are at. Have we a new policy, and, if so, what is it? Are we going to have free trade within the empire as has been said by my hon. friend from South Brant (Mr. Heyd), or are we only to have a higher tariff for other countries and a lower tariff for Eng-

land. Will it bring us ultimately to free trade with England or what will be the result? How do we happen to find ourselves in this predicament? Let us go back a few years. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) will admit that the Liberal party never had any policy; they have preached commercial union, they have preached continental free trade, they have preached unrestricted reciprocity, they have preached free trade as they have it in England—they have preached everything but what they have to-day.

Mr. WOOD. They have got good times just the same.

Mr. BERGERON. I would like to refer to an address delivered by the Prime Minister in 1891, which my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood), I think, has never read. When the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was moved in 1891, the leader of the opposition, the present Premier, spoke on the question. It was just after the general election when hon. gentlemen opposite had gone to the country with a policy of unrestricted reciprocity, a policy that would put our tariff entirely in the hands of the Americans. They had gone to the country with a policy which was so utterly anti-Canadian that Hon. Mr. Blake, who was their chief at that time, left them. They came back a minority, but declared that they were not discouraged. The leader of the opposition of that day delivered one of those nice speeches that he knows so well how to deliver. Whatever the subject may be or whether he speaks pro or con, he always speaks well. And he finished with these words, which I wish to put in *Hansard*, compared with some that have been delivered since. In his peroration, he said:

Now, Sir, we are agitating and we have agitated this policy of unrestricted reciprocity, because we believe that it is in the best interests of the country, and not because we love England less, but because we love Canada more. I have again and again affirmed, for my part, that I am as fondly attached to British institutions as any man of English blood, but I have never hesitated to say, and I again repeat, that whether for ill or for good, whether for my condemnation or my justification, whether for right or for wrong, as long as there is in me the breath of life, my guiding star and my only guiding star, shall be: Canada first, Canada last, and Canada for ever.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BERGERON. That is very nice. The sentiments are very fine. But how was he so much for Canada first, last and for ever, but by unrestricted reciprocity with the United States and by discriminating against England. That was the policy of the leader of the present government in 1891. It did not amount to anything. They kept it up for about four years until something which they had not expected came to their

rescue in the shape of the school question. Then they went to the country. Before they went to the country something happened which I want to mention to the House. In 1896, of course, the Liberal party having no policy then any more than they had before, were looking for something which they might call a policy. The present leader of the opposition came to Canada as High Commissioner in 1896, and was invited by the Board of Trade of Montreal to deliver an address upon the question of a preferential tariff between England and her colonies, which was already being discussed by many public men in England, as it is still, although attracting less attention since the Prime Minister of this country practically killed it. Sir Charles Tupper accepted an invitation to speak before the Board of Trade in Montreal. In the meantime, he was called to a seat in the government as Secretary of State. There was some discussion as to whether he should address that body as Secretary of State when he had been invited to do so as High Commissioner of Canada. But, it did not make any difference, those who had invited him had invited Sir Charles Tupper. He went down there and made a speech, and what did he say? He discussed the whole preferential tariff question between England and the colonies, and gave at some length his views, which, I have no doubt are pretty familiar to the public generally. He thought it would be well for England and the colonies to have a preferential tariff against the rest of the world. His speech created such a stir in public opinion at the time that the then chief of the opposition, now the right hon. gentleman leading this House, was called upon by his friends in Ontario to express his opinion upon the question, and he went to the city of London and spoke there. He said: Sir Charles Tupper made a speech before the Board of Trade in Montreal the other day in which he declared himself in favour of preferential trade between the mother country and her colonies. I am in favour of that policy, said Mr. Laurier, and he gave very good reasons why it would be a good policy, both for the colonies and for the mother country. Those who heard him and those who read his speech in the papers the next day, were satisfied that whether he came to power or whether Sir Charles Tupper remained in power, something would be done in favour of a preferential tariff, which was regarded as likely to be of great importance to the whole British Empire. But the right hon. gentleman went further than that in Quebec. He spoke in that city a few days before the election, repeating the speech that he had made in London, and saying once more that he was in favour of the very same policy as was propounded by the then Prime Minister (Sir Charles Tupper). He said to his audience:

I will be in a better position to make a bargain with Mr. Chamberlain than the hon. baronet, because we all know that Sir Charles Tupper's policy is a protectionist policy, while my policy is one of a tariff for revenue only.

Now, this afternoon we heard a friend of the right hon. gentleman reading a speech from Mr. Chamberlain and extracts from speeches of other prominent Englishmen in and out of parliament; and I asked myself whether the right hon. gentleman knew whether he was expressing the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain or not when he spoke in London and Quebec. If he did express the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain, one-half the speech of the hon. member for South Brant this afternoon goes for nothing; if he did not express the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain, then he was involuntarily deceiving the people of London and Quebec when he spoke as he did. Well, the right hon. gentleman attained to power, but did he bring his policy with him? We all know he did not. Did he bring his policy of unrestricted reciprocity, or of commercial union, or free trade as they have it in England, or a tariff for revenue only? No, because he reached power on the 24th of June, 1896, through the favour of the good people of the province of Quebec, and not upon a tariff issue at all.

Mr. WOOD. Oh, yes.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend was not there, and he was very much surprised when he saw the way Quebec had voted. Well, I need not repeat the first budget speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). His tariff was the same old tariff. Then, the right hon. gentleman went to the Jubilee celebration in England, and there, I believe is the beginning of the whole history of what we have heard so much about for the last two years, there is the beginning of the predicament in which we find ourselves. His trip across the water explains many things. When the right hon. gentleman, who had never been to Europe before, saw those immense docks at Liverpool, he simply lost his head. When he saw those twenty-five or twenty-six miles of docks he simply lost his grip on the situation. Before he met Mr. Chamberlain or any of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned on this side of the Atlantic as favouring a conference to discuss this question of a preferential tariff, he immediately declared himself against any such conference, and said that Canada would be glad to give a preference to English goods without any quid pro quo at all. He went so far that Mr. Chamberlain afterwards said: After a speech like the one delivered by the Prime Minister of Canada and the position he has taken upon that question, I would not touch it with a ten-foot pole. Somebody has mentioned the name of the Duke of

Mr. BERGERON.

Devonshire, and there was some controversy about what he had said. But, one thing is sure, that in a letter which was written by the Duke of Devonshire, he said: I do not pretend that England should abandon free trade immediately, but I am prepared to say that free trade has not done what was expected of it by those who abolished the corn laws in 1845. But, the right hon. gentleman killed the project, and all we have left is a preference of 12½ per cent in favour of English goods, increased to 25 per cent, but with no other result than to make the British merchant and manufacturer smile at a Canadian whenever he meets one in that country.

Now, I contend that this preferential rate as we have it to-day has not done Canada any good, and has not done the English manufacturer or merchant any good. This afternoon, when I interrupted the hon. member for Brant, and told him that the importations from England since that preferential tariff have been smaller than they were before, the hon. Minister of Finance said that I was wrong. Well, I will give that hon. gentleman the figures, which I hope he will accept, as they are taken from the volume of Trade and Commerce for 1899. What I said was that we had imported a great deal more from the United States since that preferential tariff came into force than we had before, and that on the average we had imported less from Great Britain than we had before, and I am going to prove it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There was no question of averages this afternoon.

Mr. BERGERON. What did the hon. gentleman mean when he said that I was not right?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman said the British imports were less than before, and I said he was mistaken, that is all.

Mr. BERGERON. Well, I am going to show the hon. gentleman that I was right.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You cannot.

Mr. BERGERON. I can; of course I can. I would not have said so unless I was able to prove it. In 1894, under a Conservative regime, which will be found at page 5, part I, of the Trade and Navigation returns, we imported from England \$38,717,267; in 1895, under Conservative administration, before the preferential tariff was introduced, we imported from England \$31,131,737; in 1896, again under the old administration, we imported from England, \$32,979,742, or altogether \$102,828,746, which, divided by three, gives an average annual import of \$34,276,249 under the Conservative regime.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You were not talking of averages.

Mr. BERGERON. I did not interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) when he made his fine speech. In 1897 we imported \$29,412,188 from Great Britain.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Under the old tariff.

Mr. BERGERON. Under the old tariff, if my hon. friend wishes it. We imported, in 1898, under the new tariff \$32,500,000, in 1899, \$37,060,123; or altogether, \$98,972,311 from Great Britain. Divide that by 3 and you have an average annual import of \$32,990,770, or a diminution of 3.90 per cent. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will not again contradict these figures that are taken from his own books.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You are all wrong.

Mr. BERGERON. Now, I want to make the case complete. I want to show what we have done with the United States, to whom we have given no preference. We are supposed to have put up a barrier between the United States and Canada, and my hon. friend, the Minister of Customs, smiles whenever he talks to an Englishman about the preference he has given him. In 1894 we imported from the United States \$53,034,100, in 1895, \$54,634,521, in 1896, \$58,574,024, or, in all, \$166,242,645, which gives an average annual importation of \$55,414,215. That is what we imported from the United States under a Conservative regime. How much have we imported since hon. gentlemen opposite came into power and profess to be anxious to do so much good to England? We imported, from the United States, in 1897, \$61,649,041 in 1898, \$78,705,590, and in 1899, \$93,007,166, or altogether, \$233,361,797, or an average of \$77,787,266, or 40 per cent more under the Liberal regime than under the Conservative. It shows a growing time, but it does no good to Canada, and it does not do much good to England.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, we only buy where we sell.

Mr. BERGERON. I want to ask hon. gentlemen opposite who were saying so much about their preferential tariff: Where will it lead them to? Is it purely and simply a matter of sentiment? If it is, it is misplaced. It is business. My hon. friend (Mr. Heyd) said a moment ago that business is business. We have heard of that before. The Anglo-Saxon will laugh at you if you give him everything and do not ask anything in return. He is a business man before anything else. The hon. Minister of Finance has said that we must commence in this way, that we cannot expect that England will put a duty upon foreign goods, and accept our products at a higher price. We have to commence, he says, in this way and in time we will obtain what we are looking for. That is our hope. Since then, however, we have heard the remarks of the hon.

member for South Brant who declared emphatically that we need not expect any preference. He read speeches from Lord Rosebery.

An hon. MEMBER. Mr. Rosebery.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes, Mr. Rosebery; and he read speeches from Mr. Chamberlain. There is a paper in Ottawa, a very good paper, too, called the *Free Press*, which writes very discouragingly as far as that goes. Here is what the *Free Press* says of the criticisms of this side of the House and of Conservative newspapers throughout the country:

Whether the Premier asks for such a tariff or not is immaterial.

Whether the Premier asks for reciprocity or not is immaterial.

If he did ask for it, he acted very indiscreetly, because he doubtless knew, when on his visit to Britain at the time of the Queen's Jubilee, that the commercial instincts of Great Britain will never permit the people of the United Kingdom to adopt any such course.

And then the article goes on to speak of Lord Rosebery. I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) whether, when he was in England, it was purely and simply a present that he was giving the English merchants and manufacturers without getting anything in return for Canada? If it was that he did give such a present, he has not been faithful to the people of this country. If he did, he has forgotten the speech he delivered in London and in Quebec and he has deceived the people of London and of Quebec, and the other electors of Canada who read his speech. I want to go farther than that, and I want to ask: Where will this policy land us? Some people say that it is a pace towards free trade. If the goal of the right hon. gentleman's policy is free trade and if all his colleagues believe as he does, and there is no division in the government, why do they not come out in a manly way and give entire free trade to the people of Canada? Why do it in this way? What do they expect? My impression is that when this growing time is succeeded by a lull the manufacturers of Canada will not be in a position to stand the competition of the English manufacturers in certain lines. If they close their doors, or if they reduce wages, it will bring in merchandise, not of English manufacture, but of American manufacture, and the markets of Canada will be swamped by importations from the United States as they were in 1878, when the Liberal party was swept from power. The destruction of our industries will follow. Hon. gentlemen opposite would like the people to believe that they have introduced a British policy, that they are Britishers to the core, that they are in favour of everything British, but, they are working purely and simply for the American manufacturer and

they hope the people will not see it. The illustration of my hon. friend from South Brant about a coat made by the American merchant and one made by the English merchant, while a nice little story, did not prove what he wanted to prove at all, and I will leave it to my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) who has a ready answer for it. He is a man of the trade and he will explain a great deal more clearly than I can that it is not in the interest of the English manufacturer or the Canadian manufacturer, but entirely in favour of the American manufacturer. Some gentlemen opposite, referring to the Conservative party this afternoon, said: You dare not say that if you came into power you would abolish that preferential tariff of 33½ per cent which we have given to England. The hon. gentleman from Brant (Mr. Heyd) told us it was a *fait accompli*, and he nearly broke his mouth trying to speak French in saying that. Well, there is a very plain answer to that, and it is: If you want to give preference to English goods raise your ordinary tariff towards other countries, and leave the tariff between Canada and England high enough to protect Canadian manufacturers; then you will be giving a preference to English goods and at the same time you will not hurt the Canadian manufacturers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is that your policy?

Mr. BERGERON. I am merely saying that it is an answer to the question put to this side of the House this afternoon.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is that to be your policy?

Mr. BERGERON. I am not speaking for the opposition, but I will tell you that my policy would be to do everything in my power to protect the manufacturers of Canada, the workingmen of Canada, and the farmers of Canada, and I believe that is pretty much the policy of the Conservative party.

Mr. COCHRANE. We will tell you what our policy is when we get you out.

Mr. BERGERON. Let me speak for a moment on the history of this preferential tariff. When the Prime Minister was in England he offered this preference to the English people without receiving any return for it, and no doubt those who met him in England thought it was a very generous thing for him to do. They probably admired the Prime Minister and thought he was a very nice man indeed to give all this without asking a quid pro quo. But the Prime Minister went further than that. If he was astonished at the docks in Liverpool, how much more astonished was he when he got under the shade of the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. He was very eloquent in London and he offered everything.

Mr. BERGERON.

At a dinner given by Lord Lansdowne, he said:

Lord Lansdowne has spoken of a day when the empire might run risk of danger. England has proven to us all the time that she knew how to defend herself alone, but if ever the least danger should threaten her, let her sound her bugles on top of the hills; let her light her signal fires, and then there will come from her colonies help in every possible shape and form.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am afraid my hon. friend is translating from the French.

Mr. BERGERON. I have seen it in English too. Does the Prime Minister deny that he said that?

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not think I used that language.

Mr. BERGERON. The right hon. gentleman no doubt said it in more eloquent language, but I am here to state facts and not to make eloquence for him. At all events he spoke in that sense, and I have no doubt he wanted to please Lord Lansdowne and those around him. That language was used on the 18th of June, 1897.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Do you object to that?

Mr. BERGERON. Oh, no, but I will prove in a few minutes that the right hon. gentleman forgot all about using that language. On the 25th of June the Prime Minister in his capacity of colonel, I suppose, was inspecting the Canadian soldiers in England, and he said to them:

In the name of the government, in the name of the Canadian people, I congratulate you on your splendid appearance. From every side, I receive most eulogious reports of you. As Canadians we hope that there will be no war, but I can express the general sentiment in saying that if by unfortunate circumstances, the empire was dragged into war, Canadian troops would fly to the help of the mother country, and you would do your duty there as well as you have this morning at the parade.

My right hon. friend will not deny that he used that language. It was quite natural that the people of England should think that he was the most generous Premier of the most generous colony of the British Empire. He had offered Great Britain a preferential trade without any return for it, and now he was offering from Canada, men, money, and blood for the defence of the empire. That would explain why in the month of October, 1899, some people who remembered these speeches in England were surprised at the interview which the Prime Minister gave to the *Toronto Globe*. My right hon. friend, for this preference which he gave to England without anything in return, got the Cobden medal, and—I do not say it in the least offensive spirit—for offering men, money and blood, he got the decoration which he so nobly wears. I say sincerely to my right hon.

friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), that in looking over our past history there are words which were once used by Lord Durham which every French Canadian particularly should always remember. That English nobleman, in writing to the British authorities, once said :

So far as the French Canadians are concerned, do not mind them; they will always be amenable to you through titles and honours.

I mention that word of caution for fear that the Prime Minister would be tempted to offer any more of Canada to the British Empire.

However, Sir, the war broke out and then the Prime Minister, forgetting these fine pledges which he made in England, gave an interview in the *Globe* to state that he could not do anything to send men to South Africa and pay for them. There was a cry not only from Ontario, but even from the province of Quebec against this policy. A great many people in Quebec who knew the position taken by the Prime Minister when he was in England, looked on it that we were a British people, that we are under the protection of the British flag, and that it is the duty in honour bound of every man to defend the flag which protects him. So a great many people in Quebec thought that when there were men offering their lives to the British Empire for the defence of the flag, it was our duty under the circumstances, (whether the constitution was there or not), to do what in the long run was done. I said a moment ago that the Liberal party never had any policy, but that they always looked to what they thought was the wave of public opinion to carry them along. It was that expectant policy that led them into the blunder they committed with regard to this matter, a blunder politically speaking, and much more a blunder from a party point of view. They expected to go to the country at that time, but they found after a while that they could not do so. Why? Because some people in certain parts of the country thought that the government had not done their duty in the crisis, or had only done it because they were forced to. The right hon. gentleman probably under some evil influence wavered in his policy, and so he and his colleagues feared that they could not carry their full strength in the English provinces if they appealed to the people. Then my right hon. friend became English to the core—more British than Mr. Chamberlain or the Duke of Devonshire; more British than the Queen. He himself launched us on what people understand to-day to be Imperial federation, which is not at all dear to the heart of my hon. friend from Napierville and Laprairie (Mr. Monet). My right hon. friend—and to give him his due, this is one of his great talents—rose in the House some time ago and made a beautiful speech—a pro-English speech; a speech which was hailed everywhere as one

of the finest ever delivered, not merely by my right hon. friend, but by anybody, in the Canadian parliament. It was spoken of in England in splendid terms. I will quote from an article in the *London Times*, to show the way in which it was understood in England :

With these remembrances he can look forward, past the present strife, to the day when Africa will be as Canada now is: to 'where beyond these voices, there is peace.' To-day, in our western Dominion, as the Premier himself has testified, 'the juxtaposed races march side by side, leaning on each other with loyal hearts, towards the one goal—the grandeur and glory of the British Empire.' To-morrow it will be the same in South Africa.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech raises one great political question, a question which will, month by month, come more and more before us. 'I would say to Great Britain: If you want us to help you, call us into your councils,' the Premier declares. Why should not he and the great leaders of our splendid antipodean colonies have a share in the direction of Imperial affairs? They are sharing in our perils, they are helping our strife. The honour of our flag as closely concerns them as it does us. We cannot pretend that the British subject in London is more fit to guide the destinies of empire than the British subject at Wellington, or Sydney, or Toronto. In our common Imperial concerns all should have a voice. The problem of federal union is admittedly difficult, but the difficulties can be overcome. Sir Wilfrid Laurier may yet live to see himself, as he once said he hoped to be, a representative of Canada in a truly Imperial parliament meeting at Westminster.

Now, I put these two together—the speech of 1891 in favour of unrestricted reciprocity and discrimination against England, and the speech of 1900 not only in favour of a preference to England in trade, but in favour of Imperial political federation, with the right of the Prime Minister of Canada, or some other man representing Canada, to take a seat in the Imperial House of Commons. But when my right hon. friend makes a pro-British speech, which is applauded by his English friends and heralded all over the Dominion to show where he stands although he is a French Canadian, and when that speech is published in the London papers, he has some of his most intimate friends, who, though they seem to differ from him here, stand by him and will stand by him, to go to the province of Quebec and say to the people there, 'Oh, don't be afraid; the right hon. gentleman does that simply because he is pressed by Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservative party.'

Now, Sir, where do we stand on this question of preferential trade. This is not, as I said before, a matter of sentiment; it is a matter of business. When Canada decided to send some help to fight for the British flag, and decided to pay the expenses of those who went, I say that Canada did her duty; but should do it willingly. She was not obliged to do it. That has been stated by the Premier and by others who sit

in this House, and the constitution of our country is there to prove it. But whenever you want to make a trade arrangement, that is not a question of sentiment; it is a question of business; and I repeat that my impression is that we shall be the laughing-stock of the Anglo-Saxon manufacturers and merchants for offering them everything and asking for nothing in return. Upon that question I stand, with the chief of the opposition and the Conservative party, by the resolution which was voted down by the House, but which was voted for by us, in favour of any possible arrangement with the British government by which we shall get a quid pro quo for Canada. We are not here legislating for England; we are not here legislating for the workingmen or the farmers of England or for the millions of people of whom the hon. member for Brant spoke to-night. We are here legislating for the workingmen, the farmers, and the people of Canada. You will see every day two or three brothers doing business separately in the same place. When they do business, they treat each other like strangers; but when it is a question of helping one another, they help one another like brothers. That is the position I desire Canada to hold towards the British Empire.

Now, Sir, with regard to Imperial federation—because we have to talk about that. There is no doubt that the policy propounded by the present government, and those offers of the right hon. gentleman with regard to tariffs, and with regard to men and money and blood, bring us, as the English papers say they do, towards Imperial federation. I want to know if my right hon. friend is serious when he acts and speaks in such a way as to be understood either in England or in this country, as being in favour of political Imperial federation, and if he still cherishes the idea that before he goes up to heaven he will get a seat in the Imperial parliament.

An hon. MEMBER. He is in purgatory now.

Mr. BERGERON. So far as I am concerned, I will not speak for anybody but myself on this question. I am opposed, strongly opposed, to any political Imperial federation. I do not expect nor do I desire to see any man from Canada sitting in the Imperial parliament, to be one of two or ten among six or seven hundred members. I pray every day that Canada may never become a little Ireland.

The PRIME MINISTER. Every day?

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend judges other people by himself; he does not do it, I suppose. I am strongly in favour of the unity of the empire, but holding our own independence as we do to-day. I want Canada to stay as she is until events, which are probably far away, will show us our destiny. I want this parliament to be supreme in

Canada. I do not want any dictation from any where. Let Canada be as generous as she was some time ago, and as she may be again if she desires; but I do not want Canada to be bound to do so. I want to see Canada ruled by Canadians for the best interests of Canadians under the British flag. I think I could not do anything better to show that that is pretty much the opinion of my own people—if I can speak for them more than for others, although I believe it is shared by the majority of the people of this country—than to read an article which should have a place in *Hansard*, coming from one of our principal papers in Quebec after the slaughter at the Modder River on the 16th or 18th of February. I will read this article, so that our friends in the other provinces, who may not know the Quebec people very well, may be able to form some idea of the opinion of our people, for this article might have been written by every man in our province. *La Presse* says:

The Sowing of Blood.

Two thousand leagues away from our country there has just been signed and concluded, amid the shrieks of the deadly grape and shells, on a field of carnage, as it were, a treaty or concordat of lasting friendship, between the various races who are working out the destinies of the Canadian people. Our mourning is deep and our sorrow great, but our hope is greater still. If our first thought, that of the heart, goes out to the bereaved families of the dead, our second thought, derived from reason itself, dwells on the land which adds fresh leaves to the annals of its heroes. These were men, then, whom we sent to the far-off field of death! What could we have known of our capabilities during the long period of peace enjoyed by Canada? The art of war is not a thing to be learned; it is in the temperament. Our men have just proved it.

In these days, and since the news of yesterday, under many a roof-tree there have been tears and grief and terror; for our people are not merely weeping for those whom they know to have fallen, but shuddering to think of the names to be posted to-morrow. The only consolation it is possible to offer is that strange mingling of the beautiful with the horrors of war. A wonderful glow of enthusiasm and heartfelt admiration takes full possession of the mind. The sacrifice of life is a sad thing indeed; but how glorious a thing is valour!

As to our country, it looks as though the roots of this new people were to be nourished and strengthened by this pure fertilizer drawn from our veins. There is no bond of unity like a common fate, common dangers and solidarity in a common glory. We have just sown our blood, side by side, in the same furrow; the future harvest will be union, mutual understanding and mutual confidence; for it is a law of nature that life springs from death. May this confraternity of the last sleep in a far foreign land, be also the fast confraternity of our joint existence on the soil of Canada, and away with the odious suspicion and distrust of the past!

I believe that this article expresses, not only the sentiments of the province of Quebec, but of all Canada. These are senti-

ments which I share; but, I repeat, when it comes to a question of business, my impression is that the government of Canada have made a contract which is one-sided and which cannot have the approval of the people of this country. But this need not surprise anybody for we have a very extraordinary government. It is a government which had no policy when in opposition and has none in power. It has no public spirit, no guiding star. My right hon. friend has had too many guiding stars, and has dropped them one by one. Once it was continental free trade. He has lost that. Another time his guiding star was unrestricted reciprocity, and he swore he would stand or fall by that, but he lost that also. Then he was in favour of a revenue tariff, but that seems also to be covered by some cloud. Then he advocated 'free trade as we have it in England,' and that has disappeared, and I am afraid that after the elections he will find himself in the moon.

But this is an extraordinary government. Where are the ministers? Do you ever see them in their seats? In the old days when we had a Conservative government, we used to see the ministers always in their seats. But how often this session have we not had to postpone our questions because the ministers were away, away from the House and away from their department. Where are they? They have been travelling at the country's expense. Nearly all of them have taken one or more trips to Europe and charged up the expenses. And if not to Europe, they have gone somewhere else, and all these trips have cost the country a good deal of money.

Where is the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton)? We are told that he has left the country for some surgical operation. But could not he have had that operation done before he went to help Mr. Greenway in Manitoba. Why did he choose for his trip that particular time when parliament is sitting, and when we have so many things to discuss concerning the department of which he is the head? Although he is replaced by a very intelligent man, still no one can take the place of the responsible head. If he has gone for an operation, what kind of an operation?

An hon. MEMBER. A financial operation.

Mr. BERGERON. Some people say he has gone to float debentures, and I do not think the country would approve of an hon. minister leaving the House when in session for such a purpose. Has he gone for some other kind of an operation? Or has he gone so as not to hear anything more about the Yukon scandals or the Yukon revelations? We have heard a great deal about the Yukon revelations. Last year the hon. Minister of the Interior was very bold when he stood up in this House and refused to grant an investigation to the hon. member for

Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) although that hon. member promised to resign his seat if he did not prove before a royal commission all the charges he had made in the House. But the hon. Minister of the Interior denied everything and said: Give us proofs. He was told that if an investigation were granted, the names would be given, and he would have all the proofs he could desire, but he refused, and he had such an ascendancy over his colleagues and such a hold on the party that they stood by him. An old man, whom I saw last fall in my county, could not find words strong enough to condemn the right hon. gentleman and his government for their mismanagement in the Yukon. This old man, who was a French Canadian, said: I am ashamed to say I am a Canadian when up there in the Yukon. The mining laws are the worst of any in the world. He went further and said that last spring a meeting of the miners was held to discuss the mining laws and the government administration. 'These men were peaceable, and there was no use in the government sending out mounted police or soldiers because miners are not fighters but peaceable men, they are quiet men; they are friendly to one another and stand by one another.' And he says: 'In the thirty-five years during which I have been a miner, I have never seen any difficulty between miners.' But he tells us, that last spring they had a meeting of the miners to consider what they should do with the officials of the government—to shoot them or hang them. The question of destroying them was decided, but they left it over to this spring to give the government a chance to redeem themselves. Whether it has been done or not, I do not know. But, I have here a letter which I wish to put in *Hansard*. It was sent not to me but to a gentleman in my county; I take it from the newspaper in which it was published. It is signed by a man whom I know, who is known by some of the members of this House, a strong political friend of the present Prime Minister in 1896. He is known by everybody in Valleyfield, and respected and esteemed by everybody, and you can get thousands of people, if necessary, to declare, not merely that they would believe him on oath, but that they would take his word. He writes as follows:

Dominion Creek, March 3, 1900.

Dear Sir,—I have already written to you, and having had no answer—

I suppose the mail service was so bad that the letter was not delivered.

—I hope you will get this letter, and that you will let me hear from you. I am happy to learn that the Conservative party has been victorious in Manitoba. I am no longer a Liberal. The corruption here is something frightful; there is a great deal of gold here, but the mining laws are all against the workers and

in favour of the petty officers and the dissolute women. You cannot imagine the quantity of gold that is being taken out of this country and going to the Americans.

The best claims in the country are held by the Americans, and Canadians have no chance, for the officials are corrupted by the Americans. If there is a contract to be given out here, the Americans are nearly sure of it every time, and even the carrying of the mails to the creeks is given to them.

Just to think that one may have the chance of striking on a gold lead of untold wealth!

I found \$100 in a shovelful of dirt, and to think that it is all going to the United States, when we need it so much in our own country!

It is outrageous, and I hope the Liberal party will be beaten at the next election.

You may show this letter to Mr. J. G. H. Bergeron, M.P., and when you see him tell him to write to me if he needs further information.

ALEXANDER CLARK.

Hon. gentlemen opposite are calling for names. Here I give them the name of a man who is known by everybody in Valleyfield and by some members in this House. The hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver) knows this man, and will tell my hon. friend that he is worthy of belief. I suppose it was on account of these things that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sifton) found that it was necessary to have an operation performed and left while parliament was sitting.

And where is the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte)? Is he in Paris? Is he in London? Is he in Brussels? Is he in Johannesburg? What do we know about him? All that we know is that he left here not long ago with a suite larger than that of Li Hung Chang when he was touring through this country; and we know that 'he is "doing the grand in a far-off land" three thousand miles away.' We read the papers and see that he is in Paris and ill-treating poor Mr. Perreault for not preparing accommodation for his suite. The next morning we read that he is in London and trying to make an arrangement between the British government and Mr. Kruger. Next, we read that he had an interview with Dr. Leyds. Is he authorized by my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to do that work? The right hon. gentleman says he is happy to tell us that the Minister of Public Works is doing all this work for nothing. We are happy in Canada to have a man of his intelligence and resources to do all this work for nothing. It is true, he is paid \$7,000 a year as Minister of Public Works; and we know that we can get no information concerning his department, because, of course, the officers do not know the affairs of the department as well as the minister does. And we know that he was right to go away, because we had a good many questions to ask him. No doubt he counted on the fact that we have a warm place in our hearts for the gentleman who represents him, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). But the Minister

Mr. BERGERON.

of Public Works, had he remained, would have had a hard time, and he knew it. He is doing the work for nothing, but he has \$50,000 at his disposal to do the work for nothing. Now, the Minister of Public Works is an extraordinary man. The right hon. leader of the government may think that he can change his mind pretty quickly, but he is nowhere in comparison with the Minister of Public Works. That hon. gentleman can change entirely in one day. He is not as eloquent as my right hon. friend, but he can change quicker. No doubt the Minister of Public Works was the man at the bottom of that interview in the *Globe*, because, probably, he had prepared the pamphlet in Quebec against the purchase of rifles and other munitions of war by the old government, which drew forth such eloquence from the hon. member for St. James Division (Mr. Desmarais), when he spoke for young Canadians going to fight in South Africa if Sir Charles Tupper remained in power. Before he went away, the hon. Minister of Public Works was called upon to speak in Toronto. He went to a meeting of a political club there. Of course, they could not do anything but receive him well, for they were friends of the party and he was Minister of Public Works. And how did they receive him? They had heard of his French proclivities and speeches he made in Quebec, in which he declared that if he were not allowed to call himself a Frenchman he would leave the cabinet—if he could not only but call himself a Frenchman, he would not remain in politics; that he was a Frenchman before anything else; until even the *Le Soleil*, the organ of the government, told him that he was making a fool of himself. He might say he was a French Canadian, and be proud of it, as we are all proud of it. But, even so, there is no use in standing at the church door and provoking everybody by saying: I am a French Canadian before everything else, when, as a matter of fact, you are simply a Canadian. They received the hon. gentleman in Toronto to the tune of the *Marsellaise*. But, in the meeting he was so pro-British, that at the close, they let him go to the tune of God Save the Queen. And now he has gone across the ocean. What does he say there? He is more English than my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) now. He is more English than Mr. Chamberlain. He is more English than the Duke of Devonshire. Here is what I read of him:

Hon. Mr. Tarte arrived in London yesterday afternoon, coming from Paris. He fills the world—

The PRIME MINISTER. May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) what he is reading from?

Mr. BERGERON. From a despatch in the newspaper.

The PRIME MINISTER. What paper?

Mr. BERGERON. It is a reproduction from the *Times*.

The PRIME MINISTER. What paper?

Mr. BERGERON. It appears in *La Presse*, but it is a reproduction of the *Times*.

Hon. Mr. Tarte has arrived in London—

The PRIME MINISTER. What is the date?

Mr. BERGERON. It was the date the Society of Arts gave a dinner. It was not long ago, and the date can be ascertained.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BERGERON. If it so important to my right hon. friend, I can ascertain the date. I simply wanted to show what the minister said. If it is denied, we can bring the proof. But, the Prime Minister will not deny it.

The Hon. Mr. Tarte arrived in London yesterday afternoon from Paris. Speaking at a meeting of the Society of Arts, where Sir Charles Dilke read a paper entitled, 'A century in our Colonies,' Mr. Tarte said that the Canadians were good British subjects, but they wished to be British subjects in the fullest possible sense, which they could only be by having representation in the Imperial House of Commons.

No doubt when that hon. gentleman comes back from London, or Paris, or wherever he was, he will deny every word of that; he will go into the province of Quebec and declare that he never said it, but that Sir Charles Tupper said it. That is the kind of political warfare that we have to meet in the province of Quebec. But that is not all. The hon. gentleman, perhaps it is because he is paid no salary in Paris, has charged himself with fixing the destinies of the Transvaal. He has been a great deal with Dr. Leyds. I suppose the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), having proved himself able to lead one government in this country, is emboldened to attempt to lead another government in England, and he is trying to bring about a settlement between Great Britain and the Transvaal. He took the trouble to show Dr. Leyds the interest he takes in the difficulty between the Transvaal and the mother country, and he said to Dr. Leyds: You are, after all, only a colony of England; if you are not, you will become so, because you are going to be crushed; you are rebels, you are a rebel, Dr. Leyds. He went on to show by example how happy the Boers could be if they wanted. Why, says the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte), my father was a rebel. Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, his father was thirteen or fourteen years old in 1837. But that doesn't make any difference. Dr. Leyds could not know anything about that. And so the Minister of Public Works advised the Boers to do as we did in Canada, accept the sovereignty of the British flag and become British sub-

jects, promising him that they would be as happy as we are in Canada. Now, this son of a rebel has the faculty of saying whatever comes into his head. Of course, it doesn't amount to anything, because he can deny it afterwards. He went to Sorel one day with the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and addressed the people assembled from three or four counties. To show the interest that he had in them he shed a few tears and exclaimed: Ladies and gentlemen, I remember when I was a boy and used to come here with my dear old mother selling carrots and fruits on the market of Sorel. Well, the people thought he was a very good man, of course, and away off in Paris he can say whatever he likes with just the same freedom as he did in Sorel. This is one of the ministers whose presence we miss in this House, and who is spending so much money in Paris for the good of Canada and for the good of his followers.

Now, the only conclusion that we can come to is that the whole history of this government and their various policies, both when they were in opposition and since they have come into power, is a huge farce, or would be if it did not expose Canada to so much ridicule. The sooner the people of this country, Mr. Speaker, are called upon to express their opinions of this government the better. I only wish the hon. gentlemen opposite had decided to go to the country last fall as they were meditating to do. The people of Canada are tired of men who have deceived them; they are tired of the men who told them that they would not increase the debt, but who have increased it by over \$8,000,000; they are tired of the men who told them that there were too many ministers in the Conservative government, but who have now two more ministers than the Conservatives had, with the corresponding increase in the money paid in salaries to ministers, who, although more numerous, do not perform the amount of work performed by those who preceded them. Sir, the people of this country are anxious to show hon. gentlemen opposite what they think of them. We have already had an example of what an outraged public opinion can do. There was a powerful provincial minister in Quebec, Mr. Mercier, who squandered the people's money as hon. gentlemen opposite have done. He obtained letters of credit enough to cover the road from Montreal to Quebec, and committed many other deeds which were against the spirit of the constitution. The people of our province took his measure, and in 1892 they sent Mr. Mercier back to the place from which he never should have emerged. A similar fate awaits the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues, and a great many of their supporters opposite. Just so soon as the people of this country have an occasion to ex-

press their opinion, they will send them back to the position which they never should have left in 1896.

Mr. J. H. BELL (P.E.I.) I am in favour of short speeches, and will try to practice what I preach. I shall make an effort to confine my observations well within the space of an hour. In order to do so, I shall have to pass over many of the interesting questions discussed by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat; questions respecting debt, annual expenditure, capital, tariff, postage, cold storage, and subsidies to railways, and proceed at once to consider what is generally conceded to be the most interesting and important subject connected with this budget debate, viz: preferential trade with the mother country. I shall endeavour to discuss this question as far as possible apart from partisan politics, because I believe that the man who introduces that element into a question of this character is simply creating a prejudice against his views—is simply shutting the ears of half the people of Canada against the strength of his argument.

Sir, there are two propositions before us; one suggested by the Minister of Finance, the other by the leader of the opposition. That suggested by the Minister of Finance and the Liberal party of Canada, is simply this: They say we are under obligations to the British Empire for the protection of our commerce, our harbours and our homes, and for that reason, as well as in view of the benefits that will result to Canada, we favour a reduction of the duties on English goods, and that without asking from the British people anything more than that which they are already giving to us. That is the Liberal proposition. Then, there is the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). He says, the Conservative party are opposed to a 33½ per cent reduction, to a 25 per cent, to a 12½ per cent, to any reduction upon goods imported from England, unless the English people will depart from their past policy, and will create a tariff against foreign goods in favour of Canadian products. Hon. gentlemen opposite have not told us what the extent of the tariff is, that they demand England to impose. Writers on the subject have put it down at 15 per cent, but for the sake of argument, we may consider it a tariff of 10 per cent. The proposition, on the part of these hon. gentlemen then, is that England shall impose a tariff upon foreign goods for the benefit of Canadian products, so as to make Canadian products worth 10 per cent more in the British market than the prices now obtained.

Mr. CLANCY. That is the hon. gentleman's rate.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) That is the proposition. The question is: Which of these two propositions commends itself to the

Mr. BERGERON.

judgment of the House? On behalf of the Liberal proposition, there seems to be four distinct arguments. The first is that the reduction upon the import of English goods has the effect of giving English goods to the Canadian consumer at a cheaper rate than before—cheaper to the extent of the reduction of the duty. If, for instance, during the year 1896, there was collected upon British goods, a duty of \$8,000,000, by taking off 25 per cent of that duty, you lessen customs taxes by \$2,000,000. That would be the measure of the benefit to the Canadian consumer. Of course, if you reduce the duty by 33½ per cent, there would be a corresponding decrease in the taxation, in all amounting to between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. But, that is not all. There are goods in Canada of domestic manufacture, and goods imported from foreign countries, and these wherever they come into competition with goods imported from England, are affected by the reduction in the English tariff. The reduction in the English tariff not only benefits the consumers of Canada, in the manner I have referred to, but to the extent of many millions more, by reason of the lowering of prices of goods of domestic and foreign manufacture that come into competition with English goods. That is the first argument.

The second argument is, that it gives to Canada a substantial preference in the English market. There is no doubt that our voluntary reduction on English goods has been a splendid advertisement for Canada. This generous act of the Canadian people has produced a correspondingly generous sentiment in the hearts of the people of England. The name of Canada, heretofore associated in the British imagination with distance, with snows, with hostile tariffs, is now a familiar and endearing word in every shop, in every manufactory, in every household throughout the bounds of the United Kingdom. I do not say, as some have contended, that an Englishman will pay more for Canadian goods, because they are Canadian, than for goods from any other country. He will buy in the best and cheapest markets. But often the Englishman is placed under circumstances where he can make his choice between markets, the quality and price being equal. He can buy his butter in Denmark or in Canada. He can buy his cheese or his bacon in the United States or in this country. What we say is that where the conditions are equal, the Englishman will give to Canada the benefit of his choice. The trade returns indicate that he has already done so. In 1896, the British imports of butter, from Canada, amounted to 5,000,000 pounds; in 1898, 19,000,000 pounds. In 1896, the British import of cheese amounted to 164,000,000 pounds, and in 1899, 189,000,000 pounds; and in the last six months, to 137,000,000 pounds. In 1896, the British imports of bacon amounted to 47,000,000 pounds, and

in 1899, to 111,000,000 pounds. The total British imports in 1896, were \$66,000,000, and in 1899, \$99,000,000, an increase of 50 per cent. There is no man who looks at these figures, squarely, without prejudice, but will be forced to the conclusion, that Great Britain has, already, for some motive or other, given us a substantial preference in the English market. That is the second argument. The third argument is that this preference will benefit England. It will benefit her by giving her another open door for her manufactures. It will increase the trade between England and Canada. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron), who has just resumed his seat, has produced certain figures which, of themselves, prove my contention. In 1898 Canadian imports from England, were \$32,000,000, and in 1899, \$37,000,000, showing a substantial increase of \$5,000,000 in one year. The hon. gentleman by a system of averages contended that the reduction in the tariff caused a decline in our imports from England. I deny this, but if the argument were sound it would prove more than he desires—it would prove that free trade between Canada and England would not injure our manufactures.

The English people regard this generous act on the part of Canada, as being a substantial contribution towards the support of the British navy. I quote an article from the *St. James Gazette*, written after the introduction of the Fielding tariff in 1897 :

Canada at the present time does not contribute directly to the cost of Imperial defence, but indirectly has a very just claim to be considered as making by far the largest contribution. By the preferential customs duties which come into force on the first of August, 1898, Canada gives to Great Britain what is practically considered to be an allowance of £400,000 sterling annually. That is a magnificent contribution from the Dominion.

Well, if we can pay our national obligations and at the same time benefit Canada, that is the highest and best policy to which Canadian statesmen can devote their attention.

The fourth argument is that reduction of the tariff has tended to strengthen the ties that bind Canada and the mother country, and it has brought approximately nearer the consummation of Imperial federation. There is no doubt about the manner in which the mother country has treated Canada. To give this country birth, she poured forth her blood and her treasure as freely then as she is pouring it out to-day in South Africa. And, since our birth, she has extended over this country her protecting arms—the right arm of her navy; the left arm of her military power. She has given to the colonies, the blessings of civil, religious and political liberty. So full are these blessings that the cup may be said to be overflowing; there is nothing more to ask. Not only that, but she has given Canada power to impose whatever duties she

may see fit upon importations. She has given Canada independence in her fiscal arrangements. How has Canada repaid her? By exercising the power that Britain gave to raise a hostile tariff against the mother country. The colonies have treated the commerce of the mother country just as they treat the commerce of Russia, or of Turkey, or of China. We have raised hostile tariffs, and sometimes preferential tariffs against the motherland. The heart of Mother England has been made sore by the ingratitude of her children.

But, Sir, there happily came a change. Three years ago this parliament resolved to pass an Act by which the duties upon English goods were to be reduced 12½ and subsequently 25 per cent. How was that Act received in England. We read of the great jubilee procession through the streets of London. Who were the personages in that procession, whose appearance evoked the highest enthusiasm? After the Queen and Lord Roberts, the man whose face before the British public evoked the highest enthusiasm was Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the honoured representative of the Dominion of Canada. The generous enthusiasm manifested that day for Canada has been continued unabated. Apart from our sending a contingent to Africa and paying the expenses Canada has done nothing that has drawn more closely together in ties of kinship and affection and loyalty the bonds which bind her to the mother country, than that reduction of the tariff upon English goods. Therefore, for these reasons: First, because it has been a benefit to the consumers of Canada; second, because it has given us a substantial preference in the English market; third, because it has been a benefit to England and has been considered by England as a substantial contribution by Canada towards the payment of our national obligations; and fourth, because it has drawn more closely the ties which bind us to the motherland. I am prepared to give my support to the proposition of the Liberal party of Canada respecting our trade relations with England.

What are the arguments advanced by the Conservative party in favour of the policy they propose? The first is that the creation of a tariff by Great Britain in favour of Canadian goods would be a great benefit to Canada, by giving to our producers a better price for their products, by causing a flow of English capital to this country, by developing the north-west, and by producing an era of general prosperity. The second argument is this: 'We are opposed to this jug-handled, this unilateral policy of the Liberal party, because it has not benefited either England or Canada. The third argument is: 'While we are ready to expend our treasure and to give our men in defence of the empire, when it comes to a matter of tariff, business is business.' In reply to these arguments, I say to our op-

ponents. First: You are asking from the British people a trade preference which you have no reasonable hope they will ever grant; you are seeking the impracticable; you are outside the pale of practical politics. What support have these hon. gentlemen in England for their proposition? It was at one time claimed that the Duke of Devonshire favoured it; but the Duke of Devonshire in a letter swept away the basis of that hope—denying that he had ever made the proposition or that he had any authority to make it. It was at one time contended that Chamberlain favoured it; but Chamberlain within the past few days has repudiated the proposition. Then, it was argued that these hon. gentlemen would have the support of the Fair Trade party in England. Last year the Fair Trade party manifested their strength in the House of Commons in a vote on a somewhat similar matter to the one now under consideration—that of the Australian wine duties. They marshalled their forces under Sir Howard Vincent, and all the strength they could muster in the British House of Commons was 37 votes. But these hon. gentlemen would not have even the support of the Fair Traders. There is a vast distinction between the policy held by the Fair Traders and the policy propounded by the Conservative party in this House. The Fair Traders say, with regard to manufactures: 'If France, for instance, will not allow English manufactures to enter its markets, let us put on a tariff against French manufactures; let us have a fair trade between the two nations.' But they have never yet gone the length of advocating a tariff upon raw materials or food products. If they did so, they would have no status either in the Commons or before the people of England. But, Sir, what do hon. gentlemen opposite propose? The very essence of their proposition is, that the British parliament will put a tax of 10 per cent upon food products and raw materials—upon 70 per cent of the total products of the colonies. In that proposition they would not have the support of the Fair Traders. Would they have the support of the British people? What is there to lead us to suppose that they would? The British people would say: We have had experience of protection and of free trade. For thirty years we had preferential tariffs and protection, and what was the result? From 1811 to 1841 we read the history of what protection did for England. The population increased 50 per cent, yet there was no increase in the export trade; it was an era of low wages, of dear food, of bread riots, of incendiarism, of poor rates doubled, of parliamentary committees to inquire into the state of agriculture, of decline in general prosperity. It was well represented by a London labourer, who said: 'I be protected, yet I be starving.' But what took place after 1846 under free trade? The conditions became reversed. There was cheap

food, no more bread riots, no more parliamentary committees, the wages of the workmen were increased, the common labourer gets to-day in England 65 per cent more wages than he did in the days of protection, the factory operator, 75 per cent more, skilled mechanics, 90 per cent more, and they have easier work and shorter hours, and are better fed.

The general progress of England under free trade has been marvellous. The wealth of the country increased threefold, her manufactures fivefold, her commerce sevenfold, and her shipping ninefold. The British people would naturally say: How can you expect us to go back to the old system of protection that was fraught with such evil results? So neither among men of influence who control public opinion, nor in the public press, nor among political parties in the Commons, nor among the British electorate, can hon. gentlemen opposite find any support for their proposition. It is, therefore, clear as the noonday that they are demanding the impracticable—they are outside the pale of practical politics.

My second argument in reply, is this: You are asking concessions which you have no right to expect under the circumstances and which you ought to be ashamed to demand. What, Sir, is the condition of things? Of the revenue which England raises, how much is devoted to civil purposes? Only 36 per cent. Sixty-four per cent goes to the support of the army and navy. How much of the revenue of the colonies goes for civil purposes? Ninety-six per cent of Canada's, 98 per cent of New South Wales', 96 per cent of Victoria's, 99 per cent of Queensland's, 96 per cent of New Zealand's, 97 per cent of Cape Colony's, 94 per cent of Natal's. If Canada were called upon to contribute to the same extent as England, to the support of the British army and navy, her contribution, based upon her present revenue, would be from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 a year. I do not say that that is the just measure of our national responsibility, but I do say that it gives to us some idea of that responsibility. It gives a glimpse of the nature and extent of the debt of gratitude which we owe to the motherland. I have heard the statement made in this House, and reiterated, that England owes more to Canada than Canada does to England. I have no sympathy with such a sentiment. I say that Canada owes more to England than she will ever be able to repay. We have been living in the past upon the charity of England. I am speaking to men who are honest and manlike and who desire to pay their debts, and I ask is it fair that Britain should have to pay for Canada, as much as she does for the support of her army and navy? We get as much benefit from those services as the people of England, we are as well able to pay.

Why then, should we insist that the English labourer, the artisan, the great manufacturing classes should bear the whole burden ?

But what is the proposition involved in the amendment of the hon. leader of the opposition ? Is it that we should pay a portion of our national obligation ? No, it is that England shall add to her responsibility by taxing her food products and raw material 10 per cent for the benefit in addition to the great burdens she has already assumed. Under these circumstances, I say we are asking for a concession to which we have no right to expect, and which we should be ashamed to ask.

My third argument is this : In view of the welfare and predominance of the empire, it is neither in the interests of Britain to offer, nor in the interests of Canada to accept, such a preference as the Conservative party demands. Of course, if Canada were an independent country the case would be different. But the interests of Canada and England are bound up indissolubly together, and, Sir, we have got to look at this matter, not alone from the standpoint of Canada, but from the standpoint of the empire, not as Canadians but as British citizens, and in that light how does it present itself ? Look at the proportion of these hon. gentlemen and see exactly what it means. It is that England shall place a tax upon her raw materials and upon her food products for the benefit of Canada, so as to give Canada 10 per cent more for her food products in the British market. Now, what effect would that have ? If you add 10 per cent to the cost of raw material for manufacture, the necessary consequence is that you add 10 per cent to the cost of your manufactures. And what would be the result of adding 10 per cent to the price of food products ? It would produce the same result. You charge the workmen 10 per cent more for his food. The workman must live, he has a right to live and to a fair enjoyment of life. He has to charge that 10 per cent more to the price of his labour. The result is that that also must be added to the cost of the manufacture. So that both of these propositions, adding to the cost of the raw material and adding to the cost of the food product, tend to the same result, namely, to increase the cost of the manufacture. And, if you increase the cost of the manufacture, what then ? To-day England holds predominance in the manufactures of the world. She holds it, but she has to fight for it. What would happen if you added 10 per cent to the cost of her manufactures ? Or let me put the argument in another light. The ex-Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) stated a few years ago that England had been driven from the markets of the civilized world. The leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) stated, in a speech he made upon Imperial federation, that England's commerce and manufactures

were on the decline. I deny both these propositions. They are not founded, in fact. But, Sir, admitting, for the sake of argument, that they are true, what then ? Add 10 per cent to the cost of manufactures, under these conditions, what will be the result ? Why, the decline of England's manufactures will be accelerated ; they will soon be driven out of the markets of the world ; soon the time will come when the sails of England's commerce shall no longer glisten on the distant seas. And, with the decline of her commerce and her manufactures, what will follow ? The decline of her wealth—because England's wealth is created by England's commerce. And, with the decline of her wealth will go, necessarily, the decline of England's naval supremacy. Whence will you have your battle ships if you have not the money to build them or maintain them ? England's commerce, England's manufactures, England's naval supremacy are all bound up indissolubly together ; and if England's commerce and manufactures go, then England's naval supremacy goes with them. In that case you will have hastened, the time foretold by Macaulay, when the New Zealander will take his stand upon a broken arch of London Bridge, and gaze upon the ruins of St. Paul's, and the ashes of England's departed greatness. And, Sir, if England's commerce and manufactures and naval supremacy go, what will happen to Canada ? What was the lesson taught us by the last Spanish-American war ? It was this—that the parent country holds her colonies only so long as there is power in her right arm to protect them. When that right arm is paralyzed, the colonies go to the highest bidder, or to the first predatory robber who has power to seize them and to hold them. It is for this reason that I say that it is neither in the interest of Canada nor in the interest of the empire that England should place a tax upon her raw material or on her food products for the supposed benefit of Canada.

For the reasons that I have indicated : First, that we are asking something that is impracticable, that is outside of the pale of practical politics ; second, because we are asking something from England which we have no right to demand, and which we should be ashamed to ask ; and, third, because we are asking from England something which is neither in the interest of Canada nor the empire for us to obtain—for these reasons I am opposed to the proposition presented by the hon. leader of the opposition.

Now, Sir, we have before us the problem of Imperial federation—the problem of forming and consolidating an oceanic empire. The question is, in what way shall we accomplish it ? We have no precedent to guide us. We must make a precedent. Confederations have been formed, but none under the same conditions. There are vast distances to traverse ; oceans lie between

the elements we wish to consolidate. There are diversities of climate, diversities of productions, diversions of fiscal policy. And yet, the difficulties are not insurmountable. We have smoothed away many of these already. That of distance has been practically removed. At present, the distance between Australia and England is no greater as to time than, years ago, was the distance between the several parts of England. We have removed the difficulties of sentiment. The feeling favouring Imperial federation is paramount in this House and throughout Canada and the colonies and the empire. We have removed trade obstructions in denouncing the Belgian and German treaties. We have established Imperial penny postage, and agreed upon the terms of an oceanic telegraph cable. We have other strands of empire yet to weave. We must establish a fast Atlantic service. We must improve our cold storage facilities so as to enable us to place our products on the English markets in the best possible condition. The colonies must agree with England as to their political status in the confederation that is to be, upon how they are to be represented in the supreme council of the empire, upon the powers and duties of the council, and upon the share the colonies shall bear in the defence of the empire. These are matters of detail that present no insuperable difficulties, these are matters that could be settled now, and the adjustment of the trade difficulties could be left to the future. But it is the trade difficulty that presents the most serious obstacle to complete federation. That must be solved sooner or later before confederation is complete. The difficulty arises chiefly from the different and opposing fiscal policies. All the colonies, except perhaps New South Wales, are protectionist. They inaugurated a system of protection with a view to their ultimate independence, to make each colony self contained and self existing. The mother country is for free trade with every vestige of protection excluded from her fiscal policy.

Now, how are we to propose a scheme that will harmonize these diverse elements? Some advocate a customs union, the extension of England's free trade policy to the rest of the empire. The colonies would not consent to that, because it would involve the doing away at one fell sweep of that protection under which our industries were cradled and developed. It would not be fair to them, it would produce discontent and disaster. Some advocate a Zollverein based upon the experience of Germany or upon the experience of the United States—free trade within the empire and protection against the rest of the world. That, so far as it is based upon experience, ought to commend itself. But nevertheless it is open to two serious objections. The first is that the colonies are not ready for free

trade within the empire; the second is that the empire is not ready for protection against the world.

The third proposition is the compromise suggested by the resolution moved by the leader of the opposition, and in so far as it is a compromise, it ought to receive favourable consideration. The suggestion is that on the one hand the tariff wall should be taken down, on the other hand, that duties in favour of the colonies should be created. But that scheme is open to the objections that I have already indicated. Besides, if the fiscal policy of England and the colonies were upon an equal footing, if England had treated Canada as Canada has treated England, if England had a duty of 30 per cent against Canada as Canada has against England, a compromise could easily be made by which there would be a reduction of duties on both sides until they would ultimately be removed. But that is not the condition that exists. On the one side you can take down the tariff wall; on the other side to make a change involves a departure from principle, involves the creation of a tariff the effect of which will be disastrous. The proposition involves two ideas essentially obnoxious to the people of England, namely, taxation of food products and taxation of raw material. No doubt the difficulties are great, but I have confidence in the British people that they will be able to evolve order out of the chaos of these conditions and consummate a complete and final confederation of the empire.

In what way is it to be done? I believe it is to be done along the lines suggested by Mr. Chamberlain, namely, by approaching the difficulty on the side of least resistance. How is that? Exactly along the line suggested and adopted by this government, simply along the line of a reduction of the tariff upon British goods. I say that is along the line of least resistance. Why? Because it has brought benefits to England and benefits to Canada. And while it has done so, there is no gentleman of the opposition who has been able to point out that in any respect the lowering of the tariff by 12½, 25 and 33½ per cent has had the least prejudicial effect upon the manufactures of Canada. Therefore, it has been along the line of least resistance. This government has taken down the tariff to a certain extent, and I hope to see the day when a succeeding government, or this government, if it again comes into power, will take down another portion of the tariff wall until the time eventually comes when we will be able to meet Mr. Chamberlain face to face and say to him: You have laid it down as a condition precedent to the federation of the empire that there should first be free trade between Britain and her colonies, now we are ready to comply with your first condition. It must be manifest now that if we wish to consummate a scheme of Imperial

federation, we cannot do it successfully by adopting the policy of the Conservative party. The effect of that will be to raise a barrier like a Chinese wall between us and the object which we desire to attain. The only way we can accomplish it is by developing the policy that has been adopted by the Liberal party of Canada.

Now, Sir, what would happen if the tariff wall was taken down in its entirety? What would be the effect upon Canada if we had free trade between this country and England? First, the effect would be vastly to increase the trade between England and Canada; England would buy more from Canada and Canada would buy vastly more from England; second, the consumers of Canada would get the benefit of cheaper manufactured goods; third, English capital would be directed to Canada to develop the production of raw material and food products; fourth, immigration would be stimulated from the British Isles towards this portion of the empire. British capital would establish manufactories in Canada, partly because they would be nearer the markets of this continent, and partly because they would be closer to the raw material to be manufactured. We have in Canada vast manufacturing advantages yet undeveloped. In this age there is a contest between the power of steam and the power of electricity. Each strives for the mastery, for the control of our great manufactories. Soon steam as a power, will be relegated to the past, and soon the manufactories will be operated, heated and lighted by electricity, just exactly as the cars upon our streets are operated, heated and lighted by electricity. To produce that electricity cheaply, we require enormous water power. England has not water power. Canada has the greatest, the finest, the most magnificent water power on this earth. Under free trade, England would establish vast manufacturing concerns in this portion of the empire and of which our people would get the full benefit. Canada would not only be the country where raw material and food products were produced in abundance, but one of the greatest manufacturing countries of the world.

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). Mr. Speaker, it is getting to be rather late in the evening, the House is pretty empty, and I will ask that the debate be adjourned.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on, go on.

Mr. HENDERSON. Who is leading the House?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Go on, go on.

Mr. MOORE. Is it possible that I have to go on at this late hour?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think the hon. gentleman

(Mr. Moore), may very well go on until twelve o'clock, if we expect to get through the debate at all. I do not want to ask anything unreasonable, but, he may go on now, and if he cannot finish at twelve o'clock, he can then move the adjournment.

Mr. MOORE. I have listened with interest to the speech which has been made by the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell). It has been mainly made up of reasons why England should not grant to this country preferential trade. I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman, but I can say that I think it will be high time for England to refuse when Canada asks her. It is our business to make the proposition, to enforce it by every argument, and every force we have, and not to put arguments into the mouths of the English people to show that Canada does not desire it, and that England should not give it. I listened, also, with some interest, to the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), who submitted a mass of figures to prove that the government have administered the affairs of the country in a satisfactory manner. I was reminded, in regard to the position he took, by his gyrations and wanderings out and in, in order to make a favourable showing in regard to the financial position of the country, of a provincial land surveyor in the province of Quebec. He was asked to survey a village municipality. The law requires that there should be a certain number of houses on a certain quantity of land. In order to comply with that law, he would go along the street, take in a house, and come back again to the street, and in that way secured the legal number of houses required. When the matter was brought before the county council, a witness was examined and asked what kind of a line the surveyor ran. He said it was a very crooked line, that it went out and in, and that there was nothing straight about it. It was very zig-zag. How zig-zag was it? It was so zig-zag that you could stand with one foot on the zig and the other foot on the zag. That makes me think, in regard to the position of the hon. member for South Brant, that he was so zig-zag in his arguments, that a person could stand with one foot on the zig and with another foot on the zag. I can only say, in regard to his financial figures, that they were very voluminous. We have only to take one straight course, and that is taking the average of expenditures from 1891 to 1896, and comparing them with the expenditures from 1882 to 1891, we decreased the expenditure of this country by \$388,000 a year. Since the present government came into power, hon. gentlemen have increased the expenditure, they have increased the public debt, and increased the taxation. Consequently, we need not go rambling all over the country to undertake to prove to the people of Canada, that the government have conducted the financial affairs of the coun-

try in a satisfactory manner. There was a clergyman that employed a man to work for him, and on Sunday, he went to church to hear him preach. He took down notes, and when the sermon was over, the clergyman came to him and saw them, and he said: Why did you put down these things? I did not say anything like that. The man replied: I know you did not say that, but you were preaching true doctrines that would send me to the devil, so I put in something that would save me. The course that the hon. gentleman has taken is, instead of preaching the true doctrine, to put in something that will save himself and his party although he is deceiving the people. I listened with a great deal of attention and interest to the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and I was very much charmed with his facility and ease of expression, and the ingenious manner in which he presented his views upon the intricate questions which are agitating the minds of the people as to the best means to employ, and the most efficient policy to pursue in developing the valuable resources of our country, and to hasten her gait in the great race of nations. Her strides have been long and rapid, and the progress she has made since confederation must fill the hearts of all patriotic citizens with pride and satisfaction. I listened with interest to the ingenious manner in which the hon. Finance Minister presented his case, and was reminded of what was once said of a very eminent man in the old country, which, I think, is applicable to the hon. Minister of Finance, 'that he had the faculty of making the worse appear the better case,' very strongly developed. The chief argument of the ministers and their supporters, is that the country is prosperous; that the people are contented and satisfied, and that the Liberal party is the prime cause of this prosperity, claiming in effect, figuratively speaking, that they in some miraculous manner have come into possession of Hiawatha's magic mittens and enchanted moccasins, with which they have clothed the hands and feet of young Canada, by which she is breaking down all opposition to her progress in the race in which she has entered. The grand old Conservative party, the father of young Canada, the author and the instigator which set the young industrial heart of her Dominion throbbing with pulsations of new and vigorous life will never fail to rejoice when her illustrious offspring is found successfully battling her way to the front and building up a country of which her founders will have every reason to be proud. But, Sir, I regret to have to say that in all the great schemes which have proved to be so advantageous to this country, the Liberal party have, figuratively speaking, put the ball-and-chain on the feet of Canada to prevent her from making progress in the great race which she has undertaken. But, Sir, the grand policy of

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the old Conservative party carried out for eighteen long years, has placed this country in the proud position which she now occupies, and which gave to the worthy representative of our noble Queen in this country a chance to congratulate Canadians upon the great prosperity which they are now enjoying. The great Conservative party therefore claims that the measure of prosperity which Canada is enjoying is mainly due to their wise fiscal policy in protecting Canadian industries, in giving the control of the Canadian markets to Canadian producers, and in opening up the country to colonization and settlement by the construction of railways and canals. On the other hand the succession of good harvests, the fair prices obtained in England, famine in some countries and drought in others from which England usually draws her supplies, these things are what have made us prosperous in this country, and not the policy of the Liberal government, who have been frequently challenged on the floor of this House to point to one single important scheme of which they have been the originators, which has contributed in any respect to the prosperity of our country. It is a well-known historical fact that good times or bad times do not run continuously; but that one succeeds the others in almost regular intervals. It has been an historical fact every since Pharaoh's dream of the seven lean kine eating up the seven fat kine in Egypt, that times of prosperity follow times of depression in cycles. Just before the Liberal government came into power the times began to improve in 1895. Various countries in the world had, previous to that time, been swept by a wave of depression which affected Canada the least owing to the wise fiscal policy of the Conservative government. The good times of which the Liberals are boasting are prevailing all over the world, and Canada cannot be said to be in a more prosperous condition than many other countries, and cannot be said to be progressing as rapidly as she would be had she the full benefit of that protective tariff which enables her to rejoice over her present condition. It is without doubt that Canada has not progressed to the extent she would have progressed had the Liberal-Conservative party remained in power with that old policy in full force.

Before proceeding to discuss some special subjects, which did not engage the attention of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I desire to call the attention of the members of this House to some of the pre-election pledges of the Liberal leaders. The speech of the Minister of Finance was the most conspicuous for what it omitted. He was not as reckless as some other ministers and some of his followers, in claiming as they have done that the Liberal government has carried out all the promises made previous to the elections of 1896. I know of no prin-

ciple in ethics or philosophy which justifies individuals or governments in breaking their pledges and their promises. Those who make pledges and promises and benefit by them, and then break them, forfeit the respect and confidence of the people. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) omitted to state that his government had increased the public debt since he came into power, by over \$7,000,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I did not.

Mr. MOORE. The hon. minister denies that his government has not increased the debt by over \$7,000,000. If he does that he denies what is a positive fact and which I can prove from the blue-books. I have in my possession the public accounts which show that the debt was increased by over \$7,750,000, since the Liberals came into power.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Who denied it?

Mr. MOORE. You did.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend said I omitted to state it, I did not omit it; I showed it in my budget speech.

Mr. MOORE. I understood you to deny that your government had increased the debt by over \$7,000,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I said that the hon. gentleman was mistaken in saying that I omitted to state it.

Mr. MOORE. Then it is a fact that the public debt has increased by over \$7,750,000. The figures which the Finance Minister submitted to the House proved that his party has greatly increased the burden of taxation in this country, and that the load which we are carrying this year, is more than \$7,000,000 greater than it was in 1896. Neither did the Minister of Finance deny, that instead of reducing the expenditure, as the Liberals promised to do if they got into power, by from two to five millions dollars a year, they have increased the expenditure by over \$8,000,000, making an amount of annual difference between their promise and performances of from ten million to fifteen million dollars a year. The Liberal party when in opposition never tired of calling the Conservative party corrupt and dishonest and other hard names. They promised that when they got into power they would elevate the standard of political morality in the Dominion. Well, Sir, the charges in reference to their administration of the Yukon and the manner in which they carried the election in Ontario go to prove, that the standard of morality has never been so low in the Domin-

ion as it is at the present time. The appointment of members of the House of Commons to offices of trust and emoluments was most vigorously condemned by the Liberals when in opposition, as a violation of the independence of parliament, and yet we find that thirteen members have been appointed to office by the Liberal government within the last three years and several others, it is said, are anxiously waiting for translation. The Liberal party when in opposition vigorously condemned the letting of contracts without first advertising for tenders, but after they got into power this principle was also violated. The Liberals also bitterly censured the Conservative party for incurring obligations, or paying money without first securing authorization from the people's representatives in parliament assembled, but notwithstanding that, they paid out large sums of money on Governor's warrants and incurred great obligations without such consent of parliament, immediately after getting into office.

There is another very important question which the Minister of Finance did not touch upon, and that is the subject of prohibition. It is a subject which has agitated the minds of the people of this country for many years, which is agitating the best minds of this country at the present time, and which will continue to agitate them until it is finally settled; and when it is settled it will have to be settled to the satisfaction of the highest thought and the best element in the Dominion of Canada. The liquor traffic is looked upon by a very important portion of the population of this country as a great obstacle to the prosperity of Canada. They look upon it as an enemy to the home, an enemy to the church and an enemy to the state. It has crossed the pathway, directly or indirectly, of every man, woman and child in this country; it has crossed the threshold of otherwise happy homes; it has laid its blighting hand on some of its victims, and left sorrow and sadness in its train; it has invaded the sacred precincts of the church, and desecrated this the most sacred institution in the land; and we are told that it has insinuated itself into our parliamentary halls and is sapping the very foundations of our state. The Liberal party, previous to the elections of 1896, for many years claimed that they were the only temperance people of this country who could be depended upon, and that the only way we could get prohibition was by turning out the old corrupt Tory party and putting the Liberal party in power. They put a prohibition plank in their platform of 1893, promising to submit a plebiscite on prohibition to the people. When they came into power, they did not present the plebiscite the first session; they did not present it the second session; and they would not have presented it the third session had they felt that it would be safe to play any longer with the prohibitionists and temperance re-

formers of this country. In the third session of this parliament, they came down with a plebiscite measure. They submitted it to the people, with a pledge from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), that if the voice of the people, as expressed at the polls, was in favour of prohibition, the party had promised it, and the party could be trusted. The Prime Minister made the statement, in answer to questions put to him at different places, that they were pledged to submit a plebiscite on prohibition to the people, and that if a majority of the people asked for it at the polls, they should have prohibition, even if it cost power to the Liberal party for ever. These words went through the country, and they were repeated on every temperance platform and by ministers in their pulpits, and reiterated by associations and organizations of temperance men; and the man who uttered them was looked upon as a hero, as a Moses who had arisen to conduct them out of the wilderness of intemperance to the promised land of prohibition. The plebiscite was submitted; a large majority of those who voted, voted in favour of prohibition; and then, I was sorry to hear the hon. Minister of Agriculture stand up and say that he had consulted a great many of the prohibitionists on both sides of politics and had communicated with others, and that the consensus of opinion was that the government would not be justified in bringing down a prohibitory law with such a small vote. I had in my hands at the time resolutions passed by hundreds of organizations throughout the country, condemning the government in the strongest possible terms for their violation of this sacred pledge which they had made to the people; and I was the more astonished when I heard the Prime Minister say that there was an implied agreement between him and the members of his party, including, I presume, the Minister of Agriculture—and if he was not privy to it, he can deny it here to-night—that unless there was a majority of the votes on the lists in favour of prohibition the subject should be dropped and not agitated any more by the party.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). There was no secret arrangement made of any kind whatever.

Mr. MOORE. The right hon. Prime Minister made the statement that there was.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, never.

Mr. MOORE. The hon. Minister of Agriculture was asked by the Hon. Mr. Ives if that was so, and he did not deny it. If he denies it now, it is very late in the day; but, at the same time, we must accept his denial. *Hansard* will show what

Mr. MOORE.

was said in regard to that matter; but, I think I am correct, and I have no desire to misrepresent hon. gentlemen. We found ourselves in this position, after the government had spent \$200,000 of the people's money, and the people themselves had spent large amounts in purchasing printing matter, and in employing people to lecture all over the country. The temperance people rejoiced when it was flashed through the length and breadth of this land that they had won a great victory at the polls. Imagine their sorrow and disappointment at the conclusion at which the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture came, that they would not introduce a prohibitory law, although a majority of the votes cast were in favour of prohibition. I do not intend to extend my remarks further on this matter, because it has been discussed so thoroughly and so generally all over the country that it is unnecessary for me to say more; but, Sir, from the temper and the tone of the resolutions which have been passed by the temperance organizations of this country, it is evident that they are not going to be satisfied with the answer which the government have given, and that the time is coming when this government will have to meet face to face the temperance reformers of this country, whom they have misled and deceived, and will have to answer for the violation of their sacred pledge.

Another subject, which I will not occupy very much time in discussing, is the subject of protection. The Liberal leaders pledged themselves that if they obtained power they would kill protection, they would eliminate every vestige of protection from the tariff. The hon. Minister of Finance has not pretended that they have done so; consequently, they have violated that amongst their other promises. They have accused the Conservative party of saying, from the political platforms in the country, that if the Liberal party succeeded in getting into power in 1896, all the industries of this country would be ruined. When that statement was made they expected that the Liberal party, if they got into power, would carry out their promises and kill protection. Had they eliminated every vestige of protection from the tariff, the greatest disaster and depression would have come upon this country that has ever been known in its history. The Liberal party claim that the farmers have been exporting more of their produce and have received better prices for it since they got into power than before.

I have a few figures to submit which I think will throw a little light upon that matter and be perhaps a surprise to some hon. gentlemen. I think that hon. gentlemen will admit that horses, cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, lard, wool and other articles are very important Canadian products. Here is a statement of the exports of horses,

cattle and sheep in 1896, under Conservative rule, compared with the same exports in 1899, under the Liberal administration :

	No.	Value.
1896—Horses	21,852	\$2,113,095
1896—Cattle	104,451	7,082,542
1896—Sheep	391,490	2,151,283
		<u>\$11,346,920</u>
1899—Horses	12,384	898,063
1899—Cattle	211,847	8,522,835
1899—Sheep	405,322	1,540,857
		<u>10,961,155</u>

More exported in 1896 than 1899.....\$ 385,165

We have heard the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and others boast of the great impetus that our trade in butter has received, and there is no one who can fail to rejoice when any industry is prospering. But they would lead us to believe that there never has been a time in our history when we exported so much butter and received so much for it as within the last few years. Well, here is a statement of our exportations of butter from 1879 to 1881, the first three years of the Conservative government, compared with the years 1897 to 1899, under hon. gentlemen opposite :

1879	\$2,101,897
1880	3,058,069
1881	3,573,034
	<u>\$8,733,000</u>

Average per year first three years of Conservative rule after Mackenzie's time

Average per year, first three years Liberal rule—	\$2,911,000
1897	\$2,089,173
1898	2,046,686
1899	3,700,873
	<u>\$7,836,732</u>

Average, three years.....\$2,612,244

More in 1879-80-1 by.....\$ 896,268
Or more each year on average..... 298,756

Lard is another important item, and the following will show the comparative exports under each administration :

1894	\$ 76,689
1895	104,130
1896	12,872
	<u>\$193,691</u>
1897	16,965
1898	19,096
1899	67,869
	<u>103,930</u>

Or nearly \$90,000 more lard was exported in the last three years under Liberal-Conservative rule than during the last three of the present government.

In cheese there has been an excess of exportation, but not an appreciable excess in the price. I have looked in vain to find a large increase in the price of cheese, on the encouragement of which industry we have spent a large sum. It brought, according to the blue-books, 8·474 cents in 1896, and 8½ cents in 1899, a very small fraction in advance. Then our exports of wool and beef and canned meats were as follows :

Wool exported—

1894	\$ 16,156
1895	1,049,459
1896	823,920

Last three years Con. rule..... \$1,889,535

1897	1,427,957
1898	177,154
1899	14,420

Three years Liberal rule..... 1,619,531

More last three years Con. rule by.. \$ 270,004

Beef exported—

	Lbs.	Lbs.
1894	2,277,112	
1895	5,673,592	
1896	411,468	
		<u>8,362,172</u>
1897	1,660,220	
1898	898,200	
1899	363,810	
		<u>2,922,230</u>

More beef exported last three years of Con. rule than three years of Liberal rule by

Canned Meats—

	Lbs.	Lbs.
1894	7,829,022	
1895	3,470,446	
1896	9,339,337	
		<u>20,638,805</u>
1897	4,848,894	
1898	2,424,073	
1899	1,110,165	
		<u>8,383,133</u>

More from 1894-5-6 than 1897-8-9 by.. 12,255,672

Our fish exported was as follows:

1899.....	\$ 9,909,662
1896.....	11,077,765

More in 1896 than 1899 by.. \$ 1,168,103

Our forest products exported were:

1898.....	\$26,511,539
1896.....	27,175,686

More in 1896 than 1898..... \$ 664,147

The hon. Minister of Agriculture has taken a great deal of interest in eggs. I have

here a statement, taken from the Statistical Year Book, of the amount of eggs exported since 1879, and I find that the average export during the eighteen years of Conservative government was 1,438,207 dozen, and during the three years of Liberal government since 1896 it amounted to 1,166,948 dozen, or the average export each year under Conservative rule was 271,259 dozen in excess of the average under Liberal rule. It is now between 12 and 1 o'clock, and I am getting a little exhausted; and if the leader of the House will consent, I will move the adjournment of the debate. I can stay here until to-morrow morning if necessary, but I think it is hardly necessary.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.10 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 137)—from the Senate—further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

Bill (No. 138)—from the Senate—to amend the Admiralty Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

ESQUIMALT DRY DOCK—DOCKING CHARGES.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Has the hon. the Minister of Public Works received any letters or petitions since last session in regard to the docking charges now in force at the Esquimalt dry dock? If so, what is their nature?

2. Did not the minister promise last session that he would look carefully into the question as to whether the present rates are in the best interests of the port of Victoria and the trades connected with the ship-building industry in British Columbia?

3. If so, has the minister decided as to whether the rates should be kept as they are, or whether, having due regard to the above inte-

Mr. MOORE.

rests and those of the government, the rates could be raised to a figure more in unison with those charged at the other government dry docks in Canada?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. Two communications have been received, one representing that the changes made in the tariff were not justified by existing facts; that the statements made by the dockmaster urging a reduction in the rates, were not correct, and suggesting an inquiry by a competent commissioner on the spot, as well as in the statements made by the dockmaster concerning the marine railway. The other communication stating that the writer desired his name to be considered as not having been placed on a petition which had been sent to the department asking for a reduction of rates. 2. The hon. the Minister of Public Works has given serious consideration to this matter, but before taking any further action, he desired some time to elapse in order to see what effect the change in rates would have upon the receipts of the dock. 3. No final decision has yet been arrived at.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

What amount was collected for newspaper postage under the one-quarter of a cent a pound rule, from January 1 to March 31?

What amount was collected for same purpose under the one-half a pound rule during the same period of the year 1900?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The postage collected on newspapers during the quarter ended 31st March, 1899, was \$10,832.39; during the two months ended 28th February, 1900, \$17,982.39. The returns for the month of March are incomplete.

THE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I should like to ask the right hon. leader of the government whether there is any truth in the following report in the *Gazette* :

Ottawa, April 10.—Major Drummond, military secretary to His Excellency, is the new commandant of the Canadian militia. He left Cape Town last Saturday for Canada. He will receive his promotion to colonel in the Imperial army and hold the local rank here of general. Major Drummond is an officer of the Scots Guards, and previous to going to South Africa as Colonel Otter's chief of staff, had seen active service in Egypt.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). What paper is my hon. friend quoting from?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. *The Montreal Gazette.*

The **PRIME MINISTER.** He might be sure that the statement is not correct. It is not correct. I may say that we have no information on the subject.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I thought that, possibly, the fact of my quoting this paper was the reason the hon. gentleman would not reply in the manner in which he generally does, and in which I expected he would reply.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would like to ask the Postmaster General if he can give us any information as to the probable time when his report for last year will be brought down. The estimates may be discussed within a short time, and it is quite impossible to discuss any matter connected with my hon. friend's department until that report is brought down.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). The hon. gentleman is quite right, and is most reasonable in his observations. I think that the printing of the report is completed, or about to be completed, and I have no doubt it will be laid on the Table immediately after the Easter adjournment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, I want to take a single moment, and only a moment, before the Orders of the Day are called, to draw the attention of my hon. friend from West Quebec (Mr. Dobell) to a very serious misstatement he made in the House in my absence the other night, in regard to the charge for my travelling expenses when I came out from London on the last occasion. The hon. gentleman a good deal more than trebled the amount in the statement he made. He will find, by reference to the Auditor General's Report, that the figures he quoted were for an entirely different service—an expenditure carried on by the Deputy Minister of Finance in transferring my household effects from London to Canada; they had no reference whatever to my travelling expenses. I may be permitted to mention that even if they had been a little larger, I think I would have been justified, when it is remembered that I brought a contribution from the Imperial government of £750,000 sterling for the fast Atlantic service.

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (West Quebec). I am very grateful to learn that the figures I took from the Auditor General's accounts did not cover the amount of the private and personal expenses of the hon. leader of the opposition, but certain expenses attending the removal of his furniture.

PURCHASE OF HORSES FOR BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I beg to draw the attention of the government to an item which appears in the *Montreal Gazette* :

New York, April 10.—The 'Journal and Advertiser' to-morrow will print the following:

'A contract to buy 30,000 to 35,000 horses for the British government was about completed in this city yesterday. The horses are for cavalry regiments and the artillery service in South Africa, and they will cost several million dollars.

'This is the largest single order of horses ever placed in this country.

'The horses must conform practically to the United States army strict requirements in size, breed and soundness. This limits the choice practically to the breeds reared on the producing centres of Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Iowa. Buffalo has been selected as the point of inspection where the horses will be brought by the contractors who will act as the British government's agents. When accepted at Buffalo, the horses sufficiently rested, will be shipped to this city and loaded on transports in lots of about 1,000 each.

'The British army's purchasing agent will go to Buffalo to-day (Wednesday) to inspect the yards there. He hopes to get his horses at the rate of 5,000 a week.

What I wish to ask is, whether the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence and the Minister of Agriculture has made any effort to induce the British government to purchase a portion of their supply in Canada, where, I think, we have many suitable horses for the purpose?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend can rest assured that representations have been made to that effect to the British authorities, and I have reason to believe that a result will follow immediately.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). I have repeatedly cabled the High Commissioner in London that we would be able to supply a large number of serviceable and useful horses to the Imperial army in South Africa, and I believe that before long purchases will be made in Canada.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). In speaking upon one portion of the subject which I attempted to place before you, Mr. Speaker, last evening, I made a statement with regard to the action of the government on the subject of prohibition. I said that the right hon. the First Minister, had declared that there was an implied secret agreement between the prohibitionists and non-prohibitionist members of his party, according to which, if there was not a majority sufficiently large in favour of prohibition as a result of the plebiscite, the matter would be dropped, and I asked the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), if he had been implicated in that agreement. The hon. gentleman denied that any such agreement had been made. I do not wish to do him an injustice, perhaps I spoke a little too strongly, and I am very glad indeed, to be assured by him, that he was not connected with any bargain of that nature. But I find, on looking at the *Hansard* report of the remarks of the right hon. the First Minister, on the 21st March, 1899, the following :

Let me say this: When we put that plank into our platform there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and work honestly for the success of that policy.

I think that is sufficiently clear to prove that there was an implied secret agreement between the members of the Liberal party—between those who were prohibitionists and those who were not. If the hon. Minister of Agriculture was not connected with that agreement, I am very much astonished indeed that he, the father of the plebiscite, would have been so deceived by his Prime Minister as not to have been made acquainted with an implied agreement of that kind.

I now go on with the connection of my treatment of the financial question where I left it last evening. Liberal leaders have submitted that they have greatly lowered the rate of customs duty. Well, the trade returns show the following :

The duty, on the total value of goods imported, dutiable and free in 1894, 1895 and

1896, amounted on an average to 16·32 per cent. From 1897 to 1899, it amounted to 16·09 per cent. Thus they did lessen the tariff to the extent of 22-100ths of 1 per cent, an infinitesimal reduction. The amount of customs duties, per head, from 1894 to 1896, averaged, for the three years, \$3.77½. From 1897 to 1899, they average \$4.26½, or the average was 49 cents per head more in the three years of Liberal rule than in the last three years of Conservative administration.

The Statistical Year-Book of 1898, page 190, gives us this information: From 1879 to 1896, eighteen years, the average was 28·39 per cent, and from 1897 to 1899, it was 29·50 per cent, or 1·11 per cent greater under Liberal rule than the average of eighteen years of Conservative rule.

The total duty collected in 1899 on dutiable and free goods was \$154,051,593. The average rate of duty on dutiable goods was 28·71 per cent, and the average rate on dutiable and free goods was 16·70 per cent. The average rate on goods dutiable and free from 1894 to 1896 was 17·13½ per cent, and from 1897 to 1899, 17·17½ per cent. That means that the rate under the Liberal government has been ·04 per cent more than under the Liberal-Conservative administration. I think I recollect the hon. Minister of Finance made it over 2 per cent; but I have taken it just as the account stands in the Statistical Year-Book and the Trade and Navigation Returns, and I find he made a mistake by including 16,000,000 bushels of corn which he ought not to have included, and the exclusion of which from his figures would, perhaps, make his figures and mine agree more closely than they do. The Minister of Finance condemned the late government for their deficit, and exulted over the surplus of the present year of somewhere about \$4,000,000 and the anticipated surplus of the present year of somewhere about \$7,000,000. Now, I do not think that it is in all cases an evidence of good financial management to have, either in municipal corporations or in the Dominion, a large surplus. Municipal officers may levy a rate of taxation on the taxable property in a municipality which will return many thousands of dollars more than they require; but I am sure the taxpayers would not feel that it was good management. I think the same principle should hold good here. If our Finance Minister taxes the people seven or eight millions more than is necessary to carry on the financial affairs of the government, it is nothing that they should exult over. Between—

Mr. COWAN. Would you lower the duties?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. COWAN. I have the right to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Moore) a question, with his permission.

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. MOORE. Would I lower the duties? I will let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) know before I get through that I would lower the duty on one article, and I will give my reasons why. I have always been a protectionist, and would not take the duty off any article where that duty was necessary to secure the control of a Canadian industry for the Canadian producer. During the rule of the Liberal-Conservative party, from 1890 to 1896, when hard times began to bear heavily upon the people, the Liberal-Conservative government began taking off duties on the necessaries of life. Ten per cent was taken off common window glass, and 15 per cent off molasses. And in 1891, the entire duty was taken off raw sugar and the duty on refined sugar was reduced. From 1890 to 1895, the reduction of the tax on sugar represented a remission of taxes to the amount of \$19,851,995. On common window glass, used by the labouring classes more than by the wealthy people, the reduction meant \$185,989 to the people, and on molasses, \$335,775. On these three articles alone the reduction of taxation was \$20,373,750. After the present government came into power, what was the result in regard to sugar? They put the duties up, and now the poor people of this country have to pay a dollar for 20 pounds instead of getting 25 pounds for a dollar, as they did under Conservative rule. But there is one test which, I think, must be convincing to every hon. gentleman on both sides of this House, and that is a comparison of the expenditure under the two governments. The annual average expenditure from 1887 to 1891 was \$42,530,000, while the average annual expenditure from 1892 to 1896 was \$42,141,763, making a difference of \$387,237 less between 1892 and 1896 than between 1897 and 1891, showing that the Liberal-Conservative party required less to carry on the financial affairs of the country in the last three years they were in office than in the five years previous. But now that the Liberal party are in power, they have increased our expenditures by seven or eight million dollars a year. This gives a fair comparison between a financial management of the two parties. By referring to the Public Accounts, page 30, we find that the taxation in 1898-9 was \$34,958,069.21. In 1895, it was \$27,759,285.42, or an increase of 1898-9, under Liberal rule, over 1895-6 of \$7,198,783.79. On page 28 of the Public Accounts, we find that there was in 1899 an increase in the public debt over 1895-6 of \$7,776,013.83, and an increase in the expenditures of 1899 over 1896 of \$9,840,251.85. These figures are taken from the public accounts, which are compiled under the care of hon. gentlemen opposite themselves. I presume that the blue-books are to the politician what the Bible is to the theologian—the authority which is not to be disputed. We have to take it for granted

that these things are correct. That being the case, we can come to no conclusion but that the Liberal party have not carried out their pledges and professions to the people of this country of reduced taxation, reduced public debt and reduced expenditures. The Liberal-Conservative party claim that, had they remained in power, the country would have been more prosperous than it is, and we give the reasons why. We heard and have read the speech made by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) in the city of Toronto last August, wherein he stated that the country had progressed more in the last three years than it had progressed in the thirty years before. I have some figures here which I will submit to hon. members of this House, from which they can judge whether the statement made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce was correct or not. These figures were taken from the public records, and, I presume, they are correct. If they are not correct, I am not to blame. There are 22 different items by which, I think we will all consent, the progress and prosperity of this country may be judged—railway mileage, shipping tonnage, tons of railway freight, railway earnings, passengers carried, life insurance, fire insurance, deposits in the chartered banks, deposits in the savings banks, discounts by chartered banks, deposits in loan companies, exports of animals and agricultural produce, exports of cheese, exports of coal, exports of fisheries, yield of fisheries, exportation of manufactures, exports of minerals, total imports of the country, total exports of the country, and population. I think that these are all very important items; and, if I can show from the public records that the Minister of Trade and Commerce was wild in his statement, we must conclude that his speech should not have very great effect either in this House or throughout the country in which it has been so widely circulated. The percentage of increase in these twenty-two articles in the thirty years previous to the last three years was 12.336 per cent. You divide that by 30 and it will give an average of one year; you divide that by 22 and it will give the average increase for one article. Taking it in that way and treating both sides the same, we find that the average increase of each article for every year in the 30 was 18.76, and that the increase the last three years on one article for each year was 5.48 per cent, showing that the rate of progress of this country under Conservative rule for the previous 30 years was greater in those items by 13.28 per cent.

One of the promises of the Liberal party when in opposition was that they would make the cost of living cheaper. The reduction by the preferential duties, though small in the aggregate, is heavy in special lines to which it applies, and the manufac-

turing industries in Canada have to meet the reduction which English manufacturers are able to make in prices wherever protection is lowered. The proposition which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) now makes to reduce the duties on importations from Great Britain to 33½ per cent, practically puts many of the Canadian manufacturers out of business. They will either have to close down their manufacturing establishments or reduce expenses; and when a manufacturing establishment reduces expenses, what is the first thing they do? They reduce the wages of the poor operators. That is the way in which they reduce expenses at first, they cut down the wages of their employees, many of whom are now working at starvation prices, and liable to be discharged or turned out into the street at almost any minute. Therefore we might expect, as soon as the reduction to 33½ per cent takes place, that the operatives and artisans, if they get employment, will have to work for less wages and perhaps a less number of hours than they do at present, and their wages are certainly low enough already.

Sir, the farmers of this country are a very important class, and, I think, are worthy of the consideration of the government, worthy of the consideration of the people of this country; and any favours that can be done to this important class ought not to be above the consideration of the present government. I have some figures here that will convince any hon. gentleman in this House, and convince the people of the country that prices to the farmers have been increasing and are yet increasing. On farm wagons we find there is an increase of 10 per cent this year over last; on Concord buggies, 10 per cent; on top buggies, 20 per cent; mowing machines, 12 per cent; horse rakes, 20 per cent; binders, 10 per cent; reapers, 8 per cent; horse rakes, 15 per cent; ploughs, 20 per cent; harrows, 20 per cent; seeders, 10 per cent; reapers, 12 per cent. In regard to edge tools, I may be permitted here to make a little explanation. The Dunn Edge Tool Company have had many customers in Canada for a great many years for their scythes. In the fall they sent their agents in and took orders nearly on the basis of their old prices. Afterwards, by the assistance of the manufacturers in this country, they came to an agreement by which \$20,000 was paid them by the dealers in this country, and they agreed to keep out of Canada and not interfere with their business. They withdrew all the orders they could, and the result is that scythes rose 75 per cent, which is the increase farmers have to pay this year over last, and it is owing to this combination that farmers have had to pay the enhanced prices on their scythes. I will read the table I have prepared, showing how the cost of living has increased:

Mr. MOORE.

	Per cent.
Scythes, increased in price.....	75
Scythe stones, increased in price.....	40
Scythe snaths, " "	25
2-prong forks, " "	20
3-prong " "	20
6-prong manure forks, increased in price...	20
Hoes, solid neck.....	25
Garden rakes	30
Nails	75
Barbed wire	100
Glass (window, common).....	40
Paints and oils	25
Binder twine	100
Mixed paints, ground in oil.....	30
Linseed oil	40
Turpentine	100
White lead	30
Floor paint	50
Thread, Coats', advanced.....	30
Gray cotton, "	20 to 25
Bleached cotton, "	20 to 25
Coloured " "	20 to 25
Cottonades, "	20
Flannellettes, "	29
Hosiery, "	20
Linens, "	20
Silks, "	20
Ready-made clothing	15
Boots and shoes	25
Hats and caps	15
Carpeting	15
Oil-cloths	10
Wall paper	10
Window shades	15
Furniture	30 to 40
Stoves	50
Tinware	20
Crockery	30 to 40
Trunks	15

I may say with regard to the reduction of duties caused by the preferential tariff, that the wholesale importers of groceries from England have not reduced their price one cent to the retail dealers in this country. If you go to Montreal or Toronto and buy imported groceries made by several firms in England, such as Crosse and Blackwell, and Martin, you find they charge the dealers in this country just the same price as they did before; consequently the wholesale importers of this country are making profits and the poor customers and consumers are gaining nothing by it whatever. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why the present government are so favourable to the reduction of duties, thinking thereby to capture the wholesale dealers, as I understand most of them are Liberals, and giving them pay for their assistance in time of election. But certainly it is a fact that the consumers in this country are not getting groceries imported from Great Britain any cheaper than they did before the preferential tariff came into force.

Then there is another little point of a financial nature. I think this government passed a Bill in 1897 or 1898 to reduce the rate of interest on deposits in the government savings banks to 2½ per cent, having previously reduced it to 3 per cent from 3½ per cent, which was the rate under the Conservative government. The Minister of

Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) said that 3 per cent was too high, and that solvent companies and men in good standing in the country could hire money at a less rate than that. If that is the case, I would ask how it was that the government, the last session of this parliament, agreed to pay the Grand Trunk Railway 4 per cent interest on the amount of liability incurred in consequence of the Drummond County Railway. If they are a solvent company, and if money could be had at less than 3 per cent, so that the government reduced the rate to 2½ per cent against the poor people who have deposits in the government savings banks, how is it that this government pays 4 per cent interest to the Grand Trunk Railway on the large amount of money involved in that transaction?

Now, I have another very important subject which I propose to bring to your attention for a short time, that is, the coal oil question. I desire now, Mr. Speaker, to introduce to the hon. members of this House an old acquaintance, one who has frequently knocked at the door of this parliament and asked for consideration at the hands of this government. This old acquaintance has, on many previous occasions, complained to the government that owing to the exorbitant and indefensible tax upon coal oil, the discrimination of railways in respect of rates, and combinations and trusts, that the consumers of this important article of household necessity are paying an unreasonable price, and out of all proportion to its original cost.

The attention of the government has on many occasions been called to, and they have been warned against, permitting this great Canadian industry falling a prey to the Standard Oil Company of the United States, anticipating in such event that the price would be enhanced and a greater burden imposed upon the consumers than what they have been bearing. Those interested in obtaining cheap light for the farmers, labourers and the poorer classes in the country, viewed with dismay that huge commercial octopus from the United States 'treking' to the north. They saw its greedy eyes turned towards the prolific, valuable oil fields of Ontario. They trembled for the preservation and the perpetuation of that important Canadian industry, and for the interests of that numerous and important class of our population dependent upon coal oil for their light, when they saw the powerful, aggressive and predatory tentacles of this huge commercial monster invading our country and embracing in its relentless grasp this great industry which has cost the consumers of coal oil in this country many millions of hard-earned cash.

And in view of the surplus over which the Minister of Finance exulted, of more than \$4,000,000, and an anticipated surplus

of over \$7,000,000 next year, they have good reason, as he stated in his budget speech, that the people have a right to expect a reduction of taxation, and that it should be on the necessities of life. The hon. Minister of Finance said that:

The policy of the Liberal party, as laid down in the great convention in the city of Ottawa, in 1893, was that we should initiate a policy of tariff reform which would have due regard to all existing conditions without doing injustice to any interests.

He said:

We have adopted that policy and carried it out in the letter and the spirit. With a large and overflowing treasury the people have the right to expect a reduction of taxation.

The first section and second page of their Ottawa platform, 1893, to which he refers, reads:

That it (the tariff) should be so adjusted as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon the necessaries of life.

The attention of the hon. ministers was called on many occasions to the extortionate and indefensible tax on coal oil, the preferential discriminating rates on railways, in favour of the Standard Oil Company of the United States, and the formation of combines and monopolies by which this household necessity has been greatly enhanced in price, and earnestly, persistently and respectfully prayed the government to carry out that pledge, and apply such remedy as would result in giving the people this important article at a reasonable price.

It is well known that the Standard Oil Company of the United States have absorbed the refineries, and own and control this great industry. They are the complete and absolute owners of all the refineries of Canada, and can dictate the price to both consumer and producer, and no man can buy one gallon of Canadian refined petroleum excepting from the Standard Oil Company of the United States, or companies affiliated with it. The result is, that the price of oil has been enhanced by more than six cents per gallon.

As it is likely this huge combine will play an important part in the commercial affairs of our country, it may be desirable to know something of the reputation and character of this enterprise, what its work has been in the United States, and what we have to anticipate it will be in Canada.

It would appear that in the land of its birth it sustains a very unenviable reputation, as the records of congressional committees, the state legislatures, interstate commerce committees, industrial commissions and the supreme courts of the United States go to show, and they all confirm the charge that it is 'a combine, in defiance of

the laws of the United States, and in the restraint of trade.'

I may say one word in regard to combines and monopolies, I do not think that a combine need necessarily be an injury to the people of the country, for there has never been a time in the history of Canada when monopolies, combines and trusts had such a free hand to prey upon the consumers in Canada as under the present government, and I will, later on, specify some of those who are fattening on our people. Uniting skilled men of experience, and aggregation of capital, enabling buildings and machinery to be procured on a more extensive scale, and the most approved and best adapted to the work in view, should enable any given article to be produced and supplied to the consumer cheaper than it could be done by men of less skill and experience, without sufficient working capital. With such an end in view, industrial combinations are beneficial, their chief merits being, first, the command of sufficient capital; second, improvements in plant and machinery; third, power to give the public articles at less prices, and, fourth, constant work and good wages to employees. The danger is that the power and control combinations may acquire, that they may take advantage of their position and enhance prices to the consumers instead of lowering them. As to the remedy, John D. Rockefeller, probably the deepest in combines of any man in the world, says legislation should be directed to control combines and not to destroy them, not to hamper industries, but to prevent frauds on the public. Rockefeller is the chief offender in the Standard Oil Company, and I would propose to our government to give him a dose of his own prescription, as they say, the 'hair of the same dog will cure the bite.'

What are some of the principal charges made against the Standard Oil Company? That it is a trust in restraint of trade; that it includes bondholders, stockholders in railways and millionaires, with such capital as enables them to control the business, enables them to kill opposition, and enhance the price of oil to the consumer; that its commercial pathway has been strewn with the wrecks of men and independent companies that it has killed; that the principal men in the Standard Oil Company are also the principal men in the trunk lines of railways, and that they make differential rates in favour of the Standard Oil Company; that rebates are given to the Standard Oil Company in all the oil they ship over these railway lines, and also on all the oil shipped over their lines by their competitors, which amounts to over \$7,500,000 per year; that they sell a good article of oil, and substitute in its place an inferior quality; that when buying oil, and when they show you a sample you cannot tell what the gravity of the oil is, what it will

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test to the gallon, and they give you oil that tests eight pounds to the gallon, while the best oils test 7.75 to 7.80 to the gallon; that they have sold from tank wagons, where they are trying to kill off competition, eight different prices of oil, varying from six to ten and a half cents per gallon, and all delivered from the same tank, and of the same quality; that the result is, the price of oil to the consumers has been greatly increased; that the excessive price they exact for their oil from the consumers has enabled them to declare a dividend of 80 per cent per annum, or \$80,000,000 upon \$100,000,000 of capital.

In George Rice's evidence before Industrial Commission, Washington, 1899, as to railroad magnates connected with Standard Oil Company, he says:

W. H. Vanderbilt was in both railways and Standard Oil Company; John D. Rockefeller, in both railways and Standard Oil Company; Henry H. Flagler, secretary Erie Railway Company, also in Standard Oil Company; Peter H. Watson, president Erie Railway Company, also in Standard Oil Company; E. D. Worcester, treasurer Lake Shore and New York Central Railway, and director in United States Pipe Line of S. O. Company.

Therefore, it appears that the owners of oil wells and refineries, and the leading lines of railways, are bound up in the same hide. As to the conspiracy of railways and steamship lines, Mr. Rice goes on to say:

The 'Official Railway Guide' of September, 1899, says there exists to-day forty-four separate and distinct illegal combinations, composed of joint railroad, lake and ocean steamship lines, thus precluding excuse for water competition. These several pooled traffic associations and freight committees represent all the principal railroads and water lines in the United States, and some of the Canadian railways working unitedly and in unison for the unlawful maintenance of joint freight rates, both by rail and water, which is in restraint of trade, as forbidden by the Federal Anti-Trust Act, and confirmed by the Supreme Court.—(Page 743.)

The remedy Mr. Rice proposes was the destruction of combinations and the repeal of the protective tariff wherever it helps any trust or combination. (Page 730.)

I quote from Mr. Rice's testimony before Industrial Commission, Washington, D.C., page 754:

Q. Do you know what the dividends of the Standard Oil Company have been since its organization?

A. \$170,000,000 since 1892, and ten years before \$100,000,000, making \$270,000,000 since 1882.

Q. What is the capital stock sold at?

A. It sold in May at \$500 on a \$100 share.

Q. What remedy do you propose?

A. Government ownership of railways. (Page 754.)

Mr. Rice testified that the market price of crude oil for the past ten years has only

averaged $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents, to pipe this to seaboard $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per gallon. It can be refined at $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a gallon, making total average $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents per gallon, and it can be delivered in bulk at seaboard, or at same price to all interior towns. For the first ten years of the Standard Oil Trust, 1882 to 1892, it paid out in dividends more than double its entire capitalization in 1888. Since their pretense of dissolution, March 21, 1892, and including September dividends, 1899, they have paid a total of 167 per cent on a capitalization of \$102,233,700, amounting to the sum of \$170,730,279. The independent refiner is simply struggling for existence. Here is the testimony of Howard Page of New York City, Vice-President of Union Tank Line Company, Washington, December 13, 1899 :

I know there was an advance on freight rates from Detroit, Toledo and Buffalo and other frontier points, on oil from United States to Canada.

Mr. Geo. Rice spoke of the magnitude of the industry of the United States. He said that oil was discovered in 1859, and for forty years the production was 886,442,759 barrels of forty-two gallons each. There were produced the past five years, 1894 to 1898 inclusive, 279,129,467 barrels, or an average of 55,825,893 barrels per annum, or 152,947 per day, including Sundays. The total export the last two years, 1897 and 1898, was 990,389,183 gallons, valued at \$55,804,297. The total value of exports, 1864 to 1898 inclusive, was \$1,445,941,156. With reference to the Standard Oil Company's ownership of oil and control of rates, the report of the Industrial Commission points out that the Standard Oil Company of the United States owns 9-10ths of all local gathering pipe lines in the oil producing regions, consequently purchase 90 per cent of all the crude oil produced, and absolutely makes the market price for this great product, dictating to the producer the price he shall take, and to the consumer what he shall pay for his oil, and the products thereof, and take whatever quality of oil they choose to give.

The Standard Oil Trust dictates to the railway lines the compulsory tariff rates on petroleum, its competitors must pay, while its own is carried at a nominal figure, as was fully proven in my own experience when in business.

Mr. W. H. Clark of Newark, Ohio, gives the following evidence :

In employ of Standard Oil Company six years. We changed prices to suit customers.

We had Red Star, Water White, Crystal Light, the Escene, the Hyperun, the Silver Light, Ohio State Test, Prime White.

The difference in price was about $\frac{1}{2}$ c. on an average, beginning at 6c. a gallon, and run as high as 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

Q. If you were selling a man this oil at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., and he thought that price too high, did you

agree to sell him a lower grade at 9 or 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., and furnish it out of the same tank?

A. Yes, and furnish out of the same tank under a different name.

Q. Was that generally by the orders of the Standard Oil Company?

A. Yes. We sold turpentine at Marie, Ohio, to W. H. Styer and Siler Bros., druggists. We would often get a barrel of turpentine, and to increase the profit we would put three or four gallons of gasolene in the turpentine. Gasolene is worth 7c., and the turpentine 38c. or 40c. We poured the gasolene right into the hole in the barrel, and under instructions from the company's boss.—(Evidence before Industrial Commission, pages 331, 333, 336.)

From the testimony of Hon. James W. Lee, late Senator State of Pennsylvania, before the Industrial Commission held in Washington, 1899, I quote :

I am president of three independent oil companies and attorney for one, viz.: the Producers' Oil Company, the Producers' and Refiners' Oil Company, and the United States Pipe Line Company; and attorney for the Pure Oil Company.

The Standard Oil Company in 1883 controlled 5 per cent of the production, and I think they controlled 90 per cent of the transportation, and it has been their policy to control all lines which have been laid since, no matter what they cost.—(Page 264.)

They obtained rebates from railroads. They got their power by rebates, and got it not only on the oil they shipped themselves, but on the oil everybody else shipped. The rebate was so much that nobody could stay in the business. It was stated by Mr. Cassatt, on page 191, to Committee on Manufactures, to be 80 cents per barrel. I should say that the amount would be as high as eight or ten millions on rebates in one year.

They increase the price to the consumer until it becomes absolutely extortionate. These trusts are organized for the purpose of securing a complete monopoly of the business in which they are engaged, and when they get full control they will fix extortionate prices, that their profits might be high. (Page 265.) I do not hesitate to say that by the competition which we introduced with our company at least \$3,000,000 was saved by the people of greater New York in three years. And the same situation in Philadelphia. This saving would not have been made without competition. It is true wherever there is no competition the prices are high. The government should allow the power of absolutely fixing prices for the consumer on a given product to be lodged anywhere if it can be prevented. (Page 266.) The Standard Oil Company have no advantage over other companies, so far as doing the business is concerned, except through discriminations. When the price of oil was 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents that would give them a profit of 100 per cent. Railroads prevent competition on the Pacific coast. It is only at competition points where we get water communication, that they do not have control. (Page 269.) If the Standard Oil Company did not exist, consumers would pay less. (Page 272.) Pennsylvania was sued, and it was proved in open court before the Interstate Commerce Commission, that they did receive discriminating rates from railroads. Cassatt swore that it was 80 cents per barrel, and continued until it wiped out all the refineries between Titusville and Pittsburg at that time. The suit was tried in 1889 or 1890. They compromised the suit, and paid \$30,000 for these discriminations.

The rebates paid to the Standard Oil Company by railways are placed from October 17th, 1877, to March 31st, 1879, at \$10,155,218—one year and five months. All companies paid the freight rate, but the railways paid back to the Standard about 80 cents per barrel not only on all the oil shipped by the Standard Oil Company, but by all other companies. (Page 287.) Remedy: Forbid destructive competition. (Page 294.) We export oil to Canada. There has been trouble there about railway freights.

Sworn to before Wm. Calom Chase, N.P., Washington, May 16, 1899.

I come now to the testimony of Mr. A. D. Gall, of the Gall, Schneider Oil Company, Montreal:

The Standard Oil Company owns all the refineries in Canada. They bought up all the refineries, and demolished them all but the Imperial. There is one at Sarnia. (Page 673.) Twenty to 25 per cent of the wells are owned by the Standard Oil Company or affiliated companies. The balance are owned by independent or small producers, pumping 50 to 500 barrels per month. Total production of crude oil amounts to from 750,000 to 800,000 barrels per year of 35 gallons each. Pennsylvania oil is best, Ohio next and Canadian poorest. (Page 672.) Standard Oil Company deal put through in July or August, 1898. Have complete control of all refineries in Canada. (Page 673.) Price of oil delivered at St. Johns, P.Q., just before the deal came into operation was 12½ cents; could not sell now for less than 18 or 19 cents. (Page 674.) Claimed by everybody that the increase in refined oil is due to the control of refining by the Standard Oil Company. (Page 674.) Some of the leading railways in Canada made the rates of freight on American oil higher than on Canadian oil, for the same distances, for the purpose of forcing the dealers and consumers in Canada to use Canadian oil. Mr. Gall testifies in regard to this point, that he sent a barrel of Canadian oil to Geo. L. Meikle Company, of Lachute, upon which I paid 77 cents freight, a rate of 17 cents per 100 pounds. On a barrel of American I paid \$1.08, or 24 cents per 100 pounds. I also shipped a barrel of American oil to St. Johns, Que., and also a barrel of Canadian oil. On the American I paid \$1.08 for the barrel or 24 cents per 100 pounds, and on the Canadian I paid 54 cents for the barrel or 12 cents per 100 pounds. He said a more glaring injustice never existed. (Page 675.) The Michigan Central would not consent, would not go in for increasing these freight rates, and the Standard Oil Company Trust had taken all their business away. (Page 675.) The information came from an authoritative source. (Page 676.)

The following questions were put to Mr. Gall:

Q. So the remedy lies with the Canadians in establishing a tariff that will admit American oil and bring the Standard's price down?—A. The remedy lies in that and in obliging the railways to carry petroleum products at a reasonable freight rate.

Q. Is this oil that is bought by you, the independent oil, considered better than Standard or equal?—A. From what I can learn from the consumers, the oil that we have been selling as American oil, which it was, is considered much better than what the Standard was selling them as Pennsylvania oil. As a matter of fact, I think they had been giving them for years the

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Ohio product and putting it off as Pennsylvania oil.

Q. You think that the Canadian duties on American oil are disproportionately high; that is, higher than the duties on other products that are imported?—A. Oh, yes. Take, for instance, the oil that we bought in Ohio last year. It was worth about, say, 3 cents a wine gallon, and the duty was 3 cents a gallon on it. I know of nothing in the whole list—there may be some things—but I know of nothing that compares with oil. And Mr. Fielding in his budget speech last year before the House, said there was nothing he had any apology to offer for but coal oil. He did mention that, and said that he regretted he had not been able to remove any duty from that then. It was the only thing he apologized for, which would go to show that there was nothing else to compare with it.

Q. What was Mr. Fielding's reason for being unwilling to propose a reduction of the duty on coal oil?—A. As nearly as I can remember, he merely said that everything and everybody was prosperous or was prospering, and it was not advisable at that time to disturb any of the other industries, and hence he had not done anything with the coal oil duty, because it would have been the only one that he would have wanted to touch at that time.

Q. Are the people disposed to seek redress through legislation?—A. I think that if the present government do not alter things in some way so that the people will not be at the mercy of these trusts, or the oil trust in particular—well, I think that will be one means of defeating them at the next election. That is about the only thing that is spoken of; this freight discrimination and the duty on oil and binder twine and a few things like that.

I will now read the statement that Mr. Gall makes under oath:

I, Andrew Downie Gall, of the city of Montreal, in the province of Quebec, oil merchant, do solemnly declare that I am extensively engaged in the wholesale trade of coal oil, burning oil, and other oils in the Dominion of Canada; that all the petroleum oil refineries in Canada, at the present time, are under the control of the Standard Oil Company or Standard Oil Trust through the said company having acquired some outright and a controlling interest in others; that since acquiring the said refineries in Canada the Standard Oil Company, which is operating in Canada under the style of the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, has closed up some refineries, demolished others, and is operating only such as it sees fit; that no petroleum oil from Canadian refineries can be obtained to-day unless it is procured from or through the Standard Oil Company or the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, directly or indirectly; that it is quite apparent, and investigation will establish beyond doubt, that the said Standard Oil Company or the Imperial Oil Company, Limited, has so acquired and controls said refineries for the purpose of forming, and they have thereby formed a trust or combination to unduly enhance the price of such oil and to unduly promote the advantage of the said company at the expense of the consumers; that the firm of which I am a member, and other firms engaged in the oil business, are compelled to buy in the United States and import therefrom our supplies of oil to supply our customers and the trade.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if

made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

A. D. GALL.

Declared before me at the said city of Montreal this 21st day of March, A.D. 1899.

R. A. DUNTON, Notary Public.

I have here a letter from a gentleman in the coal oil business, written in answer to a question which I put to him, namely, what would be the result of abolishing the duty upon coal oil? He says:

There is one thing that I have already stated, and it is as clear as the noonday sun, that if the duty were all taken off, or say 2½ cents, people would certainly get better oil, and if the duty were all removed, they would get it just as cheap here as they would in the United States.

When in Ottawa last week I noticed three of the Standard Oil Company's men from New York and four or five of their Canadian representatives around the House, lobbying to have the duty remain on. Although I have no way of proving it, there is not a shadow of doubt in my mind but what the Standard Oil Company did put up, or agreed to pay handsomely to have this duty remain on, because they know full well if the duty is removed the trust, so far as this country is concerned, will be knocked silly.

You ask if Canadian consumers will be able to get oil from independent companies, so that the price in Canada would be about the same as in the United States. They certainly would get it from independent companies here (Montreal) quite as cheap as it can be bought in the United States if the duty were removed, but, of course, with 5c. per gallon staring us in the face, it would not be possible to do that, so long as the duty remains on. The Imperial Oil Company, which is the Standard in Canada, on Saturday morning last advanced their prices again 1c. per gallon, on the strength of Mr. Fielding's budget speech, and I have no doubt whatever but that they will charge the people in Canada, for Canadian oil, just as much as they possibly can, so long as this duty remains on.

The government, in its first session, passed an Act to amend the Canada Customs Act, which they said was going to remedy the evil and prevent combines and monopolies and institutions of that nature playing upon the people. I have here the platform of their party, adopted at their convention in Ottawa in 1893, and this is one of the planks:

That the tariff should be so adjusted as to make free, or to bear as lightly as possible upon the necessaries of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, more particularly Great Britain and the United States.

They condemn the national policy which, they contended, encouraged combines and monopolies, and proposed to take measures to prevent anything of that kind occurring. They insisted that the country was being injured to a great extent through the encouragement given by the national policy to the trusts and combines that were drinking up the life blood of the people. Well, Mr. Speaker, I may say that there never

has been a time in our history when the consumers of this country were so much at the mercy of combines in all the important articles they require as they are to-day. These hon. gentlemen opposite were very much elated over a Bill which they passed through the House in 1897, the object of which was to put an end to combines. That measure will be found in chapter 16 of the statutes of Canada, 1897. It is entitled: An Act to amend the Duties of Customs, article 18:

Chap. 16, Statutes of Canada, 1897.—Act to Amend the Duties of Customs.
Article 18.

Whenever the Governor in council has reason to believe that with regard to any article of commerce there exists any trust, combination, association or agreement of any kind among manufacturers of such article, or dealers therein, to unduly enhance the price of such article, or in any other way to unduly promote the advantage of the manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, the Governor in council may commission or empower any judge of the Supreme Court or Exchequer Court of Canada, or of any Superior Court in any province of Canada, to inquire in a summary way into and report to the Governor in council whether such trust, combination, association or agreement exists.

Section 2. The judge may compel the attendance of witnesses, and examine them under oath, and require the production of books and papers, and shall have such necessary powers as are conferred upon him by the Governor in council for the purpose of such inquiry.

Section 3. If the judge reports that such trust, combination, association or agreement exists, and it appears to the Governor in council that such disadvantage to the consumers is facilitated by the duties of customs imposed on a like article when imported, then the Governor in council shall place such articles on the free list, or so reduce the duty on it as to give to the public the benefit of reasonable competition in such article.

I do not think it is necessary to undertake to prove to intelligent men that this measure has so far been an utter failure. I ask the government why they allow an Act of that kind to remain a dead letter in our statutes, when they are told by everybody that by taking off the duty from this necessity of life, which is indispensable in every household, they would bring the price down some 12 cents a gallon. Yet still they sit supinely in their seats and will not apply a remedy to a grievance the whole country is complaining of. It would look almost as though there was some truth in the remark made by this coal oil agent that an arrangement had been made between the Standard Oil Company and the government by which the government would leave the duty remain as it is. It was certainly a great disappointment to the people that the hon. Minister of Finance failed to say anything with regard to this important matter, and failed especially to abolish the duty. I have here a copy of the petition sent to me from all parts of this country, signed by 25,000

business men, which I propose to read to you so that the House will know exactly what the case is, which has been proved to the very letter by evidence given before the Railway Committee of this House but a few days ago :

The Petition of the undersigned Merchants, Manufacturers, Shippers, Consumers and others, throughout the Dominion of Canada.

Humbly sheweth:

That your petitioners necessarily import and use large quantities of petroleum and the products thereof;

That persons directly connected with the Standard Oil Company of New York, U.S.A., and other persons and corporations affiliating with it, did during the summer of 1898, obtain control of the oil refining industry in Canada;

That the Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and other railway companies operating in Canada, did on October 1, 1898, advance the freight rates on petroleum and the products thereof from 50 to 100 per cent to your petitioners and other persons not connected with the Standard Oil Company, but did not advance freight rates in the same manner to the Standard Oil Company and persons and corporations affiliating with it;

That to illustrate the freight discriminations, your petitioners submit the following: The Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and others, are charging the Standard Oil Company and persons and corporations affiliating with it, 25c. per hundred pounds from Sarnia, Ont., to Montreal, Que., whereas the said railway companies are charging independent importers and shippers not connected with the Standard Oil Company, 35c. per hundred pounds from Suspension Bridge to Montreal, notwithstanding the fact that the distance from Sarnia to Montreal is seventy-seven miles more than from Suspension Bridge to Montreal. To many other points in the province of Ontario and elsewhere the discrimination is far greater;

That the Standard Oil Company or persons and corporations affiliating with it have formed a trust or combination, and have unduly enhanced the price of petroleum and the products thereof in Canada at the expense of your petitioners and many others, whereby your petitioners have suffered great loss and find it impossible to continue their various lines of business as before, particularly in such branches of their business where they use large quantities of petroleum and its products;

That your petitioners submit that if the very heavy duty now imposed on petroleum and the products thereof were removed, the Standard Oil Company and persons and corporations affiliating with it could no longer continue to exact such enormous and unreasonable profits from your petitioners and the people of Canada generally;

That your petitioners submit that the petroleum industry in Canada to-day is no longer what might be called a Canadian or home industry, because it is controlled and manipulated by the Standard Oil Company of New York and persons and corporations affiliating with it, and millions of dollars are to-day being unlawfully extracted from your petitioners and the people in general of this Dominion for the sole benefit of the Standard Oil Company and persons and corporations affiliating with it;

That it is the firm conviction of your petitioners that unless some measure of relief is afforded by your honourable House in parliament

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assembled, your petitioners and the whole Dominion will suffer;

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray your honourable House in parliament assembled, may be pleased to take the foregoing representations into consideration, with a view to abolishing the existing customs duties on petroleum and the products thereof, so that the combination now existing may be broken and your petitioners be enabled to purchase petroleum and its products at reasonable prices;

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

February 12, 1900.

That is the nature of the petition to this parliament which I had the honour of presenting some time ago. In connection with this, I may say that a very large dealer in coal oil in the city of Montreal has made arrangements whereby, if the government should reduce, or take off the duty on coal oil, they can bring in oil in tank vessels from the United States, and land it in this country without using the American railroads. And if the government will take means to prevent differential rates in favour of the Standard Oil Company, he says, that coal oil can be delivered to the consumers in Canada, at the same price as it is now delivered to consumers in the United States, being from 10 to 12 cents a gallon, or a saving of about 12 cents a gallon, which, on the twenty million gallons consumed in this country annually, means a saving every year of \$2,400,000.

Mr. CLARKE. What is coal oil worth now?

Mr. MOORE. It sells for 25 cents a gallon in this country, and it is delivered at the doors of the consumers in the United States from 10 to 12 cents a gallon. I have some more information in regard to this matter. No doubt it is a little dry and tedious, but this is a matter of considerable importance. It has taken years of examination of witnesses in the United States before the Supreme Court, and before commissioners that have been appointed by the state legislature, and by congress, to get the information I am giving here to-day. I am sure that hon. members on both sides of this House will not think it lost time if we can get at the information with regard to this company and induce this government to see the matter in the light they ought to see it in, and to take the action that is necessary, in order to save to the consumers of this country \$2,400,000 a year. I have here some extracts from the testimony of Hon. Frank S. Monnett, Attorney General of the State of Ohio :

It takes about four barrels of crude oil to make three of refined, and the shrinkage of one barrel, or one-quarter, is made into by-products, such as paraffine, axle-grease, &c., for which they get as much as the refined oil. (See Archbold, page 570.) Figuring it in round numbers, all over 3½c. to 4c. per gallon is net

profit; it can be delivered at that price in Ohio. In fact, they cut it down to 4c. a gallon whenever they have competition. They get from 8c. to 11c. when there is no competition.

The value of all the farm products—wheat, wool, oats, barley, live stock, &c.—taken from the tax returns valuations, is between \$52,000,000 and \$53,000,000. The oil combination's profits are about equal to the combined incomes of the farms in the state. By their system of non-competition, consumers, on the one hand, pay that much more, and the producers receive that much less than they should. They drive the producer and the consumer that far apart.—(Page 311.)

Oil can be retailed in Ohio for 4c. a gallon at a profit.—(Page 316.)

Q. If the Standard Oil Company was destroyed, would the price of oil to the consumer be reduced?

A. Most assuredly.—(Page 323.)

The question may be asked: What can the government do? They seem to feel that they are powerless notwithstanding this statute which parliament, at their instance, passed in 1897. Here is what is stated by a gentleman by the name of Lee, who was examined, and who had exported oils to different countries in Europe:

Discrimination Prevented in Germany.

Every one can do business in Germany on an equal footing, and nobody has any advantage over another. They will not allow any discrimination.

The government will close up an establishment, and keep it from doing business if they enter into discrimination.

They prevent trusts and combinations from having any advantage over individuals.

They will not permit anybody to do business at a loss, for the sake of destroying a competitor. They will not allow this.

Competition is preserved in Germany, and in England, too.—(Page 274.)

In Germany the government would close up a business if it were running at a loss.—(Page 276.)

The Standard Oil Company manufacture 90 per cent of the oil in the United States, and can absolutely control the price, which I regard as a practical monopoly of that industry, and that the Standard Oil Company is a monopoly in restraint of trade, and that it exists in defiance of the laws of the United States.—(Page 285.)

I have some figures which I have put down in regard to the prices of oil, showing the price in 1898, and the increase since. Coal oil was delivered in St. Johns, Que., before the Standard Oil Company of the United States got control of the oil industry in Canada, at 12 cents per gallon in barrels. This trust owns absolutely all the refineries in Canada, and controls the price of the Canadian oil. It also controls 90 per cent of the manufactories in the United States, and have secured more favourable rates of transportation than are given to independent companies, and have increased the price so that it can not be delivered in St. Johns now for less than 19 cents a gallon in barrels. This is really a difference of 7 cents a gallon. But, to be moderate, I place it at 6 cents a gallon. The quantity of oil pro-

duced in Canada was 10,896,847 gallons in 1898, and about the same quantity in 1899. The total quantity imported in Canada in 1899, for home consumption, was 9,363,439 gallons. This gives us a total consumption in Canada of 20,000,000 gallons in round numbers. A rise of 6 cents a gallon on this consumption represents \$1,200,000, all of which goes into the pockets of these capitalists, bondholders, combinesters and millionaires in the United States, taken out of the pockets of our farmers, labouring men, and the poorer classes of the people. The government has stood by and allowed, without protest, this combine to rob the consumers of Canada to the extent, in seven years, of about \$13,261,000. I may say here that it looks rather anomalous and queer that when one of our people goes into the United States seeking employment, he is turned back. When girls go across the line to get employment in families, or at the hotels, as they did not very long ago, at Newport, they were taken by the shoulder and walked back across the line in conformity with the alien labour law of that country. Here we allow a foreign company to come into this country and absorb completely an industry that has cost the people of this country over \$13,000,000, and that with the law upon our statute-books that the government said was sufficient to protect the people of this country against these combines. We allow that to be done and millions of the people's money taken out of this country, placed in the hands of these bondholders and monopolists of the United States. Yet they will not allow a single individual from this country to go over there to seek employment, unless he forswears allegiance to his Queen. It was when the 'old flag,' as they call it there, was in danger that 40,000 enlisted in the ranks of the Northern army to help preserve their nation and to preserve their old flag, and 20,000 of those brave men died upon the battlefields, or in their hospitals. At that time they did not take these men by the shoulder and turn them back across the line because they were foreigners and would not forswear their allegiance to their Queen. But, to-day, if a little girl goes there to get employment in a hotel they send her back across the line; and this government permits a great monopoly of that nature to come in here and take out of this country nearly \$2,500,000, which should be divided among the consumers in this country. They are not carrying out the same principle that Robin Hood carried out when, clad in his Lincoln green, he took possession of Sherwood forest with his retainers, and there he robbed the rich and gave to the poor. But here this Liberal government rob the poor and give it to the rich, or to these foreign combinations, to this Standard Oil Company.

During the last 17 years 56,420,199 gallons of oil were imported into Canada; during

the same time 163,602,417 gallons of oil were produced in Canada, making the total number of gallons consumed in the last 17 years, 220,022,672. The average duty on this has been 6½ cents per gallon, amounting in 17 years to \$13,201,360.32. This is what the consumers of coal oil have paid for the protection of this important industry. This great industry has cost our people in the way of duty alone many million of dollars, which is now turned over to a company of foreigners who are making profits that enable them to divide \$80,000,000 among their shareholders as profits in Canada and the United States last year, on every \$100,000,000 of capital. This company will not sell American oil if it can induce the buyer to take Canadian, as it gets for the Canadian about the same price as it does for the American. They have no duty to pay on the Canadian oil, while they have to pay 5 cents a gallon on imported oil, therefore, they make a much greater profit on the Canadian oil. The duty is out of all proportion to the cost, equal the last three years to 200 per cent, rather a stiff duty for a free trade government to impose upon one of the necessities of life, contrary to the principles of their policy, as laid down in their platform adopted in 1893 in Ottawa.

Now, as to customs duty on refined oil. It appears from the testimony of those in the business that oil for illuminating purposes in the United States cost on average, during the last three years, in bulk, on board tank cars, per gallon, 2½ cents, upon which the importer paid 5 cents duty. Say for transportation to Canada and reducing wine to imperial measure, 2 cents, making altogether 9½ cents. This the Standard Oil Company ask at least for best quality of Pennsylvania and Ohio, 21 cents, making a profit per gallon of 11½ cents on what they import. If we reduce the 5 per cent specific to its equivalent in ad valorem, it would be for the last three years, on an average, 200 per cent.

Coal oil, of much better quality than Canadian, is delivered from tank wagons to the consumers in the United States at from 10 to 12 cents per gallon. An inferior article is delivered to the Canadian consumers for an average of 25 cents a gallon. What causes this great gap in prices is the duty of 5 cents per gallon, a rise of 6 cents per gallon, and say 1 cent extra for freight. Crude oil costs (now) about 5 cents a gallon, Rice testifies that from ¼ to ½ cents will pay for refining, say ¼ cent. By products are very saleable, and proceeds will pay for difference of cost in bulk, 5½ cents. Refined oil then would cost in bulk at refineries, say 6 cents; barrelling, say 2½ cents, making the first cost 8½ cents. Sold at 17½ cents per gallon, there would be clear profits to the Standard Oil Company on Canadian oil, of 9 cents per gallon. Gallons produced in Canada by the Standard Oil Company, 1898, refined, 9,074,311. Nine cents

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per gallon on 9,074,311 gallons, \$816,987.99, as net profits on Canadian oil, which goes direct into the pockets of foreign capitalists, monopolists and millionaires, out of a strictly Canadian industry, presenting an anomalous condition of international matters.

I have some testimony here which ought to be very pleasing to some hon. members. It is not pleasant to disagree with any hon. gentleman on either side of the House, and it is exceedingly pleasant when we can agree with hon. gentlemen on the other side. I think on this question we can agree. I have some testimony in my hand which I think will be pleasant to hear for hon. gentlemen opposite, it shows that the views I now present on this coal oil question have been entertained by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. I propose to read extracts from speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite in regard to the duty on coal oil, pronounced when they occupied seats on this side of the House.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said, regarding Canadian oil, which is somewhat better to-day, but greatly inferior to the Pennsylvania or Ohio :

If the duty were removed the people of the maritime provinces would gain 12c. per gallon. I attack this duty, first, on the ground that if protection is to be continued, the duty is abnormal, unnecessary and unfair.

He claimed the oil cost 3½ cents at point of shipment, and that the duty was nearly 200 per cent. Again, he said, as will be found in *Hansard*, page 2225, 1894 :

There is no industry in this country which can possibly justify such an enormous robbery under the shape of protection.

He also said regarding Canadian oil :

The hon. gentleman, whose olfactory organs do not have to submit to the stench from this oil, gentlemen who can afford to use electric or gas light, are astonished that anybody should hesitate to burn stinking oil. I do not think the poor people should be insulted in this way. Their olfactories are as good as the hon. gentleman's, and while they have not the privilege of using electric light, as he has, neither have they the fine salary which enables him to enjoy these luxuries. No man would buy it who can avoid it.

Continuing, he said, as will be found in *Hansard*, 1894 :

Coal oil was worth, in 1877, 20c. a gallon; 7½c. per gallon upon that was only 30 per cent ad valorem. Now, the same quality is sold at 3½c., which is nearly 200 per cent. An atrociously unjust and intolerable tax on every poor family. There is no industry in Canada which could possibly justify such an enormous robbery in the shape of protection.

The hon. gentleman, then, taking this as his opinion, is doing an atrociously unjust and intolerable act in permitting consumers in this country to pay the price that they are paying upon coal oil, with a 200 per cent ad valorem duty.

The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) said :

The duty struck the poorer classes and the farming community particularly. There were 20,000,000 gallons consumed; that 7½c. per gallon would amount to \$1,400,000; duty collected, \$430,000. The balance of \$989,494 went into the pockets of and was divided amongst the refiners of coal oil, or very near \$1,000,000 was paid last year to refiners in Petrolea.

The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) said :

The tax was atrociously high. If we take the price of oil at 6c. per gallon, a duty of 2c. would be equal to 33½ per cent, protection which would be a fair duty on the same lines as those given to great manufacturing industries of this country.

I think, perhaps, I would be almost repeating myself if I were to give the House the remedy which has been proposed by the different coal oil men of the United States who have had experience in regard to this matter. The remedy which they recommend is to apply the same methods which are enforced in Germany; do not permit a company to destroy competition; examination of the books and the methods of the company's way of doing business, if found to be selling at cost or less for the purpose of killing competitors; abolish the duty that is now standing. We give a foreign company the benefit of a duty and take it out of our consumers. Take measures to see the company delivers to the purchaser the oil he buys, that the speculator shall not substitute Canadian for American oil when the latter is ordered, that in all cases the gravity of the oil be guaranteed, and that the oil speculator shall not give a customer oil of 8 and over, gravity, when he orders 7.75 or 7.80, as the lower the gravity the better the oil. Make such regulations as will protect the buyer, the consumer and the government, in the quality and the price. Prevent railways from giving differential rates to the Standard Oil Company, abolish the duty which now goes into the pockets of foreigners, and then the government will be carrying out their promise to make one of the necessaries of life free, and will reduce the price so that our consumers in Canada will get their oil as low as do the consumers in the United States, by which they will save \$2,400,000 per year. I think, perhaps, I have said enough, although, I have a great deal more testimony of the same nature. But, I think I have proved to the most obdurate and hardest hearted man in this assembly that there is a great grievance, that the petitioners had a perfect right to complain to the government, and that the government is called upon to provide a remedy by taking off the duty on coal oil, which is giving an advantage to a foreign company at the expense and to the injury of the consumers of this country.

Mr. TAYLOR. The people will take the remedy into their own hands at the next elections.

Mr. MOORE. My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor), says that the people will take the remedy into their own hands at the next elections. I think there is no commercial matter in this country which is exercising such an influence and such a feeling amongst the electors of this country as the coal oil business is, and I believe, that, with prohibition and with the coal oil business, if the government do not provide a remedy before the elections come on they are going to be defeated by an overwhelming majority of the indignant electors of this country.

I have here a few notes upon preferential trade. Preferential trade and preferential tariff are not synonymous or interchangeable terms. They are as wide apart in their signification as the poles when applied to the principles of the two parties. The preferential tariff has given to Great Britain the right of sending her commodities to this country at a less tariff rate than is exacted from any other country without asking any compensation therefor. The policy of the Conservative party is to give a reduction in the tariff rates on goods from Great Britain, but, at the same time, to ask Great Britain to give such compensation as we require in payment for the sacrifices we make. This is the difference between the two parties. What would preferential trade do if it were adopted by Great Britain and by the empire? It would make the value of every article which the farmer produces on his farm so much greater. Every pound of cheese, every pound of butter, every horse, every cow, every hog, everything that the farmer has to sell, all the surplus of the farm, would find a good and profitable market. It would cause farmers to produce in greater quantities, it would raise the value of every acre of land, and it would solve the problem of immigration into this country. Then, the government would not have to go to Russia and import heathens into this country to populate the land. They would not have to send Doukhobors into the Northwest Territories, and in this connection, I may say, that I have seen a picture taken by a photographer in that country showing sixteen women pulling a plough. They say that they can change off one woman for a bull, and that one bull and eight women can do as much work as sixteen women. The Doukhobors may become good citizens in time, but it will take longer than the right hon. Prime Minister will live, or any of us will live before they will become suitable citizens of this country. Preferential trade with Great Britain will make every acre of land in this country valuable, the tenant farmers of Great Britain will come over and buy land, raise produce, send it to the old country and furnish the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) with traffic for his railways, canals and steamboats, and will place the in-

dustries of this country in a proud position. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that we cannot go to England huckstering and bargaining for pecuniary favours for Canada. If hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House are too proud and too thin skinned to do justice to Canada, to ask England to give a quid pro quo for what she receives, it is high time to change these men, and to place men in power who will ask a quid pro quo for what we give. England has a population of 40,000,000 people. Pent up in that little sea girt isle, with an area of 120,000 square miles, is a population of 40,000,000 of people. Even with the most approved methods of farming they are not able to supply more than 18,000,000 of her population with food, and consequently, have to depend upon foreign and outside nations for feeding 22,000,000 of their people. Therefore, we see, that it is a very important matter that we shall have access to her markets on more favourable terms than those accorded to our competitors. They import into their country animals, wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, corn and flour, dressed meats, butter, cheese, margarine, eggs, fish, raw fruit, hops, lard, condensed milk, potatoes, onions, vegetables, poultry and game to the amount of \$604,397,267, which shows what a grand market would be opened up to the people of this country, and with a territory of over 300,000,000 of square miles of arable land, with inducements for enterprising farmers to come here, increase our population and our material wealth, and become customers of our manufacturers in the east, and the possibilities of building up our country are enormous. This is a very important matter, and it is grievous almost to hear hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, intelligent men, denounce hon. members upon this side of the House for even asking England, or thinking of asking England, for this concession. And, Sir, these gentlemen opposite have strained every nerve and every thought that their brains could devise to find arguments to put into the mouths of the English people, to dissatisfy them, and to cause them to give an unfavourable answer to Canada when they were asked the question by us: If we give you a preference in our markets on certain goods, will you give us some return in the nature of an advantage for our goods in your markets over the goods of foreign countries, which countries put up an almost insurmountable barrier against English goods. I think I heard some gentleman on the other side of the House challenge us to produce a single instance wherein we could show that Lord Salisbury or Mr. Chamberlain or the Duke of Devonshire, or any of the leading men of England, have given us any encouragement whatever that anything of this nature could be done. I can refer these gentlemen opposite to the intercolonial convention

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held in this city in 1894, when these Belgian and German treaties were discussed by the Premiers of the various colonies who were present, and by the Earl of Jersey, who represented the Imperial government. It was decided then that these treaties were in the way of preferential trade with England, and a resolution was passed at that conference asking that both these treaties should be denounced. Why was that done? It was done in order to clear the way for preferential trade. England claimed that she was receiving great advantages under these treaties, and yet, she undertook to denounce them for the purpose of enabling Canada and the other colonies of the empire to have the way clear for entering into preferential trade with the motherland. Lord Salisbury was applied to, if it would be protection for England to make an arrangement for her colonies to come in under more favourable circumstances than foreign countries. He instructed his private secretary to write, under date April 5, 1887:

I am to reply that Lord Salisbury does not imagine that differential duties in favour of our colonies, whatever may be said for or against them can properly be described under the term protection. We shall be glad indeed to take every opportunity that arises for delivering ourselves from those unfortunate engagements.

That was also done with a view of opening up the road for preferential trade between Great Britain and the colonies. Lord Salisbury further said, with respect to preferential trade:

I know the ordinary view of the duty of the government is to devise for itself the measures it may bring forward, and then let them take the chance, whatever that may be. And no doubt it is in a great measure true with respect to the large mass of legislation on secondary questions that they have to propose; but it is not true with respect to an organic question which concerns and will control the very existence of our empire, and the very foundation of our trade.

Lord Salisbury continued:

On this matter public opinion must be framed or formed before any government can act. No government can impose its own opinions on the people of this country in these matters. You are invited, and it is the duty of those who feel themselves to be the pioneers of such a movement, and the apostles of such a doctrine, to go forth and fight for it, and when they have convinced the people of this country, their battle is won.

Is that a denial from Lord Salisbury? No, Mr. Speaker, it is an invitation from Lord Salisbury to open the question up for discussion by the people of this country, and the people of the empire, and he promises that as soon as they are convinced that it is a proper fiscal scheme to be carried out, it would be carried out. Gentlemen opposite tell us that it is disloyal to ask Great Britain to give us this concession, and that it is absolutely impossible that any request in this direction could be granted by the

British government. Well, Sir, we are all old enough to know that reforms have been granted which at first were strenuously opposed and regarded as impossible. It is not much more than half a century ago since, that Wilberforce and Clarkson were hooted in the House of Commons when they proposed the abolition of the slave trade. But, these reformers kept at their work; they converted the people of England to their ideas, and the slave trade was abolished. When Cobden, and Bright, and Villiers, and Moore advocated the abolition of the corn laws in 1844 they met with similar opposition, but they kept at their work until the people were converted, and the corn laws were abolished in 1846. The same opposition is encountered to-day when people in the different parts of the empire advocate a mutual preference in trade between England and her colonies, but with the Belgian and German treaties removed from obstructing that scheme, I believe that the time will come, and at no distant date, when mutual preferential trade will be adopted for the prosperity and welfare of the motherland and her colonies. It is one pretty good sign of success that the Liberal party oppose this, because whatever policy they have opposed in the past has, in most cases, become the settled law of the land to-day. When it was proposed by the Conservatives to purchase the great North-west and pay \$1,500,000 for it, it was opposed by the Liberal party, who described that land as a sea of mountains, but the project was carried out, and since then a comparatively few acres of that vast territory has been sold for over four million dollars. When the Conservatives proposed the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Liberals opposed it on the ground that it was an impossible task for a country like ours, but the scheme was carried to completion in spite of Liberal opposition, and with what results we all know. The great scheme of the national policy was objected to by the Liberals in the same way. They told the Conservatives that it was senseless, that it was pure claptrap, that they would never carry it out, but when the Conservatives attained power, they inaugurated the national policy, and it has conferred on this country the grand position which she now holds amongst the nations of the world. In my mind, Mr. Speaker, this policy of a preferential trade which will be mutually beneficial to the motherland and to her colonies is a scheme which is bound to be carried to success, and one omen of that success is that the Liberal party of Canada is opposing it. I believe that the Liberal-Conservative party of Canada will yet succeed in getting a preference for Canadian products in the markets of Great Britain as against the products of those foreign countries which raise up a high tariff wall against British manufacturers. I have

taken much longer, Mr. Speaker, of the time of the House than I intended, and I shall, therefore, bring my remarks to a close. Sir, that England to which we belong is the centre, the nucleus, the heart of a great and mighty nation, around which cluster thirty-eight colonies, besides dependencies and protectorates, with a population of 400,000,000, and an area of 11,000,000 square miles, she stands to-day without a peer, without a parallel amongst the nations of the world. Her powerful navy, her expanding colonies, and her great commerce proclaims her master on the land, and the acknowledged mistress of the seas. Her flag has proudly waved over many a hard-fought battlefield, and is seen on every continent and on every sea, and wherever it floats is recognized as the emblem of strength, of power, and of justice. Beneath its ample folds, those who true allegiance to it bear, are protected in all their just rights, and are as secure in distant lands as though reclining under the shadow of that staff which bears aloft the British flag, that proudly waves over Windsor Castle, the residence of our noble Queen. In vindication of that principle, the clash of arms is heard, the booming of British cannon is echoing from kopje to mountain-top, and the glinting of British steel is seen in the rocky passes of South Africa, the dark continent, proclaiming to the world in thunder tones, that British interests, British rights, British territory, cannot be invaded, nor the old flag insulted with impunity. To punish the bold and lawless invader, and to maintain and defend the honour and the dignity of the Crown and empire, the loyal and brave sons of Canada are freely offering their precious lives, and shedding their precious blood in that distant region. Of the brave and gallant Canadian boys who have fallen, and found heroes' graves in that far-off land, we may say, as was once said of a noble Grecian patriot, that:

We tell their doom without a sigh,
For they are freedom's now and fame's,
And 'mong the few immortal names
Who were not born to die.

We say: 'Rest in peace, for there are no prouder graves even in our own proud clime.' England has ever been in the vanguard of civilization and amongst the first to plant the standard of Christianity and education in the most inaccessible corners of the world. She has been the pioneer plough and harrow, that has broken the tough sod and the green sward of superstition, fanaticism and intolerance, upon which has been sown the seeds of civilization, from which are being garnered a rich harvest of religious, civil and political liberty, which makes the name of British subjects honoured and respected wherever they may reside, irrespective of the altar before which they bow, or the language in which they offer up their prayers. It is the proud boast of Canada

that she belongs to this vast empire, and is known and recognized as the most important of all her colonies, and the brightest, the most brilliant gem in the crown of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen of England, the Empress of India, and perhaps, soon to be the Empress of South Africa, and the best ruler that ever graced an earthly throne.

Mr. McMILLAN moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved second reading of Bill (No. 90)—from the Senate—respecting the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories. He said: This Bill is simply to provide for a chief justice in the North-west Territories. It does not add to the number of the judges, but provides that there shall be a chief justice there, as everywhere else, to arrange and supervise the business of the court.

Mr. FOSTER. What about the salary?

The PRIME MINISTER. The salary is the same as before. The change is simply in rank.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee).

On section 1,

Mr. FOSTER. Has the First Minister made up his mind yet as to who shall be the fortunate individual to get the advance in rank?

The PRIME MINISTER. I have not made up my mind, for I have not heard. This is a matter that comes from the Minister of Justice, and I do not think he has made up his mind.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

CONDITIONAL LIBERATION OF PENITENTIARY CONVICTS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved second reading of Bill (No. 89)—from the Senate—to amend an Act to provide for the conditional liberation of penitentiary convicts. He said: This is an amendment to the Act which was passed last year, whereby the ticket-of-leave system was introduced. At the present time the system applies simply to convicts confined in the penitentiary, not to those in the common jails or the reformatories. It must be obvious that if the system of ticket-of-leave is to work well—and apparently it gives satisfaction—it ought to apply, not only to the

hardened class of criminals who are sent to the penitentiary, but also to the offenders who are sent to the jails or reformatories for petty offences. The object of the Bill is to amend the Act, so that it 'shall apply to all persons convicted of any offence, and being under sentence of imprisonment in any jail or other public or reformatory prison.' With regard to the working of the Act, if I remember rightly, last year twenty-eight tickets were issued, the number of persons condemned to the penitentiaries being about 2,000. The proportion is not very large; but it is premature yet to say what the effect the system is likely to be in this country. I have some statistics of the working of the system in the United States, and as they are somewhat interesting, I will read the memorandum which has been placed in my hands by the Department of Justice:

The convicts in the New York state prisons are looking anxiously to the present legislature in the hope that it will enact a parole law that will let some of them out into the wide world again; and their paper, *The Star of Hope*, is fairly bristling with articles, short and long, advocating the measure. To aid in the campaign of education, *The Star of Hope* presents a valuable summary of what the parole laws in other states have done for criminals. New York state, with no parole law, sends its criminals to prison for fixed terms, then sets them altogether free—and 70 per cent of them return to lives of crime. Ten other states, with parole laws, release convicts having good records, keeping them under surveillance until convinced of their reformation. Here are records from different states:

	Percentage of offenders redeemed.	Percentage of offenders returned to crime.
Pennsylvania	85	15
Ohio	90	10
New Jersey	95	5
Indiana	94	6
Connecticut	100	..
Utah	100	..
Michigan	94	6
Alabama	97	3
Virginia	100	..
Minnesota	92	8

This law has now been in operation in Indiana for nearly three years. Mr. Whitaker says of its operation during this period:

We have paroled 132 prisoners, of which number six have been returned for violation of their parole, and two have failed to make their reports, and at this time we do not know where they are. This showing, as compared with other institutions, is remarkably good, only being a fraction over 6 per cent of the prisoners paroled that have violated the confidence placed in them by the management. We have now eighty men on parole that are making their reports promptly, earning all the way from

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\$5 to \$40 per month and their board, and in many instances are caring for their families, that would otherwise be a public charge upon the township where they live had the prisoner been kept in confinement.

This is a satisfactory condition of things, and we may hope that similar good results will follow here.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I am sorry that these statistics were not a little fuller. You can take no lesson from them unless you have the length of time this experience has been running and the percentage of offenders who were let out on tickets-of-leave. In one state, it is said that 100 per cent were redeemed. But possibly in that state only one or two were let out on parole. Personally, I have every sympathy with the idea of allowing men a chance to redeem themselves, who have had the misfortune to fall into offences which land them in the clutches of the law. I am in favour of having as perfect a system as possible of selection, and that of surveillance, so that as many as possible may be returned to good society, but I would like the hon. gentleman to give us an idea of how the experiment works. For instance, when once a person is selected to receive a ticket-of-leave, we should know what is done by the Justice Department in the way of imposing conditions and exercising watchful care. Last year we discussed this as an experimental measure. We do not know how the conditions here correspond with those in Great Britain and in the different states of the union. Does it not seem that we have not had sufficient length of time to judge the effect of this system in the case of penitentiary offences, and that we are going a little too fast when we extend it to the whole range of offences punished by imprisonment in the common jail. Does the Minister of Justice think that the system as a whole has had a fair trial and ought to be extended to all grades of offences?

The PRIME MINISTER. The Department of Justice are of opinion that the system has worked satisfactorily. The attention of the minister has been called to the fact that juvenile offenders—young men confined for petty offences, too small to deserve penitentiary—cannot get the benefit of the Act, and his opinion is that they are the very class who ought to have the benefit of it. As regards the method of working the system, I am sorry I am not in a position to give information at present, but will take note of the request and give the information on the third reading.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). How many are out on parole?

The PRIME MINISTER. Twenty-eight.

Mr. SPROULE. Personally, I think the Minister of Justice is ending where he ought to have begun. I always thought it would have been proper to make this law apply

to minor offences, and afterwards to the graver offences.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Is not the power of pardoning in the province with regard to prisoners in the reformatory and the common jail?

The PRIME MINISTER. That is not the opinion of the Department of Justice.

Mr. HAGGART. Is it not claimed by the provincial authorities?

The PRIME MINISTER. I think I have heard some pretensions to that effect, but at present the pardoning power is solely exercised by the Minister of Justice.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). There has been a question raised on that point, and one of our lieutenant-governors contended that the right should be exercised by him. I wish to ask whether the figures given by the right hon. gentleman for the different states in the union apply to jails and reformatories as well as penitentiaries?

The PRIME MINISTER. I could not tell my hon. friend.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). No doubt there has been a contention by the provinces that the pardoning power is vested in them. The right hon. gentleman will see that the persons to whom he is extending the Act are entirely controlled by the provinces, although no doubt the pardoning power has been exercised entirely by the Minister of Justice at Ottawa in the past. Does the list which the right hon. gentleman gave of the results in the United States include also the class of persons to whom he proposes to extend this Act?

The PRIME MINISTER. I could not tell my hon. friend.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

Bill reported.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to bear in mind, with the other points, this one concerning the method to be adopted in the case of those coming from provincial institutions.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will bear it in mind.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE ON SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 80) respecting the members of the North-west Mounted Police force on active service in South Africa. He said: This Bill is simply to provide that the members of the mounted police force now serving in South Africa shall lose none of the benefits which they are entitled to under the North-west Mounted Police Pension Act.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time; considered in committee; read the third time, and passed.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With the consent of the House, we will call it six o'clock.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the Houses rises, it is understood, is it not, that on Tuesday when we come back after the recess, the budget debate goes on?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

GASPE SHORT LINE RAILWAY COMPANY.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Lemieux for the third reading of Bill (No. 70) to incorporate the Gaspé Short Line Railway Company.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I do not want to keep the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) in the House too diligently looking after this Bill; but I have not received the documents which were spoken of as being sent, that is, I have not the purport of those documents in full, though in part I have. I judge that the opposition to the Bill comes from the districts which are really the inhabited districts, from New Carlisle to Gaspé, on one ground, namely, that the Short Line Bill made no provision for the building of the road from New Carlisle to Gaspé, and that is the line of railway that the people of Gaspé and those living along the shore, in fact nearly all the inhabitants there, want, and the only thing they want. So I am persuaded, from the tenor of the communications already received, that they are entirely opposed to the Short Line Bill by itself, and as it was presented in the House, and they are entirely in favour of any good measure by a responsible company which will ensure the building of the road from New Carlisle up to Gaspé. Well, the section which has been added giving the right to this company to buy the Baie des Chaleurs road, and then giving them power to build from New Carlisle up to Gaspé, takes away, in part at least, that objection to the Short Line Bill which was the main feature, in fact the only feature, in the Bill as it was presented to the railway company. Now, what I object to in the Bill with reference to that is that you are asking for a franchise simply to keep it dawdling there. No one who is connected with that company, no one who promoted it, I think, had any idea of furnishing money to build that Short Line through, simply because the

country would not support it. There are neither inhabitants or resources along that proposed line to make it at all probable that a road would be built, or would become a commercial line if it were built. The only resources that lie there, so far as I am informed, are pulp wood resources, which may be fairly large; but as to agriculture or merchantable timber, that district of country does not afford them, and there is not much prospect that it will ever develop such resources. Well, you have given that franchise to some gentlemen without any conditions at all. I call the attention of the right hon. gentleman to that fact, that you do not lay down in the Bill whether it is to be commenced within a reasonable time or whether it is to be finished within a reasonable time. In all our railway franchises we do not make them perpetual and unconditional. I think it would be only fair to put in a clause which would compel them to begin the road inside a reasonable time and to finish it inside a reasonable time, with a clause making provision for the payment of the labour which has gone into the road. If the member for Gaspé will insert a clause such as I have mentioned, providing for commencing and finishing the work within a reasonable time, I do not know that I would feel like opposing the Bill at the present stage.

Mr. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Gaspé). I understand that the people of Gaspé and Bonaventure would be opposed to the Short Line exclusively, but they are in favour of the Bill as it stands to-day. However, I think the objection taken by the hon. gentleman from York (Mr. Foster) is a good one; they should not get a charter for that Short Line without we specify a delay within which that part of the line should be constructed. As to the Short Line the delay has been specified in the Bill; that is, to begin within one year and terminate within three years. I would have no objection to add to this Bill a clause that the Short Line should be begun within two years and terminated within five years. I move that the Bill be referred back to the Committee of the Whole for that purpose.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Why refer the Bill back to that committee, when the Railway Act itself provides that they must begin within two years and spend at least 15 per cent?

Mr. LEMIEUX. I thought the Railway Act provided for that, but considered it would be just as well to have it added in committee. However, as there is no need of sending it back to the committee, I move that the Bill be now read the third time.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY—THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). **Mr. Speaker**, before you leave the Chair, I desire to call your attention and that of the House, for a few moments, to a question that seems to me to be of very great importance. Similar questions have come up on one or two occasions during the present session in regard to what seems to be a gross abuse of the franking privileges, not only in connection with this House, but outside of this House. Attention was called to a very aggravated case by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) a short time ago, having reference to the distribution of a large number of copies of the speech which the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) made at Massey Hall some time during the summer. It was stated that these speeches had been sent out by thousands, and the truth of the statement was admitted by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce himself rather exultingly, when he said that he was sorry that a great many more had not been sent out. That admission was made here. There was really no defence for it. That it should have occurred here is certainly bad enough, but, when the abuse reaches other quarters, it certainly must come from the bad example which has been set here and for which there seems to be no defence. The case I refer to is in connection with the Ontario legislature. I have here an envelope that is practically an official envelope of the province of Ontario, printed upon which is 'Parliamentary Papers, free, Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario.' I think it is quite clear to every hon. gentleman in this House that these official envelopes for the purpose of inclosing such mail matter as is authorized under the Post Office Act, and that if any other matter is inclosed in these envelopes, or if the envelopes are used for any other purpose, it certainly is an abuse of the Act, and more than that, it is a means of deliberately defrauding the revenue of the country. I had a question on the paper, a short time ago, to which I received an answer, on the 5th of April last, a few days ago. The question was:

What is the extent of the franking privileges granted to the provinces of the Dominion, and to the legislatures of such provinces?

The answer that the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) gave was this:

Under the provisions of the Post Office Act, 49 Victoria, chapter 35, section 42, subsection 7: 'Petitions and addresses to the provincial legislatures of any of the provinces of Canada, or to any branch thereof, and also votes and proceedings and other papers printed by order of any such legislatures or any branch thereof,

may be sent free of Canada postage under such regulations as the Postmaster General prescribes.' The post office regulations as contained in the official Postal Guide grant exemption from postage within Canada to the following classes of mail matter also.

Now, this is the class of mail matter to which such privilege applies:

Periodical bulletins, circulars, schedules and reports prepared by and issued from the provincial government departments in connection with agricultural, industrial and sanitary matters, as well as returns made to the provincial governments in relation to such matters on schedules furnished by them; forms used by clergymen, medical men and others, when making returns of marriages, births and deaths, contagious diseases reports addressed to the Provincial Board of Health, Montreal, and meteorological reports addressed to the Dominion Observatory at Toronto.

That is the class of matter that may be inclosed in envelopes of this kind.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). What kind of matter was inclosed?

Mr. CLANCY. I will explain to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) the kind of matter. I am told that these envelopes are sent out in thousands throughout the province, and they contain a speech which the Hon. G. W. Ross, the former Minister of Education, made at Whitby, some few months ago. This envelope goes out with the compliments stamped on it of the Hon. E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and a member of the government of the Hon. Mr. Ross. That is evidence that they are passing such envelopes through the post office.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). What page of *Hansard* did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) quote the hon. Postmaster General's answer from?

Mr. CLANCY. Page 3368. These envelopes go out, I say, containing the speeches of the Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, in thousands. I wish to point out that a more flagrant abuse of the privileges, small as they are, granted to the provincial legislature, could not be well contemplated. Official envelopes are printed for other purposes, and these envelopes are used for the purpose of sending out the campaign literature of these gentlemen at Toronto. I do not know whether the government are aware of this or not, but, I am afraid if they are not, they have deliberately closed their eyes, and they have, upon the other hand, set such examples that the Hon. Mr. Ross could very well appeal to the example of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, because, as I say, the hon. gentleman, only a few days ago, rather boasted of his achievement in getting out several hundred thousand of his speeches by an illegal means.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. He has been following the example of the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor).

Mr. **CLANCY**. Is that the defence the hon. gentleman sets up?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. No, but he has been following his example.

Mr. **CLANCY**. Yes, but I thought the right hon. gentleman would have some reasonable defence for it. I thought he would give us some better excuse than to say that some one else had committed a similar wrong. I thought the right hon. gentleman's professions were that he was not going to follow bad examples. We are not afraid of him following good ones, but, his professions have been loud and strong, that when he was elected to power, he would adopt new ones and better ones. If my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) was ever guilty, then, it seems to me, that it was an example that the right hon. gentleman should have avoided, and that he should not imitate what he condemns in his own mind.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I have not done it.

Mr. **CLANCY**. No, but the right hon. gentleman permits his own friends to do it. He permits the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce to do it. He permits him even without a rebuke. There was not a single sentence uttered on that side of the House in condemnation of that transaction, probably the largest that ever occurred in the House of Commons, because it was pointed out by the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) that, according to the statement of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce himself, no less than \$20,000 was lost to the revenue from that transaction. I am unable to say what the loss is in this case, but I desire to say that I am informed that thousands of these envelopes are to-day passing through the post offices free of postage, as one will see, going to the friends of these hon. gentlemen, and they are simply unloading, by that illegal means, their literature upon the country. If the government do not take some steps to bring the parties to justice, then, I would say to the Prime Minister that it will not be enough to say that the hon. member for South Leeds offended once in his life, great or small as his offence might have been.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. He never did.

Mr. **CLANCY**. It will not be enough for the right hon. gentleman to condone the offence of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, and a most gigantic offence it is, but, it is his duty to take in hand those who have been the offenders. I do not intend to detain the House with a further discussion. I felt it to be my duty to call the attention of the government to it, and

Mr. **CLANCY**.

to ask the right hon. gentleman himself to take some action in this matter, and to punish the offenders for so gross an abuse. After all, Mr. Speaker, when these gentlemen print envelopes, stamp them as being official, and send them out as campaign literature, it does seem to me to be the most flagrant violation of the franking privileges that has ever occurred in this country.

Mr. **N. F. DAVIN** (West Assiniboia). I wish to call attention to a statement made in one of the papers in the west with reference to myself and the franking privilege, and, as will be seen by hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches, this statement is simply a flagrant lie on the face of it:

Four years ago it was proved conclusively that Mr. Davin had abused the franking privilege, hundreds of pounds of campaign literature came into West Assiniboia free of postage, bearing Mr. Davin's stamp several weeks after parliament dissolved and when he was no longer a member of parliament.

I need hardly say that the frank of a member of parliament has no power to carry any mail matter after the House rises. No doubt what happened was this. I franked some of my own speeches, which I suppose is a very proper thing for a member to do. It is a use that is made of the franking privilege by all of us, and I presume that there cannot be a more legitimate use of the privilege than for a member to send to his constituents a report of his speech that he has made in this House. I can easily understand how it was that some speeches of mine, posted a day or so before the House rose, did not circulate in Western Assiniboia for probably three or four weeks afterwards. I suppose that the post office in the House was congested, and that when they sent the mail matter down to the city post office it remained there until it could be sent out to my constituents. That is the only way that my frank could have carried anything free of postage, because after the House rose my frank was of no value whatever. On the face of it this statement bears a falsehood. Then the writer goes on to say:

Mr. Davin is even yet abusing the privileges. Last week the electors received from Ottawa, with his frank, a circular printed in German which was a campaign circular pure and simple.

This document was an intimation to my German friends and supporters of certain views, which I could have put on a half-sheet of note paper. It was a communication between me and my German supporters and there could not be a more legitimate use of the franking privilege.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Hear, hear.

Mr. **DAVIN**. This writer, either himself does not know what the franking privilege means, or he thinks that the readers of his paper do not know.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) will deal with that portion of the complaint of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) wherein he refers to the alleged abuse of the franking privilege by the members of the local legislature. Each member of the local legislature has a right to frank through the mail any matter which is printed by order of the legislature during the session, whether speeches or anything else. The Postmaster General read the other day a list of other things than those ordered by the legislature which they also have the right to send. I desire to call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) to an error into which he has fallen, presumably from the fact that he was not in the House during the discussion the other day. That error is, that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), when he franked his speech delivered at Massey Hall was guilty of a violation of the franking law. Nothing could be more erroneous. The law is perfectly plain. During the session or parliament members have the right to frank letters and other mailable matter, whatever it may be, from headquarters here to any other part of the Dominion. If I were foolish enough to send my hon. friend's speech to my constituents I could do so, and it is perfectly competent for him to send one of my speeches if I make any. But you cannot put a limit other than what good taste may dictate to what members may frank during the session. I heard it stated in years gone by that there was one member who did not scruple to use his privilege to send his washing to his home and back again. You may question the taste, but it was 'mailable matter' within the words of the statute. In the same words which you give that right to a member of parliament during the session, the statute gives the privilege of a cabinet minister during the recess. There is no doubt about that, for I read the Act the other day.

Mr. FOSTER. Read it again.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It reads :

All letters and other mailable matter addressed to or sent by the Governor General, or sent to or by any department of the government at the seat of government, shall be free of Canada postage under such regulations as are from time to time made in that respect by the Governor General in Council.

Mr. FOSTER. Does that cover it ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That covers it. The regulations read by the hon. gentleman at the time expressly draws the distinction between what the head of the department can do and what the ordinary under-officials of that department can do. Either the departmental head or his private secretary,

according to the regulations, has the right to send this matter, as the 42nd section prescribes. There is no distinction whatever between the words used in the law with reference to a minister during recess, and with reference to members during the session. If you construe 'mailable matter' to include other than the matter which the members write and the speeches which they themselves deliver, and extend it to all speeches or parliamentary documents—as is done in practice and as, I think, is a legitimate construction of the section—then you must give the same construction to the words in the 42nd section as is given to the words in the 43rd section. Under the law, there was no more impropriety in the Minister of Trade and Commerce franking his speech delivered in Massey Hall, than there would be in his franking one of his speeches delivered in this House. Under the 42nd section he gets the same authority to do so as a minister of the Crown, as under the 43rd section a member of this House gets. That is my opinion.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Last fall during the recess my constituency was flooded with a speech delivered away down in the maritime provinces by Senator Ferguson of Prince Edward Island. I do not know how they managed to come to my constituency under his frank, but there is no doubt they did come and nearly every one in my constituency received a copy of that speech. He is not a minister of the Crown, and I do not know how it was that the Post Office Department allowed that to go on.

Mr. DAVIN. What year was that ?

Mr. McMULLEN. Either last year or the year before.

Mr. DAVIN. Might not the explanation of that be the only explanation that could be given of the circulation of matter mailed by me, namely, that it was sent from here, and was delayed in the central post office ?

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). If the speech delivered by Senator Ferguson in the maritime provinces was mailed from here in August last, probably it did not reach my hon. friend's constituency until September, or the fall. But, I rose particularly to resent the insinuation or imputation of the Premier, in replying to my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that the Minister of Trade and Commerce was following my example. The example was set by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who mailed his speech early last year, but in my opinion, in clear violation of the law, as explained by several leading gentlemen here the other night, because during the recess, he undertook to frank a political speech delivered by him at Toronto. I would like the Premier to say in what respect I violated the law. The Minister of Marine and Fisher-

ies has explained the law under which a member during the session has a right to frank any mail matter.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). And a minister out of session.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is his interpretation of the law ; but if I rightly understood my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), who is perhaps as good a lawyer as there is in this House, he interpreted the law differently. There is no doubt of the right of a member to frank any mail matter during the session. The Grit press have been pitching into me, and asserting that I violated the law, and I would like to know in what respect. I can frank mail matter to my own constituency or to any other constituency in the Dominion ; and as whip of the party, I have had to mail considerable outside of my own constituency, as the whips of the Liberal party did, when they were in opposition. When the late James Trow was Liberal whip, he sent, through the mails, political speeches to every elector in the province of Ontario. Who is franking campaign literature for the members of the government to-day, and who is addressing that literature ? I am informed that in some of the public offices, civil servants are doing nothing but distributing campaign literature. I understand that in the Public Works Department, there is one room where there are about twenty clerks doing nothing but addressing campaign literature to be sent throughout the country. I would like to ask the Premier to say in what respect I have violated the law ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If my hon. friend contends that the Minister of Trade and Commerce violated the law when he franked copies of his own speech, then, by the same rule of reasoning, I think the hon. gentleman has violated the law in mailing extracts from Montreal papers, containing accounts of the unfortunate incident which took place some time ago in Montreal. In my opinion, the Minister of Trade and Commerce did not violate the law. In my opinion the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), did not violate the law either, because I presume that such extracts are mailable matter ; but if he did not violate the law, I think he committed a very unfortunate act, to say the least of it, when he went out of his way to circulate an account of the unfortunate incident that took place in Montreal. This is what I charge him with. It may have been within the law, but it was not a good action.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, I want to inform the hon. minister that I sent no extracts from the Montreal papers. I sent papers, the Montreal *Witness*, as well as the Montreal *Star*. A few copies were sent here, and I addressed them on ; and that was done during the session. I do not know what they contained. I never looked inside of them.

Mr. TAYLOR.

The PRIME MINISTER. If the hon. gentleman does not know what they contained, I can show him five or six copies which I received, in my office, containing accounts of the riots.

Mr. TAYLOR. And I presume the riots are properly explained, both in the *Witness* and the *Star*.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). With respect to this franking privilege, I know that in the by-election in which I ran in the month of August, 1895, an immense amount of literature came into the constituency, franked in the name of a deceased member of this House. I made inquiries into the matter, and found that it had probably been franked before the close of the session, and that it remained over. I accepted that as being a correct explanation, and I infer that a great many of the cases that look like violations of the law, are similar to that. However, my object in rising was to direct the attention of the House for a moment or two to the statement of the law made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I think he has made a mistake in not looking into the regulations made under the section of the Act.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We had them here the other day, and went over them carefully.

Mr. POWELL. We have not had them here this evening. The section of the Act is :

All letters and other mailable matter addressed to or sent by the Governor General—or sent to or by any department of the government at the seat of government—shall be free of Canada postage under such regulations as are, from time to time, made in that respect by the Governor in council.

The qualifier of the clause is : ‘ Under such regulations as are, from time to time, made in that respect by the Governor in council.’ If no regulations have been made controlling or authorizing the sending of this matter through the mails, that section does not apply to this case. A complete statement of the regulations is given in the Postal Manual, published by the Post Office Department ; and I shall read the regulations under the head of ‘ franking and free mail matter ’ :

All letters and other mailable matter posted from the public departments at Ottawa and franked as being of an official character, all correspondence addressed to the ministers in charge of the said departments or to their private secretaries, or to the deputy heads or secretaries of the same, or to any recognized branch or division of a department or to the officer at the head thereof in his official capacity, and under his official title.

Now, it is mere child's play to say that because those speeches were franked ostensibly as official matter, the mere perpetration of a fraud and the insertion on the docu-

ment of a lie could bring it within the purview of this regulation.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Just the same as a member acting in his official capacity.

Mr. POWELL. It is not the official character of the man that is referred to, but the official character of the communication or the matter posted. When it says, 'all letters and other mailable matter franked as being of an official character,' that means, by every rule of jurisprudence, truthful franking. As I understand the case of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, it was this, that during the recess, he franked a speech delivered by him. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries says the members of the government are precisely in the position at all times of the year, that members of this House are in during the session of parliament. If you will read the regulations you will see that there is a very marked distinction between the two cases. In the first place, this qualification of official character is affixed to matter sent out by the departments and franked by the heads of departments in their official capacity. But, when we come to the clause that relates to members of parliament there is no qualification or limitation whatever. The matter they frank need not be of an official character, that is during the session. Let me call the attention of the House to the sixth section :

Letters and other mailable matter addressed to or by any member of the Senate or House of Commons, whether on public business or the personal affairs of such member, while at Ottawa, during any session of parliament, or to any such member at Ottawa, during the ten days next before the meeting of parliament.

Therefore, in the case of members, during the session, matter may be mailed by or to them, utterly regardless whether it be of a personal or of an official character. But in the case of heads of the departments, their franking privilege is limited to matter of an official character. Furthermore any matter that is sent to them must also be of an official character, except when sent to them during the session of parliament, when they are not denuded of their character of members of either House. The case is very clear. We, sitting here as members of the House of Commons, and those sitting in the Upper Chamber as members of the Senate, are entitled to frank anything we please, during the session. Members of the executive during recess are only entitled to frank matter of an official character, and if they do differently they are perpetrating a fraud, in the eyes of the Act, on the revenues of the country.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. If my hon. friend is of that opinion, then he must admit that, on the information furnished this House by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), who is not now in

his seat, the leader of the opposition was guilty of a palpable and gross fraud in the year 1896.

Mr. FOSTER. What did he do ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Personally, I have no information except that which will be found in *Hansard*. The hon. member for Colchester said that during the recess of 1896 he was aware that vast quantities of political campaign and quack medicine advertisements were circulated—perhaps the hon. member for Colchester did not include the quack medicine ; that, I believe, came from another quarter—by the tens of thousand through the mails, franked by the hon. leader of the opposition, and distributed throughout the province of Nova Scotia.

Mr. PRIOR. Was it Pink Pills ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. No, I am not aware that Pink Pills were advertised in that way, and I am not going to advertise the medicine to-night by naming it, but it was a medicine advertisement from a prominent Conservative. I have too much regard for my newspaper friends to name the medicine.

Mr. POWELL. That was clearly wrong.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I am glad to have the hon. gentleman's admission. In all these matters we were governed, not entirely by the statute, but by the interpretation put on the statutes from year to year so long as that interpretation is not challenged. I do not think it could have been the law, according to a layman's view and getting away from the technical legal view—I do not think it could ever have been contemplated that the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), in his capacity of member of parliament, should be free to circulate tons of incendiary literature free through the mails, under his frank.

Mr. POWELL. The statute says so.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I do not admit that my hon. friend is right, but am not going to argue the legal point.

Mr. POWELL. It is no legal point. The regulation expressly says: 'Matter of a personal nature.'

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I do not think a regulation can override an Act of parliament.

Mr. POWELL. Look at the statute and you will be satisfied.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I will leave that to my legal friends. I do not think the public will see the distinction drawn by my hon. friend. I do not think they will see the sense of permitting my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor), to frank tons of matter during the session—not parliamentary matter at all, but copies

of newspapers—throughout the Dominion of Canada, and then holding that a member of parliament, who circulates a public speech made by him out of session, shall be considered as violating the law because he circulated it under his own frank. I do not believe that that is the law. It certainly is not common sense. What the public will say is this. They will say: It may be that the franking system is abused, but if it be known, as a matter of public notoriety, that under the late government, campaign literature, speeches not made in parliament or documents not originating in parliament, were circulated under the franks of ministers, and that similar literature has been franked by the present ministers, the franking privilege has been used somewhat too liberally, but there is not the least ground for hon. gentlemen opposite to throw stones at hon. gentlemen on this side.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) has not the regulations before him, but only a summary of the regulations, compiled by some clerk. The statute gives the right to the head of a department, without limitation, to send out from the department all mailable matter.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Departmental matter.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It does not say departmental matter at all, but all letters and mailable matter, and the whole argument turns upon that. Is the same phrase used with reference to matter the minister may send out during recess, which is applied to matter which a member may send during the session? I say it is the same phrase exactly: 'Letters and mailable matter.' There is the clause providing that that may be regulated by orders in council, but an order in council cannot take away from the statutory right which is given a minister. The order in council may provide that mailable matter from the department must be franked by the minister himself or by his private secretary, but it cannot take away from him the right to send it. If my hon. friend will look at the regulation closely, he will see that they do not take away the statutory right. They take away from all officers of the department, other than the minister, the right to send mailable matter except of an official nature, but could not take away that right from a minister.

Mr. **SPROULE**. It is beside the question to contend that those are not the regulations (holding up the official Postal Guide), because they are sent to every postmaster to guide him.

Mr. **POWELL**. I am arguing the question on the regulations before this House, and not the regulations that may exist in the mind of my hon. friend the Minister

Mr. **FIELDING**.

of Marine. All I can say is that here are the regulations before the House, here is the official book, called 'The Official Postal Guide,' and in that book I find the following:

Under the following regulations, correspondence, as hereinafter described, is free of Canadian postage.

I take that in connection with the statute, and the words of the statute are: 'As directed by the regulations.' The regulations do not allow what the hon. gentleman states they do.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) has not considered the regulations:

All the official correspondence of the several departments except that of the heads of departments.

And so on. It makes a clear and definite exception of the correspondence of the minister.

Mr. **POWELL**. I will ask your permission, Mr. Speaker, to say a few words more, and then the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) and myself will be on a par. Now, surely my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is too good a lawyer to say for a moment that a mere matter of detail, a mere matter of ritual, you may say, as to how the franking privilege is to be exercised is to interfere with the real substantive provision of the law. I would tremble for the fate of this government if the hon. gentleman were correct in his law. I can understand them trying to patch up a political case and, as such I receive his argument; but that it is a genuine expression of his own views in the matter, I can only accept under the right of every member of parliament to have his word accepted in this House in relation to a matter personal to himself.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I suppose we shall hear from the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) on this question.

Mr. **M. K. COWAN** (Essex). Before the Postmaster General speaks I desire to say a word. I must say that it strikes me as peculiar to find hon. gentlemen opposite all at once seized with this great desire to see that the franking privilege of parliament and of the ministers shall not be abused. I can tell the hon. gentleman that, in 1896, after parliament dissolved, which was in April, in the constituency I have the honour to represent, between the 15th and 23rd of June, practically every elector received not any official documents, not any speech delivered on the floor of parliament or elsewhere, but the pure and simple unadulterated campaign literature of the Conservative party, under the frank of the hon. Dr. Montague the then Minister of Agriculture. That is, after parliament had dissolved about five weeks, the literature was franked and mailed into the south riding of the county of

Essex, I am thoroughly satisfied, to the extent of six or seven thousand copies. Every elector I had an opportunity of discussing it with had received a package of that literature under the frank of the hon. Dr. Montague. I reside in the city of Windsor, and I know that in the post office of that city they came in the month of June in mail bags by the dozen, to be distributed throughout the country. I have not looked into the law on the subject, and will not venture a legal opinion. But it does strike me that the hon. gentlemen opposite are very much in the position described by the old lines :

When the devil was sick the devil a monk would be,
But when the devil got well, the devil a monk was he.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I do not propose to reply to the gentleman who has made so apt a quotation—applied to himself let us say. I really had hoped that the question would have been taken up on its merits and treated by the government as being a question of some importance. But, apart from special pleadings and the 'you're another' argument they have nothing to say. I think the matter has become one of great gravity when the government takes such a position as to tell every citizen of this country that if they can beat the law, they have a perfect right to do it, if they do it for party purposes. I am willing to allow the legal question to rest upon the argument of my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). That hon. gentleman and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries are lawyers, and we have heard the law expounded by each of them and the regulations read. It is as plain I think, as the English language could make it, that it never was intended that ministers, should have the right outside of the session of parliament, to frank and send throughout this country speeches which they or any member of their party may have made outside of parliament, and do it at the cost of thousands of dollars to the public revenues of the country. I believe that never was intended by the law, I believe it is absolutely cut off by the law and the regulations. Now, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) said the people would look at this in a sensible way. Let us take the transaction of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and look at it in a sensible way. Will any fair-minded man in this country say that because one happens to be a minister, he can go out into the country during the recess of parliament, that he can make campaign speeches and send them out by the half million in sealed envelopes in packages which would cost, if printed and circulated by another man, whether a politician or otherwise, 4 cents in postage—will any sensible, reasonable man say that that was ever contemplated by the law, that it is a thing that ought to be done, that it is a fair thing as

between political parties that it should be done? Now, I do not think that anybody—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Was it fair in 1896?

Mr. FOSTER. Hon. gentlemen opposite do not seem to be able to consider the question on its merits. What is this question that we have before us, and what will be the settlement of it? The question is whether this thing is right and whether the government will say it is right.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Your virtue is very one sided.

Mr. FOSTER. It is not a question, at the present time of my virtue; it is a question of the virtue of men at the head of the government, responsible minister of the Crown, teaching a lesson to this whole country. This is not a case which has not been proved, it is not a case which has yet to be brought to the minister. It has been acknowledged by the minister, and on that case there is a declaration on the part of the ministry, from the right hon. gentleman who leads the government down, that it is perfectly right for a minister to do what the Minister of Trade and Commerce has done.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And what all previous governments have done.

Mr. FOSTER. That all preceding governments did it is one of the little easy statements that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is able to make in this House without one particle of proof.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is the evidence, and there are the witnesses.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no evidence given by the hon. member (Mr. Cowan) who spoke last, to prove it at all.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Just as much as the other.

Mr. FOSTER. Not at all.

Mr. COWAN. Why, I saw it myself.

Mr. FOSTER. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said, standing in his place in this House: I delivered a speech in Massey Hall, and hundreds of thousands of copies of that speech I franked when the House was not in session, and I am sorry I did not frank more. Is there anything of proof needed in view of that statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce?

Mr. COWAN. Nor in the other either. I myself received the literature I spoke of.

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. member for Essex will permit me—

Mr. COWAN. I wish to set the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) right, for I am sure he does not wish to misrepresent me. I say that I as an elector of South Essex and

North Essex received packages of this literature with the frank of the hon. Dr. Montague, Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose this hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) is a lawyer—

Mr. COWAN. I have that honour.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose he takes cases in court, and pleads before a jury. I suppose he sometimes stands before a judge. But would he stand before a judge or jury and declare that such evidence as he has given would be evidence to convict a man. Has he proved when these documents were franked, when they started from the precincts of this House.

An hon. MEMBER. He mentioned when these parcels were received.

Mr. FOSTER. But is there any proof in that? Every man who is a lawyer and who has a common-sense head upon his shoulders, knows that is no proof. In the session of 1896, tons upon tons of election literature was prepared in the different printing offices and sent out by members of parliament and those interested for them, on both sides of the House. When this session of the House ended in 1896, portions of the House and post office were piled up almost to the roof with it. I know, with reference to my own literature, which I had had franked in time to have gone out, that it was months afterwards before it reached my constituency.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman: Did the ex-Postmaster General (Mr. Haggart) say in the House here that it went out after the House rose, but it went out within fifteen days, he then assuming they had fifteen days to send it?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He stated that they sent it out afterwards.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know that he stated that, I am simply saying what I know. I say it is no proof at all, that because literature, as in the case of my hon. friend here, got to his constituency months after the House rose, it is no proof at all that it was not properly franked and sent from this office. I am not sure, also, but that if the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) will look into it, he will find there was a practice allowed by the Post Office Department, by courtesy, that for ten or fifteen days after the House rose the franking privilege was continued to the members to send out what they wanted to send. I think that was a practice which for a number of years grew up in the department, and I would not have very much to say against that practice.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It would be a violation of law.

Mr. COWAN.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no doubt about that. But, if a member has, legally speaking, ten days before the session to receive and send, and if the post office did make an arrangement of that kind, that for a certain number of days afterwards he should have that privilege, it would not be unreasonable, although it would be illegal. Now, I am speaking simply of what has been proved. The hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) spoke the other night about literature going down into his riding after the House was prorogued, for a month afterwards, he said. That does not prove it was not properly franked whilst the House was in session. Neither does the statement which was made by my hon. friend, who spoke just before me, prove it. It may be an assumption, but it is not proof or evidence. But, in the case of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, it is no assumption, it is not a supposition, it is actual, positive truth, out of the mouth and by the word of the Minister of Trade and Commerce himself. Now, then, after this, what happened?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Will the hon. gentleman permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I will allow him.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. At least, grant me the ordinary courtesy—

Mr. FOSTER. Ordinary courtesy. If you put it in that way, the privilege has been refused to me over and over again by the Minister of Trade and Commerce and by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the hon. gentleman must not stand up in my face and plead courtesy when he wanted three or four times to break into my speech but would not allow me to do it. I must measure out to him what he measures out to me.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You have refused me the privilege three times since the session began.

Mr. FOSTER. I will do it the fourth time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You refuse to answer a question which I put to you?

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman would put reasonable questions to me, but, he puts such silly questions that I do not like to waste time with them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not profess to have a monopoly of wisdom as some hon. gentlemen do who possess a monopoly of ignorance. The question I wished to ask him was this: When Mr. Haggart stated in the House:

I gave my staff instructions that the frank was to be used during the session of parliament, and for fifteen days afterwards.

Is not that evidence to show what was done under the late government?

Mr. FOSTER. I should take that to be good evidence that the department sent out literature under a member's frank for fifteen days afterwards. Is the hon. gentleman satisfied with his answer, and would he not feel better in his own conscience if he had been just as frank when he got up and made his argument here to-night?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not say anything against it.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman made his argument all around the main point. Why, you talk about documents coming down. Suppose I take the same line that the hon. gentleman did. I can tell you that in the elections which took place down in my hon. friend's constituency, pamphlets and documents, signed and stamped by J. D. Edgar, came down there by bushels in that campaign, two months or more after this House had prorogued. It is possible they had been franked before the House prorogued, and that in the congestion of business in the post office they did not get down in time, or they may have been put through just as in the other case, and put through wrongly. But, we cannot afford now to leave this question where it is, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce sent out to the extent of hundreds of thousands an election pamphlet, being a speech made by him outside of the session of parliament, took advantage of what the law does not give him a single iota of ground for doing. What comes to the department is supposed to be departmental matter, it is not groceries, tea, tobacco, leather, iron, or anything of that kind. When you come to say in legislation that what comes to the department or what is sent from the department is free, everybody knows what that means—it is what goes to the department in course of departmental business, it is what goes out of the department on a mission of departmental business. It is surely no wider than that, because you legislate with reference to the doings of the department in question. The postage which is supposed to be given free by the country is for what comes into the department officially and what goes out of it officially, and cannot by any fair rendering be put in another light. But, here you have the Minister of Trade and Commerce putting out hundreds of thousands of copies of a speech delivered outside of this parliament, campaign literature for his party, and he disseminates that to the detriment of the revenues of this country, to the extent of tens of thousands of dollars. Yet, the Minister of Finance says: Let sensible

people look at it in a sensible way. Will not a sensible man say that I have just as good a right, in the interim of parliament, to frank literature which goes in answer to that as a speech on behalf of the Liberal-Conservative party? What honour, or honesty, or fair-play, is there if you take \$20,000 out of the funds of the country to carry your interim election pamphlets through the country for your party, and that I should not, with reference to the reply to that speech, have an equal right? Neither of us should have the right according to the law, or any fair rendering of it. The people of this country, who pay the taxes ought neither to carry your literature nor mine.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. They did carry yours.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman can never get any further than that, he cannot stand by a straight question and argue it on its merits, he can only go back to the you-are-another principle in argument. But, at this time, we have got this question before parliament and before the country, and the government is taking its stand. The stand that the government takes and teaches to the people of this country to-day in its arguments here is, that you have a perfect right to do it if you can slip it in and carry it through for your party's sake.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The same right you had in 1896.

Mr. FOSTER. Now you have got the fruits of it. Here is an election contest down in Sherbrooke, Que. The Liberal-Conservative party in opposition have difficulty to find their fighting material, every one of them putting in what they can of energy and of time, making their literature and circulating it, and we are met with something. What was it? We met with the hon. Minister of Agriculture, a man of means, representing a party that has means, who goes down into Sherbrooke and uses his departmental frank to send the election literature of his party all through the county of Sherbrooke to compete against the literature and work of his opponents. Why should he not do it? The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce does it and glories in it, and so it is done. But, I have here a letter which was sent to me not long ago. What for? The advertisement of a book sent broadcast through the country. By whom? In whose interest? Departmental? Not even an election interest, marked 'W. L.,' and it has gone everywhere. It bears on the outside no postage, but, the Dominion of Canada is paying for it. Why should he not send it? If the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, in order to keep his position as a cabinet minister, can frank 500,000 copies of his election speech to keep him

and his friends in power, why cannot a poor devil, who wants to sell a book, send his advertisement around at the expense of the country? One thing follows another, and there has no man risen on that side of the House who has made a single allusion to the gross fraud which has been unearthed to-night. Why should he not do it? The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce ought to have some privileges. He is a Grit. What is the use of being a Grit unless you can have privileges, and so the right hand of the government of this Dominion party that rules here feels that he has to have some privileges and to exercise them. Why not? The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce sent 500,000 copies of his speech broadcast at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. Now, what happens? Now, let the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries exercise his ingenuity. Let him get up and show that part of the law in which the Hon. G. W. Ross is authorized to send his election speeches at the cost and the charges of the taxpayers of this country all through the country, and to do it with a fraud on the face of it by printing upon the envelope 'Parliamentary papers, free, legislative assembly, province of Ontario.' This speech of the Hon. G. W. Ross, not emitted even in the provincial legislature, a speech delivered in a campaign in the town of Whitby, is sent everywhere with an hon. minister's compliments accompanying it, free—by the grace of the law of Canada? No, Sir, for the law of Canada gives him no authority at all for doing it—sent free, copying the example of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who had no more right to do it than he had, having heard, that, in this House, ministers stood up and said it was all right if it only got party advantage for them. And so, these Ontario politicians, instead of paying the miserable two or four cents of postage which would carry their election campaign literature, put into an envelope which purports to be what it is not, and sends out at the cost and charges of the taxpayers of the country, political literature, Grit election literature, all over the province at our expense. Where else is it being done? If the good government of Ontario do it, and under a fraudulent heading, and they do it without a man on the Treasury benches saying one single word in condemnation of it, why has not the province of Quebec a right to do it, and are they not doing it and have they not done it, and have not other Grit governments in other provinces done it and are they not doing it? If they have not, they have fallen short of their privileges. What the premier province does and what the Premier of the premier province does the Premiers of other provinces may and will do. It seems to me that we have come to a point where, no matter what has been done in the past, we ought to have a declaration from the government

as to some principle which ought to rule in regard to this question. Do hon. gentlemen think that it is all right so long as the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce does it? That hon. gentleman would have thundered against a thing like that until the skies fell if it had been done when he was in opposition. But, when he is in power he gets up in this House and says that he is only sorry that he had not done a little more of it, and sent a few hundred thousand copies more of his speech than he did. What is the government going to do about this? What is the Postmaster General going to do about it? He will skin the poor letter carrier, he will make him carry four times every day, during every day in the year, except Sundays, for a mere pittance, he will skin down the mail contractor who carries, for a few cents a day, his mail through the country districts, he will impose postage on the newspapers, and all that; but he has not a word of condemnation when the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce mulcts his department of its revenues to the extent of \$20,000, or when the hon. Minister of Agriculture goes to work and floods the country, during his by-election campaigns, with literature at the cost of the people of Canada for his own purposes and for the purposes of his party. Not one of the hon. gentlemen has anything to say when all this takes place, when a fraud, patent on its face, is committed which no honest man in this parliament can rise up and defend. If any one can let him do it. Let any one defend an action of that kind. Is this a new thing? Well, if it is new, there is a very good reason for it. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce and the hon. gentleman who leads the House said they were perfectly willing to do it to the extent of hundreds of thousands of copies of the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce in Massey Hall. I think we have come to a pretty pass when the government have made such a poor showing as they have in this matter.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Really, it is a pity that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) who has just resumed his seat, did not burst out into this virtuous indignation during the eighteen years in which he and his friends were in power when we were suffering from the disabilities which he is suffering from. The hon. gentleman had abundant opportunities before 1896 to express this virtuous indignation. He was then in a position to have stopped this abuse, which he now is so indignant about. The hon. gentleman had abundant opportunities, because we know that he and other members of the government and their friends franked literature out of session from the departments of the government in Ottawa to parts all over the country, and that they have a systematic method by which they did it, of which I

will give the hon. gentleman some details before I sit down. The hon. gentleman was a member of the government, a powerful member of that government; he enjoyed the abuse and reaped the advantages of the abuse, if it was an abuse, as the hon. gentleman has now described it to be. Since the hon. gentleman has taken a seat in the opposition and has lost his privileges, he thinks it would be a good thing that a change should take place, and that the government should not have the opportunities, or the advantages, which he and his friends enjoyed for eighteen years. He wants the law amended: he wants to make a change.

Mr. FOSTER. No, I want the law carried out.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Why did you not carry it out before?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If it is not carried out now, it was not carried out when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) was in office. I can give the hon. gentleman some details. During 1896, in the Department of Agriculture, there was a special room set apart, and the messenger of the then hon. Minister of Agriculture was given charge of that room; he had there clerks in the pay of the department, paid by government money, and these clerks franked literature all over the country and sent broadcast, for months. Tons upon tons of that literature were sent out of the Department of Agriculture, franked with the frank of the then hon. Minister of Agriculture and the then hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, and not only that, but franked by members of this House who were not members of the government and who had no right to use the frank of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, or of the Department of Agriculture. That was carried on for about three months in the Department of Agriculture during 1896, both before and after the session of parliament, and up to the very day of the election. The literature which my hon. friend from Essex (Mr. Cowan) describes as having been sent to his constituency was only a small portion of what was sent out by the Department of Agriculture at that time, and it was franked by the departmental frank of the then minister. More than that, some of the persons who were engaged in that work were paid by the departmental cheques and were upon the books of the department as officials. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) says his government were not guilty of this abuse, but I tell him that they were, and they were guilty to a hundred-fold to the extent that we have been. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), was very virtuous and he asked the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) for his proof, and he held up an envelope as a specimen of what is being sent by thousands from the legislature of Ontario. Where is his

proof of that? He was indignant with the member for Essex (Mr. Cowan), when demanding his proof, but where is the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Foster's) proof, except as regards that particular envelope that thousands of the speech of the Hon. G. W. Ross were franked by Hon. Mr. Davis.

Mr. FOSTER. I happen to have two here.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) asked my hon. friend from Essex if he was a lawyer; but it is evident that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) has learned his law from pettifogging lawyers—

Mr. FOSTER. I always had the idea that two witnesses established a thing.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Then the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) does not know much about law, or he would know that the opposite side have a right to be heard in a case. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) referred to what he called the advertisement of a book, and I understand that that was franked during the present session by some hon. member. That hon. member exercised his privilege of sending mailable matter, and I venture to say that the book advertised there is not of such a deplorable character as the copies of the *Star* which the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has franked in so many hundreds of thousands.

Mr. POWELL. And as you franked to Sherbrooke.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I did not frank the *Star* to Sherbrooke, not by a long way.

Mr. TAYLOR. What about the *Witness*?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Nor the *Witness* either.

Mr. POWELL. What about your pamphlet stirring up strife?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I availed myself of the privileges which was exercised by all the ministers who preceded me from time immemorial in this country.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Ever since the Act was passed. There was but one construction put upon it.

Mr. FOSTER. How do you know?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I know it from the officials of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. No such thing.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is again speaking of what he has no knowledge,

because he was not always Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. FOSTER. He was always.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. During our administration, but not before. The hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) says that the campaign literature which I had franked in my department to Sherbrooke was of an inflammable character. I venture to say that he does not understand what the literature was, or perhaps he does not understand the inflammatory character of the *Montreal Stars* which were franked all over this country by his friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor).

Mr. TAYLOR. There were as many *Witnesses* franked as there were *Stars*.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The *Witness* is an honest paper, and every copy of the *Witness* contains the same material and the same words, and is written on the same principle. But the *Star*, which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) sent all over this country was a special edition prepared in the office of the *Star* for circulation where they did not dare to circulate their other editions. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has lent himself to help the distribution of a dishonest appeal to racial and religious prejudices in this country, and I condemn the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), because I feel that in doing that he assumed an immense responsibility and showed himself to be a very unpatriotic member of this House and citizen of this country.

Mr. TAYLOR. The *Witness* had the same article as the *Star*.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not at all. The copies of the *Star* which the hon. gentleman sent out through the country were not the copies of the *Star* sent out for circulation in the province of Quebec.

Mr. TAYLOR. There was nothing wrong in it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It seems to me it is a most deplorable thing in this country when a member of parliament stoops to circulate a lying description of what occurred on such an occasion, and that is what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) is guilty of.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Minister of Agriculture will not say the *Star* lied.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister will not say the *Star* published what is false?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do emphatically say so. I say that the edition which the *Star* published, and which was circulated throughout this country, contained absolutely false statements

Mr. FISHER.

of what occurred in Montreal when the Laval students paraded the streets, and it was done for the special purpose of inflaming the minds of the English Protestant people of this country against these students, because they were French and Roman Catholic. I rose, Mr. Speaker, because my own conduct in the matter of the Sherbrooke election was called in question. I again say that I am perfectly satisfied that in doing what I did I merely carried out the law and the practice. I did what was done by my predecessors in the government of which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) was a member. It is a pity that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) did not then show some of his virtuous indignation against that practice when he was minister, because it might have had some influence in stopping the practice which was followed then to such an enormous extent.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). As the Postmaster General does not wish to answer the charges made from this side of the House, I wish to speak on another subject. I have been informed that the permanent sessional clerks and the messengers of the House who are paid every fortnight have been refused the payment which will be due to-morrow, and that they are told they will have to wait until the supplementary estimates are passed. I do not know whether it was you, Mr. Speaker, or the Minister of Finance who gave the order, but it is a great hardship on these officials, some of whom wanted to go home for the Easter holidays. It seems to me that last session this money was voted for at least ninety days of this session, and we are not that long here yet. I draw the attention of whoever is responsible, to this grievance.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What is possible to do within the law will be done to meet the case mentioned. I was informed some weeks ago that we would need supplementary estimates at an early date, but I was not aware there was a grievance. We must be careful not to violate the law.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I confess I was surprised at the language used by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). I do not think the House pays much attention to Billingsgate of that kind coming from one of the hon. members on the back benches on the other side, but it does not maintain the dignity of the House, that a gentleman occupying the high and honourable position of a cabinet minister should descend to such language as we have heard to-night. The hon. minister (Mr. Fisher) charges the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) with sending through the mails, matter which he declares to be of an inflammatory character. I want to read to you, Mr. Speaker, from a pamphlet distributed

by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), in the late Sherbrooke election, which to my mind is of as inflammatory a character as anything that ever appeared in the *Montreal Star*; and I have reason to believe that the hon. gentleman himself knew every word it contained, as I am credibly informed he wrote it himself. So that if there was a crime on the part of my hon. friend the Whip, there certainly was a double crime on the part of the Minister of Agriculture in writing what was inflammatory, and in distributing it through the mails.

Mr. COCHRANE. And not paying for it.

Mr. HENDERSON. Certainly, not paying for it. The Minister of Agriculture claims that he belongs to the party of purity, and that he is a great deal better than we miserable Tories on this side of the House; and yet when he finds an opportunity of making an excuse for a violation of the law, he thinks it is a justification for him if he can say somebody else did it. The article which the hon. gentleman wrote and distributed through the mails, free of cost, when he ought to have paid for it, reads thus:

Sir Charles is now in the decline of life. He is in his 79th year. Few more years can be reserved to his earthly lot. He has occupied in the country high rank and his career has been well filled. On many occasions has he been useful to his country. It is painful to see this public man devoting the latter years of his life to the sad task of sowing discord and hatred among Canada's youthful sons.

What baser falsehood could any man have circulated? It is absolutely false, and dishonouring to the man who penned it and mailed it.

It is painful to see him thus tarnish the brightness of the prestige which sprang from his name, from his long years of public life, and from his grey hairs.

For the purpose of satisfying his senile ambition, of securing the realization of what was perhaps the dream of his life, that is, to become the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Charles Tupper does not at the present moment hesitate to appeal to racial and religious prejudices.

When, I ask, did Sir Charles Tupper appeal to race and religious prejudices? I say this is an infamous slander; shall I call it an infamous falsehood? The language is not too strong. Language cannot be used too strong to denounce such conduct on the part of ministers of the Crown. They have no right to take the money of the people of this country for the purpose of circulating scandalous language of this kind. Mr. Speaker, I think it unnecessary to say more on this matter; but since the hon. gentleman was good enough to accuse members on this side of the House of making statements that were not true, and disseminating them through the mails, I draw his attention to another portion of this pamphlet, in which

he told the people of Sherbrooke that the Conservative tariff on agricultural implements was 35 per cent, and that the Liberal party had reduced it to 25 per cent, when surely, as Minister of Agriculture, he must have known, that long before he came to power, the Conservative party had reduced the duty on agricultural implements to 20 per cent. He must have known that the pamphlet which he was putting into the hands of the electors of Sherbrooke was absolutely untrue and misleading. Are we going to have the money of the country squandered in circulating slanders of this kind? And the man who has done it, comes before this House and attempts to justify his conduct, his contemptible conduct, I will say, by saying, 'You are another.'

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) As I see the Minister of Militia in the House to-night, I want to ask him a question, if he will give me his ear. When I am addressing him, I think, it is only proper courtesy on his part to turn around and listen to what I have to say.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I do not want any lecture from you about propriety.

Mr. PRIOR. A week or so ago, the hon. gentleman promised that he would look into a matter I brought up in regard to the correspondence that was brought down in connection with the offer of British Columbia to send a contingent to South Africa. The last letter given in that correspondence is dated the 16th of February, when Mr. Chamberlain telegraphed that the Imperial government would defray all the expenses of the transportation to South Africa. I asked if there was not some more correspondence, and the right hon. leader of the government said he did not know, as it had been referred to the Minister of Militia. The Minister of Militia, on the 2nd of April, said:

Copies of all the papers in the department have been placed in that return, as far as I know. I will make further inquiry about it.

I would like to know if there is any further correspondence in the department?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is none.

Mr. PRIOR. All I can say is, that the government have been very remiss in this matter. Here was an offer from the province to send a hundred men to South Africa—a magnificent offer, such as was never made by any other province. The provincial government were first told by this government that they would have to pay the transportation to South Africa themselves. When Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Imperial government were willing to pay the transportation, this government did

not even take the trouble to inform the British Columbia government that such was the case. I say it was an outrage. I do not know whose fault it was—whether the fault of the Minister of Militia, or the head of any other department. No doubt if this government had informed the British Columbia government that the transportation would be paid, that contingent would now be on its way to South Africa. If there is no more correspondence, this shows that very little interest was exhibited in the matter by this government. There is another matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of Militia, that is, in regard to the correspondence brought down in reference to General Hutton's dismissal. Surely these three short notes are not all the correspondence that has occasioned all this trouble between the Major General and the Militia Department or the government. I would ask the hon. gentleman if there is no more correspondence?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. None.

Mr. PRIOR. Is this all the correspondence that the government think should be laid on the Table? Is there any that is private and confidential?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is none whatever.

Mr. PRIOR. I suppose we must take the hon. gentleman's word for it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. You can do as you like about that.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) As the Minister of Militia is in such a good mood, I would like to ask him, if it will suit his honour some time before the House prorogues, to bring down those canteen papers.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. Generally, when I was a minister, when I was asked a question, I took off my hat and rose to my feet and gave a polite answer; but now manners have changed under the new liberalism, and the Minister of Militia sits in his seat with his hat on, and says, 'No more.' I want to ask the hon. Postmaster General, who is in the essence of good humour, when he can give me a return which I asked for early in the session, of the post office contracts and payments for carrying the mails into Dawson, and out to Vancouver or Victoria. I have been longing for these for many a day. I want to see the inwardness of them, and make two or three short observations on them. If the good natured Postmaster General will just stir up some of his wicked and selfish subordinates, and get those papers down, it would facilitate business and be a great pleasure to us on this side.

Mr. PRIOR.

Mr. McMULLEN. I just wish to make a remark—

Mr. FOSTER. I did not know that the Postmastership had changed. Has it really gone to my hon. friend from North Wellington?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) is addressing the Postmaster General.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman's question is a very fair one.

Mr. FOSTER. I am always fair.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman called my attention to the matter the other day, and I at once gave instructions to have the returns prepared and laid on the Table at the earliest moment. To-day my deputy submitted some to me, which I initialled, and the return the hon. gentleman asks for may be amongst them. There is certainly no intention to delay anything, and my hon. friend will have these documents as soon as the Easter holidays are over.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope that my hon. friend will give them to me before Easter so that I may study them.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If my hon. friend is serious about this—

Mr. FOSTER. I certainly am.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. And if it be in compliance with the rules of the House to do such a thing, I will do it.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, these rules we have are of no account now.

THE DUTY ON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. JAS. McMULLEN (North Wellington). I am sorry the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) has left the House. He said that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) had gone into a riding and declared that the government had reduced the duty on agricultural implements, and he waxed very indignant over what he called the untrue statement of the hon. minister. But, if he will turn to the tariff of 1894, he will find that picks, mattocks, grub hoes, adzes, hatchets, and eyes or poles for shelves, and tools of all description, n.e.s., were taxed 35 per cent ad valorem. And if he will look into the tariff of the present government, he will find that the duty on these implements has been reduced to 20 per cent. In the light of this fact, which cannot be gainsaid, I would like to know what becomes of this simulated indignation of the hon. gentleman from Halton.

SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to the memorial of the officers of the Moosejaw Agricultural Society, and to ask him whether he has received it. The following is the memorial:

The Memorial of the undersigned Officers of the Moosejaw Agricultural Society on behalf of said Society and Residents of the Moosejaw District.

Humbly sheweth:

1. That we memorialized the government of the Dominion last year re seed grain indebtedness and settlers' bonds connected therewith, giving reasons for wiping out the whole debt, or failing that, to cancel surety bonds and interest on the primary debt.

2. Prairie fires and the destruction connected therewith, and suggesting a remedy.

3. Water, its scarcity and impurity; its deleteriousness; the inconveniences and hardships resulting therefrom, handicapping mixed farming at every turn, lowering the prices of our dairy products and rendering the fattening of cattle in winter profitable an impossibility as well as the carrying on of winter dairying, and suggesting a remedy.

4. Tree Shelter.—Its entire absence throughout districts larger than some of the eastern provinces; recommending that tree planting grants be introduced into the Dominion lands system. Also that tree planting, successfully performed in accordance with prescribed rules and government directions, be accepted as part payment of pre-emptions. And further recommending as of the first importance, and in the best interests of the Dominion as well as of the North-west, that a considerable portion of the annual Dominion grant for immigration purposes, or from \$250,000 to \$300,000, be spent yearly and every year in the North-west in preventing prairie fires, procuring or solving the water question and studding the open prairie with groves of trees; that it would more quickly and effectually promote immigration and the settlement of the lands in the North-west than by expending it all in the east in assisting passages, bonusing steamboats and railways and printing and spreading immigration literature, &c., throughout Great Britain, Europe and elsewhere, or by paying a certain variable bonus to alien immigrants. The records of the land department will show that of late years settlers have gone into districts where water and tree shelter abound in fifties, hundreds and even thousands, while into the open, treeless, waterless prairie they have only gone in twos, fives and tens, although there is much less danger from frost, and a greater certainty of crops in the latter.

5. Interest on Pre-emptions.—That in consequence of an oversight or an anomaly in the first Dominion Lands Act, all settlers who promptly performed their settlement duties, and at the end of three years applied for their patent in accordance with the requirements of the Land Act, were charged interest on their pre-emptions from the said date, while others, taking advantage of the law not being compulsory, did not perform their duties or apply for their patent, some for many years, and were exempted from paying interest, thus saving \$24 a year. Therefore, we pray that both be placed on the

same footing by cancelling the interest on the first-named class for a term of years. We respectfully refer you to the original memorials sent you a year ago for a full statement of all points. We further respectfully represent that we regret exceedingly that thus far we have not been appraised that any action has been taken by the Dominion government re said memorials (save notice of receiving them), except on the seed grain indebtedness. That by the order in council passed thereon, no relief is given to the primary debtor, contrary to our petition and expectations. That we fully expected, when everything North-west pioneers had to contend with would be considered, at the very least that no interest would be charged on their seed grain indebtedness. That the order in council re the seed grain bondsmen means, if we read it aright, that the Governor in council may relieve the bondsmen of the debtor, who, on account of the government being in possession of their patents or otherwise, can secure payment of the said debt, but if the primary debtor is otherwise situated or beyond the reach, from any cause, of the government, that no relief will be given to the bondsmen of said parties.

It appears to your petitioners that the government, in thus acting, overlooked the fact that by their plan of acting they have given relief to those who did not require it, and withheld it from those who did. We therefore renew our request, and urge the cancelling of all seed grain bonds. That we cannot conceal from the government the keen disappointment universally felt in the North-west, that having attempted to give relief to the bondsmen, they did not cancel every one of the seed grain bonds, abate the interest and written-off the lien for seed grain on abandoned homesteads, which prevents settlers without means from taking up said lands.

We would further represent that we learned with amazement, at the close of the last session of parliament, that Dr. Douglas' Elevator Combine Bill was buried in the House, and express the hope that no such fate will overtake or defeat present measures before the House calculated to curtail the forces for evil of the odious elevator combine.

That it seems almost incomprehensible to us that the interests of a few men, perhaps forty or fifty, who built elevators, at an average cost of from three to four thousand dollars, more or less, would be accounted of more importance and value than the tens of thousands of farmers in Manitoba and the North-west, the great majority of whom have individually more capital invested and at stake than the incomparably fewer individuals who have invested in elevators.

That the privilege to ship on cars direct is utterly inadequate to check the rapacity of the elevator combine is proven by the sworn testimony of Manager White, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, before the Elevator Commission in Winnipeg; that of the season's crop only 4½ per cent was shipped direct by cars, the uncertainty as to cars, the preference given to elevators as to cars, the want as to accommodation to store grain until sufficient has accumulated to fill a car, the enlargement of many of the cars to a thousand bushels capacity, the twenty-four hours time limit to ship, which is too short except for those settled within four miles of the stations, all beyond that requiring at least forty-eight hours, and the entire absence of raised platforms from off which to load, all and sundry, militates against advantage being more largely taken of shipping by the car in

sufficient volume to check or bring to terms of fair dealing the elevator combine. That the privilege of shipping from flat warehouses and reducing the capacity of standard elevators to about 10,000-bushel capacity, with raised platforms for car shipping, is an absolute, pressing necessity, although not regarded as a permanent solution of grain transportation in Manitoba and the North-west, where grain-growing and cattle-raising is destined to assume immense proportions.

That in common with all other agricultural associations throughout the Dominion, the Moosejaw Agricultural Society is composed of men of all political parties, and are therefore strictly non-political, and refrain positively as a society from expressing an opinion as to whether pre-election promises were or are not fulfilled; whether we have got a full measure of tariff reform or a reduction of the debt of the Dominion, &c., except to put on record that there is divergence of opinion on those matters. But we unhesitatingly and unanimously bring to your notice the following facts: that contrary to expectations, as compared with three or four years ago, we receive from three to five pounds of sugar less for a dollar than we then received; that binding twine is 40 or 50 per cent dearer; that barbed wire is about 70 per cent dearer; that lumber is from 25 to 30 per cent dearer, and a further increase is expected; and that we get no relief in agricultural implements, and that they are this spring dearer. That wheat, our stable product and mainstay, is as low in price as ever it was, except perhaps once, since the settlement of the North-west, and that therefore only for the extra bountiful crop which an over-ruling gracious Providence has vouchsafed to give us, hard times would prevail in the North-west.

That we therefore respectfully and earnestly represent and urge that, as agriculture is the greatest interest in the Dominion, that more attention be given to matters affecting the farmers of the east and the North-west, and that the several prayers of our memorials be favourably received and acted upon during the present session, as the duty and burden of providing for or solving the questions of fire, water, tree shelter, &c., devolves largely on the Dominion government while they retain in their hands and treasure the lands and proceeds of the North-west, especially since an over-flowing treasury will permit of its being done without increasing the debts or burdens of the community.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

DAVID COPELAND,
President.

B. FLETCHER,
Secretary.

Dated at Moosejaw, this 17th day of March, A.D. 1900.

As some of these paragraphs referred to the Department of Agriculture and to the Department of the Interior, I preferred not to bring the matter up, while both the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) and the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) were absent. Of course, it would be out of order if I were to dwell on the matter at this time, and I do not intend to break the rules of the House. But I thought it was very important that I should take advantage of the Minister of Agriculture to

Mr. DAVIN.

read this memorial, so fraught with wise suggestions for legislation this session.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has appealed to me. Perhaps I may be allowed to be as much out of order as himself, so I rise to reply. I will try not to protract this condition of things as long as the hon. gentleman did. The hon. gentleman must be quite aware that the matters contained in this memorial relate to the Department of the Interior, not to the Department of Agriculture, and that probably the memorial itself has been sent to the Minister of the Interior. It certainly has not reached my department yet, this being the first I ever heard of it. I have no doubt that the Minister of the Interior has taken notice of it if he has received it, and will attend to the suggestion contained in it.

Mr. DAVIN. Can the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) inform me when the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) will return.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. It is beyond my power to give the hon. gentleman that information.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Lighthouse and coast service—salaries and allowances of light-keepers..... \$220,000

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I promised the House to give an explanation of the increase of \$3,000, as compared with last year, in this item. As I explained on that occasion, there are a number of new lights. Forty-two were established during the two years. Most of them were provided in the previous year, but the \$3,000 increase arises in the necessity for providing for the light-houses at Midland, lighted buoys at Sault Blind River, Ont., Platon (new range lights), Quebec, Point du Chêne lightship, N.B., including hire of schooner for two months in fall, Sambro Harbour, N.S., Wood Harbour, N.S., Indian Harbour, N.S., Dryad Island, B.C., Pointer Island, B.C., and Lawyer Island, B.C.

Lighthouse and coast service—agencies, rents and contingencies..... \$16,310

Mr. FOSTER. What is the increase here for?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. An increase has been granted to Mr. Tremaine, assistant agent in Halifax, also \$200 for the salary of a clerk in a British Columbia office. The clerk in the British Columbia office has heretofore been paid intermittently, that is, he has been called in when he was wanted from time to time. But the agent says the work of the department has so increased that he must be employed permanently. Consequently, he has

been employed at \$600 a year as against \$400 which was formerly appropriated.

Mr. PRIOR. I am glad to see that the hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies) has done what is right by the young man. He is a good clerk and his services were necessary.

Lighthouses and coast service—maintenance and repairs to lighthouses, including the maintenance and pay of crew of lighthouse steamer 'Brant'..... \$235,000

Mr. FOSTER. What is this steamer *Brant*?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She is a supply steamer.

Mr. FOSTER. When was that originated?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The year before last. She was in operation all last year.

Mr. FOSTER. Is she a new ship?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, built the previous year.

Mr. FOSTER. Where was she built?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. At Charlottetown.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the cost of this vessel?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I gave that before, at the time we took the vote.

Mr. POWELL. She is a wooden vessel, of course?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes. I find she cost \$18,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is her tonnage?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She is a large tug-boat, about 125 feet long. The accountant tells me that they have not got her tonnage.

Mr. FOSTER. Is she used for any other purpose than to supply the Prince Edward Island lighthouses?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. She is almost entirely used for lighthouses and is confined, mainly, to Prince Edward Island, but she serves also the north shore of New Brunswick when she is required. We used to have to employ tugs at a large daily pay, and the boat which Mr. Lloyd had, cost a great deal because he lost a great part of his supplies in going around.

Mr. FOSTER. What is about the yearly maintenance?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can only give an estimate, because we have not had a year yet, he only went out in the autumn. There is a small crew, the captain, mate, first officer, engineer, assistant engineer, and two men, besides, of course, the stoker.

Mr. POWELL. Has the expense very much increased since taking on the *Brant*?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The expense necessarily must be a little more. But the agent of the department, Mr. Lord, has been complaining for years that it was quite impossible for him to supply the lighthouses unless he had a sufficient vote. It goes without saying that he could not do it with a sail-boat, and we have had to employ tugs for which we pay \$10 or \$20 a day. We have not had a year's work of the *Brant* yet, but the estimated cost of her maintenance will be \$5,000. This boat will also be used for the protection of the lobster fishery, which heretofore has cost us a good deal of money in tugs.

Mr. FOSTER. But you have the same fishery fleet as before?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The fishery fleet has not been employed in protecting lobsters there. We have to hire tugs for that purpose, because the lobster traps are set so near in shore that the larger ships cannot get in. Last year we spent a good deal of money extra in these tugs: One in New Brunswick, two in Nova Scotia, and one in Prince Edward Island, before the *Brant* went out.

Mr. FOSTER. Was the *Brant* built by tender?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, by a man named White.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). If the minister will look at the Auditor General's Report, page K-64, he will find that he purchased 213 gallons of linseed oil at 39-16 cents, and 126 gallons of boiled linseed oil at 41 cents, from the Imperial Oil Company.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is oil supplied by the Imperial Oil Company under contract made some years ago, by tender. There has been a change in the price of oil.

Mr. TAYLOR. On K-71, you go to Charlottetown and purchase boiled oil, not by tender but from a political friend, for which you paid 65 cents, and 60 cents for raw.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. From whom?

Mr. TAYLOR. A. Kennedy & Co.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. One of the finest men in the place, he would not charge a cent beyond what was right. He belongs to the salt of the earth.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why does not the hon. gentleman buy by tender? The late government called for tenders for supplies, but here all through it is jobbed out at 50 per cent to 100 per cent profit to the seller.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is not an article of supply that has to be certified by Mr. Lord which has not been got at the market price. You will not find many men keener to cut down prices than Mr. Lord.

Mr. TAYLOR. On K-63 you paid John Tobin & Co., Halifax, \$4.75 for three barrels of Ogilvie's patent flour, and thirty-seven barrels at \$4.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What time of the year was that?

Mr. TAYLOR. Between 1898 and 1899, large quantities were bought at \$7 and \$7.90 during that same year. On K-122, H. & S. Veit sold three barrels of flour at \$5.75; one barrel at \$6; four barrels at \$6.50; and five barrels at \$7.50. On K-124 also, there were purchased three barrels at \$6; two barrels at \$6.50; one barrel at \$6.75; and one barrel at \$7.50. Flour was not worth within 50 per cent of that price between July, 1898 and July, 1899.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The accountant of the department showed the hon. gentleman that that was the price. He went and got the prices at the stores.

Mr. TAYLOR. On K-118, two barrels were supplied at \$7.90. Now, why should the people's money be wasted in paying such prices? The government should call for tenders as the late government did; but this government is bent on paying their political friends extra high prices for the goods they purchase.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can say to the hon. gentleman, as to the price of oil and of flour, as of everything else, that peremptory instructions were given to the agents in the several provinces not to pass any article until they had ascertained the price on the market, and under no circumstances were they to pass it if it were above the fair market price. I think I am correct in saying, without having consultation with the officers in my department, that no such items have been passed at all until they had been thoroughly sifted. In regard to flour, the accountant of the department made the most thorough examination and satisfied himself that just after the season commenced wheat and flour went up, and the average of a particular class of flour was \$7 to \$7.50. He went down to the stores here in Ottawa and made them turn up their prices at those dates, and found that those prices obtained. Scarcely more than a dozen barrels of flour were purchased at \$7. That is the explanation sent out by the agents, Mr. Lord, Mr. Harding and Mr. Parsons. They do not purchase indiscriminately or recklessly. I wish the hon. gentleman knew the amount of severe criticism to which I am subjected,

Mr. TAYLOR.

and how I am abused the whole year round by the parties who supply these things, because they allege that the agents have cut them down so much that there is no profit left in it for them.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the hon. gentleman will turn to page K-106 of the Auditor General's Report he will find that eight barrels of flour were purchased from Davison & Co., Charlottetown.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no such firm as Davis & Co., Charlottetown. It is Davison & Co.

Mr. TAYLOR. I said Davison & Co.—8 barrels of flour at \$7 per barrel. The accountant of the department, or the minister, may summon any grocer he wishes before the Public Accounts Committee, and he will not find any grocer in Ottawa who sold a barrel of flour at \$7 a barrel from the 1st of July, 1898 to the 1st of July, 1899. I am in the grain business, and I know what the price of wheat is, the price of wheat regulates the price of flour, and wheat was never over \$1 and \$1.05 a bushel. The accountant has the opportunity, and I challenge the accountant or the minister to produce a merchant before the Public Accounts Committee who will say that flour was ever higher than \$5.50 a barrel. To-day I called Mr. Earle at the Public Accounts Committee, and he said that condensed milk sells for \$4 a case in British Columbia.

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has no right to refer to anything that has been done before a committee of the House from which there is no report.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will take up the question of condensed milk. I do not know what flour was sold for; I cannot tell. But I can tell my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor), that, when he first called the subject to my attention, I asked the accountant not only to write to the agents, but to go down among the flour stores and ascertain what the prices were. This flour had not been purchased in the month of July, but in May and June, 1898, and he was told that the average price of the best flour, the brand that is charged for here, was \$7 per barrel. If the hon. gentleman wants his informants brought before the Public Accounts Committee I shall bring them there, and if he can show me that any officer of my department has been paying higher than a fair market price I can assure him that that officer shall have the severest censure from me and such punishment as I can give him.

Mr. TAYLOR. After what was said here last year I thought the hon. minister would quit this system of dividing the patronage among his political friends and allowing them to charge exorbitant prices. But, the

same state of affairs is shown in the Auditor General's Report as was disclosed last year. There is an increase of \$5,000 in this vote, and I move that that increase of \$5,000 be struck out of the item for the maintenance and repairs of lighthouses which includes these items that I am complaining of.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No; the proper time to move that is when we come to the fishery protection service about which the hon. gentleman is speaking. You cannot shut up the lighthouses.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is the items we are dealing with now that I am complaining of.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, no. The hon. gentleman had better leave this question to be fought out when we take the evidence before the Public Accounts Committee. I am willing to meet him, to call witnesses there and to examine them. We will have some of the agents up from the other provinces.

Mr. TAYLOR. At page K-68 of the Auditor General's Report I find that John Tobin & Co., of Halifax, received \$381.40 for groceries, and that flour was bought at \$4 and at \$4.75 per barrel. I find that Ogilvie's patent is purchased at \$4.75, and on the next page I see that the department is paying \$7.90 for flour.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That depends on the time you bought it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I do not care at what time of the year it was. If the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) is in the House—he is a miller, and he will verify my statement. There is not a man, who is conversant with the prices of grain or flour, who will say that flour had reached any such prices during that year. I am buying flour for my family all the time and I know what the prices are.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no use of my hon. friend and I bandying words across the floor of the House because I cannot give any evidence on the subject. My accountant told me that he found that flour, during the time of the Leiter deal, in May or June, was selling \$7 per barrel. If he will come and give evidence under oath before the Public Accounts Committee I will bring the sellers of flour before the committee who know what the price was.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would ask the hon. gentleman to verify his statements.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will bring any witnesses the hon. gentleman likes, because I am just as keen that there shall be no overcharging as he is. I will now deal with the question of condensed milk.

Mr. TAYLOR. We will deal with that again. The hon. Chairman ruled that out, and said that the discussion could not go on.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not going to refer to the committee. The hon. gentleman has stated that we paid too high a price for condensed milk. We had from Mr. Harding and Mr. Parsons, the agents in Nova Scotia, the statement that they cannot purchase condensed milk in Halifax or St. John for less than they paid for it. My hon. friend says they can buy it in British Columbia for \$4.50 a case. We wrote to the Truro factory, and the Truro factory wrote back to say that condensed milk cannot be sold in the maritime provinces under \$6.50 per case wholesale. The retailers have to charge a profit on that. That is the Reindeer brand. In British Columbia the writer says, there is fiftyfold more milk sold there, that they have to compete with the Swiss milk made in England that comes to British Columbia via Cape Horn, and that the manufacturers, who have an immense capital, have been trying to squeeze the Truro Reindeer brand out of the market, and for that reason the Truro Reindeer brand is sold at \$2 less in British Columbia than in the maritime provinces.

Mr. PRIOR. That is correct.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) had better buy it in British Columbia.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And bring it all the way across the continent.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think that for the eight cases we require it would pay.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries why he requires the 59 cases purchased last year. I would like to know why the government cannot buy their supplies as cheaply as any wholesale man. Why job it out amongst political retail merchants?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It would cost me more to send it from one place to another to the different ships than we would save.

Mr. TAYLOR. At page K-10 of the Auditor General's Report we have three cases bought from Louis Mercier, Quebec, at \$10. Mr. Earle can buy it, delivered at Victoria, B.C., freight paid, at \$4 per case.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. \$4.50.

Mr. TAYLOR. Four dollars, he told me to-day, he gets it for.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have explained that here.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have a letter from the Truro factory myself saying that the price there is \$3.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where?

Mr. TAYLOR. At Truro.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Will you read it?

Mr. TAYLOR. I cannot lay my hands on it just now.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I wish you could find it and read it

Mr. TAYLOR. I will try to.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would like to put the two letters on record together if that is the kind of people they are.

Mr. TAYLOR. They have a brand being made in Prince Edward Island, and the opposition has forced the price down to \$3.25. It was \$4. I will read the letter, but I have not it at hand for the moment.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then I hope the hon. gentleman will postpone his argument until he has the letter. Either I have been grossly deceived by the Truro company, or he has misunderstood their letter.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is \$3.25, and it used to be \$4.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am talking about the present time.

Mr. TAYLOR—On K-54 of the Auditor General's Report, I find boiled oil charged at 40 cents a gallon.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Then we have left milk and gone to oil.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, until I find the letter.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). Before we leave this subject of condensed milk, I would like to make a remark or two on this question, because I have inquired into it. I thought the remark made in the Committee of Public Accounts—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FLINT. I was surprised at the statement made in another place with regard to the price of condensed milk in British Columbia, and the price in Nova Scotia, and I thought possibly some of our officers in Nova Scotia might have been overreached by some of our merchants with whom they dealt. I turned to the Auditor General's Report for 1895-6, when the Conservatives were

Mr. TAYLOR.

in power, and if I found there that a different state of things prevailed then to what prevails now, I would conclude that possibly the Minister of Marine and his officers were wrong. But I find from the Auditor General's Report, during the years of the Conservative administration, that Hogg, Craig & Co., of Pictou, good Conservatives, sold condensed milk to the *Aberdeen*, at \$7 a case. Moffatt & Co. sold at \$8 per case. John O'Donnell of Quebec, sold at \$9 per case.

Mr. TAYLOR. What has that got to do with this?

Mr. FLINT. It has a great deal to do with it. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) is condemning the present administration and its officers, for purchasing at high prices and the inference is that the merchants have grossly overreached the officer of the department, and that the officers have connived in an improper way to have the price put up on the government. If we find that the prices under the Conservative administration are the same, then his argument falls to the ground. These goods under the Conservative regime were purchased from good Conservatives and men of good standing in their community. The *Lansdowne* paid \$9.40 per case from B. Gillespie & Sons, Parrsboro, and Geo. Robertson & Co. of St. John, sold the same article at \$9. Samuel Tufts & Co., of St. John, sold at \$8 a case, Tuttle & Barrington at \$8 a case, W. H. Simpson, of Halifax, got \$7.20 a case, E. J. Sanders in Victoria, in the same year, sold 36 dozen, at about \$6.20 a case, which proves that the same state of things existed in that year, as in the present year.

Mr. PRIOR. It shows how honest they are in Victoria.

Mr. FLINT. It shows that in Victoria, owing to some circumstances, probably keen competition from the American companies, they can sell this milk at less than they can sell it in Nova Scotia. Daniel Stewart of Charlottetown, in this year, sold at \$12 a case. These are good Conservatives. John Bryson, of Quebec, sold at \$9.60 a case. E. W. Cross, Beaver Harbour, sold at \$7 a case. Lunt & Billings, St. Andrews, sold at \$8.64 a case. Mackie & Eldridge sold at \$8 a case, Joseph McGill, of Shelburne, sold at \$8 a case, Moore & Roberts, of North Sydney, sold at \$9 a case, John O'Donnell, of Quebec, sold at \$9.60 a case, and John Price & Co., of Pictou, sold at \$10 per case.

Mr. TAYLOR. What year is that?

Mr. FLINT. 1895. The point I wish to make is not that there is any impropriety, but that the prices charged then by reputable Conservative firms in the maritime provinces, appear to be on an average about the same as is charged now. If there is any difference, it is that the prices were higher in 1895, than they are now.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the late government did wrong, is that any reason why this government should do the same thing? This government was pledged to the people that they would do business on business principles, but here we find them buying hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth from retail stores, at from 50 to 100 per cent over what they could buy from wholesale stores. I have here the letter I referred to about condensed milk. It says:

Price of Reindeer condensed milk from jobbing house is \$3.25 per case. Manufacturers price to jobbers probably \$3. It was formerly higher, \$4. Competition has lowered it. 'Shamrock' made in Prince Edward Island is very highly spoken of, price same as Truro make—Reindeer.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Who signs that?

Mr. TAYLOR. A. C. Bell, M.P.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But you said you had a letter from the Truro factory.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Bell wrote for the information, and this is what he got. Do you doubt Mr. Bell's statement?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not doubt Mr. Bell at all, but there is nothing to show that he wrote to the factory.

Mr. TAYLOR. He wrote for the prices.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Who did he write to? I thought it scarcely possible that the factory could have written such a different letter to the one they sent my department.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What is the date of that letter?

Mr. TAYLOR. I received that letter recently.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. But the letter says the prices were higher formerly.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And the competition from the Prince Edward Island factory is only of recent date.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is an increase of \$5,000 asked for this year for doing the same work as was done last year, and it is due altogether to the purchasing of these supplies at these high prices. I, therefore, move that the item be reduced by \$5,000.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if the officers in charge of these steamers, the men who buy these supplies, are the same men who were in charge in 1894, 1895 and 1896?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, all the same. I cannot recall any change in the fishery protection service.

Mr. TALBOT. Unfortunately.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Fortunately or unfortunately, I cannot recall any. We have left the service just as it was.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is clear to my mind that changes should be made. If these men did wrong before, they should have been changed by this government. This is nothing new, for I heard of a government that was more surrounded with barnacles and blood-suckers than the government of hon. gentlemen opposite; and this government, instead of removing these men when it got into power, retained them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have gone into this matter personally, and I have satisfied myself that the men—I do not care whether they were appointed by my predecessors or not—take the greatest care in purchasing the supplies at the lowest market prices; and the proof that they do so is the fact that the fishery protection service is carried on at an expense per man of 40 cents per day.

Mr. PRIOR. Does that include salaries?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No. It includes the maintenance of the crew and the officers.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) agrees that this government is continuing in the path of its predecessors, only that it is a great deal worse.

Mr. McMULLEN. I will not allow the hon. gentleman to put words in my mouth. I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman tries to lay the blame on the Tory officials who have not been dismissed. On page K-53, I find that the government paid to Parent, of Quebec, \$2,659 for various supplies without tender. There is no Tory official here. Among the items I find these: four barrels of lime at \$1.50; sand, 90 cents a barrel, that is, 30 cents a bushel. Are these prices right, and where does the Tory officials come in?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will challenge my hon. friend to bring the agent of the Marine Department up and examine him before the Public Accounts Committee on that account. He has been there twenty-five years, he is a very intelligent man, and he knows the prices. I will bring him if the hon. gentleman challenges the correctness of the charges.

Mr. TAYLOR. I do challenge them.

Mr. TALBOT. I can tell the hon. gentleman that I bought lime at the kiln, fifty barrels, and paid 50 cents a bushel for it.

Mr. TAYLOR. You can get it in Ontario at 15 cents a bushel.

Mr. TALBOT. You cannot buy lime in Quebec at any time for less than 50 cents a bushel.

Mr. TAYLOR. Here are other items: Three shovels at \$1.25, and two handsaws at \$3.25. What does my hon. friend say about sand at 30 cents a bushel?

Mr. TALBOT. Is it sifted sand? If it is, it will cost considerable.

Mr. TAYLOR. What does it cost to sift it? Here is a charge of \$3.25 for a cross-cut saw. Who ever heard of such prices?

Mr. McMULLEN. It all depends on what kind of a cross-cut saw it was. You can get them from \$1.25 to \$5.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend will not find a cross-cut saw as high as \$5. I object to paying Mr. Parent \$2,600 for these goods.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will prove that every item was a fair charge.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, prove it now. I say that they are outrageous overcharges.

Mr. TALBOT. I know Mr. Parent. He is a man who owns large quarries, he is a thoroughly honourable man, and from being on the spot I know that these prices are correct. I think it ill-becomes the hon. gentleman, who lives in Gananoque, to tell us what the prices should be in Quebec.

Mr. TAYLOR. The prices in Gananoque and those in Quebec do not vary very much. Here are nails purchased between the 1st of July, 1898, and the 1st of July, 1899, and Mr. Parent charges \$3.70 for three kegs, \$3.65 for two, \$3.50 for three, and \$3.25 for three. Everybody knows that at that time you could go into a hardware store and get nails for \$2 or \$2.50 at the outside. I appeal to my hon. friend from British Columbia (Mr. Prior) if they could not be got for that at Vancouver.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not hear your friend from British Columbia stating the price of nails.

Mr. TAYLOR. You will not find a man in Ottawa who will say that they were not outrageous prices at that time.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not seem to me that the minister has quite met the point. Here, for instance, Mr. Parent was dealt with to the extent of pretty near \$5,000. All these are staple articles and might easily have been bought by tender.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Charles Parent is not C. Parent, they are different people.

Mr. TALBOT.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, here are two parties who have furnished goods to the amount of \$4,000 or \$5,000—all staple articles such as axes, axe handles, fire bricks, cement, paints of various kinds, leads. Does not my hon. friend think it would be better, in the case of large amounts like those, to call for tenders. He is paying tremendous prices. In 1898 he paid for axes the large prices of 90 cents and \$1.50. In all sorts of iron goods the price seems very high.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can only tell my hon. friend that we went into the matter most exhaustively after the criticisms of last session. I sent for Mr. Gregory and went over the accounts with him, item by item. A question last year was raised about the price of shovels, but it turned out that these were very large scoops used for shovelling coal aboard ships.

Mr. TAYLOR. What were they worth?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Just what they were charged at. I satisfied myself there was no charge made in the accounts last year that was not justifiable. I sent for Mr. Gregory this year, and I asked him if he had obeyed my instructions with regard to price. He said he had in every case, and could prove that the prices paid were the lowest.

Mr. PRIOR. At retail.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes; a great many of the articles we could not have purchased by tender.

Mr. FOSTER. You bought a lot of axes every year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The chances are ten to one that if bought by tender, we would not get a good article.

Mr. FOSTER. You could get just as good an article as if you bought them one by one. Then you are using a lot of cement, up to 100 barrels. Then you have all kinds of iron work. All of these are staple articles. You have paid for three cases of nails \$3.65, which is a very high price. You are buying a standard article and paying job prices for it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, it is the lowest market price, I am informed.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman could easily have called for tenders.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I am told that I could not for a lot of little items, wanted day by day for these ships.

Mr. FOSTER. The supplies for that vessel are almost entirely in Quebec, and tens of thousands of dollars worth are bought in

Quebec, from the merchants there. They could be stored there wholesale and then distributed. You send them on your supply vessels, which go round to the lights and furnish goods to the different lighthouses. But the hon. gentleman does not want to buy these goods wholesale, but to put his orders with political friends and give them jobbing prices.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, the lowest market price.

Mr. FOSTER. Why, you are paying \$10 a case in Quebec for condensed milk.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That was the lowest price obtainable.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that \$10 was the lowest price when it was selling at \$4 to \$6.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, suppose it is \$8, how can the hon. gentleman justify the payment of \$10?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is \$8 in the maritime provinces, but \$10 at Quebec.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend, as a business man, will pay \$2 more in Quebec than in the maritime provinces. That shows you pretty well the business arrangement upon which it is run.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Would it not be fair that I should call the agent here and let him answer, with the accounts in his hands, whether he could have purchased any lower. I asked the different agents if I could purchase supplies by tender, and they said you will not be able to get as good an article.

Mr. TAYLOR. Let the hon. gentleman call on hardware merchants here in Ottawa and ascertain what they sold nails for at that time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I would call a man from the province of Quebec to say whether they could be got cheaper.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then the hon. gentleman is not doing business on business principles. Why has not the government a storehouse here, for all its supplies?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How much would it cost to build a storehouse and drag the stuff up to it?

Mr. TAYLOR. Less than what you are paying to political friends now. Store the supplies here and distribute them out to the public departments. Nails, for instance, are required in all the departments, especi-

ally the Departments of Agriculture and Militia. The government should purchase all they require by tender, but they would then be deprived of political patronage.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Why did you not do it?

Mr. TAYLOR. That makes no difference. When the hon. member for North Wellington and the hon. Minister of Marine sat on this side, they abused the late government for this very practice, and said they would change it all. But now that they are in office, they are going one better, and paying prices which the late government never thought of paying. The late government, in all their supplies for the Intercolonial Railway, purchased every article by tender.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is not correct.

Mr. TAYLOR. The ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), made the statement here, and not a member of the government contradicted it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I did at the time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Everybody in the maritime provinces knows better than that.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was substantially correct.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The supplies were got from political friends almost without exception. Much of the supplies were got by inviting a number of political friends to tender. Much was not got that way, but the Liberals supplied none, in nine cases out of ten.

Mr. McMULLEN. The only way we can form an idea of our expenditure is by comparing it with our expenditure in the past. Take the Auditor General's Report, 1894-5, and you will find that 378 pounds of nails bought by the Fishery Department cost 6 cents a pound. And I find there were 39 kegs bought at the same time, at \$2.60 a keg.

Mr. PRIOR. May be a different size.

Mr. McMULLEN. No, these are just ordinary nails.

Mr. PRIOR. How does the hon. gentleman know that?

Mr. McMULLEN. In one case they were 6 cents a pound; in the other \$2.60 a keg.

Mr. POWELL. Respecting the practice on the Intercolonial Railway, I cannot allow the statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to pass unchallenged. He states affirmatively and I state negatively the same position, the difference being that I know whereof I am speaking and the hon. gentleman, I think, does not. At the time the hon. gentleman refers to, he was very

busy in Nova Scotia politics and had the weight of provincial matters on his back, so he could not hardly be acquainted with these matters. Under Liberal-Conservative rule, the principle that was invariably followed with respect for supplies for the Intercolonial Railway was by inviting a large number of people to tender—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Public tenders ?

Mr. POWELL. Public tenders.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Notifying Liberals as well ?

Mr. POWELL. In many cases notifying Liberals as well. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that the two largest hardware firms in St. John are T. McAvity & Sons and W. H. Thorne & Company. If the hon. gentleman will look over the accounts, he will see the enormous amount of patronage given to the firm of T. McAvity & Company, and he will acknowledge that the statement he makes is without basis. But under the present regime, there is an entire change. In some cases, I have known favours to be disposed of on political principles to this extent—a druggist in my own town was called upon to make a tender for dry goods.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I leave the Minister of Railways to deal with what takes place at the present time, but I understood the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) to say, as certainly the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) gave us to understand, that public tenders were invited for supplies for the Intercolonial Railway. I said that that was not correct, and I could name Liberal firms who have never been allowed an opportunity to make a tender, while one or two whose names were put on the list and who tendered for a while came to the conclusion that it was a waste of time because their tenders were not accepted. I am not disputing that tenders were called for from a limited circle. That is the system to-day. The question between us was whether the system of public tender was carried out under the late administration. If the hon. gentleman says that he believes it was I can only say that I am satisfied he is mistaken. No such system of public tender was adopted in connection with the supplies for the Intercolonial Railway. Tenders were invited from a limited circle, and the contracts were almost invariably given to friends of the Conservative party.

Mr. POWELL. And the lowest tender was accepted.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am not disputing that just now.

Mr. McMULLEN. I know a hardware merchant in Montreal who deals also in railway supplies. In conversation with him

Mr. POWELL.

some time ago he complained that up to a short time ago he had not been able to get an order for a dollar's worth of goods for the Intercolonial Railway. But even now, though circulars were sent to him inviting tenders, the orders find their way into the hands of Conservatives. He said that the officials on the road were generally Conservatives, and to this fact he attributed his failure to secure an order. Under the present administration he had tendered, and though the quality of his manufacture was as good as any in Canada, he did not receive an order in any single instance.

Mr. FOSTER. His prices were too high.

Mr. McMULLEN. No, his prices were not higher than others. He said he believed that the officials of the railways favoured their own political friends, and by some means they advised the Minister to place orders where they would reach the hands of those that the railway was accustomed to deal with before.

Mr. POWELL. I presume the same method prevails to-day as prevailed during the Conservative regime. Tenders were called for—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. By circular.

Mr. POWELL. At any rate, they were called for and these tenders were sent to Ottawa unopened and accepted at Ottawa. Now, to show how utterly baseless is the charge of my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), I may say that the man who now has to deal with these tenders for supplies, the head of the store department, is a Liberal of the Liberals, and the same man has been in office for years. The Conservative, Mr. Cook, who occupied that office was turned out and the present officer, Mr. Palmer, was put in. I know both these gentlemen. It is Mr. Palmer and the Minister of Railways and Canals upon whom devolves the duty of accepting tenders and making the contract. So, if the friend of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) receives exactly the same treatment as he had under the Conservative regime, and if he does not get orders, it must be for some other reason than that he suggests—probably his tender was not so low as those of other people.

Mr. McMULLEN. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) to say that tenders are sent to Ottawa to be acted upon. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him if these tenders are not first sent to Moncton to be examined by the officials there and forwarded with the recommendation of the officials for the minister's approval ?

Mr. POWELL. For a time under Conservative rule that was the fact. But it was changed within the last five or six

years. The hon. gentleman will find that an order in council was passed some two or three years before the Conservative party went out of power declaring in substance that the whole management of the Intercolonial Railway was to be in the hands of the chief superintendent, that is Mr. Pottinger, under the direction of the deputy minister here, Mr. Schreiber. That took this matter out of the hands of the chief of the store department, and tenders were sent unopened to Ottawa, word was received from Mr. Schreiber as to whose tender was the lowest and to whom the contract was to be awarded.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think there is a mistake on the part of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell). For some time I acted as Minister of Railways and Canals—

Mr. POWELL. I was speaking of a former state of affairs.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Under the present practice, tenders are examined at Moncton, and attention is called by the officials, and very properly, to the prices which seem to be, on the whole, the most favourable.

Mr. POWELL. That is as it should be.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Quite so; of course, the minister cannot go over every item. It is the duty of the officials to call the attention of the minister to the tender which was most favourable. And I must say that, from my observation while I was acting minister, the officials do their work most faithfully and the lowest tenderer gets the contract. I cannot speak of the system of former years, but the system now followed is that which I have described.

Mr. PRIOR. The hon. minister stated that a large quantity of supplies were bought in Quebec—thousands of dollars worth. Why could not the hon. gentleman inaugurate a system like that adopted by the navy department in British Columbia, and also in the city council of the city I come from? At the beginning of the year, tenders are sent out to everybody in the different trades, asking them for the prices at which they will supply the goods required, supplying half a dozen or half a case, or twenty cases—whatever may be required.

Mr. POWELL. That system was inaugurated in the case of the penitentiary in the province of Nova Scotia and was carried out.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Not always.

Mr. POWELL. Yes, always; I know it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I know differently.

Mr. PRIOR. When these hon. gentlemen have finished their conversation, I shall be glad to go on. Under the system I speak of the small quantities are got at as low prices as large quantities. Every firm knows that when tendering that it must supply the goods in large or small quantities, and they can afford to put in the small quantities at the same price as the large quantities. In regard to nails I would not like to say much. In the bills for nails, nobody can say whether it is a fair price or not. In none of these bills, either those that the hon. member for Wellington read, purchased by the Conservatives, or those purchased by the present government, nobody can tell the price of the nails unless he knows the kind and size.

Amendment (Mr. Taylor) negatived.

To pay wages of crew and maintenance of Lurcher Shoal lightship..... \$10,000

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. For some years back the shipping interests in St. John, N.B., and the shipping interests generally in Nova Scotia, on the Bay of Fundy, have been pressing for the construction of a lightship on the Lurcher Shoal, a dangerous shoal at the entrance of the Bay of Fundy, half way across the bay. This is one of the dangerous obstructions which navigators fear in the bay. The matter was brought to my attention about two years ago, principally by one of the members for St. John, Mr. Ellis, who wrote me letters on it. I referred the matter to Col. Anderson, who made a report. I then wrote to the St. John Board of Trade, and asked them to obtain for me the opinions of leading captains of the different vessels as to the necessity of this lightship, because I was informed it would be a very expensive work. There was a buoy there before, and there is one there now, but it does not often stay. I have in my hand the report sent by the St. John Board of Trade, signed by Mr. Alison, in which they strongly urge the necessity for the construction, more especially in view of the fact that of late, for some indefensible reasons, the British Lloyds have been discriminating against us in the matter of insurance rates, and it is absolutely essential that we should convince the British Lloyds that we are doing everything that ought to be done to improve the aids to our navigators. So, I have made up my mind, after receiving these reports from all the captains, those of the Allan Line, of Thompson & Co., of Schofield & Co., Limited, of Troop & Son, and others in St. John, that I would recommend this to my colleagues. Last year, when I was in London, I had an opportunity of having a long conversation with gentlemen connected with the board of trade. They brought the necessity of improving the aids to navigation in the St. Lawrence and in the Bay of Fundy, to my

attention, and we discussed it at great length. Among other things, I informed them that it was my intention, after having the report of the chief engineer, to urge the establishment of this lightship. I then sent Col. Anderson down to New York, and he ascertained that the cost of establishing a lightship would be about \$80,000, a modern lightship, with all the modern appliances and improvements, cannot be had for less. Col. Anderson made a close examination into that. The intention of the government is to call for the construction of this lightship in Canada. We think the time has come when our steel works can commence very well by building government ships of this kind, such as a steel ship, and another ship, which I hope to get a vote for building, on Lake Superior, which will be a steel ship, planked outside with oak or other timber. Such a ship can be built in Canada and the intention is to call for tenders from our Canadian firms as well as from others, and to give our own preference, if they can build it at anything like the same price as it can be built elsewhere. I think everybody will agree that this would be a very fair beginning, and even if you were to pay a few thousand dollars more for the construction of such a lightship in Canada, than possibly she can be built for in Great Britain, it would be a step in the right direction. So, with respect to the steel steamship which I hope to be able to get for the hydrographic service in Lake Superior. I intend to have her built at the steel works either in Toronto or New Glasgow. This vote is for the maintenance of this Lurcher Shoal lightship. As I have mentioned, Col. Anderson went down to New York and went into the details of the construction of such a ship. He was furnished by the government with every assistance for ascertaining what the cost of the American lightships were, and he reported that the cost was \$80,000, and the cost of maintaining one of them was \$10,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is to be the complement of men for this lightship?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am told that it is a captain and five men.

Construction of lighthouses (salaries of temporary officers, engineers and draughtsmen at Ottawa, may be paid out of this vote at rates exceeding \$400 per annum, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act)..... \$50,000

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It sometimes becomes necessary to employ one or two draughtsmen in the department, and since the third-class clerks have been abolished, the Auditor General will not allow a draughtsman to be employed at a higher salary than \$400. A draughtsman cannot be had for \$400 a year.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

As a matter of fact, we voted \$600 last year to fill the place, but we could not get any young man from the Royal Military College to take the position at \$600. At last we picked up Mr. Roberts, an Englishman, and put him in at \$50 per month. But, I cannot pay him, and he is borrowing money from day to day, because the Auditor General will not allow us to pay him unless a special vote is given for it.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend sees that he cannot take a vote in that indefinite way.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, that is right; it is taken in that way by the Public Works Department. I copied the words from them.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend, when taking a vote for the construction of light-houses, takes inside of it a vote for paying an indefinite number of engineers and draughtsmen.

Mr. PRIOR. There is \$50,000.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman can employ twenty or thirty clerks.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Just the same as in the Department of Public Works.

Mr. FOSTER. But in the Department of Public Works you have a schedule of the items.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I am quite sure that any statement I make in the House on my responsibility, will be accepted. My present intention is only to employ one. I may employ another, or two, or three.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend had better say: Salaries of temporary officers, engineers and draughtsmen, not exceeding three.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am perfectly willing to insert: Not exceeding five.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not seem possible that the hon. gentleman will employ five engineers and draughtsmen.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think not. The hon. gentleman will see that there is an immense number of plans to be prepared, and that these men are working day and night.

The CHAIRMAN. It is moved to add after the word 'draughtsmen,' the words, 'not exceeding five.'

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. minister has stated that he has followed the principle laid down by the Department of Public Works.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I say I copied the words.

Mr. TAYLOR. I find at Q-45 of the Auditor General's Report, that the hon.

Minister of Public Works has done something which this House, when they voted him the money, did not expect he would do, or that he would expend this money in this way. Therefore, if the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries is copying the Department of Public Works, he is making a huge mistake.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am only copying the Minister of Public Works's vote.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. I find an expenditure of \$2,236.82, which is unauthorized by this House.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We will discuss that when we come to it.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. I want to reply to the hon. minister, who says that he has copied the Public Works Department. To cover that large expenditure, the hon. Minister of Public Works makes the following charges :

Harbours and rivers, Prince Edward Island, repairs to piers.....	\$ 200 00
Harbours and rivers, maritime provinces generally.....	1,618 50
Harbours and rivers, Quebec generally.	366 82
“ generally....	51 50
	<hr/>
	\$2,236 82

Mr. **FOSTER**. The form of the vote is not a desirable form in the way that the hon. minister is putting it. The vote ought not to be a mixed one. If he is taking a vote for the construction of lighthouses, it should be for the construction of lighthouses, and if he wants a vote for temporary men, let him take it. Turn to page 54 of the estimates, and you will find that the Public Works Department does not mix up these votes. There, they will ask for \$50,000 or \$100,000 for the construction of public works, but they do not propose to employ such draughtsmen as they like out of it. They have an item for temporary clerical and other assistance, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act—so much money. The money can be applied only to the payment of these officers, and then the minister gives a statement as to what officers he is employing or proposes to employ. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries will see that it would be the worst possible system that could be adopted to take a lump sum vote, and that he should then be at liberty to employ as many officers as he wished. I would much rather that he would just take his vote for the construction of lighthouses, whatever he needs, and then take a vote for temporary engineers and draughtsmen.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It is really not worth while doing that. I said that these words which I have here were taken from the Department of Public Works. I believe they are taken either from the Department of Public Works or the Department of the Interior, in the

Dominion lands vote. The hon. gentleman will see that it is the same vote as is proposed nearly every year for lighthouses.

Mr. **FOSTER**. We never had a double vote.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, and we would not have it now ; but here is a man who has to borrow money, day after day, because the Auditor General will not let me pay him.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Put it in the vote just the same as the Public Works Department does it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I want to call the attention of the hon. minister to the fact that he is making a beginning of what is a very bad example. We have had votes for the construction of lighthouses, all the way from \$20,000 to \$30,000 or \$40,000. This is for the construction of lighthouses, and not for the purpose of paying temporary clerks. What the hon. minister is going to do is to employ a number of temporary clerks, and he wants to pay them out of the vote, but the Auditor General very properly will not allow him under the rule.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I cannot pay them.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Very well, then, let the hon. gentleman say what he wants, and put in a vote for them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Very well, then, we will put in 'not exceeding \$3,000.'

Mr. **FOSTER**. Put in \$3,000 if you wish, but put in a vote for these clerks.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The salaries of temporary engineers can be paid out of this vote.

Mr. **FOSTER**. No, do not mix the votes. Make it two votes, one for the construction of lighthouses, if you want \$47,000, and then salaries of temporary officers, engineers and draughtsmen at Ottawa, \$3,000.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If the hon. gentleman thinks that is better, I will put it that way.

The **CHAIRMAN**. It is proposed to amend the item in this way : Construction of lighthouses, \$47,000 ; salaries of temporary officers, engineers and draughtsmen at Ottawa, at rates not exceeding \$400 per annum notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act, \$3,000. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the item shall be amended in this way ?

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. **FOSTER**. In reference to the construction of lighthouses, will the hon. min-

ister lay before the committee a statement of the new lighthouses proposed to be erected ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The new lighthouses which we propose to erect on the Pacific coast, in consequence of the increased traffic there, will be at Lawyer's Island and Ballinac Island. We do not know the cost yet.

Mr. **PRIOR**. Is that on Chatham Sound ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes. In consequence of the increased tonnage and the larger size of the vessels plying on the St. Lawrence, it is proposed to provide range lights at Pointe aux Basile, a fog alarm at Father Point, and a fog alarm on the Gaspé shore. The items of cost are not given. These are new lights and the increases are very small.

Mr. **PRIOR**. I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to the Brotchie Ledge light. Captain Gaudin, agent of the department, who is an excellent civil servant and a man of experience, has written to the minister, I suppose, as he has to the press, about this matter. I wish to read the following letter which I have received :

E. G. Prior, M.P.

Dear Sir,—Inclosed please find clipping from Victoria 'Daily Colonist' of 15th instant re Brotchie Ledge Light from Capt. Jas. Gaudin, agent of Marine and Fisheries. I beg to state that the report from him, herein contained, is erroneous.

No captains or pilots to our knowledge have made any favourable remarks about this light, and in fact when approaching it from the direction of Trial Island, it is not discernible to within one-half mile of its location. This, as Capt. Gaudin himself says, is owing to the presence of an iron bar in front of the light.

We pass eight lights on the route from Vancouver to Victoria and the Brotchie Ledge light is the poorest of the lot. It is fairly good in clear weather, but as good as a failure when the weather is in any way overcast. Brotchie's Ledge is a most dangerous reef and nothing short of a first-class light and even a fog signal as well, will be of much benefit to navigation.

We remain yours very truly,

(Sgd.) **GEORGE RUDLIN**,
Master SS. 'Charmer.'

G. DRUMMOND GRIFFIN,
Pilot.

JOHN McLEOD,
Mate SS. 'Charmer.'

There are no better authorities on the coast than the three gentlemen named in this letter. This is a ledge outside of Victoria harbour, on which a large collier was wrecked on a moonlight night some years ago, and she lay on that ledge two or three years before she was broken up. A beacon was built, but owing to the fact that the engineer says he cannot get a cable from England, the ordinary light there is not satisfactory. I impress upon the minister

Mr. **FOSTER**.

the necessity for having a better light there and also a fog signal in dark weather.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am aware of the importance of having a good light on that ledge. The intention was to have it lit by electricity, but the cable which we got from the Public Works Department, and which was supplied on the recommendation of Mr. Gisborne, the late Superintendent of Telegraphs, turned out to be of no use. Col. Anderson placed an order for a new cable with an English firm, and he has written dozens of letters to hurry them up, but they state that they are so over-rushed with work that they cannot supply it for some time. We put the best light we could obtain there in lieu of electricity, and we cannot do anything else until we get the electric cable.

Mr. **PRIOR**. You are still trying to get the cable ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Oh, yes ; we are doing everything we can to get it as soon as possible. Now, I gave the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) a list of two or three lighthouses which we propose to build. That is all we have information about at present, and, as the hon. gentleman knows, we cannot discover what lighthouses will be exactly necessary until the season comes on. We know from experience in the department how much it will take for this vote, and so we have asked that amount. From the experience of the past twenty years we know that the balance of the vote will be used.

Mr. **FOSTER**. When I was Minister of Marine, before I took this vote I laid on the Table of the House, always, a complete list of the lighthouses we proposed to build and their cost. The minister must know the needs of the service for which he asked this \$50,000, and he should not take a single dollar for the construction of lighthouses for the current year which he does not now know must be built, and that he has not an estimate for. These are not matters which crop up at any moment, but they are before the department for years, and the difficulty is rather to overtake what are the well known needs of the service. I am surprised that the minister should come to this House for a vote without the list of the lighthouses he proposes to build and their estimated cost.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There are always three or four expensive lighthouses built each year for which special votes are taken, but since I have been in this House, there has always been a general vote, based upon the expenditure of the previous four or five years. Now, take the Lake of the Woods, where we are developing a large amount of navigation, and within the week I was waited

upon by an influential deputation of ship-owners, requesting that four or five lighthouses should be erected there. They are small lighthouses, supposed to cost from \$200 to \$500 each, and we have agreed to build them out of this vote.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, you should have a list of them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The engineer cannot tell how much they will cost until Mr. Noble or some one else is sent on the spot to make an estimate. We find that from year to year, forty or fifty thousand dollars is required, and I have given to the House all the information which any human being is capable of getting with regard to the vote. You must put a large sum of money into the hands of the minister, somewhere approximate to the expenditure of the previous year, and let him expend it under the advice of his officers to meet the growing wants of the service.

Mr. FOSTER. Not at all. If my hon. friend will ask Col. Anderson, who was in the department when I was there, who is there yet, and who is a very efficient officer, I venture to say that he will find the practice which I state to have been the practice that prevailed. I never was allowed to pass this estimate without having a list of the lighthouses to be built and the cost of building them; and I venture to say that Col. Anderson can tell the minister where most of the lighthouses are to be constructed during the coming season.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I went over that with Col. Anderson, and asked him if he could give me a list of the lighthouses to be built for the present season. He mentioned some, but he said the others no one could tell. I asked for that, and if I had it, I would give it.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has not given us the cost of one lighthouse, and I do not propose to allow this vote to go through unless he tells us where these lighthouses are to be built and what they are to cost. The hon. gentleman had better let this stand and go on with the next item.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Will the hon. gentleman say he followed that list?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Is he sure?

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. gentleman mean to insult me by asking if I am sure?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am not absolutely sure, and I wanted to as-

sure myself whether the minister had built the lighthouses according to the list he laid on the Table or at the cost stated.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the hon. gentleman satisfied with that kind of little criticism? He will go and look at these statements and find that one of the lighthouses cost two or three hundred dollars more, or two or three hundred dollars less than the estimate.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. And may not be built at all.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman thinks that does for criticism, and that that is a fair reason for assuming that the minister need not come down with any lists at all, but that all he need do is to come and say: 'I want about \$50,000.' The system which I found in practice when I went to the department, and which I followed, was that the minister came to this House with a type-written or a printed list, which was laid on the Table so that everybody could see it, and which formed the basis of the vote.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope my hon. friend will let this item go through, because I want to state to him, if he is prepared to take my statement—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He does not seem to care to take your statement. He seems to think he is superior to any comment on what he did when he was a minister. I asked a question as to the list of lighthouses which the hon. gentleman proposed to have constructed. I may be wholly wrong, but my impression was that having made inquiries in days gone by, I had been told that such a work was not to be gone on with this year. The mere placing of the list on the Table, if it is not to be the guide of what is to be done, furnishes no more definite information than the minister gives. I did not rise with any intention of insulting the hon. gentleman, but simply to point out that if the list was not followed, it would be of no more value than what the minister says.

Mr. FOSTER. I accept the hon. gentleman's apology in the spirit in which it is made. His argument if pushed to its extremity would be that we should take lump votes in this House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is done in some instances.

Mr. FOSTER. It is quite true, you do not incorporate all the lighthouses to be built in your schedule, but the House is reasonable in asking generally what the minister proposes to do. While it might vote \$50,000 for lighthouses, it might not be prepared to vote any portion of that money for

a particular lighthouse which the hon. gentleman might propose to build. That is why we should get some idea of what the hon. gentleman proposes to do. He has only mentioned some lighthouses in British Columbia and on the St. Lawrence; but there must be needs in other parts of this Dominion, and the officer is only doing what is right when he translates the general plan he proposes to proceed upon. I am quite sure that the minister and his officers could give us a plan of what they propose to do and where and when they propose to do it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I would be glad to do so if I could, but I went over the matter with Col. Anderson and found it impossible to give any more information. The practice long before I became minister was for the minister, when he asked for a vote, to state how he had expended the money the previous year, but it is impossible to give details for the coming year. Take Lawyer's Island, what information could I give about that? It is a thousand miles away from Victoria, and nobody can tell, until the man who has gone up there to build the lighthouse comes back, what it will cost. Whenever we took a vote for a special lighthouse, costing anything like a large sum, \$2,000 or \$3,000, we always took a special vote.

Mr. FOSTER. No.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, I can show it in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the hon. gentleman give an instance of any special lighthouse being named, except, of course, a \$75,000 lighthouse, for which he asks a special vote.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. In our supplementary estimates every year, you will find special votes taken and the lighthouses named.

Mr. FOSTER. No, let the hon. gentleman point them out.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I know that I am right, for I have a clear recollection of it. I have given all the information my engineer is capable of furnishing. I have named all the lighthouses, so far as we know, that we contemplate building. Lawyer's Island, Ballineck Island, Pointe au Bazil, Gaspé Shore, Father Point, and the two lighthouses at Lake of the Woods.

Mr. FOSTER. We should have the officer's estimates of those except the two in Lake of the Woods, which are small affairs.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I cannot tell what the lighthouses at Ballinack Island and the other points are going to cost.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has no business to ask the House to pay for the building of three or four lighthouses when he has not the least idea of what they will cost.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have the information about what they will cost, but some of them we do not know.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman cannot tell us what one will cost.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I said \$200 or \$300 at Lake of the Woods.

Mr. FOSTER. That is nothing out of \$50,000. He cannot say whether he is going to spend the whole \$50,000 or what portion of it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Sometimes there is as much as \$10,000 left out of the construction vote not spent, sometimes \$15,000, and sometimes only \$5,000. It depends on the pressure brought to bear on the minister and the needs of navigation from time to time. Where a vote of that kind is taken, and so much surplus unexpended from year to year, it is impossible to estimate. I have given all the information I can get from my officers, and I hope the hon. gentleman will accept it. I will bring down any more information I can possibly get.

To provide for the construction and equipment of a steel lightship for Lurcher Shoal, supplied with electric light plant, compressed air siren and auxiliary screw power \$80,000

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have a report here by Col. Anderson, who visited New York last spring in order to make special inquiry with reference to the building of lightships on the Atlantic coast. He was shown every courtesy by the Light House Board, who sent their superintendent, Mr. Johnson, with him, to inspect their system. Their lightships cost each \$70,000 to \$80,000, fully equipped, and the cost of maintenance is \$10,000. It is upon that estimate of Mr. Anderson that I ask the House to vote this amount.

Mr. FOSTER. How is that lightship made stationary?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Anchored fore and aft, both sides.

The committee rose and reported progress.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies), moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.05 a.m. (Thursday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 17, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 136)—from the Senate—respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

TRINIDAD TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the right hon. the First Minister if he has anything to say with reference to the rumour, which seems to be well founded, that the Trinidad Council has ratified an arrangement or voted in favour of ratifying an arrangement with the United States, and thereby put aside the Canadian offer.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have reason to believe that my hon. colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is prepared to make a statement to-morrow on this subject.

YUKON REPRESENTATION BILL.

Mr. FOSTER. I would ask my right hon. friend to bring down all correspondence with reference to the Yukon Representation Bill—that portion of it which was to have been put in force by proclamation and has not been proclaimed. Will the right hon. gentleman do that without the formality of a motion and as the session is pretty well on ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Will my hon. friend send me a note of what he wants ?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). When the House adjourned last Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Speaker, we had a long speech from the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Moore). In that speech the hon. gentleman went over a great deal of ground and made statements, as did almost every hon. gentleman who has spoken in this

debate on the opposite side, that would lead the casual reader or observer to the opinion that our farmers are not as well off to-day as they were previous to 1896. I was much astonished to find the hon. the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) giving a long list of articles in the endeavour to show that the farmers' receipts have been diminishing since the advent of this government to office. That hon. gentleman took the item of cattle, and told the House that in 1895 cattle, under one year, only realized \$2.84 per head. But, we can all remember that the following year the quarantine regulations were removed between the United States and this country, and in 1898 these animals realized \$8.84 per head, proving the statement that I have frequently made, that the removal of the quarantine regulations by the United States had increased the value of all the animals exported to that country by over \$5 per head. The hon. gentleman then went on to 1899, and said that the same class of animal which only realized \$2.84 per head in 1895 realized \$10 in 1899. Then, he took cattle over one year old, and made the ingenious argument that whereas these cattle brought \$76.36 per head in 1895, they realized only \$42.95 per head in 1898, and \$44 in 1899. But he forgot to tell us that there were 68,000 animals sent to the United States over one year old, which realized \$16.80 per head. It was a very ingenious system he adopted of taking all these animals and mixing them up in order to show that the animals the farmers sent to the old country had been very much reduced in value between 1895 and 1899. Well, if I know anything at all about farming, it is the cattle branch of it, and let me say that in 1899 we never had a more favourable year for our cattle, since 1891. The animals went up to a very large extent, as the public records show, despite the ingenious argument of the hon. gentleman.

In connection with this cattle question, we can all remember that the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) said that this government had never asked the American government to relax the quarantine regulations. On that subject, I will have something to say later. But, there is a shorter and easier way of getting at the root of the whole matter and showing how really the farmers income to-day compares with what it was in former years.

I was astonished at the charge made by the hon. member for Stanstead, that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) had neglected to tell the House that the debt of the country had been increased during the past three years. But, the hon. gentleman had to take that statement back when called to task by the Minister of Finance. He made another statement which he also had to take back, and that was that there had been a secret arrangement between the leader of this government and the people

of the province of Quebec with regard to prohibition, and that that secret arrangement existed with the knowledge and connivance of the Minister of Agriculture. It appears to me that there are few hon. members opposite who will not take up any question and make any statement, no matter what, which can possibly tell against the country. All these statements, if believed in, would injure Canada to a serious extent, and it seems to me that the duty of every Canadian should be to see that every statement he makes is true, and if there are two sides to the shield, to show both, and let the people judge for themselves.

We were told that in 1898 we only exported some 98,000 head of cattle to the old country. But, we exported 115,000 to Great Britain and 92 to the United States in 1899, a very large increase indeed, showing the benefit of the arrangements made for the removal of the quarantine between this country and the United States. Ninety-three thousand head went to the United States, and we were benefited also in the province of Ontario, because 555,000 head of cattle were slaughtered or sold in that province, and the farmers benefited \$5 per head, as shown by the statement of the ex-Finance Minister. That hon. gentleman has had to go back on his statement or admit the correctness of mine.

I was astonished to find the hon. member for Stanstead going back a number of years and by mixing up figures endeavouring to show that we had not increased our export of butter. In the years 1894, 1895 and 1896, the value of our butter exported amounted to \$2,845,162, but when we come to the years 1897, 1898 and 1899, we find that the value had increased to \$3,700,000, showing an increase of \$900,000 in our exports to the British markets. The three years realized \$7,836,732, showing conclusively that the export of butter to the old country is very large indeed. Butter is a very important industry in Canada at the present time. I shall also touch upon that when I come to the question of corn being allowed to come in free.

But, lest I should forget it, I desire to refer to a statement made by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster). He said that the government gave free corn to the government of the United States, and gave it for what? For nothing. He said they gave the United States free binder twine, and for what? For nothing. He said they gave free wire to the United States, and for what? For nothing. All these things were given, according to the hon. gentleman, to the United States, they were not given to the farmers of Canada. But, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), gave that argument a deadly stab. He showed that there were 180 articles put on the free list by the late government in 1894, every one for the benefit of the manufacturers. I would like to ask these hon. gentlemen, if Canada got nothing

in return for free corn, free wire and free binder twine, what Canada got in return for these 180 articles which they made free. All these 180 articles were put on the free list in the interests of the manufacturer, they tell us; and they say that if they get back into power, they will put the duty upon corn, binder twine and wire, as high as they were before. How is it that these gentlemen so carefully insist that when an article is made free in the interests of the farmer, there must be something in return, but if an article is made free in the interests of the manufacturers, no return is necessary? Has not the farmer as good a right as the manufacturer to free raw material which he uses and which he cannot raise himself? The farmer is in reality as much a manufacturer as the manufacturer himself.

A great deal has been said with regard to the condition of the farmers to-day. I find by the returns, that the exports of animals and their produce and agricultural products in 1896, amounted to \$48,471,000, while in 1898, these exports amounted to \$77,473,000, or an increase of \$29,000,000 in the returns to the farmer in 1898 over those in 1896. In 1899, I find that these exports amounted to \$21,000,000 more than in 1896. So that in the years 1898 and 1899, the farmers received \$50,227,000 over what they would have received in two years such as 1896. Nor is this all, because there is a very large increase in the quantity of these products consumed in Canada. We can easily infer this from the fact that wages have gone up and trade is good in all directions. We cannot but accept the statement of the ex-Minister of Finance, that the leading industries of the country have orders six months ahead. The hon. gentleman could not show the same during any time when he was on the Treasury benches and holding the important position of Minister of Finance. With increases of 10 and 15 per cent of wages of great and important industries there is necessarily a larger consumption of agricultural products.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I would like to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMILLAN), if that is the case, how it comes that Beadmore & Co.'s men are out on strike for higher wages, and the answer of the head of the concern is: Rather than increase your wages, we will shut down the whole business, because there is no profit in it?

Mr. McMILLAN. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), was on the government side of the House, the manufacturers were always keeping down wages, though the friends of the government of that day were constantly declaring that times were good. But, we find that the railway companies have increased the wages of their men, and some of the best and largest industries have done the same thing. I know that, so far as farm wages are concerned, the wages of

a man, with board, have increased from \$150 to \$190 or \$200 right in my own locality. I remember seeing the statement not very long ago that the rolling mills had increased the wages of their men 10 per cent. It may be that there are still certain industries which think they have a right to use the men as they did when they had the country to themselves, and when hon. gentlemen opposite did all they could to assist them. But, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) must know that he cannot hire a man on his own farm for the same money as he could three or four years ago. Wages having gone up, is it possible to doubt that the increase of consumption of agricultural produce has been increased?

The hon. member for Stanstead very ingeniously tried to show how great a quantity of eggs had been exported from the country during the time the Conservative party were in power. They were 18 years in power, and we have only been 3 years in power. But, the export of eggs which, at one time, was 14,028,893 dozen, valued at \$2,159,510, went down in 1896 to 6,502,678 dozen, valued at only \$807,086. It is only fair, when hon. gentlemen will make a statement of that description, to show the condition of an industry when they left power. And, if they consider the condition of other industries, they will find the history of them very much the same. In 1898 there were 10,369,996 dozen eggs exported, for which the farmers received \$1,254,304. And, to show that the price of eggs is going up like everything else that the farmer has to sell, I may say that while there was a reduction in the number of eggs exported in 1899, by 717,984 dozen, yet the amount received was \$11,739 more. That is about all I have to say concerning the remarks of the hon. member for Stanstead. It is true, he talked a long time about the Standard Oil Company, and how they should be put out of the country, and all that sort of thing. But, I am not aware that the Standard Oil Company, or any other oil company, or any other company of any kind, may not come into Canada and buy any property that the Canadian owners may see fit to sell them, without the government being called upon to do anything to prevent it. It is true that the Standard Oil Company has full control of the oil refineries in Canada. But, the government did not give them that control, they purchased the property from private individuals. It was also true that the Standard Oil Company have been blamed for putting up the price of oil in Canada through the railway companies increasing the rates on oil. But, the government can do nothing in that matter until a case has been brought before the government, clearly stated and proved; and then it is for the government to take action. A case has been before the government and they have reserved decision, they are carefully considering the matter. That is all they can do. The only thing

they could do would be to reduce the duty on oil to a certain extent, and hon. gentlemen opposite have not got much to say in that direction, because it has been reduced below what it was when they were in power and that it does not become them now to turn around and say that the government ought to reduce the duty altogether. My own opinion is that it would be a wise stroke on the part of the government to do something in regard to oil at the present time.

Now, we had the hon. member for Haldimand who gave us a long speech. He is an excellent speaker, he has a fine voice, a fine appearance, and he can use fine language; and I only regret that his arguments were not as fine as his language and his appearance upon the platform. He tried to show that during the whole time that the Conservative party were in power they were protecting the farmers against the enormous grain crops raised in the United States, and against the cattle of the United States. Since he delivered that speech I have put myself to a good deal of trouble, and have succeeded in finding the prices of grain in Canada and the United States from 1877 down to 1897. That hon. gentleman stated that in 1877 there were over 2,000,000 bushels of oats coming into Canada and displacing a large quantity of the oats of our own farmers. I am in a position to state that in 1877, 1878 and 1879, the average price of oats in the United States was 34.6 cents, and in Canada during those three years the average price was 33.3 cents, showing that oats was 1.4 cents higher in the United States, notwithstanding that a bushel of their oats is two pounds lighter than ours. Now, how could the Canadian farmer be protected against grain coming from a country where it sells at a higher price than it does in Canada? Such talk is mere clap-trap to catch the farmers' vote. But the farmers begin to know now where they stand with respect to that question. Let me say that from 1877 down to 1897 the price of wheat was 5.4 cents per bushel higher in the United States than it was in Canada, and oats was 3.4 cents higher during that whole time, and yet they tell us they were protecting the farmers against the markets of the United States. Can they tell us what an enormous injury is being done to this country by bringing corn in free?—and I shall deal with that question as a separate item. If the corn brought into Canada is not consumed in this country, where does it go for consumption? It goes into the British market, the very market where the Canadian farmer has got to send his surplus grain for consumption; so that if it does not meet him on this continent it meets him in the British market. The whole corn crop of the United States has to meet the oat crop and the wheat crop of the United States during all these years that I have mentioned. If the corn crop would have the effect of reducing the price of

the farmers' coarse grains in Canada, why does it not do so in the United States? I have shown, for instance, that the price of oats there, although two pounds per bushel lighter than ours, has been 3 cents a bushel higher than ours, on the average, from 1877 down to 1897. The thing is an utter impossibility.

Then take cattle. If you consult the papers for a number of years past you will find that the very best beef cattle in the United States have been selling for from \$5 up to \$5.90 per 100 pounds, and you will find that in Canada they are only selling for from \$4 up to \$4.50. It is stated that one small lot was sold this last week at \$5, which is a price the purchaser could not afford to pay. Yet we are told that we were protected against the enormous numbers of cattle raised in the United States. Before I sit down I shall show what a benefit it would be to Canada if we could get the United States market. During a period of 23 years wheat has averaged $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents higher in the United States than in Canada. In the United States, the price of oats, as I have mentioned, averaged, during that period, 34.6, and in Canada 33.3. The prices of wheat and flour are regulated one by the other, so that as far as flour is concerned, it has always been higher in the United States than in Canada.

But the hon. member for Haldimand went on to quote from the speech of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) the other night. The hon. member for Haldimand said:

I admit you reduced taxation \$5,900,000. The hon. gentlemen, instead of reducing taxation since they came into power, have, as I have shown, increased the taxation, and, as I want to show just a little further, in 1891, the customs taxation was \$23,399,301. Then the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) began to reduce taxation.

Now, I would ask any intelligent gentleman of this House if he can point to any one article on which the late Minister of Finance ever reduced taxation in the interests of the people of this country, upon which he had not previously placed an enormous taxation? He was only removing the taxation that he and his predecessors had imposed upon the people of this country; and I shall attempt to show even by their own statements, that it was an enormous taxation. But he went on to show how they had reduced the taxation. Why, Sir, he forgot to tell us that in 1894 and 1895 there was a deficit of \$1,577,648. While they were reducing the taxation they had a deficit, they were not raising taxes enough to carry on the affairs of the country. Then when we come to 1895 there was a deficit of \$4,153,000. Now, is it a fact that the present government have been increasing the debt? They blame the present government for increasing the debt, but we all know that during the last three years they were in power they in-

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creased the debt over \$16,000,000 a year; while the present government have only increased the debt something like \$6,000,000 altogether since they came into power. But, on the other hand, they have had surpluses, a surplus last year of nearly \$4,500,000, with a prospective surplus this year of \$7,500,000.

I hold, Mr. Speaker, that this government made a very wise move when they increased the preference given to English goods from 25 per cent to $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I have made a little calculation of the benefits that preference has conferred upon the people of this country. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) stated that the reduction in the tariff as it existed in 1896 has been 2.02 per cent, by which they have reduced the taxation of the country \$3,080,000. But that does not tell the whole story; that does not tell half the benefits the people of this country have derived from the change in our tariff. Every gentleman who had a seat in this House in 1893, can remember that the late lamented Dalton McCarthy made at that time a speech in this House showing that there were \$265,000,000 worth of goods manufactured and consumed in Canada, upon which a very much higher price was paid, amounting, as he stated, to 30 per cent more on account of the national policy. Therefore, \$79,000,000 had to be paid by the taxpayers of Canada to the manufacturers who constituted the real government of this country at that time, because, as I have stated before, and as I am prepared to state again, the Finance Minister of that day never made his own tariff. He got his brief directly from the tariff committee of the Manufacturers' Association, and he accepted it word for word almost, and it appeared in the tariff when it was brought down. But, that is not all. If there was \$79,000,000 paid at that time, the reduction of duty on goods coming into the country amounts to over \$3,000,000, and there are, over \$9,000,000 of goods manufactured in Canada and consumed in Canada, and the reduction applies to them on the very same basis as upon the reduction on goods that have paid duty and upon which \$3,000,000 has been saved. But there is more than that. In addition, there are goods that come from the United States, and from every other foreign country, which must pay duty. These goods are reduced in value to the consumers because they must reduce the prices of these goods down to the standard of the goods which come into Canada under the preferential tariff. The farmers of this country understand that to-day; they know that the prices of goods have been reduced. I was astonished upon meeting some farmers in my county who, upon coming to shake hands with me, told me that we were having a pretty tough time of it down in Ottawa, but that it was no use for the Tories to tell them that times were not better than they had been up to the time of the inauguration of the preferential tariff.

There is not a workshop but is busy, there is not a man in the country who wants work who is out of employment; you cannot hire men. Prosperity reigns from one end of the country to the other in a manner that never was known during the time that hon. gentlemen opposite held the reins of power.

I am going to say a word or two in regard to free corn. We have heard a great deal about that. I did not know what the benefits of free corn to the farmers of the province of Ontario really were until I investigated the question very closely. I found that we consumed 7,333,037 bushels of corn in Canada, that 23,000,000 bushels were imported into this country and that part of the corn that comes into the country has been a benefit to us not only in regard to sending it to Great Britain, but in regard to sending it to other countries. For instance, Germany took 2,013,000 bushels of corn, Belgium 540,856, and Holland 274,222 bushels. Will any hon. gentleman, or any other man who understands anything about business, tell me that it is not a benefit to this country to handle the goods of another country, to receive them into this country and to send them off to trade for the goods of other countries, exchanging these commodities for an equal value of goods from another country, and thus gaining in our trade with that country. Then, we exported to Great Britain 13,180,000 bushels of corn. Take corn at 41 cents per bushel, take pease at 60 cents per bushel, and taking the quantity of corn that we consumed in Canada, 7,333,037 bushels, which is equal to 210,378 tons of corn, if we sell an equal amount of pease, 210,378 tons, and purchase that quantity of corn, what will be the result to the farmers of Ontario? They will gain \$1,198,199. This is a very large amount of money, and let me say, and I say it advisedly, that corn is one of the best foods that we have in Canada today. I would not sell all my grain and buy corn, but I would sell a large quantity of it, and buy corn. If the farmers of Ontario were to sell barley and buy corn, they would save \$974,979; if they were to sell oats and buy corn, they would save \$575,000 in the transaction. It does not end there. If we take the extra amount of food they get from corn, how many animals would it enable the farmers to keep in Canada? Of steers 102,735 can be kept in the stable for 200 days, which is the length of time that the farmers put up their cattle, and they can be given eight pounds of meal per day on the average for that period. It would allow the farmers of Canada to raise 132,984 hogs, and to feed them five pounds of meal per day until they were put on the market. These are very large benefits which the farmers of Canada derive from free corn. It would effect a saving to them of \$549,967 in duty. I hold that no greater benefit could have

been conferred upon the farmers of Canada than by giving them free corn and by removing the quarantine upon Canadian cattle. I was glad when I heard some hon. gentlemen admitting the benefit that free corn had been to the farmers of Ontario during the last two years. We know that two years ago there was a drought in the northern part of Ontario, and if it had not been for free corn, I do not know what the farmers in that section would have done. When I visited some of those portions of the country, I found that every one of them seemed to rejoice that they had free corn. In 1899, the same thing took place in some of the southern counties of the province of Ontario, and it was a fortunate thing that the farmers were enabled to get free corn, because every one could get free corn and was glad to get it. Some farmers were at one time very bitterly disposed against me on account of my advocacy of free corn, but since they came to see the benefits which it has conferred upon them, they have changed their opinions. Is there any one who will say that it is no benefit whatever to the farmers of Canada to get free corn, to get free binder twine, to get free barbed wire, or to get their agricultural implements at reduced duty? The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) stated, that when his party get into power, agricultural implements will be 41 per cent. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) stated, that the imports of agricultural implements have increased by \$1,600,000 since 1896, and he stated that these articles should be made in Canada, and that they will be when his party get into power.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hear, hear.

Mr. McMILLAN. What benefit will be derived by the farmers of Canada? The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) forgot to tell the House that there was an increased export of agricultural implements, that it went from \$444,000 to \$1,800,000. All that would be lost to Canada if the policy of these hon. gentlemen were carried out. I think that I have shown that we have enormously benefited by free corn, in fact, that we have benefited more than any one can really tell. In regard to the markets, comparing 1896 with the present time, the hon. member for West York told us that wheat, in 1896, was worth 71 cents a bushel. In 1900, wheat is worth 72 cents a bushel, a gain of 1 cent. Oats, in 1896, were worth 20 cents a bushel, in 1900, they were worth 33 cents a bushel, which is certainly a nice increase in price. Rye, in 1896, was worth 36 cents per bushel, but it is worth 55½ cents a bushel in 1900. This is certainly a nice increase in price. Pease were 44 cents in 1896; in 1900, they were 61 cents a bushel, a nice increase that the farmers are getting. Barley was worth 31½ cents in 1896, and 44 cents a bushel in 1900. Yet, the hon. gentleman tells us

that almost everything the farmer has to sell has been reduced in value, and that all he has to purchase is increased in value. The people understand the hon. gentleman now. They know the statements that he is accustomed to make, and they have no confidence in any of these statements. Buckwheat was 30.5 cents a bushel in 1896, and 55½ cents a bushel in 1900; beans, 68 cents a bushel in 1896, and \$1.70 a bushel in 1900; butter, 18.25 cents a pound in 1896, and 22 cents a pound in 1900. Cheese was 8.28 cents a pound in 1896. Cheese to-day in any market in Canada, where there is any, is selling for over 12 cents per pound. It was selling at 11 cents a pound last fall in Ontario. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) told us about bacon, and he went on to show the price that we were receiving for that. In 1896, we exported 47,057,692 pounds of bacon, for which we received \$3,802,000, and in that year there was consumed only 2,763,999 bushels of corn. Now, contrast that with the year 1898, when we exported 76,844,948 pounds of bacon, valued at \$7,291,000, showing that the increase in our exports was proportionate to the steadily increasing consumption of corn, when corn was made free of duty in Canada. In 1899 we exported 111,820,000 pounds of bacon, for which we were paid \$9,953,582, and we consumed 7,333,037 bushels of corn, showing conclusively that free corn has a good deal to do with the increase in our exports of butter and bacon from Canada. There is no better food than corn to mix with other foods for milch cows and for hog feed. I was at the fat stock show in London some time ago, when Mr. Wilson, of Ingersoll, delivered a lecture on the bacon trade, and he opposed feeding hogs with corn. I happened to have with me notes of experiments that had been made, and I told him, that late experiments in the matter did not bear out his contention with respect to feeding corn to hogs, and he had to admit that corn when mixed with other stuffs was one of the best foods that could be given to hogs. Now, look at our butter exports. In 1896 we exported 5,890,241 pounds of butter, for which we were paid \$1,052,089, and as I have said, there was consumed in that year 2,763,999 bushels of corn. In the year 1898 we sent to the English market 11,253,000 pounds of butter valued at \$2,046,686, and in 1899 we exported 20,139,000 pounds of butter valued at \$9,953,582, and there was consumed in Canada 7,333,037 bushels of corn that year. There is no doubt in my mind that the two industries run parallel with each other, and that free corn increases our dairy and hog products, and when, Sir, the trade in these products is increased no greater benefit can be conferred upon the farmers of this country. But that is not all the benefit that free corn confers upon the farmers. One of the great wants in Canada is manure, and

if we can get this free corn into the country to feed our animals, the manure goes back to the land to increase its fertility, and that fact alone places our Canadian farmers in a better position to compete with our friends across the line.

There is another matter which I have a note of here, and to which I will refer for a moment. There was a great talk for many years about reducing the salaries of the civil servants, and the present government promised that when they came into power they would make a reduction in the number of civil servants and in the salaries paid them. Now, Sir, I have examined very carefully the public accounts of this Dominion and I find that the government have carried out their promises in that respect. In the public accounts of 1896, I find that there were 4,109 civil servants receiving salaries amounting to \$3,537,059. We have not a statement with accounts for 1899 yet, but in 1898, two years after this government came into power, there were only 3,741 civil servants, a reduction of 208, with a corresponding reduction of \$259,996 in the salaries paid them, showing conclusively that the Liberal government have kept their promises as far as that one particular is concerned. I hold also that in reducing the tariff as they have done, particularly in the late budget speech, the government have fulfilled their promises to the letter in reducing the duties on imports so far as the interests of the country will warrant. It has always been my opinion that the government should not cut too deep at any one time, to an extent that would injure our manufacturers who had a large amount of raw material on hand, our wholesale men who had a large amount of stock, or our retail men who had a great deal of goods on their shelves. I always believed that it was best to carry out this policy step by step whenever the opportunity offered, and as the government are doing that, they are in my opinion acting in the best interests of the country as a whole. I see the hon. member from the Pacific coast (Mr. Prior) laughing. Does he not know that his province is enjoying the benefit of the preferential tariff as well as all the other provinces of the Dominion. I have a letter from his section of the country telling me that it is flourishing, and this letter gives the credit for that prosperity to the preferential tariff to a large extent. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) does not see that, he is blind to the interests of his own province.

I shall now, Mr. Speaker, deal with the binder twine question, which is rather a troublesome one. The government have been blamed for the prices they have received for the binder twine output of the Kingston Penitentiary. The Minister of Justice was blamed for selling that binder twine in 1898, but I have before me a pamphlet which shows that he sold the

output to Bate & Sons of Ottawa at \$4.95 per 100 pounds, and that Bate & Sons sold a large quantity of that binder twine to Massey-Harris & Co., and to Wood, Valance & Co., at from \$4.90 to \$5.40 per 100 pounds, which shows that Bate & Sons did not make a great deal by the transaction. It was stated by gentlemen opposite that Bate & Sons gave no security, but the fact is that that firm sent a large sum of money along with the order for the twine as a pledge of their good faith, and that they paid for all the twine as it was put on board the cars. Last year, the manila made at the Kingston Penitentiary was sold at \$7.25 per 100 pounds, although gentlemen opposite have stated during this debate that it was sold for \$5 or \$5.50 only. The mixed twine was sold last year for \$6.15, and the sisal for \$6.15. I am perfectly convinced that twine did not reach the high price it afterwards went up to, at the time it was sold, and I have other documents in my possession which will prove that the Kingston binder twine realized just as good a price as that sold by other manufacturers. I have here a letter from the Farmers' Binder Twine Company of Brantford, which I wish to read to the House.

Mr. TAYLOR. When was that letter written?

Mr. McMILLAN. It was written on April 11, of this year. The letter is as follows:

My dear Sir,—I observe in the unrevised edition, 5th session, April 10, 1900, House of Commons Debates, the discussion that has recently taken place regarding binder twine.

True, this company declared a dividend of 100 per cent last year to its stockholders and 60 per cent the year before. This, however, was not out of last year's earnings, but from large reserve that had been accumulating for years under what might be termed, I suppose, judicious or good management, and as the satisfactory results of a large volume of business.

Our paid-up capital stock stands at \$65,000. We, however, do an annual business of between \$200,000 and \$300,000, and have made money for our stockholders right along by careful investment of the company's fund, and the truest principles of co-operation applied to the business through our thousand of stockholders, all farmers, at the same time being instrumental in holding down or regulating the price annually on the entire Canadian consumption of binder twine, in many cases far below its actual marketable value, much to the annoyance and disgust of our opponents, principally the great American twine manufacturers, all of which you will see from our annual circulars for 1899 and 1900 that I am sending you concurrent with this letter. For instance, in the season of 1898, we sold the entire output of the mill at 7½c. per pound, allowed commission for selling, and prepaid freight, while other manufacturers had to sell, from necessity and otherwise, as high as 14c. and 15c. per pound.

This we accomplished on the face of free binder twine and against the American manufacturer, the greatest in the world. We were never a party to a combine in any shape or

form, directly or indirectly, and what is more no such has ever existed in this country since the formation of the Farmers' Binder Twine Company. During recent years raw material has advanced by leaps and bounds. Manufacturers who were fortunate and bought early could produce at a minimum cost, while others who bought what might be termed distant hemp or from spot, were compelled to sell at high figures to save themselves. This company happened to be among the former and with its great distributing medium and consumption of twine through its own stockholders, has so far proved wholly impregnable as against opposition of every character, while our average profit during the whole term of seven years has not exceeded one-half cent per pound.

I have also a couple of circulars here sent out by the Brantford Binder Twine Company, which show conclusively upon what terms they do business. The first is dated at Brantford, July 1, 1898, and is as follows:

We are simply being flooded with letters and telegrams demanding twine beyond our capacity to supply. Firstly, let us say to you that we have orders for some 5,000 tons of twine forced in upon us, while our output and stock represents only some 1,400 tons. At a glance it can be seen that it was impossible for us to meet the demands made upon us for binder twine. We have not increased our prices one fraction—have no twine to advance them on. The volume of orders came in to us between the 15th and 20th June, almost in a mass. On our A.B.C. forms the right is clearly reserved to approve and accept every order sent us, for two principal reasons; one, that we will not obligate the company beyond its capacity to supply; another, that we must know that the agent's financial position is satisfactory before we will entertain or book any orders. We have endeavoured honestly to divide the entire output of this factory under our control in about equal proportions on the orders received. Not one single pound of our Samson, Red Star or Blue Star twines are being held back or have been shipped to the United States; for lower grades we have no inquiries. This statement, therefore, is an unqualified, malicious falsehood. Not a single bale of above twine has been billed out or sold at an advance on our advertised prices. A small lot of some forty tons of Pure Manila and Extra Manila, which we carried over in stock, was sold at 9 and 8½c., some of which was not our own make.

This company early in the season could have disposed of its tremendous stock of raw material at a profit to our stockholders of some \$200,000, and so paralyzed the binder twine interests of Canada, and left the market absolutely in the hands of speculators. This company could have started the price on its best twine at 10c. a pound and maintained it throughout the season to the very terminus of the harvest. Do you realize that in setting and continuing the price at 7½c. on our splendid Red Star we precluded the possibility of speculators and adventurers buying up and controlling the volume of twine that was in the hands of storekeepers and others, outside of ourselves, and being re-sold back to the farmers at an exorbitant advance? During the season, and at the moment, we are refusing orders for large blocks of twine at fancy prices, preferring to remain loyal to the people and make our twine tell in their interests to the exhaustion of the last ball we have in stock. It is very natural that those who have sent us

in excess orders are disappointed at not receiving all twine they claim engaged. Neither this company nor our agents are in any way obligated if the latter have complied with instructions, contract and forms. Agents, on the other hand, are sending us quantities of A.B.C. forms filled in by themselves, instead of the individual farmer, while other lots bear no date at all, and volumes of them are dated even after June 20. It is more than absurd to imagine that we could furnish beyond the mill's capacity. It is no use writing or telegraphing us for more twine. We simply have not got it, nor can we produce it. We did our utmost to secure running privileges from a silent mill in the west, offering to supply them with raw material, coal and oil. In this we were not successful. And still a prouder record—we have delivered in Manitoba every single pound of twine our agents contracted for at no advance in price, and at the same average figure as supplied our customers in Ontario, although it was loudly proclaimed by the enemies of this company that we would never get the twine there, while we have since positively refused from the prairie province to accept another order at any figure, and so leave the Ontario farmers to pay any price that might be demanded from them. The people want to realize that there is a partial twine famine in the country, and that thousands of acres of stuff will have to be cut with binders and tied with straw. The scarcity of twine is not wholly confined to Canada. The United States is supposed to be 20,000 tons short, and twine is ranging from 14c. to 18c. throughout that country. We have lots of raw material, while the mill is being operated every hour that the law allows us to run; more it is impossible for us to do, and still we are not advancing prices, notwithstanding twine is being retailed throughout this country and the United States to-day at 15c. a pound and upwards. No more twine can be got from us at any price. We have obligated every bale we can produce on orders that are in at original prices, and we are helpless to even tell you where to buy a single pound. The talk of future disloyalty and compelling us to deliver on all submitted orders, and holding us for damages and agents' commissions at this stage of the proceedings is too disgusting and treacherous to refer to, after the tremendous fight we have put in for the people. We can only say, for the convenience of those that have such bitter feelings to vent against us, that the address of our solicitors is Messrs. Hardy & Wilkes, Brantford, who are prepared to accept service in any such cases on this company's account.

So that just at the time the binder twine was high, they kept the price down to a low ebb. Here is another circular:

This company's binder twine for the harvest of 1900 will be principally Red Star of a quality possibly the best ever turned out by us at the factory. It will come to you freight prepaid, put up in balls averaging five pounds, in long first-class sacks. We feel confident you will be very pleased with its get-up. The quantity we will have to dispose of, however, will be limited, and we are only placing it this season with our very best agents, and in districts where the people have been truly loyal to us in the past. We want you on the inclosed coupon to advise us by return mail about the amount you expect to be able to market easily in your locality. Don't call on a man the second time, and don't sell a pound of our twine

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to any one who is skeptical or indifferent to the encouraging of this great co-operative movement. Leave them to deal with the opposition. Remember that this company's position is always fortified by the fact we can export our twine, or on the other hand, our opponents would be only too pleased to pay us any price to control this mill's twine output. Remind your customers of all the fake promises that were made to them early last year through the then opposition agents that they would follow or reduce their prices to ours on early purchases. There was clearly a difference of 3c. a pound, and we ask you in all fairness if in a single instance such was carried out. We don't intend to be made a stool-pigeon of any longer, and if the farmers want to continue to do business in this manner, and so drive nails into their own coffins, we want to know it quickly, that we may absolutely withdraw from such districts.

The price you will charge for our Red Star this year is 12½c. per pound, Blue Star 11½c. per pound, Standard 10½c., off which we will allow you the commission agreed; all twine payable on November 1, or a cash discount of 3 per cent on moneys paid us previous to September 1 by agents. It is not, however, intended that this cash discount shall be allowed to the farmer unless he pays the cash at the time of delivery of twine. It is no use writing us for any better terms, as what we name are particularly liberal to both the agent and the farmers, and we don't want you in any case on our account to deviate from or make a single promise outside of them. We will send you a sample fifty-pound bale of our splendid Red Star when ordered on form 109, you remitting us a post office order for \$6.25, less commission. At the same time, we don't think it necessary for you to bother about doing so, as we are sick and tired of the men who lack confidence enough in this great corporation to order 50 or 100 pounds of twine without seeing samples, which are generally specially prepared. It is allowed on all hands that we have one of the finest and best operated binder twine mills in the world to-day, while the material we are working up this season is of a quality very superior and entirely free from any tow bunch. Move quickly now if you want to serve the people, yourself and the company. You have a chance we never gave you before, there is no opposition who will dare to follow our prices. Be very careful to distribute in your own interests every sheet of printed matter we send you. The salvation of the company depends upon it. It is the only medium we have of refuting the myriads of false statements, such as this factory is closed down, that we are attached to a combine, or that we are exporting our twine out of the country. Never during the existence of this factory have we held back a bale of twine or sold a pound of raw material. This latter statement is an unqualified libel, and every paper in the country that made it we have forced to rescind. The best evidence of all these lies is the fact that we have again set the price on binder twine for the harvest of 1900 at figures that we defy the world to compete against. We assure you had it not been for the existence of this co-operative company, not a single ball of twine could have been bought this coming season at a less price than 18c. or 20c. per pound, unless for some unknown brand or worthless grade.

You want to explain to your customers that this company has been a success from start to finish, that we made large amounts of money by judicious investing of the company's sur-

plus funds, while at the same time, we held the price down on the entire Canadian output of binder twine, and in 1898 furnished every pound the mill could turn out at 7½c., notwithstanding that the opposition were charging 14c. and 15c. a pound. We warn you that the moment our stock exhausts this year, there will be an increase in the price of twine by our opponents.

JOSEPH STRATFORD,
General Manager.

Brantford, March 24, 1900.

I think I have a statement here, sent out by the government of the Dominion of Canada, showing the prices. It is as follows:

	Manila.	Mixed.	New Zealand.
Fifty tons and upwards.	12½	9½	8½
Car lots less than 50 tons.	13	10	9
One ton to car-load.....	13½	10½	9½
Less than one ton.....	14	11	10

When we consider the prices of pure manila, we must admit that the government are not making any profit. The ex-Minister of Finance told us that the price of manila was 14 cents a pound during the present year. When the government is giving binder twine to the farmers at the same price as the raw material stands at in the market to-day, there cannot be much room to complain. Yet hon. gentlemen opposite will blame the government and say they have entered into a combine to keep up the prices.

Mr. TAYLOR. Where did the ex-Minister of Finance make that statement?

Mr. McMILLAN. From his place in the House, and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), had looked closely at *Hansard* he would have seen it. The hon. gentleman is very sharp indeed. Anything that is said on this side, he remembers well, but anything said on that side, that would favour the government, he cannot remember at all.

Mr. TAYLOR. Read the statement.

Mr. McMILLAN. I will read the statement; don't you be afraid.

Mr. WALLACE. What page is it?

Mr. McMILLAN. Page 2787. This is it:

	1895.	1899.	1900.
Manila	\$0 04½	\$0 06½	\$0 14½
Sisal	0 02½	0 05½	0 09½

That is the statement of the ex-Minister of Finance. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), believe it now? He is so in the habit of making reckless statements that he will not believe another, however careful he may be.

Mr. TAYLOR. I do not know where the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) got his figures; they are not correct.

Mr. McMILLAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster), is responsible for them; I am not. I hold that the government of the day have done everything they could to give the farmers as cheap binder twine as possible. I have here two letters which I in-

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tend to read—independent letters. The first is from the *Weekly Sun*, of the 15th November, 1899—and we all know that the *Sun* is a paper that takes the farmers' position every time, and does everything it can for the farmers, not hesitating to condemn the government at times:

The Binder Twine Situation.

Several weeks ago we pointed out the marked increase in the price of manila and sisal for the first eight months of the present year, as compared with the prices for corresponding periods in the years 1897 and 1898. While the figures for the first half of 1898 showed comparatively little increase over the prices for the preceding year, a decided increase in price developed rather more than a year ago, and for the past twelve months both manila and sisal have steadily grown dearer. The last monthly statement of commerce and finance issued by the United States Bureau of Statistics shows that on October 30 the wholesale price of manila in the United States was 15c. per pound, and sisal 9c.

That is where the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), got his statement—he said he got it from a report from New York.

In August the wholesale price of manila was 10c. per pound, so that in the last three months there has been an increase of 50 per cent. On November 1, 1897, the wholesale price of manila in the United States was 3½c. per pound, so that in the last two years the price has increased just 400 per cent. The recent increase in price seems to foreshadow considerably higher prices for twine next year.

With higher prices in prospect, many farmers will naturally ask whether something cannot be done to relieve the situation. The United States government is already moving, and is experimenting on substitutes for both manila and sisal. But if a suitable substitute be found, much time must necessarily elapse before it can be brought into general use. Is it possible to take such action as will in the meantime reduce prices?

Some years ago the Dominion and Ontario government began the manufacture of binder twine in the Kingston Penitentiary and in the Central Prison at Toronto. But government manufacture has not, in recent years, at least, had the slightest effect upon the market. The quantity of twine made in the government institutions has been comparatively small, and has been sold to private dealers, who have disposed of it at the highest prices they could secure. If government manufacture is continued on the same scale next year, and the product is disposed of in the same way that it has been disposed of in the past, relief is not likely to be afforded thereby.

Some may think that with the raw material at 15c. per pound, government manufacture, on any scale, will not mend matters. To reduce the price of manila seems certainly beyond the power of the government, but cannot something be done to bring out the facts? It is charged in some quarters that there is a combination among the manufacturers of twine. As the government are manufacturers themselves, and started manufacturing for the avowed purpose of providing twine for the farmer at reasonable rates, would it not be well for them to investigate the matter and ascertain whether or not a combination exists; and if it be found that the increased price of twine is caused by

combinations of manufacturers, as well as by the increased price of the raw material, it might be well for the government to consider if they could not, by manufacturing on a larger scale and selling direct to the farmers, help to ease the situation.

I am glad to say the government are selling direct to the farmers this year. They were urged by the farmers to do so, and they acceded to their request, and there is no doubt that we are getting binder twine considerably cheaper. When I was up home I saw a number of farmers, and asked them if they availed themselves of the offer of the government, and one of them told me that he was in another town and saw binder twine selling as high as 18 cents a pound. Here is another letter to the editor of the *Banner*, dated March 19, 1900 :

Dear Sir,—We noticed in Saturday's issue of the 'Planet' an editorial headed 'The Binder Twine Robbery.' The 'Planet' has been misinformed in regard to the price of binder twine in Chatham, and while Mr. Williams may have bought twine at 13 cents per pound, this is not the price in Chatham or any other town or city in Canada for pure manila twine.

Last year was a disappointing one among twine dealers on account of the short wheat crop, and the result was that many carried over more or less of that article. Some of this twine was sold before the dealers knew its real market value, but if they had to purchase from the makers this season all this year's output, they would have to pay more than they are now selling for. The government are selling their output of binder twine direct to the farmers, in any quantity they choose to buy it, from one ball up to a ton at from one to two cents per pound less than any manufacturer in Canada or the United States will sell it to the dealers, and any dealer—whether he is in Chatham or elsewhere—cannot buy from the makers this season his twine as cheap as the government is offering it direct to the consumer. We do a large twine business and keep in close touch with the market, and always buy in the cheapest market consistent with good goods, and the following are the lowest prices that we have heard of from the maker to the dealer, excepting, of course, those of the government :

The Deering Harvester Company, which is considered one of the largest twine concerns in the United States, give as their lowest prices to the dealer as follows : Sisal twine, 11½c. per pound ; Standard, 11½c. per pound ; Standard Manila, 13c. per pound ; Manila, 14c. per pound ; and pure Manila, 16c. a pound. If in car-load lots the freight is allowed. If in less than car-load lots the purchaser must pay the freight. If ordered in 10,000 pound lots or more, a rebate of ¼ of a cent per pound is allowed, and if in car-load lots (24,000 pounds) a rebate of ½ of a cent per pound, and these prices are not guaranteed.

Now the Consumers' Cordage Company, who are the largest makers in the Dominion, quote as follows :

Blue Ribbon, 15c. a pound ; Special Manila, 12½c. per pound ; Pure Sisal, 11c. per pound ; and Golden Crown, 11c. net cash, f.o.b., Montreal, payable October 1st. These prices are subject to change without notice. So you will see that the government are from 1 to 2 cents per pound cheaper to the farmer in a small lot of 100 pounds or so than the other makers are in larger quantities to the dealers. We carried

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over a large quantity of binder twine from last year, and we argued thus : That with what we carried over bought at a much less price last season, combined with what we must pay this season, would enable us to sell direct to the farmers at less than the present market value, and still give us a fair profit.

So when we arranged our prices, they were made as follows :

Golden Crown, 11c. a pound ; Sisal or Standard, (they are both the same grade of twine), 12c. a pound ; Standard Manila, 13c. a pound.

Our Superior or Blue Ribbon, 14c. a pound. Pure Manila, guaranteed, 650 feet in every pound, 15c. ; all payable October 1st, and if cash is paid any time before August 1st, 25c. per 100 pounds will be allowed.

These prices are guaranteed to the farmer both against a decline or an advance.

The price of available manila hemp is, and has been for some months, higher for the raw article than the government is asking for the finished twine, and no foresight of the government or any of its employees could have provided for such an emergency, as it was supposed last year and the year before that twine was as high as it could go, and we think the farmers are making a mistake if they are in any way persuaded this year to put off buying until lower prices come. The fact of twine selling below the market value in Chatham does not prove that the government are encouraging any binder twine combine. In fact we think there is no such combine in Canada, for if there were, the manufacturers would insist on the dealers keeping their prices in accordance with those of the different makers.

There is no doubt that all available hemp in Canada and the United States is controlled by those who will make the most out of it that they can. These men know to a certainty how long it will take new hemp to reach here from the Philippines, and the government are just as much at the mercy of those men for their raw material as any other manufacturer in the same line of business.

Yours truly,

GEO. STEPHENS & CO.

Chatham, March 19, 1900.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I have given sufficient evidence to show that the government has not entered into any combine ; I do not believe myself that the government ever entered into any combine. In my opinion there has never been but one monopoly in Canada in binder twine, and that monopoly existed at the time hon. gentlemen opposite held the reins of power, when the Standard Cordage Company paid out over \$250,000 in three years in order to buy up a number of small factories and keep them standing still. They did hold the monopoly down to the time that the Brantford Cordage Company started, and since then there has been no combine in cordage, so far as I am aware, and I do not believe there has been any. I think that should settle once and for all the wisdom of the action of the government during this present year. I say, as a farmer, that I am well satisfied with the action of the government this year, first, in giving us one month, and then in extending it ; and they have made a promise to keep, if possible, a quantity of twine on hand in

order that the farmers may not be fleeced by sharpers.

Mr. SPROULE. How is it that at hardware concerns in the country to-day you can buy twine in 5-pound lots at less than the government are selling it for at the Kingston Penitentiary?

Mr. McMILLAN. There is a large quantity of old twine on hand, as I have already stated, and shown by these written documents. These gentlemen hold that twine, and every farmer who knows anything about binder twine knows that in old twine a good deal of the oil is dried up, and it does not give the same satisfaction, and is not worth within a good few cents as much as new twine.

Mr. SPROULE. I priced new twine just coming in, from two hardware merchants in the village where I live, and in both cases I found they were selling it lower than the government are selling at the Kingston Penitentiary, and selling it in 5-pound lots.

Mr. TAYLOR. And that is what the Brantford circular says, that he has just read.

Mr. McMILLAN. No, the Brantford circular quotes it half a cent higher than the lower standard. It is true it is 12½ cents for the higher standard, and 14 cents for pure manila, and pure manila is the cheapest twine. When I was at home one of my own sons had sent for all the twine he required, and he told me he had purchased manila time and again; he had examined closely manila from the Kingston Penitentiary, and it was some of the best twine he had ever had.

Now, I am going to take up another question. The saving that has been effected in duties to the farmer on account of the present tariff has been \$549,997 on Indian corn; and on binder twine, \$120,300. If the duty had not been taken off binder twine the farmer would have had to pay that much more for his binder twine during the present year. On barbed wire fencing there was a saving of \$126,885; on galvanized iron and steel wire, numbers 9, 12 and 13, there was a saving of \$42,980. Then there is the article of cream separators. The member for Haldimand found great fault with the government for placing cream separators on the free list. If there is one industry more than another that deserves to be carefully encouraged it is the dairy industry. I hold that the late government ought to have taken the duty off all the machinery used in creameries and cheese factories, which they did not do. I am happy to say that the government has reduced that very much, and I hope they will place it on the free list, because this is an industry which really deserves to be

encouraged. While I am in favour of the machinery used in the manufacture of beet-root sugar coming in free, I am also in favour of the dairymen, who are manufacturing products received from the farmers, having free machinery with which to manufacture these products. We have also the following articles on which the duty has been reduced:

	New Tariff.	Old Tariff.	Saved.
Prong forks	\$ 2,753	\$ 3,858	\$ 1,105
Hay tedders	1,163	1,628	465
Hoes	772	1,093	321
Rakes, n.e.s.	1,226	1,716	490
Sickles or reaping hooks, scythes and snaths.....	8,256	11,994	3,738
Spades and shovels.....	8,665	10,851	2,181
On all other agricultural implements	5,409	7,616	2,207
Saving			<u>\$10,507</u>

Agricultural Implements—

Wind-mills	3,926	4,711	785
Threshers, separators....	17,934	21,521	3,587

Mr. TAYLOR. How is that saved?

Mr. McMILLAN. There was that much reduction in the duty on these goods coming into the country.

Mr. TAYLOR. The duty is exactly the same—20 per cent.

Mr. McMILLAN. It is the saving according to the Trade and Navigation Returns. The hon. gentleman's very existence seems to be wrapped up in the national policy, but, I can tell him that if he goes to his grave as quickly as the national policy does, the grass will soon be growing over him. Earnest, honest men make a great many statements, but they make a great many false ones:

	New Tariff.	Old Tariff.	Saved.
Other portable machines.	\$11,367	\$15,974	\$ 4,607
Saving			<u>\$ 8,979</u>

Iron and steel manufactures—

Wire fencing, woven, and wire fencing of iron and steel, n.e.s.	3,396	6,524	*3,128
Stoves	31,693	34,915	3,222
Axes	10,353	14,494	4,141
Saws	23,145	25,288	2,143
Files, rasps	22,224	26,876	4,652
Tools, hand or machine, all kinds, n.o.p.....	142,966	171,746	28,780
Saving			<u>\$46,086</u>

*Duty saved, \$45,000.

Some hon. gentlemen say that farmers do not use files and rasps. I beg to say that every farmer who is using and taking care of his proper machinery has files and rasps just the same as any mechanic in the country, and it is only those who know nothing about agriculture who make such statements. The statement continues:

	New Tariff.	Old Tariff.	Saved.
Table cutlery	\$ 47,212	\$ 64,616	\$ 17,404
Cut nails, spikes	4,554	6,942	2,388
Butts, hinges	5,104	5,565	461
Sleighs	1,487	1,785	298
Coal oil	424,888	509,866	84,978

Saving\$ 105,529

Total saving\$1,046,243

On these goods which I have enumerated, there is a saving of \$1,046,243, a great deal of it saved to the farmers of Canada. I have examined into this question a little further. Under the old tariff we used to complain bitterly of the enormous percentages that we were obliged to pay. I looked up the total amount of cotton goods imported and found that there was an importation of \$5,975,916 in 1899, on which we had to pay a duty of \$1,570,292, or 26 per cent, instead of 28 per cent or 29 per cent under the old tariff. Of woollen goods there was an importation of \$9,803,197, on which we paid a duty of 27½ per cent. Shall I give the duty that was paid on the same woollen goods under the old regime? In 1891 I find that blankets paid a duty of 49½ per cent, that in 1895 the duty amounted to 41·8 per cent, and that in 1899 the duty was 28·98 per cent. So that, there is a reduction of 20 per cent in the duty on blankets and coarse woollen goods. Take socks and stockings. In 1891 there was a duty of 38·87 per cent, in 1899 it was 27·25 per cent, or a reduction of 11½ per cent. But, that does not tell the whole story. We know that there was a large amount of goods that came into the country that paid very high duties, and I am just going to call up the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) as a witness to some of the enormous duties that we paid. He says that on school slates there was a reduction from 1 cent and 20 per cent down to 30 per cent, or a reduction of 53 per cent. This shows that hon. gentlemen opposite themselves placed a duty on school slates, on education of 83 per cent. He says that hay knives were \$2 per dozen and 30 per cent, that they were reduced to 35 per cent, and that there was, therefore, a reduction of 30 per cent. Thus, the hon. gentleman shows that there was 65 per cent of a duty which the farmers paid. This is not my statement; I am only putting the hon. gentleman's figures together and showing how the farmers were fleeced under the old tariff. Such statements as these show the enormous duties that the farmers paid under hon. gentlemen opposite. Hon. gentlemen cannot show me any single article on which they reduced the duty to any great extent in the interest of the farmers upon which they themselves did not place that duty. There are various other articles mentioned by the hon. gentleman. There were pronged forks, on which the reduction of duty was 27½ per cent, having been re-

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duced to 35 per cent. Thirty-five and 27½ are 62½ of a duty that the farmers were obliged to pay under the old tariff. Then, we come to farm wagons. They brought them down to 25 per cent, and there was a reduction of 50 per cent, so that there was a duty of 75 per cent under the old tariff. I would like the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) to hear this: I say there was a duty of 75 per cent upon farm wagons when the Conservative government was in power, and I take my authority from the speech made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace.)

Mr. TAYLOR. Did not the farmers get their wagons as cheap then and cheaper than they get them now?

Mr. McMILLAN. They did not.

Mr. TAYLOR. They did.

Mr. McMILLAN. I purchased a brand new wagon last summer (without a box) for \$35, and we could not get it for that price when the Conservative party were in power. Cotton seamless bags were reduced 25 per cent and there is still a duty of 20 per cent on them, which proves that the duty was 45 per cent under the Conservative government, and that is another sample of how the Conservative government taxed the farmers of Canada.

Now I shall deal a little with some remarks once made by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster). We all remember that in 1889 he told the farmers, in his budget speech, that they paid no duty. He said:

The farmers of this country whom we all love, and for whom we desire to do the best we can; nearly all his foods is raised upon his own farm and pays no duty. The house itself, the outhouses, the barns, and all that is necessary in the way of housing for the work of the farm, is built out of the woods which grow in this country. The clothing for himself and his family, in many cases, made from wool raised by the farmer himself; he clothes himself and his family with the products of our mills, the raw material of which is admitted free. The lumber of all kinds, his furniture of all staple and solid kinds, his farming machinery, is made and made to the best advantage out of the woods of his own country.

We had no iron or steel reapers or binders then; no iron harrows or iron ploughs or anything of that kind.

His fuel grows in the forests which are about him, or is found in the mines in inexhaustible quantities, so that taking it in the rough, the staple articles of consumption and of housing, and of fuel for the farmer, are these of which this country produces a surplus, which are free within the borders of this country, and upon which not one cent of a tax is paid.

Ah, the farmers know you; they know the ex-Minister of Finance, and you will never get an opportunity of trying to deceive them again. That is a sample of an earnest honest man departing from the path of rectitude and he knows

it himself, but he did not succeed in deluding the farmers. I have another little case to bring up in which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is interested. We have been told by many gentlemen on the other side of the House that the great prosperity we are enjoying to-day, and the extended markets which we possess now are all due to what the Conservatives did when they were in power. I will give you a little sample of how they established markets for us. In the *Hansard* of February 12, 1896, I find the following :

Fifty-seven thousand seven hundred and forty-eight pounds of creamery butter were shipped to Great Britain; the government advanced 20 cents a pound, and it sold for 14.38 cents per pound.

In the *Mail and Empire* of December 10, 1895, I find the following in the report of a speech of Mr. Foster at Sunderland, North Ontario :

It was thought desirable to turn the energy of the farmers in other directions—

That was a very laudable ambition for the Conservative government, but we will see later on how they succeeded in it :

It was thought desirable to turn the energy of the farmers in other directions, and the production and export of a good, uniform quality of butter was considered one of the most profitable. With that object in view, butter was purchased at 20 cents per pound and advertised and marketed by the government. What was the result? The Canadian article ranks with Danish butter, which formerly led the van in the English market, and every dollar of the \$20,000 expended has gone back into the treasury, and the reputation of our butter has been raised away up to the top notch in the market. (Applause.)

That was the statement of Mr. Foster then, but, Mr. Speaker, I ask if it was an honest statement, and echo answers no. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) himself will admit that he was a little wrong when he said that. He went on to say that it was intended to pursue the same policy in regard to other articles. The report of the *Mail and Empire*, December 11, 1895, of a meeting held at Beaverton, says :

The Minister of Finance and Dr. Montague were present. Towards the close of the Doctor's address, when he was enlarging upon the blessings which had been conferred upon the farmers, What about butter? shouted a man in the audience. In response, Dr. Montague told how the government had established the Canadian butter trade upon a firm basis, by means of a bonus and cold storage, and without the loss to the country of a single dollar.

Let us see, Mr. Speaker, how they raised the reputation of Canadian butter on the English market. I have a report here sent from one of the butter agents of the old country with respect to one parcel of butter which the Conservative government sent over, and it would be a blessing for Canada, if the boat had sunk with that butter and

never reached Great Britain. Instead of the action of the Conservative government raising the reputation of Canadian butter in the English market, it put the character of Canadian butter down so low that it could not be sold as Canadian butter at all. Here is a letter from Andrew Clement & Son, of Manchester, which proves that completely :

Manchester, May 22, 1895.

Dear Sirs,—We beg to hand you particulars of different shipments of Canadian butter, with notes made at time of arrival.

The highest price we paid this season was for 'Lennoxville,' which was sold at 92s.; 'Chester-ville,' 86s. In the last shipment 74s. and 76s. was top price for finest quality. A few lots had to be sold at 70s. and 68s.

271 packages received ex-'Pavonia.'

- 45 cases Wellman. Good texture, high coloured, turnipy, too old.
- 21 " Lennoxville. Old, well made, fresh.
- 6 " Chesterville. Variable.
- 18 " Colloden. Old, high coloured.
- 18 " Spencerville. High coloured, very salt, rank.
- 18 " Brantford. Old, turnipy.
- 6 " Goldfield. High coloured, clean flavoured.
- 11 tubs Gladstone. Clean flavoured, fair.
- 34 " Warkworth. High coloured, bad.
- 62 " Ballantyne. Good, some old, high coloured, too salt.
- 18 " Ballantyne. Good, some old, high coloured, too salt.
- 14 " Avonbank. Fair, high coloured, too old.

Colour must be pale; not too salt, say 3 per cent parchment-lined, and clean in flavour, of course. While we say the 56-pound box is the best package to use, we would give the preference to the 112-pound, if they could be got exactly as used by the Danes, but not if they could be recognized as Canadian. Our reason for this is that if the quality was very good, wholesale men would buy them from us, and sell simply as a kiel of butter without saying where it came from, and we should certainly get a better price. Any Canadian casks that we have seen have been like lard tubs. The prejudice against boxes is dying out, and the bigger men take them readily.

Yours truly,

ANDREW CLEMENT & SONS,

(Sd.) R. Graham.

What was the quality of the butter sent by the Conservative government to England? Why, they sent over butter that could not be sold under the name of Canadian butter at all, and yet they tell us they established the reputation of our butter in England. To show how they mismanaged the thing, I may state that it was in the month of January when they sent a man out to purchase that butter, and I am in a position to know that the Ballantyne butter was made for Canadian consumption in June, and was bought out of the storehouse in Montreal and sent to England as first-class Canadian fresh butter.

Mr. GIBSON. It was sold to the government.

Mr. McMILLAN. Yes, it was sold to the government and the government were silly enough to buy it for export as fresh butter. That is not all. The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), said that the government had never asked that cattle should be admitted into Canada after the United States had got free of pruerio numo, and he said further that they were called upon loudly for not enforcing the quarantine regulations, and there was a solemn compact entered into with the government of Great Britain that the quarantine regulations should be strictly enforced on cattle coming from the United States. Well, in 1893, our settlers' cattle were admitted without quarantine from the United States, and I put the following question to the government, on the 20th February, 1893 :

Whether settlers' cattle were admitted into the Canadian North-west from the United States without quarantine, on inspection only? If so, is it the intention of the government to enforce quarantine regulations against all cattle entering Canada? Have representations been made to the government at any time, either written or verbal, of the danger of the British government scheduling Canadian cattle if settlers' cattle were admitted into Manitoba and the North-west Territories from the United States without quarantine?

To this, the ex-Minister of Finance replied, on behalf of the late government :

Settlers' cattle are not admitted into the Canadian North-west from the United States without quarantine, and they are admitted on inspection only.

That question was put on the Notice paper on Thursday, and it was answered on Monday. Our worthy chief knew the gentlemen a little better than I did. He rose on Monday, and stated in answer to my question, that quarantine was strictly enforced between Canada and the United States. Then the right hon. leader of the government, then leader of the opposition, asked him how long was it since those regulations had been strictly enforced ; and it appeared that they had been strictly enforced since the Saturday previous, and this was a Monday.

It was also shown that the British government knew that American cattle were passing into Canada without undergoing quarantine, notwithstanding the regulations, and that it was in consequence of this neglect to enforce the quarantine we lost the hold we had on the English market. The British government had an agent who knew that American cattle were allowed into the territories without quarantine, and he advised the British government, and the consequence was that Canadian cattle was scheduled. This shows how lax the late government was and what mischief and injury were caused by its neglect.

Then, with regard to the butter and cheese and dairy interest, a Bill was brought in while the late government were in power, to

compel the inspection of all butter and cheese at Montreal ; and in my opposition to that Bill, the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) fought against me as hard as he could. At Lansdown, at a Farmer's Institute meeting, the hon. gentleman urged the farmers to get the government to appoint an inspector, and to have all butter and cheese subject to inspection in Montreal.

Mr. TAYLOR. Inspection and branding.

Mr. McMILLAN. I am coming to that. You know, Mr. Speaker, that cheese and butter are all inspected at the creameries and factories, before being taken away, and if the weights required to be tested, they have to be tested on the cars. I was asked if I would assist the hon. member for Leeds in getting an inspector appointed, and I declined. A Bill was passed, not making it compulsory, but a permissive measure, permitting butter and cheese to be sold subject to inspection in Montreal. I gave a number of statements in the House, showing the iniquities perpetrated on the butter and cheese factories, when the butter and cheese were inspected in Montreal. I showed that the factory could not tell what the price actually was, until the inspection had taken place in Montreal, and that the effect would be to kill the dairying industries throughout the country. Perhaps the hon. member for Leeds was not aware of the damage he was doing, but it would have been a sad day for us if our butter and cheese were to be taken from the creameries, and inspected at Montreal.

I have another list here showing how much we would benefit if we could get ingress into the United States. This list gives the quantity sold to the United States, the value, and the duty paid during the past year :

	No.	Value.	Duty.
Horses, under one year	3,412	\$ 60,429	\$ 102,360
Horses over one year old	2,872	223,164	85,160
	6,284		187,520
Cattle, less than y'r.	24,010	242,947	48,020
“ over one year.	68,824	1,055,223	(a)206,472
Swine	149	2,413	221
Sheep under 1 year.	313,783	1,068,756	235,337
“ over “ ..	21,107	107,931	37,660
Dressed poultry		6,752	327
“ “		31,110	933
			1,260
Other		18,823	.....
Butter	24,644	3,984	1,478
Cheese	169,010	17,739	10,150
Eggs	45,029	6,666	2,251
Wool	21,996	3,437	.....
Dried apples ....lbs.	463,405	27,663	9,268
Barrel apples	81,204	156,191	60,903
Barley	122,374	59,158	36,712
Beans	16,496	15,145	7,387
Split peas	1,169	1,756	.....
Buckwheat	8,976	4,508	1,345

(a) 7½ per cent.

Mr. McMILLAN.

	No.	Value.	Duty.
Oats	\$159,954	\$38,726	\$28,993
Pease	66,653	71,564	26,661
Rye	1,126	653	112
Wheat	17,337	12,643	4,334
Wheat flour	5,052	19,582	4,895
Oatmeal	165	518	.....
Hay	23,200	118,274	92,800
Maple sugar	1,115,515	64,449	.....
			\$1,023,779
Potatoes	134,363	47,629	(b)33,591
Turnips	1,053,225	101,374	(b)25,333
Vegetables		16,087	4,021
		\$3,615,291	\$1,086,724

Yet the hon. gentleman told us that the national policy protects us against the United States market. Why, when the United States could take that large quantity of produce, on which the duty had to be paid, it is evident we do not require to be protected against their produce.

A good deal has been said from time to time about reciprocity with the United States. Well, Mr. Speaker, I was one of those who, at one time, would have liked to have had reciprocity with the United States, but the leader of the opposition and some of its members are very fond of quoting the letter the Hon. Edward Blake had written at the close of the election in 1891. I am just going to read a few paragraphs of that letter :

THE NATIONAL POLICY.

Its real tendency has been as foretold twelve years ago, towards disintegration and annexation, instead of consolidation and the maintenance of that British connection of which they claim to be the special guardians. It has left us with a small population, a scanty immigration and a North-west empty still, with enormous additions to our public debt and yearly charge, an extravagant system of expenditure, and an unjust and expensive tariff ; with restricted markets for our needs, whether to buy or to sell, and all the host of evils (greatly intensified by our special conditions) thence arising ; with trade diverted from its natural into forced and therefore less profitable channels, and with unfriendly relations and frowning tariff walls, even more and more estranging us from the mighty English-speaking nation to the south, our neighbours and relations, with whom we ought to be, as it was promised we should be, living in generous amity and liberal intercourse. Worse, far worse. It has left us with lowered standards of public virtue and death-like apathy in public opinion ; with racial, religious and provincial animosities rather inflamed than soothed ; with a subservient parliament, an autocratic executive, debauched constituencies and corrupted and corrupting classes ; with lessened self-reliance and increased dependence on the public chest and on legislative aids, and possessed withal by a boastful jingo spirit far enough removed from true manliness, loudly proclaiming unreal conditions and exaggerated sentiments, while actual facts and genuine opinions are suppressed. It has left us with our hands tied, our future compromised, and in such a plight that, whether we stand or move, we

must run some risks which else we might have either declined or encountered with greater promise of success.

Was ever truer statement made with respect to the action of the national policy upon the government and people of this country ? Why, Sir, it has just occurred to me that when the fathers of the national policy, the late government, laid down the reins of power, the treasury was so depleted that the members of the civil service could not get their salaries, and the very charwomen and pages about the House were unpaid. When these gentlemen finally left office, there were balances of \$2,000,000 left that they had not paid, including \$1,000,000 for the militia supplies. They depleted the treasury and demoralized themselves. The standard of public morality was never lower than when certain members came into this House and announced that seven members of the government had given up their positions. It could not be that the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) was one of them, for that earnest, honest gentleman would not be guilty of such conduct. Think of it, in a British country—the speech from the Throne delivered, and certain members of the government, after that, throw up their portfolios in order to turn out one Premier and put in another. I cannot speak positively, but I am under the impression that a certain gentleman who came here from London was a disturbing element in the ranks of the Conservative party ; and I am under the impression that he and they had some little deliberation, and they had promised that they would rebel in order that he might lead the government. These men left the Treasury benches, and then came back. Honest, earnest men, had they left, would never have come back. But, the demoralization which had been brought about in our public life by their policy was shown even in their own actions.

The trade of Canada with Great Britain in 1878 was \$172,405,454. In eighteen years it had increased to \$239,135,360, an increase of \$67,619,906. But, in the three years between 1896 and 1899, it went up to \$321,661,213, an increase of no less than \$82,635,853. I can remember well that when the preferential tariff was laid before the House, the ex-Minister of Finance stood up in his place and denounced it. He told us that we had a remunerative trade with Germany, and that trade would be wiped out. He picked out industries which he said would be ruined by that trade. Among others, he mentioned the manufacture of shirts, cuffs and collars. This, he said, would be taken away from Canada altogether, and the work done by Canadians was to be done in Europe. I have here a statement showing the increases and decreases in our trade with various countries, from 1896 to 1899. I will not read the amounts, but will simply give the percentages :

	Increase per cent.	Decrease per cent.
Great Britain.. .. .	36.60	
United States.....	34	
France.. .. .	36	
Germany.....	43.71	
Spain.....	33	
Portugal.....	51	
Italy.....	81	
Holland.....	86	
Belgium.....	210	
Newfoundland... ..	Slight.	
West Indies.....		7½
South America.....	22.70	
Switzerland.....	72	
Other countries.....	38	

The total increase amounts to \$82,635,000. The prediction made by hon. gentlemen opposite was that our trade with Belgium and with Germany would be utterly wiped out by the abrogation of the British treaties with those countries. But, we find that, as a matter of fact, our trade with those two countries has increased to an enormous extent.

Now, the import of breadstuff into Great Britain in 1898 was 65,227,930 cwt., while the imports from Canada were 5,012,030 cwt., or 7.7 per cent of the total breadstuffs required by Great Britain. The total imports of Great Britain in 1898 amounted to £470,373,583 sterling, exports £294,013,988 sterling, or a total British trade of £764,387,571. The total imports from the colonies amounted to £99,433,955, and the exports, £90,110,736, a total trade on the part of Great Britain with the colonies of £189,544,691, or not quite 25 per cent of the total trade of Great Britain. The total trade of Canada with Great Britain amounts to only 4½ per cent. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that the British government ought to give us a preference in their market. I say, as a farmer, that while this would be a great benefit to us, I, for one, could not have the face to stand up and advocate Great Britain imposing a duty upon her hundreds of thousands of workmen and risking 76 per cent of her trade, which is with foreign countries, in order to show a preference to her colonies, whose trade amounts to only 24.70 of the whole. But, we have a preference given us by Great Britain. The trust funds that the British government is allowing Canada to borrow from will certainly be a benefit to us. Our trade with Britain under the present preferential tariff is worth more than the few dollars that would have been put in the farmers' pockets. Go where you will, you cannot take up a paper but you will find the name of Canada mentioned and mentioned favourably. The name of Canada is ringing throughout the length and breadth, not only of the continent of Europe, but of America as well. What has brought it to that position? The preferential tariff and the influence of our worthy Prime Minister at home during the Queen's Jubilee. His action there, along

with the preferential tariff, have done more for Canada than could have been done with all the money we would have saved without the preferential tariff, and Canada has attained to a higher position than she ever attained before. All our industries are run to their full extent. Hon. gentlemen opposite are much chagrined at these things, they tell us that our present prosperity is only filling up the vacuum that had been caused by the uncertainty of what the present government would do when they got into power; and it is their strong desire that the vacuum may soon be filled up and that our industries may become less prosperous.

I have here another document bearing upon our industries that I would like to read. It is a letter from the secretary of the Manufacturers' Association:

Toronto, March 31, 1900.

Dear Sir,—The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, realizing the very great importance of all tariff changes to the manufacturers in Canada, desires to obtain as full and accurate information as possible, respecting the probable effects of the proposed extension of the preference on British goods coming into Canada from 25 per cent to 33½ per cent.

To you as a manufacturer, this letter is addressed, to ascertain what are your views as to the probable effect on your particular business, of the proposed changes.

In order to give this information some uniformity, certain leading questions have been drawn up, and if you feel interested in this question, kindly answer these questions as concisely and accurately as possible, and return your reply at least not later than April 5, as no time should now be lost.

1st. Q. What line of goods do you manufacture?—A. Paper, paper bags, flour sacks, &c.

2nd. Q. How many men do you employ?—A. Fifty.

3rd. Q. How has the 25 per cent preference tariff affected your business?—A. It has in some instances induced us to purchase goods in England which were formerly purchased exclusively in the United States; in other instances, it has, through keener competition, lessened the cost of goods purchased from other countries.

4th. Q. How do you think the proposed increase to 33½ per cent will affect your business?—A. Still more favourably.

5th. Q. Do you find that in your line of business foreign goods come into Canada, getting the benefit of the preference intended for British goods only?—A. No, we have not found it so.

6th. Q. Do you consider that the requirement that 25 per cent of the labour expended in the manufacture of an article, should be British in order to entitle it to the preferential tariff, is satisfactory? If not, what proportion do you think should be required?—A. Yes, we think that should be sufficient.

7th. Q. How would you view any proposition to extend the benefit of such a preferential tariff to the United States?—A. In the same light that we would view a proposition to extend free trade to every other country in the world, without reciprocal advantages.

8th. Q. Would you be in favour of urging upon the government the advisability of not dealing with the tariff every year, but of only revising

it at certain stated intervals?—A. Since the government has shown no disposition to rearrange the tariff every year, it does not seem necessary to urge upon it the advisability of not doing so. Changes often become necessary, and at such times we think the government shows wisdom in making them, instead of allowing an error to become an evil by allowing it to exist.

9th. Q. Have you any other point of interest? —A. Not on this subject.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is approaching these questions upon strictly non-political lines, looking solely to safeguard the manufacturing industries of Canada, and your opinions and criticisms are most cordially invited.

This is the view of a Canadian manufacturer, and that is no doubt a view shared by the people generally in this country.

Mr. TAYLOR. Who writes the letter?

Mr. McMILLAN. It is signed by the secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, L. A. Russell, very likely the same gentleman who used to get up the tariff for the Conservative party when they were in power.

I now come to the duties on pig iron. When the duties on pig iron were imposed in 1887 and 1888, we heard a great deal of what that industry was going to do for the country. We were going to have 20,000 workmen brought in, who would increase our population by 100,000; we were going to have smelting furnaces in Kingston, Weller's Bay, Toronto, and several other places. Now, what benefit have we derived from those duties? I was astonished to hear an hon. member opposite, since this debate began, say to the Minister of Customs that he had adopted bounties. Why, Sir, the present government has not adopted bounties, it has passed a law to abolish bounties as rapidly as the interests of the country will allow. Now, let me show what benefits the farmers of this country have derived from the iron bounties and the great protection afforded to pig iron. In 1887, when the bounty was \$2 per ton, there were \$92,273 paid out; and from that time up to 1898, after the bounty had been increased to \$4 per ton, there had been \$2,356,476 paid in duties upon pig iron, and \$786,928 paid in bounties, or the enormous sum altogether of \$3,329,397. With what results? In 1887, the year the duties were first imposed, there were 37,717 tons of pig iron manufactured in Canada, but in 1897, the last year the \$4 duty was in existence, there were only 33,254 tons of pig iron manufactured in Canada, showing a falling off of several thousand tons during that period, although we had paid in duty and bounty \$3,329,397. Of agricultural implements, we exported in 1896, \$593,000 worth, and in 1899 the exports had gone up to \$1,863,468. The member for West York (Mr. Wallace) showed that in 1896 the imports amounted to \$446,000. Well, in 1899 our imports amounted to \$1,625,000, showing an increase of \$1,179,

000. There was also an increase in exports of \$1,270,000.

Now, we have heard a great deal from time to time about free trade as they have it in England. That is a very interesting question, upon which I would like to say a few words. I have occupied the time of the House longer than I expected to do, but I am going to dedicate a short time to the question of free trade as they have it in England. There has been a great deal said from time to time, in respect to that, and it has been said that the former leader of the opposition, the present leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) promised free trade as they have it in England. I have two statements of his here which show conclusively what he meant by that. Before I commence to read them I should say that I am sorry to say that the circumstances of our country cannot admit, at present, of the policy of free trade such as they have in England.

I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the government, that is to say, of levying tribute upon the people, not for the legitimate expenses of the government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification.

It is always easy to increase the tariff, because by so doing you increase the private fortunes of certain individuals; but whenever you decrease the tariff it has always to be done with careful consideration; and I am sure that when the Liberals are in power they will not be indifferent to this primary truth.

I believe that the Liberals have carried out that policy as far as they possibly could. On January 10, 1839, the Anti-Corn Association held a meeting and appointed a Mr. Villiers to ascertain the condition of the country, and asked that evidence be heard in favour of petitions against the corn laws. A Mr. Wood, as president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, had just sent in a petition depicting the state of trade in gloomy colours, but, being asked to second the address, gave a glowing and exaggerated account of the prosperous condition of the country. Sir Robert Peel took advantage of this admission, and said:

Why press for a change in the corn laws when, under their operation, the country is so prosperous?

This was the time at which Roland Hill brought in his penny postage scheme. Lord John Russell, in his budget, brought down on the 7th of May, 1841, introduced a novel clause, at that time, of reducing those taxes that tend to lessen consumption, thus enriching the treasury and adding to the comforts of the people. This is the policy that has been followed by the present government in Canada, reducing the tariff for the benefit of the people, and at the same time bringing an increased amount of money into the treasury. In 1842, the import duties on 750 articles entering Great

Britain were reduced. In 1846 the duties were reduced, or altogether repealed, on 150 articles and oats and barley and wheat were to be free in 1849. In 1846, Mr. W. Mills accused Sir Robert Peel of throwing overboard all the industrial energies of the country and leaving us to compete under our heavy taxation with the untaxed energies of Germany and the United States. This is exactly the statement of the hon. ex-Finance Minister about the loss of trade and about the manufacturers' goods being placed in competition with the goods of Germany and the United States. It astonished me to see how closely the tactics pursued by those who opposed free trade in Great Britain are followed by those who are opposed to the preferential tariff in Canada to-day. Sir Robert Peel, in reply, said:

Shall it be advance or recede?

So it is in Canada to-day. The policy has been to advance, and it has advanced by adding 8½ per cent to the preferential tariff, the same as it advanced in reducing the duties on importations into Great Britain. In 1846, Sir Robert Peel made a speech which is really worth quoting. He said:

In proposing those measures of commercial policy which disintitiled us to the confidence of many of our former supporters, we were influenced by no other desire than that of promoting the interests of the country. . . . The love of power was not the motive for the proposal of those measures; for I had not a doubt that, whether these measures were attended with failure or with success, one event must certainly occur, and that was the termination of the existence of this government. . . . I am far from complaining of it; anything is preferable to attempting to maintain ourselves in office without a full measure of the confidence of this House.

That is the position of the government of to-day. I am convinced that the moment they feel they have not the confidence of the people they will throw down the reins of power. The late government never did have the confidence of the people of the country. The Queen's speech on the opening of parliament on the 2nd of February, 1849, contained the following paragraph:

I again commend to your attention the restrictions imposed on commerce by the navigation laws. If you shall find that these laws are in whole or in part unnecessary for the maintenance of our maritime power, while they fetter trade and industry, you will no doubt deem it right to repeal or modify their provisions.

The work from which I am quoting proceeds:

Their prophecies of ruin to the British navy, national as well as mercantile, their indignant wrath at the free traders, thus fostering foreign at the expense of British industry, their wallings over the departing glories of the British Empire, were depressingly mournful. How agreeably disappointed they must have been in after years when they found themselves so egregiously wrong.

Mr. McMILLAN.

Such is the condition of the opposition to-day. Their wallings are loud and long, not only as they say, in the interest of the country, but because they have been taken away from the Treasury benches and placed on the other side of the House. In 1853, Mr. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, remitted the taxation on 133 articles of import. In 1860 butter and cheese were admitted free of duty. In 1869 the small amount of duty remaining on corn was abolished, and in 1874 sugar was relieved from the remnant of duty left. I watched the effect of the preferential tariff on the ex-Finance Minister and the countenance displayed by himself and his colleagues when the hon. Minister of Finance announced a further increase in the preferential clause from 25 to 33¼ per cent. I was astonished to see the long face that the hon. ex-Minister of Finance showed us, when, after voting against the preferential tariff, he and his friends were compelled to see another addition made to it. This work continues:

There are three prevailing errors which we think that the perusal of these pages will effectually dispel.

1. The notion that we adopted free trade under the pressure of necessity, and not from deliberate conviction.
2. The notion that ours is not a thorough free trade tariff.
3. The notion that the prosperity of England has suffered a decline under the influence of the free trade system.

In regard to the latter, even those who, not denying our prosperity, deny its connection with free trade, must admit that if our change of policy did not cause, it certainly did not prevent our rapid advance in the path of improvement. They may question whether our onward progress has been the result, but they must at least allow that it has been the concomitant of free trade.

That is the way that free trade was brought about in England; that is the way that the preferential tariff has been introduced in Canada. It goes on to state that Sir Robert Peel, after bringing in his measure for giving the corn laws and protection their death blow, was watched as he left the House. He had alienated a very large number of his farmer friends, but he felt that he had done his duty. Why, Sir, I watched our present Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and I saw that he had the same buoyant spirit and the same happy feeling, and that he felt he was doing a benefit to the country in increasing the preferential rate to 33¼ per cent, and giving the country the benefit of that reduction on English goods. Let me say, Sir, that Canada to-day is more prosperous than it has ever been since I first entered it. No government that ever held the reins of power has ever reduced any duties they did not impose themselves, except the present government. Hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that they reduced the duty on sugar, but they should remember that it was the Conservative party that im-

posed that duty, and not the Liberal party. These gentlemen tell us that they reduced the duty on farm implements to a certain amount. Sir, they simply reduced in every case the enormously high tariff which they themselves had placed on the statute-book, and they never reduced any duty in the interest of the farmers, until they found that the farmers could not stand the burden any longer, and they were afraid of getting turned out of power.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). The hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), who has resumed his seat, pretends, and with some reason, to represent the farmers of this country. He is a large farmer himself, and he pretends to speak on their behalf on every occasion. I would point out to the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), however, that the farmers of Canada are an honest and truthful body in the community, and that they do not want any one to represent them in this House, who will make a statement that cannot be verified by the facts. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), read a long list of articles in reference to which he said, that a saving had been effected to the farmers by reduced taxation, and among the list he quoted farm wagons. I interjected the remark, how much cheaper do the farmers get their wagons now, than they did in former years, and the hon. gentleman replied that they got them cheaper and better. Now, Sir, I shall read from the tariff of 1894, the item bearing on farm wagons, and I shall ask my hon. friend to read it after I send it over to him. Item 318 of the tariff of 1894, reads as follows :

Farm and freight wagons, carts, drays, and similar vehicles 25 per cent ad valorem.

I shall send this book over to my hon. friend (Mr. McMillan), so that he may see that I am correct in giving the duty on farm wagons in 1894. I want the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), to remain in the House for a little while, because I have something to say to him.

Mr. McMILLAN. I will be back in a minute. You are not so obedient yourself, when any one wants you to remain in the Chamber.

Mr. TAYLOR. He that fights and runs away, will live to fight another day.

Mr. McMILLAN. Do not be alarmed, I will be back soon.

Mr. TAYLOR. I shall now read from the tariff of the Liberals, framed in 1897. Item 315, which includes a large number of items in the old tariff, because that is how the tariff was revised by the Liberals—they just took out an article from one item and put it into another. Item 315 of the Liberal tariff of 1897, reads :

Engines, steam engines, boilers, ore crushers and rock crushers, stamp mills, cornish and

belted rolls, rock drills, air compressors, cranes, derricks, percussion coal cutters, pumps, n.e.s., wind-mills, horse-powers, portable engines, threshers, separators, fodder or feed cutters, potato diggers, grain crushers, fanning mills, hay tedders, 'farm wagons,' slot machines and typewriters, and all machinery composed wholly or in part of iron or steel, n.o.p., 25 per cent ad valorem.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the tariff on farm wagons to-day is 25 per cent, and the tariff in 1894, was 25 per cent, and how can there be any saving to the farmers of this country on account of the duty being lowered, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), stated. When the hon. gentleman makes a statement like that, which is contrary to the fact, his whole argument falls to the ground. The people of the country can analyse his statement to that effect, and if they find that every statement made during his two and a half hours speech, is on a par with that, they can easily see what kind of an argument he has presented to this House. It is absolutely unjustifiable that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), should misstate the facts in this House. The truth is, that there cannot be a cent saved to the farmer in the purchase of a wagon by whatever change the Liberals made, because the duty is exactly the same to-day as it was in 1894, when the Conservatives were in power.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), made one further reference to myself. He stated that at a Farmers' Institute meeting, I argued that the government should appoint an inspector at Montreal, to inspect butter and cheese. Well, Sir, I did advocate that, and I advocated it for the purpose of having an officer to whom any dispute could be referred. It was found that the farmers sold their butter and cheese after it was inspected at home, but when it arrived at Montreal there were often disputes as to the weight and quality, and I insisted that the government should have an inspector there to act as a referee, so that in case of a dispute he should be called in to settle it, I also insisted that we ought to have all the farm products of Canada branded for export, as articles of Canadian manufacture. I advocated that then, and I advocate it to-day. I regret that the farmers of this country have in the hon. member for South Huron, a gentleman who will get up in this House and state what are not the facts, and I regret also that the farmers have in the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), a representative who is ready to justify every act of this government, whether it is in the interests of the farmers or not. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), has told us that the country was never so prosperous under any previous government as it is to-day. I challenge him, I challenge the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), or any member of the government to point to one legislative act of theirs since they came into power, which has brought any prosperity to the farmers or the mechanics, or any other class of this community.

Let them point to any legislative act of theirs that has been calculated to help the products of the manufactory, the farm, or the forest. Sir, the prosperity we are now enjoying is due to a kind Providence, who has bountifully supplied the farmers with an abundant yield which has put new life into every industry in Canada. Now, Sir, *La Patrie* ought to be an authority with this government, because certainly the Minister of Public Works, who controls that paper, runs the machine for the government, and I shall quote from that paper as to what the prosperity is due :

'*La Patrie*' says that in the government workshops at Sorel where from 15 to 75 workmen used to be employed at different seasons of the year there are now from 200 to 475. 'The workmen,' it says, 'have enjoyed a rich manna, such as was never offered them by a Conservative government.'

It would, no doubt, bring prosperity, when to-day there are from 200 to 470 men doing the same work that was done under the Conservative government by from 15 to 75 men, but if it increases the prosperity in that particular locality, and in other localities in the Dominion, I might point out that it does so at the cost of the increased taxation of \$10,000,000 a year, which this government takes from the people of Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not the Paris interview you are referring to ?

Mr. TAYLOR. Oh, no, we will hear about Mr. Tarte's Paris interview later. My hon. friend from South Huron, refers to the great boon conferred upon farmers, by having corn admitted free into this country. I will leave it to him and the farmers to settle that question between them, when the farmers have an opportunity to vote at the polls. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), is practically a manufacturer, rather than a farmer, because he manufactures beef for export, and so he wants his raw material free, and, because he wants free corn, he insists that all the farmers of the country should have free corn whether they want it or not. He does not want to buy the products from his neighbouring farmer which would feed his cattle and hogs, just as well as the corn, and better. I may tell the hon. gentleman that a few days ago, I met the manager of the pork packing establishment at Ingersoll, and I asked him what effect the importation of free corn had upon the pork packing industry. He said : 'I will just tell you this. We purchased the day before yesterday, 235 hogs. Out of these, there were 162 soft ones, fed on corn, and we have sent word not to buy another hog in that locality.' That is the effect which free corn is having on the Canadian industry.

Mr. GRAHAM. How is it that pork is so dear—8 cents a pound, live weight ?

Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR. Because the late Conservative government put 4 cents a pound on pork coming into the country, and we kept American pork out until we built up the industry in this country, and this government did not dare take that duty off. We had built up the reputation of sending to England the best pork hams and bacon that went into that country. But how is it going to be now ? We are going to impair the reputation of Canadian pork and bring it down to the level of corn fed American pork, and it is this corn fed pork which these Ingersoll people say is going to ruin the business. The gentleman I spoke of telegraphed back to his agent not to buy another hog in that section of country because the farmers were using American corn for fattening.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Is there anything in the Act which obliges them to feed their hogs with American corn ?

Mr. TAYLOR. There are many farmers who, when they get a cheaper product by importing it from the United States, will not use the Canadian product for which they would have to pay a cent or two a bushel more.

Mr. BURNETT. Does not the Canadian farmer profit by buying American corn ?

Mr. HENDERSON. No.

Mr. BURNETT. Yes, nine men out of every ten will say they do, if they are farmers.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend asked me a question—

An hon. MEMBER. And you cannot answer it.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, I can. I am not a farmer like the hon. gentleman, but I represent as large a farming constituency as he does, and I know the views of the farmers in my constituency. I know that they do not want free importation of corn because they know that it depreciates the price of other coarse grain.

Mr. BURNETT. Will the hon. gentleman allow me ?

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend can make a speech when I get through, and I will thank him not to interrupt me further. My hon. friend from Huron (Mr. McMillan) referred to binder twine and read by the yard an advertisement of the Brantford binder twine industry. Well, I wish to notify the hon. Minister of Finance that when we go into supply I intend to deal with that binder twine question pretty fully by making a motion, and will then supply the House with

some interesting facts. But I just wish now to reply to one statement. The Brantford Binder Twine Company has been in operation for five years and has sold its output for five years, and therefore has enjoyed the profits of five years business. What are those profits? The capital of the company is \$65,000, and I am informed that they added some surplus capital to that amount. They paid a 10 per cent dividend per year during three years. The next year after the association was formed—which they said was not a combine—they paid 60 per cent. And last year they paid 100 per cent dividend. Is there any industry in this country, which is not protected by a combine, that could pay 100 per cent dividend? These dividends have all come out of the pockets of the farmers, and if this company has been able to realize those dividends it is due to the connivance of this government. The *Globe* came out last year and said that a 60 per cent dividend earned by a company, after the duty had been taken off, was a pretty good showing. I say that there is not a manufacturing industry in this country which can show any such profits unless there is a combine, and more than a combine. It must be a double combine that can pay 100 per cent one year and 60 per cent another year and 10 per cent the other years, making an average of 40 per cent per year during the five years of its existence. That proves conclusively that there is a combine to bleed the farmers of this country who are obliged to purchase large quantities of this indispensable article. This little institution at Brantford paid its stockholders last year 100 per cent, while some of the other manufacturing industries were paying no dividends and others were only paying 5 per cent. You cannot find any other industry that pays 10 per cent on its capital investment, and yet this concern paid 60 per cent the year before last and 100 per cent last year to its stockholders.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, I had occupied a few moments in replying to the hon. member for South Huron, who promised me that he would return in a few moments. He has not yet returned, which I very much regret, as I have a few words to say to him, and I would like him to be present. I stated that the farmers of this country, both Conservative and Reform, were honest, truthful, and in every way reliable, and that they wanted their representative men, particularly men who claim, as the hon. member for South Huron does, to represent them in this House, to make statements that are reliable. The hon. gentleman made statements here to-night which are not in accordance with the facts. He quoted a long

list of articles which had been imported into this country last year, on which he stated that the farmers of this country had saved large amounts of duty as compared with what they would have paid on the same articles under the Conservative tariff. Since six o'clock I have found, on comparing the tariffs of the two governments, that the Conservative tariff, which the hon. gentleman used for purposes of comparison, was that enacted in 1879, at the inauguration of the national policy; but that tariff has been revised time and again. The hon. gentleman said that this government had largely reduced the duty on wagons, whereas, the fact is that the duty on wagons to-day, under the Fielding tariff, is exactly the same as it was under the tariff passed by the Conservative government in 1894. I have both tariffs in my hand, and I wished to send them across to the hon. member for South Huron, so that he might read them, and then get up and correct—not his mistake, because it was not a mistake. The hon. gentleman wilfully and maliciously put that statement before the farmers of this country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, I say wilfully and maliciously, because he quoted from a tariff—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. If Mr. Speaker says that I have said anything out of order—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Wilfully and maliciously—these words surely are out of order?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think we have been accustomed to regard those words as out of order, and I know that my hon. friend, on second thought, would admit them to be so.

Mr. TAYLOR. As Mr. Speaker says maliciously is out of order, I will withdraw that, but I will say he wilfully misrepresented the facts.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think that is in order.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, I will withdraw the word wilfully. Whether he did it wilfully and maliciously or not, the hon. member for South Huron did misrepresent the facts as they stand, for he compared the tariff in force last year with the tariff of 1879, which was revised by the Conservative government time and again, and lastly in 1894. If he wanted to be honest with the farmers, he would have compared the tariff of this government with the tariff of the Conservative government when they went out of office; and if he had done that, he would have seen that the duty on wagons had not been changed in any particular. I also referred to the fact that the hon. gentleman

claimed that the prosperity of the country was due to this government. I challenge that statement. I said it was due to a kind Providence.

Mr. DAVIN. And the action of the previous government.

Mr. TAYLOR. Oh, yes ; and the national policy, of course. But, I challenge the Minister of Finance, or any other member of this government, to point to any act which they have done to bring about this prosperity. I read from *La Patrie* to show to what the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) thought the prosperity was due—that it was due to the fact that this government had employed 475 men to do work at Sorel that fifteen men had done under the late government. I disputed the claim that any act of legislation can change the price of farm produce in this country. Except for home consumption the markets of the world regulate the prices of our farm products. I also referred to the admission of free corn. Although the hon. member for South Huron, as a manufacturer of beef, prefers to have corn brought in from the United States, the great bulk of the farmers of this country, in my opinion, prefer using the coarse grains produced in this country by our own farmers, and keeping out American corn. I then proceeded to discuss the subject of binder twine. I presume that the hon. gentleman must be a stockholder in the Brantford Binder Twine Company, and I challenge him, or any other gentleman in this House or out of it, to point to an industry which paid one hundred per cent dividend last year save the Brantford Binder Twine Company. If the hon. gentleman is not a stockholder in that company I want him to deny it. I know that some hon. gentlemen on that side of the House are stockholders in it, that the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Beith) is one of its directors, and I am informed that the Minister of Agriculture of the province of Ontario is a stockholder. I want to know if the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) is not a stockholder in this company, which, I am informed, declared a dividend of 100 per cent last year, and 60 per cent the year before. He does not say he is not. The hon. member for South Huron quoted the Brantford Company's price for binder twine, and the prices at the Kingston Penitentiary. He tries to make the farmers believe what a great boon this government is conferring upon them by allowing them to purchase twine in small quantities at the Kingston Penitentiary at 14 cents, 11 cents and 10 cents. What are the prices charged by the Brantford company? 12½ cents for the best, 11½ cents for the next, and 10½ cents for the third quality, with 3 per cent off for cash, or credit to the 1st of September. So that the prices the hon. gentleman quoted on the start are lower on the whole than the Kingston Penitentiary prices. The

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hon. gentleman says the government are conferring a great boon upon the farmers by allowing them to purchase in small quantities at 14 cents, 11 cents and 10 cents for the three qualities. As I will show in a few days, when I speak on the binder twine question, that twine was produced in Kingston last year for 6 cents a pound. They are charging the farmers 14 cents for what costs them 6 cents to produce, and doing this in order to help our friends of the other side who are stockholders in the Brantford concern to pay a dividend of 100 per cent. I want to point out to my hon. friend who pretends to have a great interest in the workmen of England—not of Canada—how this binder twine question affects the workmen, the farmers and mechanics of this country. In 1895, which was the last full year of the Conservative government, we imported \$121,605 worth of binder twine, while in 1899 we imported \$818,412 worth—nearly \$700,000 worth more of binder twine last year than in 1895. This was imported from the United States. What labour produced that? American labour produced it. And those who directed that labour made the Canadian farmers pay double prices, but the feeding of those labourers was left to the American farmers. This government took the duty off binder twine. And what was the effect? The American combination—because there is a combination in this article—interviewed the directors of those Canadian twine factories that did not shut up on the prospect of the repeal of this duty and told them to put up their prices. Hobbes & Co., of London, are the agents of the American combine, and they go to the Canadian manufacturers and say: If you do not put up your prices, we will give twine to the farmers practically at cost price and close up your industries. These people put the prices up and take from the farmers 100 per cent profit. And another effect of this was that we imported \$700,000 worth of binder twine which was formerly made by Canadian workmen and the wages for which went to sustain American labour.

I want to show my hon. friend and the farmers of this country what this government did last year as compared with the government in power in 1895. I have here a statement showing the comparison of imports in fifteen articles that are used exclusively by the farmers of this country, many of them made by my hon. friend from Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost). And I must say that I am alarmed at the prospect for the workmen of this country and alarmed at the prospects of the manufacturers.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hon. gentlemen opposite will laugh in a different way when these men have the ballots in their hands as they soon will. This statement is taken from the official table laid before this House:

STATEMENT showing Quantities, Value and Duty paid on the following articles during the Years 1894-5, and the Years 1898-9 as shown by the Trade and Navigation Returns.

	1898-9.			1894-5.		
	Number.	Value.	Duty.	Number.	Value.	Duty.
		\$	\$		\$	\$
Binding attachments.....	103,313	32,936	6,551	16	566	113
Cultivators.....	2,502	17,954	3,590	1,796	12,283	2,456
Seed drills.....	2,910	64,583	12,931	1,224	15,200	3,164
Pronged forks.....	46,997	11,005	2,746	13,277	3,697	1,291
Harrows.....	4,091	53,739	10,549	1,819	15,418	3,083
Harvesters, self binding and without...	6,931	664,610	132,920	1,006	78,208	16,418
Hoes.....	27,976	3,120	745	2,335	617	206
Horse rakes.....	4,320	69,043	13,808	334	5,040	891
Lawn mowers.....	2,573	6,545	2,216	183	1,027	358
Mowing machines.....	10,335	348,898	69,747	1,431	47,413	1,451
Ploughs.....	9,456	188,422	38,431	1,670	29,556	5,964

Mr. CAMPBELL. This is the growing time.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, it is the growing time for American workmen.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). The factories here were too busy to supply these goods last year.

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald, Huron), that we have factories enough and men enough to make every article that was made and every article that was imported into this country.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. The factories are working night and day.

Mr. TAYLOR. What does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Featherston) know about it, working on a farm?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. TAYLOR. Certainly.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I understand the hon. gentleman is referring to a considerable increase in the importation of certain agricultural implements. As he complains of that, is it the Conservative policy to increase the duty on these implements? If his speech does not mean that, I do not understand what it can mean.

Mr. TAYLOR. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) ask his question, but not make a speech. I will tell him what the Conservative policy is so far as I am concerned. And in this connection I might as well reply to my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan), who represented me as saying in West Huron, that I would put up the duty on agricultural implements to 41 per cent. The hon. gentleman knew when he made that statement that it was not correct. But I did make the statement

and have made it elsewhere, and make it here again, that I am in favour of a protective duty on every article we can produce or grow or manufacture in this country. On every such article I am prepared to give sufficient protection to have the article manufactured, produced or grown in this country by the people of this country.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. But does the hon. gentleman wish the duty on agricultural implements increased? That is the question. Give us a fair answer.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) a fair answer. If agricultural implements—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Never mind the 'if;' give us an answer.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am trying to make this speech, and if the hon. gentleman—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Of course, I have no right to interrupt the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor)—

Mr. TAYLOR. I am trying to give the hon. gentleman an answer that is fair and straight. I say 'every article,' and if agricultural implements are not included in that term 'every article that can be grown, manufactured or produced in this country,' what I say does not apply to them. But if the present tariff is not sufficient protection to keep the industry of producing these goods in Canada employing Canadian labour and consuming the produce of Canadian farms, I am willing to give sufficient protection to bring about that result.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Then, you are in favour of increasing these duties.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am a protectionist out and out.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Is the present protection on agricultural implements sufficient?

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman has a long speech to make; we have heard it three or four times over in this House, and I presume he will repeat it again, when we will have ample opportunity to discuss this question. He is representing an agricultural constituency, the same as the member for South Huron, who made his speech and ran away. Let me read the rest of the table:

over to the Customs Department the other day and asked the appraiser this question: Suppose I am a manufacturer of watches in Germany, Belgium, China or Japan; I manufacture the running gear of watches and send these watches over to England. Suppose I there increase the value by 25 per cent by putting on a case, under what tariff will that come in here? He answered: It will come in under the preferential

	Number.	Value.	Duty.	Number.	Value.	Duty.
Rakes, N.E.S.	26,867	4,920	1,226	10,130	2,407	756
Reapers, N.E.S.	504	25,066	5,013	19	952	190
Buggies and carriages.....	692	47,047	12,650	379	26,195	8,108
Farm wagons.....	1,817	78,038	19,615	479	19,289	4,924

Taking all these articles that I have mentioned, fifteen in number, we imported last year \$1,616,688, as compared with 1895, when we imported \$227,868, or an increase in these fifteen articles of \$1,388,820. Now, I ask my hon. friend opposite: Should not the manufacturers of this country, should not the labouring men, the mechanics of this country, become alarmed when in one year we paid to the United States \$1,616,000 for articles that could be manufactured just as good or better, and sold to the farmers of this country just as cheap as these were sold, at the same time employing our own workmen, our own Canadian boys and girls, in the manufacture of these articles? The farmers of this country would also be benefited in producing the lumber and other things required for the production of these articles, and the money we pay for them would go to support our own mechanics who would be busily employed in producing these goods cheaper and better than can be bought from the United States.

The member for South Huron spoke for some time on the preferential tariff, and he made this extraordinary statement, that he would not be in favour of asking England to put a preferential tariff on the products of Canada because that would be injurious to the workingmen of England. Now, Sir, I am as loyal to Canada and as loyal to England as the member for South Huron, or any other gentleman on that side of the House, but I am not that loyal to England that I am going to give a preferential tariff and allow English labour to compete with our Canadian labour on unfair terms, any more than I would allow labour in the United States or any other country to do so. The hon. gentleman has a great interest in the workingmen of England; I, and every Canadian, ought to have an interest in the workingmen of Canada, we should see that they are first protected, and after that take an interest in the workingmen of England. But, how does this preferential tariff work? Does the hon. gentleman understand the preferential tariff? I went

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tariff. Therefore, we are giving by this preferential tariff a privilege to the foreigner in every country in the world who wants to take advantage of it by establishing a large factory in England. Look at our cutlery to-day. Where is it brought from? All from England. But, it is made in Germany and Belgium, a great part of it, and sent to England in the raw state, there to be finished up and exported here under the preferential tariff. And are we going to allow Germany, China, Japan and Russia, and every other country, to come in here under that preferential tariff and compete with our Canadian boys and girls? I am prepared to admit the products of England in here if England will admit our products; if they will give us a preference for the goods we sell them, we will give them a preference. If not, then we will put their labour on a par with the labour of any other country, and protect our own Canadian labour.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Will you allow me to ask you a question—if the hon. gentleman has no objection?

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, I have an objection, I want to make a speech, and you will have an opportunity of making yours. If I am not making my statement clear enough for the hon. gentleman's comprehension, I am willing to make it clearer, but otherwise I do not wish to be interrupted. Now, these hon. gentlemen put barbed wire on the free list. In 1895, we imported \$17,682 worth of barbed wire; last year we imported \$316,286 worth. But, have the farmers of this country got barbed wire cheaper? The Canadian industries are all closed, men who worked in the barbed wire factories of this country are driven over to the American side to work, to make barbed wire in the factories there that is sent over here; and our people paid \$300,000 more to the United States last year for barbed wire than was paid in 1895.

I think the farmers of this country will ask my hon. friend from South Huron, and will ask this government, a few plain, prac-

tical questions. The hon. member for South Huron says this government have fulfilled all their promises, the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) says the same thing; all who spoke on that side say: We have redeemed all our pledges except the abolition of the Senate, and Providence will take care of the Senate. Sir, the farmers of this country, as I stated at the outset, are an honest and truthful people, and they will demand of this government the fulfilment of certain pledges they made to the people when seeking their suffrages. They will ask the government questions like this: Did you not promise when you were appealing for our suffrages that you would reduce taxation? That is one of the questions the farmers will ask, that they have a right to ask; and what is the answer that must be made? Taxation has been increased by \$7,000,000. They promised to reduce it. The farmers will ask: Have you done so?

Mr. GIBSON. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman says, yes. Well, he is not representing the farmers of this country. He says taxation is lower than it was, whereas the blue-book issued by the Minister of Customs shows that it has been increased by \$7,000,000. They promised to reduce the debt. Have you done so? They have increased it by \$7,700,000.

Mr. CAMPBELL. You increased the debt by \$6,500,000 a year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Two blacks do not make a white. The Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), the Minister of Justice, and several other ministers, are on record as promising to reduce the expenditure. I will not read their statements, because every farmer in the country is already acquainted with them. They promised to reduce the expenditure by from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000 a year. Have they done so? No, the answer must be, we have increased it by \$10,000,000.

Mr. DAVIN. \$12,000,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. Well, I am keeping within the mark, I am making a statement that no hon. gentleman opposite can truthfully contradict. They promised to cheapen the necessary articles of life to the farmers and the workingmen. They promised to abolish the tax on coal oil. They did not do it, and the farmers have a right to ask them why they have not done so. They say: We pay, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 cents a gallon more than we did under the Tory administration. You promised to reduce the price; have you done it? The former hon. member for Lambton, now Judge Lister, standing in his place in parliament, predicted that if the government did a certain thing a certain result would follow. What would the result be? I have

stated before that there was a consideration from the Standard Oil Company, that the government accepted that consideration and gave them the legislation which Judge Lister said, if they did give, it would produce the effect it has produced to-day. The Standard Oil Company came and got control of the Canadian market. They are leeching the farmers as the binder twine monopoly are leeching the farmers. These hon. gentlemen, I repeat, made a pledge to the people that they would reduce the price of coal oil. Have they done it? No, they have to stand by the combine. They furnished the money to carry the elections, and they are pledged to them. They promised to reduce the price of barbed wire. Every farmer who has a fence to build knows that they have not reduced the price of barbed wire, but that he has to pay double price. They promised to reduce the price of binder twine. Every farmer knows whether he has been called upon to pay more or less. They promised to give the people cheap tobacco. Have they done so? No, they have shortened the plug an inch for the same price, and made it thinner besides. Sugar is a necessary of life as well as an article of luxury to every poor man, to every farmer and to every workingman. Have they reduced the price of sugar? No, they have increased the price. How are these farmers going to mark their ballots when they get a chance? Are they going to say that they are going to keep in office a set of men who make pledges and fail to carry them out when they get in power. The hon. member for South Huron said something about the civil service. However, he did not refer to superannuation. I hope that, before this debate is over some hon. member will refer to the number who have been superannuated by the present government to make positions for party hacks. A man cannot walk down the street without almost stumbling over young men in the prime of life who have been superannuated to make room for some party heelers who wanted their places.

Mr. DAVIN. It now amounts to nearly \$100,000 a year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Of an increase.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Another plank in the platform of hon. gentlemen opposite was not to give any office to a poor unfortunate who had been a member of parliament until he was two years out. What have they done?

Mr. DAVIN. Fifteen of them.

Mr. TAYLOR. Some fifteen members have been taken out of this House, some sent to the Senate, and some to government offices, and the country has been put to an expense of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in each case to hold a new election. I had not intended five or ten minutes before I spoke to take any part in the debate, but the hon. member for

South Huron made some personal references to myself, and I felt it my duty to my constituents, to the great honest body of farmers in my county, whom I have the honour to represent, that their views should be fairly and honestly put before the House. I ask the government, now, the next day after Black Rod strikes the door, to dissolve the House, and to give the farmers of the country an opportunity to mark their ballots, and they will see how many honest men there are amongst the farmers of the country. They will find that those who are now on this side of the House will take their seats on the other side and on this side also because there will not be enough room on the other side to hold them all, and they will occupy three parts of this Chamber because the workingmen, the manufacturers and the farmers of this country are all honest, truthful and law-abiding citizens and they do not want to put into power a body of men who will pledge themselves to do certain things, and who, the moment they get in power, will turn around and do the very contrary. I have a letter I received this morning stating that a lot of farmers in a certain section of the country, almost all of whom had voted to put this government in power, are anxious for an opportunity to turn this government out. Therefore, I say that when next Black Rod strikes the door and ushers the members of this House into the Senate Chamber for prorogation, if it is followed the next day by a dissolution of the House, the people will have an opportunity of putting this government where they belong—in the cold shades of opposition.

Mr. WILLIAM S. CALVERT (West Middlesex). Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I feel somewhat backward in following the Whip of the Conservative party, who is an old parliamentarian of great experience. Consequently, I know my hon. friend will not feel that I am doing him any injustice if I may be unable to follow him through the speech he has made. I am sorry that I did not have the opportunity of listening to the forepart of his speech. I am somewhat amused at the great change that has taken place in my Conservative friend and in the Conservative party. The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has given Providence as well as the Conservative party great credit for the prosperity of the present time. I remember very well when the hon. gentleman and our Conservative friends gave Providence no credit whatever for the prosperity of this country. Now, that times have changed and that Canada has become prosperous, of course, the Liberal party should not receive any credit for it, but it should be ascribed to Providence and to the Conservative party. Our Conservative friends have stated in the press and elsewhere, time and time again, that in the event of the Liberal party securing control of the Treasury benches the onward march

of civilization and progress would come to an end, especially that the manufacturing industries would be completely annihilated and that grass would be growing in the streets because of the depression and the stagnation in trade in consequence of the return of the Liberals to power. I do not pretend to say that the great prosperity of the present time, the immense expansion of trade, the very large decrease in the number of failures and the amount of capital involved are entirely due to the Liberal party, but, I do say that, in 1878, when a depression existed, not only in Canada, but throughout the world, and when, in due time, trade revived, crops were good and prices fair, our Conservative friends claimed they did it. I do not see any reason why, if the Conservative party claimed credit for the improvement in the times after the defeat of the Mackenzie government the Liberal party should not receive a certain amount of credit for the improvement and prosperity at the present time. Our Conservative friends claimed in 1878 that if they were returned to power the exodus of the great number of people going from Canada would be stopped, but for eighteen long years the Conservative party ruled the destinies of this young country, and up to within two or three years ago we had, I regret to say, a departure from our shores of thousands of our best Canadians. We had not only, a depression and hard times, but sectarian strife caused by the mismanagement of the party in power which threatened to shake confederation to its foundation. But, within six months of the advent to power of the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and his government the sunny ways of conciliation, advocated while in opposition, and carried out while in control of the Treasury benches, have had the effect that all classes and creeds in Canada feel that a new era has dawned upon this young country. Not only have the Liberal party carried out their pledges to the country on this very important question, but they have carried out their pledges to the country in reference to nearly all questions which were before the country. We promised to stop the deficit and we have done so; we promised to wipe out the franchise law, which cost the people of the country every time we had a revision of the lists, about half a million dollars, and we have done so. We promised to return to a revenue tariff with due regard to the interests of the country and we have done so. We promised to give freer trade between Great Britain and Canada, and we have done so. I say, Mr. Speaker, that if the Liberal party did nothing more than to inaugurate this preferential tariff, they are worthy the confidence of the Canadian people for many years to come. By that act, the government of Canada have turned the eyes of not only Great Britain, but the eyes of the whole world in the direction of

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this young country, by that act of his government, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was enabled to obtain the consent of the Imperial government to the abolition of a treaty made some thirty years ago; a treaty that, no doubt, was in the interest of Canada at the time, but a treaty that had outgrown its usefulness. This was something which our Conservative friends tried to do for years, but without success. Then, Sir, we are placed in the proud position to-day that we can regulate our own tariff in the interests of the Canadian people.

We must admit, Mr. Speaker, that it is impossible to reduce the expenditure as much as some of us might wish. However, we must remember that we have a young country, vast in extent, great in mines, with immense forests, magnificent waterways, and millions of acres of virgin soil undeveloped. It is the imperative duty of the government of such a country to open up the waterways and the highways of transportation so that the products of the farm, and the products of the forest, and the products of the mines, may reach the markets of the world as cheaply and as rapidly as possible. My hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor), spoke of the increased expenditure. Well, I was born in the county of Lambton, where that good old statesman, the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, was our representative, and although very young at the time, I remember that I had the honour of going from meeting to meeting with him, and I remember that the Conservatives then stated that the expenditure in connection with our public affairs was too great, and that if they were returned to power, they would reduce it from \$23,000,000 to \$21,000,000. But, Sir, what followed when they did obtain power? From the very day that the Conservatives began to control the Treasury benches up to the time they were defeated in 1896, they have continued to increase the expenditure of the Dominion. The Liberals do not say that all the increase of expenditure under Conservative rule was wrong, but we do say that if the expenditure made by the present government is in the interests of the Canadian people as a whole, then no one has a right to cavil at it. That this expenditure is in the interests of the people, has been proved to a demonstration, and I might point out that last year when we were voting the estimates, the Conservative party in this House never challenged a vote on an item, or, if they did challenge a vote, it was on a very rare occasion. Ever since confederation, we have had an expenditure that exceeded the receipts with the exception of two years. In 1871 there was a surplus of receipts over expenditure of \$81,558.56, and in 1882, eleven years later, we had a surplus of \$507,923.82. Now, Mr. Speaker, since confederation, these are the only two years that there has been a surplus of receipts over expenditure. In 1868 the expenditure over receipts was \$28,493.37. In

1873, under the Conservative government, the expenditure over the receipts was \$17,661,389.60. In 1884, under a Conservative government, we had an expenditure of \$23,695,135.80 more than the receipts. In 1885, we had an expenditure of \$14,245,841.88 over receipts. In 1886, we had an expenditure of \$26,751,414.95 over receipts. In 1894, we had an expenditure of \$4,501,989.87 over receipts. In 1895, we had an expenditure of \$6,891,897.61 over receipts, and in 1896, we had an expenditure of \$5,422,505.68 over receipts. How is it under the Liberal government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier? In 1897, we find that we had an expenditure over receipts of only \$3,041,163.69. In 1898, we had expenditure over receipts of only \$2,417,802.45, and in 1899, we had an expenditure over receipts of only \$2,317,047.69. Under the Conservative government, the average for the 18 years, from 1879 to 1896, was \$6,665,000 of expenditure over receipts, while in the three years under the Liberal government, the expenditure over receipts was only \$2,592,000. It will, therefore, be seen that the expenditure by the Conservative government, over the receipts, was about three times as much as that of the Liberal government, and during the last three years of the Conservative government, namely, 1894, 1895, 1896, the average expenditure over receipts was \$5,605,464. My hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague), found fault with the expenditure made by the Liberal government. He told us that in 1896 we had an expenditure of \$36,969,000, while in 1899, we had an expenditure of \$41,900,000, or an increase of somewhat over \$4,000,000. But, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) did not attempt to say, and did not say, where that additional expenditure by the Liberal government came in. He forgot to tell us, that out of that additional expenditure of \$4,000,000, they had \$1,674,000 expended in connection with the Yukon territory, every dollar of which came back into the treasury of this country. Then, we had a large expenditure in connection with the extension of the Intercolonial Railway, and I am sure that every one will say that that expenditure was a wise one. Then again, the Liberal government had a large expenditure in connection with the militia, as compared with the expenditure on that branch of the service by the Conservatives. Under the Conservative government the militia had gone into almost decay, and so when this government came into power, it had to make a larger expenditure, and we claim that every dollar of it has been expended wisely. I am quite sure that when we return to the people of Canada, and these statements are placed before them, the people will say that the Liberal government have done well. Now, Sir, what has been the policy of the Liberal government in connection with the Yukon? The policy of the Liberal government has been to make the Yukon pay its own way. Why should the Canadian people

send policemen and militia into that country to enforce law and order, so that life and property are as safe in the city of Dawson as they are in the city of Ottawa, and why should the Canadian people pay for that service, and then give away their heritage? The revenue received from the Yukon for three years has been as follows:

Revenue.	
Interior—	
1896-7	\$ 8,593 00
1897-8	735,485 09
1898-9	1,261,816 30
	\$2,005,894 39
Post Office—	
1897	\$ 50 00
1898	2,083 50
1899	9,461 28
	11,594 78
Customs—	
1897	\$ 9,873 24
1898	63,185 39
1899	482,098 55
	555,157 18
Total revenue, three years.. \$2,572,646 35	

For the three years the revenue from the Yukon from all sources amounted to \$2,572,646.35. Let me point out how that money was expended.

Expenditure.	
1897-8-9—	
Interior	\$ 276,551 36
Post office	22,033 72
Customs	36,109 75
Public works.....	82,619 32
Railways and canals.....	60,948 92
Justice	13,580 95
Mounted police	1,392,757 56
Militia	487,739 16
	\$2,372,340 74

The total expenditure in connection with the Yukon for three years has been \$2,372,340.74, and out of that sum \$1,894,077 has been in connection with the Department of Justice, the police and the militia. Now, Sir, after paying all that expenditure for the three years, we have had a surplus from the receipts of the Yukon, amounting to \$200,305.61.

Mr. DAVIN. About one-tenth of what you ought to have had.

Mr. CALVERT. Had we carried out the policy pursued by the Conservative government and advocated by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) we would not have that \$200,000, but we would have been taking it out of the treasury of this country, and making the people pay the cost of keeping up the militia and the mounted police force. The policy of the Conservative party has been to give away that great territory to aliens, who form 90 per cent of its population to-day, and then to take money out of the pockets of the Canadian people in order to protect those aliens. But, under the wise policy pursued by the present government, we have a surplus instead of a deficit, as we

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would certainly have had if the Conservative policy had been continued.

Now, I wish to say a few words in regard to the speech of the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague). I am sorry he is not in his seat to-night. I have a very high regard for Dr. Montague. He is an old Middlesex boy, born in the county I have the honour to represent, and the people of that county have a very high regard for him. But I think he was very much in error in his speech the other day. In replying to the statement of the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) in reference to the exportation of animals and their products and agricultural products, the hon. member for Haldimand stated:

He gave another table in regard to the exportation of animals and their products. In 1895-6 the exports from Canada to Great Britain of animals and their products amounted to \$42,074,384 and in 1898-9 to \$62,000,000. The hon. gentleman, in making, his subtraction was in error, or the reporter, in taking down his figures, may have made an error. The difference appears in 'Hansard' as \$17,000,000, but there is \$21,000,000 of an increase, or about 40 per cent from 1895-6 to 1898-9.

The hon. member for Haldimand made a very important oversight or mistake in this quotation. He gave the exports of animals and their products, whereas the Minister of Customs gave the exports of animals and their produce and agricultural products. The difference is very great, for we find that the figures quoted by the hon. member for Haldimand were \$24,068,008 in 1892 and \$32,523,071 in 1896; but when you add to these figures the exports of agricultural products you find that the exports of animals and their products and agricultural products was \$39,187,861 in 1892 and \$42,074,387 in 1896, as stated by the Minister of Customs, a difference of only \$2,886,526, or only 7 per cent instead of 33½ per cent, as stated by the hon. member for Haldimand.

Then, the hon. member for Haldimand spoke of the quarantine regulations. I am sorry I had not the pleasure of listening to the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), who, in all probability, dealt with this very question. But representing a great agricultural constituency and knowing the farmers as I do, I feel that this is one of the most important questions which the farmers of this country have had before them for a long time. The hon. member for Haldimand, in his speech the other day, said:

I would like the hon. Minister of Agriculture to look at the export of Canadian cattle to Great Britain, and I would like him to look at it for the year 1878, when we shipped a total of live cattle to Great Britain of 7,433 head, of a value of \$686,700. The present hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) took up the question of getting Canadian cattle exceptional treatment in the markets of Great Britain. He secured the advantage that we had for a long time of our cattle going into the British market without embargo, and in 1891, the export of Cana-

dian cattle was not 7,433 head, but it was 107,689 head, of a value of \$8,425,396. The embargo was then put on, and it was from no fault of ours that that embargo was not removed.

The hon. member says that it was from no fault of his or the Conservative party that that embargo was not removed; but he does not say that it was from no fault of theirs that that embargo was put on. The hon. member for Haldimand, in replying to what was said by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) also states:

He says: You now have a market of \$3,000,000 in the United States of America, whereas Dr. Montague tried for three years to remove these quarantine regulations and failed. I was only in the Department of Agriculture for six months. I must have been interfering with some one else's duties, but, the hon. gentleman is quite wide of the mark, because nobody ever tried to secure the removal of these quarantine regulations against us in the United States of America. Why were these quarantine regulations placed against us in the United States? They were placed against us because we had a ninety days quarantine against them. We were the aggressors, and why? Because, to hold our free entry into the markets of Great Britain, to secure that market without an embargo being placed against us, we made a solemn compact with Great Britain that we would keep a ninety days quarantine against American cattle. We could have got the quarantine removed at any single moment we liked, but we did not attempt to get it removed, and we did not attempt to get it removed, because we were anxious to keep the compact that secured us a still greater market, the market of Great Britain, which we had the right to enter upon terms which we had obtained some years before.

Now, the hon. gentleman states that they never attempted to get the quarantine removed. We find that in 1890 a heavy duty was placed against us by the McKinley Bill, so that cattle from Canada could not enter the United States market. Then, the Conservative government, in order to retain the right to send our cattle into Great Britain, arranged with the British government that they would protect the borders of Canada from diseased American cattle coming in, and the British government permitted Canadian cattle to go into the British market on that condition. What was the result? The Canadian government had agreed that cattle coming to Canada by Windsor should be inspected by a competent veterinary surgeon, and also agreed to send a government official with each train load of cattle passing through Canada from Windsor to Buffalo so that American cattle should not come in contact with Canadian cattle. But instead of sending a government official, blank forms were handed to the conductor of the railway to fill out so the railway official was a government official to watch himself, and, as a matter of fact, the regulations were relaxed and cattle were allowed to come through at night and to be inspected by a lantern, which was not a proper inspection. Train-load after train-load of cattle from the

United States passed through Canada against the agreement entered into with the British government. The British government called the attention of the Canadian government to the abuse of the agreement, and to the fact that instead of enforcing the quarantine of ninety days, they had allowed no less than 49,000 cattle to come into Manitoba from the diseased district of the United States, and to be shipped to the British market. This was what caused the British government to place the embargo on Canadian cattle. What was the result? The then Deputy Minister of Agriculture, in his report, says that the consequence of our cattle not being permitted to be sent alive to the British market as formerly, but having to be slaughtered instead, was a loss of a penny a pound to the farmers of this country. It meant from \$25 to \$30 per head of loss to our people. That happened in 1892, and then in 1893 the United States placed their quarantine regulations on our cattle, so that our farmers had no market except the small cities of the Dominion, which were not numerous or populous enough to provide an outlet for the supply. Consequently the cattle market became glutted, and yet for four years from 1892, this Conservative government, as stated by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), never put a hand to the pen in order to assist our farmers. If we have cattle to export, we can send them to the British market with advantage, but there is a large proportion which we cannot send to that market, and which must find a market either in this country or in the United States. With both the English and the American market closed to them for a very considerable proportion of the stock, our farmers were in a sad way, but when this government took office, instead of laying on their oars and letting things drift, instead of waiting for the British government to remove the embargo, our Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and the Ontario Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Dryden), went to Uncle Sam, and in a day or two came back with an agreement between the two countries for the removal of the quarantine. Just see what followed. The quarantine was removed in February, 1897. In 1894 we shipped to the United States only 255 animals; in 1897, nine months after the removal of the quarantine, we shipped 78,856; and in twenty-one months after its removal, we shipped 146,462 animals to that country. Two years after the abolition of the quarantine, we sent 180,849 animals to the United States, and I understand that last year we sent considerably over 200,000, realizing over \$3,000,000. Every farmer understands what that means. I happen to be dealing in that line myself, and know something about it. It raised the price of our young cattle \$5 to \$7 per head, and not only every farmer, but every

citizen in this country felt the benefit. There is another thing which makes it very important that we should have an entry into the United States market. We know that the increase in population in the United States has been very great, but what has been the result as regards animals? According to the returns from 1892 to 1897, which are the only ones I have, while the population increased during that time ten million souls, the number of horses had decreased from 15,496,140 in 1892, to 14,161,667 in 1897, or a decrease of 1,333,473. In cattle, the number in 1892 was 54,067,590, and in 1897 that had fallen to 46,450,135, a decrease in five years of 7,617,455. The number of sheep decreased by 8,000,000, and of swine by nearly 12,000,000, so that while the population increased in the United States very largely, there was a considerable falling off in the number of horses, cattle, sheep and swine. That shows certainly that the United States market is a very valuable one for the farmers of this country, and I think that our Minister of Agriculture and the Ontario minister are deserving of great credit for having removed the quarantine between the two countries.

I have just a few words more to say before closing. The expenditure in connection with the Intercolonial Railway has in my opinion been very judicious. Just fancy a company owning a railway that cost a very large amount of money, starting away down by the sea and ending at the little village of Lévis opposite the city of Quebec, with the River St. Lawrence running between. It seems to me that no reasonable man or corporation would fail to use every endeavour to extend that line to a terminus which could furnish its greatest business. The Canadian people had spent some \$70,000,000 on that road, and how under the sun the Conservative party could have allowed it to remain so many years ending where it did, I fail to understand. With its terminus at Lévis, it was not a competing line with the Canadian Pacific Railway or the Grand Trunk Railway; but the moment it came into the great metropolis of Montreal, it became a competing line to the other great international highways, and the result was that instead of having a deficit of half a million or three-quarters of a million dollars annually, we have a surplus, according to the last returns, of some \$62,000.

In connection with the Post Office administration, I have heard it stated time and again that the farmers of this country do not thank the Postmaster General for the reduction in postage from three to two cents. Those who say so, misrepresent the farmers. Our farmers are only too pleased, when we can so run the affairs of the country as to give the people actually better service than they enjoyed before, and do it at two-thirds of the price. We have not

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reduced the number of post offices or of registry offices or of mails, but on the contrary have increased them. In 1896 we had 9,011 post offices in the Dominion; in 1900 we have 9,570, or an increase of 559. In 1896 we had a mileage of 30,551,883, and in 1900 that has been increased to 33,132,601, or an increase of 2,580,918 miles. Then instead of having the large deficit of \$680,000 which existed under our predecessors, and which our Postmaster General found confronting him when he took hold of the department in 1896, that deficit has been reduced to some \$46,000 at the same time that the rate was reduced from three to two cents, and we are led to understand by the Postmaster General that the deficit will not be more than one-half this year what it was in 1896, and in another year it will be wiped out entirely. Surely that is very satisfactory. Surely it must be satisfactory to everybody to know that by careful management our Postmaster General has been able to reduce the deficit and at the same time reduce the rate of postage. I remember something being said in connection with the motto on the postage stamp. Let me repeat a few lines from the poem written by Sir Edward Morris, entitled the 'Song of Empire,' from which is taken the emblem on our postage stamp, and which I think very appropriate on the present occasion:

We love not war but only peace,
Yet never shall our England's power decrease.
Whoever guides the helm of State,
Let all men know it, England shall be great;
We hold a vaster empire than has been.

Mr. Speaker, if I were able to write a poem like that, I think I would make a slight change, and make it read:

We love not war but only peace,
Yet never shall our Britain's power decrease.
Whoever guides the helm of State,
Let all men know it, Britain shall be great;
We hold a vaster empire than has been.

My hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Montague) found fault the other night with the government for not having sent the contingent a little sooner. It strikes me, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman was sadly at a loss for something to criticise when he resorted to this criticism. Surely the question was a very important one. It was the first time that Canada had ever considered the advisability of taking part in a British war. Never before had Canada taken similar action, and I think that the right hon. the First Minister and his government would have been very unwise indeed to have rushed into this matter without due consideration. The Prime Minister had not been instructed by parliament, as he informed us, to send that contingent. I think he would have been a very unwise man indeed if he had undertaken to send such a contingent without calling parliament, or at least knowing that parliament would back him up in doing

it, without knowing that the Canadian people were in favour of such a course. But, the moment the Prime Minister and his government discovered that this was the wish of the Canadian people—and we, the people, are the guide, we, the people, are the government after all—the moment they discovered the Canadian people were in favour of sending our brave boys to assist in the battlefield, that moment the government acted. How much sooner could we have expected them to act than they did? On the 12th of October last President Kruger declared war, and within eighteen days after war was proclaimed, on the 30th of October, the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), with splendid ability, and ably assisted by his efficient staff, had over a thousand Canadian boys on the briny deep on the way to South Africa. Surely that was prompt enough. And since our boys reached South Africa, they have done honour to Canada. That greatest of generals, Lord Roberts, has placed them in very important positions, gave them, in fact, the place of honour when the British force stood face to face with that of Cronje. And they proved themselves worthy of the distinction that was conferred upon them. Let me add a word or two on this subject, seeing that I did not take part in the debate when the subject of the contingent was under discussion.

Sir, in my humble opinion, there are no better or braver soldiers in the world than the Canadian soldiers. We are descendants of that old British and French stock, our boys possess all the courage and daring of our forefathers, with this difference, that our soldiers are largely educated men and can use their best judgment to advantage, while Tommy Atkins has bravery but not, as a rule, the intelligence of the Canadian soldier, which counts for much in a war of this century. Our Canadian soldiers showed their pluck when they left their firesides to drive the invaders of 1865 from our shores. They showed their courage and self-reliance when from hundreds of happy homes they went forth, not to wage war on their fellow-citizens, not to stain the grass of the prairies with the blood of our Indian fellow-subjects, but to maintain the integrity of the Canadian government. Have they not shown courage and bravery on the field of battle in South Africa, not merely in defence of their homes—for Canada's shores are not invaded by a foreign foe—but we find English, Irish, Scotch, and French Canadian compatriots standing side by side shedding their life's blood in defence of the British flag and British supremacy.

Sir, in passing the city of Quebec, the other day, my mind reverted to the time when General Wolfe and his brave soldiers with muffled oars glided gently down the river St. Lawrence, scaled the banks of the majestic river and formed themselves in

battle array on the Plains of Abraham to meet equally brave soldiers in command of General Montcalm, and although Wolfe and his British soldiers were successful and Canada passed from under the French flag to that of the British, yet we must remember that the French soldiers had defended their homes with bravery and most successfully for many years; and from my observations although the French Canadian entertains a warm feeling for his mother country—and to which I do not think any reasonable man will object, for while I love the British Empire, I have a much warmer feeling for that part of the empire from whence came my father and mother—yet, from the great freedom enjoyed under British rule and British institutions, I am firmly of the opinion that the French Canadians are as true and as loyal as any other portion of Her Majesty's subjects, and if ever occasion required it, even should it be against France herself, I believe the French Canadian will be found to fight as valiantly in defence of his home and the British flag as he fought 140 years ago in defence of his home and the flag of his mother country.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that no person could find a great deal of fault with the moderate way in which the last speaker has addressed the House. It is true that he has made a good many statements with which I do not agree. But, that is to be expected. One thing that I have noticed in this debate particularly, and that was that the speakers on the government side of the House, as a rule, have neither attempted to give instances to show that the government have fulfilled their pledges nor have they tried to justify their extravagance. It is true that my hon. friend (Mr. Calvert) who has just sat down made some remarks about the surpluses and said they were much greater than the surpluses of their predecessors. But, he did not make reference to the general expenditure or speak of how much money they had spent. He made allusion to the predictions made by members of the Conservative party that the present government would destroy the manufactures if they got into power. All I can say on that subject is what has already been said on the floor of the House—that the Conservative party believed that these gentlemen were honest and would do as they said, that they would give us free trade as they have it in England, that they would destroy protection—as the Prime Minister said, would cut off its head and trample on its body. These were the statements made by the Liberal party all over the country previous to the elections of 1896. But, if they had told the people that they would increase the expenditure and that they would increase the public debt, is there any hon. gentleman on the floor of this House who believes that they would have been

returned to power? I do not believe that there is one. The hon. gentleman says that the Liberal party have carried out their pledges fairly well. I will deal with that as I go along and show many occasions where they have failed to carry out their pledges. He says they have produced a revenue tariff, that is, I suppose, they have destroyed the protection that was in the tariff as left to them by the Conservative party. But, how have they destroyed protection? In some instances, cottons that were 22½ per cent they increased to 25 per cent, some that were 25 per cent they increased to 30 per cent, and some that were 30 per cent they increased to 35 per cent. That is the way they have given us a revenue tariff, that is the way they have destroyed protection, that is the way they would say they have given us free trade as it is in England. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat if the leader of his party did not promise to reduce the annual expenditure should he be returned to power? I should like to ask him if the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) did not tell the electors in his own riding that if within three years they did not reduce the expenditure to \$35,000,000, and did not get reciprocity with the United States, the electors ought to put them out. And I believe that the people will take his advice, that the very first chance they get they will put these gentlemen out, and, I think, justly. If they do not do so, I must say I shall lose a good deal of the confidence I have now in the honesty of the people—and I have great faith in their honesty when they are fairly appealed to. It was because the great body of the people felt that the Conservative party had been too extravagant, together with the school question, I think, that caused that party to be defeated in 1896. Hon. gentlemen opposite at that time said they could govern the country for three or four millions less, and some even went so far as to say they could govern it for six millions less. And the people believed them and gave them their votes. My hon. friend (Mr. Calvert) says that the Conservative policy was to give away the lands in the Yukon. I simply deny that. I simply say that the Conservative party refused to vote for the building of the Teslin Lake Railway for which Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann had the contract given to them a few days before parliament met, without any justification. That Act would have been carried, had not the Senate thrown out the Bill, by which hon. gentlemen would have given Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann 3,750,000 acres of the best gold bearing land in that territory. This present government has passed an order in council since that contract was thrown out, refusing to sell more than 40 acres of that land to any one person in one place, and the minimum price was to be \$10 an acre.

Mr. WILSON.

Well, if that contract had become law, according to their own valuation of the land, it would have meant no less a sum than \$37,500,000 to this country. I think that the Senate, for throwing that Bill out, deserves the thanks of the people of Canada for all time.

This hon. gentleman who spoke, seems to think that trade with the United States is what we need and must have. In that regard he differs entirely from his leader, for his leader says that in his judgment, the people of this country do not desire reciprocity with the United States at the present time. Then he made a great boast about the Intercolonial Railway; he thought the management of the present minister was something grand, and the results had been great. I think if the hon. gentleman had referred to the debate of last session, and the preceding session, he would easily have seen how this surplus was obtained. In the first place, they have changed their mode of bookkeeping, and they are charging today, lots of things to capital account, that the late government used to charge to consolidated account, and the result is that they can easily have a surplus. The construction of bridges and the renewal of rolling stock are now charged to capital account, instead of current expenses; as a matter of course that accounts for all they have in the way of surpluses.

Then he thinks the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), has done marvels out in the Yukon, by the way he is conducting affairs. It has been shown in this House, that the Postmaster General has utilized the mounted police in that country, and has allowed the expense to be charged to other departments, while taking credit to himself for the reduced expenditure. I say that is not fair. If that service was performed for the Post Office Department, it ought to have been charged to the Post Office Department. An hon. friend near me suggests that it was not necessary to send so many men up there, unless the Postmaster General wished to utilize them for postal purposes.

Then, the hon. gentleman refers to the sending of the contingents, and he thinks this government deserves a great deal of credit for the way they have acted in that matter. Such language does seem astonishing in the mouths of hon. gentlemen who have read what the Prime Minister said to the *Globe* reporter on the 5th of October, when he said that having carefully examined the Militia Act, he was of the opinion that the government could not send any troops unless parliament was called to sanction it. Strange to say, public opinion was so strong that he had to yield, and he practically admitted, in the patriotic speech that he made here a few nights ago, that that was the reason; he either had to yield and send a contingent, or he had to leave office; and there is nothing a Liberal hates to do more than to leave office.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to come more particularly to the remarks I intended to make. We have been in session now for about two and a half months, and I suppose some hon. members will be surprised to know that there are over twenty departmental reports yet to be laid on the Table. I would ask the government how they expect the business of this country to be intelligently done if we are not furnished with the information contained in these reports? How can we discuss the business done by the different departments, unless we have the information before us? I think it is the first duty of the government to have the business of parliament ready before they call the House together. In a few remarks that I made the other night, I stated my opinion, that if business was ready when parliament was called, we ought to be able to get through with the session in three months. I believe that still. But during this session we have seen the Postmaster General introducing a gerrymander Bill that had been defeated last year, knowing that it would be defeated again this year, because there was a stronger reason for the Senate to throw it out this year than last. Then we find him moving a buncombe resolution about labour, not to be backed up by an Act of parliament, showing it was pure buncombe. Then they have, it would appear, serious doubts as to whether they were right with reference to their preferential policy with England, and they put up one of their own followers to move a vote of confidence, as it were, in themselves, to ascertain the feeling of the House as to whether they had done right in giving a 25 per cent preference to Great Britain. I look on all these things as a pure waste of time. I think they ought not to have been introduced, and would not have been introduced if the government had been ready to go on with the business, as they should have been. Now, what has been done this session? How many government Bills have been passed through, and how many private Bills? Very few, just enough to show that they have done a little business. We had such a scene in the Public Accounts Committee the other day, as I have never witnessed since I have been in this House. It is the first time that I ever saw the opposition take charge of a committee, appoint its own chairman and do the business. We had only one minister at that meeting, and he a gentleman without portfolio in the government, and who knew very little about the business. The same laxity appears to govern in that committee as governs here. The people that had been notified, or were to have been notified, either had not been notified to attend the meeting, or else paid no attention to the notice. I think that sort of thing is simply disgraceful, and ought not to be tolerated by this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). We are quite willing that you should run the whole show.

Mr. WILSON. Yes, but you take very good care to make it ineffective, either by not sending out the notices, or not compelling people who are notified to appear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman knows the government has nothing to do with that. The government cannot interfere with a department. If we do not attend the Public Accounts Committee, it is because we have nothing to conceal.

Mr. WILSON. I notice as a rule, they are very anxious to conceal things, and that when there is anything of importance coming up, there are three or four ministers present, and they are very particular about letting things go through. Last year they were very anxious to investigate election frauds, they wanted nothing covered up in any way, they had nothing to hide. This year they have absolutely refused an investigation. And why? Is it because of some affidavits that have been made in the west, connecting certain gentlemen who have been in West Elgin with the Brockville and Huron elections? Are they afraid the Conservative party know too much this year? It looks like it, I am afraid there is something in it. But, I am sorry to see any government refuse the fullest investigation into any charges of corruption. I have referred before in this House, and I will refer again to the promise that was made by the right hon. leader of the government in the city of Montreal before the general elections of 1896 to give us free coal and free iron. An incident happened in reference to this, the like of which I do not think ever happened in this House before. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was not prepared to bring down his budget speech, or to announce the policy of the government, but the right hon. First Minister had announced that we were to have free coal and free iron. There was a provincial election going on in the province of Nova Scotia and it was a very vital point with the people of that province as to whether they were to have free coal or not. The Finance Minister stood up in his place and said: We are not going to take the duty off coal. This was to help his friends in Nova Scotia to carry the provincial elections.

Then, we were to have superannuations abolished, if these hon. gentlemen came to power. How have they abolished it? Let me read the income on superannuation account for the three years since they have been in power, as well as the amount that they have expended. In 1897 the income was \$59,218; in 1898, it was \$45,643; in 1899,

it was \$39,647, making a total of \$144,508. They abolished superannuations in this way: In 1897, they paid out \$307,792; in 1898, \$340,185; in 1899, \$325,560, making a total expenditure of \$973,537, or they paid out of the moneys of this country over and above the amounts that had been paid into this fund, \$829,029. I would like to know what the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has to say about that. When he occupied a seat just in front of me here, he used to spend hours upon hours discussing this question, and he shed a great many tears over the poor farmer who had to earn the money by the sweat of his brow to pay these enormous amounts to people for superannuation. Then, we hold a letter that the right hon. leader of the government wrote to Mr. Francois Langelier, promising him that if he was not appointed a judge before the vacancy in the lieutenant-governorship of Quebec occurred he would be appointed lieutenant-governor. I presume the reason that letter was written to Mr. Langelier was that he had been a strong supporter of the right hon. gentleman. He went so far as to mortgage his own house to raise election funds, and that house had to be sold to pay the notes that he was on. He had good reason to expect, that, when his party came into power, a man of his standing at the bar, of his standing in the party, and his standing in the province of Quebec, would be a minister of the Crown, but he was not taken into the government. This promise was made to him on the 8th of July, 1896, and the government was sworn into office, I believe, on the 13th of July. Mr. Langelier was in this House for two sessions recording the will of his masters, and the promise was not fulfilled to him until he made such an exposure as brought the province down upon the head of the First Minister. Then, I have another broken promise here. I have an extract from a speech made by the hon. member for Vancouver (Mr. McInnes) which I will read. He made a speech at a labour meeting at Nanaimo:

Speaking at a Labour Day celebration at Nanaimo the hon. gentleman severely criticised the Laurier government for the violation of its pledges to the people of the west. Pledges which had been made personally to him, by the premier were disregarded. He had done his best to have them carried out, he had, with others, warned the government, but to no avail.

There is a member of the Liberal party, and a member of this House, accusing the First Minister of violating his personal pledge to him as well as his pledges to the people generally. I think that almost every hon. member of this House will remember a certain telegram which was sent by a certain gentleman, who is now a senator, I believe, asking what the government would do, if Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power, on the Chinese question. The answer, I think, was

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that as it was a burning question in the west, he would be guided by what his friends in the west wanted. I think that is what the right hon. gentleman said. I am sorry to see that members of the same party so widely disagree, and that the rank and file of this party are accusing the First Minister of openly violating his pledges.

There is another matter to which I would like to call the attention of the government. I have only had it on hearsay, and I do not wish to state it as a fact, but I think it is worth the notice of the government, and if what I have heard is true, the Act to which I propose to refer should be disallowed. It is reported that the province of Quebec has placed stumpage dues of \$1.90 a cord on pulpwood, if exported from that province, whereas, if it is manufactured into pulp in the province the manufacturers get a rebate of \$1.50. I have been informed that this applied to other provinces in the Dominion, as well as to the exportation of pulp wood out of the country. I do not know whether it is true or not, but if it is, I think it is the duty of the government to interfere and to disallow any Act of that kind. I am informed that it is a fact. It is an extraordinary thing that any government should allow an Act like that to stand on the statute-books of one province which enables one province to discriminate against a man living in another province. If a man lives in the province of Quebec he will be able to get his pulp wood by paying 40 cents a cord stumpage dues, while a man living in any other province will have to pay \$1.90. I say that this is most unfair legislation, and that it is not going to do anything to build this country up as a nation. What we want to do is to see that we have a strong central government that will attend to matters appertaining to the duties devolving upon it and not interfere with provincial matters. I am opposed to interfering with provincial rights; I am strongly in favour of each government doing its own part, but in this case, I think it is high time for the government to interfere. Hon. gentlemen say that they have carried out their pledges to the people. I think if they had told the people they would carry them out the way they have carried them out, they would never have reached the Treasury benches. In 1896 the expenditure for all purposes under the Conservative government was \$41,702,383. Hon. gentlemen will see that I deduct the \$2,394,000 for the North Shore Railway which became a liability in 1892, and should have been charged up to that year and not to the year 1896. That was the expenditure under the Conservative rule. In 1899 the present government spent \$51,542,635, or an increase of \$9,840,000. That is the way they carried out their promise that they would reduce the expenditure by three or four millions; on the contrary, they have

increased it by nearly \$10,000,000. The revenue from all sources in 1896 was \$36,618,590 and in 1899 it was \$46,743,102, or an increase of \$10,124,512. In 1896 the Conservative party taxed the people to the extent of \$27,759,285, and in 1899, the Liberal party taxed the people to the extent of \$34,958,069, or an increased taxation by the Liberals of \$7,198,783. The increased tax per head of the population for 1899 over 1895 was \$1.32, and for 1899 over 1896 was 90 cents per head. Notwithstanding the great increase in the income from all sources amounting to over \$10,000,000, what did the Liberal party do with reference to the public debt? It was a vital plank in the platform of the Liberal party that they would reduce the debt when they came into power, but let us see what they did. In 1896 they found that the debt was \$258,497,432, and in three years they increased that debt to \$266,273,446, or an increase of \$7,776,000. They made that enormous increase in the debt during the most prosperous times the country has ever had, as they say. I think I heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) say that during the three years the Liberals had been in power the country had advanced more than it had in the previous thirty years. Well, I do know my own section of the country pretty well, and especially my own town, and when I look around me, I cannot see, I regret to say, that great increase of prosperity. I think the statement of the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) was most extravagant in reference to this, as it is in regard to most other matters. The hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) said some strange things in his celebrated Toronto speech—celebrated because it went back on everything almost, which he ever said before. He tried to justify his statements in 1894, 1895 and 1896, about the extravagance of the Conservative party, and he tried to justify the Liberal increased expenditure of \$10,000,000 and to give reasons for it. He told the people that the Conservatives left the Liberals pledged to an expenditure of \$12,000,000 on canals, and \$4,000,000 for railway bonuses for which no provision was made, and so he held that the Liberals were not responsible for that. But, when the Minister of Trade and Commerce made his speech in the House the other night he told us that the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) had done as much in three years as the Conservative party would have done in six or seven years if they had been in office. I took the trouble to cut out a table which the Minister of Finance was good enough to insert in his budget speech and I thought I would examine to see how fast the Liberals had progressed with the canals. In the first place there was no necessity for the Liberal government making this expenditure if it was not necessary, because they had cancelled some of the contracts upon the canals, and I

presume they might have cancelled the rest if they wished. However, they did not cancel them, but they went on with the expenditure. According to this table during the last three years of Conservative rule there was spent on capital account on the canals \$7,732,216.81, and during the three years that the Liberals had been in office there has been spent on the same account for canals \$9,455,764, or an increase of \$1,717,548, being an average yearly increase of expenditure by the Liberal government on canals of \$572,516. On canals, public works, Intercolonial railway and railway subsidies, the Conservative party spent during their last three years in office, \$14,851,483, while the Liberals spent during their three years in power, \$16,667,540, or an increase in the three years of \$1,816,000. They claim that we left them this legacy. So far as the bonuses to railways are concerned, I think we can clear that up fairly well. In 1897, Sir Richard Cartwright moved the third reading of Bill No. 151, to authorize the granting of subsidies in aid of the construction of the lines of railway therein mentioned, and he said:

The hon. gentleman wished to have certain information which I hold in my hand. The amount of subsidies which are re-votes wholly or in part, under the first resolution, \$2,148,128, and under the second resolution, \$16,000, making a total of \$2,164,128. The amount of subsidies which are new votes under the first resolution, is \$1,895,560, and under the second resolution \$277,000, making a total of \$2,172,561, or in all the sum of \$4,336,000.

This shows that the Liberal government in 1897, renewed \$2,176,128 of these subsidies, and in 1899, they renewed \$1,617,200 of these subsidies, making in all \$3,793,328 out of the \$4,000,000 that Sir Richard Cartwright said we left them as a legacy, showing that there is very little over \$200,000 of the total amount that can be charged to the late government. Not only that, but I have a clipping here from a letter that Sir Richard Cartwright wrote to the Patrons in 1894, in which he said:

The policy of the Liberal party is to grant no bonuses to railways.

I have seen the hon. gentleman in his seat in this House, when the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) asked him to explain that promise in connection with his performances, and the way he (Sir Richard Cartwright) explained it was to get up and walk out of the House. These hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches have kept their promises so badly that that is about the only way they can explain them.

Now, suppose we should look at the legacies that this Liberal government will leave their successors in office if they should go out of power at the next election, which every one hopes they will. Here are their legacies to their successors.

Railway bonuses, 1897.....	\$4,053,000
Railway subsidies, 1899	6,540,000
Crow's Nest Pass Railway.....	3,630,000
Drummond County Railway....	1,600,000

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is all paid, there is no legacy there.

Mr. WILSON. Well, later on we will deduct from this anything that you say is paid. We do not want to charge you with anything more than you are guilty of, because we think your real sins are sufficient for you to bear. Let me continue to give the rest of this legacy which the Liberals will leave after them when they go out of power.

Grand Trunk rental for 99 years.....	\$13,860,000
Pacific cable, Canada share.....	2,361,000

Total..... \$32,644,941

I think I heard the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) say 'hear, hear' when I spoke about the Grand Trunk Railway lease. Does he mean to say that we are not bound by the Act of this parliament to pay that \$13,000,000? It does seem to me that that is just as legitimate a claim on the people of this country as these bonuses to railways if the conditions are complied with. I will deduct, if the Minister of Finance likes, what he says is paid from these sums. I do not wish to charge him with anything that he is not guilty of. Out of this \$32,644,944 there is at least \$25,000,000 which is not paid, but which they leave as a legacy to their successors. Then, Sir, if the Senate had not stepped in and interfered with the Yukon railway contract, 3,750,000 acres of the best gold lands of the Yukon which the government themselves, by an order in council, valued at \$10 an acre, would have been given to those men for a worthless railway. They do not deny it or attempt to deny it; if they do, I will undertake to prove it. These hon. gentlemen have been profuse with promises. Sir Richard Cartwright, in his speech in Toronto found fault with the extravagance of his predecessors, and said that times had been so hard and the people so poor that they had not been able to pay the amounts levied upon them. I think I can prove by quotations from his own statements that that is not true, and that it was not his own view at the time. I think men ought to be honest and straightforward, and should not advocate any measures when in opposition which they are not prepared to carry out when they get into power. That is the view I take of the matter, and I tell my leaders now that if they want my support, that is the view they must adopt. I do not want them to move buncombe resolutions to catch votes, without intending to carry them out when they get into office. That is the fault I find with hon. gentlemen now on the Treasury benches. They made loads of promises, but they have not attempted to carry them out. Speaking in the House of Commons in 1894, Sir Richard is report-

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ed on page 314 of the *Hansard* of that year, as saying :

Sir, Canada has no business, and never had, to spend thirty-six or thirty-seven millions a year.

It is a monstrous thing, properly understood, and wholly apart from the amount of real taxation paid by us, that an expenditure of thirty-six or thirty-seven millions should be saddled upon five millions of people in the position of the people of Canada.

The hon. gentleman would do well to look at the annals of the United States—

They have always been pretty fond of the Yankees—

—and he will find that when they were a people of twenty millions, a people obliged to maintain an army and navy, a people obliged to maintain a foreign consular service, a people, in one word, obliged to maintain all the things which are requisite to the existence of an important nation, they were able to get along with twenty-two millions annually, as against the thirty-seven millions required by the people of Canada, though but five millions strong.

I would like to know what answer the hon. gentleman would make to that to-day. We are only a little over five millions yet—not five millions and a half, according to estimates made by the government themselves; and instead of our expenditure being \$38,000,000, as it was in 1896, it is over \$51,000,000, and I think the Finance Minister told us the other day that on the 30th of June of this year it would be \$53,000,000 and more. Has there been any great reason why this government could not get along with as low an expenditure as the late government? If they had carried out their promise to reduce the expenditure in certain directions, all the extra expenses which they claim they have had in connection with the Yukon and otherwise, would have been met without any increase in the total. But the trouble with hon. gentlemen opposite is that they were not straight. I do not think they were honest. I am afraid they did not intend to carry out the promises when they made them. The *Huntingdon Gleaner* is a paper that is well known in this country. If any hon. gentleman does not know it, and asks the hon. member for Huntingdon (Mr. Scriver), I think that hon. gentleman will tell him that the editor of that paper is an old-time Liberal of the straightest kind. The great trouble with him was that he believed that the Liberal party when in opposition were honest and meant what they said, and that if they got into office and had an opportunity, they would actually carry out the pledges they had made to the people. He was too innocent, and I confess we were all too innocent. This is the criticism made by the *Huntingdon Gleaner* on Sir Richard's speech in Toronto, just after it was delivered :

The first proofs offered for his allegations as to the development of the country, Sir Richard

found in the increase of population. According to him, the exodus to the United States has ended, and our population is increasing at the rate of at least one hundred thousand a year. In this province we have a good test as to the fluctuations of population in the triennial enumeration of the people by the valuers. These returns show no such change as claimed by Sir Richard. Huntingdon is fairly representative of the agricultural centres of the province, and the returns from the municipalities which have been coming in during the past week or so, tell of no increase over 1896. We cannot say how it may be in the other provinces, but for Quebec the exodus is still a reality.

That is from an authority which I do not think hon. gentlemen opposite will attempt to dispute. Perhaps one of the most amusing claims put forward on behalf of the present government is the claim of economy. At the Liberal convention a resolution was moved, and I presume carried unanimously, to this effect :

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt, and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the government that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

That resolution was seconded by no less a person than the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who in seconding it, said :

As Liberals, we have the right to say that we are the exponents of economy. Our opponents do not even pretend to be economical, their principle is to get all the money they can from the people and distribute it among their friends.

Well, some people have been wicked enough to say that between the Liberals and the Conservatives there is very little difference in that respect—that the great difference is that the Liberals get it from the people and keep it. I think they have no right to say that they have in any measure carried out the pledge they made to the people on the subject of economy. The *Huntingdon Gleaner* criticises as follows :

Despite the extreme rise in the volume of revenue, the expenditure exceeds it by \$4,000,000. The gross debt now stands at \$345,000,000. Deducting assets, most of them of doubtful value, the net debt is \$266,000,000. That the debt should have been added to during the year when the Dominion collected the largest revenue on record is no credit to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his fellow-ministers.

That is a sentiment which will be endorsed by everybody in this country. If we are ever going to make any progress towards lessening the burdens on the people and decreasing our public debt, it will not be in hard times when we have very little income, but in good times. Every prudent man of business will take the opportunity, when he is making plenty of money, to pay off his debts, and governments should act in like manner. But, these people now in office, although they pledged themselves in their

convention resolutions, to practise economy, seem to have no idea of economy whatever. There is nothing which seems to give them greater pleasure than the large surplus they have. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) said that if the Conservative party had had a surplus of \$7,500,000, they would have heralded it continually from one end of the country to the other. Well, I do not know that they could possibly have done much more in that line than these hon. gentlemen have done. But, these hon. gentlemen labour under this disadvantage, that they have entirely changed their opinion with regard to surpluses. When in opposition, they were continually declaring that surpluses were sources of weakness, because they furnished opportunities for plunder and corruption and raids on the treasury. I have a lot of extracts here on speeches made by these hon. gentlemen when in opposition, in which they strongly denounced surpluses. They were then of the opinion that a competent Finance Minister, who understood his business, instead of having surpluses, would tax the people just exactly what was right and no more.

The *Huntingdon Gleaner* goes on to say with reference to the speech of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. After pointing out that there had been four prosperous years, it says :

Sir Richard Cartwright is its spokesman, and if his speech means anything, it is that because Canada has been blessed with fruitful years, it is right that the government should spend more money. Instead of that, would not the prudent and wise way have been to apply the increased revenue to lessening the duties on the necessaries of life and to the reduction of the public debt.

I think that is a very reasonable statement, and one that the government would have done well to have taken heed of.

Let me draw attention to an interesting incident, which is a pretty good illustration of the general administration of this government. The *Montreal Star*, on the 28th of September last, publishes the following :

We have been favoured with a copy of an advertising poster signed 'William Ogilvie, commissioner,' calling for tenders for the construction of a wagon road 'from a point common to the valley of the Klondike River and Bonanza Creek, up the valley of Klondike to the stream known as Thomas Creek,' &c., &c., to a point 'in the vicinity of Dominion Creek.' 'Tenders for said work will be received up to the hour of four p.m., the 26th inst. (August), but the commissioner in council may accept the tenders for any portion of it prior to that date.

What was the use of putting a time limit for tendering, if tenders might be accepted before that limit. Was that anything else than a bid for government support? Was it anything else than an invitation to the supporters of the government: Here is work to be done; if you want a job come and

take it ; and if there is anything left, when the time expires for receiving tenders, we will give that out to any tenderers that are left. That was simply an outrage, and shows clearly that the business up in that country is not done at all in a businesslike way.

Let me make a brief allusion to the question of reciprocity. The necessity of reciprocity was advocated very strongly by certain gentlemen opposite when they occupied seats on this side. The hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) told the people, before the last general election, that it would only be a matter of a few months delay if the Liberal party got in, before they would get reciprocity with the United States. They were not going to hunt all over creation to get treaties of commerce passed. They were not going to Jamaica or Trinidad or Timbuctoo, but would go at once to the United States and obtain a treaty with that country without fail. Then, we had a speech from the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), made at the great Liberal convention in 1893, in which he staked his reputation as a public man, that if the Liberals had only the opportunity they would soon make a treaty with the United States. He charged the Conservative party with dishonesty. He said that they went to Washington foreordained to fail, because they went with impossible conditions. Well, Mr. Speaker, the present government went to Washington and spent \$34,600 of the people's money there, and what did they get? They got a good time, and that was all. They spent the people's money freely ; and, after all their diplomacy and expenditure, we had the right hon. gentleman who leads the government telling this House last session that he did not think that the people of this country wanted reciprocity. Why did he not find that out sooner, and have spared himself the trouble of going to Washington, and the ignominy of failure. But, we find that the hon. gentleman who spoke to-night on behalf of the government, thinks we do not want reciprocity with the United States. There seems to be a very great difference of opinion on that point among the leaders of the party opposite. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) thinks it would be the act of a first-class statesman to get a treaty with the United States, but said he would not renew the effort to get it under the circumstances. He had the same experience that the late George Brown had when he was sent to Washington by Mr. Mackenzie. After going to great lengths to obtain a treaty, these hon. gentlemen found that the Americans, when asked to ratify the treaty, simply laughed at it.

We have had some curious experiences of the glaring contrast between words and deeds of hon. gentlemen opposite. The hon. Postmaster General, for instance, was a great stickler for economy when on this

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side. In 1895, he introduced a Bill to reduce the Governor General's salary to \$35,000, and went on to give the reasons why. Just think of it, he explained, in the twenty-five years from 1867 to 1892, we have spent \$1,216,666 in salaries to the Governor General. Well, this hon. gentleman has been on the Treasury benches now about four years, and it appears he has lost that Bill. At any rate, he has never reintroduced it. If he had lost the gerrymander Bill instead of this one, he would have done much better. Then, he took up the travelling expenses of the Governor General, which was another terrible item, amounting to \$145,903. Then, he added up the salaries of His Excellency's secretaries and found that they amounted to \$270,350, and the contingencies of the Governor General's Secretary's office he calculated at \$217,426. We afterwards had some remarks from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce on this subject in 1894. Talking about these matters, he said :

What on earth do we want with fifteen or sixteen cabinet ministers. Sir, it would be high treason to say it, or I would ask what do we want with a couple of Speakers? There is no doubt whatever that the general cost of our departments is far too extravagant.

I wonder if the hon. gentleman is still of the same opinion. He went on to say :

In the twenty-five years they spent for furniture on Rideau Hall, \$108,853.

I wonder if these hon. gentlemen are spending on that same item at that rate now. Fuel and light \$151,371.10. We have spent for wages \$94,349.86. In all, we have spent \$2,851,917.76, an average yearly expenditure of \$114,076.70, being an average annual expenditure over the Governor General's salary of \$65,410.04. Still it goes on. Then he goes on to say :

We have distributed during twenty-five years, for Governor Generals' travelling expenses, a yearly average of \$5,836—

I will tell when that was started by-and-by—

—we have disbursed annually during that twenty-five years an average of no less than \$21,785 a year for additional repairs and maintenance to Rideau Hall. During that same period we have paid out annually an average sum of \$4,754 for furniture for Rideau Hall. Paid to gardeners, \$3,773 for wages, on an average, and for fuel and light an average per annum of \$6,148. . . . These sums are quite beyond the resources of the people of Canada.

That was the feeling of the present Postmaster General in 1895. I suppose that feeling was shared by those who are members of the present government. But there were a great many worse things that he talked about. For instance, he said :

For example, in the United States government there are but eight heads of departments, each

of whom is paid a salary of \$8,000 a year, or a total of \$64,000. In Canada we have ministers and heads of the departments galore, eleven ministers drawing \$8,000 a year each, one drawing \$9,000, and three controllers drawing together \$18,000; in other words, the executive heads of our government costs us \$115,000 a year, as against \$64,000 a year payable to the corresponding heads of the departments in the United States. In other words, we are paying about 80 per cent more in the way of salaries to the members of our government than are paid to the members of the United States government.

I believe it is \$119,000 that is paid now as against this \$64,000 paid in the United States for corresponding with the heads of the department. Again he said :

Who can justify the expenditure of our country to-day. It cannot be justified by the wealth of the country. There is nothing to warrant this enormous expenditure of nearly \$38,000,000, except the fact that we are burdened down with debt and with office-holders, great and small.

Does not that sound strange coming from a member of the present government. These gentlemen found fault with an expenditure of \$35,000,000, and themselves spent about \$51,500,000, and they say that this year they will spend \$53,000,000. It does seem to me that this is inconsistency of the most glaring kind. I do not see how any member of the present government can justify the existing expenditure. Well, Sir, there is another gentleman who often took an interest in the expenditure of the country when he was on this side. It is said he used to sleep with an Auditor General's Report under his pillow, and it is also said that he has not seen one for three years. I refer to the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) :

The general feeling throughout this country is that the expenses of government are altogether too high.

And again :

The whole cost of the government in this country is altogether too much. We have thirteen ministers, each drawing a salary of \$7,000 and a sessional allowance of \$1,000, and I must say that if \$7,000 was considered an ample allowance twenty years ago, \$4,000 should be considered ample allowance now. Four thousand dollars would procure to-day more of the necessaries of life or the ordinary supplies required by a member of the cabinet than \$7,000 would twenty years ago.

I wonder if the hon. gentleman will put a notice upon the paper with regard to the present expenditure. I think the hon. gentleman kicked when a clerk was raised \$50 a year. But they arranged in caucus for raising the controllers' salaries, as I understand, and I have not heard that the hon. gentleman objected. He said :

We pay thirteen cabinet ministers \$92,000 in salaries and \$13,000 in sessional allowances. We provide them with private secretaries, costing \$9,000; we pay a Deputy Speaker \$2,000—

I wonder if they will abolish him.

—we pay two controllers \$13,200. That makes \$129,200 for our cabinet ministers and our two controllers; and we have also a Solicitor General, who costs us \$6,000 a year.

And would you believe it they are paying \$4,000 a year more than was paid them, and this hon. gentleman is supporting them. And not only that, but they dated back the salaries of the controllers two years, making a present to the controllers of \$4,000 each. The hon. member for North Wellington goes on to say :

I believe we could reduce the expenditure of this country by five or six million if the government were only ready and willing to consent to it.

I wonder if the hon. gentleman thinks they could reduce it five or six millions now. There surely is a better chance, considering that the expenditure is so much more.

I believe we could reduce the expenses of the civil service by from \$500,000 to \$750,000 if the government would put fewer of their friends in office.

I suppose that holds good still. I suppose they are not putting any fewer of their friends in office than they were. I want to give a few of the details of the expenditure under the Mackenzie regime, which expenditures hon. gentlemen opposite liked to dwell upon when they were on this side of the House. Let me refer first to the Governor General's travelling expenses. And, would you believe it, Mr. Speaker? For the first seven years after confederation the country did not pay the travelling expenses of the Governor General. This was done in the first instance by the Liberal government. In the very first year of the Mackenzie administration they started to pay the Governor's travelling expenses. If any hon. gentleman has any doubt of that I have the return in my desk which I can let him see. These expenses were as follows :

1874.....	\$ 5,000
1875.....	13,187
1876.....	6,000
1877.....	22,554
1878.....	5,000

Total for five years..... \$51,741

Average yearly expenditure on this account under the Mackenzie administration, \$10,348.50; an annual average expenditure over the average for twenty-five years of \$4,512.

I believe an arrangement was entered into after that time whereby the Governor General was allowed \$5,000 for travelling expenses. But the present government are rather more generous. They were not satisfied with \$5,000, but I see by the Auditor General's Report that for the last three years they have allowed \$18,422, or a little more than \$1,100 more per annum than the previous arrangement called for. Still these are the gentlemen that are practising rigid economy in handling the people's money. Now, I want to show you what it cost in five years of the Mackenzie ad-

ministration for the maintenance of Rideau Hall. In 1874, \$35,435; 1875, \$30,567; 1876, \$26,290; 1877, \$27,530; 1878, \$29,164; in all for the five years, \$148,986, or an average of \$29,790. The regular average for the 25 years is about \$20,000, and they go about \$9,000 a year more than the others. That is the way they practise economy. Now, let us see what these people have done. For the maintenance of Rideau Hall they paid in 1897, \$22,537; 1898, \$17,736; 1899, \$17,162; they appropriated for 1900, \$31,000, making a total of \$88,435 for the four years, or an average of \$22,109, about \$1,000 over the average for the 25 years. That is the way these hon. gentlemen practise economy. Then there is another large item that, for the first five or six years between 1867 and 1874, was not a charge upon the public revenues of this country, that is, light and fuel for Rideau Hall. That was inaugurated by the Mackenzie administration the first year they were in power. In 1874 it cost \$5,000; 1875, \$6,622; 1876, 7,199; 1877, \$7,888; 1878, \$10,211; or a total of \$36,920. It cost on an average during the Mackenzie regime, \$7,384, while the average for the 25 years was \$6,143, or an increase under Liberal rule of \$1,241 a year. Since that time there has been an arrangement made by the government with the Governor General that we pay annually \$8,000 a year for fuel and light at Government House.

Now, I will give you a summary of Rideau Hall for additions, alterations, repairs and maintenance, furniture, garden, grounds, fuel and light, for the five years during which the Mackenzie government were in power. In 1874, it was \$56,017.43; 1875, \$45,027.73; 1876, \$42,031.92; 1877, \$41,466.28; 1878, \$44,611.46. In the five years it was \$229,154.82, or an average per year of \$45,830.96; an average over the yearly average for the 25 years, of \$9,047.96. I think that is quite a record of hon. gentlemen opposite, as showing how they managed the public institutions of this country. And what has the Postmaster General and his colleagues done to reduce this expenditure? Why, they have increased the expenditure so far as the government itself is concerned, by \$4,000 a year. Still the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) thinks it is all right.

I want to give another short extract from a speech of the hon. member for North Wellington, made in 1889. It will be found in the *Hansard* at page 914. The heading is Rideau Hall:

If the Governor General wants a gardener he should engage his own gardener. The whole system ought to be changed, and we ought to arrange that the whole expenditure the government should be called to meet would be the repairs to the building itself. We should employ no gardeners, or other men, except those necessary to keep the building in repair. The hon. Minister of Public Works is not treating the House fairly, by calling on us this year again to re-vote this expenditure and continue the rotten and

Mr. WILSON.

extravagant system which has been carried on for a number of years I cannot understand what six carpenters are doing there all the time.

Well, I looked up the Auditor General's Report this year, and I find they have six carpenters there still. Notwithstanding that we have got such an economical government there are six carpenters at Rideau Hall still, and they are there all the year round.

Mr. SPROULE. He does not say a word against it.

Mr. WILSON. Well, he has got light, or he has got something in view.

I understand there are 6 carpenters, 14 to 20 labourers, and one inspector at Rideau Hall. What are these labourers doing? We are paying about \$80 per week for carpenters alone. I consider it to be my duty to call the attention of the Minister of Public Works to this extravagance. It is a positive disgrace to think that the public money is squandered in this manner.

I wonder if that hon. gentleman holds these views yet.

Now I will say something about the Bill the Postmaster General introduced to prevent members of parliament being appointed to office. For myself I do not want any office of any kind. I am too old to take one, and I can make a living easier in some other way. I do not object to a man who has served his country in parliament taking an office from his party if he is fitted for it, but I do object to hon. gentlemen making a strong protest against that sort of thing, going so far as to introduce a Bill into this House to make it illegal to appoint a member of parliament to an office, and then going to work and appointing a number of members to office. I find that even the Postmaster General has been a sinner in this regard, because he has appointed Mr. Beausoleil, the late member for Berthier, to be postmaster at Montreal at \$4,000 a year, and that is only one out of thirteen or fourteen cases. I would not object to that myself—

Mr. FRASER (Lambton). You want an office.

Mr. WILSON. No, I do not want an office. I do not mean that I would take the office, I do not want an office neither from this government nor from my own party. What I mean is that if a member of parliament is fit for an office I do not see why he should be precluded from taking it because he is or has been a member of parliament. But hon. gentlemen opposite went all over this country denouncing the Conservative party for appointing their friends to office, and appointing members of parliament to office, and when they get in they do the same thing, they imitate the very worst features of the Conservative party. The very worst things the Conservatives did are the things they imitate, and they think they are all

right if they can only point to a precedent by the Conservative party. Now, Sir, the present Postmaster General, then Mr. Mullock, introduced a Bill to prevent the appointment of members of parliament to office. He made a little speech on that occasion, on the 26th of February, 1896, which may be found in the *Hansard* on page 2374 :

Sir, it is to me a painful thing to have witnessed ever since I have been a member of parliament, that which strikes at the very root of our system of representation.

I wonder how he felt when he saw Mr. Langelier sitting in this House two sessions after he had the First Minister's promise in his pocket that he should be made Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Quebec, if he was not appointed to a judgeship before. This must have pained him wonderfully.

I have seen members—I do not know that any of these are at present in the House—but I have seen gentleman occupying seats in this House who, everybody knew, had the promises of positions of emolument made to them, who continued to sit long after those promises were made, long after they had ceased to be independent, and who were compelled to vote as mere echoes of the government, or else forfeit those positions of emolument which they had supposed they had secured.

That is a pretty strong statement. Then he went on :

They became mere parasites upon the administration, and cease to voice the opinions of their constituents. Not only do they do that, Sir, but moving about among their colleagues, they become as it were, corrupting agencies among their own ranks. And so a small percentage of persons in that position are likely to impair the independence of the whole body.

And in that view, I have suggested in my Bill that no member of parliament shall be eligible for any office of emolument in the gift of the Crown, other than those positions that are made exceptions to under the Revised Statutes ; in the Act respecting the independence of parliament, until a certain period shall elapse, when it cannot be said he has received his appointment as a reward for any betrayal of trust. My Bill—provides that except in the cases provided in the statute, no member of parliament shall be eligible for appointment to any position of emolument in the gift of the Crown during the lifetime of the parliament of which he shall be member, nor until twelve months after the dissolution of that House. If this rule were adopted, members would be safeguarded from the influence of the administration.

I think if ever there was a time that these principles should be applied, it is now. Hon. gentlemen have used their power pretty extensively.

I do not purpose to do more than give an outline of the preferential trade question. I could give extracts from a number of speeches made by the right hon. leader of the government himself, but I do not think I will. However, I promised to give one extract so that he, or his friends, would have an opportunity, if it is not true, of contradicting it. I was discussing the question in the train one day with a friend of his,

and he said he had seen it contradicted in the newspapers. I said that I would make the statement on the floor of parliament and if the right hon. leader of the government is wrongly accused, I will give him an opportunity of contradicting the statement and if he does so, I shall not again repeat it. Speaking at Westmount, the right hon. gentleman put the case thus :

My hope, nay, my conviction, is that on the 23rd of June the Liberal party will be at the head of the poll, and then it will be the Liberal party that will send commissioners to London to arrange for a basis of preferential trade.

That is the statement I said he made, and that I had seen repeatedly in the newspapers. I believe he made it, and I shall continue to make it, unless it is contradicted by himself, or by some person who knows the contrary to be the fact. He made a speech at Toronto, in which he said that if he was elected, he would be just as much in favour of preferential trade as Sir Charles Tupper was, and he would go in for having reciprocal trade between England and Canada. He pointed out the great advantage it would be to get a preference for cheese, wheat and other things that we produce, in the English market. While he was pointing this out, *La Patrie* in the province of Quebec was taking another course. They seemed to have a policy for every province.

Mr. CLARKE. For every county.

Mr. WILSON. For every county? I thought they were broader than counties. I thought they would go as far as provinces. *La Patrie* said :

All our thought, all our heart, all our sacrifices, shall be for Canada, and never for the empire.

Our great interests are not in Imperial trade, but in free trade, in treaties dictated by reason and not by a foolish sentiment. We will not sacrifice our national future to an Imperial utopia, but we shall commence with the United States, with France, and all the countries where we can find profit.

While the right hon. First Minister was speaking to the people of Ontario, and pointing out the great advantage it would be for us to have reciprocity with the mother country, the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), was rather throwing cold water on that, and saying that he was not going to be guided by sentiment in reference to Imperial federation, or to Imperialism of any kind. He was simply catering to the sentiment of the province of Quebec. The Liberal leaders and the Liberal party were a good deal like St. Paul, but with a different object in view. They were all things to all men, that they might get their votes and attain office, while St. Paul was all things to all men that he might win them to him and save them from ruin. Notwithstanding that the Prime Minister had declared at London and Toronto, that he would stand by preferential trade, what was his language when he went to Liverpool? He said :

This we have done, not looking for compensation. . . . There is a class of our fellow-citizens who ask that any such concession should be made for a quid pro quo. . . . But the Canadian government has ignored any such sentiment. . . . It is no intention of ours to disturb in any way the system of free trade that has done so much for England.

If this is not a straight backdown from his promise, I do not understand the English language. My own impression is that when he made this promise he intended to fulfil it, but, at that particular time, he was a democrat to the hilt, he had not been knighted, he had not been surrounded by great big people, he had not associated with the aristocracy, he had not forgotten himself, but, when he got over there, he seems to have forgotten that he was a democrat to the hilt, and to have forgotten, not only that he was a democrat to the hilt, but to have forgotten his country, and to have forgotten his pledges, and he did what, I think, is a very dishonourable thing—he went back on the public pledges made to the people of this country. I am going to skip some of the material I have here. I am just going to give a few of the things that we import, that the farmers are particularly interested in, because, I think, after all, that when we look at this question of preferential trade, we must look at it from the standpoint of the people that ought to be benefited by it. If I understood the hon. Finance Minister correctly, he was particular to say in his speech, that this would be a great boon to the country, and more particularly to the farmers. I am one of the kind of fellows that, when I give anything, I want something in return for it. I do business on busi-

ness principles, and if I am doing business for the people, I purpose to do that business on business principles, just the same as if I did it myself. I do not believe that I should do business here on a different principle from that upon which I would do it for myself. Still, I am willing to do as the Hon. G. W. Ross, who is now the Prime Minister of Ontario, is willing to do, to send the last man and the last dollar, if necessary, to defend the empire, because Great Britain is willing to send her last dollar to defend us if necessary. That is a quid pro quo. That is getting something for something given, but when it comes down to a matter of business, then if we give their goods a preference in this country, I want them to give our goods a preference in their country. That is a proper thing, and I believe it is a thing the people will stand by. I have no doubt about it so far as I am concerned. I heard some gentlemen opposite talk about free corn, but I can tell them there is one concern in this country using a thousand bushels of corn a day to make starch and the Liberal government has given these people \$75 a day advantage by making corn free, and still they talk about being free traders. The Liberals give that concern an increased protection of 7½ cents a bushel and yet they talk about being free traders.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What firm is that?

Mr. WILSON. I have a little matter to say about you, but I skipped it for the present. The Trade and Navigation Returns show, that the following was imported last year:

	From United States.		From Great Britain.
	Number.	Value.	
Cultivators.....	2,500	\$ 17,945	None.
Binding attachments.....	103,312	32,756	"
Drills, grain seed.....	2,912	64,683	"
Farm wagons.....	1,827	78,455	"
Forks, pronged.....	46,997	11,005	8, value \$37.
Farm wagons, drays, &c.....	607	26,202	None.
Harrows.....	187	2,400	"
Harvesters, self-binders and without binders.....	6,931	664,610	"
Sleighs.....	379	5,664	"
Hay tedders.....	170	4,652	"
Cotton bags.....	24,845	24,845	\$3,697.
Horse rakes.....	4,330	69,043	None.
Hay or straw knives.....	213	104	"
Lawn mowers.....	2,562	6,338	11, value \$207.
Mowing machines.....	10,332	348,735	None.
Ploughs.....	9,617	192,158	"
Post hole diggers.....	485	195	"
Potato diggers.....	16	249	1, value \$58.
Rakes.....	26,864	4,920	None.
Reapers.....	504	25,066	"
Weeders.....	7,953	56,856	"
All other agricultural implements.....		21,785	\$491.

Mr. WILSON.

The total amount of these agricultural implements imported by farmers from the United States is \$1,658,676, and from Great Britain \$4,283 worth. That shows you, Mr. Speaker, how the farmers of Canada are getting the benefit of preferential trade.

In conclusion, Sir, I wish again to call the attention of the government to the fact that we have been two and a half months in session, and that twenty of their departmental reports have not yet been placed before the House. I hope they will be tabled at once, because I think members should have an opportunity to know what is going on in the departments as well as in the House. I repeat that the expenditure under this Liberal government is entirely unjustifiable, is contrary to their promises, contrary to what they led the people to believe they would do, and I believe the conduct of the government in this respect will meet with just condemnation when they go to the people. I intended to speak on the prohibition question, but my remarks will be more opportune on Monday next when a day is set apart for the debate, and perhaps some of the ministers will then tell us why they have not carried out their pledges on the prohibition question. I know that the Prime Minister told us that no one expected the government to pass a prohibitory law unless half the votes that were on the list were polled. That is a great reflection on the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who represents the temperance party in the cabinet. During the campaign he took pride in saying that he not only represented the farmers in the cabinet but that he represented the temperance people as well, and I tell you if he does represent us we are not very proud of the representation. We consider that he ought to have told the First Minister that we never asked for the plebiscite, but when he consented to give it to us, he ought to be prepared to abide by the votes of the people and give us prohibition. The Minister of Agriculture, in my opinion, ought to have strong enough convictions to have told the Prime Minister that unless he carried out his pledges to him and to the people of Canada, he was prepared to resign his portfolio.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). The government, of course have the direction of this matter in their own hands, but I would like to put a query, as to when they expect we will get through with this budget debate and with the business of the House if we are going to adjourn at eleven at night?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It is impossible for the government to say when the debate will finish, because that is in the hands of the House. The government are most anxious to get along with it, but my hon. friend

(Mr. Foster) sees that there has hardly been any one in the House for the last hour, and while I would wish that the debate should go on for another hour, still this being the first day of the sitting after the Easter adjournment, much fewer members are present than will be present hereafter. I hope that hereafter we shall sit till at least twelve o'clock, and get through the debate this week, if at all possible.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope we shall not have to sit here all summer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope not.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 18, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 139) to amend the Lands Titles Act, 1894.—(Mr. Sutherland.)

DEFICITS AND RAILWAY SUBSIDIES.

Mr. DECHENE asked :

1. What was the amount of the deficits of the late Dominion government for the years 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896?
2. What was the amount of railway subsidies promised in 1896, and if greater than in the preceding years, by how much?
3. What is the amount of subsidy voted by the late government for the Quebec bridge from 1892 to 1897?
4. What is the amount of the deficits of the present government for 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899?
5. What is the amount of the surplus, year by year, for 1897, 1898 and 1899?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The answers to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Dechene's) questions are as follows:—

	Surplus.	Deficit.
1891-2	\$ 155,977 42	.....
1892-3	1,354,555 95	.....
1893-4 .....	.....	\$1,210,332 45
1894-5 .....	.....	4,153,875 58
1895-6 .....	.....	330,551 31

2 and 3. These do not relate to the Finance Department. No doubt my hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) will reply. 4 and 5 :

	Surplus.	Deficit.
1895-6*	.....	.....
1896-7	.....	\$519,981 44
1897-8	\$1,722,712 33	.....
1898-9	4,837,749 00	.....

*Not a year of the present government.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Replying to questions 2 and 3, I would say as to question 2: It is difficult to answer this question. If by the inquiry the hon. member desires to know what was the amount of railway subsidies voted by parliament in the first session of 1896. I would answer him, none, but if he means promised on behalf of the late government by members of the cabinet of that day, I would be justified, from the evidence in possession of the government, in saying that the amount was over \$8,000,000. Some railway resolutions were introduced in the session of 1896, covering grants to the amount of \$2,772,294, but these do not appear by any means to cover all the sums that had been passed upon by the government of that day, if the evidence which is at hand is to be accepted. On the files of council of April, 1896, there is a list of subsidies amounting to over \$8,000,000, but there is no record or order in council approving this list, nor, in fact, of those actually introduced; attached to this list of subsidies is a letter bearing the signature of the Hon. Mr. Dickey, ex-Minister of Justice, dated April 25, 1896, addressed to the Hon. Mr. Prior, a member of the government of that day. The letter of Mr. Dickey is in the following words:

Office of the Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, April 25, 1896.

Dear Col. Prior,—I think something like the inclosed will meet the case. It will be necessary to fill in the name of the railway and possibly the mileage. You might consult Mr. Haggart about this.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) A. R. DICKEY.

The Hon. E. G. Prior,
Controller of Inland Revenue.

The circular referred to in the above letter is as follows:

Dear Sir,—Owing to the persistent obstruction of the opposition, the government felt that it would be quite useless to bring down, as they had intended, a resolution with regard to subsidies for new railway projects, amongst which would have appeared a subsidy of \$3,200 per mile for the.....about which you wrote me.

I have every confidence that the next elections will leave the Conservative party in charge of the affairs of the country, and in that event the policy which was thwarted this session by obstruction will be carried to a conclusion and parliament will be invited to grant the subsidy which I have mentioned.

I am, yours faithfully,

An inference may be drawn that other subsidies than those introduced were promised by the government in addition to those

Mr. FIELDING.

which were included in the resolution laid upon the Table of the House during the session of 1896, from the fact that letters appear to have been written by members of the government giving assurance that the government intended subsidizing railways not included in the resolution before parliament, for example, a letter dated the 28th of April, 1896, was written by the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) to Mr. E. E. Spencer, M.P.P., at Frelighsburg, Que., to the following effect:

Dear Sir,—Owing to the persistent obstruction of the opposition, the government felt that it would be quite useless to bring down, as they had intended, a resolution with regard to subsidies for new railway projects, amongst which would have appeared a subsidy to the Montreal and Province Line Railway Company, for twenty miles of their railway from the town of Farnham through Frelighsburg and Stanbridge East to the international boundary, a subsidy not exceeding \$3,200 per mile, nor exceeding in the whole \$84,000.

I have every confidence, however, that the next elections will leave the Conservative party in charge of the affairs of the country, and in that event the policy which was thwarted last session by obstruction will be carried to a conclusion, and parliament will be invited to grant the subsidy which I have mentioned.

I am, yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) JOHN HAGGART.

The Montreal and Province Line Railway, which the ex-Minister of Railways stated the government intended to subsidize, is not mentioned in the list of railways in the railway resolutions introduced by the government during the first session of 1896, but is included in the list of railways on file in the Privy Council office, and aggregating the total of \$8,000,000 and upwards, as already stated. A return will have to be moved for if the hon. member desires a copy of the last mentioned list of railways. There was no subsidy voted by the late government for the Quebec bridge from 1892 to 1897.

As to the second part of question No. 2, whether the amount of railway subsidies promised in 1896 was greater than in preceding years, and if so, by how much, if he desires to know the amount of subsidies that were, year by year, voted by the late government, including the land subsidies, from 1882 to 1894, he can only get this information fully by asking for a return. I may say, however, that subsidies were granted in 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894. In 1884, the subsidies granted amounted to \$6,926,000, but in the other years the amount would not be so great as that. The amount of cash subsidies voted in 1894 was \$4,679,360. There were, in the years 1884, 1885 and 1892, special subsidies granted. That granted in 1884 was \$250,000 a year for twenty years, and one in 1890 of \$80,000 a year for twenty years. Besides these, there were various land grants. The statement would be too lengthy to read, but if

the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dechene) will move for a return, I will furnish the particulars of subsidies, both in cash and in land.

POSTMASTER AT MOOSEJAW.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Has Charles A. Gass been dismissed from the office of postmaster at Moosejaw ? If so, why ? On whose advice was it done ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Yes. Because of political partisanship ascertained as the result of an investigation by the inspector.

YUKON—THE JOHN C. BARR.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER asked :

Referring to the return (Reference No. 26) to an order of the House, dated February 12, 1900, relating to the 'John C. Barr' and the registry of shipping at Dawson, are there reports or papers connected with this subject not brought down ?

(a) If yes, what is the nature of such reports or papers, and why are they not brought down ?

(b) Did an officer of the Customs Department make a special examination into this case, and if so, why was his report not brought down ?

(c) Was an inquiry made into the case of the 'John C. Barr' and the alleged fraudulent undervaluation for customs purposes ?

(a) If so, by what officer and when ?

(b) Has any report on such inquiry been received ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). There are reports and papers connected with this subject not brought down, which are now being copied, and which will be brought down without delay. The delay has been owing to an oversight in treating the order as having reference only to reports and papers in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. The papers to be brought down will give the further information asked for in this inquiry.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PAYMENT OF COLONIAL TROOPS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Has the attention of the government been called to a recent announcement in the British House of Commons that the Australian cavalry now on their way to the Cape are to be allowed, in addition to the Imperial rates of pay, certain local allowances which will give them equivalent to five shillings a day for privates ?

2. Has the government inquired as to the conditions upon which these local allowances are to be made in South Africa, and if paid by the Imperial authorities, is it the intention to apply them to the Canadian Mounted Infantry in South Africa ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The attention of the government has not been called to this matter.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLOTHING.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Is the government aware that the War Office has recently issued a communication to the Bri-

tish public, pointing out that the winter season is setting in in South Africa, and inviting contributions of warm clothing for British forces, including Cardigan jackets, flannel shirts, wool-len drawers and vests, Tam-o'-Shanters, neck mufflers, &c. ?

2. Is the government also aware that Lord Roberts has written to local committees in England, asking for supplies of Cardigan waistcoats, socks, flannel shirts, towels, tobacco, jam, chocolate, &c. ?

3. Is the government also aware that it is stated a forward movement on the part of British troops is delayed by Lord Roberts until supplies of warm clothing can be procured for his troops ?

4. Has the government taken any steps, and if so, what, to supply the different Canadian contingents with clothing suitable for the winter season in South Africa ? If so, when were such steps taken, and what are they ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. The government is not aware that such a communication has been issued as referred to in the first question. 2. The government is not aware that Lord Roberts has written to local committees asking for supplies, &c. ; but I presume what the hon. gentleman means, is that certain societies, such as the Red Cross Society and others, have asked the War Office, as they have this government, what supplies would be suggested or recommended as suitable to be sent as presents to the soldiers in South Africa. If the hon. gentleman's question alludes to that, the government is aware of that fact, and the Department of Militia has answered many questions of that kind in the sense mentioned in the question, recommending the articles referred to, or some of them. 3. The government has no knowledge why a forward movement on the part of the British troops under Lord Roberts has not been made. The government has reason to believe that there are supplies of warm clothing now at Cape Town being forwarded to the troops at Bloemfontein and other points. 4. The government has taken steps to forward jerseys and underclothing to the Canadian troops in South Africa.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NUMBERS IN CANADIAN CONTINGENTS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Is the government aware that, according to an official statement made by the Imperial authorities, the number of men furnished by each of the colonies to the forces in South Africa, is given as follows :

Cape Colony, 15,000 ; Natal, 7,000 ; Australasia, 3,790 ; Canada, 2,820 ; Ceylon, 820 ; India, 250 ?

2. Does the number of men credited to Canada properly represent the contribution by the Dominion to the forces of the British army in South Africa ?

3. Or, is not the number included in the first and second contingents, Strathcona's Horse, and the men sent to replace those of the first contingent who were killed or wounded or incapacitated in any way, largely in excess of the number announced by the Imperial authorities ?

4. Has the government taken any steps to correct the erroneous official statement recently given out ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. No official statement of any kind has been received by the government with reference to this matter. That answer applies to all the four questions.

PAYMENTS TO W. T. O'DONAHUE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Whether W. T. O'Donahue, of Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi, or some other person, has been employed since the 1st March, 1899, as caretaker of the dredge boat at Roberval ?

2. If so, how much does the government pay per day or per month ?

3. What is the total amount paid for this service to the said O'Donahue or to any other person, since the date aforesaid ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Mr. O'Donahue acted as caretaker for four months at \$20 per month, receiving in all \$80. From last December to date, the caretaker was Mr. A. Poitras, at \$20 per month, and has received \$60.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Whether W. T. O'Donahue, of Roberval, in the County of Chicoutimi, is employed by government as agent of the Indians at Pointe Bleue, and since what date ?

2. What is his salary ?

3. What was his predecessor's salary ?

4. How much has been paid him in connection with this position, by way of salary, travelling expenses, or otherwise since his appointment, and up to date ?

5. Is it true that he is not compelled to reside within the Indian reserve, like his predecessors, and why ?

6. If not, why does he not do so ?

7. On whose recommendation was he appointed ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Mr. W. T. A. Donahue is Indian agent at Pointe Bleue, his appointment dating from the 19th August, 1899. 2. \$400 per annum. 3. \$400 per annum. 4. Has been paid \$247.08 salary. He does not receive travelling expenses or other allowance. 5. Yes. Mr. Donahue resides at Roberval, 3½ miles from his office on the reserve, which he attends daily. By driving through the reserve twice a day the agent has the Indians quite as much, if not more, under view, than if he resided in the office building on the reserve. As the Indians frequently visit Roberval, the agent has had his office and dwelling connected by telephone, so that he loses no time when called to either place, to attend to matters relating to the Indians. 6. Answered by No. 5. 7. By the representative of the district.

PAYMENTS TO DR. CONSTANTINE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

What moneys have been paid to Dr. Constantine, of Roberval, as physician to the Indians of La Pointe Bleue, in the county of Chicoutimi, since January 1, 1899, or in any capacity whatsoever ?

Mr. CLARKE.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The following amounts have been paid to Dr. Constantine, of Roberval, physician to the Indians of Pointe Bleue, since the 1st January, 1899 :

March quarter, 1899.....	\$200 00
June quarter, 1899.....	206 50
September quarter, 1899.....	291 50
December quarter, 1899.....	150 50

Total..... \$848 50

PAYMENTS TO C. O. LABRECQUE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. What sums have been paid to Cyr. O. Labrecque, Esq., advocate, of Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, since January 1, 1899 ?

2. Why were the said sums so paid to him ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No payments have been made by the Indian Department to Mr. C. O. Labrecque, advocate, of Roberval, since 1st January, 1899.

DREDGE AT ROBERVAL.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. What prices were paid to W. T. O'Donahue, of Roberval, or any other person, for lumber to be used in building of scows to be used in connection with the dredge on Lake St. John, county of Chicoutimi, during the winter of 1898-9 ?

2. Were tenders asked for as regards the said lumber ?

3. If so, of whom ?

4. If not, why not, and on whose recommendation was the making of the said lumber awarded, and to whom ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. The following quantities of lumber were purchased : 46,003 feet of lumber at \$20 per 1,000 ; 1,404 feet of lumber at \$30 per 1,000 ; 350 feet timber, 9 x 9, at 10 cents per lineal foot. To the balance of the question the answer is as follows : The making of the lumber in question was awarded to Mr. Donahue, upon the recommendation of the Assistant Superintendent of Dredging, who, when being on the spot, made inquiries as regards the lumber in question, and reported that the price offered by Mr. Donahue was lower than that for which it could be obtained in Quebec, while in the vicinity of Roberval no other one could be found to supply that lumber in the quantity required at a cheaper rate.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. What is the total cost of the dredge at Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi ?

2. Were tenders asked for, for the building of the said dredge, and of whom ?

3. If so, what was the amount of each tender ?

4. Is it true that the work done upon the said dredge is defective, and that part of the material used is to be replaced by other material ?

5. If so, why was the requisite machinery not put in forthwith ?

6. What is to be the cost of the new machinery ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. \$7,600. 2 and 3. The only ten-

der asked for was from Messrs. Beatty & Sons, of Welland, who make a specialty of the construction of clam-shell dredges, the then chief engineer having reported their tender price to be fair and reasonable. 4, 5 and 6. No. The dredge was constructed as designed and specified, and the work was well done, but after experience, it has been thought that a bucket with arm would be more useful to do work in such material as composed the bottom of Lake St. John, than the clam which was first designed and put on the vessel. This change has, however, not yet been made.

DREDGE ON LAKE ST. JOHN.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Did the dredge on Lake St. John, in the county of Chicoutimi, work during the past season ?
2. If so, how many yards of earth or other material did it remove ?
3. How many persons were employed on the said vessel during the work ?
4. What is the amount of wages paid during the summer of 1899, and of all whatsoever payments in connection with the said dredge, before, during and after its working season ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. 3,480 yards. 3. Five men on the dredge—one cook—two men on the tug and one scow-man—in all 9 men. 4. The amount paid in wages was \$687.29, and the total amount of the other payments \$741.44.

NORTH SHORE TELEGRAPH LINE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Did the government give instructions to any persons at Chicoutimi, or at Lake St. John, to get out telegraph posts and other small cedar timber, eight feet long and upwards, in connection with the North Shore telegraph line ?
2. If so, what are the prices paid for the said timber ?
3. Who were the persons appointed to get out the said timber ?
4. Were tenders asked for, and from whom ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1, 2, 3 and 4. The government gave no instructions to any persons at Chicoutimi or Lake St. John, to get out telegraph posts or other small cedar timber for the North Shore telegraph line. The contract for the poles and braces was made with Mr. L. P. de Courval, the poles being paid for at the rate of 80 cents per pole, and the braces 10 cents each.

WHARF AT PERIBONKA.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Is the government aware that, during the month of September, 1899, there was no water at the wharf built at Peribonka, in the county of Chicoutimi, and that the boat doing the service of the locality was unable to reach it during one-half the time ?
2. Why was the wharf located at an inaccessible point ?

3. Who was entrusted with the locating of the said wharf ?

4. Is it true that Hon. Mr. Marchand, Prime Minister of the province of Quebec, when visiting Peribonka in September last, represented to the Dominion government that the money spent on the said wharf was completely lost and that he recommended the building of a new wharf, one mile towards the south, the only point which vessels can reach at all times ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). No. There was always water at the wharf at Peribonka, but some little distance from it, owing to the shifting nature of the bottom of Lake St. John, a sand bar has formed, which impedes the access to the wharf by the boats. When it has been possible to utilize at that place, the services of the dredge now on Lake St. John, it will, as well as at other points, be perfectly easy to reach the wharf. The resident engineer reports that the wharfs have been located in the best available position ; that there is 6 feet of water at low water, when the lake is very low, and that the location is most satisfactory, he having heard, up to the present time, of no complaints. The information given in reply to this question may also be taken to serve for an answer to question No. 19.

INSPECTION OF TUBERCULOUS CATTLE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Has the government paid to one Hall, a veterinary surgeon of Quebec, any sums of money for inspecting tuberculous cattle, in the county of Chicoutimi, since 1896 ?
2. If so, what amount ?
3. Has any money been paid to one D. Ouellet in connection with such inspection ?
4. If so, what amount ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The government has employed one Hall to inspect tuberculous cattle in the county of Chicoutimi. 2. He has been paid since 1896, sums amounting to \$3,218.54. 3. A sum has been paid to Mr. Ouellet, in connection with such inspection, out of the above named sum. 4. The sum paid to Mr. Ouellet was \$226.50.

PAYMENTS TO MR. L. P. BILODEAU.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Has L. P. Bilodeau, of Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi, received any sum of money from the government since June, 1896, and up to date ?
2. If so, for what, and what amount ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. A cheque for \$175 was issued to Mr. L. P. Bilodeau by the Indian Department on the 29th March, 1898, under a power of attorney held by him from Mr. C. O. Labrecque, to whom this amount was due for legal services in connection with liquor prosecutions.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). In reference to question No. 20, the Deputy Minister of Public Works has given

me an answer as well, which is as follows: 1. Yes. 2. \$851.55, being for two freight sheds at Mistassini and St. Méthode, for timber for the Lake St. John piers and supply of tallow and oil for the dredge.

RATES CHARGED BY HOTELS CLAREAU AND TREMBLAY.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Why does an employee of the Public Works Department charge, at page Q—239 of the Auditor General's Report, 1897-8, \$2 per day for board at the house of J. A. Clareaux, when the highest price at that house is \$1 per day, and when another employee of the same department charges, at page Q—241 of the said report, \$1 per day for board at Martin's Hotel, in the same place?

2. Why, at page Q—239 of the report, do we find at the Tremblay Hotel, at Roberval, in the county of Chicoutimi, by an employee of the said department, \$2.50 per day?

3. Is the government or the department aware that the usual price charged to travellers at the said hotel is \$1.50 per day?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1, 2 and 3. The department is not aware of the rates charged by the Hotels Clareaux and Tremblay. It is in possession, however, of a receipt for the amount paid for board at the above rates by the officer in question.

MR. PIERRE A. POTVIN.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Who is the person designated at page Q—146 of the Auditor General's Report, 1897-8, under the name P. A. Potvin, to whom a sum of \$232.75 was paid for lumber?

2. Is the government aware that no person of that name has ever been heard of at Rivière à la Pipe or in the vicinity?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The department is informed that Mr. Pierre A. Potvin is a resident of Roberval who had purchased the timber, which he sold to the department, at Rivière à la Pipe, and therefore dated his account from that place.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—PAYMASTER IN CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Have the explanations asked for by the Auditor General, at page Q—269 of his report for 1897-8, as to certain receipts furnished by the paymaster, Dr. Ed. Savard, of Chicoutimi, in the county of Chicoutimi, been given by the Department of Public Works?

2. If so, what is the nature of the said explanations?

3. If not, why have explanations been refused?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. In the letter referred to it will be noticed that the Auditor General asks for a copy of the instructions issued to the paymasters. Those instructions were then in the course of being prepared and printed.

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ed, and as soon as they were completed a copy thereof, as requested, was sent to the Auditor General. The only fault with the pay-sheet in question was that the names written by the paymaster were not accompanied by a cross and the words 'sa marque,' as usual when a party does not sign his name. Since the issue of the instructions above referred to this rule of putting a cross has been faithfully observed by Paymaster Savard. It may be added that upon the face of the pay-sheets referred to is found the following certificate: 'Je certifie que es personnes susmentionnées ont été payées en ma présence. Signé: Alphonse Pedneault, conducteur.'

PAYMENTS TO MESSRS. BEAUCHEMIN, BICKERDIKE AND OTHERS.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. On what grounds were the amounts paid I. H. Beauchemin, Bickerdike and others, under the heading 'Rec. without details,' at page 236 of the Auditor's Report, 1898-9, so paid?

2. Were all these sums charged to the de Courval contract, or were they extra expenditure?

3. What are the charges incumbent on the said de Courval under his contract for the construction of the telegraph line?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Messrs. Beauchemin and Bickerdike, and others, were on the staff of Mr. Perron, the surveyor and engineer who made the survey of the Labrador coast from Pointe aux Esquimaux eastward before the award of the contract for the completion of the telegraph line to Belle Isle. 2. The payment of these sums had nothing to do with the contract awarded to Mr. de Courval. 3. The charge incumbent on Mr. de Courval was the supply of the poles, the clearing of right of way, the planting of the poles, the placing of the brackets and insulators, and the stringing of the wire.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. P. A. PERRON.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

Who are the persons having the confidence of the hon. Minister of Public Works, referred to by the hon. Postmaster General, in his reply, at page 1799 of 'Hansard,' March 12 last, in relation to the appointment of P. A. Perron?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The persons referred to are gentlemen in whom the Minister of Public Works had perfect confidence.

PURCHASE OF PROVISIONS FROM DROUIN FRERES ET CIE.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. From whom were the provisions purchased from Drouin Frères et Cie to the amount of \$974.71, as shown at page Q—226, Auditor's Report, 1898-9, intended?

2. Is that amount outside of the de Courval contract?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. For the surveying party which was despatched in the fall of 1898 to examine and report for the location of the telegraph line eastwards of Pointe aux Esquimaux to Belle Isle. 2. The amount in question has nothing to do with Mr. de Courval's contract.

CONSTRUCTION OF TELEGRAPH ON NORTH SHORE OF ST. LAWRENCE.

Mr. **CASGRAIN** asked :

1. How many miles of telegraph line were constructed on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, east of Pointe aux Esquimaux, during the summer of 1899?

2. How much money has been paid out in connection with this work, under any and every head, and to whom?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. 31 miles. As No. 2 of this question will represent quite an extended statement. It would probably be advisable that a motion be made for the necessary return.

REBATE ON BICYCLES EXPORTED.

Mr. **CLARKE** asked :

What is the amount of the rebate paid on bicycles exported from Canada in the fiscal years ending June 30, 1898 and 1899, and the amount paid to each firm in each of the above years?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). Drawbacks paid in fiscal years 1898 and 1899 on bicycles exported :

Name of Firm.	Fiscal year, 1898.	Fiscal year, 1899.
Welland Vale Mfg. Co., St. Catharines, Ont.....	\$1,253 94	.....
New Barnes Cycle Co. (Ltd.), Woodstock Ont..	82 26	.....
Canadian Typograph Co., Windsor, Ont.	174 88	.....
Massey-Harris Co. (Ltd.) Toronto, Ont.	4,059 18	\$2,101 45
Goold Bicycle Co., Brantford, Ont.	2,132 19	2,089 71
Total	\$7,693 45	\$4,191 16

PURCHASE OF HORSES FOR SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. **CLARKE** asked :

1. Has the attention of the government been called to a special despatch from New York, dated April 9, and which appeared in the Toronto 'Star' of yesterday, as follows:

(Special to the Toronto 'Star.')

'New York, April 9.—It is reported that an agent of the British government will sign a contract this week for the delivery of 50,000 horses in South Africa by July 1. It is said a firm of well-known horse dealers will provide the animals, and they are already preparing to collect the great number required. According to the rumours, the horses will be shipped directly from this port to Cape Town. The average price of the horses is \$100.'

2. Have the government taken any, and if so, what, steps to direct the attention of the Imperial authorities to the fact that large numbers of

suitable horses may be procured in Canada for the use of the army?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I may say that the government has no information in regard to the newspaper paragraph which is contained in this question. The government, through both the Minister of Militia and the Minister of Agriculture, has repeatedly brought to the attention of the Imperial War Office through the High Commissioner, Lord Strathcona, the suitability of Canadian horses for military purposes in South Africa, and the large number of such horses which are available for purchase in this country.

AVERAGE RATE OF DUTY ON SUGARS.

Mr. **HENDERSON** asked :

What was the actual average rate of duty per hundred pounds collected in the year ended June 30, 1899, on all sugars, n.e.s., not above No. 16 D.S., in colour ?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). The actual average rate of duty per hundred pounds collected during the fiscal year as per Trade and Navigation Returns, 1899, on 'Sugar, N.E.S., not above No. 16 D.S., in colour, sugar drainings, or pumpings drained in transit, melado or concentrated melado, tank bottoms and sugar concrete,' was nearly 66½ cents.

MR. W. E. PHIN.

Mr. **CLANCY** asked :

1. Has W. E. Phin had any work from the government, by contract or otherwise, than the dredging at Toronto?

2. If so, were tenders asked for such work ?

3. What amount has been paid the said Phin to date, and for what services?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. Phin, as a partner of Mr. Magann, has been awarded the contract for the extension of the western pier of the eastern entrance to the harbour of Toronto. 2. Yes. Tenders were asked for this work. 3. No payment has yet been made to the contractors.

MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN LILLOOET AND LYTTON, B.C.

Mr. **PRIOR** asked :

1. Has the Postmaster General decided yet whether he will establish a mail service between Lillooet and Lytton, in British Columbia?

2. If so, has he decided whose tender he will accept for that service from those received in January last?

3. If so, whose tender has been accepted and what is the amount of said tender?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). The question of establishing this service still engages the attention of the department ; a tender, therefore, has not yet been accepted.

L.C.R.—CHARGES AGAINST BY C.P.R. AND G.T.R.

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. What was the total amount of charges on 'General Account' which the Canadian Pacific Railway had against the Intercolonial Railway for the year ending June 30, 1897, and for which the Intercolonial Railway accounted to the Canadian Pacific Railway? What was the total amount of said charges for the year ending June 30, 1899?

2. What was the total amount of charges on 'General Account' which the Grand Trunk Railway had against the Intercolonial Railway for the year ending June 30, 1897, and for which the Intercolonial Railway accounted to the Grand Trunk Railway; and what was the total amount of said charges for the year ending June 30, A.D. 1899?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. The amount of charges on 'General Account,' which the Canadian Pacific Railway had against the Intercolonial Railway for the year ended June 30, 1897, and for which the Intercolonial Railway accounted to the Canadian Pacific Railway, was \$16,824.36. The total amount of said charges for the year ended June 30, 1899, was \$1,812.31. 2. The total amount of charges on 'General Account,' which the Grand Trunk Railway had against the Intercolonial Railway for the year ended June 30, 1897, and for which the Intercolonial Railway accounted to the Grand Trunk Railway, was \$31,475.15. The total amount of said charges including rentals for the year ended June 30, 1899, was \$259,961.17.

PARIS EXPOSITION—CANADIAN BUILDINGS.

Mr. WILSON asked :

1. What is the total cost to date, so far as ascertained, of the Canadian buildings at the Paris Exposition?

2. What was the estimated cost of these buildings?

3. What was the cost of the Canadian buildings at the Columbian Exposition, 1893?

4. Do the Canadian buildings at Paris give less space for exhibits than was afforded by the Canadian buildings at Chicago?

5. How much will be required to complete and thoroughly equip all the Canadian buildings at Paris?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In the sense which apparently is here intended there are no Canadian buildings at the Paris Exposition. There is a building there erected for the accommodation of the British colonies, a portion of which Canada occupies. That building is to be paid for by the British colonies, in proportion to the amount of space in it which each colony occupies. The Canadian proportion of this colonial building, on the statement of the Imperial commissioners who have been charged with its direction, is \$82,753. There is also a building at Vincennes for the accommodation of agricul-

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tural implements, for which the Canadian commission will have to pay \$5,000. There is a special addition to the colonial building first mentioned for which we will have to pay \$1,500, to provide cold storage plant, and an additional \$1,250 for further office accommodation, making a total of \$90,483 for that portion of the buildings which Canada is to occupy. In addition to this, I must explain that Canada is occupying certain space amongst the Imperial exhibits for which also we have to pay at the same rate that the exhibitors coming from other parts of the British Empire pay. In answer to the third part of the question—

Mr. MONTAGUE. Before the hon. gentleman leaves that part, did I understand him to say that for the space which we occupy we pay \$90,000?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. More than that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How much?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The figures have not been supplied to me as to the space occupied by us amongst the Imperial exhibits. That was not included in the question and I have not the detail of that charge here. It will amount, I believe, to something like \$15,000 or \$16,000 more, but I am speaking from memory in regard to that. It is at a fixed rate per square foot, just the same as the exhibitors from other parts of the British Empire pay for that space amongst the general exhibits.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Was it built by the Imperial government?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think the hon. gentleman does not understand that the buildings at Paris are put up by the Parisian commissioners for the exhibition, and that they charge so much space to every country who exhibits in them. But the British colonies have had the permission to erect, through the agency of the Imperial commission, a special building for the colonies, for which I have already given the House the figures. The third question is, as to the cost of the Canadian buildings at the Columbian exhibition, and the answer is: \$26,354.82. That building was not a building for the purpose of containing exhibits. It was a building for the Canadian officials and offices and reception rooms, and did not contain any of the Canadian exhibits which competed at the Chicago exhibition. The total space which Canada had allotted to her for exhibits at Chicago was 125,000 square feet. The fifth question, as to how much will be required to build and thoroughly equip all the Canadian buildings at Paris, I cannot answer at the present date.

Mr. WILSON. Would the minister answer the second question, as to what the estimate was?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have answered that; the estimated cost to Canada is \$90,483.

Mr. WILSON. What was the original estimate?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is a contract.

MILITIA REPORT FOR 1899.

Mr. CLARKE asked:

1. What period of time does the Militia report for 1899 cover, and to what date does it come down?
2. On what date was the completed manuscript of the report sent to the Queen's Printer, and at what date was the final revise returned from the Queen's Printer?
3. Has the whole or any part of the report been printed? If so, on what date was the printing completed?
4. When will the report be distributed?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The annual report of the Militia Department is made up of several reports. All of these reports cover the time down to the 31st of December, 1899, except that for the cartridge factory, and that of the accounts branch which goes to the 30th of June, 1899. I am not able to give the dates asked for, in the second question. As to the third question, the whole of the report is in the hands of the printer now, but the revision has not been made. I hope, however, that the report can be distributed some time next week.

WENCESLAS LABEL.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Whether there is a person named Wenceslas Label in the employment of the government in the Inland Revenue Department or any other department?
2. If so, what is the amount of his salary?
3. Is the government aware that the said Wenceslas Label spent the greater part of his time, this spring, supervising the revision of the voters' lists in the interest of the Liberal party?
4. Did he perform the said work with the consent of his Minister?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). There is no person by the name of Wenceslas Label in the Inland Revenue Department, nor in any other department so far as I have been able to ascertain by referring to the Civil Service List for 1899.

NEW CARLISLE WHARF.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked:

1. Has the sum of \$2,000 voted last year (1899) for the wharf at New Carlisle been expended?
2. If so, to whom was it paid?
3. If not, why has not the said sum been expended?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. The sum in question is now being expended. 2. No payment yet made. 3. The present time, when there is no traffic

on the wharf has been thought to be the best to perform the work.

OAK POINT LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

When were tenders for Oak Point lighthouse, King's County, N.B., asked for, and at what time were they to be submitted to the department?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The 16th of September, 1899. Tenders were to be submitted to department up to 29th of September, 1899. They were laid before the minister on his return from England in November with a report that in consequence of the advanced season the work should be postponed.

STRATHCONA CONTINGENT—LOSS OF HORSES.

Mr. OLIVER asked:

1. Has the government knowledge that one hundred and sixty-three horses of the Strathcona contingent died on the way to South Africa?
2. Is the government aware whether or not the cause of death was the alleged unfitness of a large number of the horses for the service?
3. Does the Government propose to make any inquiry into the matter, to decide as to the cause of such a heavy loss amongst the horses?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). This is a matter with which the government had nothing whatever to do. The selection of horses was made by Dr. McEachran under instructions from Lord Strathcona, and all arrangements for bringing the horses down here from the west, for embarking them at Halifax and with reference to their transport to South Africa were made under the direction of Dr. McEachran, who was appointed for the purpose by Lord Strathcona.

HORSES FOR THE BRITISH ARMY.

Mr. OLIVER asked:

1. Is the government aware that the British army authorities are purchasing a very large number of horses in the United States, South America and Australia, for service in South Africa?
2. Is the government aware if these authorities are purchasing horses for this service in the Canadian west?
3. What means, if any, have been taken to inform the British army authorities that there are large numbers of suitable horses to be had in the Canadian west?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The government has no means of information other than that within the public reach as to where the British army are purchasing their horses. We are not aware that the British authorities are purchasing horses in the Canadian west. The government, however, through the Minister of Militia and through the Minister of Agriculture, have repeatedly urged upon the Imperial War Office through the High

Commissioner in London, Lord Strathcona, that we have an abundance of suitable horses for military purposes in South Africa and that we would like to see the Imperial authorities purchasing these horses in Canada as much as possible.

THE PAY OF THE STRATHCONA CONTINGENT.

Mr. OLIVER asked :

1. What rate of pay are the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Strathcona contingent receiving while on service in South Africa ?

2. From what sources, and in what proportions, will their pay be derived ?

3. What separation allowances are being paid to dependents of the members of the Strathcona contingent, and from what sources does the payment come ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The answer to the first question is : The rate of pay is the Imperial rate. The answer to the second question is : The Imperial government. As to the third question, there are no separation allowances for the reason that Lord Strathcona's Horse is made up exclusively of unmarried men.

S. CHILDS WILSON—REGINA.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Was Mr. S. Childs Wilson, now of Regina, employed at any time as a member of the 'Hansard' staff ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The government have no information at all upon this subject. I presume that the Debates Committee would be the department from which my hon. friend should inquire.

THE HALIFAX GARRISON.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

Are the supplies and provisions required for the maintenance of the regiment now garrisoning Halifax procured from the contractors who furnished supplies to the Imperial authorities ? Or, if not, are the supplies procured by public tender ? If so, when were the supplies advertised for, in what paper did the advertisements appear, and to whom were the contracts for supplies awarded ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The greater part of the supplies of provisions are being obtained from the contractors furnished by the Imperial authorities. No public tenders have been asked for yet, and of course there were no advertisements.

OPENING OF THE CANALS.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals to a very important letter which I have just received :

Mr. FISHER.

Kingston, Ont., April 16, 1900.

Geo. Taylor, Esq.,

Gananoque.

Dear Sir,—We have been trying to find out when the Welland and St. Lawrence canals will open. So many dates have been given that we are entirely in the dark concerning it.

We have 48,000 bushels of wheat due in Montreal about the 26th April. The steamer will be there on the 24th or 25th ; she is advertised to sail in April. We understand that the Lachine Canal will not open until the first of May. This would probably oblige us to cancel our freight and sale, which would cause us a very serious loss. We consider that the St. Lawrence canals should be open as soon as the steamers can arrive in Montreal, and the whole trade figure upon this being the case yearly. Cannot you see the department and get them to open the canal so that we can do our business ?

We are going to have a very heavy forwarding business in May. There are a couple of steamers to load in Toledo with corn. These steamers are now on Lake Ontario, and expected they would be able to go through Welland Canal as usual on the 20th April. This would bring the goods here so as to be in Montreal the first of May. Space is taken on the ocean steamer of that date. There are a number of steamers on this lake that will be held back until the Welland Canal is open.

With the small amount of Canadian tonnage we think the government should give our lake steamers all the opportunities to trade that are possible. At the best the season is short ; why should it be curtailed from five to eleven days ? There must be nearly a million bushels of tonnage on this lake, to go up through the Welland, which cannot of course do so until the Welland Canal is open. Use what influence you can with the department to get the canal open on the 20th or 22nd April at the latest.

Yours truly,

JAMES RICHARDSON & SONS.

I may say that I applied to the department to-day, and the information I received was that the Welland Canal will not open till the 25th of April and the Lachine Canal not till the 1st of May. If so, these parties who write to me, and who are large grain men, say they will certainly lose the sale of 48,000 bushels of wheat which they are under contract to deliver at Montreal late in April.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, this is the same class of question that arises with great regularity every spring. There is always a very urgent pressure brought to bear upon the department to open the canals at the earliest possible date, without regard to any other consideration—whether or not proper repairs have been made, whether or not the ice is out, or other considerations which must control. The present year is no exception to the general rule in that regard ; yet the department is making arrangements to have the canals opened at the very earliest possible moment. We have no interest and no object to serve in delaying one hour beyond the time when they can be made available. The dates which have been stated by the hon. gentleman are those that have been settled upon, and we have taken adequate means to notify the public so that

there may be no doubts on the subject. The Welland Canal is to be opened on the 25th of April, the intermediate St. Lawrence between the Welland and the Lachine on the 27th of April, and the Lachine Canal on the 1st of May. The hon. gentleman says that arrangements have been made by this shipper which will have to be cancelled unless the Welland Canal is opened at once. Our information is that at the present moment there is not less than thirteen feet of solid ice at the entrance to the canal and at the mouth of what we may call the harbour at Port Colborne.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think you had better go to Port Maitland yet.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is probably just as much ice at Port Maitland, where the ice-making forces are in operation as well as at Port Colborne. The officers of the department have doubts whether it will be possible to get the Welland Canal opened on the 25th of April, owing to the ice and other conditions. It is imperatively necessary that a few days should intervene between the unwatering of the canal and the opening of it for purposes of navigation. The unwatering of it cannot take place until very near the open season, and then we require to make certain repairs without which the canal might fail us at a critical time during the season. If we failed to make the necessary repairs, we would lay ourselves open to severe criticism if anything occurred by reason of those repairs not having been made. So that taking everything into consideration, it must be clear, I think, to every one who is not blinded to every other interest than just the one interest moving him at the moment, that it is the interest, the desire and the determination of the department to have the canals opened just as soon as they possible can be opened.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the government to an item that appears to-day in the *Montreal Gazette* and in other papers:

Victoria, B.C., April 17.—Japanese are still pouring in here. The steamer 'Riojun Maru' brought 800, and the big liner 'Goodwin' 1,100. The steamer 'Milos' brought eighty more, and the 'Braemer' at the end of this week will bring more than 700.

The labour leaders are agitating against this great influx of Orientals, but it is said that the provincial and Dominion parliaments are powerless to enact legislation to keep out the Japanese.

Mr. Martin, the British Columbia Premier in a speech Sunday night, said that if re-elected he would see that legislation was passed restricting this immigration.

Yokohama advices brought by the steamer 'Riojun Maru,' indicate that charitable societies, and possibly the municipal governments of

Japanese cities, are taking a hand in the shipping of a large number of Japanese pauper labourers to this country.

I would like the right hon. gentleman's promise that he will have inquiries made with a view to finding out where these Japanese are destined for—whether they are going to stop in Canada or whether they are going across the frontier in to the United States. If this item is correct there seems to be a fearful plague of these Orientals coming into British Columbia, and they are undoubtedly a serious menace to the labour of that country and also to all the inhabitants of Canada. I see that the Premier of British Columbia has stated his intention to bring in legislation to stop it. The right hon. leader of the government told us last year that owing to imperial interests he could not bring in legislation. I only trust that he will do what he can to stop this influx, and I would suggest to him that he should bring in an Act like the Natal Act which Mr. Chamberlain recommended in his letters contained in the blue-book brought down about disallowance.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. gentleman is aware, because he referred to it a moment ago, that last session this question of Japanese immigration was brought to the attention of this House, and that the government stated then that they made a great difference between Chinese immigration and Japanese immigration; that so far as Chinese immigration was concerned, we approved of the restriction placed upon it, and indeed as soon as the Minister of Trade and Commerce returns to his seat, we intend to have a measure on this subject. So far as Japanese immigration is concerned, we stated then that for Imperial reasons, which at that time were approved even in British Columbia, I believe, we had no intention to put such restrictions on Japanese immigration as we had put on other Asiatic immigration. With regard to the other question of my hon. friend, asking me to look into the destination of those Japanese, I am quite sure that the department of the Interior would be only too glad to give the matter its attention.

Mr. PRIOR. In my opinion, they are without doubt paupers, and as such I believe we have the power to deal with them, no matter what country they come from.

The PRIME MINISTER. If they come within the restrictions imposed by our immigration laws, I have no doubt that our officers will attend to them.

CANADIAN HORSES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. JAS. McMULLEN (North Wellington). I would call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to the following paragraph in this morning's *Citizen*:

Toronto, Ont., April 17.—Major Dent, of the British War Office remount department, announced to-day that he has sent out agents to buy in Canada 1,000 cavalry horses, from 15 hands $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 15 hands $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and 500 ponies from 14.1 to 15.1. The animals will be shipped direct from Montreal to Cape Town as soon as they are gathered together. Major Dent was sent to Canada by the Imperial government at the request of Mr. T. C. Patteson, postmaster of Toronto, who is a lover of horse-flesh, and a good judge of it, and who expressed confidence that many suitable animals could be had in Ontario.

I would like to know what authority there is for this announcement, and whether it is true that Major Dent has come to Canada at the request of Mr. Patteson, of Toronto, to buy horses. We will be very glad if he has come for that purpose, but I would like to know whether Major Dent has reported to the government with regard to his coming here.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I noticed the despatch in this morning's *Citizen*, which my hon. friend has cited. Major Dent has not reported to me, or to any other member of the government, that I am aware of, since his arrival. I am not aware that he has come out through the instrumentality of Mr. T. C. Patteson, but, of course, I cannot say anything further on that point.

SPEECHES OF THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to draw the attention of the government to a matter of considerable interest, to which, I think, its attention cannot be directed too soon, in view of the opening of the Paris Exposition, and the presence there of one of our cabinet ministers as our chief commissioner. As I am desirous to give some explanation, I will conclude with the usual motion, although in reality I have but a simple question to ask the government.

Members of this House will remember that shortly after the opening of this session, at a time when we had very great need of the presence of the hon. Minister of Public Works—a need which increases every day as we advance with the business of the session—the announcement was made that on account of the weak state of health of that gentleman, it was necessary for him to take a trip to Europe. I have noticed with pleasure, since I have been a member of this House, that there are some grounds upon which we can meet, and that when it is a question of the health of any hon. member, the sympathy of all parties is aroused. The announcement, therefore, although the hon. minister's departure had the effect of depriving us, at certainly a critical moment, of the services of the Minister of Public Works, although it

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deprived the opposition of a great quantity of explanations, which it is our duty to ask and the country's right to obtain, was received without a word of murmur that I am aware of. But, since the hon. gentleman's departure, he has been active to a degree which would certainly lead any one, even extremely well disposed in his favour, to entertain a serious doubt as to the necessity of this protracted absence at a time when it was his duty to be here. In the organ of that hon. gentleman, not later than yesterday, I find it stated that he is by far the most active and useful man that we possibly could have sent to represent this country at that great exhibition. Opinions will differ on that subject, and I desire to call the attention of the government and this House to the attitude taken by that hon. gentleman almost as soon as this great exhibition opened, and I do it with the object of endeavouring to obtain from this government the exercise of some effective control upon the acts and utterances of the hon. Minister of Public Works whilst he represents this country in France, and when the eyes of the whole world are fixed upon him as the representative, at that great exhibition, of England's greatest colony. I find, on referring to the *Canadian Gazette* of the 5th of April, that the hon. Minister of Public Works left Paris and attended in London a meeting of the Society of Arts, at which, after several prominent men had spoken, he gave utterance to the following language:

Mr. Tarte, who was next called upon, said he had no idea that he was to have the honour of addressing such a distinguished gathering, but he owed Sir Charles Dilke such a debt of gratitude that he did not hesitate to speak unpreparedly. In his last book, 'Greater Britain,' Sir Charles had summed up in a few words the position of the French Canadians. He wished to thank Sir Charles for what he had written there about Canada, especially in reference to Her Majesty's most loyal subjects, the French Canadians. (Hear, hear.) No English statesman had understood the French Canadians so well as Sir Charles Dilke. They were French; their mothers and fathers were French, but they were British to the core. (Loud cheers.) They were just as much British as they were French; and it was to the glory of British institutions to have captured their loyalty as they had done. (Hear, hear.) The lecturer had referred to the rebel Papineau. His old father, he did not mind telling them, had been a rebel. (Laughter.) The French Canadians had now, however, learned to love British institutions. They were building on the other side of the ocean a new British Empire; the English and the French subjects of the Queen in Canada were working harmoniously together, under the same institutions and the same British flag. (Cheers.) The French Canadians had done everything they could to help the empire. He was present at a reception by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Paris last Saturday, when he was introduced to the representative of the Transvaal, and he said to him: 'You will be beaten, and then I hope that the Dutch element will do what the French Canadians have done. When British rule is well established in the Transvaal the

best thing you can do is to take advantage of it.' (Loud cheers.) When peace was established in South Africa he was confident that the greatest freedom would be given to all, the same freedom and the same privileges as they enjoyed in Canada. The French Canadians had occasionally been accused of being disloyal. In fact, quite lately much had been heard of racial troubles, but he warned his hearers not to pay too much attention to the reports, which were mostly the product of the newspapers. He had been a journalist himself, and he knew all about it. (Laughter.) But he took that, the first opportunity he had ever had of speaking to an English audience, to assure the British public that they might rely on the French Canadians just as they might rely on the best citizens of England. (Loud cheers.) They were good British subjects of the Queen, but they would like to be more than that, and to become full-fledged citizens of this great empire. If, however, Canadians were to share the burdens of the British Empire, they should have a voice in Imperial councils. In conclusion, Mr. Tarte drew attention to the fact that he was the first French Canadian who had been admitted to the Imperial Federation League, which he entered in 1888.

Now, Sir, having made this deliverance before an English audience, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) within a delay, I think, of but a few hours, returned to the French capital; and there he had an interview with the representative of a leading French paper, and gave to that representative his views in regard to the people of his own nationality. I find the interview reproduced in the hon. Minister of Public Works' own organ. I will translate it for the House. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), I feel convinced, does not approve of the course of action followed by the Minister of Public Works, a course which no reasonable man, no honourable man, no man having at heart the interests of the country, can approve. But I will call the right hon. gentleman's attention to the language, to the veiled and guarded language, of that interview; and let him and other members of this House who belong to the province of Quebec and are familiar with the French language and able to appreciate and fully understand the ideas that are conveyed by that interview, knowing them to be, those of them, at least on both sides that I have become acquainted with, truthful and sincere men—I leave it to them to appreciate the contradiction between the expression of opinion we find on one side of the channel and the ideas conveyed by this interview on the other side of the channel. This is taken, as I say, from a leading French paper, *Le Journal de Paris*, which, I am sure, many of the members of this House from the province of Quebec are to a certain extent familiar with. The article is entitled 'At Mr. Tarte's home' and it says:

Mr. Tarte, the Minister of Public Works of the Canadian confederation, has just arrived in Paris. His mission is to give a definite character to the organization of the Canadian exhi-

bition. Mr. Tarte is one of the most distinguished personalities, one of the most representative men of that French Canadian agglomeration in British North America, which, under the British flag, and notwithstanding thousands of complications, has succeeded in preserving our language and the best of our ideas. Mr. Tarte was formerly considered, by unanimous opinion of the Canadian people, the first French Canadian journalist in his own country. Today he occupies an official position, but a most important paper, 'La Patrie,' at Montreal, is published by his sons, under his inspiration. The last important act of Mr. Tarte has been to define, in his speech in parliament, the official position of the French Canadians. The government, at the request of Mr. Chamberlain, having sent troops to South Africa without having consulted the sovereign assembly of the people, Mr. Tarte, fortified by constitutional authority, has protested vigorously. Thanks to the kindness of M. Fabre, Commissioner General for Canada, I have been able to obtain, yesterday, with this eminent Canadian public man a favourable interview.

Then follows a paragraph in which a very flattering description of my hon. friend Mr. Tarte's physical appearance is given to the French public. I think it is not necessary for me to read this, as we are all so familiar with the hon. gentleman's appearance. It goes on:

Mr. Tarte is not desirous of giving his opinion upon the South African war. He came to Paris to attend the Canadian exhibition. The situation of political men in Canada is extremely delicate. Frank declarations might perhaps stir up the susceptibilities of the English without satisfying fully the French.

Then the interviewer continues:

'However,' I insisted, 'I express the painful astonishment which we all experienced when we learned that Canada had consented to send troops destined to combat the Boers.'

'But, my dear sir,' said Mr. Tarte, 'you must understand the situation as it is. Get it into your head that the population of French origin is very far, as yet, from forming a majority of the Canadian federation. Now, in a parliament of 216 members 55 only are French Canadians. The others are Englishmen.'

I do not know what my hon. friend from St. Ann's Division, Montreal (Mr. Quinn) will say to that.

But it must be admitted that, considering our number, we are well represented in the present cabinet, since the president of the council, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and myself are French Canadians. It is very possible that in their own minds 99 per cent of the French Canadians disapprove of the South African war, and are of opinion that the money spent by Canada on this occasion might have been expended with much more practical results elsewhere. Yes, that is very possible; but as good citizens we submit without restriction to the opinion of the majority. What the majority decides we respect. What is Canada? In reality it is a republic. Well, in republics minorities must bow to the will of the majority, otherwise nothing could be done. Now let us understand each other. Remember that we are loyal to the British Empire. We are obliged to be so by all sorts of economic and

social reasons. Any Frenchman who has lived in Canada understands this easily. But after all we must admit that the British Empire does not worry us very much. It allows us the liberty of keeping our language and our social groups. Besides, establishing a distinction which may appear a little subtle. Canada has not sent any troops against the Transvaal. It has merely authorized the enrolment of volunteers destined for that expedition. Canada has dressed those volunteers and transported them. This is a very different matter.

Here the interviewer asks:

What was the meaning of your protestation on the subject of the sending of these contingents?

To which Mr. Tarte replies:

The French Canadians do not desire that the sending of a contingent to South Africa without the previous assent of parliament, should in any case be considered a precedent. The exceptional circumstances, which have given rise, moreover, to great controversy, and the desire to lend England a moral rather than a material support, may have justified the action taken by the Canadian government. But we must not consider ourselves as bound for the future. England is as much interested as Canada in elucidating this question, because if she can at will compel the colonies to take part in her quarrels, she will have to accept reciprocity; the colonies might themselves drag England into their own quarrels and carry her beyond the limits which England would feel justified in setting for herself.

Then he goes on. After having been asked whether the French language is disappearing in America, he replies:

It is an absolute error, says Mr. Tarte, becoming animated. There is in Canada a large group of about 2,000,000 French Canadians; and we calculate that there is about a million more in the United States. French Canadian families are gifted with great fecundity. To the perpetual immigration of English colonists they oppose the immense birth rate that is noticeable among them. Already French Canadians have invaded Ontario, a province which has passed as being exclusively English. If English immigration were to diminish, or suppose that English immigrants were attracted to some other newer or richer territory, the French Canadians might after a certain time regain the majority in number.

He goes on to describe in a very interesting manner the habits of the French Canadian people, and observes:

At this moment Canada is more French than it was thirty years ago.

Mr. Tarte is subsequently interviewed by the same gentleman, Mr. Nadeau, upon a strange point. Mr. Nadeau says to him:

Certain French Canadian journals humiliate themselves before the English in a manner that is painful to observe. The 'Patrie' is not in that case, says Mr. Tarte, and he gave me the following article to read.

I think this House is already familiar with that article. In it the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) says:

The tri-colour flag is the flag of the French Canadians as the green flag is the flag of the

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Irish. In future the tri-colour flag will continue to be used in Canada in company with the Irish harp, the Stars and Stripes, and the Union Jack, on all occasions.

The Minister of Public Works concludes:

You see very well that memories of the mother country are still keen in Canada, only we are under the necessity of conducting ourselves politically with wisdom. One must understand our situation.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to give undue importance to these utterances, although they are very important coming from a man in that position. But I wish especially to call the attention of the right hon. gentleman to the immense difference between what was uttered on one side of the channel and what was said on the other, and to call his attention, and the attention of the members of this House, to the consequences which may result from this discrepancy. I will not stultify myself nor impose upon the patience of the members of this House by interpreting these two articles; but I think it must be evident to anybody who reads both these statements that in the first one the Minister of Public Works, the Commissioner to the Exposition, is made to say that his compatriots and my compatriots in this country are entirely satisfied, that they are loyal, that they have nothing to complain of in respect to their position in this country. You will notice, Sir, that he goes further; he emphasizes the expression of this opinion by stating that he is British to the core. If you look at the report of the *Canadian Gazette* you will see that he says what has been stated more than once in this House and out of it, by the right hon. gentleman and other members of his party, stating what I believe to be the case, that we are here people of both races, of both nationalities and of various creeds, working in harmony to build up a great commonwealth; and that the utmost liberty is to be found here. He goes the length of stating in England, as I have quoted, at a time when the eyes and attention of public men are fixed upon these great colonial dependencies, that at any moment England can rely upon the French Canadian people as she can rely upon Englishmen themselves. Now, then, Sir, I call the attention of the House and of my hon. friends who come from the province of Quebec, and who understand the French language to the complete change of front a few hours after this man lands in France, and has occasion to make a deliverance, which members of this House will admit, at the present moment, is of serious importance upon the continent. He immediately creates the impression that it is impossible for him to be frank. If he could be frank and he cannot be, he feels that the sentiments which he has in his heart would, if expressed, annoy the British people and yet would not entirely satisfy France. In a treacherous way he assumes to hold authority from the right hon. Prime

Minister of this Dominion, and having explained the power and strength which as French Canadians entirely, he and the Prime Minister have in the councils of their own country, without explaining that it was by the wish of every section and of all nationalities existing in this country, as expressed by the majority—that the right hon. gentleman was brought to the position he fills to-day—having, I say, armed himself with that authority I leave it to the right hon. Prime Minister, who is such a master of the French language, to say whether he does not declare, in so many words, that he disapproves entirely of the action of the government in the matter of the contingents. It is impossible to arrive at any other conclusion upon examining the language held by the hon. Minister of Public Works with the interviewer. In a kind of half-hearted way he admits that the British Empire does not worry his compatriots. With careful explanations he goes on to diminish, in the eyes of this interviewer, the importance of the action of this government in sending these contingents to Africa. My right hon. friend knows, perhaps, more about the press of the province of Quebec than I do, although I would not be prepared to admit that, but, where is the foundation for this statement made by the hon. Minister of Public Works that a large section, in fact, the whole of the French press in the province of Quebec is obliged to humiliate itself before England? You cannot arrive at any other conclusion. There is not a French paper published in the province of Quebec that I do not read, and I will say this for the French press of the province of Quebec, that, since I have been in a position to read and appreciate the French press of my own province, I have never seen one single example of such a degrading attitude on the part of one of the great French newspapers published in this country. But, this gentleman admits it by qualifying his admission and making an exception in favour of his own organ, and I would call the attention of the House to the point that the interview closes with the veiled statement that the compatriots of the hon. gentleman in the province of Quebec, if they are loyal, are obliged to be so through policy, and that were the circumstances of this country, as regards the question of population and other circumstances different, that feeling of loyalty of which, Mr. Speaker, we have had so many proofs in our own province from men having authority to speak upon this question in this House, is loyalty to be professed through wisdom or policy and not at all from any sincere conviction. I have explained what the action of this commissioner has been, and the exhibition is opened but a few days. I have no political motive whatever.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONK. I will say this to this House that I would be enormously disappointed if the impression were to gain ground that, in calling the attention of the government to this matter, I was moved by a desire to obtain some political advantage.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. MONK. And I will tell you why. I do not believe that this man reflects, in any way, the opinions of either party in this House when he speaks in this manner. I have had proof of it in my own province. Was he not lectured by the Liberal organ in the city of Quebec upon this subject, and how many members of this House from that province have, time and again, found fault with the hon. gentleman for having expressed views similar to those with which I have just, a moment ago, made this House familiar. I would regret to think, that, in the ranks of the great Liberal party, because we must have two parties in this country under our present constitutional regime, this form of duplicity, because I cannot call it anything else, could exist to any greater extent than it exists in the ranks of my own party. If this man had been traversing one of the European countries and had given expression to these views, I would not have thought it worth while, although I think his official position deserves some notice, to bring the matter to the attention of the House. But, let hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House remember that we are only at the beginning of this exhibition, and that the hon. Minister of Public Works occupies there a dual position. He is not merely the commissioner for Canada, although, in that capacity we might hold him to account for this variety of views expressed within the space of a very few hours, but he is there as a minister of the Crown, as an adviser of Her Majesty in this Dominion, and I appeal to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House as well as to hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to say whether this manner of proceeding is one which is going to meet with our approval during the coming months during which, time and again, this hon. gentleman will have occasion to speak and to speak on behalf of his own country, and where great authority will be given to the impressions he may convey. My right hon. friend is well aware, and many members of this House too, no doubt, of what weight is attached in Europe to words falling from the mouth of a minister representing a country under the same circumstances that exist in regard to our representation at the Paris Exhibition. Take alone the question of France—and when I speak of France I speak of a country which I am bound to by many ties, in spite of that separation which has come upon us over 150 years ago—I say I would be sorry to think that a false impression should be created among the thinking men of that

great country by the unreflecting utterances of this man. I do not think it is fair that without any contradiction, he should be allowed to give expression to these views in a country with which Canada has such relations as she has with France. Does the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly) and do hon. gentlemen who sit on the other side who are familiar with French customs and manners, who know what are the qualities which distinguish the French gentleman; do they think that the conduct of a man who would use this language in England and a few hours afterwards use totally different language in France,—do they think that that conduct would be approved of in France if it were known? There is not a gentleman in France who would hear the words pronounced by the Minister of Public Works at that meeting in England, and who would afterwards read his interview with this French paper, who would not taboo the man capable of expressing such different views in such a short interval. There is not a gentleman in France who would not say that a man of that kind was a blatant humbug and a mountebank. Is it in the interests of this country that such a condition of things should be allowed to exist? Looking only at our attitude in regard to the people of the great country to which this man is accredited, is it fair, Sir, even to the French Canadian people whose interests after all are to be principally consulted in this matter? Where are we to land if we do not build up this great country of ours upon a solid foundation, and with the corner stone of truthfulness. Why should this man go into England, and in the hearing, or at any rate to the knowledge of that nation with which we have such close political relations; within the hearing of the great public men with whom we have dealings every hour, why should he go and represent his compatriots in a certain light, and then cross the channel and immediately represent them as an unsatisfied people, as a people who cannot give vent to their aspirations, as a people who are not free because living side by side with them there is a majority of a different race to whom they are obliged to bow, and before whom they are not even free to express their own opinions. Is it right; is it just to the people of his own nationality; is it true? Is there not more truth in what the right hon. the Prime Minister has told us time and again in both provinces, and has told us so eloquently in this House that he was applauded by both sides: That we live in Canada a united people, that for his own part, he has resolved to devote the remainder of his life to the union of the people of the different races in this country, and, that he will die satisfied if that union is effected. Is there anything of that spirit in this interview with Mr. Tarte? Does it not breathe rivalry between the races; does it not announce that

there is one race in this country arrayed against the other. I leave it to hon. gentlemen to judge.

I say therefore, Mr. Speaker, that this language used by the Minister of Public Works is unfair to the people of the province of Quebec. I venture to say that in giving utterance to these views,—views expressed on one side of the channel totally different from the views expressed on the other—that the Minister of Public Works will not meet with the approval of his fellow countrymen of French origin who have preserved many of the traits of their French progenitors, foremost amongst which is frankness and truthfulness. But, Sir, there is something more. In my opinion the language is neither just nor fair to the English-speaking people of Canada. According to the tenor of this interview they are the majority and are capable of defending themselves, but as a matter of justice, is it right or is it true that they have assumed the position set out in this interview towards their French Canadian fellow countrymen? I find none of that in my own province. Both races get on very well together. There is no disposition to oppress, and although I may not speak with authority for the people of the other provinces, I venture to say that if that sentiment which Mr. Tarte speaks of as existing among 99 per cent of the people of his province; if that sentiment had been made manifest I believe it would have been respected by the English speaking people of Canada. I believe there is no desire on their part to terrorize; no desire to impose at whatever cost the will of the majority upon the minority.

I say furthermore, Mr. Speaker, that the language used by the Minister of Public Works is unfair to the people of England. It leads them to a false impression. We know how things are in these great European countries. A writer in England will take up the speech of the Minister of Public Works as it appears in the *Canadian Gazette*; he will make it the subject of an article in an English review and show how Great Britain has managed her colonies with such beneficial results to people of different race, different language and different creed. The same tendency to write on public issues exists in France, and we know what the rich literature of that great country is, and what reviews are produced. A man will take up this interview in France, and he will show conclusively from the uncontradicted words of the Minister of Public Works; that in a colony where Great Britain has a majority of English people she will avail of it to terrorize, to be unjust, and to oppress the minority. That is not fair to the people of England. It is not fair, as I have said, to the people of France with whom we are dealing at the present moment. It is not fair to the people of the province of Quebec. It is not fair to the English-

speaking people of Canada, and it is not fair to the metropolis, and to the people who are busy there with the administration of affairs in this country. Sir, I will not go any further. I believe that if this mode of action on the part of the Minister of Public Works is allowed to go on, we will have a repetition of it frequently. The government has it in its power to put an end to this state of things. I think we are entitled, under these circumstances, to ask the government to interfere and to contradict the false impression which must be created by statements of this kind emanating from a man in such a high position as the Minister of Public Works. I believe the government can easily put an end to this before it proceeds any further. I think it would be extremely unjust to tax the right hon. gentleman who leads the government, to tax a man like the Minister of Inland Revenue, to tax the Postmaster General, or to tax the party itself with the consequences of such conduct as this, but, I believe, that unless the government ceases to remain silent and ceases to condone by its silence the action of our representative in Paris; then, Sir, far from this exhibition being beneficial as it should be to our country, it will be extremely detrimental, and results which we never anticipated will flow from the inaction of the government. I trust that the government will see fit to use authority to put an end to this state of affairs. I beg, Mr. Speaker, to move the adjournment of the House.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just placed this motion in your hands has told us, with a degree of seriousness, which, however, he was unable to maintain to the end, that in bringing these gossipy newspaper reports to the attention of the House he was not animated by any political motive. If the hon. gentleman was not animated by any political motive, he should not have forgotten to tell us what were the true motives which animated him. I followed him very closely, and if I had not his word for it, I would certainly say that he had, in my humble judgment, no other motive than a political one. But, let the motives of the hon. gentleman be whatever they may have been in his own mind, however hostile they may be to the hon. gentleman who is now absent from this House, he will, on reflection, I believe, admit himself that it would have been in better taste, at all events more courageous, I will not say chivalrous, not to have cast any slurs and doubts upon the causes which have forced the Minister of Public Works to leave his duties on the floor of this House and go to another country. The hon. gentleman has not told us in so many words, but he has left no one in doubt as to his own conviction, that the Minister of Public Works was shamming disease—that he was

not ill. Well, Sir, I have only to place myself in the judgment of the House as to that allegation. Is there a man here, whether friend or foe, who has seen the Minister of Public Works for the last six months who will have any doubts as to what were the conditions of the hon. gentleman's health when he left Canada? And, Sir, I will say more. The hon. gentleman is no friend of the Minister of Public Works; but the man does not live, whether friend or foe, who, until this day and until the hon. gentleman spoke, has ever dared to charge the Minister of Public Works with a want of courage. The hon. gentleman knows that of all the charges which can be brought against the Minister of Public Works—and he is not impeccable, whatever my hon. friend who has just addressed the House may be—that is not a sin which can be laid at his door. True it is my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works has been very active since he has been in Europe; but the hon. gentleman knows very well that so long as the Minister of Public Works has a breath in his body, he shall never spare himself; he shall always be active, as he has been. Now, Sir, I come to the newspaper gossip which the hon. gentleman has thought not beneath the dignity of this House to bring to its attention. I must admire the prudence with which my hon. friend has dealt with this subject. He has spoken of the language attributed to the Minister of Public Works as having been delivered in London; but if my memory does not fail me, my hon. friend did not qualify in any degree that language. He referred to it, but did not express any approval or disapproval of it. He passed it over, and passed on to the language attributed to the Minister of Public Works as having been spoken in France; and although he made some qualifications of that, they were very tender and gingerly. The only point on which the hon. gentleman insisted was that there was a contradiction in the language attributed to the Minister of Public Works as spoken in London and as spoken in France. The hon. gentleman said, not in so many words, but by implication, that in England the Minister of Public Works had pandered to English sentiment, whereas in France he had pandered to French sentiment. I have only to ask the hon. gentleman—and I put the question not only to him, but to every other member of this House—is it fair to judge a public man upon newspaper reports of his sayings when he has not had the opportunity of saying whether the report is correct or incorrect? There is not a man in this House who would hold himself responsible for words attributed to him in the public press unless he had an opportunity of saying whether or not he had been correctly reported.

Mr. MONK. The right hon. gentleman must bear in mind that this was published in his own paper.

The PRIME MINISTER. The fact that it was published in *La Patrie* does not alter the case.

Mr. MACLEAN. He inspired it.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is the reporter who says that, and, therefore, the hon. gentleman would hold the Minister of Public Works blamable for it, though no man in this House would hold himself answerable for words attributed to him by a reporter without his having an opportunity of saying whether or not he had been correctly reported. It was stated in the papers some time ago that the Minister of Public Works had had an interview with Dr. Leyds, although, so far as I know, Mr. Tarte never saw Dr. Leyds. Now, I ask hon. members of this House whether it is right and just towards the Minister of Public Works to hold him accountable for words attributed to him, either as delivered in a speech or as spoken to a reporter, under such circumstances? I am sure I can appeal on this point to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, because it is only within a few days that he himself had occasion to correct a report of a speech of his in one of his own organs, the *Quebec Chronicle*. It was only last Saturday week that my hon. friend the leader of the opposition made a speech in the city of Quebec, which I will not qualify or discuss today, because it is not relevant to the question at issue. I will abstain from all comments on that speech which I might otherwise be tempted to make, and will confine myself strictly to the point at issue. In that speech the hon. gentleman, discussing the very intimate relations that might exist between Canada and Great Britain, was reported to have said that if those relations had been in existence this year the contribution of Canada to the defence of the empire would have been \$46,000,000. He did not say \$46,000,000 this year; but the *Quebec Chronicle*, his own organ, omitted the qualification limiting the amount to this year, and made him say that as a general rule the contribution of Canada to the defence of the empire would be that amount. The French papers corrected the report. *Le Journal* and *Le Courrier du Canada* said that what the hon. gentleman meant was that this year, and not as a general thing, the contribution would be \$46,000,000. I ask my hon. friend if it would have been fair to the hon. the leader of the opposition to take him to task for this report before he had the opportunity of correcting it. But this is the very thing which my hon. friend is doing to the Minister of Public Works, without giving him an opportunity to make any defence, without calling upon him to say whether or not he has been correctly reported, the hon. gentleman asks this House to censure him. I appeal to the sense of fairness which must be in the breast of

every man, whether on the one side or the other, whether it would not be most unjust and unwarranted for this House to pass any judgment, before my hon. colleague has had the opportunity of saying whether or not he has been correctly reported. The Minister of Public Works will come back and will stand face to face with his opponents, and I have no doubt will be prepared to take up the cudgels with my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier and defend his position. I have only to ask that we should deal out to the Minister of Public Works that measure of justice which would not be denied to any man on the floor of this House or any where else.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). I have a very few words to add to what the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) has said in moving the adjournment. My right hon. friend spoke of gossipy newspaper reports and tried to treat very lightly this interview which has appeared in a most important French newspaper in Paris. He appeared to think it not deserving the serious attention of this House. But I would ask my right hon. friend, who knows the Parisian press very well, if it is not a fact that *Le Journal de Paris* is one of the most important newspapers published in the French capital, and I would call his attention moreover to the fact that this interview has appeared over the signature of a man well known in the French journalistic profession. If this interview were not correct, if it did not give the sentiments expressed by the Minister of Public Works, this man, under whose signature it appears, would not be able to occupy any longer the eminent position he holds in French journalism. As my right hon. friend knows, Parisian journalism is not at all like the journalism we have on this side. He knows that these articles which are signed, not only represent the ideas of those who write them, but must be most accurate. In fact that is the very reason why it has become the custom in France for journalists to sign their articles.

There is another proof why we can take it for granted that this interview was really given by the Minister of Public Works and that the report accurately gives what he said, and that proof is this. We know very well that these opinions were expressed in this country by the Minister of Public Works before he left our shores; and among other speeches in which the hon. minister gave utterance to them, I could cite the speech he delivered at St. Vincent de Paul. We know further, that the newspaper which, if not edited exclusively by himself, is inspired by him—in which not an important article appears without his supervision—this very paper expresses the same opinions as those to which the hon. gentleman gave utterance in that Parisian in-

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interview. That other organ of the party, *Le Soleil*, published in the city of Quebec, reproduced the interview. My right hon. friend will not say that his friend, Mr. Ernest Pacaud would take it upon himself to publish in the Liberal organ of the city of Quebec an interview with one of the leading members of the administration, a trusted lieutenant of the right hon. gentleman, without knowing that the views expressed in that interview were those really held by that hon. gentleman. *La Patrie* of last evening does not deny one iota of the sentiments expressed in that interview, but, on the contrary, tries to justify them. It does not deny that the hon. Minister of Public Works expressed the views attributed to him in that interview, but, on the contrary, says that if he did give utterance to them, he did what was right. We can take it for granted, therefore, that this interview was really given and correctly reported, and my right hon. friend must admit that the views expressed are those of his colleague, and I say it is most unfortunate that the Minister of Public Works should have been given the opportunity of thus unburdening himself in one of the most influential and widely read papers in the French capital. As my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has said: Here is a gentleman, who is not only the chief commissioner of Canada, representing this great country at the Paris exhibition, where the whole world is represented, but is also a minister of the Crown and a trusted lieutenant of the leader of the government, making public these views in one of the most influential French newspapers. And what does this hon. gentleman say? He says that it is possible under the British constitution for a minister of the cabinet to differ from his colleagues on one of the most important subjects that ever came to their attention and still remain a member of the administration. We have him declaring that it was possible for him, as Minister of Public Works, to differ absolutely from his colleagues on the question of sending troops to the Transvaal, and yet still remain in the administration which despatched these contingents to help the mother country. We have him declaring that it is possible for a cabinet minister to hold the view that the money expended on the contingents could have been used to much better advantage in other ways, and yet still remain a member of the administration. I scarcely think that the right hon. First Minister could endorse any such declaration.

My right hon. friend spoke a moment ago about the motive of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. Why, these motives are quite evident. My hon. friend was not at all impelled by political motives because there is nothing politically to be gained in this matter, but he was impelled by the desire to have these unseemly exhibitions put

a stop to. He was moved by the desire to have a minister of the Crown prevented from expressing views which are utterly at variance with a true understanding of the constitution of the country.

But, however great a mistake the Minister of Public Works committed in talking about the constitution of this country and the sending of the contingents as he did, he made a greater mistake when he said openly in Paris of all places—in the capital of that country which we know is hostile in feeling and sentiment to the British Empire—that 99 per cent of the French Canadians of Lower Canada disapproved of our sending the contingents to Africa. How is it that the first lieutenant, the intimate friend, the most important member of the administration of the right hon. gentleman could go over to Paris, after the speech of my right hon. friend in reply to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), and say that my right hon. friend, in the sentiments he then expressed, only represented 1 per cent of the population of the province of Quebec. Is it true that my right hon. friend's influence has so diminished in that province that it lies in the mouth of one of his own ministers to say that he represents only 1 per cent of those he is more specially called upon to represent in this House? Why, referring to the speech from the Throne, delivered at the beginning of the session, what do we find:

Hostilities having unfortunately broken out during recess between Great Britain and the South African Republic, it appeared to my ministers expedient to anticipate the action of parliament by equipping and forwarding two contingents of volunteers to the seat of war as a practical evidence of the profound devotion and loyalty of the entire people of Canada to the sovereign and institutions of the British Empire.

Is it a fact, Sir, that since that speech was placed in the mouth of His Excellency, the articles written in *La Patrie*, have had such a baneful influence on the minds of the people of the province of Quebec that that sentence is not true? Is it the fact that the act of the government did not indicate the devotion of the entire people of this country towards the Sovereign and the British Empire, but only represents 1 per cent of the people of the province of Quebec? As a French Canadian, I protest against this aspersion cast upon us by the hon. gentleman. I say it is not true that 99 per cent of the French Canadians of the province of Quebec are opposed to the war; it is not true that they say it is an unjust war; it is not true that the sending of the contingents is disapproved of by 99 per cent of the inhabitants of the province of Quebec. And, Sir, I would go further, and say that when the hon. gentleman, speaking as he did to this reporter in Paris, says that the loyalty of the French Canadians is a loyalty forced upon them, that it is not a voluntary

loyalty, he is simply calumniating his fellow-countrymen.

Not to enlarge further upon this subject, I simply say that the motive of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), in bringing this question before the House, and the motive that I have in speaking to it, is that the Minister of Public Works should, as I have said, have some intimation that when he speaks in this way, he does not reflect the views of the administration and the views of Canada. And, if it is impossible to repress him, if he is so irrepressible that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), has lost influence over him, the duty of the administration is to call him back as soon as possible, so that he may not any longer compromise the good name and reputation of Canada and especially of the French Canadians.

Motion (Mr. Monk) to adjourn, negatived.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH TRINIDAD.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I had anticipated to-day presenting to the House some statement respecting the negotiations with the colony of Trinidad and laying on the Table the papers in relation to that subject. I regret, however, that I am unable to carry out my intention in that respect, the reason being that the correspondence is to some extent of a confidential nature, and I have not been able to obtain the consent of the government of Trinidad to bring down that portion of it. I have made application, and, as soon as their consent is obtained, the papers will be laid before the House.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call attention to an item that appears in the *Montreal Gazette* of this morning, as follows :

London, April 17.—Suspected cases of foot and mouth disease have been found among United States cattle at Deptford. It is expected the market will be closed to them after April 30.

There was no market for cattle or sheep to-day.

I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) if his attention has been called to this matter, and, if so, what steps have been taken to prevent the importation of this disease into Canada, as I understand that the regulations respecting the importation of cattle from the United States are such that it would be a very easy matter for the disease to be imported into this country.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). My attention has not been called to the article in question, nor have I heard of cattle exported to England being infected

Mr. CASGRAIN.

with the foot and mouth disease. But I have given instructions by which ships leaving Canada with cattle, shall be so protected as to insure the safety from such attacks of cattle aboard them.

Mr. SPROULE. But how about cattle coming into Canada ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will attend to that.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont.) Mr. Speaker, it is with a little hesitation that I rise to continue the discussion on the budget, for the reason that it has been so thoroughly discussed that I fear that no new points or anything of particular interest to the House can be brought out. Still, the budget debate is one that always arouses a great deal of discussion, the subject being one in which the House and the country are always deeply interested. It is what I may call a great stock-taking time. On the discussion of the budget, it is the duty of the members of the opposition as well as of supporters of the government, to review the government's entire proceedings of the past year, and to discuss the plans that have been promulgated for the advancement of the country. It is the time, above all others, when the opposition can define their policy. If they are dissatisfied with the course of the government, it is their duty to lay their cause for dissatisfaction before the House in the form of a resolution for which they seek the approval of the House. If they think the government have been too extravagant in their expenditure, it is their duty to point that out. If the course pursued by the government in reference to the tariff or other great questions of policy do not meet their approval, it is their duty to lay that fact before the House, in the form of a motion. I congratulate the Minister of Finance, and the government generally, on the fact that, notwithstanding this, and notwithstanding the wide range of subjects that have engaged the attention of the House, the opposition have not found it consistent with their duty or have not deemed it necessary to place their views before the House in the form of a resolution, except with regard to one point. The only objection thus embodied is to the preference that has been given to the mother country. The opposition have found no fault, they have not censured the government for their expenditure or for their management of the finances of the country, but the one point on which they

declare that their opinion is that of repealing this preference. If they come into power, it will be their duty, if they carry out their promises and their resolution, immediately to repeal the clause granting a preference to the motherland. I congratulate the leader of the opposition and his party, on the stand they have taken on this question. I am satisfied that though it may meet with their approval, it will not meet with the approval of the great mass of the electors of this country, and I believe that if they pursue that line of policy, they will remain in the cold shades of opposition for many years to come.

I wish now to refer to a statement made by the member for Lennox (Mr. Wilson) in his address last night. He found a good deal of fault with the government for what he called their delay in proceeding with business. He said we had been in session for over two months and had made no progress at all, and that a great many reports were not brought down. As to delay in bringing down the reports, I do not know whether that is the fault of the government or of the printers. I think, however, it is to be regretted that these reports have not been brought down sooner; and I have no doubt that the government will at the earliest possible date find out who is to blame for the delay, and will see that this evil does not occur again. It is necessary for the proper discussion of the affairs of the country that all these reports should be in the hands of the members as soon as possible. But I do not think the hon. member for Lennox can justly bring a charge against the government for delaying the work of the House. I have been here, as well as the member for Lennox, for a good many sessions, and we remember that under the old government, for the first month of the session, we were scarcely ever sitting more than half an hour a day. This session began on the 1st of February, and I believe there has scarcely been a day that we did not continue in session until 11, or 12, or 1 o'clock in the morning. The work was on the paper, and there has not been a single day that the government were not prepared to ask the House to consider their measures. I say if the work has been delayed it is not the fault of the government but of the opposition.

Now, I have been looking over the Votes and Proceedings, and I find that since parliament met on the 1st of February last we have had no less than twenty motions that this House do now adjourn, similar to the one that we had to-day, for the sole purpose of obstructing and delaying the proceedings of the House. The leader of the opposition on the 8th of February, moved the adjournment of the House to bring up a matter that he, I suppose, considered important, but which kept back the business of the House for a whole day. On the 9th of February the hon. member for North

Bruce (Mr. McNeill) made a similar motion, and destroyed nearly a whole day in discussing it. On the 13th of February the member for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior) moved the adjournment of the House; on the 26th of February the leader of the opposition again moved that the House do now adjourn; on the 5th of March the member for North Bruce again moved the adjournment of the House; on the 6th of March the member for Victoria, B.C., again moved the adjournment of the House; on the 7th of March the member for West Elgin (Mr. Ingram) moved the adjournment of the House; on the 14th of March the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), moved the adjournment of the House; on the 15th, the member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), moved the adjournment of the House; on the 16th the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), again moved the adjournment of the House; on the 20th the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), moved the adjournment of the House; on the 21st the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) moved the adjournment of the House; on the 26th the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), moved the adjournment of the House; on April 3rd the member for Victoria, B.C., again moved the adjournment of the House; on April 5th the junior member for Pictou (Mr. Bell), moved the adjournment of the House; on the 10th the leader of the opposition again moved the adjournment of the House. All these motions were followed by discussions which delayed the business of the House, the same as has been done this afternoon. This whole afternoon has been literally wasted with a frivolous question, of no importance at all to the public, about which the public don't care a rap. The discussion was not only in bad taste, but exceedingly unfair and ungenerous to a member of this House who is in a distant land. I think it was in exceedingly bad taste for the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), on a mere newspaper report, without having verified it, without the Minister of Public Works having had an opportunity to correct it, to bring forward a motion which was practically a motion of censure, based upon an alleged interview with him published in a newspaper. So I say that the reason of the delay, which I regret as much as anybody, is not found in the action of the government, but it has been caused by the frivolous motions to adjourn that have been made by the opposition. Now, in England it requires, I am told, about forty members to rise in their place and demand that such a motion shall pass before it can be put by the Speaker. I think we have had more of that kind of motions this session than in any session that I ever knew before. Therefore, I think the charge made against the government by the member for Lennox is not at all justified.

Mr. WILSON. What has that to do with not bringing down the reports?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I said the lack of the reports has not delayed the business of the House, because every day the government had plenty of work for the House to go on with, but they could not go on with it because of these frivolous motions. If the government had been allowed to proceed with their work and had failed to do so, then the hon. gentleman's charge might be justified.

Now, Mr. Speaker, before taking up some other matters referred to by the member for Lennox, I wish to compliment the Minister of Finance and the government on the splendid budget speech which he has been able to present to the House. I am sure that there never has been a Minister of Finance in this country who has been able to lay before the House such a gratifying statement of the progress and advancement of Canada as that made by the present Minister of Finance. I am sure we are all pleased that the country is going ahead at such a rapid rate as is shown by these diagrams published in the budget speech. While I do not pretend that all the prosperity we are enjoying is due to this government, I do say that a large measure of it is owing to the businesslike way in which the affairs of the country have been managed, to the ability that has been shown by the gentlemen who have charge of the various departments in the government. I say that it is with a government as with business men. If two men start in business one may succeed and the other will lag behind. It is owing to management, not to luck. You may say it is all good luck, but it is not. The progress of Canada is owing to the fact that its affairs have been managed by business men, that the government have invested our resources in the right place and at the right time, and that the different departments of the government have all been managed in such a way as to redound to the benefit of the country and the credit of the government. It is shown, Sir, by the fact, and I almost feel like apologizing to the House for even referring to it, because I know that every member of the House has heard it over and over again, but it is necessary to repeat it once in a while, of the extraordinary progress we have made in the last few years, compared with what has taken place before. Such a comparison shows the enormous progress we have made in every department, in our exports and in our imports. The foreign trade of Canada, during the whole of the eighteen years that our Conservative friends were in power, only increased by \$67,000,000, while, in the three short years that this government have been in power the foreign trade of Canada has increased by no less than \$82,000,000, as against \$67,000,000 for the eighteen years of Conservative rule. This is exceedingly

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gratifying, this is very satisfactory to the country, and I am sure it is a showing that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and the government may be complimented upon. Our Conservative friends are trying to make political capital out of the charge that we have increased the expenditure of the country and increased the debt of the country contrary to our promises and pledges. They say that the government have increased the expenditure by an enormous sum.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What are the facts? These hon. gentlemen talk about \$45,000,000 of a total expenditure for all purposes, or \$51,000,000, as if there never had been such an expenditure made before in this country. When we go to the public accounts we find that the total expenditure of these hon. gentlemen, in 1884, was \$57,800,000, that, in 1885, their expenditure was over \$49,000,000, that, in 1886, they spent \$61,800,000, that, in 1888, they spent \$45,000,000, and that, in 1896, they spent a little over \$44,000,000. Their average expenditure for all purposes during the eighteen years they were in power was \$42,800,000 per year, in round numbers. Yet they talk about the enormous increase in the expenditure. I do not think it is fair to place the whole expenditure to the charge of the government; I do not think that should be taken into account at all, and I am only doing it for the purpose of showing the inconsistency and unfairness of our friends on the other side of the House, when they compare the amount charged to consolidated fund under their regime with the total amount paid for all purposes by this government. This government have carried on enormous public works; they have spent over \$9,000,000 upon the early completion of the canals, a work that, I am sure, must commend itself to the great mass of the people of the country, a work that, it is true, the government fell heir to, a work that was started by our friends of the Conservative party before they left office, but they proceeded at a snail's pace, and if the work had proceeded at this rate we would not have had fourteen feet of water for five or six years from now, whereas, we have the gratifying announcement that these canals will be completed by the opening of navigation, to a depth of fourteen feet from tide-water to the upper lakes. This work has entailed a large expenditure. In addition to that, we have aided the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and we have extended the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. These works will not be required again, and, consequently, we may expect, for the next two or three years, in all probability, unless some big undertaking comes up that will demand and receive the support of this House, that the amount paid on account of these large expenditures will

be very much reduced, and if so, our expenditure will accordingly be reduced. It is hardly fair to take into account capital expenditure that the government make unless you can show that the capital expenditure has not been a wise expenditure; an expenditure that should not be made at all, that it is not making a sufficient return to the country. Unless you can do that it is not wise and it is not fair to bring the amount of the capital expenditure into the question at all. If you do take the total expenditure into account, as I pointed out before, it compares very favourably, it compares exceedingly well with the expenditure made by the old government. They talk about \$45,000,000 and \$51,000,000 of an expenditure. I am amazed to think that gentlemen will talk about such expenditures when they know that their own government spent some \$61,000,000 in one year, and \$57,000,000, nearly \$58,000,000, in another year, and that their total expenditure for the whole eighteen years averaged nearly \$43,000,000 a year. The expenditure that this government have made has been a wise expenditure, and I am sure that it will meet with the approval of the people of the country. The extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal surely was a splendid thing. Whatever opinions may have been held as to the wisdom of extending the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal when it was first proposed, surely, there can be no difference of opinion now that it is a splendid thing for this country. When we take the Intercolonial Railway, that has cost the people, in round numbers, \$55,000,000 in hard cash, that has never paid one single farthing of interest on this vast expenditure, that has not paid its running expenses, when we were obliged to put our hands into the public chest and take out, on an average, \$250,000 every year more than the road earned to keep it running, which was the state of things existing under the old regime, and contrast it with the present state of affairs, we must all admit the wisdom of the extension of this line to Montreal. Every year that these hon. gentlemen were in power the Intercolonial Railway was referred to as a sink-hole for the public money of this country. But, this government came into power, they recognized the necessity of doing something to remedy that state of affairs, they saw the great city of Montreal, with its 300,000 people, within a stone's throw of that road, they knew that by extending that road to the great metropolis of Canada it would be able to receive freight and to dictate the rates of freight that would bring to the Intercolonial Railway earning powers that it did not have then, they wisely ventured on that expenditure and brought the Intercolonial to Montreal, with the result that this deficit of \$250,000 a year has been wiped out, and last year \$62,000 of a surplus was earned and turned into the treasury of this

Dominion by the Intercolonial Railway. I believe that, when the returns come down on the 30th of June this year, we will have still more gratifying results from the operation of that road. Whatever doubts we may have had when the scheme was first promulgated, there surely cannot be any doubt now as to the wisdom of extending that road to Montreal. It has been of vast benefit to the people of Canada. It has not only, as I said, wiped out the deficit of \$250,000 a year, but it has turned in a handsome revenue to the people of the country. I believe, as years go by, as the road gets its feeders out, as it gets its lines of communication established, and as the great stream of commerce is diverted towards it, the results will be still more gratifying, and this extension will redound to the everlasting credit of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) who brought it about. I know, as a matter of fact, that immediately the Intercolonial Railway was extended to Montreal, it had its agents in Toronto, in Detroit, in Chicago, in Duluth, in Buffalo, and in all the great cities of the west, soliciting freight; and, as the great west develops, and as the millions and millions of bushels of wheat produced there, will find an outlet to the seaboard, we may look forward to the time in the near future, when the Intercolonial Railway will receive its due share of that business, and will be able to return to the people of Canada a handsome surplus over the expenditure made on it. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this country expect, nor do I think they should expect any very large surplus from the Intercolonial Railway. I look upon that line of railway as being in a somewhat similar position to our canal system. It is the great highway for inter-trade and inter-commerce between the maritime provinces and western Canada, and it is my opinion that the freights on that road should be cut down to the lowest possible extent, consistent with its meeting its obligations to the public.

Mr. POWELL. Especially on flour.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Especially on flour and everything else. I believe that the rates on the Intercolonial Railway should be kept as low as possible, in order that the people in the maritime provinces can get their supplies from the upper provinces at the lowest possible rates, and in order also that the people of the upper provinces may secure the products of the lower provinces as cheaply as possible. Therefore, we should not expect, nor does this parliament, I believe, desire that we should expect a very large surplus from the Intercolonial Railway. However, Sir, it is exceedingly gratifying to know that this railway which has cost the people of Canada such an enormous sum of money, has, on account of the extension to Montreal, so wisely carried out by this government; it is gratifying I say to

know that it has not only wiped out the large deficit which existed formerly on it, but that it has yielded a surplus to the revenues of this country.

Mr. POWELL. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him, if he is not aware that there have been surpluses on the Intercolonial Railway in years before?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I am speaking now of the whole management of the Intercolonial Railway. I am speaking subject to correction, but I believe it to be a fact that while there might have been a surplus in an odd year, the annual deficit during the eighteen years of Conservative administration was nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. POWELL. What was it, taking the five years previous to the purchase of the Drummond County road?

Mr. CAMPBELL. I cannot enter into that matter now.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. gentleman will be surprised to know that there was no deficit for these five years, taking them all together.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I might point out further, Mr. Speaker, that in the management of the Intercolonial Railway, the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), has increased the salaries and wages of the employees of that road, and as the country prospers, and when we have 'a vaster surplus than has been,' the minister (Mr. Blair) has very wisely, in my opinion, enabled the employees, who toil along the line of that railway, to share in our prosperity. I am glad to know that the minister (Mr. Blair) during the short time he has been in power, has generously increased the wages of the employees who are working on that road, and who help to promote its prosperity. Let me for a moment refer to the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. I say, Sir, that the plan selected by the government for that extension, and the terms obtained, were the very wisest that could be obtained, and were the best possible in the interests of the country. When it was decided to extend it to Montreal, a better route could not possibly have been selected, or better terms made. I look upon the terms obtained from the Grand Trunk Railway for the use of the line between Ste. Rosalie and Bonaventure station, as exceptionally good. I do not believe that it was in the power of any individual or any railway company, to obtain such excellent terms as we obtained from the Grand Trunk Railway. We have got the use of their station at Montreal, access to their sidings and switches, and all the conveniences that they have been acquiring for fifty years, and which are of almost inestimable value. The purchase of the Drummond County road, was, in my opinion, a wise policy also. I had the pleasure of going over that road a

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short time ago, and I was agreeably surprised to find that for a large part of the route it ran through a beautiful and rich agricultural country, and for a portion of the way, through a forest, that will yield revenues to the road for many years to come. I am told that when the lumber is removed from the forest land, the soil is rich and fertile, and can easily be developed into a first-class agricultural country. We may, therefore, reasonably expect that for many years to come, we will have a large amount of freight from the district through which the Drummond County Railway runs. The terms made in the purchase of the Drummond County road, were certainly reasonable, and the conditions under which the facilities from the Grand Trunk Railway were obtained, could not, I believe, have been more advantageous to the country.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 136) respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, I was referring, when you left the Chair, to certain charges that were brought against the government that they had not fulfilled the promises they had made to the electors previous to the election. One of those promises was that they would reduce the expenditure, and inasmuch as the expenditure has slightly increased, it is charged that they have not carried out that promise. I think a little investigation will show you that this charge is altogether unfounded. It is quite true, the expenditure on consolidated fund is slightly higher than it was during the regime of the Conservatives; but I think that every single dollar of that extra expenditure can be fairly accounted for, and furthermore, when you compare the services performed by the Conservative government with the services performed by this government, you will find that the expenditure for doing the same work has been largely reduced instead of being increased. For instance, I may point to the Post Office Department, in which under the management of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mullock), the services have enormously increased within the last few years. Since 1896 no less than 560 new post offices have been opened, and the mail mileage has increased by two and a half million miles. These increases in the service would naturally entail a considerable increased expenditure on that department; yet so well has the department been managed that its total

expenditure last year was \$62,000 less than it was in 1896. If time permitted, I might go through nearly all the departments and show that service for service the expenditure is much less to-day than it was in 1896. In the Department of Railways and Canals, the expenditure for salaries and so forth, in 1896, was \$141,000, while in 1899 it was only \$124,000. In the Department of Agriculture the expenditure in 1896 was \$54,000; it is now \$52,000. The expenditure of the Marine and Fisheries Department then was \$135,000; it is now \$124,950. In the Customs Department there has been a considerable saving; and in the Auditor General's office the same. In the management and control of our penitentiaries there has been an enormous saving, although the work has increased. For instance, in the Kingston Penitentiary, the expenditure for salaries of officials and so forth, in 1896, was \$5,600, and in 1899, \$3,800. In St. Vincent de Paul the same kind of expenditure in 1896 amounted to \$6,800, and in 1899 to \$1,300. I venture to say that if you went through all the departments you would find that the management and control of these departments has been carried on with less money than in 1896. But all the same the total expenditure has increased—why? Because of the enormous increase in the work. For instance, take the Yukon where the Conservative government spent only \$10,000 or \$15,000 in 1896, whereas this government since it came into power has spent \$2,300,000 there. The appropriation last year, if I remember rightly, was nearly \$2,000,000, and it swelled the estimates that much. That was for a new service with which the late government had comparatively nothing to do. But the expenditure in connection with the Yukon has been managed, I am glad to say, prudently, economically and in the interests of the people. No government could afford to develop the Yukon. As soon as the news came down of the discoveries of gold in that distant country, it was necessary to provide the means of maintaining law and order, of opening custom-houses, and of appointing officers to administer the affairs of the district, situated as it was at a great distance from the seat of government, and without any means of reaching it except by a long and tedious route. For these reasons the expenses connected with the opening up and development of that country were very heavy indeed. But the wise regulations of the government and the proper administration of that country have brought back to the people of Canada more than it has cost them. In other words, although we have spent \$2,300,000 in the Yukon, we have actually received in receipts from all the departments there over \$2,500,000. Therefore, so far as the development of the Yukon is concerned it has been no charge to the people of older Canada at all. In fact, older Canada has derived a revenue from the administration of

that country, and as the years go on, I expect we will get a very large revenue from the Yukon.

At first, of course, everything was in a state of chaos, there was no means of communication, in fact, we did not know the country, it was not surveyed, everything was in a state of confusion. The eyes of the civilized world were turned towards the Yukon, and men from all countries under the sun were rushing in there regardless of expense, regardless of the situation. It was necessary for this government to take prompt and decisive measures to maintain law and order, at no matter what expense. Although they have been censured severely by the leader of the opposition, I think they deserve a great deal of credit for immediately despatching to that distant country a detachment of the North-west mounted police. Those men going in there were able to restore order and to maintain it, so that in the city of Dawson law and order, life and property, were as safe as in the city of Ottawa, or any other place. This, of course, entailed an enormous expense. For my part, I believe that now when the country is better known, when we have improved facilities for getting in there, when the charges for transportation of freight and passengers have been largely reduced, I believe the country will receive, in the next few years, a large amount of revenue from the Yukon. This is the hope that we all entertain.

In this connection, let me say that the contract that was given by this government to Mackenzie & Mann, in my opinion, was one of the best contracts for the country that ever was made; and when the Senate refused to sanction that contract, I think they did one of the greatest injuries to the Dominion of Canada that have ever been inflicted on it. As the member for Lennox objected to that contract very much, let us consider what it was. According to that contract Mackenzie & Mann were to build a wagon road first, and then a railroad from Teslin Lake to Glenora, a distance of 150 miles, with stations every ten miles for the shelter of passengers who might be going in there. They were obliged to build that road by the first day of October, I think it was, in the shortest possible time. In payment for that work they were to get 3,750,000 acres of land. That is a big tract of country, 3,750,000 acres of land around the city of Ottawa would be worth an enormous sum of money. But, we must remember that in that distant country we have 100,000,000 acres of land that we do not know the value of to-day, we cannot estimate whether it is worth anything, or what it is worth. We said to Mackenzie & Mann: We will give you one twenty-fifth part of that 100,000,000 acres of land, exclusive of the placer mining, if you will open up this country. There were besides certain restrictions which the government placed in that

contract to guard the interests of the people. For instance, along the navigable streams, fifty feet from high water on each side was reserved, all the claims that were taken up by miners who had gone in there were reserved; and Mackenzie & Mann had to take their land in alternate sections three miles wide and six miles long. Every other claim was held by the government. Now, if Mackenzie & Mann, as I hoped they would, had discovered some valuable gold mines on their land, the adjoining sections belonging to the people of Canada would be enormously enhanced in value, and thus we would get back in the increased price of our land a full return for all the expenditure that we were making. But, nobody has discovered any gold mines on that land yet. Those lands are in the same state to-day that they have been in for the last million years, and they will be of no value until some one goes in there and develops them. Now, when Mackenzie & Mann got this 3,750,000 acres of land, what were they going to do with it? They could not eat it, they could not take it away with them, it would have been necessary for them to go in there with machinery to develop their land, and find out whether there was any gold there or not. We want people in there. These men going in there would have to be fed and clothed, they would have to be supplied with all the necessaries of life, and this would give employment to the farmers of the Northwest, and would give employment to our manufacturers all over Canada. If they did not discover any gold in that country, still this railway did not cost us anything; but, if they did discover gold there, if they struck some rich mines, as I hoped they would, then, as I said before, the adjoining sections would be enormously increased in value. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that it was a fatal day for Canada, it was a disastrous day for Canada, when the Senate threw that Bill out. I believe if it had been carried we would have had access to that country by this time, the railway would have been built, and the enormous trade and commerce that would have been developed in that country would have been going from our own country, through our own territory, to the Yukon, whereas, now we have to go round through American territory. I believe that a good bargain was made for Canada, and I regret exceedingly that the Senate threw out that Bill. We have a good deal of trouble to get in there now, but if this railway had been constructed there would have been no difficulty at all, we would have the country opened up and developed, and the freight and supplies would have gone in through our own territory, and at the same time the freight rates and cost of supplies would have been enormously lowered. It would have afforded the people of the country an opportunity of getting in there for one-

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fourth of what it costs them now. Unfortunately, the Bill was defeated at the instigation of some gentlemen from the United States, who were anxious to have control of that freight through their own territory. I think that arrangement was in the interest of the people, I take it that the people of Canada do not care a fig how much money the government of Canada spends so long as they spend it honestly and in the interest of the people. If they were spending money which was not bringing back any return, then the people would object. We objected to the expenditure of the late government because it was wasteful and not in the interests of the country, because in fact they were stealing the money of the people. We pointed to instance after instance, in which millions of dollars of the people's money had been stolen. Within a stone's throw of the city of Montreal, a public work, which should not have cost over \$400,000, cost \$800,000, so that \$400,000 of the people's money were stolen through the carelessness and negligence and incapacity of the Railway Department of the late government. Right across the way, in the Langevin block, \$450,000 of the people's money was also stolen, and there we find that \$1,000,000 of the people's money had been stolen in connection with public works built in that city. That was proven beyond doubt in the committee in this House. Why, the St. Charles Branch Railway from Lévis to St. Charles, 14 miles long, cost \$185,000 a mile. What do you think of that? Go up to the county represented by the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), and in the town of Perth you will find a great public work, the Tay Canal, that cost the people \$500,000, and the total receipts from which are only \$126 a year. The total receipts do not begin to pay for the lockmasters and the men attending the gates. The expense of running the canal is \$3,000 a year, and the receipts are only \$126 a year. That is the kind of work that the late government was doing and that the people objected to, and that is the kind of work that the people would condemn now if any such were being done. But with all the criticisms of hon. gentlemen opposite, with all their investigations in the Public Accounts Committee, with all the witnesses they have called from every corner of the earth, with all the returns and reports that they have had brought down, they have not been able to show that one solitary dollar of the people's money has been wasted by this administration. I tell you, Sir, that stands to the credit of this government. I do not care whether we are expending \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000 or \$60,000,000 for that matter, provided it is an expenditure that commends itself to the people. If it is a good investment, the people will not object to it. Suppose a man gave his farm or his store in charge of a manager, and the first year his

manager showed a deficit of \$500 and the next year \$1,000. The proprietor would naturally say to his manager: This will not do, you will ruin me, and unless you do better I must discharge you. Well, the next year the manager showed a deficit of \$1,500, and he was dismissed and a new man appointed. Under the new management, there was but a very small deficit the first year, the next year there was a handsome surplus, and the third year that surplus was trebled. What would you think if the first manager came back to the proprietor and said to him: You should dismiss your new man and put me back in the place because he is spending more money than I did. Would not the proprietor reply: I do not care how much he spends so long as he shows me good profit. You were running me into debt, but this man is giving me a handsome return. So would the people reply to hon. gentlemen opposite.

The late government had a deficit in 1894, 1895 and 1896 of nearly \$6,000,000 and left a lot of debts behind them unpaid. They left a deficit in the Post Office Department of \$800,000; they left a lot of railway bonuses which they had voted and had not paid; they left a lot of other debts behind them; and besides all these, their actual deficit in the three years was over \$6,000,000. This government then came into power, and all at once the scene changed. Instead of deficits, we have surpluses, and this year we have a vaster surplus than has been. We have a surplus of nearly \$5,000,000 this last year, and on the 1st of July next we will have a surplus of \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000 more. Why, it is to the credit of this government that notwithstanding all the expenditure in connection with sending the contingents to South Africa and all the running expenses of the country, they are going to close the public accounts on the 1st of July next without adding a dollar to the public debt. In my opinion that is a record that has never been equalled in this country, and one that any government might be proud of. I believe that with the management of the affairs of this country in the hands of the men who have been guiding the ship of state so well for the last four years, we may look to still vaster surpluses than we have had. And all this, bear in mind, is accompanied by a reduced taxation. The taxes of the people have been largely reduced. If the old tariff were in force to-day, the amount taken out of the pockets of the people on the importations of last year would be something like \$3,000,000 more than was paid, so that the amount of taxes has been largely reduced and our importations increased. The purchasing power of the people has been increased, the people are more prosperous and are buying more goods, but on these goods they are paying a less customs tax per dollar than they did under the late

government. On every dollar they purchase, they pay a lower rate of taxation than they did in 1896. Prosperity is increasing all over the country. Under the national policy, our manufacturers were almost at a stand still. They were not making any money, but when the change of tariff took place, when the tariff was revised on business lines, when the raw material of many manufacturers was reduced, our manufacturers were enabled to extend their business as they never did before, and at the same time reduce the prices of their goods. All over the country you will find that enormous increases are taking place in our manufacturing establishments. Take the Toronto Massey-Harris Company; they spent no less than \$258,000 last year in enlarging and increasing their plant. The Drummond Radiator Company have also increased their plant to a very great extent. In fact every establishment, not only in the city of Toronto but in Chatham and all over the west has largely increased its output and is employing more men and paying more wages to-day than ever before.

The condition of the mechanic and artisan also is improved. In 1896, in Toronto and in all the other cities of Canada work was hard to get, wages were low, and thousands of men were looking for work and could not find it. But under the national policy regime there was one great cause for this, and that is that the agricultural interest of this country was not in a prosperous condition. And, whenever that is the case you find many from the country, farmer's sons and men on rented farms, no longer remain on their farms, but come into the city and towns and interfere with and crowd out the mechanics and artisans of those towns, bringing greater competition to bear upon them. The remedy is to restore prosperity to the agricultural interest. This the government have done to a large extent by the policy which they have pursued. One of the principal things in this respect which stands to the credit of the government is the cold storage system, by which they enable the farmers of this country to place their goods on the English market in the very best possible condition. The returns show that nothing that any government has ever done has brought to the farmers such an enormous return of prosperity as the establishment and maintenance of the cold storage system. Last year, something like \$25,000,000 in hard cash came back to the farmers of this country for their butter and cheese, while the thousand and one articles for which we formerly could not find a market we are now able to send to all parts of the world and get a fair price for. Farms now have a value and those who have them are staying on their farms; the farmers are not moving in to the cities and towns, crowding out the mechanics and workingmen. Another way in which the government have increased the expenditure,

and increased it, in my opinion wisely and in the interest of the country, is in their energetic, systematic, businesslike management of the immigration department.

Mr. DAVIN. Hear, hear.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I know that my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), knows and appreciates the fact that thousands and thousands of hardy settlers have gone into the North-west, in the last year, no less than 45,000 have gone into the North-west to settle on these lands, and in the last two years we have got from the United States alone some 22,000 settlers and placed them on the lands in the North-west. This enables the country to prosper, for it affords a market for the manufacturers of the whole of Canada and enables the great west to develop and improve, for every settler going in there makes the task light for those who are there already, and makes the burden easier to bear. And so this government has wisely increased the expenditure for the promotion of immigration. I look forward a few years to see the stream of immigration turned toward the North-west, the great tide flowing in that direction, bringing with it development and prosperity for the North-west and for the whole country.

But I am not going to take up much more of the time of the House, for I know that this subject is very threadbare. I have only one or two things to say in conclusion. Not only have the government managed the affairs of the country so as to secure for us astonishing progress in all lines, not only have they shown ability in the management and control of our lands, our national highways and other branches of the public service, but which they have signalized their regime by progressive legislation for the direct benefit of the workingmen. One of the most commendable things that the government have done in this way is the system they have recently inaugurated to prevent the subletting of contract and protect the labouring man. There is no class in the country that more demands or should more certainly receive the careful consideration of the members of this House and the members of the government. The labouring man has but his own hands with which to earn his living. Men in high position, capitalists, can take care of themselves, but it should be the aim, it is the bounden duty of the government to protect the working people of the country. That is why I rejoice to know that this government have taken a long step in that direction, the first step ever taken in that direction by a government in this country. Our Conservative friends for eighteen years sat on the Treasury benches and guided the destinies of this country, but they did nothing for the poor man and poor woman working in the sweat shops. But no sooner did this government

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come into power than they put a stop to this system that has proven a discredit and a curse to the Dominion, and they have placed upon the records of this House a resolution to put a stop to it. And not only have they placed the resolution there, but they have appointed a man to see that that resolution is carried out. In appointing Mr. O'Donoghue of the Trades and Labour Council of Toronto, they have called to this work a practical man, a man who understands the needs and wants of the labouring classes, a man who is competent in every way to look after the interest of the labour classes. It will be Mr. O'Donoghue's special duty to see that in all the contracts that are made, whether they are sub-let to other parties or not, every man who does an honest day's work shall receive an honest day's pay, that there shall no longer be any humbug about it, that Tom Jones cannot sub-let to Peter Smith, and he to somebody else, and that somebody else employ a lot of men and then close up and clear out and deprive the poor people of their wages. That has been stopped. Whether the contractor sub-lets to a sub-contractor or not, he is responsible; he is the agent of the government and must pay every single dollar that the men earn. More than that, the government have provided that in every place where these contracts are going on, the current rate of wages shall be paid, there shall be no beating men down, taking advantage of their helplessness, taking advantage of their necessities, to cause them to work at reduced prices; but in every case the current rate of wages shall be paid, and the men shall receive their pay. Mr. O'Donoghue. I know will faithfully discharge the duties belonging to his position. I am sure that in all the contracts that are made hereafter the current rate of wages in the town or city where the contract is let shall be paid, and men who labour on these contracts shall receive a fair day's pay. This I commend to the House, and I congratulate the government upon this progressive step, this step in the right direction. It is being followed by the Ontario legislature, as it will be followed by other colonies of the empire—and, more than that, it will be followed by the county councils and city councils all over this land. It is a long step in the right way and will be followed by the most beneficial results to the people whom it is desired to help.

There are many other points in the government's conduct, for which, in my opinion, they deserve commendation. The manner in which they have carried out the ones I have indicated shows clearly that they are the right men in the right place, and, I believe, that when the time comes, be it sooner or later, that they shall appeal to the people of this Dominion, the people of this Dominion will say unto them, Well done, good and faithful servants.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, the speech to which we have just listened, is in consonance with a quality in the government, and a quality in the Liberal party, so far as that party exists in this House, that marks the government and the Liberal party, as in this House, out, for condign condemnation at the hands of the people of Canada, because, Sir, amongst the many iniquities that this government has committed there is no wrong they have done to the people of the Dominion like the note of falsehood which they have introduced into public life, and the speech we have just listened to from beginning to end had such a false ring that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell), himself, could scarcely keep from smiling at the tone and temper and standpoint he took up and maintained. I shall ask the attention of the House for a moment, to one or two of the statements he made. As he began, so he ended, by singing the praises of the government, and he did it with such a rhythm that really, I thought he would occasionally burst into a hymn, intone a psalm, and conclude with *secula seculorum*. All the hon. gentlemen who rise on that side of the House, and they have done this the last two years, instead of discussing the question, praise the government. There are two inspirations of that praise. First, we have hon. gentlemen with their mouths open, like little hungry birds in the nest, when they hear a leaf stir, and think it is the mother bird that has come with a crumb, and their mouths are open with eager capacity and ready for something to drop in. They are all deeply interested in the existence of the government, they know that its existence is imperilled, and they think that they can float up the heavy carcass by laudatory wind. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down, says that the increase of trade, and the prosperity that we have, are due to the government. He began in this strain, and he repeated it before he came to his conclusion. He said that before the present government came in, all was gloom, all was darkness, and all was depression, but, the moment they came into power, everything was changed and everything was prosperous.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. An hon. gentleman says hear, hear. I will point out what the fallacy is. These same gentlemen were in power from 1874 to 1878. Did trade increase? Was prosperity the order of the day? Where not depression and retrogression the words that you would apply to the government from 1874 to 1878? Since 1896 they have introduced no new element, with the exception of the preferential tariff. There was nothing at all done in 1896, but in 1897 they introduced the element of the preference, but that, as we know, and in

fact, as the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), has acknowledged, had no effect whatever, because he has had to make it 33 instead of 25 per cent, in order to make it affect the English market. A comparison of the trade between Great Britain and Canada, and the trade between Great Britain and the United States for the last four years, shows that any idea that the preference did anything for Great Britain is a delusive one. Now, here is an instance of the insincerity of which I speak. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) took the years 1883, 1884, 1885 and 1886, and said that during those years, under Conservative rule, there had been a large expenditure on capital account. He asked us to compare that expenditure with our expenditure for the last four years. But, he did not tell the House that in 1882-3, the late government spent \$10,000,000 on the Canadian Pacific Railway, in 1883-4, \$11,000,000, in 1884-5, \$9,900,000 and in 1885-6, \$3,000,000. In 1885 we had the rebellion. Here were these wholly exceptional expenditures, but the hon. gentleman is so wanting in frankness, that, when he made a comparison, he did not state one of the main reasons why that expenditure had taken place. The hon. gentleman took three or four items of expenditure on which there has been a decrease. If you will take the public accounts, and turn to item after item of expenditure, you will find that, the expenditure of this government exceeds the expenditure under the old government. Take the very first thing, interest on debt; the interest on the debt in 1895 was \$10,502,000, and in 1898-9, \$10,855,000; administration of justice, 1896, \$758,270; 1898-9, \$815,454; arts and agriculture, 1896, \$210,877; 1898-9, \$258,752; geological survey, 1896, \$134,368; 1898-9, \$149,000; immigration, 1896, \$120,000; 1898-9, \$255,878, and so on. There is hardly an item in which there has not been an increase. Yet, the hon. gentleman is so wanting in frankness as to take only the one or two items in which there has been a decrease. He took upon himself to justify the Teslin Lake Railway job, and to complain that a great injury was done to the people when the Senate threw that out. At this time of the day, when we have Mr. Bulyea, a leading Grit in the North-west Territories, coming back from a visit of months to that country, and stating that, for a hundred miles there was not a foot of water in the Hootalinqua, we are told the building of that railway would have been a good thing. The hon. gentleman, although supporting a government which had as one of the planks of its platform, that it would not give way the public domain, justified the giving away of 3,750,000 acres of land to these men, Mann & Mackenzie. That land is valued by the Department of the Interior, at \$10 an acre, making \$37,500,000.

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I will ask you to keep that gentleman in order for I do not want to turn my attention to him.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. DAVIN. If I have to do it myself, I will do it effectively, as I have often done. And what was this \$37,500,000 for? It was for a little one-horse railway running from Nowhere to Nowhere.

An hon. MEMBER. Narrow gauge.

Mr. DAVIN. And narrow gauge at that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) says: What would Mackenzie & Mann do with it? What an innocent question! They would do what they are doing now with another railway in London; they would have gone over to float it, and they would have got \$50,000,000 for it, and then they would have come back here content for life. That is what would have happened, and the credit of Canada would have been injured and we should have had a Teslin Lake Railway scandal instead of a Teslin Lake Railway. What are Mackenzie & Mann doing over in London just now? I have heard that the Minister of the Interior—I would like to know from the ministers present if it is a fact—I have heard that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), whom we supposed on the Danube; whom we supposed in Vienna consulting a great specialist; was seen in London, and seen in the financial quarters of London. The whisper of that, of course, is a slander. If we were to say a word about it and the Prime Minister were here, with fine indignation such as we saw to-day when an interview between one of the first journalists in Paris and the Minister of Public Works was brought before the House; we would hear the Prime Minister say: Oh, mere newspaper rumour—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has no right to refer to a previous debate.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I will refer to what is going on on the banks of the Thames. If the Prime Minister were here, with fine indignation he would brush aside the rumour. That the Minister of the Interior, having got an eminent aurist to attend to his infirmity, has been seen on the banks of the Thames and in the financial quarters of London, helping Mackenzie & Mann to float their bonds. One of the most audacious things which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) said was that this government has come forward to protect the labourer; and the way it has protected the labourer is by a resolution. That resolution is not worth the paper it is written on, unless embodied in an Act of parliament. I moved an amendment to have it embodied in an Act of parliament. If the government were sincere, why should they object to putting that resolution into an

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Act of parliament? If it was not all bogus, if it was not all intended to throw dust in the eyes of the workingmen, why should they not put it in an Act of parliament? They would not do it, and yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) says the resolution will help the workingmen, and that helping the working man is something no Tory government ever did. Does he not know that when a leader of the Liberal party was oppressing the workingmen in the city of Toronto, Sir John Macdonald came to their rescue, and snatched them from the clutches of George Brown. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) tells us that the person who was to administer this resolution is a guarantee that everything is all right. And who is he? Dan O'Donoghue! Oh, breathe not his name. Well, Mr. Speaker, this gentleman will, no doubt, look carefully after the government's views and after No. 1, and if ten O'Donoghues were employed, the fact remains there will be only a resolution without authority or penalty. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) went further, and said that the people were so prosperous that they did not care what the government spent. Well, wherever I have gone, and I have gone to some places in Ontario, I have found the people very sensitive respecting the extravagance of this government. Yet, the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) says the people do not care how much this government spend. When he said that, I heard one of my friends say: 'Let her rip,' or 'Let her go, Gallagher,' and that would not be a bad motto for this government. He told us to look at the immigration! Yes, the immigration policy of this government is one of the causes why the young Napoleon has fled from justice. He is one of the ministerial fugitives from justice. I do not think he is the only criminal; he is one of the criminals. He is gone because he does not want us to examine or to arraign him here as we have arraigned him before. He has fled from the condemnation of which he had already heard something in Manitoba. Another statement which reflects on the sincerity of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell). He announced that for the first time in the history of the Intercolonial Railway we had a surplus. This was so evidently wrong that my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) asked him was he aware that his statement was not correct. I turn to the Public Accounts—page 52, 1894—and I find that for the year 1893, the revenue on the Intercolonial Railway was \$3,065,499, and the expenditure \$3,047,677, a surplus of \$17,821. In the year 1894, the revenue was \$2,987,510 on the Intercolonial Railway, and the expenditure \$2,981,671, a surplus of \$5,839. So much for the accuracy of this gentleman who has come to instruct us. But, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) said one thing

which will go as a gem to the North-west Territories. As a sign of how this government had fulfilled all its pledges to stand by the farmer, he told us that last year, Massey-Harris & Co. had spent \$258,000 on increasing their plant. I should think they have ; we will have more to say about that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) has told us that all this expenditure is justifiable, that the people are glad of it, and that they like this \$12,000,000 increase. Let me tell you what the same hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) said about smaller expenditure by the Conservative government, and it will read well in parallel columns with what he has told us to-night. In 1895—page 1540 of *Hansard*—the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) said :

But, at all events, the estimates which have now been submitted to the House will amount, in round numbers, to \$39,000,000, which are required to carry on the affairs of this country until the 30th June, 1896. Now, Sir, in my opinion, this is altogether too much. I think that for a country with scarcely five millions of people, \$39,000,000 are altogether too much to ask for to grease the wheels of state. You must bear in mind that not a solitary dollar of this \$39,000,000 is proposed to be expended on public buildings, in digging canals, of bonusing railways, but it is all required to carry on the affairs of this country for one short year.

And yet, Sir, \$50,000,000 to-day amounts to nothing in the eyes of the hon. gentleman ! Such is his consistency ! Could there be a more striking proof of insincerity than the hon. gentleman's words in 1895 in regard to an expenditure of \$39,000,000 and what he said a few moments ago in regard to an expenditure of \$50,000,000 ?

What can be said of the course of the government with regard to the tariff ? This is their fifth session and the only change made in the tariff this year is the increase of the preference from 25 per cent to 33½ per cent, and the arrangement with Trinidad about which the Minister of Finance was to have made some statement this afternoon ; that seems to have fallen through. The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), and the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), at the Hardy banquet prepared us for what we saw last year, no change in the tariff ; and at Perth the Minister of the Interior told us that the tariff was settled. I see my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) here, and I would like to go with him to the convention of 1893, which promised us in the first place free trade, and, as a kind of parallel line, if it could be such, a revenue tariff. The Prime Minister in 1891 in this House, and again in 1893, pledged himself that if he got into power he would give a revenue tariff, and he defined what a revenue tariff was. When men assert as was asserted the other day by one who is not a member of this House, that we have a revenue tariff, you have only to say, in the polite language

of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) in the *Tribune*, that if this is a revenue tariff, we shall have to get a new dictionary to find the meaning of the word. One might use a monosyllabic Anglo-Saxon term that would hit it off to a T. The Prime Minister defined a revenue tariff as a tariff for the needs of revenue ; that was his language. Arrived at Winnipeg in 1894 he told the people there that he had come to break their chains, to deliver them from the slavery of the tariff. Not content with words, they added pictorial bonds to their assertions. They had pictures in the *Globe*. One represented the Prime Minister as the good Samaritan come to the North-west farmer who had fallen among thieves—the manufacturers, the implement makers, the robbers great and robbers small ; and while the Tory high priest and Levite walked by on the other side, the benevolent good Samaritan, the present Prime Minister, the noble Laurier, bends over the poor fellow and is pouring the oil of consolation into his wounds and wine down his throat. There is another picture representing a man with manacles on his wrists and gyves on his ankles, on the links of which were written 22½ per cent on cotton, 20 per cent on implements, and so on ; and the deliverer, the present Prime Minister, is filling his manacles off. You have the pledge of the Prime Minister that if he got into power he would release the farmers of the North-west in the matter of the duty on implements. He went to Moosomin, where the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) in his presence promised that if they got into power they would take the duty off implements. In 1895 they set out again. At Morrisburg the Prime Minister declared himself for a revenue tariff. He was waited on there by the Liberal committee, who told him what they expected of him—that he was to relieve them of the burdens of that tariff. At the Windsor Hotel and at Sohmer Park in Montreal he declared for a revenue tariff, saying that coal and iron should be free ; and again he defined a revenue tariff as a tariff founded on the needs of revenue ; and protection to be eliminated—why ? Because the theory of free traders is that protection increases the price. But we come to a time when we are on the eve of the election of 1896. At that time the present Judge Lister visited Ottawa, and when asked what was the feeling of the country, he gave his interviewer this statement : ' Tariff reform is no myth ; we must have tariff reform ; the farmer is determined to have ample tariff reform.' They got into power. The first session passed away and nothing was done. But before the next session an alarm began to spread in the minds of certain Liberals. The editor of the *Montreal Witness* came out with an article headed ' No Surrender.' There was to be no surrender to the manufacturers or the protectionists ; and the writer said, ' There

is a very nasty rumour going abroad, that the government is not going to carry out its pledges.' At the same time the hon. member for Lisgar came out in the *Tribune* and said: 'From conversations and from speeches which we have had from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and others, it looks as if there was a danger that the government did not intend to carry out its pledges.' The Minister of Marine and Fisheries went over to Hull, when the hon. member for Wright (Mr. Champagne) was looking for election, and there hinted that there would be no important change in the tariff. Well, Sir, we had the tariff of 1897, and what was the first note of the Liberal papers? You had the *Farmers' Sun* crying out that the farmers had been betrayed. You had the *Simcoe Reformer* pointing out that with the extravagance of the government, with its deals, with its yielding to the principle of business is business, it had entirely forgotten all its Liberal principles. And from that time forth everything was done by the leaders of the party and by the newspapers in their confidence, to prepare the public for the complete turn over they were prepared to take in determining to stand on the lines of protection in existence when they came into power. There were two forms of excuse. First, they said, it takes an immense time to reform the tariff; and next they said, we have fulfilled our pledges. They determined at one time, it seems—and that was the tone of the speech of the Prime Minister in 1897—to hold out to the country the prospect that if given time they would carry out their pledge to give free trade; and then they determined boldly to take the position, of doing nothing, they resolved to go to those poor fools throughout the country and say, 'we have fulfilled our pledge—we have given you a revenue tariff.' The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) is the apostle of the excuse that it takes an immense time to carry out tariff reform. Let me quote what he said at Hamilton, in March, 1899:

What was the history of free trade in England? In 1842 the duty was removed on 700 articles; in 1844 it was abolished on wool and raw material for manufactures; in 1845 it was abolished on 400 more articles; in 1846 the corn laws were abolished.

Have we seen anything like that in this country? Was the duty removed by our Finance Minister from 700 articles in 1896 or 1897? Was it abolished in 1898 on raw material for manufacturers? Was it abolished on 400 more articles in 1899? In 1900 are we face to face with anything tantamount to the abolition of the corn laws? If not, what becomes of the hon. gentleman's excuse? Why, we could not have a stronger condemnation of the present government than the excuse made by one of their own supporters, because nothing was

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done to take away protection in 1897, and nothing has been done since. The English began boldly in 1842 by absolutely removing the duty from 700 articles; but our Finance Minister began timidly in 1897, and we look in vain in his administration for a parallel to the abolition by the English government of the duties on wool and raw material, and the abolition of the corn laws. You will remember, Sir, that in 1897 our Finance Minister told the manufacturers of this country that eternal vigilance was requisite on their part. They must have manifested this vigilance, which no doubt is a name for something we do not like to think of, and I suppose their vigilance was so strong and effective that it prevented any *pari passu* step being taken by this government to keep time with the example held up before us by the hon. member for Wellington. Did the manufacturers square themselves?

The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Pater-son), the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), and the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan), came west. From the platform, in the city of Winnipeg, the stentorian tones of the Minister of Customs were re-echoed over the Red River as he roared out the statement that all the pledges of this administration had been carried out. Then it was that he made his great point that a party or a government cannot be bound by what its individual leaders say. If the Prime Minister spoke or the Minister of the Interior or any member of the administration the government were not bound by that, but only by the convention of 1893. To what a peculiar political morality did the hon. gentleman then give voice! He said that the duties had been removed from the necessaries of life, but the people who were listening to him knew well that they had not been removed. One of the things these hon. gentlemen had characterized as a necessary of life, was, coal oil. Then he said that in 1896 the average rate was 18.28 per cent, and now it was 16.71 per cent, or a reduction of 1.71. This is not correct, but accepting it as correct, I would ask is a difference of 1.71 in a tariff such a difference as would convert it from a protection to a revenue tariff? He declared that the greatest thing which the administration had done was to give the rebate of 25 per cent on goods imported from the mother country, which, as it does not affect most of the staples coming into the North-west, is of no use to us. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), laid it down that it would take until the millennium to bring about the reductions which the Liberal party had promised. The hon. Minister of Customs subsequently came to Moosejaw, and there he said that the government had gone as far in the reduction of the tariff as they could be reasonably ex-

pected to go. We have been actually accused, he exclaimed, by Sir Charles Tupper of violating our promises, and he went on to say—and this is the only thing in which I agree with him—that that was a most serious charge, and if true the government should be driven from office. But, it is true, and I am afraid hon. gentlemen opposite are going to be driven from office, and driven from it ignominiously. He was not able to show how the North-west had got any help from the government. On the platform was Mr. James H. Ross, M.L.A., our Minister of Public Works, and he came out with the fake that the tariff is a revenue tariff. The other day, he repeated that statement, but as the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) has said, if the present tariff is a revenue tariff, we must buy new dictionaries and have new meanings for words. I will quote Mr. Ross's words :

Mr. Ross was not satisfied with the tariff. There are many things of prime necessity on which he thought the duty could be lowered. What shall we do, was the next question, when we find these people have not gone a sufficient distance in lowering the tariff. I say we must stay with them in each move towards reducing the duty on articles of prime necessity. Take their policy as a whole, if the Liberal party have reduced the tariff, be it ever so little and have given us a tariff for revenue only, that is, a tariff which will raise revenue for running the country, protection being incidental to that, then I say so long as they go the right way in these matters, I will keep step and hope and trust in the near future they will take one more step in the way of lowering the duty on articles so necessary to the people of the country.

Is not this a fine specimen of what a well-known character in fiction calls: 'Polly wobbly, riggly run, riggly run polly wobbly.' Mr. Ross is not satisfied with the tariff because on many articles of prime necessity the duty has not been lowered as it should have been. Nevertheless he says it is a revenue tariff; and if it is not satisfactory, what is to be done? He says we shall have to be satisfied if the Liberal party reduce it ever so little, but he forgets that the Conservatives reduced it a great deal in 1894, and that the Minister of Customs, standing on the same platform with him, said that if the government did not keep their promises they should be driven from office. Well, they promised to reduce the duties on articles of prime necessity, and Mr. Ross says they have not done so, although they have been four years in power. But Mr. Ross will not act on the advice of the Minister of Customs. On the contrary he is willing to wait, as the government proceeds in its snail-like course towards free trade as they have it in England, which we may expect it to reach in a thousand years at its present rate of progress. But why should the North-west support the government if the government has not carried out its pledges?

Well, Sir, the Minister of the Interior came west, and before he came west, he had sent ahead of him the famous Chapelle, who had been brought down from an extreme point in the west by Mr. Turiff, to consult with him, and whom he primed and sent forward to prepare the course—a sort of John the Baptist for him, to make his paths straight. The minister spoke at Morden, and when asked what they had done to fulfil their pledges in the way of tariff reform for the west, he said: Look at what we have done for you on stoves 25 per cent off stoves; and we have put separators on the free list. Stoves! We imported, last year, \$126,294 worth of stoves, of which \$125,806 came from the United States, and, therefore, came in under the general tariff. Only \$664 worth came in from Great Britain. This is the man who ran his own election on the cry of free implements. But at this meeting at Morden, he saw that the Liberals looked askance at him, he noticed the cold reception they offered him. His friend, the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), was there, and, he too was aware that the Liberals were regarding the great Avatar, the young Napoleon, this extraordinary administrator, this wonderful genius, with no very friendly eye. And, what did the hon. member for Guysborough say? There have been rich utterances on the part of that hon. gentleman. There have been immortal expressions which will be remembered throughout all time, and will be searched carefully for by the hunter after style, in future generations—but nothing to equal what I am about to give you.

To such a Liberal who said that the government did not keep its pledges, he would say—
I hope hon. gentlemen will all admire the logic of this:

—look at home. Have you kept the pledges made to your wife before you married her? But what would you think if your wife left you and went off with another man and that man an unsanctified tramp. That woman would be just as vile as the Liberal who turned Tory.

The teaching is in private morals, one rule for the man, and one for the woman, that the man can do as he pleases, that in politics so-called Liberal leaders can do as they please, just like the husband of an aberrant turn of heart. I hope there are no gentlemen of that kind either in the bosom of the government, or in the Liberal party. But, I may hasten to remark that we generally take our illustrations from those subjects that are nearest our bosoms. This is an admission that the Liberal leaders are false to their vows, that the Liberal party in the position of the wife of a husband, who abandons herself to infidelity, while he considers that she must still be true to him, must not seek a divorce, for instance. The morals are such as we might expect from a government like this, which has abandoned

its pledges, and of which, as I have said, insincerity is the keynote; the note that will kill it, and ought to kill it, and not only that, but brand it in history—the note of falsehood that runs through all it thinks and does and aims at. Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me, that rarely has an eminent public man uttered anything more edifying than the charming piece of reasoning, so full of logic and so laden with good taste, which on that occasion fell from the lips of the hon. member for Guysborough.

On Tuesday last the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), whom I am glad to see in his place, made a speech, conceived in the same spirit of error as the speech to which I am replying. Before he had fled from the House two minutes, the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), had pointed out his misstatements. The hon. member for South Huron declared that the present tariff was a revenue tariff—

Mr. McMILLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order. Sit down.

Mr. McMILLAN. I rise to a point of order, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) says that before I was well out of the House, I was called to order for this misstatement. What I stated was—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. McMILLAN. I was going to say—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I must tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), that that is not a point of order.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) misunderstood me. What I said was that he made a comparison between the duty on wagons in 1894 and now, and he gave figures which were not correct. He rose from his seat—with an agility which I had rarely seen him manifest before—and fled from the House, and before he was far from the door, my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) had entirely exposed the misstatements he had made. But the whole speech was full of errors—

Mr. McMILLAN. My statements were correct; the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) dare not give me an opportunity to prove them.

Mr. DAVIN. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I may say—I do not know whether this will please the hon. member for South Huron—the whole speech bristled with such statements as proved him to be a true poet. You know, the poet is essentially a creator. Byron says of poets, especially of great poets—and if my hon. friend (Mr. McMillan) were a poet, he would be a great one—that

They are such liars,

And take all colours, like the hands of dyers.

I have shown you what the attitude of the government is. I am now going to ask what was and what is the

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attitude of the people? What did the people expect of the Liberal party? In October, 1895, the Prime Minister, as I have already said, visited Morrisburg. I have already mentioned the fact that he received an address from the Liberals of Dundas, saying that the Liberal party looked to him 'for relief from the present burdensome tariff system which has retarded progress, burdened great industries, such as farming, lumbering and commerce, and all for the sake of a few.' We know what answer the Prime Minister gave. He was going to give them relief, he was going to carry out what they would like to have carried out. And my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Pater-son) was out west, with my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), a tariff commission, when they sat at Winnipeg, as they will remember, Mr. Fleming went before them. He smelt a rat, and was afraid that they were not going to carry out their pledges. He quoted a speech of the Prime Minister, who said—he was speaking to an Anglo-Saxon audience—that he would always keep his eye on grand old England. Mr. Fleming said:

Well, Sir, I am glad of that, because I am an Englishman I hope he will keep his eye on grand old England. But, Sir, I am afraid he will squint towards the grand old manufacturer, and in regard to coal oil, he will squint towards grand old Petrolea.

But, worse still has happened, because, instead of squinting towards grand old Petrolea, he has squinted to Rockefeller, and to the monster octopus that now, in the matter of coal oil, has this country by the throat.

A meeting was held in Regina in March, 1899. It was a Liberal meeting, addressed by the member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), and Mr. J. J. Grant, who was a candidate in 1896, by Mr. D. A. Macdonald, a gentleman in business in Regina, and Mr. A. Alexander, a prominent farmer. Mr. Macdonald, who is well known to my hon. friend near me, the member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan), moved:

Be it further resolved, that the people of the west, and especially the farmers, are looking anxiously, expectantly and confidently for such a revision of the tariff as will conform with the pledges of the Liberal party as contained in the Ottawa platform—

The Minister of Customs could not object to that.

—and as recently foreshadowed in the budget speech of Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance—

The Minister of Finance could not object to that.

—when he warned the manufacturers to set their houses in order, and prepare for reductions all along the line.

That was passed unanimously, and it is quite clear they still had some lingering

faith in the sincerity of these gentlemen. I need not recall the outcries of sincere Reformers, the *Tribune*, the *Dundas Banner*, the *Huntingdon Gleaner*. But look at the way the two ministers of the Crown I have referred to were received in Manitoba and the North-west during the winter. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) stumped in Manitoba, in his own constituency, and he went to Moosomin and Regina. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) knows they were very badly received. I know well the way they were treated at Moosomin. I am glad to know that some Conservatives came to the rescue and extended hospitality to these gentlemen, and to the member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), which, I am told, he greatly enjoyed. Well, Sir, what a contrast. Go back to 1897, when the Minister of the Interior was acclaimed. A banquet was given at the Manitoba Hotel. On the right of the chairman were the Minister of the Interior, and Mr. Richardson touching his right elbow. On the left, Mr. Greenway and the Hon. Robert Watson, now a senator. But, this time, Sir, there were no banquets; this time there was no blowing of trumpets, this time there were more prayers of a truly mundane character than adulation for the government or for the Minister of the Interior. Look at the contrast. The magnificent hotel, the magnificent dining room, the great banqueting hall, are now things of the past. That hotel is in ruins, like the reputation of the minister who was feted on that occasion. The member for Lisgar would not stand on a platform now with that hon. gentleman whose elbow he touched on that occasion. Mr. Greenway is a discredited and a ruined politician. He used to be the bosom friend of the Minister of the Interior, who ate his salt, who supped with him, who lay in his bosom, but who has turned on him in his misfortune. You know what Captain McHeath says:

That Jimmy Twitcher should peach me,
I own surprised me.

And you can understand Mr. Greenway, when the Minister of the Interior turned on him, saying with the detected captain:

That Jimmy Twitcher should peach me,
I own surprised me.

Well, the Minister of the Interior, after he came here, went back again to Brandon, and there they drummed up a meeting of 102 gentlemen, dragged from all parts of the province, and some from the North-west. I counted them, all the names were given, and his faithful henchman in the North-west, Mr. James H. Ross, was there. The Minister of the Interior had already three years of such ministerial iniquity on his shoulders as few ministers have ever had to shrink under. He was indeed heavily laden with wealth as well. He was about to visit the Danube and the Thames for purposes such as I have already hinted at.

As a North-west man, I think I may complain that one of our territorial ministers should be there to vote for a resolution testifying the entire confidence in one of the most discredited ministers of that discredited government, which has three or four ministers so discredited that they would pull down the otherwise strongest government imperial or colonial. I say there are three ministers in the bosom of that ministry, the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), and the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair).

An hon. MEMBER. The Minister of Public Works.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, he is altogether gone; he is out of the question. Those three are greatly damaged, but none of them stand worse than the Minister of the Interior. Yet, here is our territorial minister going down to Brandon to vote confidence in that gentleman! Addressing these 102 partisans, it is still on the conscience of the minister that he has not carried out his pledges. I read from a report in the *Free Press*, his own organ, this extract from what he said:

He knew there were difficulties, Manitobans were not satisfied with what had been done on the tariff. They had not, however, looked at the question from a Dominion standpoint. A delegation had come to Ottawa representing millions of dollars and thousands of people, and more power to affect constituencies than was to be found in the whole of Manitoba. They said to Sir Wilfrid, if in twelve months your government do not do us justice and protect us by putting a duty on lumber, we will support Sir Charles Tupper.

And so they put 25 per cent on lumber that was free under the old tariff.

He had been called in, and was obliged to state to his leader that when such legislation was passed he might as well get his resignation ready.

But he did not resign, the only member of the cabinet who cared a straw to keep lumber free.

He was the only member of the cabinet who cared a straw to keep lumber free. He was the only member who would not be benefited if the lumber duties were replaced.

You see the language he uses; benefited means keeping him in office, helping him in elections, and the only thing that seems to concern him is how the government would be affected. Manitobans are not satisfied; that is nothing. Look at his reasons for not keeping faith with Manitoba and with the North-west Territories—expediency, or what they would have called commodity in the days of the great Elizabeth. Expediency, the unclean thing quietly put into their hands; to save their skin. That is the chief thing. He talks of the lumber duties, and seems to imply that they reduced them. How do the Lib-

erals feel? They feel abandoned. How do the people generally feel? You can gather that from the frigid and almost insulting reception that these gentlemen were accorded. Following in the wake of these gentlemen, ministers of the Crown, two men holding portfolios, one holding the most important portfolio for the west, that of the Interior, and the other that of Customs, following in their wake came the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). They could not get an audience which would fill the halls; to hear Sir Charles Tupper, the vast rinks at Indian Head and at Moosomin were crowded and the halls in other places were not big enough to hold the people, hundreds going away unable to get in. I was present and saw it. Here was a man thus received who had nothing to give; no position other than the honourable position of being the head of one of the great parties in this country, but no official position, no power, and here were two men representing a great government, as they would call it, with an immense majority at their back, going from place to place and none so poor as to do them reverence. Why, there had to be much diplomacy exercised before they could, in one place, get the president of the Liberal Association to take the chair for them. There was running from the private car to the hotel, from the private car to somewhere else, and all sorts of negotiations, until, at last, the generous man took pity on them and took the chair. Afterwards we had another Liberal. The right hon. Prime Minister said that he was a great man. Standing on the same platform, and referring to the speech of the hon. gentleman, he said:

If the government persists in their mad course of machine manipulation it will soon be time for the independent Liberals to again assert themselves. (Cheers.) What do they care for the empty names of Laurier and Sifton as compared with the great principles which these men have deserted. (Applause.) They used to speak of yellow dog Tories, meaning men who would vote for their party at any cost to keep the 'miserable Grits out.' I tell you that to-day there is a strong feeling in the Liberal ranks against the very element of 'yellow dog' in the government. (Applause.) In these ranks stand all true Liberals, and I am not afraid to appeal to them as representing the Liberal party and Liberal principles, and they will with a united voice demand that the leaders of the government return to the principles they have abandoned. They must put principles above party, and unless that is done, there is a bad outlook for the politics of this country.

The effect of that speech by the Hon. Mr. Martin was startling. It was a crushing blow which resounded through the entire province of Manitoba and through the Territories.

Let me ask the attention of the House for a short time while I refer to what the government have done in regard to those things in which the North-west Territories are more

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especially interested. I mean agricultural implements, cottons and coal oil. What was the expectation created in regard to agricultural implements? I have already quoted what was said at Moosomin; I have already alluded to the famous picture in the *Globe* newspaper in September, 1894, and I have referred to the election cry of the hon. Minister of the Interior—free implements. This is what he said on the 2nd of March when he went to talk to this partisan audience. Here is the excuse he gave, because, they told him before he went on the platform what the feeling of the people was in regard to the recreancy of the government.

In the matter of agricultural implements, a strictly revenue tariff would be more than the 20 per cent now in force, and the implement dealers of eastern Canada, employing 9,000 men, had protested because they claimed that they have been selected to bear the brunt of a tariff lower than a strictly revenue tariff. They say they don't want a tariff for protection, but a relief from having to pay the United States 35 per cent for the raw material, when American firms pay only 20 per cent on the finished product. Manitobans naturally say: 'Well, the duty ought to be cut down, anyway,' but could they say that from a Finance Minister's standpoint? The Liberal policy had been framed to meet, as far as possible, the wishes of all parts of the Dominion. Certainly, all could not be fully satisfied. Ontario was displeased because lumber was on the free list. Manitoba wanted free implements. There must be a spirit of compromise among the members of the party if there was to be a Liberal government in Canada.

First, let me say that there was none of this special pleading when he promised free implements. He promised free implements to the people who elected him, he promised free implements to Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and there was none of this special pleading then nor was there any of this special pleading when this promise was made by the right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture. But that is in entire accordance with what he said at the Hardy banquet. His language was this:

We have, therefore, made a revision of the tariff, which has been a great relief to the manufacturers of the country.

Not to the farmers, not to the tradesmen and not the artisans, but to the manufacturers. A dozen of these manufacturers in whom he is so much interested, in one business alone, in the Massey-Harris business, have within the last ten years, become millionaires; not one, but a dozen, as we can show, if necessary. Let me here say a word about these implements. I asked an expert his opinion what a binder which sells for \$100 should cost, and he told me, that, if it was sold at a fair profit, such as the profit is in any other business, it would sell for about \$50. True Liberals will ask: What is the good of keeping a Liberal govern-

ment in power which brings in no Liberal measures? The special pleading of the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), at Moosejaw, is nearly as rich as that of the hon. Minister of the Interior. Here it is reported in the *Moosejaw Times* :

Regarding the tariff question. The Conservatives claimed the Liberal party had violated their promises in this connection. The Liberals did not care very much what they said.

That is what I say. The government do not care much what the opposition say, but the government will care much when one of their own party criticises them as they deserve to be criticised. That is the reason I got so much done for the country when my own party was in power. If these gentlemen from the North-west had stood by me in 1896 and 1897 and 1898 when I moved in these matters, we would have forced the hands of the government.

The Conservatives, in 1894, had gone in for reducing the tariff on agricultural implements, reducing it from 35 per cent to 20 per cent. The Liberals had not undertaken a reduction on these articles, as the experience in the past had shown that it had the effect of burdening the manufacturer with heavy duties on the raw material. In order to square matters so he could exist, the manufacturer, who on some things paid 50 per cent duty, had to add this much to the price of the implement. The officers of the government got at the manufacturer first, and the manufacturer then had to turn around and get even off the farmer. We soon found the manufacturer was burdened by duties such as \$4 per ton on pig iron, 10 per cent on steel, 30 per cent on machinery, 35 per cent on binders, &c. We reduced pig iron to \$2, steel and bar iron from 16 to 7 per cent, and by these reductions we enabled the manufacturer to so reduce his prices as to lower the price of binders \$5. A corresponding reduction was made in ploughs, and in all these reductions the purchaser was the man most directly benefited. The present government had reduced the duty nearly one-third, as they realized the fact that the great agricultural industry was and must always be the backbone of Canada.

Here at the close is an empty compliment but the whole utterance is full of tenderness for the manufacturer, and not one thing for the farmer. You see it is the same excuse always; the Conservatives, naughty fellows, had reduced the duty 15 per cent, but the Liberals would be guilty of nothing like that. Does the manufacturer sell the machine cheaper? The hon. gentleman says 'he does, I tell him he does nothing of the kind, for binders are \$10 dearer to-day than they were then. He says that 15 per cent was taken off ploughs, but he does not say that was done by the Conservative government. Well, Sir, in 1893 I moved in the matter of coal oil, and the Postmaster General moved in it, and he declared coal oil to be a necessary of life. We succeeded in getting the government to reduce the duty on coal oil by 1½ cents per gallon, or 20 per cent, but that did not satisfy me, nor did it satisfy the present Prime Minister.

who was then leader of the opposition, and here is what he said on the subject :

Last year we imported \$430,000 worth, and we paid just as much in duty as the value of the goods, that is to say, we paid a duty of 100 per cent. Well, as a revenue tariff, this would be outrageous; in fact, if the duty were decreased by one-half or two-thirds, we would have more revenue than we have now on coal oil. This is not, therefore, a revenue tariff; it has been imposed altogether for protection, and for nothing else. Even yet, though there is a duty of 100 per cent on that article, that is not all. Other obstacles have been put in the way of the importation of coal oil, amounting to as much, perhaps, as the present tariff. It is calculated, upon good authority, that the protection afforded to coal oil is 200 per cent at least.

The Liberals came into power, and what have they done? They took off a cent a gallon, but they made arrangements by which the Standard Oil Trust got the country at its mercy. Even the *Globe*, two months ago had an elaborate leading article in which it was shown that this octopus (to use the word of one of my hon. friends), with a nominal capital of \$100,000,000, representing an investment of probably one-fifth of this, it is admitted, paid dividends of \$170,000,000 in the six years before 1899. The profits last year were \$70,000,000, being two or three hundred per cent on actual investments. That is proved to have been made on the United States price, but on the Canadian price they would have from four hundred to six hundred per cent. My hon. friend from Stanstead (Mr. Moore), calculates that the Standard Oil Trust will receive \$2,400,000 more for the oil this year in Canada than they would get at United States prices, and this tallies with the calculation of the *Globe* that they will have a profit of \$4,000,000. Well, Sir, last year the total imports from the United States were 8,010,305 gallons, with a duty of \$692,059. Now, with a cent off, and the price of oil up, how does it look? It is selling at 50 and 60 cents a gallon, I am told, in Medicine Hat, and the cent off the duty means \$80,000 loss to the treasury. We have lost nearly \$100,000 in revenue on coal oil, and the only way we have gained is that the price has appreciated instead of going lower. Here is what the Prime Minister said on the occasion I have referred to :

What I say about coal oil, I say about iron.

Yet we have the iron duties and the bonus. And having dwelt on the enormity of protecting iron, the Prime Minister says :

I say that a system is false which can produce such results as these. But that is not all. There is something worse than all that in a protective tariff. We charge upon the protective tariff—and no one knows it better than the hon. the Minister of Finance—that it is base and degrading.

Yet he keeps up the tariff. One thing is certain, that any tenet, whether it be politi-

cal or religious, held without faith and professed without sincerity, is degrading; and the fact that these gentlemen opposite for eighteen years professed free trade doctrines and have come into power and adopted doctrines diametrically opposite; that may account for the quick and deep demoralization of the government.

I have in my hand the utterance in 1894 of Sir Richard Cartwright (the Minister of Trade and Commerce at the present time), on the subject of cotton. The duty on cotton was then only 22½ per cent, and he said that this duty was monstrous:

If I am not mistaken, so far from requiring protection on these goods, I understood that the trade was supplying these goods to the Chinese; and a great deal of very proper exultation was displayed by some members of the House over the fact that our cotton manufacturers were able to compete in the Chinese market with the products of the English and United States mills. If that be the case, what do you want with this protection at all? If they are able to undersell English and American goods in the Chinese markets, our own people ought to get the benefit.

Yet what did the Liberals do? They came into power and they raised the duty on cotton. The hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen), said:

This is an important item, affecting a large class of people, and there ought to be a larger reduction. When our mills are able to send goods to China to compete against English and American goods, I do not think that it is necessary to subject our people to this duty in order to give the cotton manufacturer protection. They have raw material free, wages are just as low in Canada as in the United States, rents as low, and living as cheap, and I do not see why they cannot produce as cheaply as the manufacturers on the other side. I would like to know why it is necessary to keep up this protection.

That is exactly, Sir, what the farmers would like to know. They would like to know, why above all did the Liberal government raise the duty from 22½ per cent to 25 per cent. In that connection I will ask this: Does the preference do any good? Does the preference do any good on agricultural implements? Let us see. Last year we imported agricultural implements, binder attachments, to the number of 103,313, valued at \$32,936, paying a duty of \$6,551, and none of these were imported under the preference. The duty on these was reduced by the Conservative government to 20 per cent, and the duty is 20 per cent to-day, and none came in under the preference. Last year we imported 2,502 cultivators, valued at \$17,594, paying a duty of \$3,590.80, and none came in under the preference. The duty on these was reduced by the Conservatives to 20 per cent, and it is 20 per cent to-day. Last year we imported 2,912 drills, worth \$64,583, paying a duty of \$12,936, and none came in under the preference. Forks—46,912 came in, worth \$10,968, paying a duty of \$2,746.95. Harrows—

4,091 came in, worth \$53,739, paying a duty of \$10,549; none came in under the preference. Harvesters, self-binding and without binding attachments, reduced to 20 per cent by the Conservative government—6,931 came in, worth \$664,610, paying a duty of \$132,920. Of this Manitoba and the North-west pays \$60,530.20, or nearly half the duty—no advantage whatever under the preference. Horse rakes—4,330 came in, value \$69,043, paying a duty of \$13,808, of which Manitoba and the Territories paid \$6,929, or more than half; reduced to 20 per cent by the Conservative government, and 20 per cent now. Mowing machines, reduced to 20 per cent by the Conservative government—10,332 came in, valued at \$348,735, paying a duty of \$69,747, of which Manitoba and the Territories paid \$25,798, or over \$3,000 more than Ontario. Ploughs, reduced to 20 per cent by the Conservative government, and 20 per cent to-day—9,617 came in, worth \$192,158, paying a duty of \$38,431, of which Manitoba and the North-west paid \$31,964, or more than 83 per cent. Manufactures of cotton—duck, gray or white; the general tariff, 22½ per cent under the Conservative government, 22½ per cent now; 184,498 yards came in, valued at \$31,719, paying a duty of \$7,137. Under the preferential, 14,438 yards came in, valued at \$1,414, paying a duty of \$245. Over 97 per cent came in under the full tariff. Embroideries, on which the tariff has been reduced to 25 per cent; \$148,754 worth came in under the general tariff, paying a duty of \$37,189, and \$29,735 came in under the preferential, paying a duty of \$5,576. Switzerland, the great mart, the great emporium, the great store whence we get embroideries, sends \$113,866 worth, which of course, comes in under the general tariff. On gray, unbleached cotton fabrics, which are mostly used by the poor, the general tariff is 25 per cent; under the Conservative government it was only 22½ per cent. For the year ended the 30th of June, 1899, we brought from Great Britain 229,561 yards, valued at \$15,817, on which the duty was \$2,965; from the United States 1,224,022 yards, value \$44,718, duty \$11,184. 1,336,476 yards came in under the general tariff, worth \$49,730, and paying duty to the tune of 25 per cent, instead of 22½ per cent of the slavery tariff of the Liberal-Conservative government, to the amount of \$12,437. Under the preferential 229,821 yards came in at 18½ per cent, worth \$15,829, and paying in duty \$2,967.94; from Germany 46,877 yards, paying the full duty; and from Switzerland 12,987 yards, paying the full duty. The aggregate duty paid was \$15,405. What would have been paid under the old tariff? \$14,750.77. \$654.25 more was paid than would have been paid under Conservative rule, and this by the poor. The preference of 25 per cent does not enable Britain to send us these cheap fabrics, and the increased duty has to be paid on the goods coming from Germany, Switzer-

land and the American republic. How does it stand with white or bleached cotton fabrics? Under the general tariff of 25 per cent we imported 3,736,727 yards of the value of \$225,166, paying \$56,291 in duty; under the preference 3,287,993 yards, value \$263,651; duty, \$49,444. Thus the preference has not enabled England to capture the market. It has not lowered the price of bleached cotton fabrics to the consumer. All it has accomplished is this: It has placed \$16,468 in the pockets of a few cotton lords in Manchester, which might just as well have been in the treasury of Canada. Is there a better showing as regards cotton fabrics, printed, dyed or coloured? The old tariff was 30 per cent; the new is 35, with 25 per cent off goods manufactured in Great Britain. Under the general tariff we imported 11,618,356 yards, value \$894,888, duty \$313,210; under the preferential we imported 24,277,762 yards, value \$2,239,298, duty \$587,825. Under the old tariff we should have received in duty \$940,255; thus without lowering the price to the consumer we lost \$39,220, the difference between the aggregate received last year, and what would have been received under the old tariff; and this sum was placed in the pockets of the wealthy cotton men. Because it must be remembered that the 25 per cent is off, not 30, but 35 per cent, and therefore for a little over two-thirds of the printed, dyed or coloured fabrics we imported, the reduction on the old tariff was only 3½ per cent, while on about a third the increase on the old tariff was 5 per cent. Seamless bags pay the same duty under the general tariff as before—20 per cent. Has the preference done any good there? Not at all. Over 99 per cent came in under the general tariff; only 110 pounds or \$55 worth coming in under the preference. Knitted goods are the same—no relief. Cotton clothing, which under the old tariff was 32½ per cent, under that of free trade is 35 per cent. Cotton clothing—under the general tariff, value \$202,592, duty \$70,909.56; under the preference, value \$133,687, duty \$35,086.78, or over 64 per cent came in under the general tariff, paying the increased duty of 35 per cent. Under the old tariff the customs would have received on the whole imports \$11,603 more than \$105,996, which was actually received. Nearly two-thirds of the goods would have come in at a lower rate of duty and with a consequent decrease in price.

Blouses, 30 per cent under the old tariff and now 35 per cent. Under the general tariff \$22,884 worth of blouses and waists came in, which paid a duty of \$8,010. Under the preference rate \$1,539 worth came in, which paid a duty of \$404. Thus over 1,500 per cent more came in under the general tariff. The duty collected amounted to \$8,414.26, and the duty which would have been collected under the old tariff would have

amounted to \$7,326.90, or \$1,087.36 more duty was paid under the present tariff.

Cotton towels were charged in the old tariff 25 per cent and in the new tariff 30 per cent. Under the general tariff, the value imported was \$4,055, on which a duty of \$1,216.50 was paid. Under the preferential rate, \$29,145 worth was brought in, and the duty paid was \$6,561.08. The aggregate duty under the two amounted to \$7,777.58. Had the old tariff been in operation, the amount would have been \$8,300, so that only \$522 less was collected, though the bulk of the towels came from Great Britain, thus showing how delusive is the preference preceded by raising the duty. Not a towel was made cheaper.

Of undershirts and drawers, the value imported under the general tariff was \$11,380, on which a duty of \$3,982.90 was paid. Under the preferential rate, the value imported amounted to \$2,493, on which \$654.42 duty was collected. The aggregate amount of duty paid was \$4,637.32. Had there been no preference, the duty collected would have been \$4,835.55, or \$198.23 more, showing that the preference was delusive both as regards England and the consumers.

On articles made by the seamstress from cotton fabrics, a duty was charged in the old tariff of 32½ per cent, and in the new tariff of 35 per cent. How does the preference affect them? Under the general tariff the value imported was \$49,762, on which a duty was collected of \$17,411.98. Under the preferential tariff we imported \$10,469 worth, on which the duty paid amounted to \$2,746.68, so that under the present tariff, we paid an increased duty of 35 per cent on \$49,762 and 26½ on \$10,409 worth.

Curtains, when made up, trimmed and untrimmed, were charged in the old tariff 30 per cent, and in the new tariff are 35 per cent. Under the general tariff the value imported was \$155,111, on which the duty collected amounted to \$54,286. Under the preferential rate, the value of imports was \$235,268, and the duty collected \$61,755, making a total duty collected under the two of \$116,041. Under the old tariff we would have collected \$117,083, or \$1,042 more, which would have been a gain, because the price to the consumer not being affected, the only person who has profited is either the English manufacturer or the middleman in Canada. Fur skins, wholly or partially dressed, 15 per cent, under old tariff, 15 under the new. Fur hats, caps, muffs, tip-pets, capes, coats, jackets, cloaks and other manufactures of fur, 30 per cent under the Liberal tariff; 25 per cent under the Conservative. For these goods our two great emporiums are England and the United States; next comes Germany. We get a great deal of fur skins, wholly or partially dressed, from Germany, but our imports of manufactures of fur from that country are

small. Of the former we imported during the year from Germany \$242,199 worth; from France, \$36,064; Belgium, \$1,987; Russia, \$4,841; Australasia, \$757; in a word, under the general tariff, value \$406,987; duty, \$61,048; preferential value, \$179,611; duty, \$20,206.

\$406,987 worth paying 15 per cent amounting to \$61,048; \$179,611 paid \$20,206, or 15 per cent less 25 off the 15. Into whose pocket did the \$6,735 thus foregone by the customs-house go? Not into the consumers, for furs during the past year have been dearer than ever. Who is the ultimate buyer of fur skins, wholly or partially dressed? The furrier, the manufacturer, and this is a case which illustrates what the Minister of the Interior said at the Hardy banquet, that the tariff had given much needed relief to the manufacturers of this country. There is sentiment in love and war, there is no sentiment in commerce. On what ground of principle or common sense can you charge 15 per cent on the \$242,199 from Germany, and on the \$36,064 worth coming from France, or on the \$66,646 from the United States? That \$6,735.20 is a nice little sum in the pockets of the English exporters or the Canadian furrier, but it has to be made up; some one pays what it would have paid; who is this some one? The general taxpayer, the farmer, the storekeeper, the artisan.

Now, let us come to the manufactured article. How does the free trade tariff show there? Caps, fur coats, cloaks, muffs and the like, came in under the general tariff, value, \$60,160; duty, \$18,047.85; under the preferential, value, \$39,013; duty, \$8,776.10. Here are the goods which the people buy. How are they affected by the tariff? Under the old tariff \$99,173 worth of manufactured furs would have paid only \$24,793.25, or \$2,030.70 less than \$26,823.95, which was what was actually collected. This \$2,030.70 was taken directly out of the pocket of the wearer of the goods, the same man out of whose pocket you had just taken \$6,735.20 in the interest of the large exporter or manufacturer. The United States sent us \$36,684 on which 30 per cent was paid; Germany, \$8,946 direct and some \$30,000 indirect on which 30 per cent was paid. Is there any sense in this? England is benefited little or nothing in this case and the tariff of emancipation has freed the country by increasing protection from 25 to 30 per cent. No wonder Mr. Sifton said we have given relief to the manufacturer; no wonder the Manufacturers' Association should pass resolutions saying they could go out of business.

I have in my hand a report of what took place at the annual meeting of the Manufacturers' Association about two months ago in the city of Toronto:

'This association,' said President Ellis, 'has been in existence fifty-five years. The object

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of its formation was to educate the country on the advantage of protection to native industries, and gradually through its efforts was the present tariff enacted.'

You see, he says the present tariff. Showing that what Mr. Bertram said was correct, that the Manufacturers' Association was in council with this government, in the fixing of the present tariff.

The object of its formation was to educate the country on the advantage of protection to native industries, and greatly through its efforts was the present tariff enacted; and, while it is still necessary to carefully watch that this great principle is not interfered with, it is now felt that it is not a political issue, both parties admitting that protection is now here to stay. The Manufacturers' Association do not think this tariff a revenue tariff. They call a spade a spade. The only men who call this tariff a revenue tariff, are the men who are interested in cloaking their tergiversation before the country.

This object being, therefore, an accomplished fact, the association should further extend its usefulness by giving attention to other matters.

Was ever a preponderant interest like that of the farmers so shamefully betrayed and mocked as it has been by this government? Now, Sir, the whole duty collected last year was \$25,734,228, the largest amount ever taken out of the pockets of the people of Canada for customs. And this is statesmanship! Again and again has the Prime Minister put himself on record as to his determination to have a revenue tariff, and as to what a revenue tariff is. One thing that a revenue tariff must not do is to tax raw materials, and in Montreal in 1895, the Prime Minister denounced the taxes on iron and coal, as I have related; and at Sohmer Park, a few days later, he said that 'if we were to have a revenue tariff, raw material would be free.' And in the next sentence, as if replying by implications to the impudent statement that abandoned men all over the country were trying to stuff down the throats of the people, he said: 'raw materials are not free to-day under the protective system.' He has been in power for almost four years. Are raw materials free? Have we a revenue tariff?

And now, Sir, referring to a remark that fell from the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell). I have a report of the government that he supports before me. According to that report, the population in 1896 was 5,125,436, and in 1899 it was 5,312,500, an increase in 3 years of 187,064. I do not know exactly what the proper birth rate is, but I fancy that allowing any fair birth rate, very little would be left to be credited to immigration. According to sessional paper No. 6, page 7, we paid in customs \$4.84 per head of the population in 1899, as compared with \$3.94 per head in 1896, and \$3.52 per head in 1895. And yet, Sir, this government and the hon. member for Kent declare that they are not taxing

the people, that they have not raised the taxation either collectively or per head. At this moment in the Territories we are paying to the Dominion government over \$12 per head. Under the general tariff last year, we imported \$62,835,730 worth of goods, paying a duty of \$19,810,551. Under the preference, we imported \$26,397,442 worth of goods, paying \$5,885,292 of duty, or an aggregate amount of \$89,433,172 of goods paying a duty of \$25,695,844. Thus over 70 per cent came in under the general tariff, the goods affected being, in most cases, those used by the poor, and in all cases under the general tariff, the goods that have come in, are goods that we are interested in in the North-west.

Now, it has been said to me sometimes: Why is it that you are perpetually harping on the necessity of protecting the farmers. I say we should do all in our power to protect the farmers. And I say one reason why the resolution of the leader of the opposition commends itself to my mind, is that at the close it pledges the Conservative party, if they are returned to power, to do all they can to protect that farmer who, I have shown, has been shamefully abandoned by hon. gentlemen opposite. How can this be done? He has to sell his produce in the freest and cheapest markets in the world. Should not he be privileged to buy in the cheapest market consistent only with the imposition of such duties as are necessary for raising a revenue for the country?

Mr. ELLIS. That is good free trade doctrine. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) believe it?

Mr. DAVIN. Of course I do. I was quoting the words of the Prime Minister. Why does he not carry them out?

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has been reading for the last twenty minutes. I think that is against the rules of the House.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I can attend to my own speech without the guidance—

Mr. TALBOT. Mr. Speaker, I beg to draw your attention to the fact that the hon. gentleman who is now addressing the House, has been reading for the last twenty minutes and I ask you to say whether that is, or is not against the rules of the House?

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. member (Mr. Talbot), does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. TALBOT. Perhaps if I had been wheelbarrowed around the country as much as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has, I might.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Talbot), is not in order to interrupt me—

Mr. TALBOT. I am in order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has been reading for the last twenty minutes. I am in the judgment of the House when I say that.

Mr. SPEAKER. Of course, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) knows the rules of the House.

Mr. DAVIN. I was not reading.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. No, I was not.

Mr. SPEAKER. I know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) is perfectly competent to get along without reading, if he chooses.

Mr. DAVIN. I was using my notes, just as the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) used his notes.

Mr. TALBOT. You have been reading for twenty minutes.

Mr. DAVIN. However, Mr. Speaker, I think we can get along without the interruptions of that class of men.

Mr. TALBOT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) is an old parliamentarian, and ought to know better than to do as he is doing.

Mr. DAVIN. I am told that the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), read his speech. But I do not want to read. But, Mr. Speaker, the unpleasant thing is to have from the purlieus of that party, croakings that come from persons like that. I hope we shall have no more of it. Now, I am going to—

Mr. TALBOT. Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has no right to address an hon. member of this House as he has done. I know it is an old habit of his, and, I think, it is time that it should be put down by the authority of the Chair, otherwise it will have to be put down in some shape or form.

Mr. DAVIN. Since I have been in this House, that hon. gentleman (Mr. Talbot), by his demeanour here on many occasions—I could refer to in other sessions, and say that his demeanour here in sessions gone by, has been such that we have been obliged to call attention to his disgraceful conduct.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), pointing to an hon. member on this side, said he should not be interrupted by croakers like that.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not say that.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman used those words.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman pointed across the floor and said, 'croakers like that'—

Mr. DAVIN. What I said—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order. Sit down.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not say that. I will tell what I said. I said this, that what I objected to was to croaking from the purlieus of the party opposite, coming to us in that way. I did not refer to any hon. gentleman as a croaker.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, you pointed your finger across the House to the member for Bellechasse.

Mr. DAVIN. I said, 'croaking coming from the purlieus of that party.' But, there is no breach of order in that. The breach of order was when the hon. gentleman interrupted me, and I will now go on.

Mr. McMULLEN. We want your ruling upon the point whether such conduct is proper on the part of a member of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER. My impression was that the hon. member used the general term. I did not understand that he applied the term 'purlieus of the House' to the gentleman who interrupted him. But, I think we can get along much better if these interruptions are not interjected, the debate will run smoother and easier. I know my hon. friend will recognize the danger of getting into an unparliamentary situation.

Mr. CAMPBELL. He charged the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Talbot) with disgraceful conduct in this House. I ask your ruling on the character of that language.

Mr. DAVIN. Is it not true?

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think the term 'disgraceful conduct' can be called unparliamentary, although I think a sparing use of such terms is very desirable in the House, as we all know. But, I would not like to rule that on no occasion should an hon. gentleman be allowed to use that language.

Mr. DAVIN. It is now palpable that there was no point of order to be raised. I was not out of order, but the hon. gentleman who interrupted me was out of order. I have observed for the last four sessions that whenever any hon. gentleman on this side is squeezing the government hard, when we are bringing out crushing evidence from their own words in the past, then some hon. gentleman opposite rises up and tries to call a point of order for the purpose of creating a diversion. I tell you, Sir, that it is the squealing of a thing in the grasp of fate that we hear when these cries come to us from the other side. The government is beaten, the party, as it exists in this House, is beaten, and these are the cries of a beaten life that finds the grasp of fate upon its existence. Now, I will read what the Prime Minister said:

The produce of the farmer has been driven to the lowest point, but what he has to buy is sold to him at an increased price as compared with the price in England. What is the

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lesson to be deduced from this state of things? It is this (and this is the proposition we rely upon on this side of the House): As the price of agricultural products has been reduced to the lowest point, it should be the aim of the tariff to reduce the price of manufactured goods also to the lowest point. The farmer is bound by his circumstances to sell in the freest and cheapest market, so also ought he to be privileged to buy in the cheapest market, consistent only with the imposition of such duties as are necessary for raising the revenue of the country. That is the proposition on which we stand, and it is a proposition perfectly fair, perfectly just, and perfectly equitable—so fair, so just, so reasonable and so equitable, that the government dare not attack it openly. And yet they cannot adopt it. Why? Because they are chained and yoked to a system which is the reverse of just and fair and equitable.

And yet he clings to it! Now hear what he said when he was looking after votes in the North-west Territories, referring to a Conservative:

He wants to develop the industries of the country, but in what way? By increasing the cost of commodities, by compelling people to purchase at a higher price at home than they could obtain the same goods elsewhere. Well, I admit that with such a system he might develop special industries, but I assert that he will stifle the growth of the country. What has been the experience of our North-west country? Surely no one will pretend that Manitoba and the North-west Territories have realized that amount of prosperity which was expected for them at one time. It was expected that in the year 1894, Manitoba and the North-west Territories would have a population of 600,000 souls at least, and you know what a beggarly number were found there at the last census. More than that, you have developed the east at the expense of the west. Why is it that the growth of that country has been stunted? It is simply because, in order to favour certain industries in the east, you have prevented the people in that country from acquiring their goods at as cheap a rate as they got them under a freer system of trade.

Now, taking him at his own words, believing that the truth was in him, we gave him from the North-west Territories three out of four members, and a majority in Manitoba. But, how has he behaved towards us? Has he redeemed his pledges? Has he carried out his promises? Why, Sir, you know better than anybody else he has not, because I know well that you are a Liberal of the old school and a true man, and I know well what opinion you must have of what has taken place. Here is what he says again:

I am clear upon one thing, and that is that such protection, such taxation as this, is unjust.

And he continued and continues the injustice, and expects to be supported by Liberals!

Now, I have been dealing with the way the public regards the government, and the way the public have been dealt with by this government. We have in this House an hon. gentleman—I do not see him now,

he is very seldom here—we have the member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas). When that hon. gentleman first came down here, I went to him and pointed out that if the North-west members would stand together in fighting the battles of the North-west, they might be able to do great things. I asked him to support me in my efforts to get relief for the farmer in regard to agricultural implements, in regard to cottons, to lumber and coal oil, but he looked askance, he would have nothing to do with me. I did not get any support from the member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), and at first I did not get much support from the member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), although subsequently I got a little. Now, this hon. gentleman was elected on the profession that he would support no government that would not give relief in regard to implements; and when he came back, after the Minister of Finance had made his speech in 1897, he had a meeting at Wapella, and there said:

The tariff had, in a word, been a disappointment. The change made was on the basis of a 10 per cent reduction. We did not get the changes he wanted. He (Mr. Douglas) had done most of his talking on the subject, not on the floor of the House, but in committee. The government must have a revenue, and he did not want any administration to do that for the farmers which we condemned them for doing for the manufacturers. He claimed that he made no promises of free implements, &c. What he wanted was justice.

Here he admits that he did not get from the government what the farmers wanted. But, he says he did his talking in the committee. Not in the committee of the House, because if so, we would know something of it. Not in caucus, because I am told he never raised his voice on that subject in caucus. He denies that he ever attended caucus, and hon. gentlemen opposite will be in a position to know whether that is so or not. Here is the language that I would like to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to, and, in fact, the attention of every hon. member of the government who is present. Here is what their distinguished supporter said at Wapella:

He claimed that the government were not satisfied any more than the people were with the tariff.

Here is an admission—the government not satisfied with the tariff! Why did they not make a tariff that would be satisfactory to them and that would be satisfactory to the people?

He claimed that the government were not satisfied any more than the people were with the tariff.

To whom were the government pledged that they could not make a tariff satisfactory either to themselves or to the people? What dark shadow was behind the hon. Minister of Finance and behind the hon. Minister of Customs that, between them,

they could not give us a tariff which would be satisfactory, at least, to themselves?

It had been stated that he attended a Liberal caucus. It was not so; what he had attended was an open conference.

I am afraid there is some beating around the bush there. Was he speaking the truth, in fact? That is the candid thing to ask.

He had made the strongest speech he had made in the House on the excessive rates of interest on implements, &c. He had told the government he would rather kick them in their own shanty than outside. When Messrs. Fielding and Paterson met with these manufacturers they (the manufacturers) said, 'You are making a general reduction to 25 per cent?' If that is so, we ask you for an advance on the implement duty to put us on a fair basis, and to compromise the matter they had allowed them free raw material, and the machine men had promised to make a \$5 reduction in the prices of machines.

He was sorry he could not make a better report along this line.

As soon as he saw the new tariff, he wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and asked for an interview. It was granted, and he told the Premier he had come to talk on agricultural implements and coal oil. He had said to Sir Wilfrid—

Now, I ask the attention of the House to this. This is what he said to the Prime Minister:

Sir, I want to tell you this: You have not given the members from the North-west a leg to stand on, because this is a large question to our people, and we have not now an argument to meet them with.

Why had they no argument to meet the farmers of the North-west with? Because the Prime Minister, because the hon. Minister of Agriculture, because the government had held out to the people of the North-west Territories the pledge and the promise that they would give them free implements, and because he himself had spoken in that line, as people in Eastern Assiniboia have told me. He said that he told the Prime Minister:

You have not given the members from the North-west a leg to stand on, because this is a large question to our people, and we have not now an argument to meet them with.

What an extraordinary state of things it is! One is ready to cry, what humbug! what shrinking! what sneaking! what special pleading! what meanness! what disloyalty! what betrayal! He goes on in this speech:

Referring again to coal oil, Mr. Douglas said the government would not agree to more than 1 per cent reduction. He had drafted a requisition which was signed by all the independent members asking for a greater reduction, but the government did not feel justified in doing this, as it would, they said, close up the wells at Petrolea. He had procured the rates on coal oil on the Canadian Pacific Railway for every station, even to Macleod and Prince Albert, and it was over the signature of an official. They called his attention to the fact that at that time coal oil could not be shipped in bulk

further than Winnipeg, and proposed a change to allow them to carry it from the United States right through in tanks, and said we should save 5½ cents a gallon alone in the handling. He had met Mr. Fielding and asked him for a meeting. He went and drummed up their friends to go and see him. As soon as Lister heard of this he sent to Petrolea and brought down thirty sound Grits to interview the minister. However, he had carried his point, and now tank cars can pass along and coal oil should be 10 cents less than it was last session. The merchants should take hold of the idea.

Was coal oil any cheaper in 1897, was it any cheaper in 1898, was it any cheaper in 1899? Is it cheaper now? Yet, did our friends move here? Did they move in 1898? did they move in 1899? Have they moved now, when we have been sold, when all Canada has been sold to this commercial beast of prey? Taking the figures supplied by the *Globe* newspaper, the Standard Oil monopoly, by the advance in the price of petroleum, are wringing \$4,000,000 extra profit each year from the people of Canada. Lamp oil has advanced during this last year 20 per cent, but no action has been taken by the government, and I have not heard that anything has been done in the way of relief since certain parties went before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. The *Toronto Globe*, which I have already quoted, and which is so friendly to this government, was forced by public opinion to speak out on the 20th ultimo.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What would you recommend?

Mr. DAVIN. I am not a member of the government. I will use the language that was used by the hon. gentleman's leader, when I am called in I will prescribe. On the 20th ultimo the *Globe* said:

The average advance in the price of gas oil during the past year was 100 per cent.

Now, they are forced, as I have already pointed out, to a position of make believe. I read a short time ago a memorial from a non-political body in Moosejaw. It is in evidence in *Hansard*, and that non-political body points out that prices have gone up, that the promises in regard to the tariff have not been kept, and that, certainly so far as the western farmer has to think of the west, or of himself, there has been no relief. But let us do this government justice. If there has been no relief for the farmers, artificial flowers and ostrich feathers have been brought down 20 per cent, while wagons, which have been so often alluded to, as the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) has pointed out, both farm and freight, remain what they were. Ploughs were 20 per cent before; they are 20 per cent still. In 1894 the Conservative party cut the duty on ploughs and implements 15 per cent, and in 1891 and 1892 they wiped out the sugar duty. This present government reduced the duties on spades and shovels,

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while keeping the duty on ploughs and the duty on wagons at what it was. They reduced the duty on shovels as though, as my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson), in one of the most eloquent speeches that I ever heard on a platform, which he made at Pembroke, said, they believed that the people of the west did their summer ploughing with shovels. Seed drills, 20 per cent, as before, cultivators 20 per cent, as before. Mowing machines, 20 per cent as before. They reduced the duty on hoes, garden rakes, scythes and snaths, but, as if regretting that they reduced the duty on scythes, they doubled the duty on grinding-stones. They put up the duty on cotton and furs, but have taken 5 per cent off jewellery and perfumery, and from 2 per cent to 5 per cent off cotton velvets, precious stones, olive oil, chewing gum and vaseline! Is it no good? Is it not great? Self-binders with a duty of 20 per cent, the same as before. We have the bounty on iron, but we have the consolation that the duty is off reaping-hooks, which of course are used very largely in the North-west Territories. Lawn mowers are still 35 per cent, but sickles are down from 35 to 25 per cent. The railways have a reduction of 25 per cent on fish-plates, 33¼ on railway spikes, ties are on the free list, but a Liberal government could do nothing for the farmers. I have taken here from an authoritative source the evidence of the way prices have gone up all over. This is written by a manufacturer and he says that Pennsylvania crude oil advanced last year from \$1.13 to the present price of \$1.66 per barrel and its products in proportion. Canadian lamp oil has advanced during the year 50 per cent, while other lines have advanced still more. Lumber has advanced from 50 to 100 per cent according to quality, woollens about which the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) orates, have advanced from 50 to 75 per cent, and manufactures of iron and steel have advanced from 75 to 100 per cent. That is not a very satisfactory state of things for the farmer.

But one of the greatest iniquities that this government has perpetrated has been pointed out by my hon. friend from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), and that is their conduct in regard to binder twine. That hon. gentleman found out, in response to a question he asked in this House, that the government sold the twine on hand in the Kingston Penitentiary in August, 1896: Manila, for \$5 per 100 pounds; Mixed Beaver, \$4.50 per 100 pounds; to the Hobbs Hardware Company, in 1897, they sold it at \$5.25 per 100 pounds for Maple Leaf; \$4.75 for mixed Beaver; \$4.40 per 100 pounds for Sisal. In 1898, the government sold to Bate & Sons at the following prices: Manila Maple Leaf, \$4.95 per 100 pounds; Mixed Beaver, \$4.45 per 100 pounds; Sisal, \$4.15 per 100 pounds. To the Hobbs Hardware Co. they sold, in 1899, at the following prices:

Manila, \$7.25 per 100 pounds; Mixed Beaver, \$6.15 per 100 pounds; Sisal, \$6 per 100 pounds. Why was it that the Conservative government established that manufactory in the Kingston penitentiary? It was to help the farmer; it was to cut down prices; it was to guard the farmer against combines; and yet this government sells out to these men, who are proven to be in the combine as close as eels in a mud hole; this Liberal government sells out to these men, these conger eels of commerce, in order that they should get over 100 per cent on what they paid for the twine manufactured in that institution established by the Conservative government to help the farmer and to foreguard him against the combine!

What is the railway policy of this government? I see the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) in his seat, and I will therefore refer to a circumstance I would otherwise not refer to, namely, that in his first visit to the North-west Territories he called at Regina, and in a speech he made there he stated that in the building of railways the interests of the people alone should be considered, and he promised that he would in council propound a railway policy which he had been outlining and which was altogether in the interests of the people. Where is that policy? What has become of it? It is like the rest of the pledges of the Liberal government, gone into the limbo of forgotten things? It is one of the many pledges not redeemed, and these unredeemed pledges are so numerous that this government is like a congested pawnshop. Congested pawnshop—I will make a present of that to Rostap of the *Telegram*, who can picture this government as a pawnshop with a lot of unredeemed pledges, and he will of course give the place of honour as pawnbroker to the Prime Minister. I am anxious, Sir, about the railway policy of the government because I want to get freight rates reduced. Let me point out to you the way the situation was put by a farmer. He said: Wheat is the staple product of the North-west. Previous to 1898, prices were frequently 35 and 45 cents per bushel, and these low rates may prevail again. Suppose the farmer sells a thousand bushels of wheat in the British market at 80 cents a bushel; freights, insurance, &c., would eat up 35 cents per bushel, leaving the producer only \$450 for his crop. He buys \$250 worth of British goods and pays a duty of 30 per cent, or \$75. The other expenses are, 20 per cent to wholesalers, 20 per cent to retailers, and 10 per cent for freight, in all \$125. This would leave him without a dollar in cash, having secured only \$250 worth of goods for \$800 worth of wheat. That is the illustration of a farmer in the North-west. Is it an unfair one? Now the Canadian Pacific Railway without any pressure, has made a cut in passenger rates in the west

which has brought them nearer to a level with those of Ontario. That has been done spontaneously and Mr. Shaughnessy deserves credit for it; but I hope he will not confine his pruning to passenger rates and that he will cut down freight rates as well. When the Minister of the Interior was in the west he spoke with a great deal of gall on the railway policy of the government, and when he was accused of being too friendly with the railway companies, his reply was peculiar. He quoted the Crow's Nest Pass deal in which millions of dollars were given for nothing, and he asked if the government that exacted such conditions were acting in the interests of railway corporations? Well, Mr. Speaker, when I tell you that the minister (Mr. Sifton) received nothing worse than coldness when he was in the west, I think you will agree with me that the people of the North-west are a people full of self-restraint. On a previous occasion I showed what was the average reductions that we ourselves procured from time to time while the Conservative government was in power. I will now show what reductions we brought about from certain western points to Fort William: In 1886, we got the rates reduced from 41½ cents per 100 pounds from Moosejaw to Fort William, 40 cents from Regina and 39 cents from Indian Head; we got them reduced to 33 cents at each point. The moment I came to parliament, in 1887, I called the western members together and we asked Mr. (now Sir William) Van Horne to meet us here. We had a conference with him; we went before the council, and on September 1, 1887, the rates were reduced from 33 cents to 30 cents at Moosejaw and Regina, and 29 cents at Indian Head. These rates remained until 1891, when we got a 29-cent rate at each point. In 1892, I, having been returned in 1891 as an independent member, brought before the government and before Sir William Van Horne the question of rates; and the letter of Sir William Van Horne to me on that occasion is on the pages of *Hansard*. The result was that on September 5, notwithstanding the strong position taken by Sir William Van Horne in that letter, we got 23 cents at Moosejaw and Regina and 22 cents at Indian Head. In 1896 we were pressing the government to use its influence for further reductions, when a change took place. In 1896 we got a reduction of 7½ cents at Moosejaw and 7 cents at Regina, in 1891 of 1 cent, and in 1893 of 6 cents at these points and 7 cents at Indian Head, and the government paid nothing for the reductions. And yet this placid minister comes forward and boasts of getting a graduated reduction of 3 cents in three years; and how did he get it? By the payment of over \$2,000,000; is it not marvellous that he met with no more offensive missile when he was west than the studied coldness and ne-

glect of the Liberals? In March, 1899, at the meeting to which I have already referred, at which Mr. Richardson, Mr. Oliver and Mr. J. Grant spoke, the sentiment that the Liberal who would vote for his party once when it was right and twice when it was wrong was 'a yellow dog Liberal,' was cheered to the echo. Mr. D. A. Macdonald moved, seconded by Mr. A. Alexander, the following resolution:

Whereas, a study of the transportation question in Canada reveals the fact that the people of the Dominion have paid in cash and subsidies of one kind and another for the construction of railways as much as would under reasonable management construct all existing lines.

And whereas, the railways of the Dominion, although constructed at the expense of the people, do not afford the boon of genuine competition, but tax the people grievously in excessive freight and passenger rates, thus seriously retarding the progress of the country.

Be it resolved, that the time is ripe for the inauguration of a new policy, designed to preserve to the people the benefits that should accrue from the expenditure of public money on railways and looking in the direction of the ultimate ownership and control by the government of the transportation interests of the country.

This was carried unanimously. Now, we have no hint from these benches of any policy like that. I have myself declared in this House that the true solution of the railway question is government ownership and government control, measured by any help that may be given by the government to the railway. The hon. gentleman who spoke here to-night dwelt upon the advantageous agreement that was made with the Grand Trunk and the advantageous purchase of the Drummond County Railway. What is the fact in regard to that Drummond deal? The first bargain must have been a bad one, because after the Senate had thrown it out, we got it for three-quarters of a million less, and even then the price paid was too high. With regard to the payment to the Grand Trunk, here is what the organ of the farmers said, under the heading 'Mr. Blair's Willingness':

During the debate in the House on Mr. Richardson's motion to limit the bonding of railroads, Mr. Blair, Minister of Railways, stated he was 'always willing to assist in restraining the corporations.' It was not long ago an opportunity to restrain corporations came to Mr. Blair. A bonus of \$300,000 to the Grand Trunk for enlarging the Victoria Bridge and an annual payment of \$40,000 formed part of his arrangement for extending the government railway system to Montreal. The money was handed over and not a word said about charges. Result: Supplies for Montreal market can now be wagoned from the south shore of St. Lawrence River on paying as follows:

Horses in droves, per head.....	15c.
Cattle in droves, per head.....	10c.
Sheep in droves, per head.....	3c.
Calves in droves, per head.....	5c.
Swine in droves, per head.....	5c.
Vehicles drawn by one animal.....	20c.

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Vehicles drawn by two animals.....	40c.
Extra vehicle	15c.
Milkman's vehicle, driver free, extra passenger, each	5c.
Drawn by one animal	25c.
Drawn by two animals.....	50c.

No charge for baby carriages.

The south shore farmers pay the highest tolls for the use of the most highly-subsidized bridge in America. They are not in a position to appreciate Mr. Blair's willingness to restrict the power of corporations.

The last speaker referred to the Teslin Lake Railway. I have here what Mr. Martin in his famous speech said about that:

Sifton coolly entered into a bargain with Mackenzie & Mann and pledged the faith of his colleagues two weeks before parliament was to assemble. When it did come up the members had no option. They were bound helpless. As many of them said to me, 'We are disgusted with it, but what are we to do? Is it not better to pass it than to turn the party out before it has fairly got into the saddle?' Now, I say right here, that if it had been the best of bargains in the world, I would have opposed it. The result was that there was lack of time. That was exploded. Mackenzie & Mann did not stir a step for weeks. But it was a desperately bad bargain. Sir Charles Tupper said that £10,000,000 could have been obtained in London for Mackenzie & Mann's bargain.

Having described the whole transaction, he concluded by saying:

Now, gentlemen, that is a chapter in the history of the Liberal administration of which I am not proud. It showed that, in so far as Sifton could control the government, he was prepared to resort to any means to attain his end. He was ready to do all those arbitrary acts simply because Mackenzie & Mann were up there representing the interests of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the gravest admission of all by this government is that since they came into power they have quietly shelved the Hudson Bay Railway. When the Minister of Marine and Fisheries fitted out a boat which was utterly inadequate for the purpose of finding out whether Hudson Bay was navigable for a given number of months or not, and refused an offer from ship-owners in London, who could have sent a proper boat, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, which was then an honest and independent Liberal organ, came out and said that these men were trying to burk the Hudson Bay Railway. What has been the result? Ever since we had the report of the little sloop which was sent there, and which made the most perfunctory and imperfect test, nothing has been done; and this government is clearly opposed to the construction of a Hudson Bay Railway, which would be the great solution of the problem of shortening the distance between the North-west and England. The constituency of the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) is probably more interested in the Hudson Bay Railway than any other part of

the Territories. Any part of the Territories would be benefited by that railway. There is not a part of Manitoba or the North-west that would not have its farms enhanced in value and every bushel of grain it grows enhanced in price if we had a Hudson Bay Railway. But this government, which starves the executive, which does not give a sufficient subsidy, which will not give the people of the Territories sufficient money to carry on their business, which will give no relief on implements, or cotton, or coal, or coal oil, or lumber, has burked and shelved the project of a railway to Hudson Bay.

The gentleman who spoke last (Mr. Campbell) told us that the people do not care how much money is spent so long as the heaven-born statesmen who are in office remain there. Still, let us look at what the expenditure has been, and bear in mind the pledge of these hon. gentlemen to reduce it \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000, according as it was the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), or Senator Mills, or the Prime Minister, who spoke. Here are the figures :

1896-7—	
Ordinary outlay	\$38,349,759
Capital	3,523,160
	\$41,872,919
1897-8—	
Ordinary outlay	\$38,832,525
Capital	4,143,503
	\$42,976,028
1898-9—	
Ordinary outlay	\$41,903,500 54
Capital	5,936,342 94
	\$47,839,843 48
Railway subsidies	3,201,220 05
Other charges.....	501,571 76
	\$51,542,635 29

What did the farmers complain of in 1895-6 in the way of expenditure ? Here it is :

Ordinary outlay	\$36,949,142
Capital	3,716,184
Total	\$40,665,326

This was awful ! This was to be reduced at least 7 per cent. Now, this is the way they reduced it :

1899-1900--	
Ordinary outlay	\$43,175,000
Capital	9,875,000
	\$53,050,000
1895-6	40,665,000
	\$12,385,000

Thus, instead of three or four millions reduction, we have twelve and a half millions of an increase, with a surplus largely bogus, because items are charged to capital not properly placed under that head.

There are items charged to capital account in the Intercolonial Railway which

were never charged to capital before, and in this way these hon. gentlemen have been enabled to claim a surplus. If the accounts had been properly kept, they would have shown a deficit of a couple of millions. Then, in the last three years, the public debt has increased by seven and a half millions, and the annual interest by \$352,682. This increased interest is alarming, because it shows that the government is borrowing money to spend in subsidies and contracts. What is a subsidy ? What is a bonus ? Fancy men borrowing money to give it away !

Take some of the items of expense : \$815,454, administration of justice, as compared with \$758,270 in 1896 :

\$815,454
758,270

Additional \$ 57,784

Why ? For one thing, those political judgships. Mr. Prendergast in Manitoba, his reward, not for legal attainments, or because it was needed, but to reward him for his diplomatic action in regard to the settlement of the school question. On this item alone the Prime Minister promised us a reduction in law costs of \$100,000. Take again the immigration vote :

1899.....	\$255,878
1896.....	120,199

	\$135,679

How is this accounted for ? Lord Aberdeen's butler, who became the poet laureate of the Premier, and had to be rewarded : such men as Jury, Busby, Devlin, Greene, Benjamin Davies, Sir Louis' brother, and, last but not least, Preston, with his \$3,000 a year and expenses, Preston of the 'hugging machine.'

But, these gentlemen boast of a surplus. Why, there is not a man on those benches, if he is fit for his position, who does not know—the Finance Minister knows well because he has been a journalist and is an instructed man—that no Finance Minister who knows his business should have an exorbitant surplus. He knows very well that, on sound principles of political economy, you ought to take as little money out of the pockets of the people as possible. It is a reproach to the government to have a surplus, it is a warning to them that they have failed as good financiers, and failed, above all, to be true to the principles of the Liberals of England. Mr. Gladstone would have been ashamed to stand before parliament and announce such a surplus, because his principle was that you should not take a cent out of the pockets of the people that was not absolutely needed for the purposes of government. Am I not fortified by authority in that opinion ? Let those gentlemen who boast of this surplus ponder these words uttered in 1894 by the First Minister with regard to the surplus

which the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) announced to the House :

Why, Sir, you heard the hon. gentleman driven to the expedient of giving it as an evidence of prosperity, that during the last fifteen years which the country has been under a protective regime, the finances of the country balanced year after year by surpluses which now aggregate the enormous sum of \$20,000,000.

Yet, the hon. gentleman who last spoke said the Conservative government had nothing to show but deficits.

This fact, which I do not hesitate to say to the hon. gentleman, is nothing short of a disgrace and a shame for the administration, was treated by him as a boast. I assert that such a condition of things is a shame and a disgrace to any government. In England the aim and the purpose of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is so to calculate the expense and the expenditure as to make them balance evenly, and the reputation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be lost for ever, year after year, his calculations were found to be wrong. If, instead of having just the revenue which is wanted to meet the expenditure, it was found that there was such a discrepancy in his calculations as exists in Canada, the reputation of the Chancellor of the Exchequer would, I repeat, be lost for ever, unless he were able to show that the discrepancy arose from a sudden disturbance in the condition of business. What is the truth about these surpluses? Twenty millions of dollars, says the Finance Minister. The truth is, that these surpluses represent \$20,000,000 of unjust taxation, which has been wrung by the government from the consumers of the country; twenty millions of dollars which would have been left in the pockets of the people for the purpose of their own business, for instance, to be applied to the redemption of the mortgages with which the country has been plastered during that term of years. What is the truth about these surpluses? If it is an evidence of prosperity that we should have surpluses, why, in the name of common sense is the hon. gentleman to-day proposing a reduction of duty, which places him, as he says himself, in the face of a deficit?

At that time the ex-Minister of Finance was giving relief, because he did not want to have what these gentlemen boast of and what this critic declares it was a disgrace to the Minister of Finance to have—a bloated surplus. This critic declares that the Finance Minister is disgraced to-day by having the surplus he has. Now, Sir, who is the critic, who condemns the Finance Minister for his surplus? The critic is the present Prime Minister. That is the way when leader of the opposition, he spoke in 1894. You will find it in *Hansard*, page 1225. And, Sir, the farmers' organ, the *Sun*, speaking of this surplus, says :

Facts, Not Faction, Wanted.

A Montreal contemporary complains that our revenue is too great, as it results in surpluses which are followed by government extravagance. It ignores the fact that our surpluses are not real, but fictitious ones, and are the result of a system of book-keeping which is followed in Canada, and in Canada alone. As a matter of fact, we have had surpluses in only two years since confederation, and together

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they amounted to less than \$600,000; in every other year we have run behind.

There is no doubt that our system of book-keeping has encouraged extravagance. Surpluses announced by our various Finance Ministers have been put forward in justification of larger expenditures, and as reasons for entering upon new undertakings. If it had been generally understood that these 'surpluses' were shams there would not have been so much readiness to live beyond our income.

In figuring out surpluses, when in reality there are deficits, Mr. Fielding is following the example set by Mr. Foster and by Mr. Foster's predecessors. He doubtless thinks that if he were to put his financial statement on a true basis and state things as they really are he would still be judged by the standard of Mr. Foster's time, and an erroneous idea of the present national finances would thus be created. Of this there is not much fear. The public has been 'getting on' to the real state of facts, and would respect a Finance Minister who had the courage to state our financial position in a common-sense way.

If you take up the Finance Minister's own book, the public accounts, and compare the receipts and the amounts spent on capital, as well as on ordinary revenue, you will see that, instead of having a surplus, we have a deficit of about \$2,000,000. Now, that Montreal critic that the *Sun* refers to was quite right in saying that this government has launched out in a course of reckless extravagance. And, taking the cue from some of the Prime Minister's utterances, I am afraid it has launched out also upon a career of corruption. It has become systematic to give contracts without tenders, to make positions for favourites like Preston; bribe members of parliament by positions and promises of positions to support them whether they are right or wrong—to play the 'yellow dog' Liberal; such extravagance, such corruption as was seen in the Edmonton bridge; such conduct as giving \$20,000 to men of the pen like Gauthier to do dredging; silencing McGillicuddy, and silencing Miller and others with a job; and wharfs—we had ninety-one last year, of which fourteen were in the constituency of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. One of the wharfs should be specially referred to, it is the wharf at Maria, in Bonaventure. No less than \$70,000 was asked for this wharf, and I am told by my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), who knows the place, that there is not enough water there to float a match-box. Then there was \$15,000 in the estimates last year for a wharf at Bruce Mines, in Algoma, to please the hon. member (Mr. Dymont), for that constituency. And this is what the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), writing in the *Tribune*, says about it :

There has also been voted \$15,000 for a wharf at Bruce Mines, Algoma, which is already supplied with one. Bruce Mines is a small village in which an infinitesimal amount of trade is done. No one asked for the new wharf, no one wanted it—except Mr. Dymont, the Liberal

representative for Algoma. These instances could be multiplied by the score—

Indeed they might.

—but 'cui bono'? And yet this Liberal apologist—

He is referring to the *Free Press*.

—declares that there is no hint that the money is to be uselessly and dishonestly spent!

Mr. Sifton's press syndicate has a rare sense of the ridiculous. Its explanations don't explain.

Indeed they do not. In the North-west papers you will find the same letter in the *Moosejaw Times* and other Liberal papers in the North-west, all sent from the Sifton literary forge here. They have been afraid to keep up the eulogizing of the Minister of the Interior. It would not do. It got too hot for them, and they sing another song now. I have all the wharfs, here, but at this late hour, I will not read them, though they furnish interesting reading. Besides, I wish to call attention to one item of extravagance that will appeal to the economizing soul of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen).

In other days how eloquent that voice was wont to speak from these benches of expenditures on table covers and table knives and spoons at Rideau Hall. That voice is silent now. The carefully thumbed Auditor General's Report is thumbed no longer. What the hon. gentleman reads now, I really do not know, but I hope that he is not at a loss for light literature, having abandoned the amusing volume which the Auditor General turns out year after year. The item I am about to bring before the hon. gentleman is one after his own heart. I wish I could summon to aid the eloquence with which he could deal with a matter like this; but I will do it in my own imperfect way—at a long distance from the eloquence with which, I know, my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) would do it. But I am sure I will interest him. I have here an account of the expenses of the joint high commission. The total is \$33,961. I rather think that the farmers of the North-west will open their eyes when they read this:

Expenses—

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.....	\$3,821
Sir Richard Cartwright	2,900
Sir Louis Davies	2,600
Mr. Charlton	1,776
Mr. Bourassa, M.P., sec'y of the com....	2,200
Mr. Pope, Under Secretary of State.....	1,851
Mr. Parmalee, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce	923
Mr. O'Hara, Sir Richard Cartwright's secretary	1,336
Mr. King, chief astronomer	1,315
Mr. Venning, Fisheries Department	1,130
Mr. Gordon, Sir Louis Davies' secretary..	1,050
Mr. Boudreau, the Premier's secretary..	866

There were other expenses besides :

Printing and stationery	\$1,991
Office rent	1,814
Entertainments	1,639
Tips to servants	407
Cabs, including baggage	270
Luncheons at Quebec	178
Cards and paintings	96
Photographs	46
Towels	45
Soap and matches	12
Crockery	12

I want especially to call attention to that \$470 for tips. There were 13 gentleman. Divide that sum by 13, and we find \$31 that each man spent in tips. How grand they were when they were flaunting about in Washington. Out of that 13, we had 5 secretaries, anyway 4 secretaries. For secretaries alone, during those few months, we paid some \$6,000.

Mr. GIBSON. How much did you get for being secretary of the Chinese commission?

Mr. DAVIN. I was very badly paid, if he wants to know.

Mr. McMULLEN. You rendered very poor service, too.

Mr. DAVIN. It was the universal opinion, not merely of the English speaking world, as you can learn from the brother of the late Sir Adolphe Chapleau himself, that the Chinese report, which is in the library, is one of the most valuable reports that has ever been produced, and the most thorough. As this matter has been referred to, I may be allowed to say, that it was with great loss to myself that I accepted the position. I never asked for it. I was telegraphed to that I was appointed, and I had to go down to Winnipeg, and at a cost and loss, to engage somebody to take charge. The salary usually paid to the secretary of a commission was \$5 a day and expenses, and nobody supposed that that pay would at any time in my life, be good for me. I could earn the whole and double and treble a week's pay in a couple of hours at my own trade, and I have often done so. I was secretary of two commissions, and in neither case did I ask for the position. I was secretary of the Canadian Pacific Railway commission, and when asked by Sir John Macdonald to act, I made a condition that it should not last longer than the vacation, and he said it would not. I also said I would not accept it or go outside of Toronto unless the pay was adequate. When I learned what the pay was—I suppose the letter will be found in the department of the Secretary of State—I wrote down refusing the position. The present leader of the opposition wrote up to me, asking me to come down to Ottawa, and down I came, and he told me that Sir John A. Macdonald had left that I should act as secretary. He advised me not to refuse to act, and it was on his advice that I acted. Why is it, that at the close of the long vacation I did not go and do counsel business for

Beatty, Hamilton & Cassils? I will tell you why. One of the papers of Toronto came out with a criticism of that commission, and declared that Judge Clarke, Mr. Miall and Mr. Keefer, were all men under the control of the government of the day. But that critic said—you will find it in the *Telegram*—that as long as I was secretary it was a guarantee to the public that the commission would deal impartially and act above board.

Mr. FRASER (Lambton). He said it in irony.

Mr. DAVIN. No, he did not. When the *Globe* began to criticise adversely that commission, my hands were tied, and Mr. James Beatty, the head of the firm, wrote begging me to come back, but I could not under the circumstances.

Mr. McMULLEN. You lost a suit, I guess.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, Mr. Beatty was afterwards examined in another case, and he said that I would be very likely anyway to win suits, because he stated in the strongest terms, that no counsel ever did the work better than I did. You will find it in his sworn evidence. Well, Sir, I may say here, that truer men, juster men, more impartial men, than Judge Clarke, Mr. Miall and Mr. Keefer, could not be found. But my hands were tied by a criticism like that, and I had to remain away from Toronto, to my great loss. The first intimation I had about the Chinese commission was a telegram, and I telegraphed the late Secretary of State—I believe he is living still—wanting to know what it meant, and he telegraphed me. I knew that Sir John A. Macdonald had some reason for it, and I afterwards discovered there was good reason for it. But in regard to the report, I know something about books. Of course I am not pronouncing merely on my own work, there are other gentlemen connected with that; but I say here that it will challenge comparison with any report that has ever been turned out by any commission in thoroughness, in exhaustiveness, and, as it proved, in usefulness. So much for the interruption. I may say to the hon. gentleman, it was a great loss to me, and I was very badly paid.

Mr. GIBSON. \$3,000?

Mr. DAVIN. The expenses of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in his junketting were \$3,831. There is another way where they might have economized, but where they have run into extravagance, into superfluity. How have they carried out their promise to reduce the number of ministers? By adding to the number. They have had two opportunities to reduce the number. Even after they formed the government, they have had two opportunities. They had an opportunity when Sir Oliver Mowat went out; they had an opportunity when they took it into their

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heads to raise the two controllers to the rank of ministers, and give them back pay. Now, we have a government with a Minister of Trade and Commerce, and a Minister of Customs in the same cabinet, and I need hardly tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the criticisms of the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) when it was proposed to have two controllers that a minister of Trade and Commerce was a fifth wheel to the coach, is much more just and cogent when you have two controllers, who are full ministers, than when you had two controllers who were not within the cabinet, and when the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce was the only one there, and represented both.

What have this government done? I will tell you what they have done. They have introduced Walpoleism into the country for the first time. When they came into power they introduced the spoils system; they had a hanging committee wherever there was a Liberal organization. They introduced nepotism and the degradation of parliament.

An hon. MEMBER. Read it.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister of the Interior has been guilty of the grossest nepotism. Probably, in the history of politics, there has never been such a first-class asset as relationship to the young Napoleon of the west. But, in this he is only treading in the steps of the great Napoleon, who, as we know, in his own interest, danced, swore, fought, murdered and plundered through Europe, made his relatives and cousins kings and princes, and enjoyed with them that boundless wealth that Napoleon le Petit enjoys in his place. Walpole's methods have been introduced. At the outset, when he formed his government, the right hon. Prime Minister bought over Conservatives. I think the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) was a Conservative.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Never, never.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I am glad to hear that. Never a Conservative?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Never.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I have had very good reason for believing that the hon. gentleman was negotiated with to enter a Conservative government.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Never, Sir; the hon. gentleman has no reason for believing it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Mr. DAVIN. I, of course, take the hon. gentleman's denial. Prior to that denial I had good reason for believing it. Of course I accept the hon. gentleman's denial, but if I had not that denial, I would be under the

impression that negotiations were going on, and that he was to enter a Conservative government.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Never with me, never a syllable of negotiations.

Mr. DAVIN. I accepted the hon. gentleman's statement, but, I say that if I had not the advantage of that statement, I should have been under the impression that I had good reason for believing that negotiations were going on to have him enter the government of Sir Mackenzie Bowell. Of course, I accept the hon. gentleman's denial.

Mr. GIBSON. Was that when the other members were on strike?

Mr. DAVIN. The ponderousness and the facetiousness of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson) are always highly amusing, and I do not object to his facetiousness. It is evidence to me that there is a mind working; otherwise, I should not always be sure of that.

Mr. GIBSON. It is something you have not got yourself.

Mr. DAVIN. If the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals was not then enticed one of the most important members of this government, the member without portfolio, was certainly. I believe he was elected as a Conservative, he ran as a Conservative, and the moment—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No.

Mr. DAVIN. I am not speaking of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals—the moment he saw the way the cat jumped he turned around, and I find that he is down as a straight Liberal, and not as an independent Liberal, in the Parliamentary Companion. I speak of the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), and I must say that I never knew until the other night what his function was in this government. I thought that his function was to deal with bottle-necked whales, or bottle-necked ships, but the other night, I happened to be passing through the corridor, and as I neared room 16, I found an hon. gentleman going into that room. I said to him: Why is it that you are not in the House? And I think he said to me—oh, well, I will not use the familiar language in which he spoke of a great man like the hon. Minister of Customs—but he said: 'Oh, Customs is at it.' And he went into room 16 to enjoy his pipe. When I came in here I looked over the empty benches and I saw that the hon. member for Quebec West was looking up with wonder, love and praise into the face of the hon. Minister of Customs, who was thundering away. I could not help thinking of Dean Swift, when parish minister of Lorriquer. Sometimes he had to address

his sexton, who composed his congregation. He said: My dearly beloved Roger. If there had not been the Speaker in the Chair, the hon. Minister of Customs would have to address the hon. member for Quebec West as: My dearly beloved Dobell. I found that there was a certain reason for the political existence of the hon. member for Quebec West, and I would congratulate him on the fact that there is a purpose in his political life. If I had not learned this one might have wondered why he was politically created, or what his political creator really intended him for.

This government has done something I never heard of a government doing, and a large number of the party opposite have fallen in with it; they have done this House great harm, and it has reacted on the ministers of the Crown. When they came into office in 1896, when a member on this side of the House rose, the present acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland), who was then Whip, thought it was a great policy to go around amongst the young members of the House and persuade them to go out. The hon. Postmaster General did the same thing, and these young men, who were new to parliamentary practice, thought they were doing something clever in marching out, going into No. 16, and taking out their tobacco pipes. It was a great way of learning their business as parliamentarians. But, the engineer is hoist with his own petard. Now, ministers of the Crown have to depend on the opposition for an audience. They cannot get members of their own party to remain in the House while they are speaking, and when one of their first ministers was speaking here the other night the Liberal party was represented by the hon. member for Quebec West. The speech of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has always been a great drawing card in this House. But in the height of the eloquence of the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance in 1899 and in 1898, I turned around to my hon. friends here and counted the number of Liberals present, and I never could count more than thirty-two Liberals out of the large Liberal party. How does that affect the young men themselves?

Of the men who acted on these instructions to leave the House in that way during the five sessions, not a single man of them has made a mark nor could he expect to. I remember a friend of mine going to the late Chief Justice of England and saying to him: How can my son become a great lawyer, must he read books? The Lord Chief Justice replied: Let him go to the courts and remain there, and take notes of the cases and then he will know law. The way to become a parliamentarian is to stick in the House and I may say that I have never listened to the humblest member in this House without learning something from him. These young members have been done a great injury by the pres-

ent acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) and by the present Postmaster General and of the number who have left the House to gossip in Room 16, not a man of them has any more influence in the House nor any more standing in the country than he had five years ago. These gentlemen have done a great harm to parliament, to themselves, to the Liberal party and to the government. Yesterday when in the galleries, I looked down on a Liberal member speaking on the floor with hardly a man on the Liberal side to hear him. I say to these gentlemen who are responsible for this: You have degraded parliament and it has come full circle to yourselves.

I was speaking of the Walpolian methods. One of the papers that used to denounce the government for its tergiversation was the *Simcoe Reformer*. That paper is the organ of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). The writing may have been Donley, but the voice was Jacobs, and what has happened to Jacob Charlton? I remember that at the early part of the parliament he kicked. Can it be possible that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) has been solaced by being made a member of the International commission with a prospect held out to him that he would be knighted by and by? What is the reason that the hon. gentleman's paper no longer comes out as it used to? Why is it we do not hear its voice as we still hear the *Huntingdon Gleaner*? Has Donley been silenced by the gentleman who used ventriloquise through his paper? As I say this government has introduced Walpolian methods. We have already had fifteen members removed from the House to office and out of the House there is the same system of providing offices for those whom the government either fears or loves.

I want to say one word with regard to the preferential tariff question, and although I shall not enter into it at any length now, I wish to make one or two points which I do not think have been made yet. For instance I saw in the *Witness*, yesterday, an article headed 'Take our blood but leave us our money' and that article makes the statement that Sir Charles Tupper has spoken differently in Quebec from what he has spoken elsewhere. I have read Sir Charles Tupper's speeches in Quebec, and they are precisely the same in opinion as he made at Lethbridge with almost the same language used. Not only that, but if you look back to his letter written in reply to Joe Howe, when Joe Howe proposed in 1862 that we should have Imperial confederation with representation in the Imperial parliament, and paying our share of taxation, and going into confederation for trade and defence precisely the same as if we were part of the British isles. Sir Charles Tupper wrote a long letter condemning that policy on precisely the same grounds as he condemns representation in the Imperial

parliament to-day. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that before any one else did in Ontario,—not before any one else did in other parts of Canada—but before any one else did in Ontario, I raised the same Imperial view I hold to-day. I would be utterly opposed to representation in the Imperial parliament, because you cannot conceive of anything that would be more injurious to Canada, that would take away advantages from Canada, like having representation in the Imperial parliament. If we had representation in the Imperial parliament we should have only a few members compared with the English members, we should be perfectly powerless, but being represented we should be liable to be taxed by a parliament three thousand miles away utterly unaware (except from the explanation of five or six or ten members), of our social conditions, of our municipal system, of our territorial or our agrarian conditions, and quite unfit to tax us or to legislate for us in an intimate manner. I do not think I will yield to any one in loyalty to the empire or imperial enthusiasm, but I would be sorry as a Canadian if such representation should come to pass. I should be sorry even for England, because in the end such a union as that would break the true union which exists at present, the union which causes the motherland to look to Canada and Australia growing more and more into nationhood, sprung from the august mother of free nations, bound together by loyal ties of sympathy and ready to stand by each other as we are ready to-day.

There is frequently the statement made both in the press and in this House, that the right hon. the Prime Minister when he went to Liverpool was not offered anything by the Duke of Devonshire. I proved in this House by quoting the letter of the Duke of Devonshire sent to the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock)—and which he only quoted part of—and by quoting the speeches to which this letter referred, that that letter actually meant that the Duke of Devonshire had been in favour of preferential trade, and that we on this side had put the proper interpretation upon his attitude and action as regards the Prime Minister of Canada. Here is what the *Winnipeg Free Press*, a Liberal paper, said when it was found that the present Prime Minister had taken that course. Referring to preferential trade:

The prospect is favourable, no doubt, but we cannot but realize that we lost our best opportunity when the practical offer of preferential trade was made in the height of the jubilee sentiment.

There may be eminent and influential leaders to support it now, but the advantage thrown away then will be hard to regain.

In another part of the same article it says:

There is Lord Rosebery among the British Liberals to help it on, and Lord Rosebery can carry many men of his party with him.

I may say that the very next day after this was written Lord Rosebery, influenced by what was done by the present Prime Minister, threw over the idea of a customs union altogether. But, Sir, I have something stronger than that. I have a letter written in the *Globe* by Mr. Willison, who was in London during the Jubilee, and who published a series of letters, which were very adulatory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; and this is what he says:

It is not too much to say that after the Queen, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the most conspicuous figure of the Jubilee celebrations.

I am sure that could not be correct, for we had the *London Spectator*, published on the spot, declaring that the most prominent figures after the Queen were the generals of the army. But after giving any amount of praise to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Willison says:

But while ornate and eloquent, it was soon found that his head was in thorough command of his tongue, and that he could not be stamped by any organized demonstration of cheering or led into by-paths by the seductive luring of even the Duke of Devonshire or Mr. Chamberlain.

What is the meaning of that? The meaning is that Mr. Willison thought the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Chamberlain wanted to lure him into negotiations that would have led to preferential trade. Again, it is constantly stated that throughout England there is no feeling in favour of mutual preferential trade. On a previous occasion I quoted resolutions passed at chambers of commerce in great centres in England in favour of it. I shall now quote from the *Wiltshire Chronicle*, which is one of the leading country papers of England; and you know the country press of England is very influential. Some of the country papers turned out are as imposing as the *Times* newspaper. Mr. John W. Hall, a prominent man who takes an interest in this question, writes to that paper as follows:

Sir,—I would submit that the junior partners in the firm of John Bull and Sons, soon to be registered as the style of the firm as an offensive and defensive alliance for political purposes, will have no permanent future before it unless based on a differentiating tariff between the respective partners and outsiders for commercial purposes.

The junior partners will justly hold the connection to be valueless—perhaps pernicious—that withholds from them their just share of the firm's profits other than that claimed by, and allowed to, aliens. The colonies will argue and ask why the disabilities should be incurred that do not secure extra advantages. They are sharing the cost of the war ungrudgingly both in men and money; good luck to them, to obtain a compensation in extra trade they may do with the United Kingdom. Money is said to be the sinews of war, and gained only by trade productions. The old country's tendency to commit commercial suicide, under the incapable free trade advisers of the Courtney stamp, has hitherto prevented the colonies from receiving their just share of their parent's patrimony.

They will indignantly ask what benefit such a connection is if compensation should be denied them over and above the alien.

They will soon be telling Great Britain—at least, we hope so—'We have spent our blood and sinew for you without any extra equivalent over those who have done nothing of the kind, and now new conditions must be made, or you must get those to do your fighting you most encourage by your trade.'

Australia is already speaking out as to the settlement of the South African war—see the round-robin signed by all the Premiers, addressed to our government. No stop the war lunacy before the fight is finished gains adherents there.

We say 'Advance Australia' in the matter of asserting yourself. You have bought the right to speak on the declaration of peace. Exercise the right as to future trade relations, and insist on having some preferential claim to the British market for your goods over and above the envious foreigners, who do all that they dare to obstruct.

For the Fair Trade and Home Labour Defence League.

JOHN W. HALL.

I may say the writer misunderstands our motive in contributing assistance for the defence of the empire in South Africa. We would have sent help to the empire whether there was any trade to be got or not; but this shows how an Englishman looks at the question, and as such it is most important. Mr. James Hunt, of Bristol, writes in a similar strain. I will not quote all of his letter, but I will cite quotations, which he makes from Lord Roberts, Lord Salisbury, and Mr. Chamberlain:

Gen. Lord Roberts in 1893 publicly declared in London: 'Politicians were recognizing that the federation of the empire was the great problem of the future:

Lord Salisbury backs this up by stating:

We know that every bit of the world's surface that is not under the British flag is a country which may be and probably will be, closed to us by a hostile tariff, and therefore it is that we are anxious above all things to conserve, to unify, to strengthen, the empire of the Queen, because it is to the trade that is carried on within the empire of the Queen that we look for the vital force of the commerce of this country.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P., is fully alive to the importance of the subject and has asserted:

There is a universal desire amongst all the members of the empire for a closer union between the several branches, and in their opinion it is desirable—nay, it is essential—for the existence of the empire as such. Experience has taught us that this closer union can be most hopefully approached in the first instance from the commercial side.

Yet we are told that John Bull would never have it. Mr. Hunt concludes:

On the principle of blood being thicker than water, our empire will yet be welded into one.

powerful Federation for the promotion of its trade and the defence of its territory.

I have here a very curious opinion as to what the preferential trade which we call for by the resolution I am supporting would do for this country. I take it from a paper, not always very friendly, the *New York Sun*. The *Sun* says:

What the Dominion of Canada and the Australian colonies really want is to retain their actual autonomy, which is almost entire, including the right of option to participation in England's wars. So long as such autonomy and such right of option are retained they will possess a leverage exactly proportioned to the value of their military assistance, by means of which they may hope to exact a decided preference for their food products in the English markets.

Now, mark this:

Such a preference would give a tremendous stimulus to the production of grain and flour and meat products in the Canadian Dominion and throughout Australasia. The colonies want a preference so marked that it would bar out all similar commodities from the United States and Argentina until all the colonial food products available for exportation should have been exhausted.

The *Sun* sees the advantage of this preference. Nothing could be done that would send the North-west forward with such giant strides as to give us a preference in the English markets. What a stimulus that would be to the best class of immigration. It would bring in, not pauper immigrants, but immigrants with money from the United States and the United Kingdom, and we should have the North-west going ahead at a mathematical ratio and no longer its future imperilled by the policy of the Minister of the Interior.

There is a view respecting preferential trade which is left too much out of the question. Great Britain should adopt preferential trade, not alone as a good commercial policy, but also as a warlike policy. At present she is dependent for 60,000,000 quarters of wheat annually on foreign sources and gets only 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 quarters from her colonies. Let her give us a preference, and you will have immigrants crowding into our colonies, and you would have our colonies supplying the 60,000,000 quarters to Great Britain instead of only 4,000,000. I do not intend to further dwell on this question. I desired to bring out points that I do not think others have brought out. I have shown that those who look on us with an eye away from our interests, see what a great commercial advantage such preferential trade as we call for by this resolution would be. I have shown that in the heart of England, in Wiltshire, prominent men, typical representatives of John Bull, men who are not politicians, cannot understand why anybody in Canada or England should think that something ought to be given in trade for nothing. They think that there should be reciprocity in benefits.

Mr. DAVIN.

What is the real reason of the immense influx of goods into this country and our large revenue? The chief reason is this: Up to three or four years ago, we did not have a succession of good seasons in the North-west Territories. The Territories in many places were still experimenting, but we have had since then a succession of good seasons in the North-west Territories and in Manitoba. And what has been the product in Manitoba and the North-west for the last year? About 60,000,000 bushels of grain—wheat, oats and barley. I forget how many bushels of oats, but anyway we produced an immense quantity of grain for export and an immense quantity of cattle for export. Train-load after train-load of our cattle has gone out for export. What does that mean? It means the equivalent of another colony tacked on to Canada and the wealth of that other colony thrown into the pot. One of the reasons why we have all this prosperity is because the North-west Territories and Manitoba are now beginning to send large quantities of produce and cattle to the markets of Europe. The present government are boasting of that prosperity, but to what party is due the credit of building up the North-west? Why, that country was opened up in the face of the strenuous opposition by the leading men of the Liberal party. Their doubting utterances are on record. They never lifted a hand to help the development of our North-west. I have been here for eighteen sessions, and during fourteen sessions I never proposed anything for the advantage of the North-west Territories in which I did not encounter the opposition of the Liberal leaders. I do not say that of the rank and file but of the leaders of the party. Manitoba and the North-west are the creation of the Conservative party, and if Canada is as prosperous a country as she is to-day, it is due to the strong arms and the business brain and the first class quality of our people directed by the far seeing policy of the Conservative party and government.

What shall we say, Sir, as to the claims of the present administration on the confidence of the people? I say that with their record which I have placed before the House to-night, no country has ever furnished such a flagrant example of political tergiversation. Why, when we look at these gentlemen across the floor, for the last two sessions, for this session especially, we can see the ministers shrink in their seats.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, the ministers shrink in their seats and shrink with conscious guilt and with the consciousness of impending doom. We have had good harvest and a revival of trade, and in the relationship between the mother country and Canada these hon. gentlemen have reaped the fruits of the endeavours of better men than they.

We have had the Jubilee—we have had everything to make government easy. And yet, these men, from the moment they came into power have hurried into culpability and misconduct. They had no external temptations to warp them; everything was haleyon, everything was fair. And yet, Sir, we know there has never been—I say it advisedly—such a piling up of political guilt as in these four years. Is there guilt in falsehood? Is there guilt in complicity? Is there guilt in receiving what is not one's own? Is there guilt in conspiracy? Is there guilt in fiduciary faithlessness? Then guilt is at the door of the present government. It is not merely individual guilt; it is not merely the jobbing of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton); it is not merely the jobs of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte); it is not merely the deals and sales and arrangements of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair); it is not merely the demure intricacies of misrepresentation that we get from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher); it is not merely the truckling to contractors as seen in the management of his own department that we have from the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier); it is not merely the resounding meretriciousness of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson)—collectively, this government has gone at a gallop in forbidden ways. Collectively, the government is guilty, and there is no member of that government more guilty than its head, because he sanctions and winks at it all. Four or five years ago, before he became Prime Minister, there was a halo round his head; but, Sir, it was delusive nimbus, and vanished the light of the actual. Sitting in the gallery five years ago, and talking to a great admirer of the present Prime Minister—and the hon. gentleman was speaking at the time—and his admirer said, 'Doesn't he speak well? He is coming into power.' I replied, 'He speaks well, and may come into power; but if he comes into power, you will see weaknesses which have not revealed themselves in him as leader of the opposition.' For it is a much harder thing to lead a government than to lead an opposition. And, besides, I suspected what I did not say—I was too polite—that there was a strain of insincerity in the hon. gentleman, that strain of insincerity that is to-day patent to the world. For, what could be more insincere than the conduct of a leader who went to Halifax, to Montreal, to Toronto, to Winnipeg, to Moosomin, to Regina, to Moosejaw, to Medicine Hat, to Calgary, to Vancouver, to Victoria, saying: Put me in power and I will give you free implements! I will give you free trade as it is in England! I will give you a revenue tariff! I will give you clean government! we will have temperance legislation; and after promising all that, plays the repudiator. What guilt is equal to that? And when I think of the hon. gentleman and think of his guilt

in this matter, think how he is foresworn, my mind is carried to a prominent figure in a famous conclave, a figure full of grace, full of charm, whose words dropped manna, but who to noble deeds was timorous, and who was skilful in making the worst appear the better. Sir, that fatal facility of charming expression is now known all over Canada. But the solid qualities of statesmanship is no longer held second to words. And the day is at hand when this government, hollow, false, unsubstantial, which now sits like a nightmare upon the bosom of the people of Canada, will meet its doom; the people of Canada will awake and the horrible mockery will disappear.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). Mr. Speaker, I believe that a celebrated German scientist says that public speakers are dangerous on account of the number of microbes they emit from their system while speaking. If that be so, it is strange to me that all the members of this House have not been killed. The hon. member (Mr. Davin), who has just taken his seat, certainly must have thrown a great many microbes from his system during the lengthy speech he has delivered to-night. I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman throughout the long, rambling speech that he has made, or rather that he has read from newspaper clippings and so on. But I desire to take up just a few of the leading questions that he dealt with. Referring to the speech of the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) said that the hon. member for Quebec West had driven the members out of the House during his speech—

Mr. DAVIN. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis), will allow me, he is mistaken as to what I said. What I said was that the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) had very few listening to him, that, in fact, the member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) was his auditor.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) says that the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) talked the House empty. But surely the hon. gentleman can hardly have forgotten that not only once but hundreds of times he has talked the House empty, and not only that, but he has talked the galleries empty as well. I noticed to-night, for instance, that when he got properly started in his speech every one of the gentlemen who occupied the press gallery seemed to have something to occupy his attention outside. There was no one there, to use an expression of his own, 'But a beggarly array of empty benches.' Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman has told us how sincere he is on several occasions. He has undertaken not only to lecture individual members of the government, but the Prime

Minister on his insincerity. Well, Mr. Speaker, any person that knows the hon. gentleman as well as I do, and as well as other people in the North-west Territories know him, must come to the conclusion that he is merely joking. The idea of his talking about sincerity! I would like to read a few articles in the hon. member's personal organ that is published now in the North-west Territories. It is called the *West*.

Mr. DAVIN. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman says that I publish a paper in the Territories. I publish no paper, I own no paper.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). That is not a point of order. I object to the hon. gentleman speaking except on a point of order.

Mr. DAVIN. Is it a point of order if a statement is made utterly untrue?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, it is not a point of order.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is a point of order as to whether the Speaker controls this House or the minister.

Mr. DAVIN. There is absolutely not a word of truth in it. I have no control of any paper.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Order.

Mr. DAVIN. Do I understand that the minister wishes to have a misstatement given to the House?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman stated that he rose to a point of order, he has submitted no point of order, therefore, his interruption was not justified.

Mr. TAYLOR. I submit that if we have a Speaker in this House, he must decide a point of order, and not the cabinet minister.

Mr. SPEAKER. I can see no point of order, except that the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) claims that he is not responsible for the statements of any journal in the west.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman says that he has nothing to do with a paper published in Regina called the *West*, and, of course, I accept his statement. But, there is a paper published in Regina called the *Regina Leader*, and I think he had a great deal to do with that paper. As a matter of fact, the hon. gentleman formed a joint stock company at a time when he was looking for government patronage, and we find that that joint stock company consisted of himself and three other gentlemen, one of whom put in \$5 stock and the other \$2.50 each. When he was telling about the

Mr. DAVIS.

government being driven from power, I thought I observed a hungry look in his eyes, and he was wishing doubtless in his own mind to get another \$47,000 from the Conservatives if the present government were driven out of power. He made a statement some time ago in this House about that \$47,000. He told the House that there was another paper published, an anti-Davin paper, he called it.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. He has no right to refer to a previous debate.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not remember a previous debate involving the *Regina Leader*.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, he has referred to what I said on a previous occasion in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I recollect a question being asked, but I cannot recall it to-day. If the matter was the subject of debate at any time of this session, he is out of order.

Mr. DAVIS. Without alluding to a previous debate in this House, I may say that there was a paper started in Regina called the *Standard*, and that paper did get a certain amount of government patronage. But, there is a history connected with that. The member for Assiniboia, as I have shown already, had a newspaper called the *Leader*, which he had formed into a joint stock company, with \$10 stock in it, outside of what he owned himself. After this other paper was established, the Prime Minister of the Territories, Mr. Haultain, thought that tenders should be called for the public printing, and they were called. The parties controlling the other paper published in Regina at that time tendered much lower than the paper of which the hon. gentleman was managing director, and for that reason got the work. Next year there was quite a rumpus raised about it, because he did not get the patronage for his paper. The consequence was that next year, when Mr. Haultain wanted to advertise for tenders, the lieutenant-governor of the North-west refused to allow his advisory board to ask for tenders for printing, and they had to go back to the paper of the hon. gentleman. Now, that caused a deadlock in the Territories. As members of the House are aware, the advisory committee resigned, and they appointed another committee that the House again voted a want of confidence in, and it was all because the hon. gentleman was trying to get the printing for his paper and did get it.

Now, I was going to say that I think the leader of the opposition had better look out for his big I. We know that the leader of the opposition is always saying 'I, I, I,' and I think the member for West Assiniboia is following him pretty close. The

hon. gentleman takes credit for everything that has been done in the North-west Territories and out of the North-west Territories. He alluded a while ago to the fact that he had obtained a reduction of freight rates in the North-west Territories. 'I went to the Canadian Pacific Railway, I called the Canadian Pacific Railway together, and I did it.' 'We had a consultation, and there was forthwith a reduction of freight rates.'

Now, in another place he alluded to the fact that the Minister of the Interior had been driven out of the country on account of his immigration policy. But, the hon. gentleman dropped it at that, he did not say in what way the immigration policy of the Minister of the Interior was weak. Now, Sir, the hon. member took part in an election campaign in the province of Manitoba, and, I believe, took credit for assisting in winning six seats for his party. He was travelling around supporting the present Prime Minister of Manitoba, Hugh John Macdonald, and supporting his platform. But, after the hon. gentleman got back to Regina he found his constituents were dissatisfied at what he had been doing. We find in this paper, the *West*, that he says he had nothing to do with an article published in German. I have taken the trouble to get this article translated, and as it is very interesting, I would like to read it to the House. I may say that the hon. gentleman has been sending it out from this House, abusing the franking privilege, sending it all over West Assiniboia. I have a couple of them here that I managed to secure. It is headed 'Warning,' and it is as follows:

Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P. for West Assiniboia, the acknowledged leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in the North-west Territories, is on the point of leaving for Ottawa to take his seat in the House of parliament. During his absence his opponents will do all possible to betray the voters, especially his German friends. Mr. Davin is the true friend of the farmers. Stand by him in his absence, while at work for you.

Mr. DAVIN. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIS (reading):

The local Grits—wrongly self-named Liberals—will do their best to belie him and betray you. Amongst other things they will say to you that the Liberal-Conservatives of the North-west have the same belief as the leader of the Manitoba government (Hon. H. J. Macdonald). In our constitution, the Dominion parliament has no oversight over questions concerning the provinces, neither has the one province over the other; and for this reason, we have nothing to do with Manitoba politics, nor their freedom with ours.

I think that any person will agree with me in saying that the hon. member for West Assiniboia had repudiated everything he had said in Manitoba. He went back on Hugh

John Macdonald, when he found that it was likely to lose him votes. This is from this sincere man, who goes to work and publishes this in the paper. He declares that he does not believe in the policy of Hugh John Macdonald which he himself had been advocating in Manitoba:

Mr. Davin was the means of carrying the law which governs our freedom. It was he who wrote it and carried it through parliament, and by this act every one that has been living here for three years and become naturalized has the right to vote.

I said a while ago, that the hon. gentleman took credit for everything. He takes credit for the Naturalization Act passed in 1868, long before the hon. gentleman ever came to this country. He said to the Germans: I am the person who got you the right to vote. I wrote it myself. I am the man who secured you the right to cast your ballots in the North-west Territories. Now, he goes on further:

We must remember that it was Mr. Davin who reduced the duty on agricultural implements—

He takes all the credit to himself. I would like the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) to pay a little attention to this, because, I know, he is interested in agricultural implements:

We must remember that it was Mr. Davin who reduced the duty on agricultural implements in the year 1894, from 35 to 20 per cent.

It was not the Conservative party, but the hon. gentleman.

Mr. DAVIN. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIS (reading):

Further, he reduced the duty on cottons, coal oil, fencing, binder twine, lumber, &c., and if his party had remained in power he would have done more in this line. But the self-styled Liberals came in and promised free implements, cheap oil; and what have they done? Implements are higher than formerly, cottons risen from 22½ to 25 per cent; furs, which we all need, risen from 25 to 40 per cent; coal oil dearer than ever.

By giving preferential tariff to Great Britain, wherefrom we have no profit, the government has angered Germany, and has reduced our trade with the German Empire.

Here is the gentleman who has been talking about his loyalty; he says we have angered Germany. He proceeds:

The Liberals have betrayed you and have not kept their promises to you. They spend every year \$14,000,000 more than in 1896. Our debt is getting larger, and you have to pay it. In the Departments of Interior and Public Works are too many signs of corruption and stealings, and in the long run you have to pay the same. Mr. Davin is your only true friend, serving your interest—

He is the panacea for all ills:

—and if his party is returned to power next time he promises to stop this extravagance—

One-man government :

—and relieve you of such burdens and fulfil the promises of the Liberals to you which they never kept.

The House meeting so early, Mr. Davin must postpone his visit to the German settlements until his return, but will be Friday evening at Balgonie, and Saturday at 2 p.m. at Edenwald.

There is another clipping here that I selected from a speech that was made by the the German settlements. It is reported in his own paper. After speaking of Mr. Davin's measures which it says he had been pressing on the government, it proceeds :

The only public Bill passed in the first session of this parliament, the Bill that secured to them all, if in the one case, twelve months in the Territories, in the other three years, whether a man could read or write, the franchise was drafted by him and passed through parliament by him. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Solicitor General, a gentlemanly and courteous man, saying to him when he suggested at the committee stage that the government should steer the Bill lest at the hands of the majority it should suffer shipwreck in charge of a private member, said, 'No. We'll assent. The Bill is yours and you should have the honour of putting it through parliament.

He is telling the poor, simple Germans of that settlement, that, in 1896, he came down to parliament and passed the Naturalization Act, and that he got the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to assist him to secure for these people the right to vote. This is the hon. gentleman who talks about the insincerity of the right hon. Prime Minister and of hon. members on this side of the House. Now, hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, not only the hon. member for West Assiniboia, but all the rest of them, claim that this party have broken the promises they made to the people. I would like to know what promise the hon. member for West Assiniboia has not broken. He says that we have stolen their clothes. If that be the case, I think the hon. gentleman must have stolen somebody's clothes ; I think he must have stolen the clothes of the Patron party. The present opposition appears to be a strange mixture. In the first place we have the hon. member for West Assiniboia doing the free trade part of the combination, then we have the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), doing the protectionist part of the show, then we have the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), doing the loyalty part of the business, and the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), going down into the province of Quebec and doing the other end. So that, we have all sorts and conditions of men on the other side of the House. They could suit every person or anybody. In reference to the statement that the

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Liberal party have stolen the clothes of the opposition, I would like to say, that, if it be true that this party are carrying out the old policy of the Conservative party, the national policy, and if the Conservative party believe that the national policy is a policy to build up this country, then, according to their own argument, this government must be doing what is right. The trade returns, the number of factories which have been established in the country, the increasing wages and everything else, indicating prosperity, show that the Liberal government must be carrying out that policy of hon. gentlemen opposite with infinitely better results to the country. If it be true, I would like to know what grievance hon. gentlemen have on the other side of the House. They do not want to get back to make any change in the policy of the present government, because they say it is all right now. If that be true, I think the only reason why hon. gentlemen opposite want to get back to power, must be that they desire to enjoy the sweets of office. According to their own argument they want to get back to power for the sweets of office. The hon. member for South Leeds probably wishes to increase the duties on certain commodities in which he may be interested. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia sees another \$47,000 in his mind's eye. The hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), sees his \$7,000 salary, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), sees something in the same way, and every hon. gentleman on the other side of the House, has something in sight. That is the only argument they can advance.

An hon. MEMBER. It is not in sight.

Mr. DAVIS. It is not in sight, but this is the only argument they can advance, because they claim that this government are carrying out their policy, which is the right and proper policy, and if that be true, I say that hon. gentlemen opposite want to get back to the Treasury benches for the purpose of getting what they can make out of it. The preferential tariff has been pretty well threshed out, and I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), will enlighten any one with the array of figures he has read to the House. As the hour is late, I beg to move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I want to say a few words on this motion to adjourn the debate. It is literally true that the Act passed in 1896 was my Act, and it is literally true that it was the only Act passed that session. The courtesy that is spoken of there as exercised by the Solicitor General to me, was shown. It was my Bill and the Solicitor General came to me, and although the German writer there does not exactly express what I would like to have expressed, it is literally true that the Act secures that any one who has

been three years in the country and twelve months in the constituency can vote. Therefore, that Act passed by me is a complete assurance that no legislation against Germans voting can take place in the Northwest Territories. It is not true that when I was in Manitoba, I advocated that portion of the Hon. Hugh Macdonald's policy which relates to what is called the foreign vote. I could support my hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald) and wish to see him in power without agreeing to that one plank in his platform, and as a fact I did not agree with it. The fact that Mr. Hugh Macdonald is in power, and the manner in which Mr. Greenway went out, shows to those of us who went to fight the battle of helping him to achieve the great victory he has achieved, that we were working in a good cause, his victory was mainly due to his own great power and his own personality. There was never an act in my life that I look back on with greater pleasure than my support of Mr. Macdonald. I made no concealment that I entirely dissented from that plank in his platform about the foreign franchise. As to the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Davis) that I stole the clothes of the Patrons, it is on the pages of *Hansard* that I moved in this House in 1893, and advocated the reduction on the very things which the Patrons advocated the reduction on later on, and I advocated that reduction months before the Patrons were established. In fact in 1893 when I proposed that, I had never heard of Patrons.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) referred to the \$47,000 the company of the Regina *Leader* received for work extending over ten or eleven years, and he seems to think it a very amusing thing that one man should hold a preponderating interest in a company. Even if it were true that there were only three or four besides myself, the others having a small number of shares, what could there be wrong about it? The law was complied with. As a fact, after the company was formed, another person holding a considerable number of shares came in, and others also purchased shares, but at no time, to my great regret, did the vast disproportion between my own large holding and the holdings of others disappear. The company could not be formed if it was illegal, and it was to my regret that others did not join the company. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, and this is a matter purely private. Is the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) taking a course that is conducive to fit and fruitful debate in this House? A course that may be conducive to his own peace of mind, or that may be conducive to the peace of mind of gentlemen on the Treasury benches? Shall we go into your private business? Shall I for instance inquire into the private business of the Minister of the Interior? Shall I for instance go into the statement that has been made to me, that a man has gone into a bank in this town and placed

to the credit of the Minister of the Interior \$40,000, and marched out? Am I going to go into the private conduct of the Minister of Militia and Defence? Am I going to drag his conduct before the public? which I would be justified in doing, on the principle that justifies that man's (Mr. Davis) conduct? Am I going to drag the conduct of this same gentleman (Mr. Davis) before the public, as to the way which he got whatever means he has? I may say that the sum of \$47,000 over a long stretch of years was earned well and hard; there was little profit; wages 25 per cent higher than at Winnipeg; at that time the *Leader* Company was the only office which had the plant; it did the whole work of the Territories for about \$5,000; to-day it costs nearly double that sum; and the *Leader* to-day gets \$10,000 or \$11,000; and let me say neither I, nor any person connected with that company ever achieved any wealth by fratricidal felony.

Mr. TAYLOR. What about the Montreal *Herald* getting \$15,000 last year.

Mr. DAVIN. I am not talking about that now. I say that in the interests of this parliament the course of the hon. member (Mr. Davis) is not advisable. I say that hon. gentlemen on the opposite side of this House are not very wise in acting on a principle that will enable me to go into private conduct.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Do not make any threats.

Mr. DAVIN. I will make threats now. So far as I am concerned my whole private life is in evidence. I defy the most prying eye, and if my hon. friend from Kent, Ont. (Mr. Campbell) thinks I cannot make threats, probably I may take the opportunity of showing I can, and I, in the interest of government and the commonwealth, will drag from the lurking places where they now hide men who dare not for one moment stand before parliament once the light of day is let in upon their conduct.

Mr. DAVIS. I wish to say a word in reply to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin). I did not pry into his private life. He is a public man, and I was alluding to him as a public man.

Mr. TAYLOR. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) moved the adjournment of the debate and took his seat. Has he a right now to make a speech?

Mr. SPEAKER. He certainly has not. Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and the House adjourned at 1.10 a.m. (Thursday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, April 19, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

RELATIONS WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

Mr. KAULBACH asked :

Has the government of Canada made any approaches, quite recently, to Newfoundland, offering her any inducements for her joining the confederacy of Canada?

Also, has the government of Canada made any proposals, quite recently, for reciprocal trade relations with our sister colony, Newfoundland? If not, why not?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would say to my hon. friend that the government is always ready to receive any overtures from our sister colony of Newfoundland on the subject of joining the confederacy of Canada. With regard to the second question, no proposals have been made recently for reciprocal trade relations, the reason being that we thought, in the present political condition of the island, the time was not propitious for such proposals.

IMPORTATION OF MEAT INTO CANADA.

Mr. KAULBACH asked :

Is the government aware that large quantities of meat are being imported into Canada for consumption in Canada, to the injury of Canadian farmers? If so, is it the intention of this government to so amend the tariff as to prevent or avert it?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The government are not aware of anything of the kind having occurred to the injury of Canadian farmers.

BUOY SERVICE, COUNTY OF LUNENBURG.

Mr. KAULBACH asked :

1. When were tenders for Gold River and Chester Basin buoy service, in the county of Lunenburg, N.S., for the present service, invited?

2. When was the limit time for them to be received?

3. The names of the parties so tendering?

4. The amount of each tender to whom the contract was awarded?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Post-bills inviting tenders were sent out on the 2nd of March, 1900. 2. Up to the 15th of March, 1900. 3. Frank J. Fredea, Chester, N.S.; Albert Shupe, Martin's Point; Paul Rafuse, Martin's Point; James W. Langille, Martin's River; Ray Corkum, Chester; Laurence A. Barry, Chester. 4. Contract awarded lowest tenderer, Frank J.

Mr. FIELDING.

Fredea. It is not usual to give the amounts of these tenders severally unless specially desired, but, if moved for, they will be brought down.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

Mr. PUTTEE asked :

Does the government intend to extend any aid, monetary or otherwise, to the famine-stricken districts of the empire in India?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This is a question as to which the government has come to no conclusion. They think it advisable to communicate with the home authorities on the subject.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

Mr. JAMES GILMOUR (East Middlesex). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the government to a matter which is attracting considerable interest in my constituency. I refer to the famine in India. In my riding of East Middlesex, a general movement is on foot to raise subscriptions to relieve the suffering there, and at a meeting held the other day, a series of resolutions were passed on that subject, including one requesting me to ask the favourable consideration of the government to this movement. They desire that the government should recognize the movement, and receive the money that may be subscribed and transmit the same; also, to advise them as to whether it would be desirable to make contributions of grain, and if that were done, whether the government would see to its transportation. I will read the resolutions referred to :

Resolution and statements made at Hyde Park, Ont., by residents of Hyde Park and community at a meeting on behalf of the Indian famine sufferers.

1. We deplore the fact that the empire's war in South Africa has so engrossed public attention in this country that the most terrible famine that has ever visited Britain's domains has not received that interest, sympathy and help which the awfulness of the situation would naturally produce.

2. It is our firm opinion that Canada, as a nation, a colony and arm of the British Empire would, in response to appeal, give generous aid to fellow-subjects suffering for want of food in another part of the empire.

3. We believe that a national canvass, whether for grain or money or both, is both desirable and practicable. By meetings being called by ministers or other public men in every little section or community, and working committees being appointed to canvass the immediate territory the work of gathering grain or funds could be carried on without great trouble or expense to the authorities.

4. We would invite attention to the facts, that the Indian government has provided a capacious vessel to be loaded with gifts of American corn; that the State of Kansas alone is endeavouring to raise 1,000,000 bushels for the famine sufferers, and that a New York paper is not only soliciting contributions of corn and money, but

is offering every facility, as for instance, paying the freight charges for car-loads of corn shipped from different points where the contributors are unable or unprepared to pay them.

5. We believe that, in order to insure national attention, national confidence and completeness of plan and execution, the whole matter of appeal and transport and control of grain and money, or of money alone, if Canadian grain be not acceptable, would necessarily be undertaken by the government of the Dominion.

6. Such an effort might be described as a national organized endeavour, under the authority and support of the government of Canada, to procure a large voluntary offering from the Canadian people to assist the government of India in coping with the present unprecedented and disastrous famine.

(Sgd.) PETER ELSON,
Chairman.

Resolved, that the above statements of our convictions be placed in the hands of James Gilmour, Esq., M.P. for East Middlesex, with a request that it be brought before the attention of the House of Commons, and with the prayer that the subject of which it treats may receive that immediate attention which the urgent nature of India's necessities would seem to demand.

Moved by Mr. Thomas Routledge, seconded by Mr. Thomas Ramsay.

Carried unanimously, Wednesday evening, April 4, A.D. 1900.

I think the House will agree with me that the object is a laudable one, and that if the government could see their way clear to receive these remittances and transmit the same, it would help to stimulate similar efforts elsewhere and redound to the credit of the Dominion.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). Perhaps I may be allowed to offer a few suggestions on the same point. Having had the honour of living for several years in the locality that is afflicted with this famine, perhaps I can give a few facts that may be of service to the House. The district at present afflicted with famine is largely the Decan, and the native states of Central India. The distress is wholly due to the lack of rain during the last monsoon; the country did not receive the usual amount of rain, and the consequence is that nothing was produced. The result has been a very severe famine among the people, and the cutting off of cattle. In fact, there has been no growth of any kind, the earth is dry and barren, and great distress exists in those districts for the want of water. It is certainly very kind of the people of the riding represented by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gilmour) to pass a resolution of this kind. The idea of relieving the subjects of our empire by contributions of grain is utterly useless. No grain can possibly reach them from this country, or from the United States to be of any use to them. The only way that they can be relieved at present is by a cablegram for cash. I am assured that the grain is in the country, if the people

had the means to purchase it, so that the only way we can share in sending relief to these people, is by giving a cash order. This is the most speedy way we could adopt of reaching them under the circumstances. This is what I would propose if the government takes any action at all. There is a movement in the United States to send corn. All of these movements result from a kind of feeling which is quite proper, but, from an utter want of knowledge of the state of the country, so that, personally, I would strongly urge the government that if anything is to be done, it should be done at once, and done by a cablegram, forwarding a cash order to Bombay, or some other point that could be easily reached. The monsoon generally commences about the 20th day of June, when there is an abundant growth, and the people will again sow their fields and have provisions for another year sufficient for their own relief. I had the privilege of conversing with a relative of my own who has been twenty years in the Maharatta country, as the head and representative of a very interesting educational institution, only a few days ago, and he assured me that it is useless to talk of sending grain either from Canada or the United States, and that cash is an immediate necessity. I hope this House will kindly consider it, and if possible, do something to relieve these, our fellow-subjects.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding.) The hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour) was good enough to intimate to us his intention to bring this matter up. The right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has already intimated, in answer to a question, this afternoon, that, so far as a government grant or governmental action is concerned, it is now under consideration, and will be the subject of communication with the Imperial government. Of course, what we have learned this afternoon, in addition to the general information which we have obtained from the press, is calculated to impress us as to the great need of doing something to aid our fellow-countrymen in India. I understand, that, apart from the difficulties that have been expressed by the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), there are other objections to sending provisions to India. They are a peculiar people in that country, and they might possibly have objections to provisions from abroad on grounds which it is not easy to understand on this side of the water, but it is a reason why such a step ought to be well considered. But, pending the consideration of what action, if any, may be taken by the government, it is desirable that those citizens of Canada whose hearts are moved to contribute at once should know the channel through which that can be done. There was an organization several years ago for the relief of the Indian famine sufferers, of

which Mr. Courtney, the Deputy Minister of Finance, one of our principal officers, was the treasurer. There is, at this moment, no regular organization for that purpose, but, if any person in Canada, who wishes to contribute immediately, will communicate with Mr. Courtney, the Deputy Minister of Finance, I will undertake, on his behalf, to say, that contributions will be received and despatched to the proper quarter. As respects governmental action, the hon. leader of the government will, perhaps, have a further statement to make.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I only rise because the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), have intimated, that this matter is now under the serious consideration of the government. I cannot help thinking it is quite worthy of the attention of the government. The very great efforts that have been made throughout the Dominion of Canada among different classes of the people to send aid to South Africa in connection with the patriotic fund, have, it is quite obvious, very largely drawn upon the usual sources of personal contributions in reference to matters of this kind. There is no question that the government of Canada did great credit to themselves, and that Canada did great credit to itself, by the very handsome contribution that was made on a former occasion to the Indian famine fund, which a few years ago, was brought to the notice of the people of Canada. I venture to express the hope, that, under the circumstances, the government will feel it their duty, more especially owing to the large draft that has been made on the private resources of the people all over Canada, who would be disposed to contribute liberally in reference to this famine in India, to take that into consideration in looking at the question of how far the government might be disposed to ask parliament to come to the aid of the sufferers in India. I only rose for the purpose of saying that I am quite sure the government will consult the feelings of parliament and the feelings of the people of the country, if they look at the question as one which is very worthy of very careful consideration, and at the object as one deserving of very liberal support.

Mr. GILMOUR. Mr. Speaker, I desire to thank the government for the action they propose to take. I think it will fully satisfy my petitioners, and I shall be pleased to place in the hands of the government, the communication of the Rev. Mr. Rhodes, who, apparently, was secretary of the meeting, and who has taken an active interest in the movement. Such action as is proposed will stimulate private effort in the direction of helping these parties to raise money, by giving the movement a Dominion importance.

Mr. FIELDING.

Mr. THOMAS S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, since this subject is engaging the attention of the government, I might take the opportunity of asking the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), another question in connection with it. He will doubtless remember, that, some time ago, I applied to him for the purpose of getting information to answer a letter sent to me by one of my constituents, who proposed to provide a carload of grain, if it would be suitable to send to India. The nature of the inquiry from him, was as to whether the government would handle such contributions for India, through what channel they might be sent forward, and whether the proposal to send such provisions as he could gather in the locality, would be suitable. The information which the hon. Minister of Finance gave me, was, that he was not aware of any association handling contributions for the Indian famine sufferers, or whether the government could handle anything for India, and, therefore, I could give no information to my correspondent on that subject. I understand the hon. Finance Minister to say now, that the government will be prepared to handle and will send forward any contributions that may be made for that purpose. Am I correct in understanding that this only applies to money, or does it apply to lines of provisions such as grain, because the proposal of my constituent was to send a carload of grain?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I really did not use the words that the government would handle these contributions, but, inasmuch as I named an officer of the government, perhaps the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), was justified in taking that inference. I mentioned the name of Mr. Courtney, the Deputy Minister of Finance, as a gentleman who would be pleased to act in the matter, not merely because he happens to be one of our officials, but because he was treasurer of the Indian famine fund that existed several years ago, and, therefore, he is well informed on matters in relation thereto. But, I say that Mr. Courtney will undertake it, and I am sure that I can have no hesitation in saying that whatever he undertakes to do in the matter, will be done under a sense of his responsibility, so far as the handling of money and seeing that it is referred to the proper channels, are concerned. As respects the handling of provisions, the hon. gentleman is correct in stating that he asked me a question some time ago on that point, and I was not then able to give him any assurance that provisions would be handled. My information is that when the Indian famine fund was organized several years ago, the committee made inquiry on that subject, and were advised that apart from all other reasons, the sending of provisions from this quarter to India, might be open to objection, and that it would be far more satisfactory to

send money, as stated by the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas). I would therefore not advise that any provisions be sent Mr. Courtney, but if the citizens of Canada wish to make any other contributions, Mr. Courtney will receive them and see that they are forwarded to the proper quarter.

Mr. SPROULE. Contributions in cash?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. In cash.

Mr. J. GUNION RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). It would be well, Mr. Speaker, to have this information disseminated as widely as possible through the Dominion. I know that in my own constituency there are a large number of persons who are anxious to contribute to this charitable object, and the question has been brought up as to whether or not grain would be accepted by the government for transport to India. That question has been put to me by several of my constituents and we have hitherto had no definite information upon the subject. It would be well, as I have said, to have this information circulated speedily and rapidly throughout the country, because, judging from the remarks of my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), time is the essence of any movement for the relief of these people.

COMMISSIONS IN THE IMPERIAL ARMY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I wish to remind my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, that when the question of the commissions granted to Canadians in the Imperial army was under consideration a few days ago, I understood the Prime Minister to say that at an early date, he would—and after communication with His Excellency—lay on the Table of the House at an early date, the correspondence which had taken place between Her Majesty's government and the government of Canada, and any other persons in connection with that matter. I should be glad if the Prime Minister would take the House as fully as he can into the confidence of the government in regard to this matter which is of such great and general interest.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Had my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) given notice of his intention to bring this question up I would have been prepared to deal with it. I will be ready, however, at an early date. To-morrow being Friday would perhaps not be a convenient day, but let us say next Tuesday.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of

the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). When the House adjourned at an early hour this morning, I was replying to the speech of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). In the course of his three or four hours speech that gentleman saw fit to make strong attacks upon members of the government and upon members of the House, charging both with insincerity. When I pointed out that the hon. member (Mr. Davin) himself was not sincere, he asserted that I was dragging in his private business. Well, Sir, I was doing nothing of the kind. I stated that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) received \$47,000 from the public treasury, when he was owner or manager of a newspaper in Regina, and that is a public affair, and not his private business, because it appears in the Auditor General's Report. I might also have said that \$175 was paid to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) for publishing law reports in his paper, which reports were never published at all. I might also have said that a sum of about \$400 was paid the hon. member (Mr. Davin) for publishing in his paper matter in connection with the territorial exhibition, which matter was published in every other paper in the North-west Territories without any charge whatever. All these are public matters because they appear in the blue-books published by the government, and they are matters which can be fairly discussed without my being charged with dragging his private affairs before this House.

Now that the leader of the opposition is in his place, I might inform him that while it is generally supposed by the Conservatives in the country that he made this country—a thing for which, at all events, he claims credit—yet the hon. gentleman from West Assiniboia claims in the west, that it is he and not the leader of the opposition who has done everything, not only for the North-west but for the whole Dominion. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) takes a certain amount of credit for having done considerable towards the building up of Canada, and for his information as well, I shall read a report which appeared in the personal organ of the hon. member (Mr. Davin) called *The West*, published in Regina. After the hon. member (Mr. Davin) returned to the Territories from the Manitoba campaign he found there was a strike among his German constituents, and he went up to see them and afterwards published this article in German in *The West*. He subsequently had it printed as a circular and franked several hundred copies of it to his German constituents. The original was in the German language, but I have had a translation of it made and here it is:

Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P. for West Assinibolia, the acknowledged leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in the North-west Territories, is on the point of leaving for Ottawa to take his seat in the House of Parliament. During his absence his opponents will do all possible to betray the voters, especially his German friends. Mr. Davin is the true friend of the farmers. Stand by him in his absence, while at work for you.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the hon. member (Mr. Davis) is not speaking to the motion before the House and the circular which he is reading now he also read last night.

Mr. DAVIS. I was under the impression that in the budget debate what I am now doing is perfectly in order. The hon. member for West Assinibolia (Mr. Davin) read extracts from all the tory papers from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Mr. SPEAKER. I should have stopped the hon. member for West Assinibolia (Mr. Davin) last night for doing the very thing that is charged against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) to-day. After listening to the hon. member for West Assinibolia, I do not feel justified now in stopping the hon. member (Mr. Davis). I may say to the House that it would be an immense economy of time if hon. members would confine themselves more strictly to the subject under discussion. I ask hon. gentlemen to refrain from going into outside matters as much as possible, or else perhaps later on I may have to enforce the rules more strictly.

Mr. DAVIS. I would not read this but for the benefit of the leader of the opposition who takes credit for having made this country and everything in it, and I wish to point out that the hon. member for West Assinibolia takes issue with his leader on that and claims the whole thing for himself.

The local Grits—wrongly self-named Liberals—will do their best to belie him and betray you. Amongst other things they will say to you that the Liberal-Conservatives of the North-west have the same belief as the leader of the Manitoba government (Hon. H. J. Macdonald). In our constitution the Dominion parliament has no oversight over questions concerning the provinces, neither has the one province over the other; and for this reason, we have nothing to do with Manitoba politics, nor their freedom with ours.

The hon. gentleman tells the Germans up there practically that he does not believe in the policy of Hugh John Macdonald, the Premier of Manitoba, although the hon. gentleman ran all through the province during the elections, and after he got back to Regina he took credit for carrying four seats. He afterwards repudiated the policy of Hugh John Macdonald, saying he did not believe in it. He further says:

Mr. Davin was the means of carrying the law which governs our freedom.

Mr. DAVIS.

There is an infringement on the patent of the leader of the opposition. He says:

It was he who wrote it and carried it through parliament, and by this act every one that has been living here for three years and becomes naturalized has the right to vote.

We must remember that it was Mr. Davin who reduced the duty on agricultural implements in the year 1894 from 35 to 20 per cent.

I was under the impression that the hon. ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) had something to do with reducing the duty on agricultural implements. He went through this country talking about the lopping off the mouldering branches of the national policy, but the hon. gentleman ignores the ex-Finance Minister, and says he was the man who reduced this duty. He goes on:

Further, he reduced the duty on cottons, coal oil, fencing, binder twine, lumber, &c., and if his party had remained in power he would have done more in this line. But the self-styled Liberals came in and promised free implements, cheap oil; and what have they done? Implements are higher than formerly, cottons risen from 22½ to 25 per cent; furs, which we all need, risen from 25 to 40 per cent; coal oil dearer than ever.

I wish the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) would attend to the next paragraph, because it shows the loyalty of the hon. member for Western Assinibolia (Mr. Davin). He goes on:

By giving preferential tariff to Great Britain, wherefrom we have no profit, the government has angered Germany, and has reduced our trade with the German Empire.

That is a nice statement coming from the leader of the Liberal-Conservatives of the North-west Territories. These are the hon. gentleman's words in black and white, and he cannot deny them. He goes on to say:

The Liberals have betrayed you and have not kept their promises to you. They spend every year \$14,000,000 more than in 1896. Our debt is getting larger, and you have to pay it. In the Departments of Interior and Public Works are too many signs of corruption and stealings, and in the long run you have to pay the same.

If there were so many signs of corruption in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Public Works, why did not the hon. member for Western Assinibolia do something to unearth all this corruption? He travelled around the North-west Territories telling the people that he had put gyves on the wrists of the Minister of Public Works; but when he came to this House, and had the opportunity, on his responsibility as a member of this House, to get up and demand a committee and undertake to prove his charges, as the Minister of Public Works did when he was in opposition, we never heard from him on the subject. There is no use of the hon. member for Western Assinibolia or any other hon. gentlemen travelling along the side lines and talking in the back school-

houses about the corruption of this government if they are not prepared to prove their statements. We want proof, and the people are not to be hoodwinked by talk of that kind; they do not take any stock in it. He goes on:

Mr. Davin is your only true friend, serving your interest, and if his party is returned to power next time he promises to stop this extravagance—

Just listen to that: he promises to stop it. The ex-Finance Minister should take a note of that. The hon. gentleman goes on:

—and relieve you of such burdens and fulfil the promises of the Liberals to you, which they never kept.

The House meeting so early, Mr. Davin must postpone his visit to the German settlements until his return, but will be Friday evening at Balgonie, and Saturday at 2 p.m. at Edenwald.

Here is a clipping from the report of the hon. gentleman's speech at Balgonie, published in his own paper, *The West*, and it is interesting reading too. I quote it to show the leader of the opposition that the hon. member for Western Assiniboia is trying to claim credit for everything that has been done for the North-west Territories. This is what he says, speaking to the Germans there:

The only public Bill passed in the first session of this parliament, the Bill that secured to them all, if in the one case, twelve months in the Territories, in the other three years, whether a man could read or write, the franchise, was drafted by him and passed through parliament by him. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Solicitor General, a gentlemanly and courteous man, saying to him when he suggested at the committee stage that the government should steer the Bill lest at the hands of the majority it should suffer shipwreck in charge of a private member, said, 'No. We'll assent. The Bill is yours and you should have the honour of putting it through parliament.'

Here was the hon. member for Western Assiniboia going to a German settlement, going on the platform, and making a speech to the German settlers, in which he told them that in the short session of 1896 he put through the Naturalization Act giving them the right to vote. The Naturalization Act was passed in 1868, long before the hon. gentleman honoured this country with his beautiful presence. When he makes statements of that kind, an hon. member on this side of the House has a perfect right to accuse him of insincerity, and that is all I have done.

With reference to the speech to which he treated this House last night for four hours, it was a regular hotch-potch. I have taken a few notes of it, and have tried to arrange them in such a way that they can be understood. With regard to the tariff, I do not propose to follow him in the hour and a half in which he treated the House, not to a speech, but to a lot of old stuff clipped from newspapers and from the reports of

other speeches. After wading through eight or nine pages of it, I come to this statement, to which I take exception:

The Liberal convention, in 1893, promised the people of this country free trade.

I think I know as much about the Liberal convention as the hon. member for Western Assiniboia; I have read the proceedings from one end to the other, and I fail to find where the Liberal party ever promised free trade. It promised freer trade. You can easily drop off the 'r' and make that free trade, just as in the Bible, where it says, 'The fool hath said in his heart there is no God,' if you drop off 'The fool hath said,' you can make it read, 'There is no God.' I have in my hand the 'Official Report of the Liberal Convention.' I find nothing in it about free trade, but quite the contrary. I would like to read a short selection from the speech of the Prime Minister, then the leader of the opposition at that convention. He said:

My loyalty does not ooze from the pores of my body, but I do want to go for an example to the mother country, and not to the United States, much as I respect and love the people on the other side of the line. I say the policy should be a policy of free trade, such as they have in England, but I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit, at present, of that policy in its entirety. But I propose to you that from this day henceforward it should be the goal to which we aspire. I propose to you, from this day, although we cannot adopt the policy itself, to adopt the principle which regulates it; that is to say, that though it should be your misfortune for many years to come to have to raise a revenue by customs duties, these duties should be levied only so far as is necessary to carry on the business of the government.

I submit to you that not a cent should be extracted from the pockets of the people except every cent goes into the treasury of the people, and not into the pockets of anybody else. I submit to you that no duty should be levied for protection's sake, but levied altogether and only for the purpose of filling the treasury to the limits required. I submit to you that every cent that is levied should be levied first and foremost upon the luxuries of the people. I submit to you, therefore, that the system of protection which is maintained by the government that is to-day, of levying tribute upon the people not for the legitimate expenses of the government, but for a private and privileged class, should be condemned without qualification. Let it be well understood that from this moment we have a distinct issue with the party in power. Their ideal is protection, our ideal is free trade. Their immediate object is protection; ours a tariff for revenue only. Upon this issue we engage the battle from this moment forward.

I submit that there is nothing in that about free trade. The right hon. the Prime Minister, then leader of the opposition, told the convention that it was impossible for us, under the existing conditions, to have free trade; yet we have those hon. gentlemen opposite travelling around declaring that the

Liberal party promised free trade. There may have been individual cases of members of the Liberal party who travelled around and made statements in school-houses about free trade, but we cannot bind the whole party by the statements made by individuals, any more than we can bind the Conservative party by bombastic statements made by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. David).

The Liberal party promised us a tariff for revenue, and I submit we have that. Judging from the fact that the revenue of the country has gone up within the last three and a half years from \$36,000,000 to \$50,000,000, I submit that we have a very good revenue tariff. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) who is the apostle of percentages, told the people that this government is taxing them more than the late government did. He said: We took \$36,000,000 out of the pockets of the people, but the present government are taking \$50,000,000 out of their pockets, although the population has not increased more than 200,000. But, Mr. Speaker, I submit that the revenue has increased because the people to-day are paying their taxes into the treasury where formerly they paid them into the pockets of the manufacturers. If a taxpayer uses more imported goods he naturally pays more duty into the treasury. No government of Canada ever went to any man's door to collect taxes. The people tax themselves. If a farmer can afford to buy this year two ploughs, when last year he could only buy one, if he can afford to indulge this year in two suits of clothes when formerly he had to content himself with one, if he can now buy three shirts when, under the late government, he could not buy any at all; of course he pays more taxes. That follows as a natural consequence, and I take it as the greatest evidence of prosperity that the revenue of the country has gone up, in the short space of three and a half years, from \$36,000,000 to \$50,000,000. That shows that the people are prosperous, it shows that they are buying more goods, it shows that they are using luxuries which they could not think of purchasing when hon. gentlemen opposite were in office.

I do not propose to go into a lot of figures on the tariff because that question has been pretty well threshed out already. But take the tariff of 1894 and compare it with the tariff of 1897, and you will find material reductions made in the general tariff without counting the preferential tariff at all. I propose to give just two illustrations—one an illustration of the effect of the wiping out of the specific duties, and the other an illustration of the benefits accruing to the people from the preferential rate. When the Fielding tariff was brought down, the hon. leader of the opposition said that we were going to ruin every industry in the country. He read articles from the *Mail and Empire* and the *Montreal Gazette* de-

Mr. DAVIS.

scribing the mournful wail of the manufacturers; he trotted out all the old stock arguments about smokeless chimneys and penniless artisans, which did such good service in the old days. But afterwards, when he found that his predictions were not realized, when he found that nobody was being ruined and that the country was more prosperous than ever, he changed his tune and charged the Liberal party with having stolen the Tory clothes. But, as the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) has said, it would not be any advantage to any party to steal the clothes of hon. gentlemen opposite. The clothes themselves are not desirable, and if we had to take the reputation along with the clothes, I am afraid we would be in a very sorry plight indeed.

But to give you an instance of tariff reduction, let me take up the item of shirts. In the Foster tariff of 1894, on shirts costing over \$3 a dozen there were imposed a specific duty of \$1 a dozen and an ad valorem duty of 25 per cent; so that shirts costing \$3.05 a dozen were subject to this double duty. It does not take much of a scholar to figure out what the total duty would be on shirts costing \$3.05 a dozen. The \$1 specific duty would amount to 32.8 per cent and then adding the ad valorem duty of 25 per cent, you will find that shirts costing \$3 a dozen bore a duty of 57.8 per cent. And remember that shirts at that price are the kind worn by the labouring man and the farmer, over whose hard fate these hon. gentlemen opposite are wont to wax so eloquent. We have to-day the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) sweating from every pore over the miseries of the poor labouring man, but when the late government was in office he had not a word to say against this exorbitant tax on one of his necessaries of life. Shirts that cost \$3.05 a dozen were charged a duty of 57.8 per cent. But now let us come to the other end of the list and find out what the shirts of the kind worn by the hon. leader of the opposition and the ex-Minister of Finance, and the hon. member for York (Mr. Wallace) were charged. These shirts, which cost \$36 per dozen, would pay—calculating the specific duty of \$1 per dozen, which would amount to 3 per cent on the value, and the 25 per cent ad valorem,—just 28 per cent. That is what the hon. leader of the opposition and his colleagues paid on the shirts they used, but the poor farmer and labouring man had to pay 57.8 per cent. I could go through any number of articles and show you that the Foster tariff was just as hostile to the working man from one end to the other.

These hon. gentlemen say that the preferential tariff has done no good. Well, let me give you an illustration to the contrary. Take blankets, the ordinary gray blankets weighing from seven to eight pounds, selling by the manufacturer at about \$1.50 a pair. In speaking of these goods, I know whereof I am speaking, because I am in

business and have sold thousands of pairs of them. These blankets, under the Foster tariff, bore a duty of 5 cents a pound, and 35 per cent ad valorem. What did that mean? A pair of blankets weighing eight pounds at 5 cents a pound would pay a specific duty of 40 cents. Add the 35 per cent ad valorem, and you find that the duty on a pair of blankets would amount to 72½ cents. This is the kind of blanket that lumbermen, fishermen, farmers and others who cannot afford a better class of goods buy; and there are hundreds of thousands of them sold in this country.

Mr. TAYLOR. And we made them in this country and they paid no duty at all.

Mr. DAVIS. It does not make any difference whether we made them here or not. The fact of the duty of 72½ cents a pair being imposed enabled the friends of hon. gentlemen, the manufacturers, to exact at least 70 cents a pair from the people of this country more than the blankets could have been imported for duty free. Under the preferential tariff, the duty on that class of goods has been reduced from 72½ cents to 39½ cents. On a pair of such blankets, almost half the duty has been taken off. Yet hon. gentlemen say that the government have done nothing at all for the people. I have just given these two illustrations, and I could go on giving many more, for the old tariff was pock-marked with duties of the kind I have mentioned.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia talked at length about the farmers, and asked what had been done for them. I claim that the government by enacting the preferential tariff, did a great deal for the farmers. The hon. member for West Assiniboia quoted the Trade and Navigation Returns to show that England was not sending us a dollar's worth of goods more than before, and therefore, he says, the preference is no good to Great Britain at all. But, on the other hand, we find the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) moving a resolution declaring that we have no business to give something to Great Britain without getting something in return. How are these hon. gentlemen going to reconcile these two statements, I want to know? The very fact that we are making so much greater sales of produce to Great Britain shows that the preference has done a great deal for the people of this country. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) showed on one occasion that hardly had this preference been enacted before he received a cablegram to change the brand upon his goods. Formerly the English would buy flour and other goods because it was marked as American. But this preference moved the British heart and caused the British people to ask for Canadian goods.

And it does not matter to the people of Canada whether more goods are coming in from Great Britain or not. The fact that there is on the statute-books this preference in favour of Great Britain compels the reduction of prices by American and other manufacturers. To give an illustration: Suppose that an American traveller comes to a business man here and wants to sell him a line of prints. After the samples have been displayed, the business man says: I like your samples, what are your prices? The American traveller quotes the old prices; but the business man answers: Now that we have the preferential tariff, I can lay these goods down here for so much less than you are asking. I like your goods, I like your patterns, and I would like to deal with you; but if you do not sell the goods at the same price at which I can lay them down from Great Britain, I will buy from the British manufacturer. Suppose this is a case of doing business with a Canadian wholesale man with whom the American firm has had a trade of half a million a year, making 10 per cent profit. The demand of the Canadian business man is for such reduction as will represent a lowering of that profit by 5 per cent. Why, it is a case of half a loaf or no bread, and the American manufacturer will accept the lower price. The Canadian merchant can then sell to the consumer from one end of the country to the other at a lower price; and so the people get the benefit of a reduction through the preference, even if there be no increase in the goods coming from Great Britain. And not only are the American manufacturer and the German manufacturer compelled to reduce prices, but the manufacturers in Canada must follow suit. If the Canadian manufacturer wants to sell a bale of blankets or a bale of cottons or other commodities to one of our merchants, the merchant will say: Though I would like to patronize Canadian home industries, I am not going to pay you the sixteenth part of a cent more for your goods than I can get them laid down for from Great Britain. And there is very good reason why he should take this position, because he knows that his competitor on the same street, dealing in the same line of goods, will take advantage of the preferential tariff and lay down his goods at the cheapest possible rate, and he must do the same or he will not be in as good a position to compete. Every business man knows that is what is done every day; and it is a guarantee to the people that the consumers get everything at the lowest price.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia wanted to know what had been done for the farmer. I have here a list giving the amount of produce we sold in the year 1896 and also in the year 1899; and it shows an increase in quantity and in price:

Product.	1895-6			1898-9.			Increased revenue over 1896.
	Quantity.	Price.	Value.	Quantity.	Price.	Value.	
Eggs.....	6,520,678	12 3	\$ 807,086	9,652,512	13 1	\$ 1,267,063	\$ 459,977
Butter.....	5,889,241	17 8	1,052,089	20,139,195	18 3	3,700,873	2,648,784
Cheese.....	164,689,123	8 4	13,956,571	189,827,839	8 8	16,776,765	2,820,194
Bacon, ham and pork....	55,079,032	8	4,446,884	118,807,773	8 8	10,473,211	6,026,327
Beef.....	411,468	5 1	21,158	363,810	7	24,651	3,493
Mutton.....	150,013	5	7,458	139,882	7 6	10,663	3,205
Wheat.....	9,919,542	58	5,771,521	10,305,470	76	7,784,487	2,012,946
Wheat flour.....	186,716	\$3. 85	718,433	792,536	\$3. 92	3,105,788	2,391,355
Oats.....	968,137	28	273,861	10,312,792	38	3,268,388	2,994,527
Pease.....	1,757,115	73	1,299,491	2,911,418	66	1,955,598	656,107
Rye.....	29	62	18	327,486	60	196,447	196,429
Corn.....	9,765	3 6	3,548	140,932	3 4	48,812	45,264
Buckwheat.....	405,000	4 2	173,689	334,492	5 3	178,637	4,958
Potatoes.....	596,635	38	227,606	651,235	48	315,477	87,871

Total increased revenue over 1896. \$ 19,695,330

The returns for the last six months of 1899, which is not included in this statement, show that the exports of farmers' produce continues to increase at even a greater rate. In that period the value of the butter exported was \$4,675,807, of cheese \$14,407,951, of eggs \$1,169,710, and of bacon \$6,217,787. Adding the increase in this item alone to the statement just given, you have a total increase during the regime of the Liberal government of \$31,862,427.

In every important respect the exports of farm produce have increased as well as the price that the farmers receive. Surely this goes to show that something has been done for the farmers of this country. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) has gone over to the old country and he has advertised Canada's products, and as a result we are getting a sale for our produce that we were not getting there before. That is what it is to have a practical farmer at the head of the department. Hon. gentlemen on the other side had a medical man in that department. Medical men are all right in their place, but a gentleman who deals in drugs is not supposed to know very much about butter, cheese, eggs, cold storage and things of that kind. Now, the Minister of Agriculture is a practical man, he took this matter up in a practical way, and the consequence is that he has opened a great market in England for our farm products.

But, hon. gentlemen opposite, in criticising the speech of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), talked, some of them, for an hour and a half about the Liberal party having formerly desired to obtain reciprocity with the United States. They say: Look at the policy of that party six or seven years ago (I am not sure of the date for I was not in public life at the time), when they wanted reciprocity with the United States. Very true, we did. I met a man one day in my town who wanted

to swap horses. I went to him the next day and was willing to swap horses with him, but he said: No, he did not want to swap. But, I said, you wanted to swap horses with me yesterday. He said: That is very true, but I have changed my mind. I have use for my horses now, and I can do better with them. The idea of blaming this government because a few years ago they wanted reciprocity and do not want it at the present time! The thing is ridiculous. The very fact shows that the members of this government are progressive, they are keeping abreast with the times. What was good for this country ten years ago may not be good for it to-day. The leader of the opposition might have taken some medicine a week ago that was good for him, but that would not be good for him to-day; the doctor has changed his prescription and given him something else. It is a ridiculous argument on which to waste two or three hours, to tell the House about what this party had done in regard to reciprocity some years ago. I think the leader of the opposition and his party were just as anxious for reciprocity at that time as the Liberal party was. So far as I can understand, the leader of the opposition went down to Washington on a junketting trip, and when the matter was brought up in the House, he said: Oh, it was not an offer of unrestricted reciprocity, it was an unrestricted offer of reciprocity that I made.

I wish to allude to the matter of expenditure. The member for West Assiniboia dealt at some length with that question, and he used the old stock arguments. Why, if you believed the Conservative party you would think this country was going to ruin. Last year I read myself statements in some Conservative papers that the expenditure by this government last year was \$60,000,000, one paper put it at \$53,000,000, and another

at \$58,000,000, until some Conservative paper or independent paper in Toronto advised the Conservative press all over the country to get up one story and to stick to it, because, it said, if they did not nobody would believe them. They said that last year this government spent \$60,000,000. Well, supposing this government did spend \$60,000,000, taking capital account and consolidated fund account together, they have not spent \$60,000,000, but supposing they had, look at the revenue they received. There was a year in the history of the Conservative party when they spent \$62,000,000, but I never heard a Conservative say a word about it, there was no howl going up in this country about the extravagance of the Conservative government, although at that time they only had a revenue of some \$34,000,000, making a difference between expenditure and revenue of \$28,000,000. But if this government, on capital account and consolidated fund account together, had spent \$60,000,000, they would have done it with a revenue of \$50,000,000; a great difference, you see. I am not going into the question of how much they have spent, but I say that so long as the money is properly spent in the interests of the people, there can be no kick coming from the people. Hon. gentlemen opposite cannot show wherein this alleged extravagance lies. The member for West Assiniboia tried to show that there had been extravagance in the Justice Department, and I think he discovered some place where there had been an increase of \$2,000. But, he never said anything about the Department of the Interior. Let me show what has taken place in that department. In 1894-5, the revenue of the Department of the Interior was \$167,869.58; in 1895-6, the last year hon. gentlemen were in power, the revenue was \$166,256.49. In 1898-9, the revenue was \$1,532,590.52, while the expenditure of the department was only increased a trifle, an extraordinary showing under the present management of the Interior Department, with all the added work in the Yukon. I venture to say that if hon. gentlemen opposite had been in power when the Yukon was opened up, they would have crammed the Interior Department from one end to the other with their political friends. There would not have been a Conservative member in this House who would not have been trying to get some of his political friends and supporters into that department.

The member for West Assiniboia says that our interest account is going up. Why, certainly. When hon. gentlemen opposite went out of power they left about \$15,000,000 of liabilities behind them that this government had to take charge of. The old government had entered into contracts involving large amounts of money which the present government had to carry out, and still he says we have increased the interest account. But he forgot to tell the House

that when this government did go to the old country to borrow money they borrowed it at a less rate of interest, and thereby made a great saving. We know that the interest account has gone up, but the reasons are all set forth in the public accounts. We claim that this government has done a lot of work, and done it quickly. They have deepened the canals to fourteen feet, and they have done it at once. If you are going to spend \$10,000,000 in deepening the canals in the interest of the people, is it not just as well to do that work in one year and let the people to get the benefit at once, instead of dragging it along for political purposes over ten years, while the people get no benefit? Under the Conservative regime, nothing was done until about election time, when there was a great hustle in the Public Works Department. Now, I say that as long as this money is spent in the interest of the people, I do not see that there can be any just ground for condemning the government. We have the expenditure on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, amounting to a little over \$3,000,000. Was that money not well spent? I think it was well spent. The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and all the members on the other side of the House, voted for that expenditure, excepting the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), who took to the woods. I was in the House at the time and I noticed that all the hon. members on the other side of the House were favourable to granting this money to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Was it not a good bargain? The amount of interest placed as a charge on the people on account of this grant is less than \$100,000 a year, and in moving the grain crop of Manitoba and the North-west Territories last year, the people saved over \$800,000 by the reduction of three cents that was given by the Canadian Pacific Railway, owing to the fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway were tied down under that contract not to put the rate above fourteen cents. Last year, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) made a statement at places in the North-west Territories that this grant was only money given away. He said that while they talked about securing this reduction in rates from the Canadian Pacific Railway of three cents a hundred, the fact was that the Canadian Pacific Railway themselves were going to reduce the rate anyway. I would like the hon. gentleman to tell me why the Canadian Pacific Railway would reduce the rate. Is there any competition there to make them reduce the rate? Has he ever heard of the Canadian Pacific Railway being so philanthropic that they would reduce their rates without being paid for it? I know that if there was competition in that country they would do so. But, as it is, there is no competition, and the only way that we can get them to reduce their rates is by paying

them to do so. This three cents a hundred, as I have already said, equalled about \$800,000, put into the pockets of the people of the North-west Territories. Therefore, I claim that that \$3,000,000 has been well spent. I also claim that the money that has been spent on canals has been well spent. These hon. gentlemen, if they object to these expenditures, should criticise them when they are proposed, but, when it is proposed to spend money to build bridges and wharfs in various constituencies, the money is always voted. Out of the total expenditure proposed last year in the estimates, only \$38,000 or \$39,000 was challenged by hon. gentlemen opposite. Yet they go up and down the country saying that this government is ruining us. If they do not challenge the items when the estimates are under consideration, they are not justified in travelling up and down the country and telling the people that this government is extravagant. When hon. gentlemen opposite allow money to be voted for any purpose without moving that the same be not voted, they become as responsible for the expenditure as the government itself.

Hon. gentlemen opposite charge this government with having increased the public debt. I will call the attention of the House to the increases that took place in the public debt during the three years 1894, 1895 and 1896 under hon. gentlemen opposite. They increased the public debt in 1894 by \$4,501,989.87, in 1895, by \$6,891,897.61, or nearly \$7,000,000, and in 1896 by \$5,422,505.68, making, in all, in three years, an increase of \$16,816,393.16, or an average per year of \$5,605,464.38, as against something over \$2,000,000 a year, as shown by the records of this government since it came into power. I have the record here of the increases in the public debt from 1880 to 1896. In 1881, the increase was \$9,461,401.25; in 1882, \$2,944,191.79; in 1883, \$4,805,063.68. Now, here is a year, 1884, when the increase amounted to \$23,695,135.80. I suppose hon. gentlemen opposite will tell you that that was paid to the Canadian Pacific Railway. I do not care whether it was paid to the Canadian Pacific Railway or to any other railway. The fact of paying it to the Canadian Pacific Railway is no justification, because these hon. gentlemen made such a bargain with the Canadian Pacific Railway that they might as well have taken the money and thrown it in the Ottawa River. They go out through the country and talk about the magnificent band of steel they have laid from ocean to ocean. I wish to submit to the hon. leader of the opposition and his colleagues the fact that you can buy even gold too dearly, and that is what the people of the North-west Territories have found out. The estimated cost of the whole road was \$92,000,000. Yet, hon. gentlemen opposite gave away, taking into consideration lands, money and completed

road, some \$110,000,000. And then they say: Look at the magnificent bargain we have made. Is that not a grand bargain? If I were to go down town and give a man enough money to build a house and make him a present of a lot more, I would be making such a grand bargain as this one was. They gave the Canadian Pacific Railway syndicate enough to build the road and \$18,000,000 over. Then, these gentlemen who composed the syndicate went to work and bonded the road. They got power to issue bonds to the extent of \$50,000,000: they were sold at 25 cents on the dollar; the gentlemen in the syndicate bought them in at 25 cents on the dollar, and they used the money they paid for these bonds to pay themselves back interest at the rate of 6 cents on the face value of the bonds. This is something like 24 per cent they were making on the transaction.

The hon. leader of the opposition went to Manitoba himself this year during the elections and took the platform. The people were interested in the attitude of the hon. gentleman in reference to railway legislation. He had always opposed the government ownership of railways in the strongest possible way. I have clippings from his speeches in which he has condemned that principle. When the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock) brought that question before the House, the hon. leader of the opposition said that all young members, when they came here first, had fads, and that this was one of the fads. When he went to Manitoba he was asked if he favoured the government ownership of railways. Instead of taking the same stand as he had taken in this House, he said that he had no objection to it. This is something like the Jekyel-Hyde speeches that the hon. gentleman makes in Toronto and in Quebec. In regard to the stealing of clothes, we now find that Mr. Hugh John Macdonald has stolen the clothes of the late Mr. Mackenzie. He has stolen his railway policy, which was to build the Canadian Pacific Railway as a government work. He proposes to build all the railways in Manitoba and to control them as government railways.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) last night, in speaking of the expenditure, said that, in 1886, we had a rebellion, and that the government had to pay the cost of that rebellion. I would like to ask that hon. gentleman who was accountable for that rebellion. There was no necessity for having a rebellion. The people were not longing for such a luxury, but they had to pay the piper. They had to meet the bills although the expenditure of blood and treasure was caused by the blundering in the departments here. If the government had treated the half-breeds decently there never would have been a re-

bellion. The rebellion was hardly over, and the soldiers had scarcely left the country, when the commissioners appointed by the hon. gentlemen opposite came junketting up there to give the half-breeds the very thing they had asked for before the rebellion took place. If these commissioners had come up four or five months before, or had even wired they were coming there never would have been a rebellion, and this country would have been saved the blood that lies at the doors of gentlemen opposite.

The hon. member (Mr. Davin) spoke of the railway policy of the late government, but the less he and his friends say about that the better. Are they aware that the Conservatives gave upwards of 65,000,000 acres of the best lands in Manitoba and the North-west to these jobbing railway corporations? It amused me to hear the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) raising his hands in holy horror last year about the railway subsidies voted by this government. There, is an hon. gentleman that pocketed I might say millions of dollars or very near it in the way of railway subsidies in the Territories. Look at the jobbery there was in the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway. Why that railway was built for the simple purpose of giving the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) and his friends a means of making a certain amount of money. That road was built through a wilderness. They could have built for 175 miles through a good country, but they evidently had in mind the example of the Yankee, who built at so much a mile a road for the Sultan of Turkey between two points ninety miles apart; he built in zig-zag fashion, and when the bill came to the Sultan, he had to pay for some hundreds of miles of road. The hon. gentleman from West Toronto and his friends built their railway like a hoop, and ran it through an alkali plain where nobody lived or will ever live. They took their 6,400 acres of land per mile, and they did not select it from a muskeg or from the alkali plain, but they selected the best lands in the Saskatchewan valley. On top of that they had some \$80,000 a year for carrying the mails, a service which is worth about \$2,000 a year. They are selling their lands every day and have sold a great deal of them at \$3, \$4 and \$5 an acre, but if you put it at \$3 an acre, and take the amount of cash they are getting, you will find they got \$19,000 a mile by way of subsidy, and their own figures in the blue-book show that the road cost them less than \$10,000 a mile. Where did the other \$9,000 a mile go? I suppose these gentlemen opposite will say that that was a fine bargain. They did not keep control of the bonding powers or anything else on that road, but they gave these gentlemen a free hand to plunder the settlers in the Territories as much as they like. We have over 65,000,000 of the best lands of the North-west given away to railway

companies, and not subject to taxation. If a few poor settlers want to start a school and try to find out what taxes they will have to pay, they will find that half the lands belong to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and when they ask the land agent how long it is exempt, he answers: As I understand it is exempt for twenty years from the time they got the charter, but the Canadian Pacific Railway claim it is exempt until they sell it. That is a sample of the railway legislation of the Conservative government. Here is a list of the lands given away to the railway companies:

RAILWAY COMPANIES in Manitoba and the North-west Territories that have received land subsidies, amount received per mile, &c.:

Name of Company.	Amount per Mile of Road.	Approximate Area reserved for Company.
	Acres.	Acres.
Canadian Pacific Co., main line.	6,400	32,952,320
C. P. R., Kenney and Eastern Branch	6,400	
C. P. R., Deloraine and Napinka	6,400	
" Glenboro' and Souris	6,400	
" Pipestone Branch	6,400	
Manitoba S. W. Colonization	6,400	3,898,368
Great North-west Central	6,400	884,736
Manitoba and North-western	6,400	2,820,096
Canadian Northern Ry. (old)		
Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, Division A	6,400	16,250,880
Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, Division B	12,800	
Winnipeg and Hudson Bay, Division C	6,400	
Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan	6,400	3,326,976
Manitoba and South-eastern	6,400	681,984
Alberta Railway and Coal Co.	6,400	866,592
" Lethbridge Branch	6,400	
Red Deer Valley Railway	6,400	285,696
Calgary and Edmonton	6,400	3,824,640
Saskatchewan and Western	6,400	

If you figure up that, you will find that 65,792,294 acres of the finest lands in Manitoba and the North-west have been given away to railway companies by the Conservative government, and what have the people got for that? When a road had to be built in the North-west Territories to develop a new territory, the friends of the Conservative government came down and they gave them a charter, the same as the charter for the Hudson Bay road, which ex-Governor Mackintosh and his political friends got hold of along with the land grant. The Conservatives gave their friends all the lands they wanted, gave them a free hand, but when it came to building a road in eastern Canada, the Tories voted a money subsidy. By this system the people of the North-west paid out of their own lands for building railroads,

and as taxpayers they had to contribute to the cash subsidy of every road built in eastern Canada during the eighteen years the Conservatives were in power. That is the way the Conservatives treated the people of Manitoba and the North-west. Now, Sir, this Liberal government now in power, according to the platform of 1893, have adopted the policy that the land must belong to the settler, and they have not given a single acre of it away since they came into power. It is true that subsidies have been granted, because in order to build railways in Manitoba and the North-west, subsidies must be granted. But this government has adopted a system by which the money to build these roads has been practically lent, because they get a return of 3 per cent on all the money they give in the carrying of the mails and government supplies. I believe that this country pays over \$2,000,000 to railway companies for carrying the mails in different parts of the Dominion. If the policy now adopted by the Liberal government in granting subsidies had been adopted by the Conservative government, this \$2,000,000 a year would be saved to the people of Canada. Still these gentlemen opposite are foolish enough to compare the policy of the Conservative government with the policy of the Liberal government in this regard. I can tell hon. gentlemen opposite that when they come before the people of the west as well as before the people of the east, they will have a different song to sing. The hon. member for West Assinibolia says that the Liberals will be wiped out of existence, but I can tell him that in the Territories, the only man who will get such a wiping out will be the hon. member (Mr. Davin) himself. I would advise his friends to rub their spectacles and take a good look at him because they will never see him back here again. He is the man who takes credit for doing everything for the farmers in the Territories, but the farmers do not seem to appreciate it, because with all the influence of the government, with the whole mounted police force of Regina at his back (and they were marched to the polls for him like lambs to the slaughter) with all the Indian Department and the election officials to support him, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) was only elected by the vote of the returning officer, Mr. Dixie Watson. It is a well known fact that any policemen who intended to vote Liberal in Regina were sent off to do duty in another constituency, so that they could not vote. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) should talk all he possibly can in the House during this parliament, because when the people get a chance to deal with him he will never come back again.

The hon. member for Western Assinibolia last night criticised the government's action in expending more money for immigration purposes. Well, Sir, if we can show, and

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I think this government can show, that that money has been well spent in the interests of the people, the hon. gentleman will find it hard to justify a criticism of that kind in Manitoba and the Territories, where, notwithstanding all that has been said, the people are very well satisfied indeed. Hon. gentlemen opposite talk about the Galicians and the Doukhobors. I read the speech of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche), in which he said that the people of this country did not want to import filthy dirt into this country—alluding to the Doukhobors and the Galicians. Let me give you a little portion of a speech delivered by the hon. leader of the opposition in Winnipeg :

Doukhobors or Galicians, in the condition in which these people were, and are, might go to the port of New York, but the ship which took them there would have to take them back at the cost of the owner, for not one would be permitted to land.

Now, I take up the report of Mr. T. V. Powderly, the United States Commissioner of Immigration, and what does he say about the same year? He says :

Galicians landed and examined in the United States during the year 1898 and accepted as desirable immigrants, 12,420; and a total from Austria and Russia, 67,013.

Yet, the hon. leader of the opposition said we were taking the refuse which the United States would not take. I notice that agents from the United States are at present up among the Doukhobors, trying to get them to emigrate to California, and yet these gentlemen say that they are not a desirable class of immigrants. I want to tell hon. gentlemen opposite that they compare very favourably with the Jew pedlars who were brought into the North-west by Mr. Daly. Those Jew pedlars were brought out as farmers, but as soon as they got into the country, they began stealing right and left, and had to be arrested and put in jail. When a friend of hon. gentlemen opposite wanted a position, they made him an immigration agent; and he would send out gentlemen farmers to travel through the North-west at the government's expense. You would see these people travelling around, wearing collars that their ears rested on, and when they got through, they went home, and you never heard anything more about them. That was the spirited immigration policy adopted by the previous government. Any money which this government has spent on immigration has been well spent, for people are coming into the country in large numbers. I have here a statement of the settlers brought into the country since 1895. In 1896 the numbers brought in at ocean ports were : English, 9,656 ; Irish, 886 ; Scotch, 1,342 ; Germans, 644 ; Scandinavians, 788 ; French and Belgians, 762 ; all others, 2,757. The Jew pedlars are not mentioned, but I suppose they are included among the Scandinavians or the Germans.

From the United States, at Winnipeg, Lake St. John, &c., 700 came in; making a grand total of 17,535. In 1898, 31,900 immigrants came in. Last year, for which I have not the returns, 40,000 good settlers came into this country, and the Doukhobors and Galicians form a very small part of this number. The majority are people from the United States, especially the state of Minnesota. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia alluded to the brother of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, as an immigration agent; but I can tell the hon. gentleman, that Mr. Ben. Davies has brought more settlers into my district in three years than some of their friends brought into the whole North-west Territories in five years, and those immigrants were not Jew pedlars, but good, solid, substantial farmers, who sold their farms in Minnesota for \$30, \$40 or \$50 an acre, and moved into our North-west, bringing plenty of money with them.

Hon. gentlemen opposite say that this country is not going ahead. The ex-Finance Minister travelled around for three years prior to 1896, trying to convince the people by percentages, that they were rich, when they were hard up, and practically in a state of starvation. He came to Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and when the people told him that something had to be done, he got up on a platform at Winnipeg, and said: 'Go into mixed farming—that is the solution of the problem.' He junketed along on the railway during the night until he struck a mining town. He had not time to see the town in daylight, and he supposed he had struck another farming community. He held a meeting at night, and addressing it, said: 'Gentlemen, go into mixed farming.' One man got up and said he did not believe that. The ex-Finance Minister answered him: 'If you don't like that, you can leave the country.' The gentleman said: 'I do not intend to leave the country; I intend to stay and help to turn you out of office.' And he did stay and helped to turn the hon. gentleman and his colleagues out of office, where they will remain for many years to come.

The hon. member for West Assinibola said the present government were discredited; and yet he stands, side by side, with seven traitors to their leader. The hon. gentleman started with the Minister of the Interior, and then went on to the Minister of Public Works and others, and said they were so utterly discredited, that they could not get a meeting in the North-west Territories. I was at a meeting where the Minister of Customs, the Minister of the Interior, and the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), spoke, at Regina, where the hon. gentleman lives. The meeting was held in a large hall, which was so packed with people that you could not get up the stairs. The hon. gentleman himself cannot get a hearing in his own town, and west

of Regina he cannot get a corporal's guard to listen to him. Last year, when he returned to Regina, after the session, he got up a love feast. Some of his friends said: 'We must present Mr. Davin with an address on his return from parliament.' They summoned a meeting, to hear the address, and when it was assembled, only six men and a small boy turned up. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia was mad; he felt that the people were not treating him rightly. He got up and made a speech in which he said: 'Look at what I am sacrificing for the people of the North-west. If I had not come west eighteen years ago, I would have been to-day the leader of the great Conservative party and Prime Minister of this country.'

The hon. member for West Assiniboia and his Tory associates tell the people that this government is discredited and is running the country to perdition. But the facts so emphatically contradict such statements that the people smile at their audacity while enjoying the prosperity that accompanies the administration of the Liberal government. Just glance at some of the facts.

In 1894 the sales of the Hudson Bay Company amounted to 7,526 acres of land. In 1895 they were 4,431 acres; in 1896, 9,299; in 1897, when the Liberal party were hardly in the saddle, they increased to 10,784 acres; and in 1898, after the Liberal policy was brought into force, they reached 37,923 acres.

The Alberta Railway and Coal Company's sales in 1893 amounted to 10,108 acres; in 1894, nil; in 1895, 28,661 acres; and in 1898, 49,244 acres. The Canadian Pacific Railway sold in 1896, 66,624 acres; in 1897, 135,681 acres; and in 1898, 242,134 acres. That shows that the country is going ahead. It shows that people are buying land, and they are not buying it for the purpose of merely looking at it, but for the purpose of settling on it and growing grain.

Take the sales of the Manitoba and South-western Colonization Railway Company, which were as follows:

	Acres.
In 1896	21,254
In 1898	106,473

Take the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway and Steamboat Company, with which the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) is connected. They sold in 1896, 286 acres and in 1898 they sold 22,534 acres, and most of these lands are in the district of Saskatchewan. That certainly is an evidence of prosperity. In every case the sales of land have trebled since hon. gentlemen opposite were dismissed from office. In the days of the late administration, nobody would buy land, and the value, instead of going up, was going down even in the old eastern centres.

Another evidence of prosperity is the number of homestead entries. Here are the figures as taken from the public records. From

the 30th of June, 1895, to the 31st of December, 1896, two and a half years, the number of homestead entries in Manitoba and the North-west Territories was 5,838. From the 30th of January, 1897, to the 30th of June, 1899, two and a half years, the number was 10,545, or almost double.

Then look at the revenue from the land office. From the 30th of June, 1893, to the 30th of June, 1896, the total cash taken in amounted to \$474,073; from the 30th of June, 1896, to the 30th of June, 1899, it amounted to \$678,965.

All that is an evidence of prosperity and increased settlement, and I may say that the immigrants who have gone into the Territories are first-class people. Hon. gentlemen opposite object to the Galicians, but it is only lately that they have found them objectionable. Why, it was they who first brought them into the country. They were first brought in by Mr. Daly, who was Minister of the Interior in the late government. It is well known that he discussed with Prof. Oleskow, who came to this country with credentials from Sir Charles, the desirability of incurring large expenditure for the purpose of directing to Canada a great stream of Galician immigration. We find these hon. gentlemen trying to impress upon the people that this government have not only brought these people into the country but have paid their passages and other expenses, and contrasting that with their treatment of Canadians. Well, Mr. Speaker, would these hon. gentlemen advise our spending money to bring people from the province of Ontario or the other eastern provinces and transferring them to the North-west? That would be like trying to get rich by taking money out of one pocket and putting it in another. Transferring people from one province to the other would not increase our population; if we want to increase our population, we must bring in people from the outside just as our neighbours to the south have done. I have never heard of any political party in the United States decrying the immigrants that the American government are bringing into the country. Surely politics have come to a low ebb when hon. gentlemen opposite are obliged to have recourse to abuse of the poor foreign immigrants who have settled on our vacant lands.

I wish to say a few words with reference to our post office administration, and will be very brief. When the late government went out of office, the administration of the department showed a deficit of three-quarters of a million in round figures for that year. Well, our present Postmaster General gave the country cheap postage and succeeded besides in wiping out that deficit. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that the cheapening of postage is of no advantage to the farmers, because a farmer only writes a letter in six months. Well, if a

farmer's only saves a cent, it is just as well in his pocket as in that of some booting contractor. But as a matter of fact, the whole people are getting the benefit of the reduction. Any one who knows anything about business knows that the merchant in fixing his prices has to take into consideration every item of expense, and if his postage bill is reduced \$100 he can afford to give his customers the benefit of that reduction on the prices of his goods. I have here a supplementary report published by the Postmaster General, which I notice hon. gentlemen opposite do not like. I had occasion a short time ago to put two or three of the transactions mentioned in this report on the journals of this House and hon. gentlemen opposite took great exception to my doing so. They went so far as to say that I had been inspired by the Postmaster General. Nothing could be further from the truth. I struck from my own bat, and my object was to justify my action at Dauphin, where, in a speech, I quoted from this very supplementary report and was met by the charge that no such letters as I read existed. I therefore took the first opportunity of placing the correspondence before the country in such a shape that the statement I made could no longer be challenged.

One of the transactions I refer to was in connection with the Brockville mail. A gentleman by the name of Cavanagh was getting \$400 per year for transferring the mail from the Canadian Pacific Railway cars to the Grand Trunk, about fifty yards distant. About \$50 per year would have been a very fair remuneration for the work, but the Postmaster General of the late government was not satisfied that the expenditure was sufficiently heavy, and he came to the conclusion that Mr. Cavanagh required somebody to watch him and decided, after considerable negotiations and communications, to appoint a transfer agent at \$400 a year. Mr. Cavanagh transferred his contract for carrying the mails to a brother of his, a locomotive engineer living about fifty miles from Brockville, who never saw a mail-bag, so that Mr. Cavanagh was really getting \$800 per year—\$400 for doing the work and \$400 for watching himself to see that it was properly done. The present Postmaster General cancelled that arrangement and had the work done for some \$200 per year. That is one case.

Take another case in my own constituency of Saskatchewan. It was the greatest steal ever known in that part of the country. It is a wonder that hon. gentlemen opposite are able to hold up their heads. In one small mail route from Saskatoon to Battleford, ninety miles, the contractor had the contract—or a job, for it could not be called a contract, no tenders were asked for—for carrying the mail, for which he received \$7,200 a year. A poor half-breed carrying the mail an equal

distance and serving thirteen post offices, while this contractor served but one, received only \$500. It is true that the half-breed had only a weekly service, while the other had a semi-weekly. But suppose that you double the money for double the service, you have \$1,000 as against \$7,200 for the same amount of work.

There was another gentleman who wanted to feed at the public crib, Mr. Stovil. He was a good Conservative and wanted to get a little of the plunder that was going. He wrote to the member for the district and offered to take the job for \$5,000, and pointed out, very fairly, that there would be a saving of \$2,000 a year. In his letter to the member he said he was a good Conservative. That is on record. Now, the then member for the district—I will give him credit for that—wrote to the Postmaster General that day and recommended that the contract be cancelled and tenders asked for, or that it be given to Mr. Stovil at \$5,000. The post office inspector reported that Mr. Stovil was in every way competent to carry on the work in first-class shape. Here we have the post office inspector and the member for the district urging a change which would effect a saving of \$2,000 a year. Was that done? Not at all. Mr. Daly wrote—his letter also appears in the book—that Mr. Leeson, the contractor, was a good friend and ought to have the contract at the old price, and the contract was not disturbed. But when this government came in, the contractor heard that I was going to get it cancelled. He wrote me a letter—a plain, straightforward business letter. He had been doing business at the old stand, and evidently thought he could continue. His letter was to the effect that this contract on the branch between Regina and Battleford had only eighteen months to run, and that if I would allow it to run the eighteen months he would give me \$1,000 in cash. I have that letter in my possession and will give hon. gentlemen opposite a copy of it, if they like. Of course, I suppose he had been doing business on these lines. If he could afford to give \$1,000 for eighteen months continuance of one little contract, what could he do for all those that he had? He got enough money out of it, more than he should have got, to build a bridge across the Saskatchewan River. But I wrote at once to the Postmaster General and sent a copy of this man's letter, and the contract was cancelled immediately. Since then, the contract has been let for \$1,800 and a better service is given. These are only two samples.

I have heard of a case also down in Nova Scotia. The hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan), delivered a speech here once in which he told us that down in Amherst, I think it was, there was a party who had the job of carrying the

mails from the station to the post office, for which he got, if I remember well—I can send for *Hansard* and verify the figures if necessary—\$600. He was a relative of the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and he kept the job until he died, and then he handed it over to another relative of the leader of the opposition, and he kept it until he was ready to leave for a better sphere. Then it was handed over to a Mr. Hilson, who had some office on the Intercolonial Railway. He never touched the mail-bags, but farmed out the job for \$200, and put \$400 in cold cash down in his pocket. This blue blood comes high; it cost a great deal to keep relatives of the leader of the opposition in jobs of that kind.

Now, with reference to the Minister of the Interior, I want to say that never in the history of this country has there been a period of three years in which so much has been done for the farmers of Manitoba and the North-west as has been done in the last three years by the Minister of the Interior. I have here a list of changes made in the administration of the land laws since the Hon. Clifford Sifton became Minister of the Interior, which I may summarize.

By the transfer of the office of the Commissioner of Dominion Lands from Winnipeg to Ottawa, an annual saving in expenditure of over eight thousand dollars has been effected.

A settler who has acquired the right to a second homestead may be permitted to perform the residence duties connected therewith by living on the first homestead.

There is a proper piece of legislation that commands the approval of everybody in the North-west. Under the old law a person was obliged to put up a shanty on his claim to sleep in before he could get the patent. It was a foolish idea, of no benefit to anybody. A young man living with his parents, after working all day was compelled to go out to the shanty on his claim to sleep instead of being allowed to sleep at home where his parents live. This change in the law is a wise one.

A settler may perform the residence duties in connection with his homestead by living with his father or mother, if they occupy farm lands in the vicinity.

Where a homestead entry is obtained for 80 acres or less, the entry fee is reduced to \$5 instead of \$10 as in ordinary cases.

There is a reduction of 50 per cent in the entry fee, and yet the hon. member for Western Assinibola does not see that anything has been done for the farmers of the west.

Where a settler takes his pre-emption as a second homestead the provision requiring 40 acres of cultivation has been abolished, and the ordinary cultivation duties are now accepted.

Cancelled time-sales have been made available for settlement and are held ex-

clusively for homestead entry, or if the applicant is not entitled to a homestead he may purchase the land at \$1 per acre, subject to homestead conditions.

The regulations as to residence in the performance of homestead duties have been relaxed in favour of the settler, and instead of counting his time from the date when he began to live on the land the practice has been adopted of ante-dating it so that the first six months of residence shall fall within the second half of the first year, thus enabling him to obtain a certificate of recommendation for patent in less time than previously.

Another change is that provided three years have elapsed from the date of homestead entry a settler may be held to have satisfied the requirements of the Act in respect of residence provided he has lived on his land for six months in each of three calendar years, the certificate of recommendation being issued at once on the completion of such residence.

The right of second entry is allowed to any one who can be shown under our present practice to have completed his duties before the 2nd of June, 1889, instead of under the regulations in force at that date as heretofore.

The performance of duties on military homesteads is now recognized under the amendments to the Act, instead of requiring a compliance with the regulations in force at the time of the issue of military bounty warrants as heretofore.

The amendments to the Act of the present session are calculated to facilitate the issue of patent in certain cases, and also improve the conditions under which homestead duties may be performed.

It will not be necessary now for the personal representative of a settler who completed his homestead duties, but died before becoming a British subject, to obtain a certificate of naturalization before receiving a patent for the land.

Under the lien provisions of the Act a patent may now be issued to a lien-holder in a case where the homesteader completed his duties, but did not apply for patent, and was not a British subject, the omission of the act of naturalization being no longer a bar to such issue.

The privilege whereby a settler was permitted to reside upon his first homestead whilst performing the duties upon his second homestead, is now extended to cases where a settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead.

Provision is made for allowing homesteaders serving in South Africa or elsewhere, under the authority of the Minister of Militia, as a member of a military force, to count the time so engaged, as well as a period of not exceeding three months after discharge therefrom, as residence in connection with the performance of homestead duties.

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And should any such homesteader whilst on military service be incapacitated by wounds or sickness from resuming residence upon his land and completing the duties, the minister has power to authorize the issue of patent to him forthwith.

Homestead patents are no longer withheld until the seed grain liability is paid, but are issued with an endorsement as to the indebtedness, thus permitting the settler, if he so desires, to get his certificate of ownership subject to the seed grain liability.

The sureties of parties who owe for seed grain are relieved of their responsibility in cases where the persons who received the advances are the holders of unpatented lands which can be retained as security for the debt.

Local agents of Dominion lands may now issue the necessary authority to the person appointed by an intending settler to make homestead entry on his behalf, instead of having to apply to the head office for such authority.

To meet the convenience of settlers living at a distance from the land office, a number of sub-agents have been appointed in the various districts, who are empowered to receive applications for homestead entry, homestead patents, hay permits, timber permits, &c., thus saving the settler the time and expense involved in a trip to the office.

The following is a list of sub-agents appointed:

R. M. Douglas, Tantallon post office, Yorkton district.

P. A. Miquelon, Wetaskiwin post office, Edmonton district.

C. O. Clemens, Melfort post office, Prince Albert district.

F. A. Gemmel, Selkirk post office, Winnipeg district.

R. W. Hill, Carman post office, Winnipeg district.

T. Copeland, Saskatoon post office, Prince Albert district.

J. Nixon, Macleod post office, Lethbridge.

H. H. Campkin, Indian Head post office, Qu'Appelle.

A. E. Cox, Pincher Creek post office, Lethbridge.

D. J. McDonald, Kamloops post office, Kamloops.

C. O. Card, Cardston post office, Lethbridge.

John McClung, Riding Mountain post office, Minnedosa.

L. B. Cochrane, Medicine Hat post office, Lethbridge.

Hugh Harley, Swan River post office, Dauphin.

Lawrence Adamson, Fort Saskatchewan post office, Edmonton.

Frank Vickerson, Lacombe post office, Red Deer.

H. de Deftal, Duck Lake post office, Prince Albert.

Spencer Page, Wapella post office, Regina and Brandon.

Now, this was a step in the right direction. Here we had people in some instances, 60 or 70 miles away, new settlers living away from the centre where the land office was

situated, and when they wanted to enter their homesteads, they had to travel 60 or 70 miles and pay their expenses. In some cases when they wanted to make proof, they had to bring two or three parties with them, and you can understand the expenses they were put to for themselves, and their witnesses, and their horses, and so forth. It must have amounted to \$40 or \$50. Under the old system, a man could not prove up and get his title to his lands without an expenditure of that amount at least. To-day the government have established subland agents at salaries of \$15 per month, and all the settler has to do, is to walk up to the office of one of these sub-agents with his witnesses and prove up his title, and he gets his deed.

But this is not all. The timber regulations have been amended in the interest of the settler.

Settlers who have not a supply of timber of their own have been granted the right to obtain a permit to cut upon a Dominion lands as much dry timber, of any diameter, as they may require for their own use on their farms for fuel or fencing.

Provision has been made for the issue of permits to cut, free of dues, timber for the construction of public works, public institutions and the buildings in connection therewith, and the quantity of building timber which a homesteader is allowed to cut, free of dues, has been increased from 1,800 to 3,000 lineal feet.

Permanent timber reservations have been re-established, and new ones created, in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, upon which permits are issued to settlers to cut only for their own use, thus ensuring them a supply of timber equal to their needs for the future. Permission is not granted to cut timber on these reservations for commercial purposes.

Homesteaders on Dominion lands in the railway belt in the province of British Columbia have been granted all the timber on their homesteads, excepting in cases where such timber has already been disposed of under license or permit.

As to hay, provision has been made that no permits shall be granted except to actual farmers. Heretofore every speculator in the country who happened to be living in the town where the land office was, got a chance to get a permit. A certain day was fixed when permits were to be granted, and the speculators gathered round the office, like a lot of leeches, and when the farmer came round in order to get a permit for hay, he found it had already been gobbled up. Under this new amendment, speculators are not allowed to get permits, but only actual farmers.

These are some of the things that have been done by the Minister of the Interior for the settlers during the last few years, and I can assure you that they are appreciated by the people of the west, notwithstanding what has been said about the Minister of the Interior by the member for West Assiniboia. It is easy for that hon. gentleman to get up and make a statement that no person in the west will listen to the

Minister of the Interior. Why, he might make a statement that the president of the United States was a Chinaman, but it would not necessarily follow that that was the case.

Now, I will touch upon another matter that was mentioned some days ago by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche), in his speech. It was a short speech, but it was pretty nearly all in connection with the Manitoba elections. He tried to make the House and the country believe that the Manitoba elections were run on Dominion lines. I did not know that such was the case, with the exception of the riding that the hon. member himself represents. I know that he did travel through his own riding and made Dominion affairs an issue. He spoke in the town of Dauphin, and he spoke on Dominion issues. I went to a meeting in Dauphin, having been invited by the Conservative party, and when I got on the platform, the hon. gentleman was making a speech, and I was told by the manager of the Conservative party that I could not be allowed to speak. I, however, took the opportunity later of calling a meeting and speaking at it. But if it be true that the overturn in Manitoba was caused by bringing in Dominion issues, then I pity the hon. member for Marquette when he goes back for re-election, because he fought out the election in his own constituency on Dominion lines, and he was snowed out of sight. He made a speech in the town of Dauphin, and spoke about prohibition and a number of other Dominion issues, and what was the consequence? The consequence was that the Liberal candidate was elected in the by-election by 2 to 1. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), tried to account for it by saying that the lists were stuffed, but surely he will not say the lists were stuffed in Dauphin, he will not say that that was not an intelligent vote. There is no more intelligent vote in the North-west Territories than the vote in the town of Dauphin, and they went 2 to 1 against the Conservatives. I would like the hon. gentleman to say, if he made Dominion affairs the issue in this election, how he accounts for the flop-over that took place in Dauphin. It is a well-known fact that the hon. gentleman got his majority there the last time, but I fancy he now sees the sword of Damocles hanging over his head, as it does over the head of the member for West Assiniboia. He says that Dominion issues fought out in his own district, but as his own district went against him, it must follow that he is going to get ousted at the next general election. However, I would not rejoice at it, because the member for Marquette is not a very bad fellow after all.

I looked through his speech and found he made some allusions to binder twine. I think the least these hon. gentlemen say about binder twine the better. The member for West Assiniboia said last night that the Conservative party started a factory in

Kingston for the purpose of protecting the farmer. How was he protected? Why, I read a statement from the *Hansard* last year showing that he was protected in this way: A certain gentleman by the name of Rogers, who was known to be a political heeler of hon. gentlemen opposite, got his binder twine on credit, and I presume he has not paid for it yet, or if he has it has been lately. The record shows a statement brought down by themselves to the effect that some 200,000 pounds of binder twine was given away as samples, given out to their political friends. Still they talk about binder twine, and they tell you that binder twine has gone up. Here is the argument they make: Well, you put it on the free list, but it has gone up in price. Certainly, but hon. gentlemen know that the raw material has gone up in price, and they know at the same time that if this government had not placed it on the free list, the farmers of this country who use binder twine, would have to pay 12½ cents a pound more for it than they do at the present time, because wiping out the duty reduced it by that amount. The hon. gentleman knows that taking off the duty would not raise the price of twine.

Mr. BENNETT. Carried.

Mr. DAVIS. I am sorry to see that the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) appears to be tired. I think he was born tired, and I think he will be still more tired before the next elections are over.

This is an old matter about binder twine; it was threshed out last year here very fully. It was shown that these parties who purchased the government twine got it in a proper way. Tenders were asked for, and the parties who tendered the highest, who gave the most money for the binder twine, got the twine. I think it was shown also, that when they disposed of it, they disposed of it at an advance of about one-eighth of a cent per pound. I do not think it will be contended that that was too much. It passed through two or three hands, until it went into the hands of the retailers all over the country; the war came on, and increased the price of the raw material and the parties who held the twine very naturally took advantage of the increase in the price just the same as the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), or the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche), would do. If these hon. gentlemen had purchased 25 tons of binder twine at \$5 a hundred and it went up to \$10 a hundred, they would not be such philanthropists as to sell their binder twine at \$5 a hundred. We may illustrate this point by taking a deal in wheat. Some years a dealer in wheat will pay \$1 per bushel and perhaps he will have to sell it for 75 cents a bushel. Under these circumstances, he will incur a loss of 25 cents a bushel. Probably, next year, he will pay

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75 cents a bushel for his wheat, sell it for \$1 a bushel and make a profit of 25 cents a bushel. Business is done that way all over the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and every business man has a right to take advantage of the rise in the price of goods just as he must suffer the loss in the event of a reduction in the price taking place. To try to make the public believe that, because this government placed binder twine on the free list the price of that article was increased, is nonsense.

The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) calls our attention to binders and says that they are selling for \$10 apiece more now than in 1897. I do not know whether that is so or not, but if it is so, I think it would be only fair on the part of the hon. gentleman to tell the House and the country how much of an increase there has been in the price of pig-iron and steel. But, the hon. gentleman did not do anything of the kind. He simply said that binders have gone up \$10 apiece. Then, hon. gentlemen opposite present the same argument in regard to barbed wire. They say, that, because the government put barbed wire on the free list, the price has been increased to the consumer. This is also the veriest nonsense. I have met no person who took that view of the matter outside of hon. gentlemen opposite. Let me say that if hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House think that the people of the west are going to take any stock in them they are greatly mistaken, for they have no policy. They go around the country and tell the people that the Liberals have stolen their policy. If it be true that the Liberals have stolen the policy of the Conservative party, if their argument is good that this policy has made this country great and built it up, then, the Liberals must be doing what is right in carrying out that policy. That is the only logical conclusion, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite are abusing the Liberals for doing what is right according to their own argument. Here we have the poet of the plains talking about free trade, while sitting right alongside of him and giving him pointers is the hon. member for South Leeds, the great protectionist, the gentleman who wants agricultural implements to be placed under a duty of 35 per cent. He was sitting beside him giving him pieces of paper and coaching him. Here we have the free trade part, there we have the protectionist part, in another place the loyalty part, and then we have the part for the province of Quebec. It takes a lot of people to make a world, and it takes a great many kinds of people to make up a Conservative party at the present time. I say that if it be true that the Liberal party are carrying out the policy of the Conservative party, then, according to their own arguments, the Liberals are doing what is right. If this be true, what grievance have they? It simply

comes down to this, that the Conservative party want to get back to enjoy the sweets of office. It cannot mean anything else. The hon. member for West Assiniboia spent four hours last night lecturing the House and giving the people a lot of twaddle, and for what reason? That he might get back and get another \$47,000 out of the public treasury. There is not a single hon. gentleman on the other side of the House but who has some interest in wishing to get back. The hon. member for South Leeds must have some interest. We have the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), the gentleman who went out on strike, and who, like the cat, came back; he wants to get back into office to draw his \$7,000 a year. The hon. leader of the opposition is dreaming about Chignecto schemes, or something of that sort. Then, we have the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), who has aspirations. He aspires to be at the head of the great Conservative party some of these days, and I have no doubt that if the hon. gentleman keeps it up long enough he will get there. He will be able to oust the present leader of the opposition from power, because, whenever any hon. gentleman on that side of the House develops a little strength the hon. member for West York applies the knife and the other hon. gentleman from East York applies the axe, and they turn him down. There is not an hon. gentleman on that side of the House but is interested in getting back into power; it is a question of their pockets and nothing else in the world; for if this government are doing what is right and carrying out the national policy, they must admit themselves that the government are doing it better than hon. gentlemen opposite ever did, because there are better results from it. The fact that the trade of the country has in three years increased to double the amount that it increased under Conservative rule in the whole time that they were in power, goes to show that this government are better able to run the machine than hon. gentlemen opposite. The fact that the revenue of the country has gone up by leaps and bounds shows that this government are more competent to carry on the affairs of the country than hon. gentlemen opposite. Still, they are not pleased—no, because they want to get back into office. They say that the Grits are doing what is right, that they have adopted their policy, but still, turn them out, 'we are hungry for office, and let us in again.'

I just wish to say a word in particular reference to the west. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House need not think to console themselves with the idea that there is going to be any great overturn in the west. They will have to come down with some policy. The hon. leader of the opposition has travelled around through the country telling the people in the west what he did some forty years ago. He

related to them a lot of ancient history. The people up there take no stock in him at all. He gets up and says that the trade of the country was so much in 1868, that it is so much in 1900, and then he takes credit for the whole thing. He says: We did that. It puts me in mind of the story of a gentleman who had a large tract of land that he had been farming. He had a man employed to farm this land, and this man was getting antiquated in his methods. The land had run out, the buildings were tumbling down, the fences were falling over, and the man who owned the land, at last, came to the conclusion that he would have to employ a younger man who would introduce modern methods in the running of the farm because the thing was going to wrack and ruin. He dismissed the old man that had been running the farm for so many years and put in a young man. This young man, in three years, reclaimed the farm, applied more suitable methods of cultivation, reconstructed the fences and buildings, and then the old farmer came along and leaning over the fence, said: I did that. This is just the same as the hon. leader of the opposition, who takes credit for the progress that has been made in this country. After this government came in and applied modern methods for the reclaiming of the farm, and after it has spent three and a half years in improving the property, the hon. leader of the opposition leans over the fence and says: I did that. I can tell the hon. leader of the opposition that he will have to do something more than that before he may hope to make any impression on the people of the west. The hon. gentleman was billed to make his appearance in my town, but he did not make his appearance there, and I am sorry for it. The *Prince Albert Advocate*, published in my constituency, and not a very strong partisan paper either, prepared a list of questions to ask the leader of the opposition, and these questions would be hard nuts for Sir Charles Tupper to crack. His lieutenant (Mr. Davin) tried his hand at it, but he got all twisted up and he had to leave it alone. Here is what the *Advocate* wrote:

For Sir Charles.

We are to have a visit from Sir Charles Tupper, the leader of the opposition, who is to hold a political meeting to-morrow afternoon. We are glad to have a visit from Sir Charles, as we feel that the more public men who visit the district the better. It is pleasing, too, to know that the leaders of the Conservative party are taking more interest in this district than they did in days gone by.

Now that Sir Charles is here, we would be much pleased if he would throw some light on the following questions:

Why the party of which he is supposed to be the leader gave \$110,000,000 in lands, cash and completed road to the Canadian Pacific Railway syndicate—more than enough to build the road

—without in any way protecting the interests of the settlers of the west?

Why their lands were exempted from taxation for twenty years, while the poor settler was increasing their value by his labour?

Why they subsidized the Regina, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway in cash and land grants to the extent of \$19,000 a mile without keeping control of the tolls, or in any way protecting the interests of the settlers of Saskatchewan?

Why he opposed, on every occasion, government ownership and control of railways?

Why he opposed, last session, the appointment of a railway commission that the western members were trying to get appointed to protect the settlers from the railway sharks that he and his political friends have made rich?

Why he opposed, last session, the amendment to the Railway Act proposed by Mr. Blair to give the government power to force railroad corporations to build their stations within existing towns along their line, and not at a short distance therefrom in order to start a new town on their own land?

Last year the leader of the opposition said in the Railway Committee that the snow would fly before he would allow that amendment to be inserted in the Act. When the Bill came back to the House, the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) moved to have that amendment reinstated, and I had pleasure in supporting him, for I advocated that policy all along. But, what did the hon. member for West Assiniboia do? He rose from his seat and made for the door. On ordinary occasions he takes to the woods or crawls under the barn, but in that case the only available place of shelter for him was a little room out here in the rear.

Here are some more of the questions which the *Advocate* put to Sir Charles Tupper:

Why he tried to coerce the province of Manitoba?

Why he persists in saying that the Duke of Devonshire offered Sir Wilfrid Laurier, while in England, to give Canada a preference in the English markets when the Duke has denied same over his own signature?

Why, after taking the trouble to be interviewed by the Montreal 'Gazette' and 'Mail and Empire,' and declaring himself in favour of the Teslin Lake Railway project, he let Maclean, M.P., and Clarke Wallace, M.P., dragoon him into going back on his statements?

Why he proposed last session to the government a scheme to build a railroad over the same Teslin Lake route that he had opposed before?

Why Hetherington is trying to incite the Protestants of New Brunswick against the Roman Catholics in the interests of the Conservative party?

Why Mr. Thebault, a Conservative orator, at Sherbrooke, is denouncing the Laurier government for sending the Canadian contingent to South Africa?

Why the Conservative press in the province of Quebec is denouncing the government for the same reason?

He might also tell us why G. E. Foster, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Dr. Montague, John Haggart, Mr. Dickey, Minister of Justice, and others, are known to history as 'the nest of traitors,' so called by their own leader, Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

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Also, if Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and Mr. Dickey, Minister of Justice, above mentioned, are any relations of his?

Also, if his colleagues who allowed the McGreevy and Curran Bridge steals are honester now than they were then?

Well, the same gentlemen are at the head of the Conservative party now that were at its head during the Curran Bridge scandal, and I do not think that they have been converted in two or three years. The process of conversion is slow with any Conservatives that I ever knew.

The *Advocate* went on:

He might also explain what he or his party have ever done for the Saskatchewan district besides side-tracking us, and forcing a lot of peaceable people into rebellion.

Will he or his party, if ever returned to power, lower the duties?

Will they give us relief from railroad monopoly?

Will they secure us a reduction in freight rates?

Will he see that the lands held by railroad monopolists in the North-west Territories are no longer exempted from taxation?

Will he repeal the preferential clause in the tariff?

Will he see that a fair settlement of rebellion losses claims is made in Saskatchewan district?

Will he assist Mackenzie and Mann to build another transcontinental line, through the Saskatchewan valley?

Does he agree with George E. Foster that the duty should be replaced on binder twine and barbed wire?

Will he pass over what he did—or thinks he did—forty years ago, and tell us what he will actually do if returned to power?

Has he always kept his promises, and have all his previous prophecies come true?

Is he working for Tupper or for Canada?

In whose hands does he intend to leave the welfare of Canada when he decides to retire from public life?

I would ask the leader of the opposition to tell the people what he proposes to do in the future and not what he did forty years ago in Nova Scotia. Does he think that his clap-trap about our obtaining a preference in the British market will hoodwink the people of the Territories? We know as well as he does that the British people are not going back on their free trade traditions of forty years for the purpose of pleasing Sir Charles Tupper. He knows that he might as well sit up like a dog barking at the moon, as to think of getting such a preference as that in the English markets. Sir, the people of the west are an intelligent people.

Mr. COCHRANE. They have a poor way of showing it in your case.

Mr. DAVIS. Did the hon. gentleman say something about skim milk? He is an expert on that.

Mr. COCHRANE. Oh, go on.

Mr. DAVIS. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the people of the west do not make skim milk masquerade as cream?

Mr. COCHRANE. Go on.

Mr. DAVIS. I say that the people of the west are intelligent, and when the Conservatives come before them, they will tell them that they remember their record when in power. They will remind these gentlemen opposite of the McGreevy scandal, the Curran Bridge scandal, the Langevin Block scandal, the hoodling in mail contracts, and other things. The people of the west are not a partisan people; the fact that my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) got 1,200 majority, where there was 1,400 of a Conservative majority at a previous election, proved that. The people of the west want some solid policy and not stuff like the member for West Assiniboia talks. They know about the prophecy of the leader of the opposition, that there would soon be 400,000,000 bushels of wheat grown in the Territories, and that enough land would be sold there to pay all the public debt of this country. They know that Sir Charles Tupper, when in that country in 1896, made such promises of what he would do when he would get into power that it would take \$60,000,000 to carry them out. They know that the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) made charges about the Yukon which he was not able to prove, although he did everything in his power to do so, and went so far as to write to an officer in the United States army, who sent him a reply that he will not forget for a long while. On the other hand, the people of the west know the record of the Liberal government since they got into power. They know that the Liberal government have reduced the duties. They know that they are filling up the North-west Territories with settlers at the rate of 40,000 a year; they know that they have increased the price of the farmers' produce by advertising it in the British market; they know that the farmers are getting better prices for their cattle, because the Minister of Agriculture has done away with those foolish quarantine regulations. They know all that; and when hon. gentlemen opposite go before the people and ask them for their votes, the people will say to them: 'We know all these things. What do you propose to do? We know the policy of the Liberal party. They have done something for this country. If you come forward and show us that you are prepared to go one better, we will consider your policy; but it is no use to come to us with ancient history about what John A. Macdonald did, and all that sort of thing. John A. Macdonald was a good man; Alexander Mac-

kenzie was a very fine man, although the Conservatives never discovered it till he was dead; George Brown was a good man, but they never discovered it till he was dead. These people are all dead, and we do not care what the leader of the opposition did twenty-five or thirty years ago; we want to know what he is going to do for the people to-day.' If hon. gentlemen opposite expect to get the support of the people of the North-west, they will be mistaken. They have tried to raise the race and religious howl in the country. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia came to my town and made a speech in which he said: 'How do you like the French tail wagging the English dog.' Was that trying to excite race strife? Talk about this government breaking their pledges. The hon. leader of the opposition said he was prepared to stay in this House day and night and die for the constitution; but when he found that the people were not prepared to accept his policy on the school question, he turned round and said: 'Very well, if you do not want it, I will not give it to you.' Is that not breaking his promise to the people of Quebec? Certainly it is. The hon. gentleman says the school question is a dead issue. When the Canadian contingent was to be sent to South Africa, the hon. leader of the opposition was prepared to ride through the constitution with a coach and four. He promised the Prime Minister to give him his support; but how did the Prime Minister know that he could place any reliance on his promise, seeing that he broke his promise with regard to the Teslin Lake Railway? How did he know but that the members for East York (Mr. Maclean), and West York (Mr. Wallace), would swoop down on the hon. gentleman and dragoon him into going back on his promises as they did before? How can the leader of the opposition expect that the leader of the House will take any stock in any telegram he may send, when he knows that, as a matter of fact, the hon. gentleman is not the leader of his party. The paper, from which I have read, asks, in whose hands does the hon. gentleman intend to leave the welfare of Canada when he decides to retire from public life? I suppose that question is not easily answered, because there is one gentleman sitting on his right, and one on his left, who, in the words of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, have the bow-strings in their hands. Besides, there is the hon. gentleman's son, whom I have not seen very much in this House this session. As it is six o'clock, and I do not wish to further occupy the time of the House by continuing during the evening sitting, I will close by thanking the House for the kind attention it has given me.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to follow the hon. gentleman who spoke before me, this afternoon, over the extensive ground which he has traversed. Not satisfied with wandering through the length and breadth of this Dominion, in the course of his long speech, he has even travelled from London to Paris, from Winnipeg to Constantinople. And every where he has found a ghost in his way; the ghost of the hon. member for West-Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). I do not know what is the matter with the hon. gentleman, but it looks as if he had met the hon. member for Assiniboia somewhere under very peculiar circumstances and had received at his hands a sound drubbing.

While listening to the long speech of the hon. gentleman, the words uttered not very long ago in this House by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) occurred to my mind. The hon. gentleman, when speaking to the motion which he had brought down in connection with the interminable length of some of the speeches delivered here and the loss of time involved, stated that within the last 20 years, the tone of our debates had undergone a change for the worse and that it was calculated to lower the House in the estimation of the whole electorate as well.

I do not know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton), when he spoke in that strain, foresaw that the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) would make such a long speech; but, at all events, it is such harangues as this one that tend to lower the dignity of our proceedings here. Let me give an illustration of the way in which the hon. gentleman has treated his colleagues. If there is a man who commands the respect not only of his colleagues in this House but of the whole country as well, by reason of the great services rendered by him to Canada, and by reason of the extraordinary mental vigour and the power of endurance displayed by him day after day, that man is the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). Now, the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis) could find no choicer expression to apply to our leader than comparing him to a dog that barks at the moon. You may judge from that comparison, Sir, of the general tone of the speech of the hon. gentleman.

While listening to his speech this afternoon, I could not help recalling to mind the remark fallen from a stranger who had heard the speeches of some members of this House, and among others, I believe, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) who comes from the west. After hearing him, he said: 'I am still of the opinion that the wise men came from the east. I do not mean to say, Sir, that there are not to be found among the members from the North-west wise men,

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men deserving the confidence of the country, and who are worthy representatives of the interests of their constituents in this House; but all those who have heard the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis), this afternoon, friend and foe alike, can bear out my statement. If we are to go on discussing public business as we have done this afternoon, it will only result in lowering the tone of our proceedings, and as remarked by the hon. member for North Norfolk, we will forfeit not only the respect of those who listen to our speeches, but the respect of the electorate as well.

The hon. gentleman has referred to the promises which were made by the Liberal party, before their advent to power in 1896. If we are to believe the hon. gentleman, some of those pledges were never given to the people, whilst those promises which were held out to the electorate, have all been redeemed. I read with surprise in *La Patrie*, of Montreal, the report of a speech which was delivered by an influential member of the Liberal party, a man who has all my esteem, the Hon. Senator Dandurand. That hon. gentleman undertook to prove that the Liberal party had been true to all their promises, and had lived up to all the pledges given to the electorate in 1896. One can hardly find fault with a political man making such statements before a club where such utterances carry with them more or less responsibility. But it is one thing to speak before a political club and quite another thing for a minister of the Crown—a minister without portfolio, if you like—to stand up and declare before this House and before the country that the Liberal party have never gone back on their pledges, but have fulfilled them to the last. I refer here to an hon. gentleman who is not now in his seat, the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell); and when he comes back here about ten o'clock, wearing, as usual, his best smile, he may hear from some hon. gentlemen what I said. At all events, I do not wish to say anything disagreeable to the hon. gentleman, but I want only to refer to his statement of the other night.

I was quite surprised to hear the hon. gentleman stating that the Liberal party had redeemed all their pre-election pledges; and that he, an old Conservative had at last had his eyes opened and that after eighteen long years of darkness the light had dawned upon the Canadian people, and the scales had fallen from their eyes. There are promises which were made by the Liberal party and which may be classed under the appellation of implied pledges, as they were never explicitly given to the electorate. And while referring to those implied promises, I am led to deal with the statements made by the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell).

The hon. gentleman not only represents here his own constituency, but as a member of the cabinet, he further represents the

Quebec district. Now, if there is one scheme which more than any other deeply concerns the city and the district of Quebec, it is the establishment of a fast line of steamers, to ply between Canada and England. Let me ask the hon. gentleman whether the pledges which he has given in connection with this scheme have been redeemed? Why, the hon. gentleman stated on the floor of this House that we could depend upon it that this scheme would be carried out. Now, how do we stand to-day, as regards that projected scheme? But, first, let me ask what was the implied promise which the Liberal party had made to the Canadian people in this connection? Did not the right hon. Prime Minister protest before this House—if I recollect aright the substance of his statement—against the extravagance of the Conservative government who were then asking the House to vote a subsidy of \$750,000 for the undertaking of the fast line.

The right hon. gentleman found nothing better to say in furtherance of the new enterprise than pointing out the dangers which the river St. Lawrence offers to shipping. Did the Conservative party ever dread those dangers? On the contrary, I find that they did not hesitate to ask the House to vote that subsidy of \$750,000, to secure the establishment of the fast daily service, and nobody, at the time, ever dreamt of finding fault with the action of the government. That policy was endorsed not only by a majority of the electors who were the most directly concerned in that undertaking, but also by the mass of the Canadian people. At the request of the government this House without a dissentient voice, voted in favour of that subsidy of \$750,000, despite the opposition raised by the hon. gentlemen opposite. A Bill was passed, as I said, without a dissentient voice, and the Conservative government entered into negotiations with a company composed of very influential and responsible men, and a contract was signed; and the only thing required was to obtain the approbation of the Governor General in Council. Then it was that the hon. gentlemen opposite came into office, and wishing to redeem the implied promise which they had made, they advised the Governor General not to sanction the contract. They alleged reason of economy; but, in face of their later performances, one is vastly amused to hear them pluming themselves on their savings and their retrenchment of expenditure.

Another reason alleged by the hon. gentlemen was that those steamers did not afford adequate freight accommodation. At all events, whatever may be the reason, the hon. gentlemen refused to carry out the contract which had been prepared. They further pretended that they could secure the establishment of a line of fast Atlantic steamers, by means of a subsidy of \$500,000. What happened, Sir? The hon. member for

Quebec West entered into negotiations with gentlemen in London, who, from a financial standpoint, were not in a position to carry out that scheme. Every one knew perfectly well that Petersen, Tait & Co. had not the necessary financial backing for the carrying-out of that great undertaking which would be such a boon to Canada. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) in his zeal—and I am willing to admit that he was honest in all his endeavours—made several trips across the Ocean; but what was the result of all those trips? They were a total failure; and now, when asked, as the hon. minister of Trade and Commerce was asked the other day, whether any hope could be entertained as to the establishment of a fast line, they no longer alleged any reason of economy, as they did in 1897, but I was told by the hon. gentleman that the complexion of affairs had changed altogether, and that the troubles caused by the war in South Africa were such that the carrying out of that scheme was altogether out of the question.

As I said, a little while ago, Sir, if there were people in the Dominion who were concerned in the undertaking of that fast Atlantic service it was surely the electors of Quebec West who anticipated the performance of that scheme as a consummation greatly to be desired and as one from which would result the greatest advantages not only to the city of Quebec, but to the whole district of Quebec. What a splendid opportunity the hon. gentlemen have lost? If in 1898, the Conservatives had been in power, the fast line would have been undertaken and it would now be in full operation. They would have seized the opportunity by the forelock, to establish between Canada and the motherland a line of fast steamers which would undoubtedly have carried the bulk of the freight which is shipped between the two countries.

If Quebec has lost all the advantages which would have resulted to her from this scheme, the responsibility for it falls back on the present administration.

This is an implied promise which the hon. gentlemen have carried out, but, I will be able to show, I hope, that they have not fulfilled a single one of their ante-election promises. This is, no doubt, a hackneyed subject; it has so often been threshed out on the floor of the House that it is devoid of all interest, in the eyes of some members; but for us, it is always an inspiring topic. Some of the hon. gentlemen opposite even go to the length of stating that they never gave any pledges; but, at all events, it will be no hard task for me to show that they have not redeemed their pledges.

I hold in my hand a very interesting pamphlet, and every time we read it, we always derive a new pleasure from it. It is the programme framed by the Liberal party, and adopted by the Ottawa Convention of 1893.

Article 4 of that programme bears the following heading :

Strict Economy—Reduction of Expenditure.

Every time I read that article, I can hardly bring myself to believe that the hon. gentlemen who now sit on the other side of the House are the very same gentlemen who met together in convention in 1893, and passed such a resolution. One would rather be led to think that it was passed fifty years or a hundred years ago, by men who have long been slumbering in their graves.

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable expenditure of the Dominion and the consequent undue taxation of the people under the governments that have been continuously in power since 1878, and we demand the strictest economy in the administration of the government of the country.

It will be seen by that plank of their platform that the Liberals then pledged themselves to reduce the public debt; they promised, that, when they came into power, they would cut down the controllable expenditure, and, above all, the load of taxation under which, as they said, our people were groaning.

Let us see now how they have redeemed their promises in that respect. I shall pass over in silence the pledges given by the hon. gentlemen to the electorate upon every hustling in the country; I shall not refer to the promises made by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who declared that it was a crying shame for the old government to ask the House to vote \$36,000,000 for carrying out the government of the country; I shall abstain from recalling the statements made by the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) when, endorsing the platform framed by the hon. Minister of Justice, he said that it would be quite impossible to reduce the controllable expenditure by two, three and even four million dollars a year.

Such were the pledges given to the people by the hon. gentlemen, before their accession to office, and by means of which they climbed into power. Now, how did they fulfil their promises? Supposing that the facts I have just referred to were but newspaper gossip and not founded in fact, there still remains for our guidance the platform of 1893; and although it does not contain any exact figures, it is none the less true that it raises a cry of alarm over the increase of our debt and calls for a halt in the upward movement of our controllable expenditure.

I know that figures, as a rule, are devoid of interest; still they are often eloquent in their own way, especially when they are taken, as I am going to do, from the blue-books under the control of the ministers, and when they supply us with unanswerable arguments. If you refer to page xviii of the public accounts for 1899, you will find that the public debt, in 1896, was \$250,497,432; as against \$266,273,446, for 1898-9

or an increase of \$7,776,014, for the four years during which the hon. gentlemen opposite were in power. And this, notwithstanding the fact that, when they were on this side of the House, the hon. gentlemen loudly denounced the Conservative government for increasing the debt, pledging themselves, if they came into office, to cut it down. They have hardly been four years in office and yet they have succeeded in increasing the public debt by \$8,000,000 in round numbers.

But let us take a step further. I come now to the controllable expenditure, the ordinary consolidated fund expenditure, and what do we find? I see by the reply given to a question which I had put to the government, and which will be found on page 2828 of *Hansard*, that on the 30th June, 1896, the expenditure was \$36,949,142 and that on the 30th June, 1899, it had piled up to \$41,903,500, or an increase of \$4,954,358 in the controllable expenditures, incurred and voted at the request of the present government, between the last year for which the Conservative government is responsible, and the last year of the Liberal administration.

Such is the record of the hon. gentlemen who had pledged themselves before the country that if they got into power they would reduce the controllable expenditures by two, three and even four million dollars a year. Instead of fulfilling their promise, they have increased those expenditures by five million dollars in round numbers, or a difference of nine millions between their promises and their performances. But, the hon. gentlemen may perhaps say: 'It is unfair to institute a comparison between the expenditure incurred in 1896, and that incurred by the present government in 1899. In 1896 the Conservatives knew that the general elections were about to take place, and if the then government did not ask the House to vote a larger sum, it was because they were afraid of facing the electorate. I cannot let this plea pass unanswered; and I shall not confine myself to comparing the expenditure of 1896 with that of 1899. I will take the year in which the Conservative government asked the House to vote the largest amount of controllable expenditures, that is to say the fiscal year of 1885-86. As the hon. gentlemen know, in that year, the government had to provide for the expenditure incurred in quelling the North-west rebellion, and that expense, instead of being added to the national debt, was paid out of the buoyant revenue of the country, out of the consolidated revenue fund; and yet, what do we find? If you refer to the public accounts for 1899, page xiii, you will find that for the year 1885-86, during which the North-west rebellion broke out, the ordinary consolidated revenue fund expenditure was \$39,011,612. Let us now compare that year—and there is nothing unfair in instituting such comparison—with the year 1899; and we will find that the increased expenditure

in 1899 compared to 1886 was \$2,891,888. That is a fair comparison, because, as I said, in 1885-86, we had to provide for the expenditure incurred by the quelling of the North-west rebellion, an extraordinary and unforeseen expenditure which had never occurred up to that time. Therefore, you will find that the hon. gentlemen have increased the controllable expenditure of the country by about four million dollars.

Some time ago, my hon. friend, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), whose absence from this House, I regret, said: 'The Conservatives charge us with being extravagant; it is true, but wait till next year, and you will see on what a scale we are going to spend money.' Now, if you refer to the *Official Gazette*, of the 17th March, 1900, you will find that the public expenditure down to the 1st of March of the current year, was \$25,018,290, against an expenditure of \$23,597,134, up to the same date, on the 1st March, 1899; or, an increase of \$1,421,056. I may add that in this respect the Minister of Public Works has proved true to his word.

Of course, people may, on good ground, feel alarmed at this extraordinary increase in the public expenditure, and are likely to inquire into the cause of the same. We all remember, when the hon. gentlemen were sitting on this side of the House, how loud they were in their denunciations of the extravagance of the Conservative ministers, because they travelled in private cars. But, the day of the private cars is gone by, and private yachts are now the rage. The hon. gentlemen are no longer satisfied with travelling in private cars; they charter private yachts to convey them from one end of the country to the other. Thus, for instance, by referring to page 2145 of the Auditor General's Report, you will find a list of the expenditures made by the hon. Minister of Public Works during his famous trip on board the yacht *Eureka*, down the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Why, Sir, if you take the trouble to look up those items of expenditure, you will no longer wonder that the minister said: 'Wait till next year, and you will see on what scale we are going to spend money.' I am truly astonished at a gentleman holding the position which the Minister of Public Works occupies in this country, having the brass—that is the only proper word—to put in the public accounts items of expenditure such as those which I find on the Auditor's Report. And, mind you, this is only a sample of the way in which the people's money is being squandered.

For that trip which lasted about four or five weeks, here is what I find in the Auditor's Report:

Provisions.....	\$ 543 46
Provisions.....	86 45
Laundry.....	35 80
Eatables..	9 11
Rug.....	4 50
Mattress.....	2 50

Three caps	\$ 1 50
Three sweaters.....	3 75
Three chains.....	1 20
Four waterproofs.....	10 00
Two alpaca overcoats ...	3 50
American flag.....	7 50
Six rugs.....	51 50
Miscellaneous.....	24 03
Other items.....	1,352 52

\$2,236 82

This bill exemplifies the way in which the people's money is being thrown away. If those gentlemen were taking that money out of their own pockets, they would, no doubt, practise greater economy than shown by the Minister of Public Works.

If you take the aggregate expenditure chargeable to the Consolidated Revenue fund as well as that chargeable to Capital Account, you will find by referring to the Public Accounts for the year 1899, page *xva*, as well as to the answer to a question put by me to the government, and which appears on page 2828 of *Hansard*, that the following sums have been expended: for the year 1896, the last year under the Conservative rule, the aggregate expenditure was \$44,096,383, against \$51,542,635, for the year 1899; but if you add to that sum the subventions voted in favour of the railways, you will find that the hon. gentlemen who formerly were so loud in their denunciation of our extravagance, and in their professions of economy, have asked the House to vote a sum that foots up to sixty million dollars.

Let us turn now to the estimated expenditure in the budget which the hon. Finance Minister has brought down. It is likely enough that some hon. gentlemen opposite may have warned their leaders that they were laying themselves open to censure in not practising economy in the expenditure of public moneys; but as the leaders apparently turned a deaf ear to the warnings from the opposition and from their own friends, it is likely enough that some hon. gentlemen told the ministers: 'If you do not fulfil your pledges of economy, and if, in spite of all our warnings, you persevere in the course upon which you have entered, it will be impossible for us to face the electorate.' And yet, in spite of all these warnings, the hon. gentlemen did not hesitate to ask the House to vote an expenditure of \$42,872,989 chargeable against revenue, and \$9,195,402 chargeable against capital, or an expenditure of \$49,068,391 in the aggregate.

There is something more. If you add to that expenditure the supplementary estimates which will be brought down at a later stage, you will find that the total expenditure, chargeable against income and against capital, is more considerable than that of last year. Comparing the total expenditure for the fiscal year of 1896 with the expenditure of 1899, we find that with-

in the short period of four years, the hon. gentlemen have increased the public expenditure by \$7,446,252, or, in round numbers, seven million and a half. Such is the record of those men who had promised to cut down the public expenditure, and who were so loud in their denunciations of the Conservatives; freely charging them with being extravagant, corrupt and reckless in their expenditure, and aiming only at purchasing the electorate and the counties by wholesale. They say: 'Yes, it is true, we have increased the expenditure' for, mark, Sir, there are in the Liberal party men who honestly admit the fact, while others deny it. In the latter class is found *Le Soleil*, the Liberal organ of Quebec, and stump speakers who, in the face of the public accounts and of the statements made by the ministers themselves on the floor of this House, do not hesitate to deny the increased expenditure. But I refer here to fair-minded and honest Liberals who agree that since the advent of the present government to power the public expenditure has increased. What do they say, to palliate those expenditures? 'Why, they exclaim, look at the prosperity of the country. Look at our surpluses which are piling up year after year!' Formerly, under the Conservative rule, they were heard to say that a surplus was an immoral thing, a thing inviting to extravagance, to political corruption, a thing tending to lower the standard of public morality. Let me refer in this connection to a speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson),—and a most interesting speech in the face of what transpires to-day; and a thorough condemnation of the government at the hands of one of their most influential members.

In 1893, the hon. Minister of Customs said:

When the government knows beyond a doubt that there is a surplus, they are bound to reduce the taxation.

A finance minister has no right to take from the pockets of the people more money than is necessary to carry out the government of the country. Just fancy a chancellor of the exchequer of Great Britain, who could not provide for the needs of the public service! He would be held up to scorn as a man unable to grasp the financial position of the country.

If the Minister of Finance created a surplus out of his own money or out of the private fortune of his colleagues, then he could be looked upon as a benefactor of his fellow-countrymen.

But when he puts his hand in your pocket or in the pockets of the ratepayers to create surpluses, he can hardly boast of his achievement.

These utterances of the Minister of Customs constitute the most terrible indictment ever preferred against the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches; and it is so much the more crushing as it comes neither from me or from this side of the House, but from their own mouth. From the very

mouth of his colleague, the Minister of Finance, stands convicted of having made mis-statements and miscalculations in his financial exposé. If he had addressed the House of Commons of Great Britain, instead of speaking to Canadians, on the floor of the House of Commons of Canada, he would have been held up to ridicule and would have forfeited his reputation.

There is another subject to which I desire to make a brief allusion, and in connection with which we have been most strongly denounced by the Liberals before the electorate. I refer to taxation. Those hon. gentlemen had pledged themselves that if they ever crossed to the Treasury benches, they would reduce taxation. I still remember how eloquent they waxed when they charged the Conservative party with grinding down the poor ratepayers under the load of taxation. I now see before me some of the hon. gentlemen who were so loud, when in opposition, in their denunciations of the policy of the Conservative government, and who never tired bandying across the floor of this House their charges and their criticisms. But, now that the hon. gentlemen are brought face to face with their own performances, let them sincerely ask themselves how their policy compares with ours, in the light of their past utterances. I know that some of them most bitterly resent the conduct of their leaders in that respect; I know that they are in open rebellion against the cabinet, because the ministers have not been true to the pledges given to the electorate. But, after all, the party, as a whole, is responsible for those statements of policy and for the present state of things.

Let us review the situation, prior to 1896. What was the average total of the volume of taxation taken from the country, from 1892 to 1896? It was \$27,710,000. Let us compare those figures with those furnished by the public accounts of this year, page xxiv. The revenue collected from the customs is \$25,316,841, while the excise revenue collected is \$9,641,227, or a total of \$34,958,068. Therefore, the difference between the years 1896 and 1899, as to taxation, is \$7,248,068, and that is the excess of taxation which the Liberals are wringing from those 'poor ratepayers,' whose burdens they were so anxious to relieve when they sat on this side of the House.

Let us now institute a comparison between the volume of taxation taken from the country under the Conservative rule— if customs and excise duties properly come under the head of taxation—and the volume of taxation taken from the people under the Liberal régime. We will also compare the taxation per head:

1889....	....	....	..	21.65	per 100
1890....	....	....	..	21.21	"
1891....	....	....	..	20.06	"
1892....	....	....	..	17.56	"
1894....	....	....	..	17.13	"
1895....	....	....	..	16.99	"

These figures are compiled from the Trade and Navigation returns. Let me now compare them with the figures I find in *La Patrie*, in its issue of to-day. From the statement of the most influential organ of the Liberal party, the taxation in 1899 was \$16.70 per 100, or an almost imperceptible fraction below that of 1895.

But here is a still more interesting comparison. I now come to the per capita taxation. In 1896, it was \$8.14, as against \$8.28, in 1897; \$8.63 in 1898, and \$9.72 in 1899.

It will thus be seen that the per capita taxation was \$8.14 in 1896, under the Conservative régime, when the people were groaning under the load of taxation, as the hon. gentlemen were wont to say, whilst in 1899 it went up to \$9.72, or an increase of a dollar and a half per head.

When the Conservative party set up their national policy, they were able, through the customs and excise revenue, and by a wise expenditure of money, to dot the country with public works and improvements which have largely contributed towards its development on such a huge scale and towards its present prosperity. Not only were they enabled, through those customs and excise duties, to reduce the taxation and thus lighten the burdens of the people, by remitting the taxation on tea, coffee and sugar, but they succeeded further in effecting what was considered at that time as a considerable improvement, by making free the transmission of newspapers throughout the country. But what did we see, under the Liberal rule? The Postmaster General, while reducing the rate on letters, which is more in favour of the urban population than in favour of the farming community, did not hesitate to re-impose postage on newspapers, and everybody knows how useful those publications are as educators of the people.

Let me now say a word or two concerning another pledge given by the hon. gentlemen opposite, one of their broken promises with regard to the independence of members of parliament. The hon. Postmaster General was so anxious to raise the standard of political morality, when he was in the ranks of the opposition, that he brought down a Bill to prevent members from accepting public offices. Now, from the statement made by the Prime Minister himself, in reply to a question I had put to the government, which will be found on page 2225 of *Hansard* for this year, I see that, since the present government came into office, they have appointed nine members of parliament to public offices, such as governorships, judgeships, or places of collectors of inland revenue, and other positions of emolument. Three members have been appointed to the Senate. Formerly, the hon. gentlemen were fond of talking of the government cribs, and reference was again made to it, this afternoon, by the hon.

member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis). He told us that the Conservative party wanted to get back into power, to enjoy the sweets of office, because we all had some interest in wishing to be returned to power; he said that it was only a question of our pockets, and of being appointed to places of emolument, to judgeships, governorships and the like. Did I wish to retort, I would only have to tell the hon. gentleman that if they made all those promises, and if they took all those pledges before the House and before the country, it was because they were hungry for office and wanted to enjoy the sweets of office. Nothing would be easier for me than to throw back the charge levelled at us, in view of all that has transpired since their advent to power.

These gentlemen had also promised to reduce the number of ministers, and they contended that seven or eight ministers could perfectly well administer the affairs of the country. Now, what do we see? In reply to a question which I put to the government, which will be found on page 2828 of *Hansard* for 1899, I was informed that in 1896 there were fourteen ministers in the cabinet, with an aggregate salary of \$95,000, and that in 1900 the number of ministers was the same, but with this difference, that in 1896 the aggregate salary of the members of the government was \$95,000, while in 1900 it is \$99,000.

Now I turn, for a moment, from the consideration of broken pledges, and I desire to ask the attention of the House to another portion of my subject. I say that the hon. gentlemen not only did not implement the promises given to the electorate, but, moreover, I contend that, in the administration of public affairs, they have made such egregious mistakes, such unpardonable blunders, that they cannot fail to be called to a strict account by the electorate, at the next elections. I take, as an illustration of misgovernment on the part of the ministers, the Drummond Railway deal. Here is a railway which in 1894 was offered for sale for half a million dollars, and I find that in 1897 the government proposed to Parliament to pay for that very same road \$2,094,192, that is to say, a capitalized sum represented by a yearly rental of \$64,000, to be paid during 99 years, on the basis of an interest of 2½ per cent.

The Senate, in their wisdom, did not want the country to pay for that road the amount which the government had asked the House to vote. But when later on they came down and proposed to the House to pay \$1,600,000 for the same road, they pleaded guilty and confessed that they were wrong. The Senate thus saved the country \$600,000. There is another very important question about which the hon. gentlemen are very reticent, and that is the piebiscite. In 1893, the Liberals put a prohibition plank in their platform, promising to submit a

plebiscite on prohibition to the Canadian electorate. I cannot bring myself to believe that in the minds of the men who proposed that resolution in 1893 it was but a huge farce, a comedy, an empty promise wantonly given, with a view to deluding and fooling the public; no, I would much sooner think that they were sincere when they held out that promise to the electorate. What happened, Sir? The government introduced in this House a measure for taking the plebiscite. The electorate was called upon to vote on the prohibition question, and then what did we see? Why, Sir, ministers of the Crown, the colleagues of the hon. gentlemen who had brought down that measure, were heard saying: 'Vote against prohibition.' The hon. Minister of the Interior (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière); the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), and my regretted friend, the Hon. Mr. Geof-frion, were seen going from husting to husting, making electioneering speeches, and they were heard to say: 'Mind you do not vote in favour of prohibition, not to embarrass our leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier.'

I say, therefore, that the conduct of those hon. gentlemen, in that respect, was an egregious blunder, an inexcusable political mistake, on the part of men who are supposed to entertain some respect for the electorate. And, mind you, it was a costly comedy. By referring to page 2246 of *Hansard*, you will find, from the answer given by the Minister of Finance, that for the taking of the plebiscite the government have expended \$189,827.72; and a perfectly useless expenditure it was. I hold that it was a useless expenditure, because, as I just have said, the majority of the vote polled was in favour of prohibition, and, in my opinion, the government were in duty bound to follow the views of the majority and to bring down a prohibitory liquor law. If the government were honest when appealing to the people on that important issue they were, as I said, in duty bound to give effect to the voice of the majority as expressed at the polls. If we look at it from the standpoint of the province of Quebec, where there is an organization which efficaciously controls the liquor trade, that measure was a mistake; but, at all events, since the right hon. gentlemen had undertaken to appeal to the electorate, now that the electorate have given an emphatic expression of opinion at the polls, it is altogether unwarrantable on his part not to have given effect to the verdict of the majority. The only advantage resulting from the plebiscite, if it can be called an advantage, is that it has cost the country \$190,000.

But, the hon. gentlemen may say: 'We pledged ourselves to bring down a franchise law, and we did implement our pledge.' The hon. gentlemen had promised to give the country a good electoral reform legislation,

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but what do we find? If you refer to *Hansard* you will see that, with the law now in force, we no longer know where we stand; one no longer knows whether he has a vote or not. On the 20th March last, I put to the right hon. gentleman the following question, as it appears, page 2828, of *Hansard*:

1. Have all the electoral lists for the electoral districts of the province of Quebec been received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in pursuance of the Act 61st Vic., c. 14, sec. 10?
2. If not, what are the lists for such electoral districts which have not been received?
3. In the case of some of the said electoral districts, is it true that the lists for all the municipalities included therein have not been received?
4. If so, which are the municipalities?
5. What are the names of the districts or parts of districts for which the lists have not been printed and distributed?

In answer to that question, the Prime Minister stated that all the voters' lists had been received by the Clerk of the Crown in chancery; but that on the 28th March, there remained twenty-five counties in the province of Quebec, the lists of which had not yet been printed. Now, all those who are conversant with the municipal organization of that province know that the voters' lists are ready for distribution in the month of June of each year. At latest, and in most cases as early as the month of May. But, as I have just shown from the answer of the Prime Minister, on the 28th March last there still remained twenty-five constituencies the lists of which had not yet been printed. That is the reason why I just remarked, on good ground too, that we no longer know where we stand, as regards the franchise law.

Amazed at the answer given by the Prime Minister on the 28th March, I ventured on the 2nd April to ask a further question, and here it is:

1. What is the reason why the electoral lists for the districts mentioned in the answer to question No. 36 on the Order paper No. 38, of March 28th instant, have not yet been printed?
2. If printed, why have they not been distributed?
3. At what date or dates were they received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery under the Franchise Act, 1898, section 10?

The Prime Minister replied that all the lists for the province of Quebec, with the exception of ten, had been printed and distributed. On the 28th March, I was informed by the Prime Minister that there were still twenty-five counties the lists of which had not yet been printed; and three days later, on the 2nd April, I was told that all the lists had been printed, with the exception of ten. How can those different statements be reconciled? The least that can be said is this: That the present law works no better than the old Act did, which

had been passed by the Conservative party, and which the hon. gentlemen opposite had so bitterly denounced.

Moreover, it appears that the names of a number of voters have been left off the lists, as was the case in the Sherbrooke election, where the names of prominent voters had been left off; and, under the law as it stands, such errors cannot be rectified. Elections can at any moment, be sprung on us, either in the province of Quebec or in any other part of the Dominion, and as matters stand, we have no legal voter's lists as we ought to, and as, under the Act passed by the hon. gentlemen, we were to have. The lists which we have, should they happen to be incorrect or vicious, cannot be corrected, as the Act in force does not contain any provision to that effect.

I fail to understand why the government, who have so far done nothing, during this session, did not at least introduce and pass into law a Bill to remedy and supplement the defects of the Franchise Act in force. As I just remarked, since the beginning of the session, we have made no progress at all. With the exception of the Redistribution Bill which was carried, what have we done? We have wasted time in discussing academical resolutions.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). (Translation.) Hear, Hear.

Mr. CASGRAIN. (Translation.) After all, these are idle discussions, which can serve no useful purpose and only tend to delay the progress of our business. Hon. gentlemen on this side are not open to the charge of having taken up too much of the time of the House; because, for every member on this side who took the floor, at least two members on the other side got up to reply.

And yet, when charges of the most serious character, affecting the seats of two hon. gentlemen, were brought before the House; when the opposition was ready to bring most damaging proofs of corruption and bribery against those members, what did the government do? The government, who, last year, had given way to a demand for investigation before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, refused, this year, to allow us to submit the case to the same committee. Last year, the government agreed that these cases should be sent at once to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, where it properly belonged; but, I ask, why is it, this year, that they refuse to send them to the same committee? Is it that the complexion of those cases is altered and that they no longer come under the jurisdiction of the committee? No, Sir; if the treatment of these cases is so different this year, the reason is that the hon. gentlemen know that, since last session, evidence, fresh and new, in addition to what was before the committee last year, was brought out, and that the information

is of such a character as to jeopardize the seats of those two gentlemen and force them to resign. I wonder they have not yet resigned, the more so as they have been given the hint by one of the chief organs of the Liberal party, the *Toronto Globe*.

But there is something more. Last year, the government refused to allow an investigation to be made into the administration of the Yukon. An hon. member on this side of the House had brought down charges of maladministration in the affairs of the Yukon, and he had brought them in such a way as to stake his seat. The government refused that investigation, or rather, they appointed as investigator a man over whom they had full control; a man who, had he presumed to make a report somewhat unfavourable to the ministry, would soon have been dismissed.

To come back to the resolutions passed by the convention of 1893, let me read to the House a very interesting paragraph, which runs as follows:

That it is the ancient and undoubted right of the House of Commons to inquire into all matters of public expenditure and into all charges of misconduct in office against ministers of the Crown, and the reference of such matters to Royal Commissions created upon the advice of the accused is at variance with the responsibility of ministers to the House of Commons, and tends to weaken the authority of the House over the executive government, and this convention affirms that the powers of the people's representatives in this regard should on all fitting occasions be upheld.

Here we have a solemn profession of faith, made at the convention of 1893, a profession which has been violated upon two different occasions: first, during last session, in the case of the public administration in the Yukon, and once more, this year, in the case of the investigation into the electoral frauds perpetrated at the elections in Brockville and West Huron. In the case of these two elections, the investigation demanded by the opposition was in reference to the most serious charges that can be brought against hon. gentlemen occupying seats in this House; but the government threw their whole weight to prevent that investigation being reopened this session.

Let us turn now to a subject which will, no doubt, prove more interesting to the House, as it is the event of the day, and as such, is engrossing public attention. I refer to the fiscal policy of the government. The matter which I am going to deal with concerns more particularly the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition.

The hon. gentleman who spoke this afternoon (Mr. Davis) told us that the Conservative party had no policy. The hon. gentleman is merely revamping an old charge which we had, in former years, good reason to cast in the teeth of the Liberal party, because the fact was that they had no

policy of their own. They went repeating from husting to husting throughout the country that the Conservative party have no settled policy, no fixed principles, no absolutely definite platform, and that they dared not nail their colours to the mast.

Our political platform, so far as the tariff is concerned, is embodied in the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition.

What is the line of demarcation that divides the two political parties in this country? In 1878, the Conservative party made certain promises to the country; they told the electorate that, should they come into power, they would provide for such protection as was required for the development of the industrial life of the country, and that they would inaugurate a truly national policy. Now, no sooner had they come into office in 1878, than they redeemed the pledge given to the electorate, by enforcing and carrying into effect the national policy. But, as regards the hon. gentlemen opposite, I may say that they have ever been looking around after a policy. But, unfortunately for them, in their vain endeavours to find and formulate a platform, they have jumped out of the frying-pan into the fire. Now they would be heard to say, should they succeed in climbing into powers, they would destroy every vestige of protection; now they would preach commercial union with the United States and free trade as it is in England. And if they are now following the policy laid down by the Conservative party, it is because they have come to the conclusion that there was no better way of building up this great nation and promoting the prosperity and development which the country has ever enjoyed since 1878. The Conservative party had built up on sound and broad lines of policy; and the adoption of that policy by the Liberals was tantamount to an admission of the soundness of that policy.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) told us that the Liberal party had never pledged themselves to free trade. When I heard him making that statement, it struck me that perhaps he was in a blissful ignorance of the position taken by the Liberal party previous to their advent to power. Quite possibly it was not positively stated in so many words in the platform adopted by the Liberal convention of 1893, that the party pledged itself to free trade; but it is a well-known fact that the Prime Minister and his followers went repeating everywhere that, upon their coming into power, they would emancipate the country from the thralldom of protection. The national policy, they said, would be torn up root and branch. Death to protection and war to the knife to the national policy was their motto; and as their favourite phrase goes, the country would no longer be bled white. They were going to deal the death-blow to that system, the bane and curse of the coun-

try, to use one of their own expressions. The true national policy for Canada, they said, was free trade, and not protection. They went repeating everywhere that they would throw down the fiscal barriers between Canada and the United States; that the United States was our great home market, and they did not hesitate to say that they preferred the American dollar to the English shilling. In the opinion of the hon. gentlemen, the American market was worth more than twice over to Canada than that of all the rest of the world put together; and when we told them that we could ship our goods with profit to Great Britain, they would laugh us to scorn and cry out: Wherefore should we look for a market beyond the seas, when, right at our very door, we have our best home market? The Liberal leaders, to-day, deny that they ever pledged themselves or their party to free trade. But what did they do, when they came in? They maintained in its entirety the protective tariff; they did not dare to interfere with the trade principle upon which that tariff is based; so that the national policy, as inaugurated by the Conservative party, is still in full force. It is the same old national policy, so often denounced by them, which obtains under the present régime, and the hon. gentlemen know very well that if they had carried out their promises and threats of destroying every vestige of protection, their pathway would have been strewn with the wrecks of our industries.

The only change worth mentioning here, when they brought down their fiscal policy in 1897, was to give a preference in our markets, not to Great Britain alone, as they said, but to all the countries which would be willing to give a similar preference in their own markets. That offer did not prove acceptable to the English statesmen, who told our ministers that if they gave that preference, they would have to extend the same favour, under the treaties as they stood, to twenty-five different nations. Then what did the government do, under the circumstances? They had to amend the statute and to reduce the duties by 25 per cent in favour of Great Britain. In other words, it amounts to this, that the goods coming into the country from foreign countries pay, let us say, \$1 duty, as against 75 cents, which similar goods from Great Britain have to pay. Now, the question is: What good has resulted to Canada from such a policy? But, prior to dealing with this question, let me say here that the decrease resulting from the tariff brought down in 1897 is less than 1 per cent over the old tariff. Therefore, the protective principle, far from being wiped out, is merely being continued under a modified form. Has that policy resulted favourably to the interests of the Canadian people? Is it not a fact that the prices of articles commonly used by the people have been much enhanced

since 1896? Everything under the shape of cotton, nails, binder twine, coal oil, &c., has gone up. There is an emphasized increase in coal oil, an article in great use among the poorer classes, and about which the Liberals, prior to 1896, used to raise such a cry, claiming that the enhanced price of that commodity was due to the fact that the Conservative government had given the control of the business to a combine. Now, these gentlemen have probably created the most gigantic monopoly that has ever sprung up in this country; and when, by the light of their lamp, they now glance over the Liberal programme, their followers must no doubt realize how sadly they have been gulled and befooled, seeing that they have now to pay 24 cents a gallon for their coal oil, while in 1896 they had to pay but 16 cents.

The hon. gentlemen opposite have made another promise to the country. They said: 'If we come into power, we will send a commission to Washington, and it would not be a rash prediction to say that within six months of that day, by a scratch of the pen, a treaty of reciprocity would be put in force between the United States and Canada.'

What happened? The hon. gentlemen, went to Washington, and after spending six months in idle talk and quibbling, notwithstanding the fact that they had at their command all the knowledge of that legal luminary, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) after spending \$34,000 of public funds in visits to Quebec and Washington, the commission proved abortive, because the right hon. gentleman had given away before hand everything to the United States. Why, Sir, is it not a fact that he had taken the duty off many articles which we import from the United States, and which might have been used as a set-off, to obtain concessions from that country? Among other articles, the government have placed corn on the free-list. To certain portions of the country, the removal of the duty from that article does not matter much, but it is quite different with other sections of Canada. I was talking, the other day, in the county of Essex, with a well-to-do-farmer who told me: I voted for the Liberal party in 1896: but now, I have made up my mind never to vote in their favour? The removal of the duty from corn, he said, meant to him a loss of \$300 a year. And I may say that this gentleman farmer, in so speaking, was but the echo of many other farmers.

I said, a little while ago, that the preferential tariff was a one-sided, a jug-handled preference giving everything to Great Britain, and that it was in no way beneficial to Canadian manufacturers and labour. This year, the government have gone to the extent of adding a further preference and have made it 33½ per cent. Let us see what we could export from this country to Great Britain, if we were given in England a pre-

ference for our goods over the products of other nations. Of flour, in 1896, England imported to the extent of 12,000,000 barrels of which 90,000 only came from Canada. Of pease she imported 5,500,000 bushels, of which 1,400,000 only were imported from Canada. Of oats, she imported 58,000,000 bushels, 500,000 only having been bought from the Dominion. Her importations of barley were 52,000,000 bushels; 47,000 bushels only having been imported from Canada. Of bacon, 510,000,000 pounds were imported into England, of which 47,000,000 pounds came from Canada. Of ham, she imported 163,500,000 pounds, 6,500,000 pounds having been imported from Canada. She imported 324,000,000 pounds of mutton, of which 4,000 pounds came from Canada; 6,600,000 bushels of apples, of which 1,500,000 were imported from Canada; 251,000,000 pounds of cheese, 164,000,000 only having been bought from Canada; 340,000,000 pounds of butter, 5,000,000 pounds only having been imported from Canada.

It will readily be seen from these figures what a great boon it would be for Canada, if our products were given a preference in the English markets over foreign products, no matter how small that preference was. One can see at a glance that such a policy would be fraught with enormous results to the people of Canada. The right hon. gentleman himself was so well aware of it that, in a speech delivered at London, Ontario, in 1896, he declared that we ought to spare no efforts to obtain such a preference. Referring to that policy of reciprocal trade preference between Canada and the motherland, he said:

That practical statesman, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has come to the conclusion that the time has come when it is possible to have within the bounds of the empire a new step taken, which will give to the colonies in England a preference for their products over the products of other nations. What would be the possibilities of such step if it was taken? We sell our goods in England. We send our wheat, our butter, our cheese, all our natural products, but there we have to compete with similar products from the United States, from Russia, and from other nations. Just see what a great advantage it would be to Canada, if the wheat, cheese and butter, which we would send to England, should be met in England with a preference over similar products of other nations. The possibilities are immense.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the new and progressive Secretary of the Colonies, has declared that the time has come when it is possible to discuss that question. But, Sir, if England is going to give us that preference, England would expect something from us in return. What is it she would expect? England would expect that we would come as closely to her own system of free trade as it is possible for us to come. England does not expect that we should take her own system of free trade, such as she has it; but I lay it before you, that the thing the English people would expect in return is that, in stead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff, pure and simple. These are the conditions on which we can have that boon.

It is easy to understand what an impetus would be given our trade, if our products were accorded the advantage of a preference in the English markets, over similar products of other nations. Such a policy, is fraught with enormous results; and in the words of the Prime Minister, the possibilities are immense. But here again, as in the case of the United States, the right hon. gentleman has thrown away the greatest incentive and the most effective means by which better terms could be secured for our products in the English markets, in return for the preference given to English goods. That is exactly what he did, before going to Washington, to negotiate a reciprocity treaty. As he had begun by giving away everything, no wonder that he could obtain nothing from the Americans.

In 1897, the government gave a preference of 25 per cent to Great Britain and this year they are going to raise it to 33½.

Now, Sir, here is a consideration to which I want to direct the attention of the House. Let us take those goods which are brought into the country from Europe or from the United States, or from countries where labour is very cheap, as China or Japan. Those goods are sent to England where they get an increased value of 25 per cent through the skilled labour of British workmen and then those goods are brought into the country as British made goods, and owing to the fact that they have an increased value of 25 per cent, they enter the country as British manufactures, under cover of the preferential tariff, thus competing with our Canadian manufacturers and labour.

What is the position taken by the hon. leader of the opposition on this question? What does he ask from England? He advocates a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Canada, under which we receive something in return for what we give. In other words, it is the contract of the 'Dout des' giving and taking; it is on the basis of a favour for a favour. He says to our English kinsmen: 'If you want for your products a preference in our markets over foreign products, give us a similar preference in your own markets. Hon. gentlemen have read here statements from the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, Lord Roseberry and several other English statesmen to show that Great Britain will never consent to accord us a preference in her markets, because she sticks to free trade. But if they took such a position, it is due to the fact that the hon. Prime Minister, in 1897, told them that he did not wish to disturb the system of free trade in vogue in Great Britain, and those statesmen followed the course mapped up for them by our Premier. And when they heard that Canada had already given a preference of 25 per cent to British made goods over the products of foreign nations, it would have been the height of folly on their part to tax the bread of the British labourer, by imposing a duty

upon foreign imports. Why should they have done so? Had not the hon. Prime Minister given away everything beforehand to Great Britain? British statesmen are shrewd business men, and when they are offered anything as a free gift, it would be the height of folly on their part not to accept such an offer.

Upon two memorable circumstances, the Prime Minister, and I say so without any hesitation, could have obtained something from Great Britain in return for what we gave her. In 1897, at the time of the Jubilee celebration, in which the premier played an important part, he could have availed himself of the opportunity for securing some real, substantial favour for Canada, besides decorations used merely to adorn the breast of patriots. In 1897, Great Britain felt the want of a demonstration of sympathy from all her colonies and dependencies, to display before the whole world the power and the unity of the empire. If the Prime Minister, upon that occasion, instead of saying to Great Britain: 'We give you, out of gratitude, and as a free gift, a preference of 25 per cent in our markets,' had heeded the invitation of the British statesmen, I doubt not—and my opinion is borne out by the facts—that, in accord with the Prime Ministers of the other colonies, he could have secured for us a quid pro quo in return for the preference given to England. But, a still greater opportunity offered this year, at a time when Great Britain felt again the want of a grand demonstration of sympathy on the part of her colonies in order to display before the whole world, in a still more striking way than on the occasion of the Jubilee celebration, the cohesion and the power of the British Empire. It may be many years before such a favourable opportunity occurs again; but the hon. Prime Minister failed to avail himself of his chance, and instead of asking the motherland to give us a preference for our products in her markets, he gave her a preference of 33½ per cent without trying to secure what he said would prove so beneficial to Canada. He wants to stick to free trade; and he seems to be afraid of proving unworthy of the Cobden medal which he wears on his breast. That is the reason why he turns round and tells the British manufacturers: 'We are going to give you, to the detriment of our own manufacturers, a preference in the markets of Canada.'

Quite possibly, our manufacturers may not feel for several years to come the damaging results of the preferential tariff on some of our industries; but when the time comes when the British manufacturers will no longer be busy, as they are to-day, filling the enormous orders which keep their manufactures running now, under the peculiar circumstances which everybody knows, they will flood our home market with the overplus of their output and then will our manufactures be injuriously affected by the po-

licy inaugurated by the Prime Minister and his party. The preferential tariff gives everything to Great Britain without any compensation whatsoever. Such a fallacious policy is bound to prove most injurious to Canadian manufacturers and labour.

I fail to understand the reason why the hon. Prime Minister has raised, this year, to 33½ per cent the preference given to Great Britain. Whether he wished to show the intensity of his patriotism, or whether he tried to atone for his vacillating policy, for his delay in sending a military contingent to South Africa, I am not prepared to say. I need not refer to the interview published in the *Globe* newspaper, in which the right hon. gentleman stated that he could not send a contingent to South Africa. In that communication, in which he made known the policy of his government, he stated that he had carefully examined the Militia Act and that under the law and the constitution of the country he was actually precluded without the direct authority of parliament from sending a contingent to South Africa.

A few days later, however, he did send a contingent, and now, by way of atoning for his vacillating policy, he grants a further preference to Great Britain, in order to show the intensity of his love and loyalty to the motherland.

Perhaps also there is another explanation of his action. In 1897, when the preferential tariff was brought down, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) after having heard the speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was seen leaving the House with a beaming countenance and having met a friend in the lobby of the House, told him: 'We have just driven the thin end of the wedge of free trade into the fiscal policy of Canada.' He said so himself, and he gave it to understand to his friends, that he had at last gained his point and had succeeded in imposing the free trade system upon the country. Beyond the shadow of a doubt, this preferential policy is inimical to the best interests of Canadian manufacturers and labour. It is upon that issue that the next electoral campaign will turn. The people will have to choose between the Conservative policy, as propounded before the House by the hon. leader of the opposition and the policy of the Prime Minister as embodied in the tariff which is now before us.

It is that policy of the Prime Minister which constitutes true imperialism. We often hear of imperialism and Imperial federation and it is a subject which is engrossing at the present time the attention of the public. As to us, Conservatives, the only kind of imperialism we want, the only scheme of Imperial federation we advocate—if it may be so-called—is a reciprocal preferential tariff between Canada and England. We take no stock in that scheme of Imperial federation which has been advocated by the Prime Minister, not only in England but in this House.

The policy of the Liberal party is Imperial federation, and by federation I understand an agglomeration of states which are represented in the same parliament. Under that definition comes the scheme of Imperial federation. It is that scheme which is being now advocated by the Liberal party. In 1897, at the time of the Jubilee celebration, the right hon. Prime Minister, according to despatches which have never been contradicted, spoke as follows:

London, July 6, 1897.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Dominion Premier, yesterday addressed a meeting of members of the House of Commons, known as the Colonial party. Mr. W. Laurier, who was most cordially received, urged the direct representation of the colonies in the Imperial parliament, which ought to be, he contended, a grand national council of Imperial Federal parliament. In the course of his address he said that if Australia and South Africa were confederated like Canada, it would greatly simplify the question.

A few days later, at a banquet given by the cordwainers, he spoke as follows:

In Canada, we have an unlimited confidence in our country, and when we have reached the full development of manhood, nothing will satisfy us short of representation in the Imperial parliament. I know that the matter is beset with difficulties, but it behooves strong men to overcome difficulties. The record of the British parliament is an illustrious one, but the record of Greater Britain will not be less illustrious.

Upon another occasion, he said:

I believe the parliament of 'Greater Britain' and it will be the proudest day of my life—and if I do not live long enough to see that day many other French Canadians will live to see it—when a French Canadian will stand up and uphold the principles of freedom in the parliament of 'Greater Britain.'

At a banquet given at the Hotel Cecil, Mr. Chamberlain, proposing a toast to the British Empire, said:

Everything tends to draw closer the ties that bind the colonies to Great Britain, to which they belong, and before long, we hope to be able to hail an Australian federation, which will, necessarily be followed by a federation of the South African colonies, both as a prelude to Imperial federation.

The hon. Prime Minister replied as follows:

Mr. Chamberlain has opened up a subject which, more than any other, is engaging the attention of the empire. It is of a character that must demand the attention of the thinking man. One thing is certain, the colonies, should either draw more closely together in the empire or should separate. The decision, the choice, does not altogether lie in the mouths of the colonies, but rather in the mouths of the people of the motherland.

When Canada has increased her strength, nothing else will satisfy her but imperial representation. If this is thought to be a dream, then it is a dream that should appeal to all men, and especially to all women.

Such is the imperialism, such is the scheme of Imperial federation which has won the

approval of the right hon. gentleman and his party and to which they have committed themselves. We have a solemn profession from the lips of the right hon. gentleman himself, made on the floor of this House, and the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), during the same session, advocated the same policy. That such an impression got abroad is shown from the fact that the commentaries in the newspapers tallied with that opinion.

A few days ago, I saw in *The Sketch*, a London illustrated paper, a very good vignette of the Prime Minister. The heading of the editorial which was taken from a speech delivered, a few days ago, by the Prime Minister, was as follows: 'Call us to your councils.' 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canadian and Imperialist.'

But, I may be told: You did not object to the sending of the contingents to South Africa! I have already defined my attitude on this question. I was then of the opinion—and it may be a debatable opinion—that Canada should take part in that movement. It has been stated that it was at Mr. Chamberlain's demand that troops were sent and that we were being dictated to and coerced by Downing Street. No, Sir, the sending of the military contingents was the result of a spontaneous expression of public opinion. There was such an outburst of enthusiasm throughout the country that no sooner had the ship transporting the first contingent sailed away, than a second contingent was organized and sent out to South Africa. And even to-day, should it be deemed advisable to despatch a third and a fourth regiment, I dare say that the same display of enthusiasm would take place.

No, Sir, it was not Downing Street, but it was the voice of the people, that spoke in unmistakable terms. What happened in this House? Out of 213 members, only 10 did vote against the sending of the contingents and against the policy of the government in that respect. Is not that the best proof that we have not been dictated to by Downing Street nor coerced by the strong hand of the men sitting at Westminster? What took place was done in response to the emphatic expression of public opinion, which demanded this action. But from the fact that those contingents were sent out to South Africa, and from the fact that this House endorsed the action taken by the government, in response to that hearty and spontaneous expression of public opinion, it does not follow that we advocate and approve of the scheme of Imperial federation. As to the province of Quebec, I do not think it would have been advisable for her to decline co-operating with the other provinces; and as to the other provinces, I believe that there was an almost unanimous consensus of opinion and sentiment in favour of Canada coming forward and taking an active part in the battles of England.

Mr. CASGRAIN.

As a matter of fact, it is true that the hon. gentlemen voted against the sending of the contingents, but I can hardly believe that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) was justified in using such language as he is credited with, when addressing a public meeting at Saint-Rémi, on March 20 last. Referring to the small number of members of this House who voted with him, he clearly intimated that if every member had voted according to the dictates of his conscience, a much larger number of members would have supported him. He said:

There are many other members of the House who endorsed our position and who said so aloud, but they were afraid to vote according to the dictates of their conscience, as they must be upon good terms with the executive of the day. They need patronage, not only for their constituents, but for themselves as well; for some of them aspire after senatorships, others are after judgeships, and they must behave, if they wish to compass their desires.

I can scarcely believe that the hon. gentleman has given utterance to those feelings; I cannot persuade myself that he has presumed to impute such motives to the hon. gentlemen who voted down his motion, so much the more so as among those who opposed his proposition are to be found friends of his with whom he comes into daily contact.

Just one word and I am done, for I am afraid less I have trespassed upon the forbearance of the House.

There is another important matter to which I shall ask the attention of the House. A few days ago, a very interesting question was put by my hon. friend from Montcalm to the Prime Minister. Let me, in bringing my remarks to a conclusion, deal with that matter and show to the House how the government have gone back on another of their ante-election pledges.

On March 28 last, my hon. friend (Mr. Dugas) put to the Prime Minister the following question:

Do the following words, taken from the issue of the newspaper 'La Patrie' of the 28th September, 1899, report in a sufficiently exact manner a portion of the speech delivered by the hon. the First Minister at Drummondville on the 26th September last:—

Here is the portion of the speech such as reported:

As you are aware, in 1896, a vexed question was creating trouble throughout the Dominion. It was an issue in which religion and politics were involved. The solution of such a problem called for the exercise of that statesmanship of the highest order. The old government pretended that they had settled the question by introducing the so-called Remedial Bill, which, in fact, remedied nothing at all. On the other hand, such a Bill was apt to create bad blood among the people of a sister province. The government failed to carry their measure and we came into office. We had pledged our word to the electorate that within six months after our advent to power the question would have been settled. I am sure you

will bear me out when I say that we have implemented our pledge, and settled the question. The school question is dead, although our good friends, the Bleus are doing their best to resuscitate it.

Now, let me give the reply of the right hon. Prime Minister, such as reported in *Hansard* :

I am sorry to say, although I always thought I had a good memory, that it is not good enough to remember a speech six months and two days afterwards, when the question is put.

It is a most extraordinary thing that on a question of such vital importance, and perhaps the most momentous issue from the standpoint of his own personal interest which my right hon. friend has ever had to grapple with, a question involving his political future and the place which he will occupy in our historical records, it is assuredly, a most extraordinary thing that the Prime Minister had such a short memory that he could not remember, I do not say the exact words but the purport of his statement. The right hon. gentleman, I presume, did not speak on that occasion, without weighing his words; and I do not suppose he wished to impose upon the electors; I presume that he spoke his honest mind when he stated that the question was settled, as he had promised to settle it.

But, as my hon. friend from Montcalm (Mr. Dugas) was not satisfied with the reply made by the right hon. gentleman, he returned to the charge and put to the Prime Minister the following question :

Whether the Prime Minister declared at Drummondville, or elsewhere, in the course of last year, or at any other time since he became Prime Minister, that he or his administration had finally settled the Manitoba school question?

The Prime Minister replied as follows :—

The Prime Minister has declared on the floor of this House and elsewhere that the school question had been settled in the only efficient way it could be settled, by removing it from the arena of federal politics and referring it to the legislature of Manitoba, which, in a spirit of conciliation and good-will to the minority, passed important legislation in amendment to the School Act of 1890; and such legislation, like all other legislation, is always subject to amendment and improvement.

I have translated off hand from the English edition, as the official translation is not yet at hand.

Now, from the position which he is actually obliged to take, the right hon. gentlemen may see how different from the actual performance were his ante-election statements and the pledges he gave to the province of Quebec in 1896. In 1893, when addressing his constituents at Saint-Roch—and I think it right to repeat once more that statement, as it cannot too often be brought back to the attention of this House—he said : 'Should I come into power, I shall appoint a commission, at the head of which Sir Oliver Mowat and Sir Henri Joly de Lotbi-

nière, and if, within six months, the question is not settled by conciliatory means, I shall resort to the means provided by the constitution to settle it.

So, my right hon. friend pledged his word that, should conciliation fail, he would resort to the means provided by the constitution, as pointed out by the judgment of the Privy Council, which I believe was the only way of adjusting the matter.

My right hon. friend said that he had settled the question by again referring it to the Manitoba legislature. But it was in that very legislature that the Manitoba minority were deprived of their rights. To leave the question to be dealt with by the Manitoba legislature was by no means the way of solving the same.

I say, therefore, that from the statements made and the pledges given to the electorate, we may safely reach the conclusion that the question is not settled at all. The right hon. gentleman has gone back on the most solemn pledges given to the electorate of the province of Quebec, and he will be called to a very severe account at their hands. The question is not settled; it was only compromised.

Merely from the standpoint of the solemn promises which he had made to the electorate of the province of Quebec, the hon. Prime Minister should have redeemed the pledge given to that province; and I have no doubt that on that point as on all the rest, he will be called to a severe account by the electorate. No, Sir, the hon. gentleman did not settle the school question; and he has perhaps irretrievably compromised the settlement of it. From the point of view of the minority who have been despoiled of their most sacred rights, guaranteed by the constitution of this country, can it be said that the question is settled? No, it is not settled and if to-day there is no longer any means of bringing out a satisfactory settlement of that crucial question, the whole responsibility will fall on the shoulders of the Prime Minister.

I must crave the indulgence of the House for keeping it so long. One word more and I am done. The eyes of the people are now open, and the electorate are ready to call to a strict account the government for the violation of their pledges. Every day we have fresh evidence of the fact. During the electoral contest in Sherbrooke, the Liberal party left no stone unturned to carry the country. We were treated to the extraordinary spectacle of five ministers of the Crown—and at their head was my right hon. friend the leader of the House—canvassing in favour of the Liberal candidate. As I said, they spared no efforts to secure the return of their candidate, who was a very strong man. Money flowed freely all through the contest. We speak of it knowingly, having watched pretty closely those gentlemen in their committees and while they were canvassing throughout the constituency; and

we know that they spent an enormous sum of money, and, in spite of that, their candidate was defeated. The county in which the electoral contest took place is a circonscription composed of French Canadians and of English-speaking voters, and that is the reason why the defeat of the government, under the circumstances, is so pregnant with meaning. Public opinion, in the province of Quebec, as elsewhere, is ready and, should the general elections come off to-morrow, the great majority of the constituencies throughout the country would undoubtedly take the example from Sherbrooke.

I happened to meet, the other day, a gentleman who is at the head of an important newspaper—and I abstain from mentioning the name of the town in which that paper is published, lest its identity should be revealed—and this gentleman, in the course of our conversation, propounded to me the following parable: One day, a merchant, who wanted to secure the services of a clerk, having advertised in the usual way, a young man, full of fine promises tendered his services. 'I can do this, I can do that,' says he. 'I am good in such a line,' &c. The merchant, trusting to his promises, took him into his employ. 'But,' said my interlocutor, at the end of four or five months, the clerk had not fulfilled all his fine promises, and the merchant is only waiting till his contract has expired, to dismiss him.' 'But,' said I, 'I do not know the drift of your speech.' 'It is simply this,' said he, 'I have made up my mind to take example from that merchant. I am a Liberal, but I have made up my mind to vote against that party, and to turn them out of power at the next elections.' Now, Sir, this is not by any means a solitary case among the Liberals, and I should not wonder if a large number of them were to take example from him. The electorate are only waiting till the present parliament has expired to turn out of power the men whom they hired in 1896, and then they will tell the right hon. Prime Minister: You no longer deserve to be our leader.

Mr. GEORGES TURCOT (Megantic). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I must first congratulate the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat upon the eloquent speech he has just delivered, although, to tell the plain truth, I cannot endorse what he has said on the general policy of the government. I must also congratulate him for having spoken in French, the more so as hon. gentlemen who speak both languages as fluently as the hon. gentleman does, are but seldom heard addressing the House in French.

I quite realize, Sir, how difficult is the task that devolves upon me, called upon, as I am, to reply to one of the distinguished Conservative leaders of the district of Quebec. Still, if you consider how small is the number of French-speaking members from the province of Quebec belonging to the Conservative party, you will agree with me

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that it would not be fair to let pass unchallenged the statements of a leader, the more so as, once they have selected a leader for each electoral division, there are no soldiers left.

Mr. CASGRAIN. (Translation.) Hear, hear.

Mr. TURCOT. (Translation.) The hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat, has but one single soldier behind him, the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Morin).

The first question which the hon. gentleman has dealt with, and upon which he spoke at greatest length, is the violation of the government pledges. He first told us that the government had pledged themselves to practice economy in the administration of public affairs. Well, Sir, allow me to say that in 1896 I took part with other friends of mine in the electoral campaign, and, having had the opportunity of attending several important public meetings, I recollect perfectly well the statements made by the leaders of the Liberal party, and their pledges as well. We did commit ourselves to a policy of retrenchment and economy; we promised that we would restore the equilibrium between the revenue and the expenditure; and we have redeemed our pledge in that respect, as I am going to show. Let me refer here to the figures given by the hon. gentleman himself (Mr. Casgrain). He told us that in 1895, under the Conservative régime, the expenditure was \$38,132,005.05, as against an expenditure of \$41,903,500.57 in 1899, under the Liberal rule. But, Sir, he forgot to mention—and perhaps he did it purposely—that in 1895 the revenue was but \$33,978,129.47, thus leaving a deficit of \$4,153,875.58.

The government business is now pretty much on the lines of a private concern; now, when a government makes an outlay of \$41,903,500.54, as we did in 1899, and at the same time has a revenue of \$46,741,249.54. It has to its credit a surplus of \$4,837,749. In my opinion, it is more warrantable on the part of a government to make such an expenditure than it was on the part of the Conservative government, in 1895, to make an outlay of \$38,132,105, when they had a revenue of \$33,978,129.47.

The government had to meet uncontrollable expenditures, and if we are to believe the hon. gentleman, the government should have reduced the public expenditure to the vanishing point, and this in the face of the extraordinary expansion of the country, and notwithstanding the additional charges incurred for the Yukon administration and the building of the railways. Realizing that owing to the great development of the country, they were precluded from cutting down the public expenditure, the government took the only reasonable course opened to them, that of increasing the revenue in order to meet the necessary expenditure for the car-

rying out of the government of the country.

At the time when we sat on the other side of the House, we always did advocate a strict economy in the public expenditure; and we are still of the opinion that in the expenditure of the public money the guiding star of governments should be a strict adherence to the provisions of the law.

It is no doubt within the recollection of many hon. gentlemen that when we sat on the other side of the House, we denounced the Conservative government for their extravagance in nearly all the public works which they carried out. We pledged ourselves to a policy of economy. We promised that, upon our coming into power, we would put a brake upon the reckless manner in which the Conservative party were running up the public expenditure, and we did call a halt, when we came into power. The hon. gentleman cannot deny the charge of extravagance brought against his friends since it is borne out by the facts.

The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), against whom hon. gentlemen opposite are relentless in their attacks and slanders, because no doubt he was instrumental in bringing to book their leaders, succeeded in having an investigation made and causing one of the ministers and a member of this House to be expelled from parliament.

The government have undoubtedly redeemed the pledges given to the electorate, and the best proof of it is that, in spite of all the charges made by hon. gentlemen opposite and by their salaried press, they have not yet been able to substantiate their charges and to show that the government had made any unwarrantable expenditure.

The hon. gentleman dwelt at great length upon the increase in the public debt. He told us how the debt had been allowed to go on piling up under the present regime, and how it had been allowed to swell up by seven or eight million dollars. When the Conservatives came into office in 1878, our national debt was \$140,000,000 in round numbers. In 1896, it was \$258,000,000, an increase of \$118,000,000 in eighteen years, showing that it had piled up at the rate of \$6,000,000 a year. Now, if it can be imputed as a crime to the Liberal administration to have increased the public debt by two millions a year, the Conservatives are much more open to the charge of extravagance for having increased the same by six millions a year, during the eighteen years they have been in power.

I said, a little while ago, that when the hon. gentlemen opposite were turned out of power, they were squandering money on a large scale, notwithstanding the fact that they had a deficit. For instance, in 1894-95, the deficit was \$4,153,875.58; whilst according to the public accounts for 1898-99, the surplus, under the Liberal government was \$4,837,749. As to the surplus antici-

pated for 1900, according to the estimation of the Finance Minister, it will be about seven million dollars. Therefore to sum up the financial situation: on the one hand, under the Liberal regime, there is a surplus of five millions, and on the other hand, under Conservative rule, there was a deficit of four million dollars.

As I stated at the outset, the public business of the country should be managed on the same principle as a private concern is run: when a government has a larger revenue, they may spend more liberally. Now, as the public revenue is more buoyant now than it was under the old government, the present government are justifiable in spending a few millions over what was expended in former years, for the carrying out of the government of the country. Apart from that consideration, as the House knows, the government have other duties to perform besides practising economy. A government should also look after the development of the industrial life and activity of the country; they ought to make the public improvements necessary to the development and building up of the country.

The hon. gentleman also came to the conclusion that, instead of lightening the burden of taxation, we have only added to the same. Let us see how matters stand in this respect. I have before me the trade and navigation reports, which show that in 1896, with \$121,013,852 worth of imports, the people had to pay customs duties to the extent of \$24,000,000. Now, in 1899, when the imports amounted to \$162,764,308, the rate-payers had to pay about twenty-five millions and three-fourths in customs duties, that is to say, that with a difference of about forty-two millions worth of imports, we have paid scarcely one million dollars more in customs duties. As remarked by the hon. gentleman, figures can be made to serve any purpose.

Let us now come to the per capita taxation, which the hon. gentleman also dwelt upon extensively. He says that the taxation per head has gone up. I presume that he is under the impression that the population of the country is stationary, and even that it goes on decreasing as it did when the Conservatives were ruling the country. As every hon. gentleman knows, the number of representatives of the people in this House is based upon the increased or decreased population of the province of Quebec, compared to the population of the other provinces. I hope that the census of 1901 will prove more satisfactory than the census of 1891 did, and that it will be easier then for us to make a fair estimation of the rate of the per head taxation. For the reasons already stated here, the government have increased the expenditure of the country, and had not the population increased in proportion, it might be said that the taxation per head had been increased. But, as I firmly believe that our population has increased, I also think that the per capita taxation has gone down.

The hon. member for Montmorency has also referred to the independence of members of parliament. He charged the government with having appointed some of their friends to judgeships, governorships and other places of emolument, since their advent to power. I quite understand the aggrieved feelings of the hon. gentlemen opposite, when they find themselves in the cold shades of the opposition, accustomed as they were to monopolize all the patronage, and I quite sympathize with them, when they sigh after the flesh-pots of Egypt and the sweets of power, in their dreary exile from office. But are they going to deny us the privilege of appointing to office friends of ours who have well deserved of the party in days gone by? Are we then to let the opposition run the government? No, Sir, I think it would be a most unfair and unwarrantable thing for us to do, so much the more so as, when they were in office, they never failed to appoint friends of theirs to vacant public offices. Of course, when we sat on the other side of the House, we may have now and then brought up the question of parliamentary independence, but never did we deny our opponents the right of appointing their friends to public offices and running the country as they liked.

Another serious charge levelled at the government by the hon. gentleman is what he called their bad administration of public affairs, and the electorate, he said, is ready to call them to a very strict account at the next elections. Hon. gentlemen opposite have kept repeating that warning for a long time. But how is it that they always allow the by-elections to go by acclamation, if they are so sure, as they say, that the people stand by them? They have carried the county of Sherbrooke by a close majority, it is true; but previously the Conservatives had always carried that constituency by majorities of five or six hundred votes, while at the last by-election they only carried the county by a small majority of 85 votes.

From session to session, they have kept telling us that the electorate was anxious to hurl us from power. How, then, can they account for the fact that no candidate of theirs has hardly ever dared to enter the field to do battle for their cause, despite the fact that there have been many electoral contests throughout the province of Quebec. With the exception of Champlain, Sherbrooke, Temiscouata, Rimouski, Berthier, &c., the elections always went by acclamation. If our opponents were really convinced that the people are with them, I doubt not but that they would offer opposition whenever the opportunity offered. In the county of Megantic, which I have the honour of representing here, we never failed to put a candidate in the field whenever we thought that public opinion veered round and was favourable to our cause, and we often succeeded in carrying the constituency.

Mr. TURCOT.

They talk of a change in public opinion. It is quite true that in 1895 there was a tremendous turn-over in public opinion, and that there was a remarkable Liberal sweep all through the Dominion; but prior to 1896, whenever an election came off, we never failed to put candidates in the field, thus giving the electors a chance to speak out. As a rule, the popular verdict was unfavourable to the government. But, if we are to judge from the number of by-elections that have been held since 1896, and from the fact that the Conservatives have succeeded in carrying only two counties, I think I am borne out by the facts, when I say that there is actually no change in the state of public opinion, and that the wave which swept the country in 1896 will again sweep the Dominion, when the elections come off.

The hon. member for Montmorency has referred to what he called the maladministration of the government and he told us that the government would be called to a very severe account for it at the hands of the electorate. He referred to the Drummond Railway deal. By dint of repeating and crying out that it was a scandal, a shameful bargain, they have succeeded in believing that it was one. But I think, the best answer to the charge of the hon. gentleman, would be to give him the financial results of the management of the road since the government took it over. The yearly rental paid for the Drummond Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway, since its extension to Montreal, was \$210,000. If you add to that rental the running expenses it gives a total of \$3,675,681.21. The earnings of the road being \$3,738,331.44, it leaves a surplus of \$62,645.23; an unprecedented thing in the history of the road, as far as I am able to judge, from my experience in political life. Previously to the purchase of the road, we had the Intercolonial Railway terminating nowhere, or rather having its terminus in a prairie, at La Chaudière, although it had cost the country \$55,000,000: instead of the road yielding a revenue it had a yearly deficit from half a million to one million dollars, and we had to pay interest on those \$55,000,000. By giving the road a terminus in Montreal, the great commercial emporium where so many lines of railway centre, and where a vast amount of business can be obtained, we have succeeded in paying the rental of \$210,000, and there is a surplus left of \$62,645.23, an unprecedented fact, as I said, in the history of the road. I do not think that the government will have to capitalize that rental of \$210,000, as after having paid it, there is a surplus left.

The hon. gentleman has also expatiated upon the Franchise Act. The voters' lists which were prepared last year, he said, have not yet been published. Has the hon. gentlemen already forgotten that in 1896 we had to vote on the lists of 1894? I am quite aware that the Franchise Act in force is far from being perfect, but as it was

framed recently, it will be an easy task to amend it. At the election of 1896, a large number of people who had been in the country for two or three years, were deprived of their franchise, because the lists were not ready. I fail to see that the government is open to blame, seeing that the Act in force was framed no later than in 1898, and I trust that the government will see to it that it is enforced and carried out. I may add that, from the explanations which have been given here, the municipal officers are not bound to send us the lists, and if the hon. gentlemen wish to have copies of them, they will have to apply to those officers, to get them.

The hon. gentleman further told us that we had made no progress since the beginning of the session. No wonder, Sir, that we make no satisfactory progress with our business, when we know that, every day, before getting down to work, and proceeding with our business, hon. gentlemen, opposite few as they are on their side, rise one after the other to put questions to the government, and say: 'Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, etc.' and that takes up half the time of each sitting of the House. That is not by any means the way to make progress and to advance the business of the House. This session threatens to be a record-breaking session, owing to the obstruction of members of the opposition, if we may judge from what has transpired during the last session, which lasted five months. I think that the opposition has delayed the progress of the House during two months, in the hopes of getting an additional indemnity. This year, I trust, they won't resort to the same tactics as last session.

They charge the government with having carried the election through corruption and bribery. It becomes the hon. gentlemen ill to make such a charge. I was here in 1887, and I never saw such a glaring case of political bribery as the one which was brought to light at that time. The case I refer to was that of Mr. Baird, who then occupied in this House a seat as representative of the County of Queen's, N.B., after having been defeated at the polls by his opponent, Mr. King. We then witnessed the sad spectacle of Conservatives voting in favour of a motion to maintain in his seat that same Mr. Baird, and he continued to represent that constituency in parliament, despite the fact that he was in a minority of 67 votes. In the face of such a precedent, I fail to see how the hon. gentlemen opposite can charge the government with political corruption and bribery at elections, the more so as we are sparing no effort, on this side of the House, to raise the standard of political morality and to see that the law is carried out. Last year, an investigation was held into the circumstances attending the election of two members of this House. In the course of that investigation, certain facts

were brought to light, which proved objectionable to the hon. gentlemen opposite. It was perhaps fortunate for them that this investigation was not resumed, this session, because they might have heard still more objectionable facts.

The hon. gentleman has also referred to the price paid for cotton, nails and coal oil. That is not very high politics, but I am quite willing to follow him on his own ground. I represent here an exclusively agricultural constituency, and, as I am a business man, I had the opportunity of meeting many people and asking them their opinion about the government policy. They agree that the price of cotton and nails has slightly gone up but, as a set-off, our products sell much better.

Prior to their advent to power, the Liberals had pledged their word that they would adopt a revenue tariff, without in the least disturbing or injuring our national industries, while at the same time protecting and fostering the farming interests, and we have redeemed their word in this respect as in all other respects. If the price of nails has slightly increased, as all business men know, it is due to the fact that the raw material is dearer than formerly. The hon. gentleman, who is a lawyer, is excusable for not knowing these facts, which are rather within the province of business men.

The price of coal oil has not gone down, in spite of the cut in the duty on that article. It is certainly to be regretted that the 'Imperial Oil Company' should have a monopoly in that respect and control the sale of that article. It would only be fair for the government to interfere here and to take the means of doing away with such monopoly.

The hon. gentleman has also stated that the price of such articles as cotton, nails and coal oil had been enhanced; but he should not forget that, last summer, we obtained for our butter and our cheese double the price obtained for the same, when the Conservatives ruled the country. The price of beef which then sold at \$3 per hundred pounds has come down to eight or ten dollars. Several other articles sell to-day double the price they used to sell formerly, and the farmers are quite willing to pay a few cents more for the goods they buy, in return for the privilege of getting a better price for the articles they have to sell; they are satisfied with finding buyers at the prices they ask, instead of having to seek buyers without being able to find any, as was the case under the Conservative regime. It is still within our recollection that, formerly, farmers who had cattle and butter to sell, had to wait for months and years, without ever finding any buyers. Nowadays, farmers who have products of their own to sell, are always sure to be able to dispose of their articles at a paying price. Let my hon. friend breathe

easier, now that he knows that the farmers are satisfied with their position.

The hon. gentleman told us how he had met a Liberal who had made up his mind to vote against the government at the next general elections, and to turn them out of power. No wonder, there are so many Conservatives who are going to support the government in the future. That Liberal, it would seem, objects to the duty having been taken off corn. I may tell the hon. gentleman that I have in my possession many letters from Conservatives in my own constituency informing me that they are going to support the Laurier government, because their policy is favourable to the agricultural interests and I have not the least doubt but that at the next general elections, there will be a great turn over. It is readily understood that for farmers the main point is to have cheap feed; when feed sells too high, farmers do not raise cattle. Under Conservative rule, oats used to fetch fifty cents a bushel; and even if it had been free, farmers would not have bought it, because it was too dear. Farmers have to use cheap feed, because when it does not pay to raise cattle, they had better give it up. The placing of corn on the free list has enabled the farmers to buy cheap feed and to make cattle-raising a paying business, and they owe, in this respect, a debt of gratitude to the government.

Whenever an election comes off, our opponents are always bewildered, and they cannot yet realize why they have been turned out in 1896. The grief is still so poignant that they are ever racking their brains in analysing the cause of their defeat. But they ought to know by this time that if they were driven from power, it was because they had gone on clamouring and shouting, on every husting throughout the country, that the country was prosperous and that business was booming, while the poor people were in the greatest distress, and the country was going to the dogs. By referring to statistics, it will be readily seen that the government have done a great deal for the people of this country. As I said a little while ago, governments are run on the same lines as a private concern; and the government is justifiable in spending more liberally in these growing times, when the public revenue is more buoyant and when the industrial activity and life of the country are developing. In other words, the balance of trade is in favour of the government. Let us see how matters stood under the Conservative régime. In 1883, our imports amounted to \$132,254,022, and our exports to \$98,085,804. We had, therefore, an excess of imports of \$34,168,218 over exports.

In 1889, our imports were \$115,224,931, and our exports \$89,189,167, or an excess of imports of \$26,035,764 over exports.

In 1898, the tables were turned. Our imports were valued at \$140,323,053, and our exports at \$164,152,683, leaving an excess in

our favour of \$23,829,633. In 1899, our imports for home consumption were \$154,000,000, while our exports amounted to \$158,000,000. From the above figures it appears that this is the first year that our exports exceeded our imports. It comes to what I said a little while ago, that when the country goes on selling more than it buys, no wonder, then, that it is so prosperous.

But let us come now to the difference in our trade. In 1896, the volume of our trade was \$239,025,360 in round numbers, while in 1899 it was \$321,661,213, which shows that since 1896 the increase in the volume of our trade has reached about \$100,000,000. And still our opponents are still seen weeping over the sad condition of the people; they are still heard crying out that the country is in distress, and trying to make us believe that the people are anxious to give their verdict and to drive the government from power. These gentlemen are merely humbugging the people.

The farmers are quite satisfied with the present condition of the country, as they can get a better price for their products, and are thus enabled to buy more than they did formerly. Cheese, which sold in 1896 from 6½ to 7½ cents a pound at the highest—and I speak knowingly, as I own several cheese factories and sell cheese on the market—cheese fetches now 12 cents a pound. Creamery butter, which, under the Conservatives, could not find any buyers, sold last winter from 20 to 22 cents a pound. So, in spite of the eloquence and the great effort of the hon. member for Montmorency, I firmly believe that the electors of the province of Quebec, at the next general elections, will give their support to the Liberal party and maintain at the head of affairs the present administration, which has been instrumental in bringing about this happy state of things, and in order that they continue the work so well begun.

Of course, the hon. gentleman, who is a legal man, cannot be expected to be well versed in those matters which concern the farming community; he is not competent to form a proper estimate of their earnings and of the kind of farming which gives them the best returns. But let me assure him that the farmers are prosperous, as I have just shown by means of the figures which bear out my statement. In 1896, the people were in distress and had no money in their pockets: but to-day, it is quite different: a great change has come over the country, and the people have only to put their hands in their pockets to feel that they are prosperous. They do not require blue-books to understand and realize that they have lots of money at their disposal.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain), in his eloquent speech, has endeavoured to recruit soldiers for the Conservative ranks; but the electors, if I know how to read the signs of the times, will turn a deaf ear to his appeals for votes, and, instead of turning

against the government, all those who take an interest in public affairs will rally to its support, satisfied, as they are and as I am, that it has done its duty ever since its accession to power.

Mr. A. F. MACLAREN (North Perth). Mr. Speaker, I do not think any one in this House or in this country will accuse me of having taken up much of the time of this House by making long speeches, for which the people are obliged to pay so dearly, and I ask the indulgence of the House for a short time, as I wish to say a few words before the debate on the budget closes, and tell the members and the country something about the cow and what part she has taken in making Canada what she is today, and I think when I get through many of you will agree with me that the grand old cow, which (if I may be allowed to say so) has been the foster mother to so many of us, has done a great deal for this country and more than many members of parliament give her credit for.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, I must confess it is somewhat amusing for one who has been through the mill pretty well in the dairy business for over thirty years, to sit here and listen to members of parliament and party men trying to take credit for themselves or the party to which they belong for the manner in which the cheese business, the butter business, the bacon business, the cold storage business and many other businesses have been going forward with such great leaps and bounds.

I wish, Mr. Speaker, in as few words as possible, to state to the House a few facts, and then leave it to this House and to the people of this country as to where the credit belongs. While I am a strong party man myself, I believe in being fair, and I believe in advancing the interests of our country before anything else. And any individual or party who does this is the one to whom the credit belongs.

The first cheese factory in Canada was built in Norwich township, Oxford county, Ontario, by the late Harvey Farrington in 1862. Year by year cheese factories grew up and died, others were organized and some of them would probably fail to exist after a year or two, and so on, and so on—but all the same those who were best educated in the business and stuck to it finally made a success of it, and factories kept increasing year by year all over Ontario, and now there are a great many cheese factories all over Canada, also a great number of combination factories making cheese in summer and butter in the winter.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, it was those men who had the pluck and perseverance and energy to stick to it, who engaged in this cheese business in the sixties and seventies who deserve the greatest praise, and then as we go on and grow older in the business we find the dairymen coming together and

talking of conventions and dairymen's associations away back about 1867 or 1868. I think the first association was formed in the town of Ingersoll by a few of the leading factorymen west of Toronto. These men deserve great credit for the energy, pluck, perseverance and skill they put into the work at that time. And so the business went on increasing from year to year, and really Ontario deserves great credit for having given the object lesson at the expense of the people who themselves built up the business, and of which all the other provinces in the Dominion reaped the benefit. But we should all feel proud of our cheese business, as it heads the list, and we ship England from 60 to 70 per cent of all the cheese she imports.

I will now go back to where the farmers began to realize what a grand business they had found. In western Ontario the farmers—and they are clever business farmers—began to put their heads together and build large co-operative or joint stock factories, each patron becoming a stockholder, or in other words, each farmer becoming a manufacturer, and necessarily, a business man, giving proper attention to keeping the best class of cows, giving them the best possible care, so as to get the best possible results, then giving his attention to the selling of the cheese, the handling of the milk, the taking care of the factory in which he was a stockholder, and so on. These were the class of dairymen who put their whole heart and soul into the business in the early days and are deserving of heaps of credit for having placed Canadian cheese in the enviable place which it holds in the markets of the world to-day. I may still further say that after our dairymen's associations got properly under way our grants from governments began to increase, the associations appointed instructors and inspectors to go around the cheese factories and give them all the instructions they could along the line of improving the cheese, handling the milk, cooling and airing the milk, also straining it well and keeping it in a cool and pure atmosphere over night, having it hauled to the factory in proper shape on clean, tidy wagons, in nice, clean milk cans and properly cared for on its arrival at the factory, in the first place seeing that the cheesemaker himself, and all his assistants, were perfectly neat, clean and tidy, the factory, the weighing can, vats, curd sinks, strainers, knives for cutting the curd, presses hoops, floors, press room, curing room, shelves, boilers and engines, and everything in connection with the factory clean, tidy and in the best possible shape for making first-class cheese. These instructors gave every assistance to cheesemakers along the line of instructing them how to improve the quality of the cheese in every way. This is the kind of work that went on step by step, day by day, and year by year, until to-day, the

money we receive for butter and cheese alone amounts to the magnificent sum of \$20,477,638, as compared with \$1,318,590 in 1868, an increase in thirty-one years of \$19,159,044. These figures would increase to \$24,000,000 if all the reports for 1899 were in. Now, I do not wish to weary the House with figures, but I think it would not be out of place to give the figures right here showing the increase in butter and cheese from 1868 up to the present time.

In 1868, we made 10,649,733 pounds of butter, valued at \$1,698,042. Only \$534,707 worth was shipped to Great Britain. \$1,015,702 worth were shipped to the United States, and the balance to other parts of the world :

Year.	Quantity. lbs.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.
1869	10,853,268	\$2,342,270	\$1,367,724
1870	12,260,887	2,353,570	1,449,428
1871	15,439,291	3,065,234	1,928,731
1872	19,068,448	3,612,679	2,719,118
1873	15,208,633	2,808,979	1,835,844
1874	12,233,046	2,620,305	1,743,333
1875	9,268,044	2,337,324	1,668,524
1876	12,250,066	2,540,894	1,975,905
1877	14,691,789	3,073,409	2,746,630
1878	13,006,626	2,382,237	2,048,838
1879	14,307,977	2,101,897	1,891,611
1880	18,535,362	3,058,069	2,756,064
1881	17,649,491	3,573,034	3,333,419
1882	15,161,839	2,936,150	2,195,127
1883	8,106,447	1,705,817	1,330,585
1884	8,075,537	1,612,481	1,395,652
1885	7,330,788	1,430,905	1,212,768
1886	4,668,741	832,355	652,863
1887	5,485,509	979,126	757,261
1888	4,415,381	798,673	614,214
1889	1,780,765	331,958	174,027
1890	1,951,585	340,131	184,105
1891	3,768,101	602,175	440,060
1892	5,736,696	1,056,058	877,455
1893	7,036,013	1,296,814	1,118,614
1894	5,534,621	1,095,588	936,422
1895	3,650,258	697,476	536,797
1896	5,889,241	1,052,089	893,053
1897	11,453,351	2,089,173	1,912,389
1898	11,253,787	2,046,686	1,915,550
1899	20,139,195	3,700,873	3,526,007

These are the figures for butter. I desire to place before the House figures respecting cheese on similar lines :

Year.	Quantity. lbs.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.
1868	6,141,570	\$ 620,543	\$ 548,574
1869	4,503,370	549,572	543,524
1870	5,827,782	674,486	667,541
1871	8,271,439	1,109,906	1,099,052
1872	16,424,025	1,840,234	1,817,857
1873	19,483,211	2,280,412	2,207,770
1874	24,050,982	3,523,201	3,348,840
1875	32,342,030	3,886,226	3,681,296
1876	35,024,090	3,751,268	3,639,629
1877	35,930,524	3,748,575	3,447,310
1878	38,054,294	3,997,521	3,801,643
1879	46,414,035	3,790,300	3,589,317

Mr. MACLAREN.

Year.	Quantity. lbs.	Value.	Exported to Great Britain.
1880	40,368,678	3,893,366	3,772,769
1881	49,255,523	5,510,443	5,471,362
1882	50,807,049	5,500,868	5,571,076
1883	58,041,387	6,451,870	6,409,859
1884	69,755,423	7,251,989	7,207,425
1885	79,655,367	8,265,240	8,178,953
1886	78,112,927	6,754,626	6,729,134
1887	73,604,448	7,108,978	7,065,983
1888	84,173,267	8,928,242	8,834,997
1889	88,534,887	8,915,684	8,871,205
1890	94,260,187	9,372,212	9,349,731
1891	106,202,140	\$ 9,508,800	\$ 9,481,373
1892	118,270,052	11,652,412	11,593,690
1893	133,946,365	13,407,470	13,360,237
1894	154,977,480	15,488,191	15,439,198
1895	139,997,959	14,253,002	14,220,505
1896	164,689,123	13,956,571	13,924,672
1897	164,220,699	14,676,239	14,645,859
1898	196,703,323	17,572,763	17,522,681
1899	189,827,733	16,776,765	16,718,418

Now, then, Mr. Speaker, we are through the tiresome task of going over so many figures, and it is worth while and a great study to look into the way in which butter increased and decreased in quantity during those thirty years. In 1868, we made 10,649,733 pounds, four years later we manufactured in Canada 19,668,448 pounds of butter, valued at \$3,612,679. We shipped to Great Britain \$2,719,118 worth, or an increase in four years of 8,318,715 pounds, or \$1,914,637 increase in value of butter made, and an increase in value of butter shipped to England, in four years, of \$2,174,441. This was in the great big year of 1872, and the greatest year for the quantity of butter manufactured between 1868 and 1898. In the year 1881, we made 17,649,491 pounds of butter, valued at \$3,573,034, and the bulk of this was shipped to England, namely, \$3,333,419 worth, or \$1,417,861 worth of butter more shipped to Britain in 1881 than was shipped to Britain seventeen years later, in 1898.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you look through these figures carefully you will find great food for thought, and wonder why such fluctuations took place in the butter markets, and it will cause the farmers to think and wonder what was the cause of all these variations. It can be sized up in two words, namely, 'bad butter,' and the lesson is simply this : Make your butter in creameries and give the same attention to butter that we have given to cheese, and in ten years from now we will all see what a proud position our Canadian butter will hold in the markets of the world.

Again, I find the peculiar fact, that in 1868 we shipped to the United States, \$1,015,702 worth of butter ; in 1898, we only shipped \$3,738 worth of butter to the United States, a decrease of \$1,011,964 in our shipments of butter to the United States. I might go on for hours giving you figures of this kind, but will not weary the House

in so doing, but will give you a change and supply you with some more cheese figures. I am sorry that my hon. friend, the Minister of Customs, who is not in the House, has not yet seen the light and decided to come over to our side of the House, as we could then supply the members with biscuit and cheese. But, I think, Mr. Speaker, we cannot be more profitably engaged, than in preaching and spreading the gospel of good milk, good bread, good butter, and good cheese, and occasionally a good piece of Canadian breakfast bacon, which has earned such a high reputation in the British markets. If the farmers of this country pay close attention to the above-named lines of products, and take good care of that grand old cow, which has done so much for us all, there is no reason in the world why the agriculturists of Canada may not go on and prosper. No necessity for them going to the Klondike or to the Yukon, as they have a Klondike of their own at home.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, with regard to cheese. The shipments from 1868, one might say, have increased almost every year, showing that the cheese business has never had any serious setback during all these years, while the butter industry has been up and down, up and down, all along the line, from 1868 up to the present time. You may think it strange, but if you will look at the figures which I have given you, you will observe that we only made 604,047 pounds more butter in 1898 than we made in 1868, or 30 years ago. Now we will ask what government was to blame for this very slow progress? I venture to say that, if the same attention had been given to butter that was given to cheese during all those years, and if the butter had been made in factories as it is being made now, the same increase would have taken place that has taken place in cheese. Instead of wasting time by making butter on every farm, make it in creameries, where the milk from one hundred or more farmers would be made into butter by two or three hands, instead of having it made at the homes, by hundreds of hands, in hundreds or more different ways. Let the farmers of this country make the butter in factories, make choice, uniform goods, and I predict that inside of ten years, we will be realizing \$20,000,000 from Britain for our butter, as well as \$20,000,000 or more for our cheese. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will go still further, and say that the dairy interests of Canada will bring, inside of ten years, annually, to this country, over 50,000,000 of British gold dollars. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I include in this estimate, condensed milk, a product which is just in its infancy in Canada, Britain having imported from other countries in 1888, \$3,575,406 worth, and in 1898, 91,534,016 pounds, valued at \$5,988,110, or almost double in ten years. This condensed milk was shipped from France and Holland principally, very little going forward from Canada.

But, I am not through with the cheese business yet, as I want you to look at the manner in which cheese went forward, with leaps and bounds in Canada, as compared to how it went back by leaps and bounds in the United States, and how butter went forward in the United States, and back in Canada, or almost stood still, until Professor Robertson, under the Conservative government, took hold and started the butter business going. In 1868, the United States exported 51,097,203 pounds of cheese, valued at \$7,010,424. The exports went on increasing till 1881, when they reached the highest point, 147,995,614 pounds, valued at \$16,380,248 of English money, which they, the United States, received for cheese. Then the shipments began to drop, and Canada put in her longest strokes and came flying to the front, and the cheese exports from the United States went down from 147,995,614 in 1881, to 53,167,280 pounds in 1898, or a decrease in the English money the United States received for cheese in 1881, as compared with 1898, of \$11,830,924. This is an enormous amount of money, and shows what the Canadian dairymen have done in cheese. But this is not all. Let us see what the United States people have done in butter, and let us Canadian farmers and dairymen ask ourselves the question: Why did we let Uncle Sam get such a lead on butter? Why did we allow him to make the pace, as you will see by the following figures?

The United States shipped in 1868, 2,071,573 pounds of butter to England, valued at \$582,745; in 1880, her exports amounted to 39,236,658 pounds, valued at \$6,690,687, this being the largest amount shipped in the years from 1868 to 1898. In the year 1898, you observe they are much less than in 1880, showing that there is a good chance for us in Canada to develop and increase our shipments of butter to England if we but try to do so. You observe, in 1880, the amount of butter shipped from the United States to England, was 39,236,658 pounds, valued at \$6,690,680, and in 1898, 25,690,025 pounds, valued at \$3,864,765, a decrease of 13,546,633 pounds of butter, and a decrease of \$2,825,915 in value during that time. So you see, Mr. Speaker, there is a better chance for Canadian farmers to go in and secure the British markets for butter, than there was eighteen years ago, and if we go to work and make the best butter, as we do the best quality of cheese, the Englishmen will soon find it out, and give us the preference, because it is the best quality and for that reason only. Make your butter and cheese the best on earth, and then you will get the highest price and the preference in the British market, as England should patronize her sons and daughters as no colony sings more proudly, 'God Save the Queen,' than does this Canada of ours.

We will now look at the last two years' trade in cheese for a moment. In 1898 we made 196,703,323 pounds, valued at \$17,-

572,763; shipped to Britain, \$17,522,681 worth. In 1899, 189,827,839 pounds, valued at \$16,776,765; shipped to Britain, \$16,718,418 worth, showing a decrease in 1899 of 6,875,584 pounds of cheese, a decrease in money of \$795,998, a decrease in cheese shipped to Great Britain of \$804,263. This, you observe, is a large decrease in the shipments of cheese in 1899, as compared with 1898, but the great increase in the shipments of butter, as I will now show you, more than makes up for the decrease in the shipments of cheese.

In 1898, we made 11,253,787 pounds of butter, valued at \$2,046,687. We shipped to Britain \$1,915,550 worth. In 1899, we made 20,139,195 pounds of butter, valued at \$3,700,873, and we shipped to Britain \$3,526,007 worth. This, Mr. Speaker, you will see, is a magnificent increase in the make and shipments of butter during the year 1899, as compared with the year before, an increase of 8,925,408 pounds, valued at \$1,654,186, shipped to Britain, \$1,610,457 worth more than the previous year. This will show you, Mr. Speaker, that we have the butter going, and if we stick to it we will soon place it where it belongs, which is right up alongside of the cheese, holding the highest place on the front seats in the markets of the world.

I may here say, Mr. Speaker, before going any further, that I am proud to have the honour of representing the county of Perth, which, I think, has carried off more prizes in cheese than any other county in the Dominion of Canada. Of course, I do not wish to make little of any of our other counties in western Canada, as there is a lot of magnificent cheese made in the Oxfords, the Middlesexes, the Hurons, the Bruces, the Wellingtons, and many other counties. But, when we name such factories as the famous Black Creek factory, the Fullerton Corner factory, Avonbank factory, the Sebringville factory, the Southwick factory, the Dempsey factory, the Honey Grove factory, the Donegal factory, the Carthage factory, the Newry factory, the Elma and Mornington factory, the Cleland factory, the Elma factory, the Trowbridge factory, the Maitland factory, the Moncton factory, the Silver Corners, the Willow Grove, the Kinkora factory, the Tavistock factory, the Molesworth factory, and last, but not least, the Milverton factory, which is right in the centre of my riding, and which is efficiently managed by Mr. George E. Goodhand, and which is being fitted up at the present time by the Cheese and Butter Association of western Ontario so that it can be used for the school of instruction, and will be in charge of Mr. Smith, formerly cheese and butter instructor in the dairy school in Strathroy. Any cheese or butter-makers who have got off the track and want instructions or assistance, are at liberty to go to this school during the coming summer. This, I consider, is a very

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good work undertaken by our dairy association. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that all, or nearly all of the above-named factories have figured very prominently in the taking of prizes at all the large exhibitions held during the last twenty-five years, the most prominent being: Black Creek, Honey Grove, Newry, Cleland, Fullerton Corners and Elma, as they were among the first factories built in that part of the country, and I might here say that it is a pleasure to talk to the dairy farmers of that section, as they are thoroughly up in the business of cheese and butter-making, and also of hog-raising. They know all about the best kind of cows to keep, and are thoroughly informed on the best methods of handling the dairy business. These farmers are not only farmers, but they are business men, every one of them. They are all manufacturers, having an interest in joint stock or co-operative factories. We have more of this kind of factory in the part of the country that I represent than in any other part of Canada. The factories in eastern Canada are largely private factories, under the management of one man, the milk is sent in by the patrons, and the owner of the factory charges so much for making it into butter and cheese. There are some exceptions to this statement in some of the provinces; in Prince Edward Island they have very fine co-operative factories. In my section of the country many of our best farmers have no difficulty in standing up on public platforms at Farmer's Institute meetings and dairy meetings and intelligently conveying their ideas to others who are seeking for the gospel of good cheese, good butter or good hog, as the case may be. I may here say that I have made cheese in several of these factories myself, and in dozens and dozens of cases have bought and shipped the product of every one of them to England. I, therefore, should know, at least, something about the dairy business, and cannot tell you how proud I feel to know that cheese and butter occupy, such a prominent place in furthering the interests and welfare of every one in this country. I began working at the cheese business in 1870, and have been connected with it ever since, and I might say that in those early days it was quite a common thing to hear the boys calling out, as a cheese man came in sight, 'cheese it.'

I might say that the first object of the farmer is to get a good cow, feed her and take care of her well, feed almost everything that is grown on the farm to the cow, make butter and cheese of the milk, then feed the hog with the skim-milk, butter-milk, or whey, mixed with meal made from coarse grain grown on his own farm, and not with American corn. This is the farmer who is making the greatest success of dairying, and who is not only supplying the best cheese and butter, but the best hogs for the packing companies who are

supplying bacon, second to none, in the English market. As far as I can learn, it does not hurt to feed a little corn, but it makes a very great difference if the hog is fed altogether on corn and whey. Some people argue that corn does not do any harm, but the great danger is that if the farmer feeds altogether on corn and whey, he will have soft pork. If this is not the case, why is it that Chicago bacon sells at so much less on the English market than Canadian bacon? There is no doubt that it is due to the feeding of corn.

Winter dairying, which was first introduced by Professor Robertson, under Tory rule, in 1887, was a splendid thing for the farmers of this country, and was, to a great extent, the means of improving the quality of butter and increasing the shipments of butter to Britain. The time it was publicly begun was at a meeting of the Western Dairymen's Association, held in Ingersoll, in 1887. Some bitter opponents of the bad Tory government, I remember very well, strongly opposed Professor Robertson, and pooh-pooed the idea and said it would not succeed in our country, that roads were bad in winter and cream and milk could not be delivered at the factories in a satisfactory condition. Others said cows would not give milk ten months in the year. Others said cream would freeze and the butter would have a bad flavour, and so on and so on. All the same, Professor Robertson had faith, and the government had faith and went right along, and two winter dairy schools were established; one in Woodstock and another in Mount Elgin; both in Oxford county, and not far from where the first cheese factory in Ontario was built, and after three years the professor had overcome every obstacle. The average prices realized for butter for the years 1893 and 1894 was, from Mount Elgin, 24.23, Woodstock, 24.42, and at Wellman's Corners another factory which was started north of Belleville, 24.24. So the good work went on and increased and to-day, winter butter is being made all over the Dominion of Canada. If the farmers would look after that grand old cow and give her proper care, proper food, lots of good, fresh water and salt, lots of good, pure air and sunshine, a bright, clean, well-lighted and well-aired stable to live in, she will do her share—let the farmer push the button and the cow will do the rest. Notwithstanding all this good work which Professor Robertson and the Tory government did and deserve great credit for, much fault was found by the Liberal party which was then in opposition. They told us that our policy in aiding the cheese factories and creameries in Prince Edward Island was wrong, that our aid to the creameries in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba and the Northwest was wrong, and the system of cold storage was found fault with. Professor Robertson's management of the dairy ex-

hibition at the World's Fair, according to the then Liberal opposition, was all wrong. The making of the big cheese or what was then called the 'Canadian Mite,' which weighed 22,700 pounds, which was manufactured at the Dominion Experimental Station at Perth, Lanark county, under the supervision of Professor Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner—and which formed part of the pyramid of Canadian dairy products at the World's Columbian Exposition of Chicago, and which required 207,200 lbs. of milk to make it, or which was said to be equal to the milk of 10,000 cows for one day in the month of September—was also condemned by the Liberal party. Mr. J. A. Ruddick, I might here say, was the cheesemaker, a gentleman of whom you all have heard. Mr. Ruddick was a first-class man and is now dairy commissioner in New Zealand. He was also in charge of the dairy exhibit at the World's Fair and later on was in charge of dairy work at the dairy school in Kingston. I was very sorry to see Mr. Ruddick leave Canada to go to New Zealand, for I think it is a great mistake to allow such men as Ruddick or Dillon, who was the superintendent of the great work which went on so successfully in Prince Edward Island, to leave the country. Mr. J. B. McEwan is also a county of Perth boy, and he was for many years connected with the dairy work under the supervision of the then, Conservative, government. He, too, was taken away from us by the New Zealand government, and he acted for them as dairy commissioner for several years. Mr. McEwan is now representing large British firms and shipping cheese and butter from New Zealand in large quantities to the British market, which are competing very hard with our own Canadian cheese and butter. This means, Sir, that we must stick right to business and hold every inch we have gained and keep on improving at every point where it is possible. There is another young man, to whom I would like to refer, namely, Mr. Robert Drummond, formerly a cheesemaker in Brownsville, near Ingersoll. He was one of the best cheesemakers we had in Canada and his factory was very often spoken of as being a model factory, his cheese being always spoken of as being uniform in size, and particularly stylish and tidy. He was engaged to go to Scotland to act as dairy instructor, where he still is drawing a good big salary. Now, why should we allow such men as Ruddick, McEwan, Dillon, Drummond and others that I cannot think of at the present moment, why should we allow such men to leave our country and go to distant lands. I at the moment, cannot tell you what salaries they are receiving, but I know these men intimately, having grown up with them all in the dairy business, and I would hold up both hands to have them all brought back here and placed under the charge of Professor Robertson

and sent to represent Canada in Great Britain for the balance of their natural lives. They would be well worth good salaries to talk up Canada and the excellence of everything she produces from the soil, the seas, and the forests. This, I think, would be well spent money. I care not what government is in power, I would uphold a business transaction of this kind and would never be a party to allowing such men to leave us if money would retain them in the service of this grand old Canada of ours. Again, speaking of the big cheese, there was no one thing at the World's Fair which gave greater prominence to the cheese trade of Canada, notwithstanding that the Liberal party, or many of them, said it would do more harm to the cheese trade of Canada than it would do good. All the same, Mr. Speaker, the Tory government kept right on doing the good work for the dairymen of this country, and I am glad to say that Professor Robertson keeps right on in the very successful course which he has marked out for himself. His winter dairying goes on, his cold storage on the railways and the steamboats, and I was going to say, everywhere, but I must withdraw that 'everywhere' until we see what has happened to the cold storage in Paris.

Mr. WALLACE. Tell us about that.

Mr. MACLAREN. I would like to know more about that myself, because Professor Robertson has been sent so hurriedly there that there appears to be something wrong. Can it be possible that the present government have mixed and muddled things by sending to Paris inferior men, men, who I suppose have served their party well, and who claim recognition, but who, apparently, knew no more about cold storage than the man in the moon. Otherwise why should Professor Robertson be called away post haste to look after them? This may or may not be true, as I am only talking from newspaper reports, but of course the facts will come out in a very short time.

Look for one moment at the work done in Prince Edward Island. In 1892 they only had one factory, in 1893 they had eleven factories, and turned out \$48,000 worth of cheese. In 1894, they had sixteen factories, turning out \$90,000 worth of cheese, and now the good people of Prince Edward Island have cheese factories and creameries all over their island of which they should feel proud, and for which they should give credit to the grand old Liberal-Conservative party, that has done so much for this country. I had the pleasure of driving all over the island, accompanied by Professor Robertson and Mr. Dillon, and I was delighted to find such a lot of uniform cheese and butter factories, and such a splendid lot of cheese, notwithstanding the abuse of the then Opposition and by some of the people

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who were strong supporters of the Liberal party. Similar good work went on all over the Dominion of Canada, and I must say I was somewhat surprised to see the fine reports in the *Edmonton Bulletin*, edited by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), of the good work that is going on in the North-west Territories, and the rapid increase in manufacture of creamery butter in that country. I was surprised because I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) once opposed the policy of the Conservative government in this respect.

Just a word, Mr. Speaker, about a few articles of produce which are shipped from foreign countries to Great Britain. I do not wish to attempt to advise this great and good Liberal government as to what articles of food we should try to export more of, instead of allowing Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Russia, France, the United States, and many other countries to secure the trade. I think we take the lead in one article of food shipped to Britain: that is, cheese, as we shipped in 1897 170,986,368 pounds, or \$16,500,905 worth of cheese to Britain as against 120,569,568 pounds, or \$12,341,964 worth shipped from all other parts of the world. So, why cannot we do better in some other lines of food products, and ship a larger quantity of our goods to England? Take, for instance, condensed milk. In 1897, Britain imported 85,819,888 pounds of condensed milk, \$6,853,294 worth. Of this amount France supplied her with 36,937,204 pounds, or \$3,117,840 worth. Holland came next with 31,864,448 pounds, or \$2,229,673 worth. Why cannot our Canadian government do something to educate and encourage the farmers of this country to secure some of this trade, which I predict will in the very near future be something immense. If we can get British money for our cheese and butter, why not for our milk?

Then again, what about the egg trade of Canada? I find that England pays an immense amount of money for the eggs that she imports. I have the figures for 1897, and I find that in that year Britain imported 140,317,540 dozen of eggs, valued at \$21,203,128, and Canada only takes sixth place. I think this is a very serious matter, and that if we put our shoulders to the wheel and in some way try to encourage and educate the farmers to increase this business, we should at least take second place in the egg and hen race. Canada only shipped in 1897, 5,687,690 dozen of eggs, valued at \$944,123, or not quite \$1,000,000.

We will now look for a moment at Russia, and see what she is receiving for hen fruit from England. I find that in 1897 she shipped 31,323,330 dozen of eggs, valued at \$3,953,178, or just about \$3,000,000 more than was received by Canada during the same year. What a nice thing it would be for the Canadian farmers if they could only do as well in supplying eggs to England as

the farmers do in Russia. Germany comes next with 29,718,460 dozen, and they must be better eggs, or I suppose the producers get better rates of freight, as they receive for a less number of eggs more money than Russia, namely, \$3,956,707. France comes next, having shipped over 26,000,000 dozen, Belgium following close behind with 24,000,000 dozen, and Denmark with 17,000,000 dozen. Now, I would like to see this great Liberal government try to do something along the line of increasing this hen fruit business, as there is no reason under the heavens why we should allow Russia, Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark and other countries to supply them with such large quantities of eggs when we are sending forward so few from Canada, and of course, if the present government cannot do something for this great egg industry and many other industries, after having been four years in power, we will just have to quietly and gently hand them down and out, or pass them over to these cold opposition benches, just as we did after their four years' trial in 1878.

For a few moments we will look again at butter. Britain imported in 1897, 360,393,824 pounds of butter, valued at \$77,462,329. Let the farmers think seriously for one moment what an immense amount of money this means, \$77,000,000 Britain pays for butter annually, and in that year only \$2,164,995 was received by Canada, while the United States got over \$3,000,000, Russia more than \$5,000,000. Sweden over \$7,000,000, and Denmark the immense sum of \$32,841,060. This is something enormous, and Canada certainly should be receiving more English money than she is for butter. We go on still further and find Holland receiving over \$6,000,000 of English money for her butter, and France receiving the snug little sum of \$11,342,137. This certainly speaks well for France and for the French people as good butter-makers. And what about Canada? What can we do to get our share of this money? I think that no matter what government is in power, this is a very serious matter and should receive very serious consideration; and everything possible should be done in assisting the farmers who are engaged in this great butter business to place their products in the best possible shape on the markets of the world and at the very highest price. My idea is that the government should employ more good, independent, clever business men; not party hacks or hangers-on, who are looking for situations just because they happen to be friends of the government. Get good business men who can talk Canada and Canadian products. It is all very well to send one or two men, but they cannot do all the work and cannot begin to advertise Canada as she should be advertised. We all know that Professor Robertson has done a great work. He has done wonders in advertising our Canadian cheese, butter, eggs, beef, bacon,

poultry, fruits, etc., in Britain, but he cannot do it all. I would hold up both hands in asking the government to place more good men at good square salaries in such large centres as London, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Bristol, for the purpose of talking Canada and her products. They would not require to stop at her food products, but could also talk mining business, lumber business, fish business, flour business, oatmeal business, furniture business, and a thousand and one different lines. In fact, London could do with four or five or even ten men such as I speak of, who could live there talking up Canada and her different industries. What would fifty thousand dollars or a hundred thousand dollars amount to, if we could for butter alone secure a few more millions out of the \$77,000,000 which England pays for butter. I am sure all the manufacturers, farmers and business men of Canada, would hold up both hands to see money well spent in this direction. I do think one thing, and that is this, that the terrible war now going on in South Africa, where so many of our brave Canadian soldiers are so nobly doing their good work in serving the empire, will do more than ever has been done before to advertise Canada.

I must here say, and I say so honestly and fearlessly, that when I was in England two years ago, I on several occasions was obliged to speak with a good deal of warmth to some of my English customers when they everlastingly kept on saying: 'American this,' and 'American that.' I say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no more loyal colony in the British Empire and no more loyal people than the Canadians; and in the name of common sense and common justice, why cannot we be called by the English people by our right name? Canada, or Canadian. is a name of which every Canadian should feel proud, and of which every man in the British Empire should feel proud; and especially now, that this Canadian colony is known better since this cruel war began, than she was ever known before, for all her good qualities and particularly for her fighting qualities for this grand old empire and for the British flag; the Englishmen should be glad to call us by our right name, Canadians and not Americans. And, I trust they will not stop at that, Mr. Speaker, but that they will call all our products 'Canadian' and not American, Danish, Swedish, or anything else, as no man in Canada or no man in Britain need feel ashamed of the name 'Canada.' Neither need they be ashamed of her beef, her bacon, her cheese, butter, bread, flour, fruit, or anything else we ship to Britain, as we are proud of all, and we wish none of our goods shipped under any other name, or sold under any other name, than that of 'Canada' or 'Canadian.' This is not all, Mr. Speaker.

I hope that now Canada will awaken to the fact that now is the accepted time, and

now is the day of salvation. She never had such an advertisement in the markets of the world as she has to-day. Neither the present government, nor any government which ever preceded it, ever had such opportunities to assist the Canadian people as they have to-day. This war has been the greatest advertisement to Canada in the British Empire that she ever has had, and no government was ever in power, which had such grand, such immense, such enormous opportunities to assist in vastly increasing the placing of Canadian goods on the British markets as we have to-day. In addition to this the Paris Exposition is now going on, and if properly taken advantage of by the present government, a lot of good advertising for Canada should be done, and will be done, if properly handled by the government. With all these opportunities in store for 1900, I will be very much disappointed, if at the end of the year, we do not find that the exports of Canadian products of all kinds have been greater than they ever were before.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to weary the House much longer, but would like to say a word about the corn coming in free from the United States. I fear that it may affect the good reputation of the bacon of Canada in the English markets. While we do not ship such large quantities of bacon as Denmark and the United States, yet we have a grand name for our bacon. I have been, for many years, connected more or less with the Ingersoll Packing Company, and at the present time am a director in connection with the White Packing Company of Stratford, as I hold a small interest in that company, and consequently happen to know something about Canadian bacon and the grand reputation which it has in the British markets. But I am sorry to say that many of the packers to-day are still receiving more soft hogs than they received before free corn was admitted into this country. I happened to meet Mr. Wilson, manager of the Ingersoll Packing Company, a few days ago, and while inquiring about the hog trade, he told me that they had a great difficulty to contend with, and that was, that, as far as he could judge, soft hogs were on the increase. Now, Mr. Speaker, some of the members of this House seem to think that Yankee corn has nothing to do with soft pork. These gentlemen may have their opinions, but all the same I fear it is a dangerous thing for this government to allow corn to come in free. If we do not wish to ruin the good name of Canadian bacon in the markets of the world, and bring it down to a level with the United States bacon, then let us stop bringing in Yankee corn free. I think we should hold what we have, and should not allow the Yankees to get the better of us, and should not go back one step, and, Mr. Speaker, would it not be better for the farmers of this country to feed the coarse grains which they

grow themselves, to their cows and hogs, rather than feed them American corn. In the first place, they will get from half a cent to a cent per pound more for the bacon than the packers of Chicago receive for the bacon which they ship to England, and even if they sold their coarse grains on their home market, they will get a higher price for their pease, corn, oats and barley. But, by feeding their coarse grain to the cow, and then by feeding it to the hogs in the shape of whey, buttermilk and skim-milk, mixed with meal made from our own coarse grains, I think the farmers of Canada would make more money, and the reputation of Canadian pork and bacon would not be in the unenviable and dangerous position of being injured.

I wish here to make a few comparisons and show you that Canada shipped, in 1897, 32,511,696 pounds of bacon, valued at \$2,546,216. The United States shipped to Britain, in 1897, the enormous amount of 402,375,120 pounds of bacon, valued at the immense amount of \$23,054,303. Denmark shipped the same year, 114,973,824 pounds of bacon, valued at the immense sum of \$13,356,220. The United States, you will observe, Mr. Speaker, received \$23,500,000 more for her bacon in the year 1897, than we did, and altogether Britain imported the immense amount of 560,550,480 pounds of bacon valued at \$43,156,851. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is food for thought and very, very serious thought, for the farmers of this Canada of ours, and for the government which now rule over this country, and the question is: How can we best keep up our quality, how can we get the best price, how can we place the most bacon on the English market, and is our bacon in danger of losing its good name on account of free corn coming from the United States to Canada? This is a question for the present government to settle, and for the farmers of Canada to consider very seriously. Take 32,511,696 pounds of bacon which we shipped in 1897, and suppose that it goes forward and sells at 1 cent per pound less on account of it being corn fed, what does that mean to the farmers of Canada? If you figure it up, you will find that it means \$325,116 of a loss. This means a great loss to Canada, and will mean a great deal more, if Canada gets the reputation of making soft bacon, as she will then lose, instead of retaining, a great deal of the trade which she already has, because our bacon will have the reputation of being no better than the Chicago bacon. It has been said of Danish bacon and Canadian bacon, that it is very superior to Chicago bacon, or corn-fed bacon. Some members of this House will argue that corn can be fed to hogs without injuring the quality of the bacon. I may say I think it can be fed in small quantities, mixed with other grain, and perhaps with skim-milk, buttermilk or whey, without having the effect of making soft bacon. But the great

danger is this, that some careless one may feed corn altogether, particularly if they have been compelled to sell their coarse grain and buy corn. My idea is that it is a very dangerous thing to allow corn to come in here free, and there is no doubt, in my mind, that corn is the cause of all Chicago bacon being known as soft bacon, and selling in the British market at a very much smaller price than Canadian bacon, Irish bacon, or Danish bacon. In speaking to a pork packer, a few days ago, he told me they had just received 285 hogs, and out of that number, after killing them, they found 163 soft. Now, the great trouble is this, that the good farmer suffers on account of the bad farmer feeding his hogs so as to have them make soft pork. He is in the same fix as a good, clean, tidy farmer, who has the misfortune to have as a neighbour, an untidy, lazy, good-for-nothing man, who allows his fences and outbuildings to tumble down, and who leaves his reapers and mowers and ploughs and harrows and wagons and buggies kicking around the farm and lying outdoors summer and winter, and worse than all that, who allows his farm to become covered with thistles, wild mustard, ox-eye daisies, and other obnoxious weeds going to seed and covering the farm of the honest farmer next to him. The same thing applies in the case of the hog, as the price of pork is lowered on account of some farmers feeding Yankee corn to their pigs, and thus making soft hogs and soft pork.

Another thing I want to speak of, is a new enterprise in connection with the hen fruit business. We have a new industry which was opened up about a year ago in Stratford for the manufacture of what they call 'ovo,' or condensed egg, and I have here an article which I would like to read to the House, explaining what this is :

The McCeredy Manufacturing Syndicate, of London, Eng., have established factories at Stratford, Ont., and Winnipeg, Man., for the purpose of manufacturing concentrated eggs called 'Ovo.' Perhaps some have not heard of this article before, therefore, by way of explanation, I will say that it is a pure desiccated preparation from fresh eggs—in flake form, and being mixed with water, possesses all the properties of fresh eggs. This promises to be one of our largest industries. They are endeavouring to have a duty placed on the enumerated article condensed egg (and made specific). Their competitors are an American firm known as Lamont Crystallized Egg Company. They have many advantages over the syndicate in the manufacturing of condensed eggs in the United States. They can secure eggs at a lower price and for a longer period. Last year they imported into Canada seventy-five tons of their production, which meant the expenditure and manufacturing and the buying of the raw material of in the neighbourhood of \$75,000, which money was spent entirely in the United States. On the west coast of Canada and throughout the mining districts, this strictly Canadian industry would undoubtedly do well if adequately protected, and should they obtain a market for

their production in the western part of the country, in which they expend large sums of money the advantage accruing to the Canadian farmers for their production for this market alone would be the increased market for the sale of eggs, besides an expenditure of \$40,000 yearly to the farmers for eggs, and similar advantage to the Canadian factories and to Canadian labour. In the English and foreign markets they have excellent prospects, having already succeeded in placing large orders with the War Office and English bakers, as well as firms doing business in South Africa. Their intention is to manufacture in Canada 'Ovo' for the world-wide markets, thereby expending in Canada large sums of foreign money, and their shareholders feel that in the country where they have spent large sums of money and are prepared to spend unlimited sums of money, that they should have a market for their production in that country (western Canada).

This is a new industry, and all industries of this kind require nursing. To supply all the various outlets of this trade it will at no distant date prove necessary to enlarge their operations in Canada by the establishing of additional factories, but they must encourage their shareholders by showing that this expectation of the coast trade has been realized, and as they are endeavouring to found a new Canadian industry they should be able to count upon the material assistance which a duty of 30 per cent on egg food will give them. If this industry is not nursed, they will undoubtedly leave this country and go to Russia, which country is very near their market, and eggs purchased very cheap. A short time ago their American competitors secured an order for 500 cases of condensed eggs, the buyers were favourably disposed towards the syndicate, but their competitors quoted prices equal to practically what it cost them to manufacture their production, 'Ovo.' If this new Canadian industry had obtained this small order, it alone would have meant the expenditure of at least \$7,500 for eggs and \$3,000 for labour, &c.; also the Canadian railroads would have handled the raw and manufactured eggs. It seems very unfair that a manufactured article such as this should pay the duty of only 20 per cent, whereas the raw material must pay a duty of from 33½ per cent to 40 per cent. The American competitors of this new Canadian industry are at present quoting prices equal to practically what it cost the Canadian manufacturers to manufacture their production—they are practically flooding the Canadian market with their surplus stock, thereby killing this strictly Canadian industry before it is fairly started. Canada as a dumping ground for the surplus stock of the American production is of the greatest value to them. It enables them to run their factories full time, thus enabling them to make advantageous contracts for the purchasing of their raw material, 'eggs.' And we all know that by purchasing large quantities we obtain low prices. Last year was the infant year of the Stratford factory; they expended in the neighbourhood of \$30,000 for eggs, machinery, labour, &c. In the Stratford factory they employ twenty-five to fifty hands, which number will be increased as the different markets open up. The production of 'Ovo' from this factory was disposed of in England, the larger portion being purchased by the War Office. The Winnipeg factory expend about the same amount of money as the Stratford factory. They built the Winnipeg factory for the purpose of manufacturing 'Ovo' for the western Canadian market. The expectations

of this market have not been realized. Before the syndicate placed their production on the Canadian market the Americans were selling their production for 80 cents a tin (equal to 3½ dozen eggs). The Canadian manufacturers quoted 65 cents a tin, and the American firms are now selling it for 60 cents. By assisting this industry you protect the Canadian consumer.

I may say that a Mr. McGill, of England, is the manager of this factory. He interviewed the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) in regard to this matter, and the hon. minister told him that he would consider the question very seriously. I do not know how seriously he has considered it. But, this is a young industry and ought to be protected. The establishment of such an industry would be a great thing for the farmers of this country. I would urge the government to take the matter up and try to do something to assist the Canadian manufacturers to keep the trade of Canada for the home factory.

Mr. LEONARD BURNETT (South Ontario). Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to make a long speech. The ground has been so well covered on this side of the House that it would be almost impossible to introduce any new matter, and I am sure the House would not care to be troubled with a repetition of old facts and figures. I was a little amused by the course pursued by my hon. friend from North Perth (Mr. MacLaren), who manufactures Imperial cheese. I have not the slightest doubt that he is a genuine Imperialist. But, I am sorry that the method he has adopted should be brought into parliament, because those who happen to have any special fad will want to get into parliament to advertise it, as my hon. friend has done.

During the course of this debate, and throughout this session of parliament, I have endeavoured, in my humble way, to find out, if I possibly could, where the Conservative party stood on the trade and financial questions. But I have found the task an exceedingly difficult one. The members of that party, from the leader down, have jumped from pillar to post, so that it is a difficult task to tell just where they do stand. The chief criticisms that they have offered on the points they have discussed have been amusing to members on this side of the House. They started by saying that we had stolen their clothes, that we had retained the national policy; and in the next breath they said we had reduced the taxation and introduced legislation that was detrimental to the interests of the manufacturers. They said that our preferential tariff was a sham and a humbug; but, in the next breath, they declared that we have given something substantial to Great Britain and had got nothing in return. With such contradictions, it is difficult to know just where they do stand. In fact, a common farmer like myself, com-

Mr. MACLAREN.

ing here not at all too strong in his political leanings, willing to do what is right for the country, would almost come to the conclusion that they have no definite principle except to get into office at any cost. I was a little amused at the remarks made by various speakers on that side with reference to the corn question. As a practical farmer, I think that the last speaker (Mr. MacLaren) has told the truth. He says that corn when fed to the hogs of this country in moderate quantities, is a very suitable food. Now, there is no reasonable man who knows anything about feeding hogs but will say that there is no cheaper food, there is no food that can be used in Canada—mixed with other rations—that can be used as satisfactorily and as beneficially as corn. The farmers of this country know that when they come into competition with American cattle and American bacon they have got to have corn that is grown in a country adapted to the raising of corn. In Canada we can grow a crop that will sell for more money in the British market, and my contention is that allowing American corn to come in here without duty has been a benefit to the Canadian farmer. Let me mention this fact as an illustration. When the corn question came up I spoke to the Minister of Agriculture in this House and asked him to give me the reason why they were proposing to take the duty off, and he gave me the reason. I talked the matter over with him, and when I went back to my constituency I met several millers and leading Conservatives and they said they thought it was a mistake. Well, Sir, these same men are to-day buying corn by the carload. Only two weeks ago last Saturday when I was home I drove down to the town near where I live, and I met a Conservative who said to me: Mr. Burnett, why don't you sell your pease and buy corn? You can buy corn for 44 cents and sell your pease for 63 cents and make money by the transaction. And I bought his corn. And so the Tory farmers are buying corn by the carload. Yet members in this House are trying to make the farmers believe that free corn is detrimental to them. I say that the farmer is a manufacturer. He gathers his crops together in his barn. The next thing he does is to get the best material to turn the results of his labour into a finished article. He can get American corn, and he can grow clover seed and pease and all the other cereals for which this country is adapted, and for which the American western prairie is not adapted. He can sell his own crop where there is an unlimited market in Europe, and he can buy corn and make money by the transaction. I do not think it is necessary for me or any other farmer in this House to discuss that question, because you cannot make the hard-headed farmers of this country believe that it is not to their interest to have American corn.

I think I can see the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), the hon. member for Grey (Mr. Sproule), and even the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), trotting from house to house trying to persuade the farmers that it is not in their interests to use corn. But Conservative farmers will use corn, they have got a taste for it, and you cannot prevent them from using it. Two sessions ago the member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), said that the elevator at Gananoque was crowded with corn. Yet the night before last he got up and said it was not used, that the farmers could not use it because it was destroying the British market for our pork. But our pork was never higher than it is to-day. We have seen the member for West York and some of those hon. gentlemen opposite cheering when the government was willing to let beet-root sugar machinery come in free for the benefit of the farmers; and in the next breath they turn round and condemn the government because they allow binder twine to come in free. They think they can go on the platform before the people and make fanciful calculations, as the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) did with his percentages, trying to deceive the people, juggling with figures. They know that admitting binder twine free has not enhanced the price of that article. The thing is impossible, common sense should teach any man that. Why, the ex-Minister of Finance says that the material costs 14 cents a pound. You can buy twine to-day at the Central Prison for the same money that the ex-Minister of Finance says the material alone costs.

Now, I wish to call attention to the loyalty cry we hear so much about. Hon. gentlemen opposite talk about their superabundance of loyalty; while on the other hand they are glorifying themselves because they think now they have an opportunity to take advantage of Great Britain's trouble with the Transvaal to get better terms from her. In other words, they think that by reason of the war in which she is engaged we can get out of Great Britain what we could not get otherwise, that we can make her come to terms. Now, I ask if that is loyalty or is it the opposite?

Mr. TAYLOR. Who said that?

Mr. BURNETT. Virtually they all say it who speak on those lines. The ex-Minister of Finance took great credit to himself for reducing the customs taxation, but he never apologized for keeping it on so long. It is really trying to the patience to have to listen to some of the hon. members in this House in some of the arguments they use. If the people of this country knew how much time was wasted in this House they would come down with shot guns and drive the whole of them out. We have seen their frantic efforts to belittle the speeches made by the Minister of Finance,

by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and that splendid speech made by my hon. friend from South Brant (Mr. Heyd). They speak slightly of those speeches, but they are not able to answer one of the arguments which those speeches contain. Even the leader of the Conservatives from Quebec, when he undertook to answer the member for South Brant, utterly failed to touch any one of his points.

The record made by this government is one of which every Canadian ought to feel proud, I do not care what nationality or creed, or stripe of politics he belongs to. He ought to feel proud of what this government has done when he compares the state of this country to-day with what it was a few years ago. The opposition pretend that they are anxious to go to the country, they say we are going to the country right away. Well, I do not know anything about that, but if we do, we have a record behind the Liberal party that we may be proud of. No man denies that this country is enjoying abundant prosperity. And yet the last speaker, and every speaker on the other side who gets up, deny it. We have a marvellous increase of trade. Why, Sir, yesterday I went up into the committee room and heard cattle men, breeders of short-horned cattle, members of boards of trade, members of various associations in the province, all testifying that Canada was bursting with prosperity. They are all in accord with the government. We have an increase both of domestic and foreign trade. Look at the development of our mineral resources. The people are all standing ready to go in and develop our mines. Gold and silver are cropping out, and all they are asking for is to give them charters to build railways and to develop this country. There was nothing of that kind under the old government. The development of our natural resources has been stimulated and this has created a demand for increased transportation and shipping facilities. What do we see and hear? We hear from North Simcoe, from Welland and from other parts of the country and we are told that trade should go down these channels. We did not hear anything of that kind before. Many different routes are proposed. There is the Georgian Bay route, the Trent Valley Canal route, the Toronto, Midland and Collingwood routes and there is the Welland Canal route, all of which claim special advantages for the transportation of our products and development is going ahead all along the line. I want to give hon. gentlemen an idea of the progress which has taken place in this country. We cannot indicate this better than by taking the trade of the country and by comparing its volume to-day with what it was under Conservative rule. The imports into this country during the last three years of Conservative rule totalled \$328,-

000,000, or \$109,000,000 a year. Under Liberal rule, during three years they amounted to \$396,000,000 or \$132,000,000 a year, an increase of \$23,000,000. We will take another comparison. We exported, during the last three years of Conservative rule \$317,000,000 worth, or \$105,000,000 a year, and during the three years of Liberal rule we exported \$405,000,000 worth, or \$135,000,000 a year, an increase of \$88,000,000 in three years. That is a very fair comparison of the results of the rule of the two parties as far as trade is concerned. What do we find in reference to the way that the Conservative party appealed to the country in 1896? Did they appeal to the country as a united party, as a business government, as a government like that which we have to-day which is a live and active business government that is ready to grasp the situation let come what will. If another Yukon were to be discovered to-morrow we have a government ready and competent to deal with the situation that would thus arise. It makes no difference what question comes up, our government is alive and wide awake to the interests of the country. In 1896, when the Conservative party appealed to the country, trade was stagnated and everything was dull. The late government had weakened the confidence of the business public in the country, and people were fleeing from the country in thousands. They were going to the other side. Conservative members of the Queen's Privy Council were engaged in fighting and rib-stabbing amongst themselves. They were quarrelling amongst themselves, yet they appealed to the people and professed to be a united party, while they were nothing of the kind. Contrast the conditions as they existed then with what we find when we go to the country to-day. Why, the whole country is blossoming as the rose. A Prime Minister was removed from office on the alleged charge of unfitness by the members of the late government and the racial cry was raised. I was told by a gentleman that if it had not been for that cry he would not have been here. An hon. gentleman who was not in touch with Canadian politics, came over here from England, attempted to bulldoze the people and drive them into rebellion after which he politely came back here, washed his hands of the whole transaction and said that he had overestimated the importance of the question. We see the same man to-day fleeing from Ontario to Quebec saying one thing in one place and another thing in another place, and when my deskmate said to-night that they understand him in Quebec, I said that we understand him in Ontario, too. More than that, the government of that day was scandalously corrupt. It was proven on the hustings all over the country by their own friends. Scandal after scandal had been unearthed and the people were

overburdened with taxation. They were talking about the national policy all the time. I need not go into details but they would bring upon every platform what the national policy had done for the country. I can give the House an illustration and if the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) were here he would verify what I say. When I was a candidate he came into the riding which I represent, and I want to tell this House that it is the finest, the richest and the best agricultural county in the province of Ontario. Not only that, but it has the largest manufacturing town in Ontario, as a town, understand, not a city. More mechanics are engaged in the county of Ontario in factories than in the towns in any other county, and I may say that in one establishment alone there are 800 men.

Mr. SPROULE. There must be a good deal of corruption in it.

Mr. BURNETT. Coming, as I do, from a county like that, I came on these grounds: I said, I am prepared to go to Ottawa and support the government that will work in the interest of the country. That is the plea upon which I came here. Sometimes they say that I vote against the government. I vote for what I consider in the interest of the country, and I think that I ought to get justice for doing that because I have done it every time. We have heard the remark made by a great many hon. members on the other side of the House that the Liberal party have done nothing for the country. We hear that every day. When you ask me what the Liberal party have done for the country I will tell you one thing they have done for the country; the Liberal party have turned the Tories out of office. That was something that has conferred a greater boon on the country than anything else that, I think, could have been done. There was no set of men who could hope to have done anything for the country until these men were turned out. They put them out, and after they put them out they put in business men who were alive to the interests of the country, and the jobbing business that had hitherto prevailed was brought to an end. The Liberals put a stop to such questionable practices as were carried on in the days when hon. gentlemen opposite were in control of affairs. It is now impossible for such things to happen. The hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), had a book before him showing dozens of deals that, if the facts presented on the platforms all over the country, would set the country on fire almost by the exposure of the rascality and jobbery that prevailed in the time of the late government. In reference to the tariff I was going to say that the whole country recognizes that they reformed it in a manner which has given very general satisfaction. The burdens of taxation were reduced, particularly

those bearing upon the farmers, the prime producers of the country. The manufacturers recognize that the revision of the tariff has been in the interest of the country and they are satisfied because the cost of their raw materials has been lowered. The price of manufactured articles has been reduced, and under the preferential tariff the Canadian farmer and consumer is getting these articles cheaper. There is no question about that. Articles were admitted free last year principally for the use of the farmer on which duties to the extent of no less than \$1,000,000 would have been paid under Tory rule. It is not necessary for me to enumerate them all, but I may mention binder twine, Indian corn, barbed wire, fencing wire and other articles used almost entirely by the farmers.

Mr. WALLACE. Coal oil.

Mr. BURNETT. The difference between the tariff as constituted under this government and under the old government is that ours is a revenue tariff, while theirs was a protective tariff. Some people, such as the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), try to create the feeling in the country that the Liberals are doing everything they can to hurt the manufacturers. It is not so. The Reformers are perfectly willing to do anything possible for the manufacturer, but they want him to be on an equal footing with the consumers of this country and with the farmers. Do you think I would be representing here to-night the constituency I do, if my constituents thought I was coming down here to do everything I possibly could to hurt the manufacturers. Not at all. My people believe that this government is acting in the interest of the manufacturers, so far as it is in the welfare of the country to do so, and that is what the wise policy of a good government should be.

Mr. SPROULE. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. BURNETT. I am only a new member here, and I do not want to be interrupted.

Mr. SPROULE. I just wish to ask—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I trust the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) will take his seat.

Mr. BURNETT. The visit of our Prime Minister to England has been referred to many times, and it is well known throughout the Dominion that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's presence there gave Canada an advertisement that she never received before. The hon. member for North Perth talked about the advertisement we got through our cheese and our butter, and he talks about the Conservatives doing a good deal for Canada; but, comparatively speaking, nothing was done for Canada until we got men with brains and prestige and ability

at the head of the government, who won the hearts of the English people. The Conservative party told the people that they were going to get better trade relations with the Americans, and yet they were quarrelling with the Americans all the time. Sir, if you want to do any business with a man, or if you want to do any business with a nation, you want to do it on as amicable and agreeable terms as you possibly can. Now, Sir, another benefit of great importance which this government has conferred on Canada is to deepen our canal system to fourteen feet, so that vessels can sail from the great lakes and come right through to Montreal. That is a sound transportation policy for Canada. It was a stroke of genius on the part of the government. A great many of their friends thought at the time that they were, perhaps, going too fast when they undertook to deepen the canals, to build the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and to open up the Yukon; but we have lived long enough to know to-day that this policy of the government was a wise one, and was well conceived in the interests of Canada. They did not do as the late government did with the Trent Valley Canal, tinkering along with it and using it as a leverage to win votes for their candidates. This government of business men said to themselves: We have a certain work to do, and we will do it, and we will look for the beneficial results afterwards.

Let me point to the great benefit conferred upon Canada when this government reduced the postage rate. I presume that the Conservatives would have been many years in power before they would have had nerve enough to adopt such a policy; but the present Postmaster General has managed his department creditably, and has obtained a standing in the community which entitles him to rank as one of the best business men in Canada. We were told to-day how the Conservative government apportioned the North-west lands out to speculators, and we know that the policy of the Liberal government is that the land belongs to the actual settlers, and they have carried out that policy. Our immigration policy has been a boon to Canada, and I shall give you the following figures to show the extent of it:

Immigrant Arrivals

Total Number of Declared Settlers who Arrived in Canada during the Year 1899.	
From the United States.....	11,945
British—	
English and Welsh	8,576
Scotch	1,337
Irish	747
	10,660
Dukhobors	7,350
Galicians	6,700
German	780
Scandinavian	1,526

French and Belgian	413
Miscellaneous nationalities	5,169
Total for 1899	44,543
Total for 1898	31,900

Total increase for 1899..... 12,643

There is no question about it, but that Canada is known to-day in the old country as she never was known before. Why, the Deputy Minister of the Interior told us yesterday that immigration to Canada was only just starting, and that they expected thousands upon thousands of people to come to our shores during the next few months. I have a lot of figures here which I do not know as it is necessary for me to enter into.

Mr. HENDERSON. Go on.

Mr. BURNETT. For the benefit of my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson), I will give him a few of these figures. Until the Liberal government came into power, there was no record kept of Canadians returning from the United States; but this government keeps a record of every Canadian who is repatriated. Here are the figures for the last few years :

Immigrant Arrivals in Canada.

	Ocean Ports.	United States.	Total.
1896	16,835	.....	16,835
1897	19,304	712	20,016
1898	22,781	9,119	31,900
1899	32,598	11,945	44,543

Prior to 1897, the records are incomplete of arrivals from the United States; in fact, it would appear that the tide from that country to this had not set in up to that time. The hon. member (Mr. Davis) told us to-day that immigrants were flocking in from Minnesota, and bringing with them money to invest in Canada.

Declared Settlers at Atlantic Ocean Ports.

The nationalities of declared settlers cannot be defined before 1893; 'Returned Canadians' are not noted before 1894, and the section 'Tourists' was established in 1898.

Returned Canadians. Tourists.

1896	16,835	317	...
1897	19,304	484	...
1898	21,623	1,427	213
1899	32,561	1,913	196

The Conservatives tell us that they are opposed to preferential trade, but if they were in power to-morrow, they would not attempt to change the preferential tariff. They have never said they would do so, and they do not intend to do it. These gentlemen opposite tell us that we are giving a lot away to England, and some of them say that we are giving something substantial to England and getting no return.

Mr. BEATTIE. Hear, hear.

Mr. BURNETT. There is not a man on the other side of the House who will live

Mr. BURNETT.

to see the day that England will change her free trade policy. What would you think of England if she taxed the bread-supply of her artisans so that the article they manufactured would be made dearer? It is impossible to think of such a thing.

Mr. BEATTIE. She will do it before long. The artisan cannot buy bread if he has not the money to do it.

Mr. BURNETT. If the opposition remain in opposition until the English people tax foreign breadstuffs for the benefit of Canada, they will be in opposition a long time; that is my candid opinion.

I do not know that it is necessary for me to refer to the many good measures which this government has introduced; but I am going to name a few of them, for the sake of those who are so obtuse as not to know them. The first thing we did when we got into power was to settle the Manitoba school question. We had not been in power long before we removed the live stock embargo. That has been a boon to Canada which the Conservatives never attempted to obtain, or never felt it possible to obtain. We extended the Intercolonial Railway, which has been a good thing for Canada, resulting in a surplus in the management of that road in place of the deficits which existed year after year under Conservative control. We deepened the canals, another good thing for Canada. We built the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. We secured a reduction in the transportation rates on the Canadian Pacific Railway. We got a reduction of Imperial and domestic postage rates. We repealed the Franchise Act, and gave manhood suffrage, one man one vote, and residential voting. We introduced a cold storage system—not a one-horse system, but an up-to-date system—such a system that, as we heard in the committee the other day, in Denmark and Sweden, which have been competing with us in butter, they have had to call a meeting to find out how it is that Canada can compete with them in matters of that kind. We governed the Yukon in such a way that it has become a paying institution. We wiped out the deficit in the Post Office Department. We readjusted the tariff. We reduced the tariff on 953 articles, only nine articles having as high a duty as before. We enlarged the free list. We gave Great Britain a preference of 25 per cent, and this session we have given an additional preference to make it equal to 33½ per cent. We secured by our reciprocal tariff the denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties. We increased our trade from \$232,000,000 in 1896 to \$304,000,000 in 1898. We tried to repeal the gerrymander Act, but we were burked in that attempt. The Liberal government have a few things to do which they have not yet done. It is just a question whether they will have time enough during this parliament to accomplish everything they intended; but they are

making a brave effort to do it. When they come in after the general election, they will commence where they have stopped, and they will complete the programme. The country did not expect that they would do any more than they have done. They have done as much as any reasonable business man could expect of them, and they have done it as fast as they possibly could. But when they come back again, they will complete the programme, and the country will boom and prosper as it never did before.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. HENDERSON. I hope the hon. gentleman who is leading the House will consent to an adjournment at this hour, as it is quite impossible for me to get through within a reasonable time. We have sat later now than we have done almost any night before.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I am sorry my hon. friend does not feel in the humour to go on for an hour or so. The acting leader of the opposition the other night complained of our adjourning so early, and we have only had five speeches to-day.

Mr. WALLACE. That is doing pretty well.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If we are to have only five speeches a day, we shall be here till next summer. However, I do not wish to do anything unreasonable.

Mr. HENDERSON. I shall esteem it a favour if the hon. gentleman will consent to adjourn, and I will attempt to make up for it by shortening my speech to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Friday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, April 20, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire again to call the atten-

tion of the government to the fact that the report of the Postmaster General has not yet been brought down. I met the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock)—I am sorry he is not in his seat—and I expressed the anxiety which we felt to have this report, because it is quite impossible to discuss any matters connected with the department until the report is down. The session is far advanced, and I think that we have been waiting so long, and I have been pressing the government so often to bring it down that I should like to ask if the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) would tell me whether it is likely to be brought down and when?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) had the privilege of seeing the Postmaster General since I saw him.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I saw him yesterday.

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, I did not see him at all to-day. I will call the attention of the Postmaster General to the matter.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). I wish to ask, when will the report of the Minister of Justice be brought down? It contains useful information which we should have, at least at this time of the session. I am aware that on former occasions, they have been rather tardy about presenting this report to the House, and I do not see any good reason why that should be the case.

The PRIME MINISTER. I shall make inquiry and give an answer on Monday.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). We have found great inconvenience in the Agricultural Committee because the report of the Department of the Interior has not yet been presented. We had the deputy minister under examination the other day with reference to immigration, and we were not able to discuss the matter in the absence of the report. According to law, the report should be laid on the Table of the House within fifteen days after the meeting of parliament.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wilson) brought the matter to my attention some time ago, and I found on inquiry, that the business is considerably blocked in the Printing Bureau. There was also some delay as the report had not been received from the Commissioner of the Yukon territory. I thought it better that the departmental report should be printed at once, and to publish the Yukon report afterwards in a supplement. I have given instructions to have the work carried out as quickly as possible, and I hope we shall receive it from the printer in a few days.

SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. JAMES M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the government to the working of the seed grain indebtedness legislation, passed last session. Since the discussion on the question in the House during the present session, I have received several communications setting forth that the legislation is not at all satisfactory as far as the settlers in the west are concerned. It was proposed to relieve the settlers from their obligations as bondsmen and to hold the individual debtors responsible; but difficulties stood in the way—

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas), but I want to draw his attention to the difficulty he will have in dealing with that question, which has been already so thoroughly discussed by the House.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I merely wish to call the attention of the government to the fact that difficulties are at present existing.

Mr. SPEAKER. I wish to point out the difficulty the hon. gentleman will have in discussing the question at this stage.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I shall not discuss it further than to point out the difficulties that arise under the present Act. A Mr. Adam Crabb, of Balgonie, has been asked to produce an affidavit as to the financial status of his neighbour for whom he had become bondsman for seed grain. The House will easily see the difficulty of asking one settler to make affidavit as to the financial condition of another. Such would necessarily entail a great deal of ill-feeling amongst the settlers. Then there is another method that is proposed by the Department of the Interior in reference to the case of Mr. John Dies, of Qu'Appelle, who is held responsible for a Mr. Huck, and two others by the name of Zerr. In this case he is asked to pay the indebtedness of these three gentlemen and to recover the amount in the civil courts. It must appear to the House as being somewhat unreasonable that one settler should be called upon to appeal to the civil courts to recover a loss entailed by the enforcement of this Act. I shall not dwell upon it further than to hope that the government will reconsider the operation of the Act at an early date, and if possible bring to a close these unseemly results of the operation of the law amongst the settlers of the North-west.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I believe it was the intention of the Minister of the Interior, and of parliament, when the Act was passed last session, that it would relieve the bondsmen for seed grain indebtedness in the North-west. In the practical working out of the Act, I think my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas) is perhaps correct in saying that

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

difficulties have unexpectedly arisen. I brought the matter to the attention of the government, and I am pleased to say that they are prepared to introduce a Bill at an early date, and meet the views of my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas).

CANADIAN CATTLE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. LEONARD BURNETT (South Ontario). I desire to ask the Prime Minister, if the attention of the government has been called to the fact that the British government have prohibited the importation of Argentine cattle? It is a matter of vital importance to the people of this country, and, I may say also, that the time is about due for the government of Canada to ask to have the embargo removed from Canadian cattle.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), I may say, that on seeing the report in the newspapers, he at once cabled to the Canadian High Commissioner in London, and received an answer to the effect, that on inquiry, it was found that the American cattle that were shipped to England did not have this disease before they left American soil. They are supposed to have contracted it by coming in contact with some foreign cattle, perhaps Argentine cattle. It is not the intention of the Imperial authorities to apply the restrictions to the American cattle, but restrictions have been applied to Argentine cattle.

Mr. FOSTER. How does the minister (Mr. Sutherland), explain the mixing up of cattle sent from the United States with Argentine cattle on their way across the ocean?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not say it was on the way across the ocean. I said this was the reply received from the High Commissioner in England, as I was informed by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). It may have been on their arrival in England or perhaps from the American cattle being sent in a vessel previously used for the transport of Argentine cattle, but I have no information in my possession to give as to that. However, I am pleased to say that on investigation, the British authorities did not find that any disease exists in the United States, and for that reason there will be no restriction placed on American cattle now, so that we have no reason to fear. The matter will receive the closest attention on the part of the Minister of Agriculture and of the government, as well as the authorities at home, and if any disease should be discovered immediate action will be taken to see that no injury comes to our cattle.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALACE (West York). What is the meaning of 'immediate action'?

Is it that the quarantine regulations will be made more stringent, so that United States cattle will be kept out of Canada, and Canadian cattle kept out of the United States? Is that the course the government proposes to take? The government took a very serious course when they left us open in Canada to have the strictest regulations enforced against Canadian cattle, such as are now enforced against Argentine cattle, and may at any time be enforced against the cattle of the United States.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I do not think my hon. friend has answered the question put by the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett). If I understood the hon. gentleman correctly, he asked if it was true that the British authorities have lately ordered a slaughter of our cattle within about five days of their arrival, as announced in the newspapers. The hon. gentleman has not answered that at all. He has simply given a despatch from the High Commissioner, but has not touched on that subject.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I thought I made myself clear. I understood the hon. gentleman's question to be, whether the government were aware that an embargo had been placed on Argentine cattle.

Mr. BURNETT. That is the question I asked.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. And also with regard to the report of disease having broken out at Deptford among cattle from the United States. In reply to the first question, I said that an embargo had been placed on Argentine cattle but not on American cattle, as upon investigation the Imperial authorities found that apparently no disease existed in the United States, but that the disease among the American cattle had been contracted by their coming in contact with other cattle.

Mr. FOSTER. Might I ask the minister another question? What length of time under the regulations, have American cattle to be kept at a British port before being slaughtered?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am not able to answer that question, but I will inquire.

Mr. BURNETT. I think my question ought to embrace the question, whether the government have taken any steps to have the embargo removed, in consequence of the Argentine cattle not being allowed to go in?

INQUIRIES FOR REPORTS AND RETURNS.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I would like to ask when the report of the Department of Militia and Defence will be laid on the Table of the House. We have

now reached the seventy-ninth day of the session, and we hear to-day that a great many of the important departments of the government have not yet laid their reports on the Table of the House. The business of the House and the country cannot be discussed intelligently and properly until we have these reports. It is very important in this war session that we should have the report of the Minister of Militia and Defence at the earliest possible moment; yet at this advanced stage of the session that report is not yet in our possession.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). If the hon. gentleman had been in his place when the same question was put two or three days ago, he would have heard my statement with reference to it; first, that the report of the Minister of Militia and Defence comes down to the 31st of December, 1899, and therefore there is perhaps some excuse for its being somewhat delayed; secondly, that it was now and had been for some time in the printer's hands, and that I hoped to be able to lay it on the Table of the House some time next week.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the minister whether any important changes have been made in that report since it went into the printer's hands?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. None.

Mr. HAGGART. I would like the Prime Minister to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals to see that his report is brought down at an early day. It will be impossible to discuss his estimates without that report.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I would like to make inquiry as to the whereabouts of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). I have been looking for him for several days now, and I have not been able to find him.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) was not here last night when the Postmaster General was present.

Mr. FOSTER. He comes in at odd hours when one cannot ask him these questions. For instance, I asked him for a return, and he was so kind the other night that I suspected there was something in the wind. I got my return. I asked for 'a tabular statement of all contracts and agreements for mail service between Victoria and Vancouver and the Yukon district for the year 1898-9, the names of parties thereto, the routes covered, amounts paid or to be paid for such service, and a similar return for the year 1899 and 1900, so far as they are current.' What did I get? I got the important information that for 1899 \$300 a trip was paid on one route, \$50 a trip on another

and \$50 a trip on a third; but as to the number of trips that were made, there is not a word. Consequently, the return gives none of the information that I wanted. If it had given the number of trips and the amount paid, that would have been something. In reference to the other portion of the question, I got the important information that the sum paid is 10 cents a pound for letters, a half-cent a pound for newspapers and 5 cents a pound for other matter. That does not give me any information as to what it cost the country that year. This is simply no return at all.

Mr. BERGERON. Where is the Minister of Agriculture?

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) has to be away sometimes.

Mr. BERGERON. I am not paid a salary.

Mr. FOSTER. I also asked for a return of the statutory increases for 1898-9 and for the first half of the year 1899-1900, and the amount of the increase paid. The return gives the information I want for all the departments except the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, which have lumped the two years, and I cannot tell which is one and which is the other. If the return were sent to the ministers, they would have these figured up.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) who last addressed this House, congratulated the country on the large degree of prosperity which existed in Canada. I am sure that we on this side of the House are ever ready to join hon. gentlemen opposite in expressing our gratitude for the large measure of prosperity that is enjoyed not only in this country, but in the United States, in Great Britain, in Germany, in France and in all other European countries. But to say that the prosperity which prevails to-day in Canada and in every other country throughout the world is due to the government of Canada is something with which we cannot agree. To my mind, the present prosperity of Canada rather obtains in spite of the government. The hon. gentleman told us that raw material was cheaper, and claimed that as one of the reasons for the increased prosperity of the country. Well, Sir, if raw material is cheaper by reason of it being admitted into this country free of duty, it is certainly not the present government that can claim

Mr. FOSTER.

any credit for that. I am aware of scarcely an article of raw material that has been placed on the free list by the present government. Beyond a few items of steel for the manufacture of augers, hammers, saws and sickles, scythes and reaping-hooks that the people do not want to use—beyond these and the admission of mushroom spawn, I challenge the government to name any article of importance which they have put upon the free list. The free list of to-day is almost wholly the free list that the present government found on the statutes when they came into power in 1896.

Then, the hon. gentleman claimed credit for the deepening of the canals to fourteen feet. Surely he does not want us to believe that he is so lacking in intelligence as to think the people are not aware that the deepening of the canals was undertaken by the late Sir John Macdonald many years ago, and was prosecuted almost to completion by the Liberal-Conservative party when in office, leaving only a few contracts to be finished in order to provide a continuous course of navigation from the upper lakes to the sea.

The hon. gentleman then proceeded to claim credit for the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal. To my mind, that was not a business transaction, particularly when we consider that it was only completed at the sacrifice of a million dollars more than it should have cost.

The Crow's Nest Pass Railway he mentioned as one of the achievements of this government, but I cannot conceive how any of these hon. gentlemen can boast of a contract in which this government gave away \$2,000,000 of the people's money for nothing.

Cold storage was pointed to by the hon. gentleman as another achievement of this government. But, surely he must be aware, as a farmer, that cold storage had its inception with the Minister of Agriculture in the late government, and all that the present government has done has been to continue the wise policy then inaugurated.

The hon. gentleman claimed a great deal of credit for the repeal of the Franchise Act. We now have, he said, one man one vote. But he evidently forgot that while in one province we may have one man one vote, in another we have one man a dozen votes. He also failed to tell us that the miserable substitute which was put in place of the repealed Franchise Act is such an utter failure that one of the chief cities of the Dominion remained unrepresented for twelve months, because the new law would not work.

Then the hon. gentleman made a statement, which was the one accurate statement in his whole speech. He said there were a few things the present government has not done. Had he said many things he would have been still more accurate, but I am glad to find that there are some hon.

gentlemen on that side who still have the honesty to admit that the present government has not carried out its pledges. I am certain that the hon. gentleman was perfectly sincere in making the statement he did, and that he made it conscious of the fact that the opportunities left the government for implementing its pledges are now very brief. Delays are dangerous, and if the hon. gentleman wants his friends to fulfil their pledges, I would advise him to urge immediate action on their part.

Let me refer to some matters in regard to which these hon. gentlemen have not implemented their pledges. Take, for instance, the independence of parliament, and what do we find? During the three years that have elapsed since the present government took office, thirteen members of parliament, after sitting behind the Treasury benches and supporting the government in the most servile manner, have retired from public life with their commissions in their pocket.

Then, take the question of the abolition of railway bonuses, on which these hon. gentlemen were so very emphatic when in opposition. What have they done since coming into office? Why, instead of abolishing the bonuses, they have doubled them. Three thousand two hundred dollars per mile they found altogether too much before they got control of the public purse. But since then, they have found \$3,200 not sufficient, and now they are handing over \$6,400 per mile to the railway contractors.

Then, we were promised clean elections. But, what about Brockville and West Huron? Has the hon. gentleman forgotten that the present government dare not permit an investigation into the election frauds in those constituencies.

Then, these hon. gentlemen promised us a business government. But, what kind of a business government have we got? One of its first acts was to give to the farmers of the western prairies of the United States a free market in our country for their surplus corn without asking anything in return. Would you call that business, Mr. Speaker?

Another act of theirs is the granting of a preferential tariff, which gives the artisans of Great Britain and the low-priced labour of France and Germany a market in this country for their manufactures at a reduced duty, without our obtaining anything in return for the artisans and manufacturers of our own country. By reason of the government's preferential policy, the German market has practically been closed against the farm products of this country. Take the fast Atlantic service, which should have been completed by this time, had we a government composed of business men. But, after years of delay and numerous crossings and recrossings of the Atlantic, we are told that its completion is as far off as ever.

The Crow's Nest Pass deal was certainly no evidence of the business capacity of the government.

We were promised a reduction in taxation, a reduction in expenditures, a reduction in the national debt—have we been given any of these things? I presume that the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) must have been smarting under the disappointment caused by his leaders having failed to implement every promise they made, since he drew attention to the fact that the promises they made in 1896 have not been implemented. In 1896, the Liberal leaders were full of promises. In Montreal they promised that coal and iron would be free. In Nova Scotia they promised free cotton and coal oil. In Manitoba they promised free agricultural implements and binder twine. In Ontario they promised to wipe out the last vestige of protection. They had a policy for every province. But, what are the facts? The iron bounties have been increased, thus increasing the taxation of the people. Coloured cottons have not been reduced in duty, as promised the people of Nova Scotia, but have been raised in duty from 30 per cent to 35 per cent, and gray cottons have been raised from 22½ per cent to 25 per cent. Coal oil has not been made free, but the regulations which protected the coal oil industry in this country were so altered that those who had money invested in that industry were compelled to sell out their refineries and take what they could get from the great octopus that has laid its grasp upon this country, the Standard Oil Company. These people feared that if they waited two or three years longer their property would not be worth a dollar, and so they took what they could get. The consequence is that to-day we have but one oil refinery in Canada, and that is the Standard Oil Company—a foreign institution, and a gigantic trust, which can make the price what it pleases. It is supreme, without competition or opposition, owing to this change of the regulations in 1897 by this government. The price of coal oil has since been increased from three cents to five cents, according to quantity, entailing a loss to the people of this country of from \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 on the 20,000,000 gallons that we consume.

Then, what about the free binder twine which we were promised? No doubt the government removed the import duty from binder twine, but have they given us free twine? Is the manufacture not surrounded by circumstances that prevent binder twine being free? Are the farmers free to buy twine at the Kingston Penitentiary at a reasonable price? Under the removal of the duty, the largest factory in the country, the one at Halifax, was compelled to give up business as a twine factory. The management found that if half the twine required for this country was to

come in from the United States, which would be a reasonable thing under free trade, the market of this country was not sufficient to support all the factories in Canada making twine. So they changed their property to a cordage factory and discontinued the making of twine, leaving the manufacture of this article of absolute need to every farmer in the hands of the smaller institutions and of the two governments, who combined with an American trust and placed the prices at whatever figure that that trust dictated. Let us look for a moment at the present prices and see how the farmers of the country are suffering to-day.

We find from the Auditor General's Report that last year prior to 30th June, 1899, the government purchased for the making of twine in the Kingston Penitentiary—and this purchase would largely go into the product that is being sold to the farmers this year—62½ tons of manila of 2,240 pounds each, or a total of 140,000 pounds, for \$6,995 laid down in Kingston, or 5 cents per pound. Now, we all know that there is not a pound of manila in a pound of twine. A portion of the weight in a pound of twine consists merely of cordage oil—80 per cent of manila is the limit and 20 per cent of cordage oil. Now, 80 per cent of 5 cents, the price paid for a pound of manila, would be 4 cents. The price of the oil in one pound of twine is one-fifth of a cent, making a total cost of raw material for the twine in Kingston Penitentiary 4·20 cents a pound. The manufacture, according to the report of the Minister of Justice, costs 75 cents per hundred pounds, or ¾ of a cent per pound. This makes the total cost of the twine in the Kingston Penitentiary 4·95 cents a pound. And, Mr. Speaker, would you believe it, the farmers of this country are permitted by this Liberal government to buy that at ton lots or under at 14 cents a pound, fully 9 cents more than the actual cost of the article to the government. I say it now, and I have said it before, the manufacture of twine in the Kingston Penitentiary was never established for the purpose of making a profit; it was established for maintaining a level of prices, of preventing outside manufacturers raising the price on the farmers, and of enabling the farmers always to buy the twine at a reasonable price. The government of the day, however, apparently with the idea of permitting outside industries to realize the highest possible price they could, adds fully 9 cents to the price of twine over and above the actual cost and tells the farmers they can take it or leave it.

But, let us take some other statistics. I find on the 1st March, 1899, manila in New York cost 7½ cents, and sisal, according to the *Cordage Journal*, an excellent authority, cost 6½ cents. Now, let us see what the cost on the basis of these figures would be of

a pound of twine made from material bought, apparently, at a later date than that bought by the government for the Kingston Penitentiary. At Brantford the best quality of twine that is made consists of 40 per cent sisal and 60 per cent manila. On this basis, there would be 48 per cent of manilla in every pound of twine and also 32 per cent of sisal, leaving 20 per cent for the cordage oil. Now, 48 per cent of 7½ cents, the price of a pound of manila, would be 3·60 cents; 32 per cent of 6½ cents, the cost of a pound of sisal, would be 2·6 cents.

Allowing 20 cents for the cordage oil and 75 cents for manufacture, we have a total of 6·71 cents as the cost of a pound of twine made in the Brantford factory—a fraction less than 6½ cents. To-day the government is holding the price up to 14 cents to the farmers to enable the Brantford factory to obtain from the farmers of this country 7½ cents a pound more than it actually costs them to make it.

Ah, we are told, it is the advance in raw manila that has caused the increase in the price of the twine. But I ask this House, if the raw material had advanced to the extent it is alleged to have done, how would it be possible for the Brantford company to make 100 per cent profit on its transactions? The fact that they had that profit is the best evidence that they were buying manila cheaper than it is alleged they did. We were told that protection was to be wiped out. It is true the government conducted what we may call the departmental store policy; they ran the duty up in order that they might run it down. They increased coloured cotton goods from 30 per cent to 35 per cent, and then cut off enough to make the duty 26½ per cent on what comes from England. They adopted a new principle in regard to the tariff—had a sort of bargain day. Some duties they increased, and some they reduced; some industries were helped, and some were hurt. Apparently, the government were going it blind. The iron industry, no doubt, was helped. Those in the iron industry were the friends of the government. The cotton industry was helped, being given an additional protection of 2½ or 5 per cent. But what about the woollen industry which is as important a one to the people as the cotton industry? What about the leather industry, an industry of very great importance indeed? While the iron and cotton industries were helped, the woollen and leather industries were injured. Permit me to read, Sir, a resolution that was passed in Toronto the other day, a resolution passed at a joint meeting of the executive, parliamentary and tariff committees of the Manufacturers' Association. I read this resolution because it fully explains the matter, and in a way very much better than I can do. The resolution reads as follows:

That while this association is heartily in favour of the principle of allowing a reasonable preference on goods manufactured in Great Britain, it desires to put itself on record as being strongly in favour of a reciprocal preferential trade between Canada and every part of the British Empire. While holding these views, however, they are strongly of the opinion that the minimum tariff on goods produced in the mother country or any part of the British Empire should nevertheless be high enough to afford adequate protection to existing Canadian manufacturing industries;

That the Canadian Manufacturers' Association draws the attention of the government to the fact that the proposed increase of the preference from 25 per cent to 33½ per cent, while beneficially affecting certain manufacturers by reducing the cost of their raw material, will, nevertheless, cause serious loss in other lines of manufacture, which loss will be accentuated by dullness of general trade, either at home or abroad.

As I said before, some are helped and some are hurt. One industry is benefited while another injured. The woollen industry must suffer, while the cotton industry is given a preference. The iron industry is given a benefit, but the leather industry is compelled to suffer.

Among the most prominent of these may be mentioned the woollen trade—a growing industry which will be seriously checked by increased British competition, and this association strongly recommends the adequate protection of this and the other industries affected to the consideration of the government.

That the Canadian Manufacturers' Association further desires to draw the attention of the government to the fact that in some lines goods are coming into Canada from Great Britain and getting the full benefit of the preferential tariff, although in some cases all, and in other cases almost all, the labour expended on them is not British, but foreign. In such a case the preference acts, not against the foreign manufacturer, but against the Canadian, and to remedy this the government is strongly urged to raise the percentage of British labour in manufactured goods entitled to the preferential duty from 25 per cent to 50 per cent before this preference can be obtained; and also to use most stringent measures to guard against false returns being made leading to the importation of foreign goods under the name of British manufactures.

That the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, while appreciating the need of adjustment of duties to suit special circumstances, recommend to the government that it adopt the principle of making no general revision in tariff oftener than once in five years, in order that greater stability and confidence may be given to business investments, and that in any case sufficient notice be given to the manufacturers to enable them to present their views for the consideration of the government before any changes are put into operation.

To my mind that report is an admirable one, and it speaks for itself. It is not necessary for me to add any comment. Now, the report draws attention to the fact that the woollen industry will certainly be injured. I do not intend to say more about that; but I do say that there are other industries that are going to be materially injured which are not so specifically

referred to, and I will refer to one, the leather industry. The county of Halton, which I have the honour to represent, is one of the homes of the leather industry. We have the largest tanneries, I may say, in the Dominion of Canada, we have in that county the largest manufactory of gloves to be found in the Dominion of Canada; and I feel sure that these industries will not be benefited by the preferential tariff which it is proposed to put upon the statute-book this session. Last year there were imported, in gloves and mitts alone, into this country, \$723,740 worth, 37 per cent of these coming in under the preferential tariff. But, mark; glove leather, for the use of glove manufacturers, was imported to the extent of \$118,986; and instead of 37 per cent of the raw material coming in under the preferential tariff, there was only a miserable 3 per cent; so that, the glove manufacturer who had formerly a protection of 35 per cent is now placed in this position, the 33½ per cent preference in favour of Great Britain is also in favour of Germany, and in favour of France, because in Germany they make leather for gloves, they cannot sew them together and send them to England, where they are finished, where the buttons and fasteners are put on, the value enhanced by 25 per cent, and the whole thing comes into this country as an English production, and claims the benefit of the preference. Thus, the glove manufacturer is compelled to compete against the pauper labour of Europe, and the low-priced labour of England. How, I ask, are men going to pay white men's wages under the preferential tariff in favour of the British manufacturer? Deduct 33½ per cent off the 35 per cent, and we have 23 per cent of protection. But, against that the glove manufacturer pays 10 per cent on glove leather, with scarcely a cent of reduction on account of the preferential duty, leaving only a miserable 13 per cent to compensate him between the labour of this country and the cheap labour of Great Britain. I ask, how is the manufacturer of this country going to maintain his industry? How is he going to pay wages three times as much as are paid in Great Britain for the same service and carry on his industry, employ labour and provide work for his workmen? I ask how it is to be done. I remember a few years ago a gentleman who was largely engaged in this industry, telling me that he had been over in England. There he called upon a brother of one of his workmen at the request of the man he employed. In the course of their conversation he inquired the prices he obtained for doing certain work. Why, says this gentleman, I have to pay three times that price. How do you manage to live? Oh, well, he says, we manage to live. But, how are you able to lay by anything for old age when you are unable to work? Oh, well, he says, we can lay past nothing, but then, you know, Mister, we have a very

good poorhouse in our country. And that, Sir, is the level to which hon. gentlemen opposite would bring Canadian workingmen, to a poorhouse, such as they have in the old country, by compelling our workingmen to work for wages not sufficient to live on, much less to enable them to lay by anything for the future. I regret, Sir, that in my county, at the present time, there are 150 or 175 men walking the streets of the village in which I live because their employer, a large manufacturer of sole and harness leather and belting leather, says he cannot pay them wages that will enable them to live. From 1892 to 1896, during the years of depression in Canada, during the years of depression in Great Britain, in the United States and the world over, these men were paid on the basis of \$1.25 a day. But, Sir, the Liberal leaders of this country went through it and told the people that when they came into power free trade, as they have it in England, would be the policy of this country; and these firms employing these 150 or 175 men in their tanneries anticipating that the government would be faithful to their pledges, did not wait for the tariff to come down, but called their men together and said: We must reduce your wages; and from \$1.25 a day their wages were reduced to \$1.10. But, notwithstanding the betterment of the times, these men have, in that drudgery of work, been compelled to accept a reduction of \$50 a year, simply because the government had propounded a policy that was going to ruin the industries of this country. I sympathize deeply with these men, I realize that their employers ought to have advanced their wages when they found the government had not implemented their pledges to destroy the sole leather industry; they did not injure it so badly after all, because not much sole leather comes from the old country here, although belting leather does to a considerable extent. But yet, the moral effect of the teachings of hon. gentlemen was such that the employers took advantage of the situation, and cut the wages of the men to the extent of \$50 year after year, and putting this money into their own pockets, money that was honestly earned by these workingmen. A government that will aid and abet any man or institution in robbing men of a portion of the reward to which they are entitled and putting the money into their own pockets, I say are not entitled to the confidence of the workingmen of this country, nor do I believe, when the time comes, that these men will record their votes in favour of the party who has been the means of reducing their wages, taking away from them what they are entitled to, and compelling them to live on a miserable pittance when otherwise they would be comfortable from year to year.

Then, Sir, the agricultural industry, I say, has been discriminated against. Our mar-

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ket has been handed over to the United States for their surplus corn, and we get nothing in return. True, the farmers of this country, many of them, expected, the moment the Liberals got into power, that all they would have to do was to ship their barley to the United States, and they would get a high price for it. Well, the only satisfaction they have received is that the very means by which we might have obtained free barley has been handed over to the people of the United States without a dollar of compensation to Canada. Then, the duty on wheat was reduced, the duty on flour was reduced. We know that in seasons of scarcity the national policy had something to do with maintaining the price of wheat in this country. In 1895 we had a short crop in the province of Ontario, yes, and in 1899, we had a short crop in Ontario, but, in the one season, we had a higher protective tariff, and in the other season we had a lower protective tariff. In 1895 wheat sold in the city of Toronto at 20 cents over the Liverpool price, and the Liverpool price is regarded as the standard. To-day, where is the Canadian price? To-day, what can people get in the city of Toronto for wheat?—not 20 cents over the Liverpool price, but 22 cents under the Liverpool price. That is the difference between the two policies. Have the government done anything to benefit the farmers of this country along that line? If they have power to do it, in all conscience, let them get to work, as the hon. member for South Ontario said, implement their promises and do something if they can. The farmer was discriminated against by reason of the preference inasmuch as the German government, in retaliation, put a duty of nearly 5 cents a bushel on oats, of over 3 cents a bushel on peas, and of 9 7-10 cents a bushel on wheat, almost absolutely excluding us from that market; at any rate, if we do go there we are compelled to pay to the extent of these duties before we can reach it, and that means so much less in the pockets of the farmers of this country. Then, they were, still further, to reduce taxation. The burdens of the people were to be rolled off. So, in order to roll them off, they placed a duty on tobacco amounting to \$1,151,345, and a more unjustifiable tax never was imposed upon a free people. What right had the government to impose a tax of 10 cents or 14 cents a pound on an article, when it was not required for revenue purposes? Do you mean to tell me that a man has no right to use tobacco? I say that this is a free country, and that one man has just as much right to smoke his cigar, or his pipe, as another man has to drink his tea, or his coffee. I see no reason why one-fifth of the people of this country, because it is only one-fifth of the population that are users of tobacco, should be taxed to the extent of over \$1,000,000, while the other four-fifths go free. It is largely amongst

the toilers of this country, amongst the farmers and amongst the workmen that we find the men who use tobacco. In their long winter evenings, when they are free from their hard day's toil, they want a solace, something to give them a little comfort, and they find it in the use of tobacco. Who will deny these men the right to which they are entitled or the privilege which they enjoy?

Now, we spoke about tariff reform, and hon. gentlemen opposite would lead us to understand that they have reformed the tariff. We have given some idea of how it was reformed—reformed without rhyme or reason, no consideration given to material interests, one industry hurt and another one helped, but no particular system to govern in the matter. In 1894, the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), gave us a true tariff reform; he selected between 175 and 200 articles, took them off the dutiable list and placed them on the free list. How many articles have been placed on the free list by this government? I think the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) claimed, the other day, that they had placed 21 articles on the free list, and some of these, I may say, are of very small importance indeed. What advantage is it to the farmers of this country, that he placed mushroom spawn on the free list? How much money is that going to put into the pockets of the farmers? The farmers laugh at it, and they laugh at the silliness of the contention, that this is one of the things that is going to benefit the farmers. These articles that were placed on the free list by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance, in 1894, were articles that ranged from 5 per cent to 35 per cent, and many of them were of very material importance. There were many others on which the duty was very largely reduced, and largely those that were reduced were the chief and most costly implements used by the agriculturists of this country. The harrow, the plough, the cultivator, the seed-drill, the mower, the binder, all those implements that every farmer must have and that cost a considerable sum of money, were reduced from 35 per cent to 20 per cent, were placed on the minimum tariff list in order to give to the farmers the greatest advantage possible. That reduction was made by the Conservative party in 1894, a measure of reform, which, I say, was a true advantage to the farmers of this country. Now, the hon. member for South Ontario complains that all the promises of the Liberal party have not been implemented; he complains that there are various things still to be carried out. They promised that we should have a reduction in the expenditure. In the convention held in Ottawa in 1893, the leading lights of the Liberal party met in solemn conclave to declare their policy, and they commenced by saying that:

We cannot but view with alarm the large increase of the public debt and of the controllable annual expenditure of the Dominion.

They do not seem to view with so much alarm now, the increase in the national debt. I regret that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), is not in his place. I desire to thank him for the courtesy extended to me about a quarter to one o'clock this morning, when he agreed that I should move the adjournment of the debate, instead of going on to speak at that unseemly hour in the morning. I felt very grateful to him for doing so. The hon. Mr. Davies, in 1893, said:

The Liberal party says that several millions may be lopped off the present expenditure.

The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), also made a statement. He said:

The Liberal party, if in power, could at once reduce the public expenditure by \$5,000,000.

I simply enumerate these to show how far hon. gentlemen did go on that occasion in making promises and pledges to the people. The right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), perhaps the most promising member of the whole party, although, perhaps, the poorest performer—Mr. Laurier at that time—this was before he became Sir Wilfrid Laurier; this was at a time when he was a democrat to the hilt, no tin-pot titles would be recognized by him, and when he appeared before the people as plain Wilfrid Laurier—said:

We will follow the example of Mr. Mackenzie.

I suppose he meant, that, at the end of five years, he would give up power and go back to private life.

Mr. COCHRANE. That promise should be carried out.

Mr. HENDERSON. He said:

The amount of the expenditure can be reduced by some \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000 a year.

Then, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), declared that:

A yearly expenditure of \$38,000,000 is altogether too large. Sir, the thing is utterly unjustifiable.

Yet, he can stand up in his place, to-day, and defend an expenditure of millions and millions more.

There is nothing—

Says the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mullock):

—to warrant this enormous expenditure of nearly \$38,000,000.

The hon. Minister of Customs, in 1890, declared that:

An era of economy in expenditure should at once be entered upon.

When the Liberals are going to enter upon an era of economy, I am not aware, but certainly they have not yet reached that stage. As evidences that the Liberals have not made any attempt to carry out their policy

as declared to the people when they were seeking their support in 1896 and previous years, I will trouble the House with a few figures.

The expenditure in 1896 on consolidated revenue fund was \$36,949,142, and the expenditure in 1899 on the same account had increased to \$41,903,500, an increase of \$4,954,358, or nearly \$5,000,000. So much for the ordinary expenditure of the country. On capital account the Liberals increased the expenditure from \$3,781,311 in 1896, to \$5,936,342 in 1899, or an increase of \$2,155,031.

The total expenditure of the country in 1896, according to the blue-books, was \$44,096,383, but in 1899, notwithstanding all the promises and pledges of reduction, the Liberals increased it to \$51,542,635, or an increase in the annual total expenditure of \$7,446,252. Now, Sir, let me take a period a little longer than three years and I will give the Liberals the benefit of a comparison. In 1893 the expenditure on consolidated fund account was \$36,814,052, and in 1899, (six years afterwards) it had reached \$41,903,500, or an increase of \$5,089,448. The total expenditure being \$40,853,772 in 1893; in 1899 it had increased to \$51,542,635. In that short period of six years, three of which were under Conservative rule and three under Liberal rule the annual expenditure was increased by \$10,689,108, but I need not tell you that the major part of this increase was under the Liberal regime.

The net debt of the country between 1896 and 1899 increased from \$258,497,432 to \$266,273,446, or an increase in the public debt of this country in the short space of three years amounting to \$7,776,014. Perhaps one of the best ways to gauge the expenditure is to ascertain how much of the expenditure is borne by every individual in the country. It is better understood in that way than to speak of it as millions of money, and therefore, when we divide the population into the actual expenditure on consolidated revenue account in 1896, we find that the per capita rate was \$7.21 while the per capita rate in the year 1899 with an increased population was \$7.88. The average total expenditure per head in 1896, per head of the population was \$8.63, but under the guidance of the Liberal government, pledged to economy and reduced expenditure the rate per head of the total expenditure in 1899 had risen to \$9.70. Hon. gentlemen on the other side answer this by telling us that the Conservatives also increased the expenditure of the country and increased the national debt. I have no hesitation in admitting that under Conservative rule the national debt of Canada was increased, but the Conservative party never went to the people and told them they would not increase the national debt if the interests of the country required it. Let me point out that from 1878 to 1896, the Con-

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servative government constructed the Canadian Pacific Railway at a cost of \$65,000,000; that they expended on the canal system of this country \$36,000,000; that they aided the provinces by way of reduction of their debt to the extent of \$10,000,000; that they contributed to the completion of the Intercolonial Railway \$20,000,000; and that under other small items they added \$11,000,000, making a total expenditure on capital account of \$142,000,000 between 1878 and 1896 (I have given these figures in round numbers). But, Mr. Speaker, during that period the national debt of this country was only increased by \$118,000,000, or \$24,000,000 less than the actual expenditure on capital account. Now, Sir, I ask any gentleman on the opposite side of the House what item in this increased national debt is he prepared to declare was not in the interests of Canada. Are these gentlemen opposite going to tell us that the Intercolonial Railway should never have been built. Will they tell us that the provinces throughout the Dominion, who are hard run for finances and to whose rescue the Dominion government came in the hour of need should not have been aided; will they tell us that this \$10,000,000 should be taken back from the provinces and placed in the coffers of the Dominion treasury? Will they tell us that the \$36,000,000 expended on our canals, was an improper expenditure? Will they say that the Sault Canal should never have been built, and that the Welland Canal and the St. Lawrence Canals should never have been deepened. I trow not. Is there any gentleman on your right, Mr. Speaker, who will have the hardihood to stand up in this House and say that the Canadian Pacific Railway should never have been constructed. No matter what they said in years gone by about the Canadian Pacific Railway, the leaders of the Liberal party regard it as one of the most gigantic and profitable undertakings ever undertaken in Canada. Just to show you how this matter is regarded by the Prime Minister of Ontario, allow me to read to you from the inaugural speech delivered at Whitby by the Hon. G. W. Ross, when he became Premier.

Mr. COCHRANE. Is that the one that was franked around?

Mr. HENDERSON. This is the one which was franked around, but I am not going to find fault with it, more especially as it contains the few words which I am about to read and which makes it worth all that it cost the country. Says the Hon. Mr. Ross:

I remember when the Canadian Pacific Railway was constructed that we thought Sir John A. Macdonald was undertaking a herculean enterprise; one that would crush the country, one that was too extensive for the resources of the country. I think perhaps he was right and we were wrong. I think perhaps he builded more wisely than he knew. No one to-day will say that the building of that railway was a mistake.

No, Mr. Speaker, no man in his sober senses will say that the \$65,000,000 expended on the Canadian Pacific Railway was a mistake.

No one to-day would say that the building of that railway was a mistake. Canada to-day would be weaker in the councils of the empire; would scarcely be a federated Dominion as it is were it not for the Pacific Railway.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we have heard the last of this continuous cry about the increase of the national debt during the Conservative regime, so far at least as it relates to the expenditure on the Canadian Pacific Railway as well as on the canals and on the completion of the Intercolonial Railway. Putting these items together, you make up value received for every dollar that was added by the Conservatives to the national debt of Canada.

Again, Sir, we were told during the by-gone days, when the Liberal leaders were wooing the votes of the electors of this country, that when they got into power the superannuation system would be abolished. Methinks I hear the voice of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) day after day resounding through this Chamber denouncing the superannuation system, and declaring how the Liberals, when they come to power, will abolish it. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am going to show you how they have abolished it. They have done so on the departmental store plan, putting the price up only to bring it down. We paid for superannuation:

In 1896.....	\$311,231
" 1897.....	307,792
" 1898.....	340,185
" 1899.....	325,560

By 1899 the Liberal government had fairly got into swing. What it will amount to next year, I am not prepared to say. For the three years prior to the advent to power of the Liberal government—I mean for 1894, 1895 and 1896—the average annual expenditure on superannuation was \$279,639, whereas for the three years of Liberal rule it ran up to \$324,512, or an average increase of \$44,873. Is it any wonder that we do not hear the voice of the hon. member for North Wellington about superannuation?

Then, Sir, credit is claimed for the government for having given us reduced postage. I find no fault personally with the reduction of the rate from three cents to two cents. I am perfectly satisfied that it means money in my pocket; and if the government can adopt a policy which will put money into the pockets of the people, they will receive the thanks of the people for it; but I am not in favour of a policy that will put money into one man's pocket and not into another's proportionately. There is no doubt that the reduction of postage is a boon to the business men of this country—to the men who write thirty, forty, fifty, or one hundred letters per day; they save just so many cents per day in consequence

of it. But what about the farmer whose business does not require him to write more than half a dozen letters a week, perhaps not more than one or two? Where is he to get his share of the saving? Although the benefit of the decreased postage accrues mainly to the business men of the country, the farmer is taxed on his tobacco to make up the deficit. I submit that the Postmaster General is in duty bound to compensate those people for this unfair discrimination against them in the matter of the reduction of postage. There are many farmers throughout the country who have to travel three, four, five or six miles to get their mail matter. When the Postmaster General has money to burn, why does he not establish more post offices throughout the country, and provide increased postal facilities for our agricultural classes, to compensate them for the loss they have sustained by reason of paying the business men's postage? In the county I have the honour to represent, the Postmaster General has reduced rather than increased the number of post offices, and I fancy he will find the same thing to be the case in many other parts of the country. During the three years 1894, 1895 and 1896, the increase in the number of post offices established by the late government was 401, whereas in the three years of Liberal rule the increase in the number established was only 116. Hon. gentlemen tell us that the Postmaster General has saved money—that he saved last year \$50,000 or \$60,000. If he has, he has saved it at the cost of the service. The postal system was never intended as a money-making institution; it was intended for the benefit of the people; and what signifies the saving of a miserable \$50,000 or \$60,000 if the service has been impaired?

So much for the expenditure of the country. Now let us see how this government have treated us with regard to taxation. The average annual customs duties collected for the five years from 1892 to 1896 amounted to \$19,839,685. We were told that the people were to be relieved from this horrible burden of taxation. But in 1899 we find that the customs taxation has gone up to \$25,734,228, an increase of nearly \$6,000,000 in the short period of years during which hon. gentlemen opposite have been in office. The average rate of customs duties from 1892 to 1896 was 17.47 per cent, whereas the average rate for the three years 1897-98-99, was 17.17 per cent, a decrease of only .30 per cent, or less than one-third of one per cent. But when we make the comparison on the basis of the taxation per head of the population, which I contend is a fairer and better way to give the people an intelligent understanding of how they are taxed, we find that the average taxation for the five years from 1892 to 1896 was \$3.77 per head, whereas in the three years 1897-98-99, it increased to

\$4.30, an increase of 53 cents per head. The policy of the Liberal party seems to be a policy to increase the importation of foreign goods and gradually reduce the manufacture of goods in Canada—to furnish more labour for the foreign workmen and less for the Canadian artisan. As I said, in 1899, the Liberal government collected \$6,000,000 more from customs duties than the average of the last five years of Conservative rule. How long are Canadian workmen going to support a policy of this kind? Can they afford out of their small earnings to support the artisans of Great Britain, France and Germany? I believe the time is coming when these men will declare themselves, and will tell the government of the day that their policy is not what they promised or what it ought to be. The Finance Minister has told us that he anticipates this year a surplus of \$7,500,000—a vaster surplus than has been. He boasts that he is going to extract from the pockets of the people of this country this year seven millions and a half more than he needs. He boasts himself as a financier capable of grasping the financial situation because he is able to make every man, woman and child in this country pay \$1.50 more than is required for the purposes of the country; he is going to compel every family in this country to contribute \$7.50 more of taxation than he actually knows what to do with. He wants money to burn. The *Witness* published in Montreal, made this statement the day after the delivery of the budget speech—and let me say here that the *Witness* is at all times a thick and thin supporter of the government of the day:

Mr. Fielding shows that we had last year a surplus of \$4,837,749, and that this year there promises to be one of \$7,500,000, and probably a greater one still will follow next year. Now, all this money is taken out of the pockets of the people by taxation, and a surplus of revenue over expenditure for government purposes surely means so much money taken unnecessarily from the people of the country.

So that, the government's own friends are bitterly complaining of this extorting of more money from the people than is required to meet expenses.

In 1883, as I observe from *Hansard*, the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) laid down this doctrine:

When the government find that they have beyond a doubt a surplus, when they can calculate with certainty on having one, it is their bounden duty to reduce taxation.

I say that the Minister of Customs was right. He added:

It is no part of the duty of a Finance Minister to extract more money out of the pockets of the people than is absolutely wanted to carry on public affairs.

I think that the hon. Minister of Customs

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was right, but what is he supporting now? Compare the course of this government with the course of the late government in similar circumstances. In 1891, when Mr. Foster found himself with a surplus over revenue, what did he do? Did he continue to exact the money from the people in order that he might bank it at 3 or 4 per cent? No, he immediately adopted the wise policy of reducing taxation; and in 1891, by a stroke of his pen, he struck off the sugar duty and relieved the people, during the years 1892 to 1895, of not less than \$20,000,000 taxation. These were the days when people got from twenty to thirty pounds of sugar for a dollar, instead of the ten and twelve pounds that they had been receiving before. I say that that was a wise policy, and one which should be followed by this government, instead of the one they are carrying out of keeping up the taxation. To enumerate the late government, in the years 1892 to 1895, remitted duties as follows:—

In a portion of 1891..	\$ 227,477
1892.....	5,200,000
1893.....	4,000,000
1894.....	4,821,000
1895.....	5,603,523

Then, when the revenue failed to meet the requirements of the country, what did the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) do? He restored a portion of the duty on raw sugar, and this did not interfere with any of the industries of the country. It was a duty on raw material, which restored the equilibrium between revenue and expenditure without disturbing the trade of the country.

Let me quote again the hon. Minister of Customs in 1883, and I desire to draw particular attention to this:

What would be said of a Chancellor of the Exchequer in England if he could not estimate the requirements of the public service nearer than \$82,000,000? He would be ridiculed as being unable to grasp the financial conditions of the country.

And yet, a surplus of \$82,000,000, as compared with the immense revenue of Great Britain, is less than \$7,500,000 as compared with our total revenue. What a pity, according to the hon. Minister of Customs, that we have not a Finance Minister who can grasp the financial condition of the country. What is the government going to do with the surplus money? Last year, when the estimates were being discussed, we found out that away down in the province of Quebec the government was building a wharf where there was no water. Is it the intention of the government to go on with public contracts of that kind, and in that way get rid of its surplus? But, why not reduce the taxation? Why not adopt the wise policy of its predecessors in this instance, as it has done in so many others?

What is to hinder it striking off a million and a half dollars from the sugar duties without interfering with the industries of the country? Why not give back to the people who use tobacco the \$1,000,000 of taxation now extorted from them? Why not put unhulled rice on the free list, and give the people free rice? Why not put dried fruits on the free list, and ground spices? There is a variety of things that can be put on the free list without disturbing the industries of the country, and in the way I have mentioned we could reduce the taxation by nearly \$3,000,000. We could reduce taxation on sugar by \$1,550,000; on tobacco, by \$1,000,000; on rice, by \$68,000; on dried fruits, by \$224,000; on spices, by \$15,000; making a total of \$2,857,000, or nearly \$3,000,000 reduction, without interfering with the industries of the country. Putting these things on the free list would hurt no one and help every one.

But, the hon. Minister of Finance tells us that he has reduced taxation by the increased preferential rate of 1900. Well, that reduction, according to the imports of last year, would amount to about \$582,442, still leaving \$7,000,000 more money than the hon. gentleman knows what to do with. If he would take the duty off goods not produced in Canada, no one would be hurt; but the moment you begin to reduce the duties on goods that can be manufactured as cheaply in this country as elsewhere, you hurt, not only the manufacturers, but the workman, to a serious extent. A general reduction on British goods, a reduction without rhyme or reason, a reduction made by rote, is sure to do irreparable harm. Cotton goods may be hurt or helped, just as the case may be. In good times, I believe the cotton industry is very materially helped. At present I believe it is largely helped by the preferential tariff, but what about the consumer? He is paying more for his cotton goods than he should, and no doubt that will be the case so long as good times continue. But, as the hon. Minister of Finance has said, the pendulum, which swings one way to-day, will some day swing the other. When it swings back the consumer may get the benefit, but what about the poor artisan who is depending on that industry for his livelihood?

How much of the preference we are giving comes back to the farmers? There are about 420,000 farmers in this country, and taking the average of five to a family, you have something over 2,000,000 engaged in agricultural pursuits. They constitute a factor which cannot be ignored in any arrangement of the tariff. What share are they going to get out of this reduction of taxation by means of the preferential rate? Take agricultural implements, how many of these come from Great Britain and get the benefit of the preference. Let me enumerate:

	From Great Britain.	Duty Collected on all Imported.
		1899.
Ploughs	None.	\$38,431
Harrows	"	10,459
Cultivators	"	3,590
Seed drills	"	12,936
Mowing machines	"	69,747
Reapers	"	5,013
Binders	"	132,920
Binding attachments ..	"	6,551
Horse rakes	"	13,808
Rakes, n.e.s.	"	1,226
Weeders	"	11,372
Post-hole-diggers	"	48
Farm rollers	"	40
Hay tedders	"	1,163
Hay or straw knives..	"	26
Hay rakes	"	222
Total.....		\$307,692

Of all these articles not one dollar's worth comes in under the preference.

Mr. CLARKE. And the farmer pays all these duties.

Mr. HENDERSON. Yes, and they get no preference, they get no reduction; they are not regarded as a factor in the make-up of this country by the administration. Now, let us look at the machinery that is used by farmers and consider how much of it comes in under the preference. Here is the table made up in the same way:

	Imported under preference.	Duty paid, 1899.
Fanning mills	None.	\$ 129
Grain crushers	"	240
Wind-mills	"	3,926
Feed cutters	"	8
Horse powers	"	553
Portable engines	"	18,015
Threshers and separators..	"	17,934
Parts of machines.....	"	4,805
Total		\$45,610

In this case also not one dollar's worth came in under the preferential tariff. Now, let us take other farm requisites. It will be seen that the old farm wagon still stands at the head of the list.

	Imported under preference.	Duty paid, 1899.
Farm wagons.....	None.	\$19,615
Cutters	"	268
Pleasure carts, &c.....	"	2,301
Sleighs	"	1,487
Total		\$23,671

A list of nearly 30 of the chief implements, machinery, and other requisites on which duty was paid last year of \$376,973, but not reduced 1 cent by preferential tariff.

As to cutters, I might say that this paternal government in the interest of the farmers, no doubt, increased the duty in 1897

from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. The farmer can have a more nobby drive to town. He now has a cutter on which he pays 35 per cent—no common 30 per cent machine. Of these articles that I have quoted, like the others, not one dollar's worth came in under the preference. I have given a list of nearly 30, implements, machines and other requisites of the farm on which duty was paid last year of \$376,973, but not reduced 1 cent by the preferential tariff. Where does the farmer come in? How is he considered? Now, let us turn to farm implements, machinery and requisites imported under the preferential tariff:

	Duty paid.	Under preference.	Gain under preference, 1900.
Pronged forks.....	\$ 2,753	\$ 37	\$ 77
Hoes	772	141	2 94
Edging knives	5	6	13
Lawn mowers	2,271	207	6 04
Potatoe diggers .. .	73	58	1 21
Scythes and snaths, sickles and reaping hooks..	8,258	4,943	103 03

The last named are indispensable articles in the eyes of the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) on every farm. These useful things were laid aside thirty or forty years ago, and now find a place away up in the old log barn to be but seldom called into requisition:

Spades and shovels.....	\$ 8,865	9,398	274 00
All other agricultural implements	5,409	491	10 24
Carriages, buggies	13,305	2,493	73 00
Wheelbarrows, trucks and hand-carts	7,618	18	0 45
Pails, tubs, churns, washboards, pounders and rolling pins	5,439	29	0 51
	\$54,768	\$17,821	\$472 32

In a total of fifty articles which I have enumerated, nearly all articles of primary necessity and regularly used by the farmers of this country, on which duty was paid in 1899 to the extent of \$431,741, the entire gain under the preference granted in 1900 will amount to \$472, or about one-ninth of a cent to each farmer in the country.

The farmers and mechanics of this country can not possibly gain on the purchase of their tools other than those required by the ordinary farmer on his farm. On tools of all kinds such as axes, saws, files, rasps, adzes, hammers, picks, hand and machine tools of all kinds, the farmers and mechanics of Canada profit little by the preferential tariff. Of these articles only 10 per cent came in under the preferential tariff, whereas 90 per cent paid full duty. Practically, I say, the farmer gains nothing under the present preferential tariff on all

his implements, machinery and tools; therefore, I say it is a preference that is not fair, it is a preference of a kind that we must call class legislation, given, not to the toilers of this country, but to men who I consider are not as well entitled to receive it. The duty on cotton goods worn by the farmers and workmen of Canada, heavy cotton goods, has been increased by 5 per cent, and whilst the duties on sugar, on tobacco, have been largely increased, the market of the farmer has been invaded by cheap wheat, by free corn, and no counter advantage has been obtained for him in the markets of the United States for his barley. I ask why this discrimination against the farmers of this country, against the toilers of this country, who, I consider, have the first claim upon the government.

Now, Sir, we have discovered that the old farm wagon still pays 25 per cent, the same as in by-gone days, this old friend, this almost revered implement, that aided the farmer in the pioneer days of this country. It was used by him to convey his crops from the field to the barn; it was used by him, before the time of railways or better means of transportation, to convey his crops to the market. On Sunday, before the introduction of buggies, the farmer took his family to the house of worship in his farm wagon; and when he died the farm wagon carried his body to the grave. Yet the old farm wagon is made to bear the burden of the day, it still pays 25 per cent under the preferential tariff. Not even an allowance is given for the axle grease that is used to grease the wheels, that still remains at 25 per cent. But if there is no preference to the wagon, there are other preferences. Where are the preferences to be given? We have learned that the farmer has obtained little or nothing. Who are going to get the advantage of the preference? I have examined the list; what does it consist of? Simply of the flounces and flummeries of the giddy and gay. The ostrich feather that graces the hat of the belted knights at Ottawa, is 20 per cent, while the old farm wagon remains 25 per cent. Jewellery comes in under the preferential tariff at 20 per cent, precious stones about 7 per cent, toys and ornaments, laces, braids and fringes, away down at a low rate of duty. Badges and belts, cigar cases, tobacco pouches, labels for cigar boxes and labels for confectionery boxes, used by confectioners in putting up candies and biscuits and all that, are brought into this country at a duty away down below the farm wagon. Perfumery, 20 per cent. Well, I do not object to perfumery. To my mind this whole tariff is a mass of rottenness that entitles the government to ask for something to make it less offensive to the nostrils of the people of this country. Vaseline and chewing gum I am satisfied with. The ladies may have chewing gum, even although it comes in at a lower rate of duty

than the farm wagon. Then gold and silver lace. Oh, yes, hon. ministers who sport about in Windsor uniforms covered over with gold lace as if they had been battered with 500 rotten eggs—if it is any comfort to them to have their gold lace at a lower rate of duty than the old farm wagon, let them have it.

But, Sir, they made a pretense in 1897 of doing something, in order to reconcile the farmers. They failed to reduce the duty on agricultural implements which they had promised to do. They failed to reduce the duty on the plough, the harrow, the seed drill, the cultivator, the mowing machine, the reaper, the binder, the binder attachments. These remain at 20 per cent, just where the Conservative party left them. The present government made no attempt to give a reduction even on the old farm wagon, which still maintains its place of honour: it still stands at the head of the list and bears its burden of taxation as in days of yore. But they have made some reduction, and I give them credit for it. Small favours are thankfully received, and let us see what they did. Here are a number of articles of little value, concerning which it was of very little consequence to the farmer whether they were reduced at all:

	Per cent.
Spades	38 to 35
Shovels	38 to 35
Garden rakes.....	35 to 25
Hoes	35 to 25
Hammers	35 to 30
Adzes	35 to 30
Picks	35 to 30
Table cutlery.....	32½ to 30
Saws	32½ to 30
Forks	32½ to 30
Curry combs	32½ to 30
Bolts and hinges.....	32½ to 30

Just fancy a farmer going into a shop to buy a curry comb. He expects to get it a great deal cheaper than he did before. He says to the merchant: Why, Sir, the Liberal party are in power, and they have reduced the duty on everything, they have reduced the duty on curry combs. How much less can you give it to me? Well, says the dealer, the wholesale price will be about 20 cents, consequently the reduction in duty would amount to half a cent. I ask, Who is going to have the half cent, the merchant or the farmer? I undertake to say the farmer never gets it. The same with a saw, 2½ per cent on a cost of 40 cents, the reduction of duty amounts to about 1 cent. Is a man going to buy that saw for 49 cents that formerly sold for 50 cents? Not at all. The miserable reduction of duty is not going to benefit the farmer, it is simply a sop thrown to him to reconcile him to the injustices of the tariff, and to invite him to continue his support to the government. There were other articles, but articles that

are rarely used. You see how skilfully they made their selection. The things that are of little value are reduced; the things that are absolutely of no value, used hardly at all, are reduced a little; the things that are rarely used are reduced a little. We have an instance here: Scythes and snaths, 35 per cent, reduced to 25 per cent; hand rakes, 35 per cent, to 25 per cent; reaping hooks, 35 to 25; sickles, 35 to 25. How many scythes and snaths, or reaping hooks, or sickles, are used by the farmers in the province of Ontario? I do not know whether they are used in Nova Scotia, but I can assure the minister that in the province of Ontario they are very rarely used. Then there is another list of articles that are bought by few farmers. Manure spreaders, 25 to 20. I never saw one in my life, and I have lived in an agricultural country for the last sixty years. Wind-mills, 30 to 25; threshers and separators, 30 to 25; horse-powers, 30 to 25; potato diggers, 35 to 25; post-hole diggers, 35 to 25; grain crushers, 35 to 25; hay tedders, 35 to 25. Now let us see. Last year we imported sixteen grain crushers into Canada, one for every 25,000 farmers, on which there was the enormous reduction in duty of \$96. We imported seventeen potato diggers, or one for every 25,000 farmers, at an enormous reduction in duty of \$30. We imported twenty-six manure spreaders, one for every 15,000 farmers, at a reduction in duty of \$35. We imported thirty-four horse-powers, or one to every 11,000 farmers, at a reduction in duty of \$110; 170 hay tedders, reduction in duty, \$465; 178 threshers and separators, reduction in duty, \$3,586, chiefly in Manitoba; 350 wind-mills, reduction, \$785; 485 post-hole diggers, one post-hole digger for every 900 farmers in Canada, a reduction, on the whole, of \$20—twenty dollars for the entire reduction on 900 farmers! Divide \$20 among 900 farmers, and you will ascertain how much each farmer gained by the reduced duty on post-hole diggers. Then, they tell us that they reduced the duty on wheelbarrows. Some 15 cents of a preference will be given under the tariff in the duty on wheelbarrows. I desire to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the fact that in the part of the country in which I live, many of the implements on which he has reduced the duty, even to a small extent, are not implements that are generally used by farmers. Is he going to lead us to believe that the farmers of Ontario or of the North-west Territories, in order to get the advantage of this reduced duty, are going to dig their summer fallow with a spade, that they are going to cultivate their land with a hoe, that they are going to rake in their grain with a garden rake, that they are going to cut their wheat with a reaping hook, that they are going to thresh it with a wind-mill, or that they are going to shove it to market with a wheelbarrow? If the

hon. Minister of Agriculture and the hon. Minister of Finance expect the farmers of Ontario and Manitoba to carry on operations in that way, I fear that the exports of this country will be very materially decreased. Not only shoving it to market in a wheelbarrow, but where do these hon. gentlemen want the farmers to shove it? To a market that is invaded by free corn, where the duty on wheat is reduced, and where the duty on flour is reduced? Or, shall they send it to Great Britain with no preference, where they will meet the competition of the slave labour of Russia, or the cheap labour of Argentina, or send it to the German market, where wheat has been discriminated against to the extent of 97-10 cents a bushel? It appears to the government that there ought to be a uniform tariff reform. Anything below 25 per cent or 30 per cent is unknown on what the farmer buys, and they have raised the duty on grindstones from 12½ to 25 per cent. Raw or boiled linseed oil, that every farmer uses for the purpose of painting and beautifying his premises, under the Conservative tariff was 20 per cent, but, in order to have uniformity in the tariff, the Liberal government put the duty up to 25 per cent. They are big on uniformity. Then, take the article of putty, an article that is used by every farmer around his place. They found it at 15 per cent, and they put it up to 20 per cent. Under the preferential tariff, we imported last year 9,724 pounds, and under the general tariff 325,836 pounds, and the actual increase of duty on that little article of putty was \$226 more than it would have been under the Conservative tariff, or just ten times the amount that we saved on post-hole diggers. If there is one thing above another that the farmer prides himself upon having, it is a gun, or rifle, around his place. He likes a little pleasure, he likes his gun or rifle, and on an off-day he may want to go around and shoot a hare or rabbit, or something, for amusement, or, perhaps, he may want to kill an unruly fox, that may be destroying his hen-roost. Neary every farmer wants to have a gun or a rifle. Under the old tariff, I observe, that guns were 20 per cent, but hon. gentlemen opposite put them up to 30 per cent in order to make them uniform with scythes and sickles, and other things. In 1899, under the preferential tariff, we imported \$35,593 worth of guns and rifles, and under the general tariff, \$87,885 worth, so that, as a matter of fact, the duty on guns and rifles, that are used largely by country people, were increased \$9,688 more than it would have been, if the tariff of the Conservative party had been in force. Where is the preference to the farmers?

Then, you take cotton goods. Take coloured cottons. They were 30 per cent before, and they are 35 per cent now. A careful calculation shows me, that, after two years of the preferential tariff, on all the coloured

cotton goods coming into this country, we have actually paid \$17,025 more duty than we would have paid if the Conservative tariff had remained in force. I say that this is robbery of the people, because, we know, as a matter of fact, that, very largely, coarse, coloured cotton goods are worn more by the workingmen and by the farmers of the country, than by any other class of the community. It seems that this tariff is directed directly against the toilers of the country, against the men who use cotton tweeds, cottonades, ducks, denims and coloured shirtings. These are the articles on which the duty has been increased 5 per cent, and on which the people paid \$17,000 more than they would have paid if the old tariff had remained in force. Cotton blouses and shirt waists were formerly 32½ per cent, now 35 per cent. We imported, under the general tariff, \$22,884 worth, while under the preferential tariff, we only imported \$1,539 worth, the increased duty paid in 1899 over what would have been paid on all these goods, under the Conservative tariff, was \$477. Take cotton batts, an article which is indispensable in every family, more particularly in the households of the poor, where warmth is required; they were 22½ per cent before, and they are 25 per cent now. We imported, under the general tariff, \$6,408 worth last year, and we paid on these goods in increased duty, \$160 more than we would have paid under the tariff of the Conservative party. So much for the preferential tariff. If hon. gentlemen increase that duty to 33½ per cent more, we will pay more. You may increase it to 50 per cent, and we will pay more. If you choose, you can increase it to 100 per cent and you cannot force these goods into this country from Great Britain. We will get them from Canada, or the United States, and 100 per cent preference would not give us these goods any cheaper under a preferential tariff. Gray cottons were 22½ per cent before, now 25 per cent. We imported last year under the general tariff, \$49,730 worth of gray cottons, and unbleached cottons, and under the preferential tariff \$15,829 worth, an increased duty of \$654. Under the tariff now in existence, with a 25 per cent preferential, on gray cottons, the cottons of the poor people of the country, we paid \$654 more duty than we would have paid under the 22½ per cent tariff of the Conservative party. Where is the honesty of that? Thirty-three and one-third per cent now; will it make it any better? Under the 33½ per cent preferential it would be \$324 more than under the old Conservative tariff. You may make it a 40 per cent preferential if you desire, but it will still be more than it would have been under the old Conservative tariff. You cannot make water run up-hill, you cannot force these goods into the country by any preference of that kind.

Now comes one very interesting question, and it is, perhaps, as interesting a feature

as there is in this whole matter. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), have all endeavoured to show by reason of a preference being given to goods coming from Great Britain, then, similar goods from the United States will, of necessity, have to come down in price, and so, we will be able to buy American goods at a lower price simply because goods of a similar character can come in from Great Britain at a reduced rate of duty. The *Montreal Witness* is a paper usually well informed in matters of this kind, a paper supporting the government, and what does it say on this phase of the case? The day after the budget speech was delivered, the *Montreal Witness* wrote:

The preference did little more than place British manufacturers on a par in Canada with American manufacturers, because of the greater cost of transportation from Great Britain than from the United States.

Where is the comfort in that? If goods cannot be laid down from Great Britain even under the preferential tariff—by reason of the extra cost of transportation—cheaper than they can be laid down in Canada from the United States, where is the evidence that the price is going to be reduced? The *Dry Goods Review*, a journal well informed on all matters pertaining to cotton and woollen goods, said in November last:

The Canadian mills, it is urged, can practically raise all prices up to what the advances are in New York and Manchester, plus the duty of 35 per cent on foreign goods, or in other words, they can put on the full advance quoted and still keep within the mark, and undersell all others.

If that is the case, it is a dangerous thing. What does it mean? It means that on all coloured cotton goods coming from the United States, instead of 30 per cent, we would be compelled to pay 35 per cent. It means more than that. If the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite be true—an argument repeated over and over again—that by reason of the removal of the duty on binder twine the farmers will save the total duty imposed, amounting to \$120,000; if that be true, if the amount of the duty increases the price of the article, then the increased duty on cotton goods would simply be added to the price, so far as the consumer is concerned, and not only would we have to pay an additional \$150,000—the amount of the extra duty—on all the coloured cotton goods coming into this country, but we would have to pay an additional 5 per cent on every dollar's worth of domestic cottons made in Canada. That is what would result if the argument of gentlemen opposite has any truth. On the \$100,000,000 worth of domestic coloured cottons we would pay an increased price of \$500,000. Is it any wonder that the cotton mills are satisfied? Is it any wonder that the

cotton industries in this country was not hurt in the meantime? So long as business is brisk, so long as the factories in England are busy, and so long as there is no competition between the old country and Canada, or between Great Britain and the United States, so long will we be compelled to pay an additional price, because the importations from Great Britain will have no force whatever in compelling a reduction in United States prices. To show that the factories in England are very busy at the present time, permit me to read the following from the *Dry Goods Review* of December last:

The calico printers and manufacturers of Lancashire, Eng., have combined into a huge concern, with \$30,000,000 capital. The combined firms employ nearly 1,000,000 persons.

The same authority says:

The moment the great cotton combination, now forming in England, is completed, cottons then of every description will advance 10 to 15 per cent over present prices, and further advances will follow. This is the view of shrewd buyers.

So sure are they in England that they are going to maintain these high prices, which will prevent competition between Great Britain and the United States, which will prevent us from getting any advantage from the preferential duty, and which will compel us to pay the additional 5 per cent imposed on goods coming from countries other than Great Britain, so sure are they that these prices will be maintained that the *Dry Goods Review* says that one large cotton company has humorously placed at the door an arm chair, with these words on the placard:

This is for the use of those who wish to wait until prices are reduced.

Now, Sir, I have regarded this as a very interesting question, and I have been watching the public press with reference to it, and now and again we find in the *Toronto Globe* some interesting trade reviews. One of these, published on March 24, says:

There has been a scarcity of goods for prompt delivery in the British and foreign markets, and in some cases the demand for the imported goods has been checked by the extreme prices asked.

The mills (referring to the Canadian mills) have advanced their prices repeatedly, but that has no effect on the demand. Prices of domestic goods have been advanced as many as four times, and still the high quotations have failed to check the demand.

I say that just so long as the British factories are filled with orders; so long as the condition of things exists as to-day, when men are returning from the old country unable to get their orders filled and are placing their orders in Canada and the United States; so long as that condition exists, how under heaven can British competition affect Canadian trade with the United States? How are we going to get the benefit of the preferential duty when

we cannot get the British goods? How is the reduced price of British goods going to affect the price of American goods laid down in Canada when we cannot get the British goods? Sir, if the argument of gentlemen opposite be true, then the United States manufacturer to-day, and the Canadian manufacturer as well, are able to extort from the consumers of this country an addition of 5 per cent over and above their legitimate price and profit on account of the additional duty that was imposed upon coloured goods by this government in 1897. This is the treatment which is meted out by the Liberal government to the toilers of this country. Coloured cotton goods of the coarser sort are more especially worn by the toilers, by the farmers, by the mechanics, and by the workingmen. They are the men who are to suffer from this. They are the men who have to pay these prevailing high prices out of their hard-won earnings. But, when times change, when the pendulum swings back the other way, when the English factories become short of orders, then, Sir, Canada will become a slaughter market. The workingmen may get a little advantage then, but not so much after all, because, let me tell you, these goods which come from England are not used very largely by the working people. You do not import ducks, denims and cottonades and checked shirtings from Great Britain. Fifty per cent preference would not force them into this country. The cloth is inferior, the texture is inferior, and the people of this country will not buy English goods of that class even at a very much reduced price. But, Sir, when the time comes that the English factories are idle, and when they are in a position to fill orders for this country, then this country will be flooded with goods from Great Britain. And what then will become of our workingmen and of the artisans in our factories? The result will be smaller wages, less work, &c. These are strong reasons why a tariff adopted without rhyme or reason, without the fullest and most complete consideration, is sure in the long run to be full of injury to the country. There is no doubt that cotton goods have increased in price, that they are 20 or 25 per cent higher to-day than they were a few years ago. Hon. gentlemen opposite will tell me that this is in consequence of the advance in the cost of raw cotton; but when did the advance in raw cottons take place? Not two years ago, but largely within the last six months. But the advance in the price of cotton goods is not all owing to the advance in the cost of raw materials. In 1897 we increased the duty on gray cottons and coloured cottons, but not on white cottons; and it is a fact known to every man in the trade that white cottons have not advanced in price as much as gray and coloured cottons. What is the reason of this? It is not because the raw material

Mr. HENDERSON.

has increased, though that has something to do with it, but it is owing to the fact that the government of the day increased the duty on the latter classes of cotton goods, which are imported largely from the United States and in a small degree from Great Britain, but did not increase duty on white goods. But there are other articles the cost of which has been increased in the same way—for instance, hats, caps and fur goods, such as muffis, tippetts, coats and cloaks which are indispensable to this country. Every farmer needs his fur coat and his wife her fur cloak. They are entitled to have them; but why should these articles be taxed an additional 5 per cent? I could excuse the government if these were articles of luxury; but in this country they are a matter of necessity, like the farm wagon. Every farmer must have a wagon and a cutter; and every farmer wants a fur coat to protect himself against the severity of the Canadian winter, and his wife wants a fur cloak; yet on these as well as on fur mitts and on the robe with which the farmer protects himself when he drives to market, the duty has been increased from 25 per cent to 30 per cent. The imports of furs under the general tariff in 1899 amounted to \$60,160, and under the preferential, \$39,013. The increased duty paid by the people of this country on furs in 1899 over what they would have paid had the Conservative tariff remained in force was \$2,029, or an increase of 2 per cent. With the 33½ per cent preference after the 1st of July, we shall still be compelled to pay an additional duty of 1 per cent on the furs imported into this country. Why multiply instances? I have given sufficient to illustrate to this House the iniquity of the system of tariff reform that has been inaugurated by the present government. The duty has been increased on many articles of prime necessity, such as sugar. Why should the government impose an additional duty on raw sugar? They have increased the duty from 50 cents to 66½ cents per hundred pounds, adding to the taxes of the people of this country \$100,000, when not a dollar of it was required. On unhulled rice, an article required by every family, although they did not need the money, they increased the duty, and imposed an additional tax on every family, rich or poor, in the country.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words before I sit down with reference to the preferential tariff. The hon. Minister of Finance in his budget speech says:

We say we are getting a preference to-day by the voluntary act of the British people. We say that the preference which England would not grant on a demand of the colonies in a huckstering and bargaining way, she has given of her own free will and accord the moment we approached her in the proper spirit, and there is the proof in the exports of the products of Canada to Great Britain.

Now, I propose to look at that for a few

moments, to see whether the statement there made is borne out by the facts—whether we have actually received a preference in the British market. The following is a statement of the exports of the principal farm products of Canada to Great Britain in the last two years :

	1898.	1899.	Decrease.
	\$	\$	\$
Horses	1,232,717	602,027	630,690
Cattle	7,404,308	7,165,370	238,938
Sheep	396,422	333,736	62,686
Barley	151,500	120,143	31,357
Wheat	20,996,924	13,627,665	7,369,259
Oatmeal	525,657	384,012	141,645
Flour	3,955,564	2,102,261	1,853,303
Canned salmon ..	3,238,166	2,296,292	941,874
Hay	299,462	258,604	30,858
Cheese	18,432,311	17,320,790	1,111,521
Meats—			
Canned	217,500	97,032	120,468
Beef	34,003	7,997	26,006
Other meats....	505,572	164,421	341,151

In eggs there was an increase of about \$10,000, and there was also an increase in butter and hog products. These are the only items of farm produce that show an increase. In view of that statement, I asked where is the preference that Great Britain is giving us? Instead of a preference, we have a decrease all along the line except in two or three items.

With reference to the export of cattle, a very important item indeed, I wish to point out that even in that item no preference is given us by Great Britain. Let me draw the attention of the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. McMillan), to what I am now about to say, because my hon. friend claims to be one of the best informed men on the subject of cattle in this House, and I have no doubt he is. Before the preferential tariff was enacted, in 1894, 1895 and 1896, the average price of cattle shipped to Great Britain was \$75.94 per head. Let us see how that compares with the average price after we enacted the preferential rate. In 1897, 1898 and 1899, the average price was only \$58.72, showing a decrease of \$17.22 on every animal shipped to Great Britain since the preferential tariff has been in force.

Let me now draw the attention of the hon. member for West Huron to another question. A few days ago he made a statement in this House which no doubt, on re-examination, he will revise. He said that the removal of the quarantine regulations by the United States had increased the value of all the animals we exported to that country by over \$5 per head. Let us look at the facts—not surmise or speculation—but the cold facts, and these facts I take from a reply given by the Minister of Customs, the other day, to a question asked him by the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster). The average price we obtained for the cattle we shipped to the United States in 1894, 1895 and 1896, was \$29.78. Then the new government came in, and then the quarantine was removed, and since then the cattle

we exported to the United States have realized, during the years 1897, 1898 and 1899, only \$15.20 per head. This shows that since the present government took office, and since the quarantine was removed, the price of our cattle has not increased \$5 per head, as claimed by the hon. member for Huron (Mr. McMillan), but has actually decreased \$14.58 per head. And in case the hon. gentleman should challenge my figures, I desire to make this emphatic statement, that I have taken them from a reply given by the Minister of Customs to a question put to him by the ex-Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), has endeavoured to persuade us that we are getting a preference from Great Britain already. That, however, is not shown in our Trade and Navigation Returns. The total value of all British imports in the year ending 30th June, 1899, amounted to £487,763,325, and in the year ending 30th June, 1898, £465,865,460. This shows an increase in 1899 of £21,897,865, or \$106,423,623. The exports from Canada to Great Britain were as follows in the two years :

1898	\$104,998,857
1899	99,091,855
Decrease	\$ 5,907,000

So that, although Great Britain imported more in 1899 than in 1898, to the extent of \$106,000,000, her importations from Canada decreased to the extent of nearly \$6,000,000. That shows most conclusively that we are not getting the preference promised by the Finance Minister.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 86) respecting the Thousand Islands Railway Company.—(Mr. Taylor.)

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

Mr. HENDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I now propose, for a short time, to deal with that part of the question under discussion which refers to a mutual preference. On the 30th of March, the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) moved the following resolution :

That this House is of opinion that a system of mutual trade preference between Great Britain and Ireland and the colonies would greatly stimulate increased production in and commerce between these countries, and would thus promote and maintain the unity of the empire; and that no measure of preference which falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered as final or satisfactory.

I need not say that the policy embodied in these words is the policy of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. We believe that if the preference to be granted to Great

Britain is worth anything at all, it is worth getting something in return for. We see no force whatever, in opening up the markets of Canada—which, by the way, are limited enough—and giving free access to the goods of other countries, goods made by cheaper labour than that which is paid in this country, unless something in return is given to the people of Canada. Great Britain of necessity, imports every year from the colonies or from other countries, large quantities of breadstuffs and meats, articles which it is impossible for the United Kingdom to produce in such quantities as are required for its large consuming population. If, in any way, Great Britain could give a preference in her markets to such articles as we produce in this country, and require a market for in Great Britain or elsewhere, so as to place our people in her markets in a position to sell our products to greater advantage, that would be a benefit to the people of Canada, and would be something in return for the preference we have given to the mother country. I find that the following are our chief exports from the farms to Great Britain :

Chief products of the farm from Canada to Great Britain—articles, the produce of Canada :

Horses	\$ 591,200
Sheep	333,736
Cattle	7,129,430
Barley	50,664
Oats	2,811,112
Pease	1,624,733
Wheat	7,458,538
Wheat flour	2,097,773
Hay	258,604
Butter	3,526,007
Cheese	16,718,418
Eggs	1,254,392
Bacon and ham	10,407,592
Apples, green and ripe ..	2,412,728

I leave out minor products ; but in the above we find that Canada has exported of her own produce, in 1899, the large sum of \$56,674,967. Now, I propose to deduct from this the export of cattle from this country to Great Britain, \$115,476. In 1899, valued at \$7,129,430, leaving us a balance of \$49,545,537, or nearly \$50,000,000 worth of the produce of Canada sent to Great Britain last year.

Now, with reference to the one item of cattle, I see no reason why a preference could not be given in the British market to the Canadian producers and shippers of cattle. In years gone by we had a preference. In former days Canadian shippers were enabled to send their cattle to Britain, these were sold and taken inland, and fattened upon the pastures of England and Scotland, being thus restored in flavour and flesh so as to make them to a large extent near in quality to the best English beef. I say then that if that privilege were restored to us it would be a preference that would be appreciated by this country, and it would be a preference in the markets of England that I fail to see would injure any

great industry in Great Britain. I fail to see why the British government should not take steps at once to restore it, in fact I fail to see why the Canadian government should not at once urge upon the British government the propriety of granting us this preference which we enjoyed before, a preference which would place in the hands of every man who raises cattle in this country a valuable addition to his revenues from the sale of fat cattle, a preference to my mind which would enhance the value of every animal exported from this country to Great Britain to the extent, possibly, of \$15 to \$25. Surely that would be a preference worth asking for, surely that would be a preference worth getting. And why should Britain refuse to give it? If Britain appreciates the preference that we have given, why not give us something in return? Here is an instance where a preference can be given us without destroying any industry in Great Britain, or without materially interfering with any industry. It may be said that the English and Scotch farmer would be opposed to such a privilege; but if we are to sacrifice so much for Britain, why should not the great men of Britain sacrifice something for Canada? I hold that in this matter there is a preference which Canada is entitled to, a preference which our government has a perfect right to demand, a preference which our government ought to demand if we are going to continue the preference which we have accorded to Great Britain in the markets of Canada. Then with reference to the balance of these products, 4 per cent of \$50,000,000 would be about \$2,000,000. Is there no possible way by which Great Britain could turn over to us \$2,000,000 in preference in return for what we have given? Is it not possible that the great statesmen of England and the statesmen of Canada can get together and devise some plan by which fair-play can be dealt out to the people of this country? The Liberals claim that by reason of the 25 per cent preference given to Great Britain \$2,000,000 have been accorded to her. I can not see for a moment that \$1 of that sum is a Canadian preference, I contend that it is through and through a British preference as the government call it, a preference to Great Britain and not a preference to Canada.

Under the preferential tariff of 1900 an additional \$667,000 will be granted to Great Britain, giving in all a total preference to Great Britain worth, as is alleged, \$2,667,000. To offset that we contend that if we received a preference in the British market only with regard to our cattle that would enhance their value a simple \$5 per head, we would get \$577,000 in return. This, with the \$2,000,000, the 4 per cent on the \$50,000,000 of other exports to Britain, would be \$2,577,000. Now we want this matter balanced up, we want to have fair trade, we want to get something from

Great Britain that will compensate us for the preference that we have given to her. What a boon to Canada it would be if every dollar's worth of our products at once became worth in the British market 4 cents more than the products of the United States, or like products from Russia, from Germany, or any other country. What a tremendous impetus it would give to immigration into this country. What a boon, I say, it would be to the country from one end to the other. Not only would it help to fill up our country with a healthy immigration, but it would increase the products of this country, help to create a larger home market, and a larger consuming population to use up the manufactured products of Canada. We cannot enlarge too much on the advantage that would be gained to the people of this country if we could obtain a preference of this kind.

And this would be a mutual preference. In the language of the resolution which I have read to you, I do not believe that any preference 'which falls short of the complete realization of such a policy should be considered by this parliament as either final or satisfactory.' The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) is reported to have said, and I believe he admits having said at a former time, that we owe nothing to England but Christian forgiveness for wrongs imposed upon us. To my mind that is very strong language indeed; however, it is not my language but the language of an hon. gentleman to your right. We are told that we cannot get a preference because England can only grant a preference if we come down to the basis of free trade. We cannot afford to trade with England on the basis of free trade, because we cannot afford to sacrifice our revenue; and if England will not tax her artisans for the benefit of Canada, why should we deprive our workmen, our artisans, of the work which English artisans are now doing? I say, why should we deprive our workmen of their work and their wages simply to give work and wages to men who refuse to be taxed to help us? If there is a preference at all, I say it ought to be mutual, and nothing will be satisfactory that falls short of that. The government, right or wrong, has granted the preference, and we must deal with the facts as we find them. I think they are wrong, I have no hesitation in saying that they are wrong, and I believe that the people of this country, when appealed to, will say that that one-sided preference was a mistake.

The present Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), when courting the electorate of this country in 1896, when asking the people for their votes and their suffrages, stated in the city of London, I believe, that if he got into power he would obtain for the farmers of this country a preference in the markets of Great Britain. Well, Sir, if he could obtain a preference in 1896, why can-

not he obtain a preference in 1900? Has the Prime Minister asked for it? Has he made an effort to secure it? Has he failed in endeavouring to implement this promise as he has failed to carry out so many others? The hon. member for South Ontario, last night, told us that there were things that yet remain to be done, which the government have not accomplished, and, to my mind, this is one of the more important items that the hon. gentleman had in his mind. They have failed to secure the preference which was promised to the electorate of this country at that time. I hope that the acceptance of the Cobden Club medal is not a bar to his asking the people of England to give us this preference which we are entitled to in return for what we have done. I think that England should make some sacrifice. I do not think that all the sacrifice should be made by the people of Canada; I do not think that we should be called upon to sacrifice anything, in fact. Great Britain is always willing to make sacrifices to open up new markets. As has been stated in this House before, Great Britain spends millions of money to push her wares into the uncivilized parts of the world, and if she is willing to spend millions of money to push her wares into the uncivilized parts of the world, why not spend some of her millions to push her wares in this country, to give us a preference for the privilege of allowing her wares to come into this country for consumption. Germany is willing to bonus her sugar manufacturers at all times in order to enable that industry to send its products throughout the world and to compete with the whole world in the manufacture of sugar. Canada is willing to bonus the iron industry to enable the manufacturers of agricultural implements to send their goods to Great Britain, to Germany, to Australia and to other parts of the world. Why should not Great Britain do something in some way in order to secure for Canada the preference which we desire to enable us to send the products of Canada to Great Britain? Is there any possible means by which this difficulty can be got over? If Great Britain is willing to spend her millions to hew out new markets, if Germany is willing to spend money to find new markets, if we, in Canada, are willing to spend our money to find new markets, why should not Great Britain take a step in the same direction as far as we are concerned? Is it not possible by a system of bonusing, or aiding the transportation of products from Canada to Great Britain, to give us a preference, and if it is not possible to do it in that way, to the fullest extent, why should England refuse, for the benefit that she has received from us, to bonus the products of this country by a money grant instead of taxing the artisans there by putting a duty on the breadstuffs and meats going into Great Britain from other countries. Why not favour the products

of Canada, either by a direct bonus or by aiding transportation, by largely assisting steamboat communication, a fast line service and everything in that way so as to give a substantial preference in the British market and enable us to lay our products down there at least 4 per cent cheaper than they could from any other country? That would be something of the nature of a substantial preference, and if Great Britain is not willing to give Canada a preference of that kind, I say the time has come for us to reconsider the step we have taken. A preference for a preference, to my mind, is the only policy that Canada can approve of; it is the only policy that Canada can afford to accept. In the language of Kipling:

Daughter am I in my mother's house,
But mistress in my own;
The gates are mine to open,
And the gates are mine to close.

Last year we opened the gates. We invited Great Britain, by our preferential tariff, to deal with us on preferential terms. We opened the gates; if there is no response we can close them again, and I think that would be the proper policy for Canada to pursue, because, no preference can be satisfactory in this country which is not mutually in the interest of Canada and the mother country. We may be told that we are not loyal because we talk in this manner.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON. We may be told that, but, to my mind, loyalty to Great Britain does not call for the sacrifice of everything we have. If we are loyal Canadians we are loyal to Great Britain because Canada is part of the empire.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON. In reading over some of the English newspapers, published the day following the delivery of the budget speech, and on which the additional preference was granted by Canada to Great Britain, we find extracts like these:

London, March 27.—The 'Times' yesterday devoted a congratulatory letter to Mr. Fielding's Budget speech, but does not encourage the hope of preferential traders.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON. 'Hear, hear,' the hon. gentleman says, and that is just what I expected.

The London 'Standard' is equally firm in dismissing preferential trade.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON (reading)

The 'Westminster Gazette' does not encourage hopes of reciprocity from this country.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON.

Mr. HENDERSON. 'Hear, hear,' the hon. gentleman says. The *Westminster Gazette* says further:

Canada will do well to base her calculations on the supposition that we shall stick to the free trade system.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON. The *Outlook*, another influential journal, says:

One pillar of the empire's strength is its free trade.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Hear, hear.

Mr. HENDERSON. If these are the sentiments of the leading newspapers of England, and if these are the sentiments of the people of Great Britain, I ask, is it not asinine stupidity for us to go on time after time and give away all we have when the people of Great Britain are telling us that we will get nothing from them? I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. ANDREW SEMPLE (Centre Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of attention to the very long and varied remarks of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). He has traversed a great deal of ground, and he has presented his case in a very ingenious manner. While listening to the first part of his speech I did not know whether he was going to be the friend of manufacturers or of the farmers. It seemed to me doubtful, but, as I listened a little while longer there came into my mind the story of a man who departed this life and who, during his lifetime had had two wives. He had loved them both dearly, and in his last will and testament he left the injunction that he was to be buried between them with a little cant towards Biddy. I rather think that the hon. gentleman showed a little cant towards the farmers, and I was more convinced of this when I heard him speaking so often about the old farm wagon. He remembered the days that are gone by. This idea was also impressed upon me when he spoke of certain articles being imported in this country from Great Britain and said that this would be of no benefit to the farmers. I was much amused at the manner in which he delivered these statements. I consider that that portion of his speech was very amusing because, in a general way, the more ridiculous and absurd the statement that is made the more amusing it will be, and I can understand that the farmers, when considering that portion of the speech of the hon. gentleman, will be able, especially in the county of Halton, to take it at its true worth. The hon. gentleman began by making reference to binder twine, and he spoke of the largely increased price that the farmers have to pay for this commodity at the present time. The hon. gentleman was very ingenious in the manner in which he quoted the price of

the raw material a long time ago, and then quoted the price of binder twine at the present time. This was designed to leave a false impression upon the minds of the people. I am very thankful that I happen to have before me the speech that was made by a great man in the Conservative party, the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster). I thank him very much for the speech he made. He quoted the figures in regard to prices in New York in different years. He said :

With reference to the prices of articles that the farmer has to buy, I have a very long list, but I have culled from it some few things which I will read. These are the New York prices as given for the first week in January for each year. 1895, 1899 and 1900:

	1895.	1899.	1900.
Manila	\$0 04 $\frac{3}{4}$	\$0 06 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$0 14 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sisal	0 02 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 05 $\frac{1}{8}$	0 09 $\frac{1}{4}$

This shows conclusively that the price of binding twine has increased threefold, or the purchasing power of one dollar in 1895 was greater than three dollars in 1900. Any one who wishes to know the true facts must know, that owing to the war in the Philippines, the raw material has not been produced to the same extent as formerly, and that, therefore, it had to be bought at a higher rate. The statement was made by some speakers, that because the Brantford factory was able to make 100 per cent last year, they made an illegitimate profit. I say that they deserve credit if they had the foresight to buy the raw material in large quantities and then to sell it at an advance. I think this is justifiable. I hold that if they are liable to loss they should also receive such gain as they are justly entitled to when a large increase in price took place in the raw material. Before I proceed further on that point I shall give another quotation from the speech of the hon. member for York, N.B., showing the increases that have taken place in the prices of other articles :

	1895.	1899.	1900.
Pig iron	\$10 00	\$10 85	\$25 00
Bar iron (per 100 lbs.)....	1 10	1 05	2 50
Billets	15 00	16 50	35 00
Crude petroleum (brl.)....	0 94 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 19	1 66
Refined petroleum (per gal)	0 06.9	0 08 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11
Sugar (muscovado)	2 63	3 81	3 88
Sugar (standard granulated)	3 74	4 72	4 85

That gives an explanation why barbed wire, sugar, coal oil and other articles are much higher in price than they were in the past. The attempt has been made to show that on account of the duty being taken off some articles the cost has increased. That is a most absurd statement. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) has mentioned that it would be a good thing if we could have the embargo removed from cattle going to Great Britain. I think every hon. member in this House would hold up both hands if that could be done. The British government were very reluctant at first to put an

embargo upon our cattle, but, the fear of pleuro-pneumonia was the cause that Canadian cattle were required to be slaughtered at the port when they were landed, and although nothing of that kind exists among the Canadian herds it will be hard to secure a change. We will all welcome the removal of the embargo, and, if the British government should see fit at any time, to remove it, it would be a great advantage to the farmers of Canada and those who raise cattle for export. In regard to quoting figures and to the making of statements the Liberal party has everything to gain by a fair statement of the facts. They have nothing to lose. They do not require to garble the figures in order to make a favourable showing. I intend before I resume my seat, to quote quite a large array of figures and I can assure the House that these figures will be placed before it in a fair way. It is always gratifying to be able to speak of success when it has been achieved by honourable and upright means, as it has been achieved by the government which was returned to power by the people of Canada in 1896. Success has followed them ever since they accepted office. They have done their business in an upright manner and the country has prospered since they came into power as it never prospered before. The false prophets who foretold the destruction of the industrial works in the cities have been disappointed in their calculations. It is not long since that we read in the newspapers of the great improvement that has taken place in the conditions prevailing in the city of Toronto. Vacant houses have been filled up, rents have been raised, real estate is selling at a higher figure, and everything is prosperous. This is the case notwithstanding the fact that at one time, it was alleged, that the Liberal party were going to destroy the national policy and drive the workingmen out upon the street. We have often heard the deplorable statement made that if the Liberal party succeeded in getting into power the workingmen would be walking the streets idle, their children would be crying for bread, the tall chimneys would cease to emit smoke and everything would denote decay, but, instead of that, never in the history of the country has it been more prosperous. A constituent of mine went to the old country last year and he visited his brother in Yorkshire. He informed me that the Massey-Harris binders were largely used in that part of England. The hon. member for Halton stated that he could not find that any agricultural implements were sent from Great Britain to Canada. I may tell the hon. gentleman that the Massey-Harris Company have been able to lay down machines in Great Britain, and they are appreciated more by the farmers there than similar articles manufactured in Great Britain. It is an honour to them because as has been stated repeatedly that Canadians can compete with any other coun-

try in the world on equal terms, and we find now that there is a large amount of manufactured articles exported from the city of Toronto, and that money is coming back to the manufacturers from Russia, from Great Britain and from the continent of Europe to pay the men that are employed in the Massey-Harris and other works. This shows what Canadians are doing, and that they can compete on equal terms with any nation on the globe.

With regard to the tariff, it is said by some that it is just a continuation of the national policy. I do not care whether you call it national policy or not. We all remember that the short session of 1896 was called for the purpose of passing the estimates for the current year. After that session the hon. Finance Minister went over the country, and asked manufacturers, millers, farmers, and business men to meet him and lay their views before him; and after hearing their statements he crystallized them in the present tariff. Some Reformers say that he did not go far enough; but the idea was to make as little disturbance in the country as possible; and I observe that the Manufacturers' Association, in the statement they have published, do not offer any serious objection to the preference which the tariff gives to British goods in the Canadian market. They want stability in the tariff, however, and say that there should not be many changes made in it during the parliamentary term.

Prominent members of the Conservative party who were members of the late government, and who believe that they only have the true genius for government, feel keenly the loss of office, and of course, are dissatisfied. It is very disagreeable to those who have tasted the sweets of office to be deprived of them. But the Conservative party went before the people in 1896 for approval or condemnation of their past actions, and they were condemned; they were weighed in the balance and found wanting. Ever since that time their chief delight has been fault-finding, and endeavouring to embarrass the government and to make political capital out of every event that transpires.

Now, Sir, at the risk of being tedious, I will read a few figures, and then draw my conclusion from them, and I hope hon. gentlemen opposite will do likewise. I believe with the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), that the people are more concerned about the results than about figures; yet it is only by studying the figures carefully, that we can arrive at true results. An examination of the Trade and Navigation Returns shows in an unmistakable manner, the advancement the country has made since the present government came to power. The trade of the Dominion of Canada in 1894, was \$240,999,889; in 1895, \$224,420,485; in 1896, \$239,025,360, three years under Conservative rule; in 1897, \$257,168,862; in 1898,

\$304,475,736; in 1899, \$321,661,213, three years under Liberal rule. The trade of 1897 was \$16,168,973 greater than that of 1894. The trade of 1898 was \$80,055,251 greater than that of 1895. The trade of 1899 was \$82,635,853 greater than that of 1896. The trade in the last two years exceeded that of 1895 and 1896, by more than one-third of the total trade.

From the public accounts, I find that the total revenue from all sources, was: in 1893-4, \$33,374,693; in 1894-5, \$33,978,129; in 1895-6, \$36,618,590, three years under Conservative rule; in 1896-7, \$37,829,778; in 1897-8, \$40,555,238; in 1898-9, \$46,741,249, three years under Liberal rule. The revenue for 1896-7 was \$1,455,085 greater than that for 1893-4. The revenue for 1897-8 was \$6,577,109 greater than that for 1894-5. The revenue for 1898-9 was \$10,122,659 greater than that for 1895-6.

We have heard that the annual expenditure has increased; but when the fact is considered that the trade of the country has increased one-third, and that the revenue has increased one-fourth, is this not a good and sufficient justification for the larger expenditure? It takes more to govern the country under such flourishing conditions. I think no one will deny that, unless he is a member of the opposition, who denies everything. We know also that there has been a very large increase in the revenue in Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-west Territories. Why, Sir, since the present government has been in office, the revenue there has increased \$1,800,000 in round numbers; so that it is only reasonable to expect the government to build customs-houses proportionate to the amount of money they receive. We know that the banks in Manitoba and in British Columbia are putting up fine buildings, confident that the country is sure to grow; and, I think, the government would be justified in spending an extra million dollars in Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-west Territories, on account of the large increase they have received in the revenue. There was exported to Great Britain from the Dominion of Canada in 1898, produce to the value of \$104,998,818, and in 1899, \$99,091,855, twice as much each year, with one exception, as in any year previous to 1892. This has no doubt to a certain extent, been brought about by the preferential tariff. We know very well that Canada has become widely known through that preferential tariff. It gave Canada a fresh start, and it is in vain to say, that if we give British goods a preference in our own market, Great Britain will not give Canadian goods a preference in her markets. There is an unwritten law, not found on the statute-book, but governing communities, that if an individual assists his neighbour across the way, that neighbour is not always going to take that assistance as a compliment, and return nothing. Our High Commissioner in England is constantly trying to ascertain what is needed in the British market, and the

press is bringing Canada from day to day before the attention of the British people.

The press is bringing Canada, day by day, more prominently before the world, and that is one of the causes why our trade is so largely increasing with Great Britain; and it is satisfactory for the consumers to know that the difference in their favour, according to the statement carefully prepared by the Finance Minister, is 2.02 per cent reduction in duties or indirect taxation, and the aggregate saving, \$3,017,000. Yet, despite this large reduction in taxation, there is to the credit of the country, a surplus of \$4,837,749. Thus although the taxation is less we have more money in the treasury. If the late government had been in power, their tariff would have taken over \$3,000,000 more from the consumers, and it is very doubtful whether there would have been a surplus at all, because the object of the national policy was to put money into the pockets of the manufacturers, rather than into the treasury. If the manufacturers were well, everything else was well. Under our present policy, however, it is the treasury that gets the benefit of the duties, and if the aggregate of duties collected has increased, it is due to the fact that our people have imported more goods, it is due to the fact that we are in a more prosperous condition, and better able to buy goods than formerly.

I want to quote a few figures to show what immense strides in advance our farming industry has made under the present administration; and of course, as every one will admit, there are more capital and labour expended in that industry, than in any other, and when the farmer is prosperous, everybody shares in his prosperity. I have compiled a table from the Trade and Navigation Returns, showing the exports of the products of Canada in 1896 and in 1899. I have not taken any account of the articles of farm products which are imported from the United States into Canada, and thence exported to the old country, and which are simply an indication of the growth of commerce. What I wish to show is the increase in the exports of the produce of Canada only, which is the true test of the prosperity of our farmers. The following table gives the results:

	Value.
Wheat exported, 1896. bush. 9,919,542	\$ 5,771,521
Flour of wheat exported, 1896 brls. 186,716	718,433
Total	\$ 6,489,954
Wheat exported, 1899. bush. 10,305,470	\$ 7,784,487
Flour of wheat exported, 1899 brls. 792,536	3,105,288
Total	\$ 10,889,775
Increase in 1899 over 1896	\$ 4,899,821
Barley exported, 1896. bush. 840,725	\$ 316,028
" 1899. " 238,948	110,040
A falling off in 1899 of	\$ 205,988

	Value.
Oats exported, 1896... bush. 968,137	\$ 273,861
Oatmeal " 1896... brls. 110,255	364,655
Total	\$ 638,516
Oats exported, 1899... bush. 10,312,992	\$ 3,268,388
Oatmeal " 1899... brls. 119,986	396,568
Total	\$ 3,664,956
Increase, 1899	\$ 3,026,440
Pease exported, 1896.. bush. 1,544,947	\$ 1,131,187
Pease, split, exported, 1896. " 212,168	168,304
Total	\$ 1,299,491
Pease exported, 1899.. bush. 2,779,168	\$ 1,832,105
Pease, split, exported, 1899 " 132,250	123,493
Total	\$ 1,955,598
Increase, 1899	\$ 656,107
Hay exported, 1896... tons. 214,640	\$ 1,976,431
" 1899... " 62,428	411,631
Decrease, 1899	\$ 1,565,800
Clover seed exported, 1896... bush. 88,828	\$ 396,075
Clover seed exported, 1899... " 157,696	691,014
Increase, 1899	\$ 294,939
Apples, green or ripe, exported, 1896. brls. 567,182	\$ 1,416,470
Apples, green or ripe, exported, 1899. " 1,075,068	2,621,352
Increase, 1899	\$ 1,204,882
Cheese exported, 1896 lbs. 164,689,123	\$ 13,956,571
" 1899 " 189,827,839	16,776,765
Increase, 1899	\$ 2,820,194
Eggs exported, 1896. doz. 6,520,678	\$ 807,086
" 1899. " 9,652,512	1,267,630
Increase, 1899	\$ 460,544
Butter exported, 1896 lbs. 5,889,241	\$ 1,052,089
" 1899 " 20,139,195	3,700,873
Increase, 1899	\$ 2,648,784

I was very much pleased indeed to hear the practical remarks made by the hon. member for North Perth (Mr. MacLaren), who has given to the question of cheese and butter close attention for a number of years. He predicted that there would be a rapid increase, and I believe he is correct in that. Certainly, this is a sort of farming that will help the farmers, by keeping up the fertility of the land; and, with the cold storage system that has been put in operation by the Minister of Agriculture, and the attention given to instructing the people in the cheese and butter industry, there is no doubt that there is every reason

why we should look forward to the immense possibilities of increase in this line of production. It is to be hoped that the good advice the hon. member for North Perth gave the farmers will be acted upon, for his speech was a fine speech for information. With great modesty, he took very little praise to himself for what he had done; but he made a candid statement of facts. His speech is well worthy of being studied, and if widely studied, will be of great benefit to the farmers. But, I wish to give a few figures. The list relating to the farm is not exhausted, and I think it would be more profitable to read such figures than a great many extracts from newspapers as have been placed in *Hansard*, written by obscure individuals whose opinions are not valued. Certainly, this information will be of value to those who use it:

Table showing the export of bacon and hams.
1896—

	Lbs.	Value.
Bacon exported	47,057,642	\$3,802,135
Hams "	6,678,443	579,833
Total		\$4,381,968

	Lbs.	Value.
Bacon exported	111,868,938	\$9,953,582
Hams "	4,783,989	462,896
Total		\$10,416,478

Increase in value of exports of bacon and hams exported in 1899 over 1896 \$ 6,034,510

And this, Sir, can be largely increased. This increase in the last three years can be doubled, for this is a country that is adapted to the production of bacon and ham. Fear has been expressed that the feeding of corn would cause a deterioration in the quality of pork. But, the hon. member for North Perth himself stated that it could be fed in small quantities without being injurious, and I think the people are learning that they can with advantage use corn for fattening cattle, to feed their dairy cows, and also, mixed with other grain, to feed their pigs. I suppose there are some individuals, perhaps members of the opposition, who, when they go to a dealer ask if corn is not injurious, and so on. The reason corn was put on the free list was that when the Finance Minister took the advice of the people of this country on the question, he found that the majority of the best farmers in the country were in favour of it.

Mr. CLARKE. Did not they want to get the American duties taken off their barley in exchange?

Mr. SEMPLE. There was no demand for that. The McKinley tariff wall was high, and the Dingley tariff wall was higher still, and Canada put up a little wall of her own. It was supposed, when the barley market was lost, that the result would be ruinous to the farmers of this country, be-

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cause, during the Cleveland administration, we received \$6,000,000 yearly for our barley. They considered it a grievous loss when that market was taken away. But, our farmers are progressive. They understand the times and how to adapt themselves to circumstances. And so, they find that there is not so much loss after all. In regard to corn, it is not long since I heard the statement made by a practical agriculturist, Mr. Grisdale, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, when asked the question why he fed 75 per cent corn in his experiments, said that the reason was that it was the cheapest food. He said: In Ottawa oats are worth 35 cents a bushel; and we can buy corn at three-quarter cents a pound, so there is a saving of one-quarter cent per pound direct, and besides, the corn is of very much better fattening quality. It would be a great advantage to the farmers if they could exchange oats at one cent per pound and buy corn at three-quarter cents per pound. In fact, it would pay them to exchange even. In Wellington county, one riding of which I have the honour to represent, pease have been a failure for a number of years, and so, many have become converts to free corn, for it is the cheapest and best raw material in the manufacture of beef. Some were formerly of the opinion that it would lower the value of coarse grains have changed their mind and would not wish to go back to the days of dutiable corn. A great many of the small cattle that are shipped from Canada to the United States might be much more profitably handled. If their owners would take the trouble to buy corn and oats and feed them and increase their value, they would make far more money than by selling their stock and selling their oats.

I have here a statement showing the exports of live stock for 1896 and 1899:

Sheep—1896.

	No.	Value.
Sheep exported, one year old and less	170,608	\$ 441,890
Over one year old.....	220,882	1,709,393
Total value		\$2,151,283

Sheep—1899.

Sheep exported, one year old and less	323,733	\$1,118,084
Over one year old.....	81,589	422,773
Total value		\$1,540,857

Decrease in value 1899, as compared with 1896

\$ 610,426

Cattle—1896.

Cattle exported, one year old and less	1,589	\$ 6,244
Over one year old.....	102,862	7,076,298
Total value.....		\$7,082,542

Cattle—1899.		
Cattle exported, one year old and less	24,396	\$ 251,349
Cattle exported more than one year old	187,451	8,271,486
Total value		\$8,522,835
Increase in value, 1899 over 1896.....		\$1,440,293
Horses exported, 1899, one year old or less	3,448	\$ 65,829
Horses exported, 1899, over one year of age	8,936	832,234
		\$ 898,063
Decrease in 1899		\$1,215,032

Now, in speaking of cattle exported, an hon. gentleman has said that cattle bring a less price per head now than they did in former years. Well, I speak on the authority of the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston), who is an exporter and has studied the subject, and he informs me that a great many more small cattle are exported now than formerly. It is no uncommon thing to export animals of 1,100 pounds, whereas formerly few were exported of less weight than 1,400 or 1,500 pounds. This does not show any diminution in the price, but it shows that a different class of cattle is being exported to the old country. I will now present a table showing decrease in values in 1899, as compared with 1896 :

	Decrease.
Barley	\$ 205,938
Hay	1,565,800
Sheep	610,428
Horses	1,215,032
Total decrease	\$3,597,246

The increase in values in 1899 as compared with 1896:

	Increase.
Wheat and flour.....	\$4,399,821
Oats and oatmeal	3,664,956
Pease	656,107
Clover seed	294,939
Apples	1,204,882
Cheese	2,820,194
Eggs	460,544
Bacon and hams	6,034,510
Cattle	1,440,293
Total increase	\$23,652,030
Subtract decrease	3,597,246
Net increase	\$20,027,784

This sum represents the additional amount of money received by the farmers of Canada in 1899, as compared with 1896.

Now, Sir, much attention has been given to the interest of the farmers by this government since 1896. Cattle exported to the United States had to pay 20 per cent. besides undergoing a quarantine for ninety days. Soon after the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) assumed his duties he went to Washington and had the quarantine removed. The duty, however, still remains, but the removal of the quarantine

has been of great advantage to the farmers in many parts of the country, enabling them to ship small and lean cattle to the United States and get an increased price. Although it is not good policy for a farmer to ship small and lean animals, still some of them are not in a position to do anything else. We know also that the great increase in the shipment of butter has been to a large measure due to the cold storage system that has been put in operation and carried on successfully under the supervision of the Minister of Agriculture. The shipment of apples and placing them on the English market in a good condition has also been a feature of cold storage. Also, in respect to cheese and other commodities, we get good value for the money that has been expended in cold storage.

Now, Sir, there is another question which I wish to deal with, the preferential tariff with Great Britain. I will read a few extracts from English papers, showing what they thought of the preferential tariff when it was first put into operation. Although the preference at first was a small one, it was a beginning. It was received and quoted approvingly by the newspapers throughout the length of Great Britain as something that would have a far-reaching effect on both Canada and the mother country :

The Birmingham 'Post' acknowledges the outspoken and warm-hearted allusion of Mr. Fielding to the mother country.

The Brantford 'Observer' regards the new Canadian tariff as likely to increase British commerce with Canada. The step proposed is a sensible and trustworthy measure, because it is an advance towards freedom of trade. The test of the most-favoured nation argument will be interesting to watch.

The Darlington 'Echo' states that the new Canadian tariff is the initial step towards freedom of commerce within the empire. The reform will prove a distinct benefit to the textile industries of Yorkshire and other parts of England. The advantages will be most valuable even if shared by commercial rivals.

The Leeds 'Mercury' says: Manufacturers will regard with satisfaction Canada's determination to deal more favourably with the mother country than with the United States. It doubts whether the explanation of the most-favoured nation clause meets the difficulty.

The Liverpool 'Courier' says that the proposal of Canada to make a preferential tariff will be a good thing for Canada and for the United Kingdom. It adds: If we are to have free trade let it be between England and the colonies, and let other nations which would ruin us look out for themselves.

The Newcastle 'Chronicle' states that Canada's tariff is an answer to McKinley. It adds that free traders are naturally disappointed that circumstances prevented the Canadian government going further, but they have taken an important step towards the desired goal.

The 'Daily News' regards the new tariff as an outcome of American legislation, and adds: 'Mr. Fielding spoke out manfully and accurately upon the relations of this country and the colonies. Too many colonists have hitherto failed to appreciate the fact that while receiving colon-

ial goods free we have allowed the colonies to tax our goods.' It regards the policy announced by Mr. Fielding as advantageous and likely to lead to developments in the direction of free trade. The new Canadian tariff is not avowedly and in terms a measure for the benefit of Great Britain, but England will profit more than any other nation. As free traders they rejoice in the consequences of the Dingley tariff. As patriots they welcome this significant display of attachment from the greatest of the British colonies, and as Liberals they congratulate the leader of the Liberal party of the Dominion.

London 'Globe': It is difficult to overestimate the importance of the news. The Canadian tariff will not improbably prove a prelude to the realization of the hitherto unattainable ideal of free trade within the empire with protection against the world. For many years the Conservative party in Canada advocated the adoption of this policy, but the Liberal cabinet has had the courage to make it the basis of tariff reform. It is possible that the Canadian Minister of Finance is oversanguine in supposing that the difficulties of the new tariff will be readily overcome. Canada has led the way in preferential trade, and her thank offering for the blessings of liberty and security under British rule is not in vain. Wherever the English tongue is heard Mr. Fielding's eloquence will cause a thrill of patriotic enthusiasm and the singing of the National Anthem will find an echo in millions of loyal hearts.'

The 'Pall Mall Gazette' says: The Conservatives talked about preferential duties and did nothing. Now Mr. Fielding plays a trump card with decision. At the same time his speech proves that the government are animated by a real desire to tighten the bonds of the empire. The tariff is bound to have far-reaching results, and the Jubilee year may mark the new era.

The 'Morning': The tariff is the first step towards the closer union of the colonies with the mother country. To the British government and to Mr. Chamberlain the policy of the Canadian government must be a welcome surprise, and no less gratifying to Her Majesty. The enthusiasm of the House of Commons on the adjournment of the debate was a fitting endorsement of an act that does honour to the patriotism of the most distinguished offspring of the mother of parliaments.

The 'St. James' Gazette' praises Mr. Fielding's references to the treatment of Canada by Great Britain. Mr. Fielding has, it says, answered the appeal which Mr. Chamberlain made to the colonies last year in an affirmative and hearty speech. He does not confine himself, as the advocates of preferential trade have commonly done, to vague expressions of loyalty, followed by requests that the mother country shall tax her imports for the benefit of her colonies. The course of the Canadian ministry is not quite clear, especially with regard to the Belgium and Germany treaties, but new financial and commercial good is never easy. The ministry has taken up the policy of its defeated opponents, carrying it to lengths they never ventured. All the indications seem to promise success and justify Mr. Fielding in expecting whatever help the mother country can supply.

Well, Sir, Mr. Fielding looked to the mother country and he did not look in vain. The denunciation of the Belgian and German treaties was desired by the Conservative government, but they could accomplish nothing. However, when the present govern-

ment came into power the British nation was so struck with Canada turning over a new leaf and giving Britain the preference, that they denounced those treaties and so the Canadian Liberals obtained in a very short time, what the Conservatives had talked about and could accomplish nothing. The first preference of 12½ per cent was very small, and you can easily understand that it did not increase our trade with Great Britain to any great extent, because the trade was running in well-worn channels, and the manufacturers who were making, say 20 per cent profit did not wish to relinquish their grasp. However, they had to cut down their prices then, and they had to cut them down again when the preference was made 25 per cent, and now that the preferential rate is 33½ per cent, the consuming masses of this country will get their goods all the cheaper. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), in his speech made in this debate, in referring to the increased preference, used this language:

What is one of the first effects of this cut of 33½ per cent, made hastily, without discrimination as to articles. It is that it places articles of luxury about the lowest on the list of dutiable goods coming into this country. If the 33½ per cent cut is effective, it lets jewellery in at 20 per cent. It lets manufactures of gold and silver used by rich people in at 20 per cent; it lets in silks, which are used by the wealthy, at 23½ per cent; it lets in laces at 23½ per cent; it lets in pianos at 20 per cent; it lets in porcelain goods at 20 per cent; it lets ribbons in at 23½ per cent; it lets shawls and rugs in at 20 per cent; it lets in watches at 16½ per cent; it admits high class worsted goods at 23½ per cent; velvets at 20 per cent; Brussels carpets at 33½ per cent; cottons, gray and white, at 16½ per cent, and coloured cottons at 23½ per cent.

Here he describes gray and white cotton as luxuries, but we all know that these articles are used by the poor as well as by the rich, and they will come into the country now under the preferential rate as 16½ per cent duty. Does not that look like a reduction in the tariff? In all those articles (Mr. Foster) enumerated, the highest he specified was 23½ per cent duty, and will not this be an advantage to the people of Canada who buy these things when they get them at a very much lower price? The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) seems to infer that none but the rich or wealthy enjoy what he calls luxuries. I am very glad to say that most of the things which he has mentioned here can be found in the farm houses of the county of Wellington. The farmers have a right to use them, and they do use them, and under the Liberal preferential tariff they will get them much cheaper than under the Tory tariff. Is it not reasonable to suppose that the goods which we import from Great Britain will increase more and more because if there is a few more years of good government our people will become well off, and they will be able to double their im-

ports from Great Britain. Some of these gentlemen opposite say to us : Oh, you have given an advantage to the mother country, and you are getting nothing in return for it. Why, Sir, we are getting our goods cheaper, and in that way we are getting a return already. The farmers will be able to purchase the best British tweeds and worsteds, and if they want a silk hat to wear they can buy one cheaper than ever before. I was told by a merchant that he has already noticed a good deal of difference in the price of these goods on account of the preferential tariff. A paper read at the intercolonial conference in 1894, showed conclusively that the trade between Canada and Great Britain was only 2.2 per cent. It has increased now to nearly 4 per cent, but even at that it would take twenty-five countries as large as Canada to make up the foreign trade of Great Britain. Does any one suppose for a moment that the free trade system which has been in existence for so many years in Great Britain, and has been so acceptable that few oppose it, will be relinquished by the British people? For my own part I often wonder why there are not more protectionists in Great Britain, for if there is any class that needs protection, it is the British farmer and the British landowner, and those two combined make a large vote in many constituencies. It is not to be wondered at that many members of the British parliament representing agricultural constituencies would want to tax the produce of foreign countries imported to Great Britain, because they know that then they would receive more for what they have to sell. But so far, the agricultural representatives of England have done nothing in that line, for the reason that they know that the trend of public opinion is against them. What a ridiculous thing it would be for our respected Prime Minister to say to the British statesmen, when he was in England at the Jubilee : Canada has made a little sacrifice for you, and we want you to tax the breadstuffs coming from foreign countries in order to make up for what Canada has done. How absurd it would be for our Prime Minister to ask Great Britain to upset her whole fiscal policy to please Canada. Who wants to make a request when he knows it will not be granted? I say that the Premier, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is to be congratulated on the manly speech he made in England when he told them that Canada gave the preference, and was not looking for a return. I would consider it a benefit to the farmers of this country if Canadian products were admitted to Great Britain free and a tax put upon other foreign imports, but I do not expect to see it; for I know that it is natural to suppose that the wants of the British farmer will be considered by the British parliament before they come to consider the wants of the Canadian farmer. A great deal has been

said by different speakers opposite to the effect that the Reform party when in opposition promised that the expenditure would be much less than what it is. We all know that the condition of things is quite different. We know that people in opposition are free to say anything and advocate anything, and are not very particular, so that now when they come to administer the affairs of the country, having greater light on the subject, they see it is not so easy to make a reduction as was contemplated. People are always liable to change. It is my opinion that if a person has made a certain calculation, and he found out he was wrong, it is a good thing that he has the moral courage to own to it and to say : That with more light and experience on the subject he considered he went too far, and that the circumstances did not justify the remarks that he made. Some people who do not speak often have the advantage that they do not require to have such long memories as those who make lengthy speeches, and who forget what they said on different occasions. The increase in the capital expenditure has been denounced by gentlemen opposite. As I mentioned in a former part of my remarks, our trade has increased one-third, and our revenue has increased one-fourth, and there is nothing to complain of if the expenditure should increase one-tenth. That is not out of the way. Complaints were made under the late government when the revenue was \$34,000,000, and there was a deficit of \$4,000,000, that the expenditure was certainly too much, and there is no doubt about that. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), acknowledged that during the three years this government was in power the capital account has increased \$1,800,000, but, Sir, there is something to show for that. There is the deepening of the canals from nine to fourteen feet, the full benefit of which we have not derived yet, but it is expected with great reason that the trade that formerly went through the United States by Buffalo, will find its way down the St. Lawrence through Canada. As to the expenditure of the government on public works, I myself thought when the proposal was made to give \$11,000 per mile to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, that it was a bad investment. But, Sir, it has proved to be a good investment. The government has an asset there of 50,000 acres of the finest coal lands. They secured an agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway that the railway company would reduce the freight on wheat from Winnipeg to Fort William 3 cents per 100 pounds, and on the large amount of wheat raised in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, that reduction will put between four and five hundred thousand dollars into the pockets of the farmers of Manitoba. There was also a reduction made by the Canadian Pacific Railway on freight going into the country, amounting to from 10 to 33 per cent. When

the Conservatives were in power it was considered that the people of Manitoba and the North-west were working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, but now they are working on shares, and while the Canadian Pacific Railway gets a part, the people get the other part. Another result of the expenditure on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway is that it has built up towns and villages along the road, and we see the town of Fernie, not three years in existence, has a population of one thousand and contributed \$400 to the patriotic fund. The hardy miners in that and other towns will require large supplies of goods, and will increase our trade, while they are increasing the outputs of the mines in British Columbia. It is a gratifying fact to know the increase of mining in the Dominion of Canada. In 1894 the value of the output of the mines was \$19,993,857; in 1895, it was \$20,758,450; in 1896, it was \$22,584,513; in 1897, it was \$28,661,430; in 1898, it was \$30,661,010; in 1899, it was \$46,245,878. This mining industry seems to be increasing by leaps and bounds, and the country will profit by it. Now, Sir, it was with satisfaction that we saw the increase of revenue in British Columbia, Manitoba and the North-west Territories, during the last three years. In 1895, the revenue of British Columbia was \$1,035,698; the revenue from Manitoba was \$484,883, the revenue from the North-west Territories was \$16,330; total, \$1,555,911. In 1896, the revenue from British Columbia was \$1,308,579; the revenue from Manitoba was \$615,851. The revenue from the North-west Territories was \$40,847, making a total of \$1,965,277. In 1899 the revenue from British Columbia was \$2,113,927; from Manitoba, \$1,140,628; and from the North-west Territories and the Yukon district, \$593,628, or a total of \$3,848,183 of customs duties collected for the year ending 30th June, 1899, showing an increase over 1896 of \$1,883,906.

The government did well in extending the Intercolonial Railway to the city of Montreal. I remember meeting a friend of mine of a literary turn of mind in the village where I reside, who had been loaded up by arguments from the *Mail and Empire*, and who seemed to think that this transaction would result in a great loss to the country. I said to him: My friend, time will decide the matter, and if time shows that we can pay the rental and reduce the expenditure, we will have done good work. Well, what has been the result? Take the history of the Intercolonial Railway, and there has been a deficit each year from the beginning, during thirty-one years, of \$8,468,199, being an average yearly loss of \$273,167. In 1898, the deficit was \$263,402, not quite up to the average, but in the year 1899, there was a grand showing. One hundred and sixty-nine miles more of that railway was operated, giving employment to a largely increased number of

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brakesmen, engineers and other operatives, and the net result showed an increase of business to the extent of \$620,661, and a profit of \$62,645 over expenditure. That is a good showing, and a very clear demonstration of the ability with which the present government is administering that great railway. Contrast that with the supineness of the late government. Here was this great railway, that cost \$55,000,000, having one of its termini at Halifax, another at St. John, and its western terminus in the little obscure village of Lévis. But the present administration has changed all that. The terminus of that railway is now in the great city of Montreal, where it can compete for the trade flowing into and through that metropolis, and to this reform is due the change of a deficit on the working of this railway into a surplus.

Let me now make a statement which, I am sure, will gladden the heart of hon. members opposite, and that is a statement of the result of our postal administration. There is not a service in the Dominion that has shown greater evidence of care and attention, and which reflects greater credit on the administration. Take the results of the administration of that service in the three last years of the late government, as compared with the results in the three years of the present government:

In 1894 the deficit was.....	\$	707,921
“ 1895 “ “		800,857
“ 1896 “ “		699,391
		<hr/>
		\$2,208,169
		<hr/>
“ 1897 “ “	\$	586,540
“ 1898 “ “		47,602
“ 1899 “ “		398,071
		<hr/>
		\$1,032,213

The deficit in the last three years of the late government was \$2,208,169, whereas in the three years of the present government, notwithstanding the fact that the Postmaster General has reduced postage from three to two cents, it was but \$1,032,213, or \$1,175,956 less than under Conservative rule. It has been stated by a previous speaker that the reduction in postage might benefit the merchants who wrote fifty or a hundred letters a day, but was of no benefit to the farmers. But, Mr. Speaker, the farmers are paying less taxation for the service than they did before, and getting cheaper postage.

The Conservative party are to-day in the position of Micawber looking for something to turn up. They thought their opportunity had come when the first contingent was sent to South Africa. They filled their newspapers with their clamours against the government, they denounced the Minister of Public Works hip and thigh as a high priest of treason, in the hope that his downfall would cause the collapse of the whole government. Well, what was the stand that

the Minister of Public Works did take? All he said was this, that any expenditure incurred should receive the sanction of parliament before being incurred, and that the action of the government in the sending of the contingent, without previous parliamentary sanction, should not be taken as a precedent; and he further said that if Canada was to contribute to the wars of Great Britain, it should have a representative in the British parliament. What was wrong in that contention? Under ordinary circumstances, every expenditure should first be submitted to parliament, but in the case of the first contingent the circumstances rendered that procedure inadvisable. A cablegram passed between the right hon. the First Minister and the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it is stated that a contingent of 1,000 men would be gladly received and thoroughly appreciated by the home government. Our government, as soon as they ascertained the feeling of the country, perfected the arrangement for sending the contingent, they assumed the responsibility of incurring a large expenditure without first having the consent of parliament, as the case was exceptional and every member of the government was unanimous in what was done, and it left on the 30th of October, and I must say the hon. leader of the opposition showed his patriotism when he telegraphed the First Minister that he would lend him all the assistance possible to secure the endorsement of parliament to the sending of the contingent in advance. Thus, it is satisfactory to note that while parties may differ on minor questions of policy, when the honour of the country is at stake they are both agreed, and we all feel proud of the noble conduct of those loyal Canadians who left their homes and went to Africa to fight the battles of the empire. In that country they are enduring privations and risking their lives for the sake of the empire, and the sacrifices they are making will have a powerful effect in joining Canada and the motherland closer together than ever before. Our preferential tariff was the first announcement by this government of its policy to bring closer together Canada and the motherland. Then came the jubilee year, when the Premier went to that aristocratic country—Great Britain—he was the guest of the greatest nobility in the land, and his speeches and demeanour were the admiration of all with whom he came in contact. He was considered at all times, and places, as a worthy representative of the Dominion of Canada.

There is only one thing in which I consider the government have been a little remiss, that is in not bringing in a measure looking to the reformation of the Senate, and endeavouring to have a change effected in the British North America Act giving effect to such a measure. The appointment of

senators is a blot on the Act of Confederation. The Dominion of Canada has no need of any irresponsible body. The senators are not occupied more than one-sixth of the time that members of the House of Commons are, although they receive the same indemnity, and their equipment is more costly. The Senate cost the country in 1899, \$147,636. Its cost for thirty years has been \$4,429,080. There is an account given in the Auditor General's Report of 81 senators being supplied with 84 pocket pencils, costing \$214.62, or \$2.55 each; 84 Anchor fountain pens, costing the same amount; and 84 travelling cases, costing \$873.80, besides a chaplain who costs \$400 annually. If that chaplain could only instil into the senators a proper idea of right and wrong, the money would be well spent; but it does not appear that he has made much impression upon them. They have not the respect of the country. In many instances they have had an opportunity of doing good, but they have not done it. They have proved that the majority are narrow, bigoted and partisan, and that a body appointed has more power than one elected. When the Conservative party was in power, the Senate was of no use, except to register the will of that party, whatever it might be; but since the Liberal party have been in power, the Senate have continually plotted to embarrass the government as much as possible. It is a sad thing that such a country as Canada, with her educational institutions, should be handicapped and the voice of the people ignored, and that an irresponsible body should be able to trample under foot the will of the people. In this connection, I will read a well written article which recently appeared in a newspaper:

The second defeat of the Redistribution Bill has aroused the indignation of all lovers of responsible government in Canada. It has shocked and disgusted the thinking Conservatives of the country, and reminds all classes of people that a crisis in the government affairs of the Dominion has arrived that demands serious attention. What is to be done? Must the legislation of a responsible House of Commons, elected by the people, a House directly responsible to the country for their every action, be trampled down, thrown aside and destroyed by an irresponsible body of senators, partisan to the core? Is that government for the people, by the people? We may point with pride to our government institutions and boast of responsible government in Canada, but responsible government ceases when the voice of the people is disregarded. Some means of remedy must be found. If reformation of the Senate will not secure for the people of Canada that of which they boast, and abolition is the only remedy, abolition it must be. The indignant Canadian is much like the indignant Briton—his rights must be respected at whatever cost.

There is every reason to believe that the great hope of the opposition lies in misrepresentation of the government. As I said before, they are trying to make political capital out of the smallest event that occurs. Why,

Sir, the trifling little affair that occurred in Montreal, between the students of two colleges, was taken up by them, and their press published accounts of it under large headlines, as if something very awful was going to happen. I will read an extract on the subject from a truthful and reliable newspaper. It is in these words :

Slander and misrepresentation could scarcely go further than it does in the Toronto 'Mail and Empire,' which has an editorial article beginning with these words: 'While Mr. Tarte is hobnobbing with Dr. Leyds, the Boer intriguer in Europe, his party is doing heavy work here.' Mr. Tarte has been advising the Boers to come under the British flag and enjoy the religious and civil liberty that it guarantees, and instead of thanks for this loyal and patriotic work, Mr. Tarte is falsely and foully misrepresented, and his whole people exasperated for no other purpose than to poison the Ontario people against Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government. The editorial columns of the 'Mail and Empire' are a standing disgrace to Canadian journalism, so persistently malicious and false are their contents. Does or does not the 'Mail and Empire' place too low an estimate on the intelligence of its readers?

An hon. MEMBER. Who wrote that ?

Mr. SEMPLE. That is from the Montreal *Witness*. I have an article from another paper, which can view matters fairly from a disinterested standpoint—I refer to the great organ of public opinion, the London *Times*. This article is an answer to all the vile insinuations that are made in regard to the actions of this government. It says :

The results of the British system of Imperial rule, as applied to territory inhabited by white races of different origin, was never more strikingly illustrated than by the speech made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Tuesday in the Dominion House of Commons. The speech would rank high in any assembly in the world as a model of noble eloquence, but it is not the language or act of the Canadian Premier's address which will make it live in the annals of the empire. The spirit which glows through it and the thoughts which underlie it are pregnant with great issues for England and mankind. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the French Roman Catholic Premier of a self-governing federation, in which British Protestants are in the majority, has expressed more faithfully and more truly than any statesman who has spoken yet the temper of the new Imperial patriotism fostered into self-consciousness by the war.

Such utterances from newspapers at a distance cause to sink into insignificance the aspersions which are sought to be cast upon the right hon. the Premier, by a number of journalists in this country. From certain articles that appear in some of these papers, the writers would seem to be imbued with the spirit of the late Annanias, whose name is synonymous with falsehood, bearing false witness and deceit. Mr. Speaker, having trespassed so long on your time, I will now conclude, by thanking you and hon. members for the patient hearing that I have received.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Mr. Speaker, I beg to move the adjournment of

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the debate, and I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister, who is leading the government, to allow this motion to pass. The argument which I intend to make is based principally on a report of the French Chamber of Commerce of Montreal, and I desire to make that argument in French. There is only one single member for the province of Quebec in the House, except my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), is asleep—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not at all.

Mr. MONK. Or was until a moment ago. I woke him up myself. And the Minister of Inland Revenue was very nearly asleep also. Under these circumstances, I would urge on my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) that it is imposing an unfair task upon a member of this House, to ask him on a serious question such as that we are now debating, to address the House when he asks the privilege of using the French language, basing his argument on a report of the French Chamber of Commerce of the city of Montreal, when there is not a single man, except the reporter of *Hansard* and these gentlemen I have mentioned who can understand that language. It seems really reducing parliament to a farce. We have worked well this week already. Of course, I am ready to go on; I am ready to deliver my speech to the Minister of Inland Revenue—I feel sure I shall convince him—but I do not think we should proceed in that way. I leave it to my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) himself. This is an important matter. It has not been treated at any length in the French language, and I have a particular reason for wishing to speak in French on this subject. It is already half-past ten, and surely the Minister of Finance will not impose on me the task of delivering a speech in French when I fear I shall be something like the elector who began his address, 'Ladies and gentlemen,' when he noticed that there was only one man in the House, and changed it to 'Respected individual.'

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) is doing very well, and I think he had better keep on.

Mr. MONK. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) knows that the members of Quebec, knowing this debate would not close this week have gone away. It is to them I wish to address myself in their own language, and I think I am not asking anything unreasonable, under the circumstances, in asking that the debate be adjourned. I would not make such a request if I thought it was unreasonable. But, let the Minister of Finance look at the House, I have a few faithful friends who have been kind enough to remain here, but on the other side there is not a quorum, and the leader of the House himself must realize how very diffi-

cult it is to speak in French under such circumstances.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I hardly think that the question of the particular language a gentleman may wish to address the House in has any relation to the hour to which we should sit. It is only two nights ago that we were rebuked, and I think, perhaps, not unjustly, for consenting to an adjournment at 11 o'clock. It is now only half-past ten. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) ought to speak. I know that Friday night is not a very convenient night for any member to address the House. But we must all submit to inconvenience. Owing to circumstances I had to make my budget speech this year on Friday, which was by no means a convenient afternoon. I think we ought to ask the House to continue.

Mr. MONK. I am going to be very short.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is another reason why the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) should go on this evening. I do not think we should adjourn at such an hour as this.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). After the statement made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), that only one French Canadian member remained on the opposite side of the House, I think his request should be granted. Of course many of us on this side are familiar with the French language and will follow the speaker, but on the other side that is not the case. I think it would be only a fair compliment to those who wish to address the House in French that hon. members should not be required to speak to what would be upon that side of the House practically empty benches.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is rather unfortunate, of course, that my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has no French members on his own side to stand by him. But we are able to assure him of a very intelligent French audience on this side that is here attending to its parliamentary duties. I am sorry he has no French Canadian associates on his side, but we on this side are more just to him and will give him an audience.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), for the reasons which I have given when moving the adjournment of the debate, did not see his way clear to yield to my demand. It stands to reason that when a member of this House undertakes the already arduous task to develop in the French language his views upon such an important issue as the one now under consideration, it is only adding to his hardships to force him to speak before empty benches and when there are only a few French-speaking members in the House.

But, Sir, I am a lawyer, and as such, used to speaking in public; and since I find myself under the painful necessity of addressing the *Hansard* reporters, owing to the absence of my colleagues from the province of Quebec, I shall acquit myself of my task to the best of my ability.

Sir, a member who rises to address the House at this stage of the debate, finds himself in an awkward position, not only for the reasons I have just referred to, but also because the field of debate has been so thoroughly explored by previous speakers. We all remember those lines from *Borleau's Art poétique*:

Vingt fois sur le métier, remettez votre ouvrage.
Polissez-le sans cesse, et le repolissez.
Hâtez-vous lentement, et sans perdre courage,
Ajoutez quelquesfois et souvent effacez.

Sir, I think that if it had been given to Boileau to attend this sitting of the House and to hear this debate, fastidious though he was, he could not have found fault with our scrupulous adherence to his oft-quoted precept. At all events, I must say that although I have noted down several points, during the debate which has now been going on for some time, as I saw that the points I wished to deal with were being developed by other speakers, I had to strike out nearly everything I had written.

Still, I think, the question now under consideration is of such importance that previous to voting upon it, the members from the province of Quebec should be given a chance to state their views and define their position on the question.

I have listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks fallen from the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) this afternoon. I admired his practical turn of mind and the good sense he has displayed in his speech when he was giving the House those data and all the information which we listened to with such pleasure. For my part, I do not wish to follow him on the ground he has traversed, as the subject has been so thoroughly threshed out; but what I want to dwell upon more particularly, is the amendment proposed by the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), as that motion embodies the very reason which induces me to give the vote I am going to give on this amendment; and that reason is founded upon the consideration of the preferential tariff.

I think I am within the mark, Sir, when I say that, among all the questions which have been debated on the floor of this House since confederation, and from the very origin of this Dominion, there is none to be compared with this preferential trade question, in point of its supreme importance. As to the province of Quebec, I may say, that the question is of paramount importance.

In my quality of representative of a county situated in the immediate vicinity

of Montreal, the commercial metropolis of Canada, I say, Sir, that the advantages resulting to us from a favourable solution of that problem would simply be incalculable. We are in the vicinity of a great city, the population of which is increasing very rapidly, and the waves of that overflowing population, like the rising tide, spread all over the surrounding country, reaching the hills situated between the limits of my county and those of the city. On those fertile hills, watered on one side by the river Ottawa and on the other side by the St. Lawrence, farmers engage in scientific farming.

Farming, in my county, is highly developed, and I do not think there can be found throughout the length and breadth of the province of Quebec, a wealthier and more prosperous community than is found in my county. Therefore, everything that tends to foster and encourage farming and increase our agricultural products is of the greatest interest to us.

This preferential tariff question acquires a fresh interest and a greater importance, from the fact that we are actually confronted by a negative solution, as regards our access to the American market, the doors of which our opponents were going to open to our trade, as they had promised to do, during the electoral campaign of 1896. We know beyond a doubt, to-day, that the doors of the American market are closed to us and the hopes that were held out to us in that respect have been dashed to pieces.

The object we are aiming at, in debating the important question now under consideration, tends to open still wider the doors of the great British market, across the Atlantic. The question is whether the proposed plan for compassing that object ought to be adopted or whether we ought to support the proposition which the government submits to our approval. Our choice lies between those two propositions, both tending to secure for our products the English market, the only market, beyond a doubt, which is left us.

As to the preferential tariff issue, to which I want to confine my remarks, there seems to be a general consensus of opinion as to the advantages to be obtained by that fiscal policy, were it to be adopted and enforced throughout the whole empire. That inter-imperial scheme would open to our agricultural products, and to our trade, a market of 300,000,000 people. The possibilities in this respect are simply immense.

The prospects which this system opens to us, with regard to the disposal of our agricultural products, have always been, as a rule, considered as most inviting. That question has been thoroughly threshed out in this House, and outside of it, by all our political men. During the electoral contest which took place in the county of Jacques Cartier, in 1896, when I ran for parliament, that same question was over and over again

explained to the people, and all were agreed that the establishment of the preferential trade system would procure to all classes of the community exceptional advantages; and that such a regime, by opening to us the British markets, could not fail to give our industries a powerful impetus, and that it would develop throughout the country an unprecedented prosperity.

As I said, all those who addressed the electors in my constituency, in 1896, were agreed on that point, and the only difference of opinion was as to the means of reaching the desired end. Some were of the opinion that, with our protective tariff, there was nothing to be expected from Great Britain; while we, Conservatives, maintained that even, without abandoning our protective tariff, Great Britain would, later on, feel constrained to give us certain advantages. But, as I said, so far as the benefits resulting from the carrying out of that grand scheme, the commercial federation of the empire, are concerned, never, in the course of the hard-fought contest of 1896, did I hear any one give expression to the least doubt on that point. Even in England, Sir, they are agreed on it, and, before resuming my seat, I hope that I shall prove to the satisfaction of the House that there is a perfect consensus of opinion among politicians and business men in the motherland about the enormous impetus which would be given to the trade of Canada and of the other colonies, were colonial products accorded a preferential treatment in the British market and in the markets of sister colonies. That is granted even by those who are unwilling to make any concession to the colonies. I may be allowed to repeat—for, in the course of a debate which has already reached such proportions, repetitions can scarcely be avoided—that the attitude which we are taking to-day, when asking the mother country to give us a quid pro quo, is by no means a novel attitude, or something unheard of; for, as pointed out during this debate, there is no country which does not accord some preference to its colonies. So does Germany, while France, which has a very high tariff, gives nevertheless to her great colonies a special tariff. So again when Canada, which is no longer a mere colony, but, thanks to her wonderful development, forms an integral portion of what British statesmen now call Greater Britain; when, I say, we Canadians, addressing the mother country, offer her, out of generosity and in a broad spirit, certain advantages, we are entitled to expect some return from her. And the attitude we take is by no means a singular or an unprecedented one; for, we are only walking in the footsteps of all the other countries or dependencies of great European powers.

We must not lose sight of the fact that England herself carried out the policy referred to. Until recently, the prevailing

impression in Canada was that Great Britain is the mother country of free trade ; but there is nothing remoter from the truth than such a view. As recently as 1860, Great Britain had always given a preferential treatment to her colonies ; and should the self-governing colonies succeed in converting the mother country to their views and prevail upon her to give them a preferential treatment in her markets, the motherland would then only come back to the system that obtained in England until a comparatively recent date. Prior to 1842, the chief articles of colonial production, such as wheat, wood, tobacco, wine and many others, enjoyed preferential tariff treatment in Great Britain. Wheat, which is so often referred to, in connection with such preferential tariff treatment in the British market, was made dutiable in favour of the colonies. That duty, it is true, was chargeable and was regulated by a sliding scale. It was higher when wheat was cheap, and lower when the price of wheat was enhanced ; but, at all events, there was a practical discrimination made in favour of wheat imported from the colonies, as against wheat imported from foreign countries. After the fiscal revolution which took place about that time in Great Britain—in 1846, I think—the discrimination in favour of wheat imported from the colonies was maintained as late as 1849 ; so that, towards 1850, that article, which is of such large production in the colonies, was still the object of a preferential treatment. Nay, more, as recently as 1860 there were differential duties or a discrimination in favour of many colonial products in the markets of Great Britain. For instance, differential duties were imposed upon barley, butter and cheese—which are of such large production in Canada, chiefly since the dairying has taken so great a development, and also on rice, binder twine and other articles.

But in 1860, began the industrial supremacy and the world-wide dominion of England. Knowing that she could hold her own against the whole world, she came to the conclusion of giving free access to her markets to the imports of foreign nations.

Let me here call attention to a fact contemporary with the fiscal revolution of Great Britain, for, in the treatment of so complex a question as this, it is desirable to notice the trend of public opinion. In 1860, when England decided to establish free trade and to open the doors of her markets to the whole world, there was already a noticeable movement, in the colonies in the direction of preferential trade.

As early as 1859, prior to the negotiations which resulted in the confederation of the provinces, the various British North American colonies were anxious to obtain from Great Britain the privilege of establishing preferential tariff treatment among themselves. But, England objected to any such arrangement and then began the great move-

ment which resulted in the confederation of the provinces and the throwing down of the customs barriers which existed between the provinces. But, let us see what was going on at the antipodes, in the same connection : a similar movement was started in the Australian colonies which are actually trying to confederate, as the Canadian provinces did at that time. These Australian colonies were anxious to obtain from the imperial government the right of establishing a preferential tariff among themselves, and similar objections were raised by the British authorities ; but, such was the force of the movement, that in the end, the Imperial parliament had to pass an Act to authorize those colonies to establish a mutual preferential tariff among themselves.

It will readily be understood, Sir, from the history of these first endeavours, that we have been the pioneers in that great movement towards the establishment of inter-imperial preferential trade. We were the first to appoint a representative or high-commissioner for Canada, in 1880 ; and in creating this office, the Conservative government, had in view the desirability of keeping the country well informed as to the transactions and the progress of affairs in the old country, as also the necessity of watching more closely our own commercial interests.

The Imperial Federation League was also created under similar circumstances, its object being to secure our commercial supremacy in the English market and in the colonies.

I do not think that too much weight should be given to the utterances of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) in this respect. I was surprised to hear his remarks about the state of public opinion in England on this question. I do not think either that too much stock should be taken in the utterances of the hon. member for Brant who has shed crocodile's tears over the position of the English workers. He told us that the people of Great Britain would turn a deaf ear to our request, should we presume to ask them what is embodied in the amendment before the House.

In hearing the hon. gentleman make such statements, I wonder at their sublime ignorance of the progress of public opinion in Great Britain. If they have closely watched the progress of that opinion, how is it that they are not aware of the fact that in that Imperial Federation League are to be found men of considerable eminence, prominent members of the House of Commons, like Mr. Howard Vincent and others who, one and all, advocate the idea that, sooner or later, Great Britain will consent to give us preferential treatment for our products in the British market, and that the Imperial Federation League was founded for the very object of promoting and encouraging that scheme? Those eminent British politicians, have not hesitated to advocate that policy,

which has been most enthusiastically endorsed in the old country.

What did Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister of England, tell Mr. Howard Vincent and others upon a solemn occasion when they had waited on him in order to bring to his notice the proposal I am advocating here to-night? Lord Salisbury acknowledged that the subject I am dealing with is nothing more nor less than a problem in which the future of the British Empire is concerned. He said further:

On this matter public opinion must be framed or formed before any government can act. No government can impose its own opinions on the people of this country in these matters. You are invited, and it is the duty of those who feel themselves to be the pioneers of such a movement and the apostles of such a doctrine, to go forth and fight for it, and, when they have convinced the people of this country, their battle will be won.

Such were the utterances of the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Many statesmen and economists have written on this question in the leading magazines in the old country; and the hon. leader of the opposition himself, upon two different occasions,—the first time, if my memory serves me right, in 1891, in the *Fortnightly Review*, and later on, in 1892 in the *Nineteenth Century*—has written articles in which he advocated the very proposal which is laid down in the amendment under consideration. These articles were favourably received and commented on by the press in England. I do not know whether the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Heyd) and the hon. gentlemen who contend that Great Britain will never grant us such a preference in her markets, have read a volume which has created quite a sensation in England among those who are interested in this question: I refer to 'Made in Germany,' a book published by Ernest Edwin William, which has been very favourably received in England. The author points out the decline that has taken place in the volume of exports of industrial products, and he shows, by means of statistics, that Germany, Belgium and the United States have entered into a deadly rivalry with Great Britain and are threatening her commercial supremacy. He then suggests remedies, and before all others he mentions the mutual preferential trade system, by which England might discriminate in her tariff in favour of colonial products, as against foreign produce entering Great Britain. He gives his country this truly wise piece of advice: let England, if she wishes to maintain her commercial supremacy, approach in the proper tone and spirit the solution of that problem, namely, the creation of an inter-imperial preferential trade system. By adopting that system, he says, England will recover her commercial supremacy which is apparently about to be wrested from her through the acute and deadly competition of European and American industry.

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Now, Sir, whoever has attentively read that book, and noticed how favourably it has been received by the English readers, cannot surely rush to the conclusion that this preferential trade system is a mere utopia, and that the solution of that problem must be relegated to the Greek Kalends. This is a question of capital importance. In my opinion, it is the paramount question, and one which will come under the consideration of the Canadian electorate, during the approaching contest. That problem was approached in the proper spirit by this parliament in 1892, and by means of a resolution, the Conservative party did very clearly define their position, and since they have never receded from it. Sir, if you read the speeches delivered by the most eminent men in the Conservative party, and if you closely examine the attitude and action of that party, you will find that they have never varied from their position. Today, their attitude is clearly expressed in the amendment submitted to the House, and in the exact terms embodied in the resolution adopted by parliament in 1892.

That resolution was proposed by the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) who had given the subject his closest attention. It was opposed by the gentlemen who now sit on the opposite side; and most of all, by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies) who tried to amend it. The resolution reads as follows:

If and when the parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admits Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom on more favourable terms than it accords to the products of foreign countries, the parliament of Canada will be prepared to grant corresponding advantages by a substantial reduction in the duties it imposes upon British manufactured goods.

That, Sir, was our position in 1892, and as I just said, we have never varied from it.

Let me now show to the House that this proposal, which is so fair, so just, so reasonable, far from having been treated with contempt, has ever been most favourably received by the most eminent British statesmen and by the British public, in general; and further that the action of the Canadian government has resulted in adjourning indefinitely or at least for many years to come, the grant of that great boon which we would have every chance of conquering now, should we join hands to reach the desired end.

The British press has expressed its entire approbation of the generous concessions made to Great Britain by the Finance Minister. These concessions which first amounted to a cut of twelve per cent in the tariff, were, later on, raised to twenty-five per cent, and they now reach the figure of thirty-three and one-third per cent, under the resolution submitted to the House. These munificent concessions on the part of the government have won for them the highest encomiums.

When we were in power, and we had taken for our motto 'give and take' as stated yesterday by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain); when we told the mother country that we wanted something in return for the concessions which we were ready to make, the British press did not scout the idea, and the *London Times*, which cannot be charged with propounding economical heresies, made itself the echo of public opinion in Great Britain. Now, how did this journal treat the proposal made by the Conservatives, to the effect that we, colonials, should also get something in return for the advantages we were willing to grant Great Britain? Allow me to give an extract from the editorial published by that paper on the question which now engages our attention.

When, however we come to deal with a commercial union, we tread upon ground that has to be traversed with caution. Sir Gordon Spriggs tells us that free trade is not a fetish in the colonies, and that the theories of the text-books are not allowed to stand in the way of any fiscal measure that seems advantageous. As to the text-books, they are getting somewhat outworn even here. Our modern economists have so many qualifications to make in the fine, square-cut doctrines of the older school, that the science is rapidly becoming unrecognizable. There is still a considerable amount of fetish worship, but the idea upon which any commercial union must rest will not in future incur the furious and unreasoning hostility that would have greeted them twenty years ago. It is getting to be understood that free trade is made for man, not man for free trade, and any changes that may be proposed will have a better chance of being discussed upon their own merits, rather than in the tight and dry theory backed by outcries about the thin end of the wedge. The British Empire is so large and so completely self-supporting that it could very well afford, for the sake of a serious political gain, to surround itself with a moderate fence.

That is how the *Times* spoke, when parliament passed the resolution in question, making known to Great Britain the conditions under which we were ready to accord her a large measure of preference in our home market.

But parliament was not the only voice that made itself distinctly heard in 1892, on that question and intimated to Great Britain that, notwithstanding the ties which bind us to her, and in spite of our desire to promote the interests of the empire, it behooved us, first and last, to safeguard our own interests. The eminent statesman who, for so many years, had framed the fiscal policy of this country, Sir John A. Macdonald, had repeatedly made to Great Britain the very suggestion referred to. In 1891, on April 8, he wrote to the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, a minister in the British cabinet, as follows:—

Manufacturers and their working people must, or, rather should, be taught that they can find friendly and expanding markets in the colonies if they are treated in the same spirit * * *

Now, Canada has undertaken the development of her resources on so large a scale that she must have revenue, and from various causes, can only look to customs and excise for it. While therefore, she cannot promise a reduction of her customs duties, she will be quite ready to give British goods a preference of 5 or even 10 per cent in our markets, if our products receive a corresponding preference in England.

So, said Sir John Macdonald, Canada has undertaken to develop its own resources; we are ready to give British goods a preference of 5 or even 10 per cent in our markets, on the condition that England shall give us a similar preference.

We now come to the year 1894, and here again we find that the will of the people, as given expression to by our public men, by the Canadian parliament, was also in the direction referred to, namely, that we ought to receive something in return for the preference given to British goods in our markets.

I may say that in 1894, we took a decisive step towards the successful solution of this preferential trade problem, by the resolution which was adopted by the Ottawa conference, at which all the self-governing colonies of the empire, as well as the mother country herself, were represented. After a debate, in which participated nearly all the delegates to that conference, the following resolution was carried:

That this reference records its belief in the advisability of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and her colonies by which trade within the empire may be placed on a more favourable footing than that which is carried on with foreign countries.

Such was the resolution adopted by the Ottawa conference of 1894.

Now, the better to emphasize the fact that the colonies have ever claimed a preference in the markets of the mother country, I would beg of all the hon. gentlemen who take an interest in the matter—and I daresay it is one in which every one of us ought to feel interested—to look over the report of the great congress of all the Chambers of Commerce of the empire, which was held in 1886. By the way, let me say that at that congress met together not only the representatives of colonial trade, but also the chairmen of the British Chambers of Commerce. Two sittings at least of that congress were devoted to the consideration of the very question now under consideration. Now, Sir, in view of what has transpired at that important congress, is the hon. gentleman warranted in saying that Great Britain will never accede to our just demands in connection with the preferential treatment of our products in her markets?

I have before me the report of the proceedings of that congress, and I find that the 43 first pages are exclusively devoted to the consideration of the preferential trade question. The honorary president was the able statesman who is now at the head of

the Colonial Office, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. He presided over the meeting, and I wish to call your attention to the utterances fallen from his lips upon that occasion. After first referring to the claims of the out and out free traders, who are hostile to any kind of duties levied upon British imports, and after having, on the other hand, clearly defined the position of colonial protectionists, who do not want to make any cut or discrimination in their tariff, he says :

Well, gentlemen, you will see that so far we have arrived at a deadlock. We have a proposal by British free traders which is rejected by the colonies. We have a proposal by colonial protectionists which is rejected by Great Britain. We have, therefore, if we are to make any progress at all, to seek a third course, a course in which there shall be give and take on both sides, in which neither side will pedantically adhere to preconceived conclusions, in which the good of the whole shall subordinate the separate interests of parts. And I admit that, if I understand it correctly, I find the germs of such a proposal in a resolution which is to be submitted to you on behalf of the Toronto Board of Trade. What is that resolution? I hope I correctly explain it. That resolution I understand to be one for the creation of a British Zollverein, or customs union, which would establish at once practically free trade throughout the British Empire, but would leave the contracting parties free to make their own arrangements with regard to duties upon foreign goods; except that this is an essential condition of the proposal that Great Britain shall consent to replace moderate duties upon certain articles which are of large production in the colonies. Now, if I have rightly understood it, these articles would comprise corn, meat, wool and sugar, and, perhaps, other articles of enormous consumption in this country, which are at present largely produced in the colonies, and which might be under such an arrangement wholly produced in the colonies, and wholly produced by British labour. On the other hand, as I have said, the colonies, while maintaining their duties upon foreign imports, would agree to a interchange of commodities with the rest of the empire and would cease to place protective duties upon any product of British labour. That is the principle of the German Zollverein; that is the principle which underlies the federation of the United States of America; and I do not doubt for a moment that if it were adopted it would be the strongest bond of union between the British race throughout the world. (Cheers.) I say that such a proposal as that might commend itself even to the orthodox free trader. It would be the greatest advance that free trade has ever made since it was first advocated by Mr. Cobden, to extend its doctrines permanently to more than 300 millions of the human race, and to communities, many of which are amongst the most thriving, the most prosperous, and the most rapidly increasing in the world. On the other hand, it would open up to the colonies an almost unlimited market for their agricultural and other productions. Of course, the details of such a scheme would require the most careful examination. There may have to be exceptions made to the principle, although I believe the principle itself must be adopted, if any progress is to be made at all. But I am not going to discuss fully these exceptions on the present occasion. I only want to impress

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upon you my personal conviction that if a proposal of this kind came to us from the colonies, backed by any considerable support on their part, it would not be met with a blank refusal by the people of this country. I say, gentlemen, if it were proposed to us by the colonies, because I do not consider that it would be either wise or practicable that a proposal of this kind should come in the first instance from the United Kingdom.

Such was the clear and explicit statement made by that eminent British statesman before the assembled congress.

Let us now come to the proposed proposition which was laid before the congress, a little later, by the representative of the Toronto Chamber of Commerce, the hon. member for Toronto Centre (Mr. Osler) :

Resolved, that in the opinion of this conference, the advantage to be obtained by a closer union between the various portions of the British Empire are so great as to justify an arrangement as nearly as possible of the nature of a Zollverein, based upon the principles of the freest exchange of commodities within the empire, consistent with the tariff requirements incident to the maintenance of the local government of each kingdom, dominion, province or colony, now forming part of the British family of nations.

As will be seen, it is clearly stated here that it is desirable to draw closer the commercial relations of the empire, without, however, disturbing the fiscal policy of any colony.

Was that resolution opposed and voted down by the congress? Far from it, it did receive the warmest support from many responsible British business men and from the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce of Great Britain. I need only refer to the encomiastic language used by Mr. Chamberlain and by Mr. Baxton, the Under-Secretary of State under the former government, a very able man, who is thoroughly conversant with the colonial question, to remove all doubts from the minds of hon. gentlemen as to the favourable reception accorded to that proposal.

I quite agree that the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool, and the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, who are out and out free traders, opposed that resolution, although they evinced the keenest interest in the debate, stating at the same time that there was much to be said in favour of the colonial claim; but, at all events they declared that they could not see their way clear for the moment, to endorse the resolution then pending, as it stood. I do not wish to take up the time of the House, by reading extracts from the report of the congress; let me only add that a simple glance at the contents of that report will satisfy you that British statesmen were ready to accede to the demand of the colonies. The British business men, the presidents of the chambers of commerce of the empire, who attended that congress, being

very little conversent with the wants and conditions of the colonies, were reluctant to endorse such a proposal. They asked for further information; but they were far from stating that the proposition by which we stand to-day, and by which we shall stand before the electorate of this country, did not command itself to the attention of the English people.

But on the second day matters took a different turn. Mr. Colmer, a Canadian, a man who has mastered all the details of the question, rose and stated his views before the congress. The assembly, wavering the day before and unwilling to adopt Mr. Osler's resolution, reconsidered the matter. As the congress was anxious that no dissentient voice should be registered, they agreed to alter the terms of the resolution laid down by the representative of Canada and to pass a less formal resolution, and one which, all the same, stated that the question was worthy of consideration, and that the representations made by the colonial envoys commended themselves to public attention, and finally that Great Britain was very far from opposing a blank refusal to their claims in the matter. Here is the resolution which was finally agreed to:

That this Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the empire is of opinion that the establishment of closer commercial relations between the United Kingdom and the colonies and dependencies is an object which deserves, and demands, prompt and careful consideration. The congress, therefore, respectfully represents to Her Majesty's government that, if the suggestion should be made on behalf of the colonies or of some of them, it would be right and expedient to promote such consideration, and the formulation of some practicable plan, by summoning an Imperial conference, thoroughly representative of the interests involved, or by such other means as Her Majesty may be advised to adopt.

It was resolved that a copy of that resolution should be sent to all the important bodies in the colonies, whether parliamentary or municipal.

That suggestion, Sir, which was made time and again by the colonies, and which was so strongly emphasized at the congress of 1896, was very favourably received in the mother country. Now, in the face of those facts, what becomes of the statements so often reiterated by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Heyd)? Were they justifiable in making such utterances? Are we to believe that Englishmen, who are practical business men could have given the least attention to a proposition which as stated by the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Heyd), is sheer nonsense, and one tending to completely revolutionize the fiscal system of Great Britain? I do not think that gentleman and some of his friends would ever have committed himself to such a statement, had they taken the trouble to study the fiscal question as formulated with such accuracy by Mr. Colmer.

A few years ago, a prize of one thousand guineas was offered for the best essay on the important subject we are now dealing with. Mr. Colmer was one of the competitors, and he shared with another Englishman the honour of having written the best essay on a subject in which, after all, Great Britain is as much interested as we are. Five hundred guineas were awarded to him by those who acted as judges in the award of the prize.

Mr. Colmer's essay, which is, of course, limited, as he had to conform to the conditions of the competition, contains the germ of the proposition which is being actually advocated by the Conservative party in Canada. In our opinion, this movement does not involve any disturbance of Great Britain's economical system; on the contrary, it is very simple and would not revolutionize the general fiscal system adopted by Great Britain. This proposition, I believe, if it were given a trial, would tend to give an enormous impetus to the cause of intercolonial preferential trade.

Mr. Colmer first remarks that the list of 'principal and other articles imported' in the annual statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom contains only two hundred and nineteen articles; but, that for the purpose of inaugurating commercial federation, the placing of small duties on about eighteen articles is all that would be required. It is, therefore, idle to suppose, as contended by hon. gentlemen opposite, that such a scheme is going to disorganize the whole fiscal system of Great Britain.

Among the eighteen articles on which duties would be imposed, he has selected articles which are produced in the various British colonies, so as to interest in his scheme all the great dependencies of the empire.

Let me briefly point out the articles in the export of which Canada would be more particularly interested. Should Great Britain adopt Mr. Colmer's proposition, the trade in those articles would receive an enormous impetus. The author of the essay mentions those products, and gives under each item the proposed rate of duty which he suggests to England to place on such articles coming from foreign countries, in favour of her colonies, and the results which the imposition of that duty would bring about. Those calculations are based on the data embodied in the Trade Reports for the year 1894.

The first article he deals with is that of cattle and sheep. What duty does Mr. Colmer suggest to levy on those two staple products of the colonies? The duty proposed is but 10 shillings per head on oxen and cows and 1 shilling per head on sheep. He says that in 1894, the imports of oxen and cows from foreign countries into Great Britain were £6,910,550, and from the colonies £1,373,815. The imports of live sheep, according to Mr. Colmer, were valued at £567,078, from foreign countries, and £237,-

745, from British possessions, or about one-half the imports.

Then, he goes on showing what would be for Great Britain the result of the proposed duty of 10 shillings per head on live cattle, and of one shilling on sheep.

A consideration of the highest importance in his opinion is that, under this new regime the colonial trade in cattle and meat would assume an enormous development, and that the competition among the various colonies—to which this duty would give a new stimulus—would tend to keep the prices down, and that it would be aided by the imports of duty on free cattle.

He then deals with the effect of the levying of a duty on the imports of meats of all kinds, such as bacon, hams, &c.

As hon. gentlemen know, Great Britain has to depend, for her food supplies, upon outside markets. In 1894, the imports from foreign countries were valued at the immense sum of £15,532,545, and from the colonies only at £3,878,085. The duty proposed by Mr. Colmer is 1s. 4d. per hundredweight, and he contends that it would hardly have any effect upon the price of meat. This is a point which ought to be taken into consideration, for, if that duty tends to keep the prices down, the objection raised against it are thereby obviated.

He then deals with the cheese question. A noteworthy fact is that a larger quantity of cheese is imported from the colonies than from foreign countries. He suggests to impose a duty of 1s. 6d. per hundredweight on that article, or a little more than a farthing per 2 lbs. In his opinion, the cheese from the colonies, remaining duty free, would dominate the market, and thus, the colonies would have the almost exclusive control of the British market for that article, which is so highly prized in England.

Butter is one of the 18 articles included in the list for which he advocates a preference in favour of the colonies. The trade in that product, in which Canada is so deeply interested, has been rapidly developing of late years. In 1894, the British imports of butter from foreign countries were valued at £11,932,149, and from the colonies at £1,524,550. The duty suggested by Mr. Colmer on that article is 2s. 6d. per hundredweight, or about 1 farthing a pound. Here again he says that owing to the powerful impetus which the imposition of this duty would give to colonial trade and to competition with foreign products on the British markets, the price of butter would not be increased.

Wheat is another article in which Canada is greatly concerned, and it is also included in Mr. Colmer's proposition. The British imports of wheat from foreign countries in 1894 were valued at £15,459,543, and from the colonies at £3,300,962 only. The proposed duty is insignificant, as it would amount to one shilling per quarter of 480

lbs., and would produce considerable revenue. This duty, he says, is not likely, in view of past experience, to in any way add to the price of bread.

Flour is an article which Great Britain imports to a considerable extent, and those imports go on increasing from year to year. In 1894, the British imports of flour from foreign countries were valued at £7,488,044, and from the colonies at £506,629 only. The duty proposed is 4½d. per hundredweight, and it would yield a considerable revenue to Great Britain, without, in the opinion of men who advocate this system, in any way adding to the cost of flour or making bread dearer to the English workers. The price of bread, they contend, varies very little, being free from those fluctuations which occur in the price of wheat and flour. In the opinion of economists, the competition would be so acute that there would be no increase in the price of those commodities. As to the other articles mentioned in the list, they are articles in which the other colonies are chiefly concerned.

Mr. Colmer shows what effect the imposition of that duty would have on the general trend of British trade. He shows that this measure would place the colonies upon a more favourable footing than foreign countries. Taking as a basis the imports of 1894, I find that, from the levying of the duties suggested by Mr. Colmer, Great Britain would raise a revenue of about £2,700,000. Such is the extent of that revolution in the fiscal policy of England, about which we have heard so much from hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. WALLACE. As it is now near midnight, I would suggest that the debate be adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Does the hon. gentleman wish to adjourn the debate?

Mr. MONK. Yes; I move the adjournment of the debate.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Well, at this hour I think the hon. gentleman is entitled to an adjournment.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.55 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, April 23, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE LATE MR. HALEY, M.P.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to have to announce to the House that death has claimed another victim from the ranks of this parliament. Our colleague, Dr. Haley, member for Hants, N.S., after a long and protracted illness bravely borne by him, is now no more. So far as our deceased friend was personally concerned, death was, perhaps, a relief, because he has been enduring very great suffering for the last weeks and months of his life. Mr. Haley was a comparatively new member of this House as he came in with this parliament, but for years he was well known throughout his province, and had been long engaged in political life. The members from his province, who knew him well, will bear testimony, that though our late friend was a strong party man, he was always a most fair opponent, and those of us who have been associated with him in this parliament will all be happy to remember, that although engaged in party strife on the floor of this House, he had none but personal friends. Mr. Haley was one of those men who are so happily disposed that whilst they can always maintain their own views with great force and vigour, still they can do so in such a way as to offend nobody. I am sure that on both sides of this House he leaves nothing but most sincere friends, and I can express the sympathy of all when I say that we unite in offering our condolence to his bereaved family, to whom his loss is irreparable.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). In common with the right hon. the leader of the House I regret deeply that it is our painful duty to again refer to the loss of another member of this parliament. Mr. Haley came from my native province, and as has been said, he was well and widely known there. I may say that not only as regards this House, but as regards the province whence he came, no person who knew him failed to respect him. While discharging his duty to his party and to his country according to the light he had, Dr. Haley possessed the happy faculty of performing these duties firmly, and at the same time in so kind a manner as to secure the regard and most kindly feeling of every member on both sides of this House. The loss to his family, of course, is irreparable, and I am sure that every member will join in tendering their most heartfelt sympathy to those he has left behind in the sad loss they have sustained. I am glad to learn

that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister proposes, as a mark of esteem, that this House should adjourn for the purpose of enabling us to pay a final testimony of respect to our friend and colleague, in following his remains on the first stage towards their last resting place.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). May I add a word to what has been so feelingly said by the right hon. the Prime Minister and by the hon. the leader of the opposition. Dr. Haley's death will be felt as a personal loss to all who had the pleasure of knowing him in this House, and will be particularly felt by the members from his own province, and to none more than to myself, whose privilege it was to know him intimately. I had an association of a quarter of a century with my friend Dr. Haley, and during the greater part of that time we have been together in public life. I entered the legislature of Nova Scotia on the same day as he did; for nine years we sat together, and when after a short time of absence from public life he came to Ottawa, fate ordained that I should come here too. While a strong party man, Dr. Haley was of such genial temperament and such moderate views that his life was well calculated to soften the asperities which sometimes enter into political affairs. It is well, Mr. Speaker, that we have such men in public life, who are able to draw both sides of politics more closely together in human friendship. In private life Dr. Haley was known as an enterprising and public-spirited citizen, who was ever ready to lend his efforts and his means to whatever objects seemed best for the good of Canada. While the loss to his family is beyond repair, it will, I am sure, be a great comfort to them to know that the right hon. the leader of the House and the hon. the leader of the opposition have spoken of him to-day in such a kind and sympathetic manner, and that the House is willing to suspend its labour for an hour in order that we may pay the last tribute of respect to our departed friend. This will be another evidence of the desire of hon. members on both sides to do honour to the memory of our departed friend, who was in every way worthy of our confidence and esteem.

The PRIME MINISTER. I beg to offer my thanks to the hon. the leader of the opposition, who has so readily assented to the suggestion—made in his absence to the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster)—that the House should suspend its sitting from this time until five o'clock. The remains of Dr. Haley will leave the Russell House at four o'clock, to be conveyed to the railway station, and the House will resume at five o'clock.

The House then took recess until five o'clock.

House resumed at five o'clock.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to rise to a question of privilege. On Friday last, when speaking on the budget, I made reference to two large industries in the county which I have the honour to represent—one a manufactory of gloves, the other a large industry for tanning sole leather, belting leather and harness leather. After having spoken at some length with reference to the glove industry, I made reference to the large tanning industry, and stated that from 150 to 175 men were walking the streets because their wages had been reduced. Unfortunately, in the report that appeared in some of the newspapers, my remarks were somewhat misunderstood. It was made to appear that the men who were on strike were the employees of the glove industry instead of those of the tanning industry. I do not wish that any injury should come to any firm as a result of my remarks being misunderstood, and I desire explicitly to say that the men engaged in the glove industry are harmoniously at work, perfectly satisfied with the wages being paid to them by their employer; but that the dissatisfaction to which I referred had reference entirely to the men engaged in the large tanning industry for the tanning of sole leather, harness and belting leather.

JAPANESE IMMIGRATION.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior) the other day called my attention to the subject of Japanese immigration. I have received from the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce a communication on this subject, which I will convey to him and to the House:

With reference to Mr. Prior's statement as to the number of Japanese arriving, I beg to state that so far as the 'Riojun Maru' is concerned, the number she brought on the last trip reported to this department was 310, 99 of whom were in transit to other countries.

Possibly she is about due again, and may have a larger number on board, but as yet we have no report of her arrival. We invariably get reports, as per form inclosed, in due course by mail immediately on the arrival of any vessel bringing either Chinese or Japanese.

Further, with reference to Mr. Prior's statement that in his opinion they were without doubt paupers, I beg to remark that no emigrant is allowed to leave Japan except under government supervision, and under guarantee as to his character, and I am confident that no pauper would be allowed to leave Japan, as he would not be able to furnish the guarantee required.

My observation goes to show that although a large number of Japanese usually arrive at this season of the year, the bulk of them are in transit to other countries.

The two last Japanese steamers reported, which arrived in March last, brought respec-

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tively 215, of whom 81 were in transit, and 548, of whom 298 were in transit.

WELLAND CANAL—DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Mr. GEORGE E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals if he has any late information as to the amount of damage which is supposed to have been done on the Welland Canal by dynamiters?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I think, Mr. Speaker, that I am in possession of all the information which there is to be had on the subject. Following the occurrence which was duly made known in the public press, instructions were forwarded to the superintendent of the canal to have made what further examination would be required in order to ascertain the precise extent of injury that had been done. This necessitated the employment of divers to make the inspection, and I am happy to say that the result shows that nothing has been seriously injured with the exception of the gates, which will have to be replaced. We have gates on hand, however, and they will be put in place so that the canal will be opened at the date intended. The damage to the walls has not been very serious. Hon. members may rest assured that the canal will be opened at the time fixed for the opening, the 25th inst.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the minister any late information as to whether any light has been thrown on the matter by the examination of the men in custody?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No. The prisoners have been taken to Welland. There has been no examination of them at all, and no new or fresh facts of any importance have been elicited. There has been an enlargement of the examination, I believe, for eight days.

INQUIRIES FOR REPORTS AND RETURNS.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. As the Postmaster General is in his seat, I beg to ask him when his report will be brought down.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mu-
lock). On Thursday.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). I would like to ask the Postmaster General when the return that was asked for on the 2nd of April with regard to the dismissal of Mr. Jones, late postmaster at Kamloops, will be brought down.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I will make inquiries.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 121) respecting the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls.—(Mr. Flint.)

Bill (No. 117) respecting the National Sanitarium Association.—(Mr. Maclean.)

Bill (No. 129)—from the Senate—to incorporate the Canadian Steel Company.—(Mr. Calvert.)

Bill (No. 111) respecting the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. Tisdale.)

Bill (No. 122) respecting the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—(Mr. McGregor.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 131)—from the Senate—for the relief of Edwin James Cox.—(Mr. Montague.)

I.C.R.—MR. JOSEPH RYAN.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Was Mr. Joseph Ryan, foreman of the Intercolonial Railway shops at Hadlow Cove, Lévis, authorized to leave his work in order to engage in revising the lists on April 9 last?

2. What is his salary?

3. Has he been granted an increase within the past twelve months?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). In reply, I beg to say : 1. Mr. Joseph Ryan, foreman of the Intercolonial Railway shops at Hadlow Cove, Lévis, was not authorized to leave his work in order to engage in revising the lists on April 9 last, and the department has no knowledge that he did so. 2. Mr. Ryan's salary is \$70 a month. 3. He was granted an increase of \$10 a month in August, 1899.

I.C.R.—MR. FELIX PICHETTE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Does Mr. Felix Pichette keep the refreshment table at the Intercolonial Railway station at Lévis?

2. What was his tender in 1897?

3. How much did he pay in each of the years 1898 and 1899, and how much does he now pay?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). In reply, I beg to say : 1. There being no dining room at Lévis, Felix Pichette who already had the contract for the news agency, &c., was given permission to keep a refreshment counter at Lévis station. 2. He made no tender in 1897. There was a public tender in December, 1896, and Pichette was given the contract for one year from January 1, 1897, at his tender price \$520, which was the highest tender. 3. He paid in each of the years 1897, 1898 and 1899, \$520 for each year. He now pays \$420, since the Grand Trunk Railway retired from the Lévis station.

MR. J. A. OUELLET.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Is Mr. J. A. Ouellet, mail clerk at Lévis, a permanent employee?

2. Was he appointed to the duty of revising the lists at Lévis?

3. Has he been granted an increase of salary recently, or is he to receive such an increase at the request of the hon. member for Lévis?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). In reply, I beg to say : 1. Mr. Agapit Ouellet, whose duties are to be at the railway station at Lévis for the purpose of effecting the transfer of the mails between the trains and the railway station and where necessary from one mail train to another, and to superintend the handling of the British mails, going with them to and from the Quebec post office where necessary, is not an employee of the department at all, but a contractor under a memorandum of agreement with the department. 2. The department having no supervision over its contractors beyond what is necessary for the proper performance of the duties prescribed in the contract, has no knowledge of how Mr. Ouellet spends his time when he is not engaged with his contract. The duties mentioned in the question are not among the requirements of the contract. 3. There has been no increase in the amount paid Mr. Ouellet since the agreement came into operation on January 1, 1898.

LENGTHENING OF LEVIS GRAVING DOCK.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Has Mr. Thomas Power, contractor, executed a contract for lengthening the graving dock at Lévis?

2. What is the amount?

3. Is the work to be done by the day?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). In reply, I beg to say : 1. Yes. 2. \$94,976. 3. No.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. DUGAS (by Mr. Morin) asked :

Has Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, taken cognizance of the following report, published by the Winnipeg 'Free Press' within the last few days, and republished by 'La Presse,' of Montreal, on the 14th instant :—

City Catholic School Question—Taking over five schools proposed to Winnipeg Board—A sub-committee appointed—A free interchange of views in a friendly spirit—The Clergy said to favour the proposed settlement.

A special meeting of the Public School Board was held last evening to receive a proposition from the supporters of the five Catholic schools of the city. The trustees present were Messrs. Bole, chairman ; Carman, Byrnes, Dr. Benson, Ross, Dulmage, Roberts, Horne, Browne, Fowler, McKechnie and McKechnie. Mr. McKechnie was applauded as he took his seat, this being

his first appearance since the accident which befel him during his absence. The Catholic committee was composed of Messrs. J. G. Carroll, chairman; P. Marrin, secretary, and T. D. Deegan.

Mr. Bole, chairman of the board, introduced the object of the meeting by stating that last week two gentlemen of the Catholic School Board had called on him and told him they had a proposition to lay before the Public School Board, and expressed a desire that an early meeting be held to give them an opportunity of doing so. Hence the present meeting had been called. The gentlemen in attendance were Catholics, representing the Catholic people of the city of Winnipeg, who constituted a very large portion of the rate-paying public, and had a perfect right to a courteous and patient hearing, which he was sure the board would accord. The Catholics of Winnipeg had certain views on public education; they had a perfect right to their views, and he was quite sure their opinions would be respected. Addressing the deputation, the chairman stated that, so far as he knew, the individual members of the board were all Protestants; but, as the board had no religious affiliations and represented the whole people, he was of opinion that the law under which they were conducting the school affairs of the city would enable parents of all classes, Jew and Gentile, to elect to send their children to schools where they would be safe from interference with their religious faith. It was the desire of all classes to break down the line of difference that existed; the board would receive the delegation kindly, and the discussions would be carried on in the very best and most harmonious manner. He did not know what proposition was to be made; he had purposely avoided knowing, because of the trouble he had got into a couple of years ago. The board would give the matter the very best consideration, and let the delegation know their decision at an early date.

Mr. J. G. Carroll, chairman of the delegation, introduced the secretary, Mr. P. Marrin, and called upon him to read the proposition. He said they were making the offer in the most public-spirited way, and he thought the proposition they had to lay before the board embodied it very well.

The Proposition.

Mr. Marrin then read the proposition, as follows:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Winnipeg Public School Board:

Gentlemen.—The undersigned, on behalf of the Catholics of Winnipeg, beg leave to submit to your board for its just and favourable consideration the following:—

1. There are at present in the immediate neighbourhood 700 Catholic children attending the separate schools of Winnipeg, and upwards of 200 more who attend no school at all.

2. The Catholics of Winnipeg have for almost ten years past borne their portion of taxation for the erection and maintenance of the Winnipeg public schools, from which, for conscientious reasons, they are unable to derive any benefit for the education of their children.

3. That while thus paying their share of taxes towards the public schools of Winnipeg for the period above stated, they have had to assume the additional obligation of providing and maintaining schools for the education of their own children, and that despite all their efforts and sacrifices the double tax thus imposed has pressed so heavily upon them that their schools are now burdened with a heavy indebtedness.

Mr. DUGAS.

4. The city separate schools are now provided with teachers holding certificates from the Provincial Department of Education.

5. The Catholics of Winnipeg are willing to accept the public schools' system of inspection.

Therefore do we, on their behalf, request your board to rent our schools, retain the teachers now employed to teach in said schools and to assume the payment of their salaries and the expense of equipping and maintaining the said schools with the understanding that our children shall enjoy the right of attending thereat.

The registered attendance since September at the undermentioned schools is as follows: St. Mary's Academy, 191; Brother's School, 196; Holy Angels, 99; St. Joseph's, 70; Immaculate Conception, 175; total, 729.

The chairman inquired whether the deputation had anything to say in support of the proposal.

Mr. Carroll answered that the resolution covered the ground pretty fully, and they simply submitted it for consideration. They were ready to answer any question.

The chairman then read the document clause by clause, and a number of questions were asked and answered, and remarks made by both parties.

The chairman asked if the teachers referred to were regularly qualified.

Mr. Carroll answered: Yes.

Is there any proposition as to basis of rental, was asked in reference to the schools.

No, was the answer, we didn't discuss that; we thought it might be arranged on a percentage of the value of the properties.

Dr. Benson—Is it the intention to have this board rent the whole of the schools used by the Roman Catholics? Are you prepared, if we want for instance, St. Mary's Academy, to rent that whole building, the grounds and everything in connection with it as a school; and, if necessary, to take down your own emblems on the school and in it and give us full possession?

Mr. Carroll—That is a question which never arose. That school is a boarding school; a large portion is used for private purposes. He asked if it would not be possible to rent the portion that is used for public school purposes.

Dr. Benson did not think so, as the law makes the board responsible for buildings, grounds and everything on them. He asked the same question regarding the Immaculate Conception School.

Mr. Carroll asked if the board had not already leased rooms without having control of the whole building in which they were?

Dr. Benson thought not. He mentioned the Presbyterian Sunday School, the St. John's School-house, the English Church School in Fort Rouge; in every case the board had the whole building and the grounds.

Mr. Carroll thought that, although the question had not come into their minds, if the board were liberally disposed, it was possible the matter might be arranged in the near future. He understood it was the intention some day in the near future to erect another convent at an outside point.

Dr. Benson thought the board could not rent until such arrangements were made. He suggested that the fence be removed at the St. Mary's School and the grounds united with those of the Carleton School. At the Holy Angels and St. Joseph Schools the grounds and buildings could be had.

The chairman suggested that a sub-committee of the board meet a sub-committee of the Catholic board and see what could be done. The law lays down plainly that the board shall not as-

sume responsibility for buildings which it does not control.

In answer to Mr. Carman, Mr. Marrin stated that in St. Mary's Boys' Schools there are four rooms with four teachers and about two hundred pupils—in the Holy Angels School there are two rooms.

Dr. Benson suggested that the deputation let the board know in writing whom they represented, if they represented the board of Catholic schools not authorized by law; if they had been elected by the clergy or the church, or by the voice of the public. He thought the board should have communication from the head of that church, stating his willingness to accept the settlement.

Mr. Carroll—Our authority is the Catholic ratepayers; we are acting as the laity. We come with the best of good feeling. We feel that there is a school law now that we can fairly take advantage of; and that by having a good, friendly feeling that we can overcome some of the difficulties. We are coming to make a request, and we want in every way to assist to settle the question. We will allow our children to attend school under the supervision of your own board. We also have certified teachers. The matter of detail as to grounds and separate buildings, I think, it can be arranged later on.

Mr. Dulmage—Is it your intention to allow a redistribution of the children by our inspector in case the schools are taken over; to allow us to put Protestant children in them and Catholic children somewhere else?

Mr. Carroll—The communication sets that forth.

Dr. Benson suggested a difficulty about retaining the present teachers. He did not think it could be meant or that the board would entertain the idea of them for ever and having no control over them. Besides, he added, there are more teachers than we employ for the same number of pupils. We could not very well take the teachers just as they are, some of whom would be clad in the uniform of the Sisters, which they would not discard.

Mr. Fowler—How many female and how many male teachers have you?

Mr. Marrin—Four male and fourteen female teachers.

Mr. Horne—If the proposition be accepted by the school board, will that settlement be acceptable to the clergy?

Mr. Carroll—I think I can take it upon myself to say yes, positively. This is absolutely a proposition from the laity, the Catholic ratepayers; but it would be acceptable to the clergy on the lines proposed.

Mr. Horne saw a difficulty in the uniform or surplices, worn by the Sisters. The schools would become public schools, and it would be the board's duty to see that no uniforms of any denominational distinction would be worn in those schools.

Mr. Carman asked if the retaining of all those teachers was absolutely necessary. Would it be absolutely necessary to take over the uniformed teachers?

Mr. Carroll—I don't think so, or that it would be absolutely necessary to take over all the teachers, that is a matter of detail. What we positively ask is, that you take over the schools at a rental and employ our teachers.

Dr. Benson pointed out that plenty of regularly qualified Roman Catholic young lady teachers were to be had, and that these might be fully as good as the present teachers. He did not see how they were to get over the difficulty of the clause in the Provincial Act, which

provides that there shall be no separation of pupils by religious denominations except at the hour allowed for religious instruction.

Mr. Deegan referred to clause 4 of the Act, making provision that where there are forty Catholic pupils in any school, a Catholic teacher shall be engaged. He said, we ask you to interpret it liberally. In the suggestion as to a sub-committee, if it were carried out, they might discuss the matter more fully. Roman Catholic parents wanted their young girls educated by the teachers of their own sex. He was not aware of anything in the School Act that would debar the costume of the Sisters, but that was a matter that could be inquired into. They came in a spirit of conciliation, feeling that this is a time when they could try to live in peace. They wanted the board to put themselves in their places, view the matter from their standpoint and apply the golden rule.

Mr. Marrin asked what clause in the Act provided for costume.

It was replied that there is nothing in the Act.

Dr. Benson said he did not look upon clause 4 as Mr. Deegan did, and clause 7 was very clear. Under Mr. Deegan's interpretation, if it were rigidly enforced the Protestant teacher would have to be dismissed and a Roman Catholic appointed, where any one teacher is needed, for the Act says a Roman Catholic shall be employed. He (Dr. Benson) had been one of the first to favour the employment of Roman Catholic teachers; four were employed at first and since that the schools had never been without such teachers, and he hoped never would be.

Mr. Horne said all sympathized with the Catholics in their disadvantage of having to pay double taxes. No one would be more delighted to see the matter settled than himself.

Dr. Benson moved, Mr. Roberts seconding, and it was carried, that the chairman nominate three or more representatives of the Roman Catholic citizens to go over the matter carefully with a view to an arrangement to be submitted to the board at its next meeting.

Mr. Fowler thought it would be wiser to decide on the principle of the question at once, and vote whether the board was prepared to grant the petition; but the board did not favour this scheme.

Mr. Bole appointed as the sub-committee Messrs. Byrnes, Fowler, McKechnie and Dr. Benson.

Mr. Carroll thanked the board for the reception of the deputation, and the meeting adjourned.

Does the hon. Prime Minister still persist in saying that he has settled the Manitoba School question as to do full and complete justice to the Catholics of that province as he had promised to do?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: The Prime Minister has taken cognizance of the petition of the Roman Catholic ratepayers to the chairman and members of the Winnipeg Public School Board, to have their schools taken over by the said board; he has also taken cognizance of the report of the proceedings which took place when the said petition was presented to the board, and especially of the following statements

made by the petitioners: 'Our authority is the Catholic ratepayers; we are acting as the laity. We come with the best of good feeling. We feel that there is a school law that we can fairly take advantage of; and that by having a good, friendly feeling that we can overcome some of the difficulties. * * * * This is absolutely a proposition from the laity, the Catholic ratepayers; but it would be acceptable to the clergy on the lines proposed.' The Prime Minister is more than ever of opinion that the Manitoba school question has been settled in a manner to do to the Catholics of that province the fullest and most complete justice that was possible under existing circumstances, especially as it appears that the Roman Catholics are willing to take advantage of the new law, and only ask to have it liberally administered by the provincial authorities, a demand in which all good citizens will heartily concur.

MAIL CONTRACT—ST. GEDEON.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Sir Adolphe Caron) asked:

1. Whether the contract for carrying the mail between the railway station and the post office of St. Gédéon, in the county of Chicoutimi, has expired?
2. If so, has it been renewed, and since when?
3. Who is entrusted with the service, what is the price, and for what period of time?
4. What was the amount under the contract?
5. Is it the intention to renew the contract by tender, and when?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The contract for the mail service between the post office and railway station at St. Gédéon, expired on the 31st March, and is being carried on temporarily by the contractor, Mr. George Potvin, on the same terms and conditions, pending the consideration by the department of the future arrangements for the service. The rate of pay is 19½ cents per trip.

SUBSIDY TO CHATEAUGUAY AND NORTHERN RAILWAY.

Mr. GAUTHIER (by Mr. Talbot) asked:

Whether it is the intention of the government to grant a subsidy, this year, in aid of the construction of the Chateauguay and Northern Railway, which is intended to connect Montreal, L'Assomption and Joliette?

Is it also the intention of the government to help the said company to construct a bridge over River des Prairies, between Bout-de-l'Île and Charlemagne?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The question of granting subsidies has not yet been disposed of by the government.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

FINES OF POSTAL CLERKS.

Mr. DUGAS (by Mr. Morin) asked:

How much has been paid in fines up to this date, since 1896, by mail clerks, in the postal districts of Montreal and Quebec?

Is the said sum paid into the pension fund of the said officials?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. \$104.35. 2. No.

DOCK AT HAWKESTONE.

Mr. BENNETT (by Mr. Kaulbach) asked:

1. Who is the contractor for the dock to be constructed at Hawkestone, Ont., and what is the price?

2. How many tenders were received for such work, and what were the figures of the different parties tendering?

3. Who is the local inspector of the work, if such has been appointed, remuneration to be paid, his occupation or fitness for position, on whose recommendation was he appointed?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. W. J. Bryce, price \$2,475. 2. Two, \$2,475 and \$2,675. 3. Mr. P. McLeod has been appointed local inspector at \$2 a day. He is considered quite competent for the work. He was recommended by persons in whom the minister had confidence.

ROCHE FENDUE AND CALUMET DAMS.

Mr. POUPORE (by Mr. Wilson) asked:

Has the Minister of Railways and Canals taken any action, since last session, in relation to the several claims arising out of the construction of the Roche Fendue and Calumet dams in 1883, which remain unsettled?

If nothing has been done, is it the intention of the government to take the necessary steps to adjust all such legitimate claims?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The minister has been looking into these claims, but cannot now make any announcement as to which, if any, of them deserves favourable consideration.

WORKS AT RIVIERE DU LOUP.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON asked:

1. What amount of money was expended by the government, last summer, for the works executed in River du Loup, which flows through Louiseville and falls into Lake St. Peter?

2. Whether it is the intention of the government to carry out the said works to completion?

3. Under whose supervision have the works been executed and on the report of what engineer?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. \$3,565.50. 2. Yes, to continue the dredging of the channel when required. 3. Under supervision of Superintendent of

Dredging, and the immediate inspection of Mr. Sam. Lesage. No special report was required, as it was the reopening of an established channel.

TRADE WITH THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. KAULBACH asked :

In view of Trinidad's rejection of Canada's offer of trade relations with her, and the report of an offer made by the Trinidad legislature in favour of reciprocal trade arrangements with the United States, has the government of Canada, through the Secretary of State for the Colonies, had any correspondence, or made any approaches by way of request, as between sister colonies, by way of an order, that whatever preference any of her colonies or dependencies—British West India or any other of her possessions—wish to give to the American Republic must be extended to the Dominion of Canada?

Has the government of Canada made any request of the Imperial government, through the Colonial Secretary, that notice be given to all British colonies and her dependencies, that they are not to be permitted to engage in a trade treaty giving preferences to a foreign country, that in any way would interfere with intercolonial interests or trades, or that on which sister colonies could not be admitted on similar terms?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). This matter was fully considered some time ago, and satisfactory assurances were given that in any arrangement that might be made between the United States and the British West Indies, there would be no discrimination against Canada in the West India markets.

CONTRACTS WITH RAINY RIVER RAILWAY.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

Has the government entered into any contract with the Rainy River Railway Company for any portions of the line subsidized at last session of parliament? If so, what?

Has any money been yet paid on these contracts? Will the Minister of Railways bring down the contracts, if any?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. Yes, the government has entered into several contracts with the Ontario and Rainy River Railway. 2. The contracts are: (a) From Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway to Rainy Lake, 80 miles. (b) From 80th Mile to Fort Francis, 140 miles. (c) From Fort Francis to mouth of Rainy River, 70 miles. 3. No money has been paid. 4. There will be no objection, if asked for.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the minister mean that he wants a formal motion?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No, if the hon. gentleman wishes I will bring them down.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like them any time within ten days.

VISIT OF W. W. STUMBLES TO BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) moved for :

Copies of all correspondence, letters and reports between the Marine and Fisheries Department and Mr. W. W. Stumbles, the agent of that department, in connection with his late visit to British Columbia.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I may say that a large portion of this report which is moved for, is confidential.

Mr. PRIOR. What I want to get at, is the report he has made on the fisheries in British Columbia.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have received an intimation from the Commissioner of Fisheries to the effect that this is a report which he considers confidential. I have not read it since it came, but he says he thinks it would not be proper to bring it down. I just tell the hon. gentleman this.

Motion agreed to.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS.

Copies of all papers, letters, telegrams, &c., between the Post Office Department or any member of the government, and any persons whatsoever, in connection with the dismissal of D. McLeod Vince from the postmastership of Woodstock, N.B. Also, for the report of the commission which inquired into the case, and the evidence taken.—(Mr. Hale, by Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all correspondence had by the government with the British authorities, and with all parties in Canada, relating to the purchase of hay for the troops in South Africa.—(Mr. Hale, by Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all correspondence, reports and papers between the Marine and Fisheries Department, or any other department or minister of the government, and any person or persons in connection with the prohibition of exportation of fish caught in the waters of Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis during the summer months.—(Mr. Roche, by Mr. Gilhoour.)

Return showing all tenders, contracts and correspondence in reference to the purchase of locomotives and rolling stock for Canadian government railways from July 15, 1896, until April 15, 1900.—(Mr. Haggart, by Mr. Foster.)

Copy of the contract between the government of Canada and the Beaver Steamship Line for the carriage of mails between Canada and England, and all orders in council in relation thereto. Also statement showing the length of each voyage of the steamships of said line between Liverpool and Halifax, and Halifax and Liverpool, during the winter season of 1899-1900.—(Sir Adolphe Caron.)

Copies of all correspondence between the chief analyst of the Department of Inland Revenue, or any other officer or persons in the department, and the Canadian representative or agents of the Chemical Works (late H. & E. Albert).—(Mr. Domville, by Mr. Tucker.)

Statement showing total amount of money paid by years since July 1, 1892, to June 30, 1899, on each of the following accounts :

1. Salary of Governor General.
2. Travelling expenses of Governor General.
3. Expenditure on Rideau Hall, on capital account; expenditure on Rideau Hall on maintenance; expenditure on Rideau Hall grounds, on capital account; expenditure on Rideau Hall grounds, maintenance.
4. Expenditure on furnishings of all kinds for Rideau Hall.
5. Allowance to Governor General for fuel and light.
6. Expenditure on any other account in connection with the office of Governor General.
7. Expenditure on any other account in connection with Rideau Hall and grounds.
8. Total expenditure of every kind since 1st July, 1892, in connection with the office of Governor General.
9. Total expenditure of every kind in connection with Rideau Hall and grounds for same period.—(Mr. Wilson.)

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

PROHIBITION OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth) moved :

That this House has affirmed the principle that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and has also declared that as soon as public opinion would sufficiently sustain stringent measures, it was prepared to promote such legislation.

That the plebiscite of 1898, wherein a majority of the votes polled throughout the Dominion, including substantial majorities in all the provinces but one, were ascertained to be in favour of such legislation, as well as satisfactory evidence from other sources, shows that such measures will be thoroughly supported by the people of Canada.

That this House is now of the opinion, in view of the foregoing facts, that it is desirable and expedient that parliament should, without delay, enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favour of such prohibition.

He said : Mr. Speaker, the resolution before the House has been so long on the Order paper, and as it is merely an abstract of a somewhat more extended resolution which was discussed by us last session, it does not require any very lengthy explanation from the mover. In addition to that, the general question which this resolution deals with is so well understood throughout the country, has been so long debated in the press and at various meetings, and has absorbed such a large portion of the public interest for so many years, that this is another reason why a discussion in the shape of any very long speeches may well be dispensed with this evening. However, Sir, as there are many deeply interested in the progress of temperance reform and the es-

tablishment of a prohibitory liquor law, to as large an extent as may be possible in the Dominion, and as many of these people are not familiar with parliamentary usage, it would be only fair to myself and to the House that I should state some of the history of this resolution and its present position before us. Many of my friends in different portions of Canada have asked this question : Why do you not introduce a Bill dealing with the subject of prohibition, in which Bill you will state clearly and definitely what may be required in your estimation, and thus present it to parliament for adoption. No doubt if this course were constitutionally possible it would be far preferable to a resolution. But, as those acquainted with constitutional usage are aware, no measure can be brought before parliament by a private member which affects the revenues of the country, without first the passage of a resolution in which the principle of that legislation has been affirmed by parliament. This constitutional principle was established almost at the beginning of our parliamentary procedure, and is so well understood that it requires no further explanation. That is the reason why those who are interested in the establishment of a prohibitory liquor law are unable to present their views directly in the form of a Bill, and we are consequently obliged to take the step of placing a resolution upon the Order paper. As some have misunderstood the situation, and have asked : Why not bring this matter up earlier in the session, I may offer a few words of explanation. It would be certainly very advantageous to the cause of temperance reform if this resolution could be placed before parliament in the first or second week of the session in order that the discussion could be recorded in *Hansard*, could be reported to the country, and opinions formed from that discussion. Those who are members of this House are aware, that any resolution introduced by a private member must be placed on the Order paper, and can only come before the House on what is known as private members' day, when it must wait for discussion in its due turn. The fact that this resolution was on the Order paper on the 13th of February and was not reached for discussion until quite late on the night of the 9th of April, is an ample answer to any complaint on that score. At the suggestion of friendly members, we asked the leader of the House to give us a special day for the discussion of this resolution, in the hope that it would come up early in the day, so that every member who desired could express his view upon it, or move such amendment as he thought fit, in order that a vote might be taken upon the resolution and amendment at a reasonable hour. Circumstances of a melancholy nature (the obsequies of the late Mr. Haley, M.P.) have to-day prevented the discussion of this resolution until the

present time. I hope, Sir, that those who address themselves to this subject will be as brief as possible in order that a vote may be taken this evening, so that the resolution may not go over to another Order and thus delay its being voted upon until too late in the session. I promise the House, Mr. Speaker, that my remarks, at any rate, shall be very brief.

The resolution states that this House already has affirmed the principle that the prohibition of the liquor traffic is the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance, and has also declared that as soon as public opinion would sufficiently sustain stringent measures, it was prepared to promote such legislation. Of course, constitutionally speaking, the passage of a resolution by a previous parliament is not binding upon this parliament, but the passage of such a resolution in a previous parliament has, and ought to have, a certain moral weight upon any succeeding parliament. Inasmuch as no one, so far as I am aware, has seriously undertaken to repudiate the stand taken by the previous parliament, it is only fair to start our action this evening with the statement of that parliament. As long ago as the 5th of March, 1884, a motion, moved by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), was adopted, declaring :

That this House is of the opinion that the right and most effectual legislative remedy for the evils of intemperance is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.

An amendment was added declaring :

And this House is prepared, so soon as public opinion will sufficiently sustain stringent measures, to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the parliament of Canada.

That resolution stands upon the records of parliament, and I believe is generally concurred in by all temperance people throughout the Dominion. The great question, then, remains to be considered, whether this parliament is convinced that public opinion has reached that stage when it is sufficiently strong to support such a law if enacted. The resolution now in your hands goes on to state :

That the plebiscite of 1898, wherein a majority of the votes polled throughout the Dominion, including substantial majorities in all the provinces but one, were ascertained to be in favour of such legislation, as well as satisfactory evidence from other sources, shows that such measures will be thoroughly supported by the people of Canada.

The resolution, therefore, asks this House to resolve :

That this House is now of the opinion, in view of the foregoing facts, that it is desirable and expedient that parliament should, without delay,

enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favour of such prohibition.

Just here we reach the parting of the ways between those who contend that this is a weakening of prohibition action and those who believe that it would advance the prohibition cause. Last session a resolution similar in its tenor to this was moved, and my hon. friend from Colchester (Mr. McClure), gave notice that he would move an amendment in favour of the total prohibition of the liquor traffic throughout the whole Dominion. There can be no doubt that that is the view of the vast bulk of the temperance people throughout the Dominion of Canada; and if such an amendment were moved in this House and pressed to a vote, it would be my duty as a representative of the prohibitionist element to support it. The resolution in my hands emanates from the Dominion Prohibition Alliance, a body made up of representatives from the various temperance organizations in the Dominion of representative men, who have made a close and severe study of this whole question. They have asked the Legislative Committee to bring forward this resolution as a step, if adopted, towards the complete and total prohibition of the liquor traffic throughout the whole Dominion. I have no doubt that to the superficial eye it seems an advanced step to say, we will have nothing but total prohibition for the whole Dominion, and that any partial measure which provides for prohibition by provinces will not do at all. But the aim and desire of those who advocate this measure is to follow public opinion as pronounced in the various ways indicated in the resolution. This is a federation of provinces, and affords peculiar facilities for carrying out a partial measure of prohibition where that would likely be successful, when the effort to enforce a general measure of prohibition throughout the whole Dominion might possibly result in failure, and it is the desire to cultivate and to follow public opinion in this regard upon which this resolution is based. I do not mean to say that all the representative temperance people of the Dominion will look upon this particular method with absolute approval. I cannot deny, that in the maritime provinces there is a note of dissent—that the Maritime Prohibition Association, while strongly committed to prohibition to the most extreme extent, have not endorsed this resolution. They prefer to make the whole question a direct issue at the polls in the next election, and to await the growth of public opinion throughout the Dominion upon this question until a measure of total prohibition shall be accorded. In this they are not inconsistent, and they are showing an amount of wisdom which from their particular

standpoint is not to be condemned. But we cannot but be aware that the province of Quebec, a large and influential portion of the Dominion, is decidedly hostile to the principles of this resolution, while in the other provinces, as far as the evidence is accorded to us, a substantial majority of the electorate, and of the population generally, is strongly in favour of prohibition. Confronted, then, with this peculiar situation, many ardent prohibitionists believe that it would be better to take advantage of our strength where we are strong, and to avoid the weak point where we are weak, and to carry forward the prohibitionist movement along the lines of least resistance, by bringing it into force in those provinces where decided majorities have pronounced in its favour from time to time, and still continuing to work in those provinces and those districts where public opinion is either hostile or not so much in favour of prohibition. We think this is the part of practical wisdom, and will tend more completely and satisfactorily towards the accomplishment of what we ultimately hope for. Now, Sir, there is no necessity, in the discussion of this resolution, to take up and argue out the question of temperance. That has been so thoroughly threshed out in every quarter of the Dominion, that probably every intelligent man has his mind made up as to the advantages or disadvantages of total abstinence in regard to himself, of the most strict license in his own neighbourhood, or of prohibition for his province or the whole Dominion. The evils of intemperance are admitted; but men who are at once patriotic, intelligent and cultivated, differ widely as to the most practical remedy. We know that in the maritime provinces, for instance, a liquor law, if constitutionally brought into operation, would be as well enforced as any law on the statute-book, because public opinion, as manifested not only by the plebiscite, but in a thousand different ways, in the press, in public gatherings, in the deliverances of various church organizations, and in elections of various kinds—shows that the temperance sentiment is so strong and the desire for the removal of the evils of the liquor traffic so great, that prohibitory legislation would be enforced there just as effectively as legislation on any other subject. In a province where a decided majority of the people has shown itself to be opposed to prohibitory legislation, of course such legislation would not have the support it otherwise would, and, therefore, the Dominion Alliance, and those who support it, have accepted this particular form of resolution as a reasonable step in advance. Their idea is that in any province, where the principle of the resolution is approved of, machinery shall be set up by law for the bringing of a prohibitory liquor Act into operation. It could be brought into operation in some such way as the Scott Act, or such other way as may

Mr. FLINT.

be found advisable, and thus we would have this advantage that an important measure, touching a great many interests, meeting here and there with great opposition, meeting with a large amount of indifference, can be brought into operation in province by province, according as public opinion would support in any particular province a measure calculated to put an end to the importation, manufacture and sale of liquor in that province.

There can be no doubt that no matter how drastic or severe may be a local measure of prohibition, such as I understand is to be attempted in the province of Manitoba, and such as has been attempted, with better or worse effect, in various provinces, where no measure of local prohibition can be successful, because importation is allowed, and in such a case there are hundreds of ways by which the local laws can be evaded. Therefore, we place this resolution before the House, and if parliament should adopt it, then, it would become the duty of the government to frame a law that would meet the general conditions of the resolution.

Some may argue that such a law would be unconstitutional, and no doubt, at first blush, there would seem to be constitutional difficulties in the way. But, even admitting, for the sake of argument, that it is not strictly constitutional, under the present terms of the British North America Act, then this government should take the means to obtain an amendment to that Act such as would enable it to carry out a law based on the principles of this resolution. But, I do not think there is anything in the constitutional objection. As far as I have had the opportunity of studying the objection, it is based on section 121 of the British North America Act. That section provides:

That all articles of the growth, produce or manufacture of any of the provinces shall, from and after the union, be admitted free into each of the other provinces.

Therefore, it is argued that this parliament cannot pass a law which will prevent the free importation into any province of spirituous liquors manufactured in another. I think, however, that a closer examination of this clause and its consequences will not support that contention. What is meant by the word 'free' in this clause? It simply means that we shall not make a revenue out of one province for the benefit of the others. It means that we shall have no machinery for creating a revenue out of the importations of goods by one province which are the manufacture, growth or produce of another. This clause comes under the general head of revenue and taxation. It is simply a prohibition to this parliament to create any revenue for the advantage of any one province or to allow any province to create a revenue

by any taxation on the growth, manufacture or produce of another. It does not apply to any action of this parliament based upon section 91, which gives us the power to legislate for peace, order and good government, and, consequently, it does not interfere with any law passed in the interests of peace, order and good government. In those interests we have the power to prohibit the use by any province of something which the people of that province consider injurious and inimicable to peace, good order and good government. We have applied this principle on more than one occasion. We have not allowed intoxicating liquor, the produce of Canada, to be imported into the North-west or the Yukon, and I think the same principle would apply if parliament should see fit, in its wisdom, to establish machinery for the carrying out of prohibition in any particular province.

I have briefly gone over all the grounds upon which this resolution is demanded of this parliament. If any one believes that this is a retrograde step and that parliament should wait until public opinion is so strong and so well represented in this House that it will promote prohibitory legislation throughout the whole Dominion, then parliament would be justified in postponing this resolution until that day. But, if parliament believes that the liquor traffic is such a great evil that its prohibition in sections where public opinion will support a prohibitory law is desirable at as early a day as possible, and that proceeding in that way, step by step, province by province, the benefits of prohibition will ultimately reach the people of the whole Dominion, we would be perfectly justified in giving our approval to this resolution.

I notice that the Maritime Prohibition Association take the ground that they recognize the parliament of Canada rather than any political party as the source of prohibitory legislation. And, in a circular issued by the president of that convention, the same point is emphasized. This leads me to refer to the attitude and position of the government of Canada as contradistinguished from the parliament of Canada, in dealing with this subject. Although I have been connected with the temperance agitation for many years, I have always contended that the worst thing that could happen to the prohibition movement would be to have either political party make use of it for solely partisan purposes. I have always contended that, so peculiar is this question, so far-reaching is it in its financial and social consequences, so large a number of the population are affected by it in various ways one political party can never hope to succeed in carrying it into effect, without the aid and encouragement and assistance, of the party opposed to it. In other words, if this question ever becomes or is made a

question solely of one political party, the party in opposition, if it makes use of its position as a powerful political engine, can frustrate the efforts of the party supporting prohibition. As far as possible, I have always asked my friends on both sides of the House, irrespective of party, to support the principles of this resolution, or of any prohibition resolution brought forward from time to time, knowing well, that it requires the united efforts of gentlemen on both sides of ordinary political measures to make this proposed law successful. In the country at large, the prohibition element is made up of large numbers of people belonging to both Conservative and Liberal parties; and the same is true of the opposition to prohibition, as well as of that indifferent mass whose opinions upon the subject are difficult to ascertain, but whose sympathy it is very important to win. Whichever party makes this a purely one-sided party question will, if antagonized by the other party, fail in carrying forward the prohibition movement.

Therefore, I ask parliament, as a whole, and I ask hon. members on both sides of this House, irrespective of their party feeling, or of the effect upon their parties, to support this resolution as a fair and reasonable practicable step in the right direction, in the direction supported, I believe, by a majority of the people of Canada, of both political parties. That step once taken will mark an era in the history of the Dominion of Canada. If others choose and go further and insist that no partial measure shall be accepted by this parliament, but that the House shall adopt a resolution advocating prohibition for the whole Dominion, such a resolution as I have had the honour to move myself, as have several of my predecessors, on many occasions, I will most cheerfully support it. But, in the meantime, and until parliament feels like accepting a position of that kind, I ask the House in all fairness, and all reasonableness, out of regard for the large number of sincere people throughout the Dominion, who favour prohibition, and favour this form of carrying it out, to adopt this resolution. I believe they will be fairly well exemplifying, by so doing, the substantial public opinion of the Dominion of Canada. The recent plebiscite, if taken by itself is not so strong an argument in favour of the readiness of public opinion for prohibition as the other evidences I have mentioned; but, added to the other evidence, I believe that plebiscite must convince any impartial mind that the people of the Dominion of Canada, in all the provinces, except one, are in favour of prohibition in those provinces, and will support any law that parliament may enact in order to carry that out.

I commit this resolution to your hands, and I trust there will be a full and ample discussion upon it; and I hope we may be enabled to take a vote upon it, before the House adjourns to-night.

Mr. J. H. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the resolution so ably moved by the hon member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). About twenty years ago, the temperance people of Canada presented to this parliament petitions containing some three hundred thousand signatures, asking for the total suppression of the liquor traffic. Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, himself a prohibitionist, told the petitioners frankly that he did not think that temperance sentiment in Canada was sufficiently advanced to justify the hope that a prohibitory liquor law, if placed upon the statute-book, could be successfully enforced. But he did not entirely ignore the prayer of their petition. They had asked for bread, he did not give them a stone. Instead of absolute prohibition, he gave them the Scott Act—a measure adapted to the different stages of development of temperance sentiment in different portions of the Dominion; a measure intended to operate on a wider area of territory than the Dunkin Act; a measure with many salutary provisions; a measure, that, in many parts of the Dominion, has been put in force and kept in force, and has contributed to produce sobriety, morality, peace and material prosperity among the people who have adopted and maintained it. The prohibitionists of twenty years ago were reasonable men, they accepted the compromise offered. Last year the plebiscite was submitted, and with the result that 278,000 persons voted in favour of prohibition; a majority of 14,000 of those who voted declared themselves in favour of national prohibition; 23 per cent of the names on the voters' lists favoured prohibition and 21 per cent opposed it. How did the government meet the result of the vote? They met it by arguments in this fashion: They said, first, in view of the fact that the suppression of the liquor traffic requires a preponderating force of public sentiment behind it, we do not think that a vote of 23 per cent is sufficient to justify us in hoping for an effectual enforcement of the law; second, we must recognize the condition of affairs in the province of Quebec. We cannot coerce the people of Quebec, we cannot compel them to accept a measure against which they are manifestly hostile. If we attempted to coerce Quebec it would create an antagonism of races which would militate against our national prosperity. Further, if such an Act were put in force in Quebec it would everywhere be treated with contempt and violated, and the temperance cause, instead of being benefited, would be injured.

Mr. WALLACE. Did I understand the hon. gentleman to say that these are the arguments of the government?

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.). Yes, these are the arguments presented by the government and its supporters. The temperance people of to-

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day are equally reasonable with those of twenty years ago. If the resolution proposed were adopted and acted upon, if the Scott Act, as applied to the counties was extended to the provinces; if the government bent its energies to improve the Act and render it efficient, then I have no doubt that the temperance people would be ready to accept this as a reasonable compromise of conflicting opinions. There is nothing in such a measure to antagonize those opposed to prohibition. This resolution does not propose to enact national prohibition, nor does it propose even to enact provincial prohibition, it only proposes to enable a province to have prohibition where a majority of the electors of that province votes for and demands it.

But, Sir, there is much in the proposition now before the House to satisfy the reasonable demands of the advocates of prohibition. In the first place the sting of defeat would be taken out of the plebiscite vote. Temperance reformers would feel that they have not been altogether robbed of the legitimate fruits of their victory, they would feel that they have made a substantial step in the direction of the goal of their ambition—national prohibition. It would give them encouragement to proceed with their good work, with a work that tends to diminish crime, to mitigate disease and poverty, to promote happiness and prosperity. It would give them to understand that the government is their friend, and their patron, and that the Liberal government can be relied on to fulfil all promises, express or implied, at any rate, to the extent that such fulfilment is desirable or expedient.

But if no action is taken by this government, what will follow? If there be no recognition given to the 278,000 persons who voted in favour of national prohibition, or to the majority of 14,000 votes polled, or to the fact, that seven out of eight provinces, by large, and in some cases, overwhelming majorities, declared for prohibition, or to the fact that 43 of the constituencies called on their representatives to support prohibition, or to the fact that a larger majority vote was polled for prohibition than was polled for this government, or to the fact that many urgent petitions have been received since the plebiscite asking the government to give effect to the result of that vote—if all these conditions are ignored, I fear that the results will be serious and in some localities possibly disastrous. I do not contend that this government made a specific promise that they would abide by the result of the plebiscite vote, that if a majority of the vote polled was in favour of prohibition they would enact a law. But I do say that in the absence of any definite statement upon the question, the very fact that the government of its own motion submitted this question to the vote of the people, the very fact that public sentiment can only be

gauged by those who vote and not by those who refrain from voting; these circumstances have given to many of the temperance electors of Canada the impression that the government made at least an implied promise for which they should be held responsible.

Now, Sir, while it is true that among the Conservative party there are many honest temperance workers, it is nevertheless equally true that the large majority of temperance men are found in the Liberal ranks. Where you find an active, an influential, an intelligent man in the Liberal ranks, you generally find him an advocate of temperance reform. If no action be taken by the government in this matter, to my mind, the following results will flow. First, it will diminish the energy, it will dampen the enthusiasm of those Liberal workers to whom temperance reform is more important than party considerations. Second, many of them will manifest their dissatisfaction by refusing to take an active part in elections, and by abstaining from voting. Third, many of them will satisfy their resentment by voting against the Liberal party for what they consider, whether right or wrong, to be a breach of faith on the part of the government. It is no solace to these gentlemen to tell them that they have no hope from the opposition in this House, that there is not even a shadow of a promise from the hon. member for York N.B., (Mr. Foster). That, to them, is no excuse. As a member and supporter of the Liberal party, I deem it to be my duty to hold up a finger of warning, and to point out the results that in my opinion will follow if the government take no action. Assuming now, that the government will awake to its own interest, as well as to the public weal, and will make up its mind to take some action, the question is, what shall that action be? First, the Scott Act cannot be amended and improved so as to satisfy the people. It has fallen into disrepute in the province of Ontario and cannot be resuscitated. It is too limited in the scope of its operations. Second, national prohibition is considered to be out of the question in view of the 23 per cent vote, and in view of the conditions in Quebec to which I have already referred. The only other direction in which a practical and forward step can be taken is along the lines suggested by this resolution, an extension of the principle of the Scott Act to the provinces, and an honest and determined attempt made to render that measure efficient. What are the advantages that a measure of this kind promises? First, it will extend the field of operations of the Act. The Dunkin Act was chiefly restricted in its operation to townships and to small municipalities. What was the consequence? Along the borders of townships, those interested in the sale of liquors established taverns, drawing their custom partly from the places where the Dunkin Act was in

force, and partly from the surrounding districts where license prevailed. Hence arose a demand for wider territory. The Scott Act, to some extent, met that demand. It extended the territory from townships to counties, but it was only a partial remedy. What happened in Ontario? The moment a county adopted prohibition the liquor dealers established a cordon of taverns around the boundaries of the county, and so nullified the provisions of the law. The Scott Act fell into disrepute. It was abandoned in almost every county where it had been enacted. This proposition is to extend the provisions of the Scott Act to the whole province so that it will be impossible for those who desire to nullify the law to go about their operations successfully. In Prince Edward Island we have three counties and one city. In the three counties the Scott Act is in force, in the city, they have had free rum. Within the last year, there is a species of license. The city of Charlottetown is in direct communication with every portion of the province. Those who cannot get their rum in the counties, go to Charlottetown, there they can buy it freely, they can drink it freely, and they can take any quantity of it to their homes. The result is that the city nullifies, to a great extent, the beneficial effects of the Scott Act in the counties. Now, if you extend the principle of the Scott Act to the Island, the result will necessarily be beneficial to the whole province. The second benefit to be derived from this act is that it will secure for the law greater respect and more general obedience. The common mind regards the Scott Act as being partial and arbitrary. People cannot see the justice of a law which provides that on one side of a road dividing two counties a man can be fined and imprisoned for the sale of liquor, while, upon the other side it is no infringement of the law. If you extend the operations of the Scott Act to the province, if you make the Act provincial in its character, the effect will be to give greater respect and secure more profound obedience to the law on the part of the people who are brought into contact with it. The third advantage is that such a law would not necessarily be brought into force in many of the provinces at once. Probably only one would at first adopt it, say Prince Edward Island, where the temperance sentiment is more active and emphasised than in any other part of the Dominion. There, it would be tested. If successful it would be an object lesson for the rest of the Dominion, and the example would be followed. If it proved unsuccessful none of the other provinces would incur the risk, or expense, of its submission, or adoption. The fourth advantage would be that by extending the principle of the Scott Act to the provinces, the Federal government, in the exercise of its control over trade and commerce, could prevent the importation of liquor, or control

its importation, into any province where the Act had been put into force. It could also control the manufacture and wholesale, as well as the retail, trade. Our experience under the Scott Act teaches us this: That it is idle and useless to attempt to put an Act of that kind into force successfully, and at the same time allow the free and indiscriminate importation of liquor into the province where the Act may be in operation. In Summerside, the capital of Prince County, large quantities of liquor are imported from St. John, N.B., and from Quebec. This liquor being brought into contact with the people; the people being subjected to temptation to drink; temptation to sell and make a profit out of it; the result is, that the liquor soon finds its way into the avenues of illegitimate trade. All who have had experience of the operation of the Scott Act have come to the conclusion that a prohibitory law can never be made absolutely efficient unless the government exercises the power vested in it by the British North America Act, to prevent the importation of liquor, except for what may be considered legitimate purposes. Now, Sir, under this proposed Act better provision should be made for keeping the legitimate sales of liquor under control. I speak of legitimate sales, and what are these? First, that which is required for sacramental purposes in the churches; second: That which is used for medicine; third: That which is used in the arts and manufactures. No prohibitory law, whether it be national or provincial, would be tolerated for a moment unless it provided alcoholic liquors for these legitimate purposes. All prohibitory laws must recognize this. Under the Scott Act we have vendors. These men get their liquor wherever they can, and they are remunerated out of the profits of their business. The result is that the vendors are subjected to two temptations; first: The temptation to adulterate the liquor; and second: The temptation to sell as much of it as possible, because the greater the sales, the more the profit. In this new proposed law some change must be made to provide against these evils—to remove the temptations. I have given this question some little consideration, and the best scheme that I can suggest is this: That the government arrogate to itself, the control, the monopoly of the supply of liquor to be used for these legitimate purposes. Where will the government get the liquor? It may get it from either of four sources: From the manufacturers, from the importers, or, it may import it itself, or it may manufacture it itself. Already the government manufactures, and has a monopoly of the manufacture of methylated spirits. On the same principle the government could manufacture and control the supply of liquor required for legitimate purposes. Now, having obtained the supply the government would put it up in packages,

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they would seal it, they would stamp it as they stamp boxes of cigars and tobacco. Then they would distribute it to the vendors and they would require the vendors to account for every package sold with the medical or other certificate upon which the sale was made. The government would fix the price of each package, and it would pay the vendor by salary. The government would add to the prime cost of the liquor, first, what would pay customs duties so that the revenue would not suffer loss; second, the cost of handling and distributing to the vendors; third, the vendors' salary; fourth, the fines would pay part of the cost of the enforcement of the law. The balance should be made up in the manner I have indicated, viz., by adding it to the price of liquor. What would be the advantages of this system? The first would be that the people who required alcoholic liquor would get a purer article; the government not being under the temptation to adulterate it. The second would be, that the vendor would be paid by salary, and all temptation to push illegitimate sales would be removed. The third would be, that it would keep the legitimate sales of liquor under perfect control; the vendor having to account for every package committed into his hands, and every sale to be accompanied by a certificate. The fourth would be, that it would enable government officials to keep all illegitimate sales of liquor under control. How? Because it would draw the line sharp between liquor that has a right to be in the country and liquor that has no right to be here. Under the Scott Act, for instance, the officers of the law would search certain premises and liquor would be perhaps found there. There is no ear-mark to determine whether the liquor found is legitimate or illegitimate, but under the system I have suggested, all liquor stamped with the government stamp would be legitimate; all else would be contraband, and the liquor that is contraband could be seized and confiscated, and the party in whose possession it is found could be fined and imprisoned. In this manner there could be an effectual working out of the law. The fifth advantage would be, that it would enable the government to make the law perfectly self-sustaining. If one province asked for prohibition, let the province have it; but at the same time it should pay for it, and it should pay for all incidental expenses in connection with the working of the Act. There is no reason why the general funds of the Dominion should be drawn upon by any province to pay for any of the costs incidental to the operation or enforcement of the law in a particular province. The Act should be made perfectly self-sustaining. Now Sir, all these advantages and more would follow from the government assuming the control and the monopoly of

the supply of liquor, to be used for what are regarded as legitimate purposes. Besides all this, there are certain other amendments to the old law which might be suggested. First, if two men conspire together to violate a law there is no good reason why you should punish the one and let the other go free. The vendor of the illegitimate liquor and the purchaser are equally guilty. They may not be guilty to the same degree, but nevertheless they are guilty, both of them, and the law should provide for the punishment of both. Second, the law being a federal Act, should be enforced by Dominion officials, who should be paid in the manner I have suggested. Third, it should not be optional to prosecute for first offences where the second or the third offence has been committed, and can be proved. The convicting magistrate should have no option. The penalties for the infringement of the law should be made more stringent. Especially should they be made more severe against medical practitioners, who abuse the confidence which the government places in them, and issue certificates in blank and without sufficient reason. Fourth, provision should be made for testing liquors in doubtful cases to ascertain the amount of alcohol contained therein. Fifth, the term during which the Act should be in force without repeal should be extended to five years instead of limited to three.

Should an Act of this character be brought into force by a bare majority vote? It is contended by some that a violation of a law respecting the sale of liquors is differently regarded from the violation of any other statute. For instance, a man passing a tavern sees another selling liquor contrary to law. How many out of a hundred will inform on the illicit vendor and assist to bring him to justice? Not many. But, if a man is seen stealing a coat or setting fire to his neighbour's barn, how many out of a hundred will help to prosecute and convict him? Probably ninety-nine out of a hundred. The argument, therefore, is that you require a strong preponderating sentiment behind a law of this kind, else it is impossible to enforce it. Another suggestion is that often on a law of this kind only 20 or 30 per cent of the people vote who have the right to vote, and that under these circumstances a majority vote is not sufficient. These were the views held by the Hon. Sir Leonard Tilley, of New Brunswick, based upon his experience in that province. He held that there should be two-thirds, or three-fourths, majority of the votes polled in favour of any such prohibitory law before it is brought into force.

The arguments opposed to that view seem to be these. First, the majority vote polled is the usual method of testing public opinion—for example, on by-laws for voting money, on the adoption of the Dunkin Act or the Scott Act. The people are accustomed to and satisfied with

this mode of enacting laws, and we have no ground for hoping that any other method would be equally satisfactory, or that the people would submit to a two-thirds or a three-fourths majority vote. Second, the majority vote is the British method of legislation in every parliament under the British Crown. Any other mode would be un-British, and, consequently, unsuited to our conditions. Third, the majority vote under the Scott Act has stood the test of the Privy Council, and has been deemed to be constitutional. There is no certainty that a two-thirds majority vote would be held to be equally constitutional. It would introduce a doubtful element which would be certain to suggest and invite litigation. Fourth, if you put an Act into force by a two-thirds majority, you must be fair to both sides; you can only put it out of existence by a like majority. The result would be that you might have an Act on the statute that you could never get repealed, you could never get a two-thirds adverse vote to repeal it. That condition of things would be manifestly unfair to the opponents of prohibition. The preponderance of argument would, therefore, appear to favour the bare majority vote.

Is a vote by the people the proper method of bringing this Act into force? Some contend that the people are tired of voting—that they have voted already, that they have expressed themselves once, and that that is enough; that it is idle and unnecessary to submit another plebiscite. They therefore urge that such an Act ought to be brought into existence by other procedure—say, for instance, by a resolution or an Act of the provincial assembly—that such a method would be cheaper and simpler. Against that contention the following arguments may be urged. First, this being a federal statute, this parliament should control all the machinery and assume the full responsibility. Second, each local legislature has its hands full already, and there is no reason why we should further burden it with the responsibility of declaring when a federal prohibitory law ought to be brought into effect. Third, the local legislature might ignore the responsibility cast upon it and refuse to act. There is no power in this parliament to issue what might be called a political mandamus to compel the local legislature to act as required. Fourth, the people have never yet voted on the question of prohibition by provinces—on the proposition which is now submitted to this House; and there is no certainty that if submitted, the prohibitionists of a province, much less the whole people, would be favourable to a measure of this character. Therefore, it is necessary that this new measure be submitted to the people for ratification. Fifth, every submission of such a law is an educator of the people. Their attention is specially called to it and to the necessity of it. When

they vote on the measure and adopt it, they look upon it as the child of their adoption, and they become interested not only in the passage of the Act, but in its effectual enforcement. The preponderance of argument, therefore, inclines me to the view that the submission of the law along the old lines indicated in the Scott Act, is preferable to bringing it into force by a resolution or an Act of the local legislature.

It is alleged that the members from Quebec are opposed to and will vote against this resolution. I cannot see any ground for such a statement. When the result of the plebiscite vote became known, when Quebec manifested its hostility to national prohibition, how did the English portion of the people of Canada act? They had the majority, and they had the strict right to have their will carried into law; yet, for the sake of harmony, for the sake of the future interests of Canada, they forebore and did not insist on their strict legal rights but said they would respect the opinions and the feelings and the prejudices of their brethren in the province of Quebec. That sentiment expressed under these circumstances does honour to the English-speaking people of Canada. I do not believe that the French people of the province of Quebec will be behind the English people of the other provinces in the expression of generosity or magnanimity of sentiment. This resolution does not propose to affect the province of Quebec. It respects French Canadian sentiment; it proposes to coerce no province. Quebec has asked by the vote and the voice of its people that the old condition of things should continue, that it should have its Dunkin Act, and its license law and the sale of liquors for beverage purposes and the revenues therefrom, just as before, and it has got all that it asks. The people of Prince Edward Island and of the lower provinces and elsewhere ask for a prohibitory law, applicable to their conditions—that this parliament will give them the machinery by which they can obtain and put into force a prohibitory law in any particular province. Why should the people of Quebec refuse that request? Why should they act the dog-in-the-manger policy and prevent other provinces getting what they desire? I am perfectly satisfied they will not do that. I am satisfied that they will say to the English-speaking provinces: You have given us what we ask; you have been just and generous, now we are willing—nay anxious to give you that measure of prohibition which you believe would work for the best moral and material interests of your people. I am satisfied that the Quebec representatives as well as those from the English-speaking provinces will equally favour and support the resolution which I have now the honour to second and submit to the consideration of this House.

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Mr. FIRMAN McCLURE (Colchester). As I am obliged, Mr. Speaker, entirely to dissent from the proposition made in this resolution. I propose to offer a very few remarks at present. It is not necessary that this question should be gone into to the same extent as on a previous occasion. I have not to any degree changed the opinion which I held when this resolution was proposed at the last session of this parliament, and I propose, therefore, to move an amendment to the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint):

That all the words of the resolution after the word 'that' in the main motion be struck out, and the following inserted instead thereof: That the object of good government is to promote the general welfare of the people by a careful encouragement and protection of whatever makes for the public good, and by an equally careful discouragement and suppression of whatever tends to the public disadvantage;

That the traffic in alcoholic liquors as beverages is productive of serious injury to the moral, social and industrial welfare of the people of Canada;

That, despite all preceding legislation, the evils of intemperance remain so vast in magnitude, so wide in extent, and so destructive in effect as to constitute a social peril and a national menace;

That this House is of opinion, for the reasons hereinbefore set forth, that the right and most effective legislative remedy for those evils is to be found in the enactment and enforcement of a law prohibiting the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes; and this House is prepared to promote such legislation, so far as the same is within the competency of the parliament of Canada.

In effect, this resolution is the one which I proposed a year ago. The difference is in the preamble, and while it may be considered somewhat absurd to burden a resolution with all those statements, I wish to say frankly, that my reason for so doing is because I do not believe that any demand for prohibition can be successfully based upon the results of the plebiscite vote. I, therefore, have based it upon entirely different grounds, but grounds which, in my opinion, are much more substantial than anything that can be found in the result of the plebiscite vote.

I cannot accept the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth. In the first place I regard it as a resolution which, if passed by this House, would result in the kind of legislation that has been described by the mover and the seconder of the resolution, and I am prepared to risk the opinion that the majority of the prohibitionists of this country will agree with me in saying that even if this parliament should go to the full extent asked by this resolution, temperance legislation would not, in the provinces affected by it, be anything in advance of what it is to-day, or what it could be made by the enactments of the legislatures of those pro-

vines. In the second place, I cannot conceive it possible that prohibition passed by this House, and applied to one or two provinces of the Dominion, leaving the others free, would be anything but a farce. I cannot conceive how it would be possible to work it, in the face of all the constitutional, legal and commercial difficulties that would hamper us in our attempt to enforce that law. In the second place, no body of men in the Dominion have ever asked for such a law as is now proposed. Who has asked for it? Who has proposed such a resolution? I absolve the hon. member for Yarmouth from all responsibility, because he has told us himself, that his resolution is but the expression of the opinion of the Dominion Alliance. Well, I am as good a prohibitionist as any member of the Alliance, I have the greatest respect for the members of the Alliance, but I say that the Dominion Alliance, which stands back of this resolution, represents nobody but the half a dozen gentlemen who constitute the executive of that alliance centred in Toronto and Montreal. They do not represent the prohibitionists of this country, or the maritime provinces at least. That scheme has been submitted to the prohibitionists of the maritime provinces, from time to time, and been condemned. I say unhesitatingly that it is not asked for by anybody and is not wanted by anybody. There are prohibitionists in this country who want prohibition for all Canada. They are more numerous than perhaps the government or hon. gentlemen opposite realize; but the prohibitionists who want partial prohibition can be counted upon the fingers of one's hand. Now, what is the position in regard to this question? We must look at it as a practical matter. I say unhesitatingly that when the present government submitted the question of prohibition to the people in accordance with the promises they had made at their convention, they did something the temperance people of this country had never asked them to do. The plebiscite was not a proposition of the prohibitionists of this country; it was a proposition of the Liberal party; and it was accepted by the prohibitionists as a step in the right direction, but not as what they wanted.

Mr. TAYLOR. Because they thought that political party were honest.

Mr. McCLURE. Perhaps they did, and perhaps they have changed their minds to-day; and perhaps if the political party now in power were not as honest as the prohibitionists thought, hon. gentlemen opposite were honest when they gave a commission to inquire into the evils of the liquor traffic and put upon that commission men biased against prohibition, men who had made up their minds to report against it before they began the investigation. But if the prohibitionists have found the Liberal party dishonest, it is not the first time they have found a political party ready to play with

this question for votes without doing anything practical. I am not here to justify the action of the government in this matter. I have said that prohibitionists never approved the submitting of it to a vote of the people; I do not approve of it now. I accept it as a step in the right direction. The Liberals promised to submit the matter to the people, and they did so. I do not say that the plebiscite demanded of this government a prohibitory law; but I say that the plebiscite did not absolve the government from the responsibility that rested upon them to deal with this question—a responsibility which the Liberal party had admitted when previously in power, a responsibility which they had admitted when in opposition, a responsibility which, by the votes of its representatives in this House, it had time and time again declared rested upon any government in this country—to deal with the evils of the liquor traffic in a legislative fashion. They have not dealt with it in legislative fashion. They have played with the question to catch votes, the same as hon. gentlemen opposite did. But what do we find to-day? When I stand here and condemn the government for its attitude on this question, hon. gentlemen opposite say, 'Hear, hear.' But what did they do? What is their position? Do they think that the people of this country are such fools, do they think that the prohibitionists are such children, that they are going to be caught by the clap-net that they preach throughout the country? What is the position of the responsible leaders of that party? Why, only in November last the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), went down to Quebec and made a speech as one of the leaders of the party. He was asked point blank what was his policy on this question, and what was his answer? He said: I am going to wait and see whether you punish the government for their wrong-doing; and if you do that, maybe I will take it up. That is a proud position for a leader of a great party to take, a man who has declared in this House, that the evils of intemperance are so vast in magnitude that it is the duty of the government to deal with this question. And now he tells us: I have no responsibility; I am going to wait until I see if I can get into power on the question, and then I will consider it. What position are the prohibitionists in to-day as a matter of practical policy? They are not satisfied with the action of the government; they are not satisfied with the action of hon. gentlemen opposite. But the position it is attempted to place them in is to convince them that the only way you can advance your measure is by defeating this government, and putting the present opposition in power. What will be the result of that? If you can show me that by doing that I am going to ad-

vance the cause of prohibition, I am prepared to go with you ; but I do not see how it will advance the cause of prohibition. The only policy that will prevail on this question, the only policy that will be effective, is for the people of this country to elect not men pledged to prohibition merely, not men who in the heat of a campaign give their adherence to this cause, but men who believe in prohibition. Until that is done, you will never have a prohibitory liquor law. The trouble is that members of parliament do not believe in the principle of prohibition. It may be a question in the minds of some whether the majority of the people believe in it. There is no question that the majority of the members of this House do not believe that prohibition will be effective, and therefore, they do not vote for it.

I do not expect that this resolution of mine will pass. Some will say that, in that case, it is foolish to propose it. Not at all. It may be the duty of members of this House who believe in certain principles to propose resolutions embodying them, though they know that they will be defeated. The resolution will not pass in this House, I admit, but it will be part of an educational campaign which will result finally in prohibition by leading to the election to this parliament of men who believe in the principle, men who will enact a prohibitory law. There is no way under heaven by which prohibition can be enacted in this country save by bringing the people not only to believe in it, but to vote for the election of prohibitionists to this parliament. Until that is done, we cannot get the law.

The hon. member for Yarmouth said there is no need to preach about the evils of intemperance, that everybody admits them. I dissent from that position. I grant you that these evils are generally admitted ; but the members of this House do not appreciate those evils as they should do, otherwise they would not deal with this question in the light-hearted, in the cold-hearted manner in which parliament has always dealt with it. The magnitude of the evils of intemperance must be insisted upon in any argument on this question. It is upon the magnitude of the evils that flow directly from that traffic and upon that alone can we base a demand for prohibition. There is immense necessity that we should discuss the evils of intemperance. There is necessity that the commercial man be doctinated with the idea that the liquor traffic is a commercial curse, that it is a traffic that lives upon productive industries, and that it lives upon them without giving any return. It must be impressed upon the citizen that this traffic is opposed to the moral interests and welfare of this country, and that it must be dealt with by parliament as an enemy to society. These things must be insisted upon.

A strong appeal is made to punish this government. There may be justification for

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the appeal to punish this government, but while you may punish this government you cannot advance the cause of prohibition by simply electing opponents who are as bad as they are.

Mr. TAYLOR. You cannot find in the ranks of the Conservative party those who are as bad as they are.

Mr. McCLURE. I am surprised to hear such a remark from an hon. gentleman who, not many years ago, stood up in this House and proposed, calmly and seriously proposed, a resolution to the effect that this question should be submitted to the vote of the people before any action was taken ; and yet, when this government came into power and proposed to do that very thing, he hounded them from Dan to Beersheba and said they were pursuing a clap-trap policy. It was the policy which he himself had advocated. If they took it from him, I do not wonder that he considered it clap-trap. But does he tell me that the Conservative party are not worse than the Liberal party on this question. If so, I dissent from his opinion. For, I tell him that among the prohibitionists of this country there is a firm and settled conviction that if there ever was a party that dealt dishonestly and treacherously with the prohibition question it was the party of the hon. gentleman who sit opposite. They came down to this House and proposed a resolution—to which, in itself, I have no objection—to submit this question to investigation by an impartial commission ; and they deliberately selected a commission which was composed, with one exception, of men who were not impartial, men who were not constitutionally or by education fitted to inquire into the question, but men prejudiced against the principle of prohibition and determined to report against it. And the evidence collected by these men is of such a character that no man in his sober senses can read it and come to any other conclusion than that they were searching for evidence that would favour their own prejudiced opinion, and deliberately and of set purpose excluded all evidence they possibly could that would tell in favour of prohibition. Yet when that report came down, although the very report of that biased commission presented to this House stated that legislation was necessary, stated that evils did exist that should be suppressed by law, these hon. gentlemen deliberately sat silent and refused to take any action. It does not lie in the mouth of the hon. gentleman to accuse this government of dishonesty, whatever it may lie in the mouth of other people to say. Although I cannot support the action of the government on this question, still I refuse to be made the cat's-paw of hon. gentlemen opposite to foist them into power, and to enable them to punish this government without giving any pledge that they will do anything else. That is not a position that we shall take upon this ques-

tion, it is not an honest position, it is not one that will appeal to the people of this country. I can tell them that in the ranks of the Liberal party I know there are thousands of prohibitionists who are prepared to vote for prohibition if they can get it; but I say as emphatically, and I say it without shame, I do not believe it is a disgrace to say it, that there are thousands of prohibitionists in this country just as good and true as breathe in the world, who will support this government with all its wickedness, with all its treachery, as it is called, with all its broken promises, rather than be made the instruments to put in power in this country men who so long disgraced it by the kind of government they gave, and especially by the dishonesty that they practised towards the prohibitionists when in power.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I did not want to interrupt my hon. friend till he finished his address, but he made a statement that is rather a grave one. If I understood him correctly, he says that the prohibition commission to which he alluded in rather sharp terms, deliberately and of set purpose excluded all evidence that could be deemed favourable to prohibition. Now, that is rather a broad statement for a young man to make in this House, and I would like him to give some proofs of it.

Mr. McCLURE. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am a young man, it is true, but I was old enough to attend some meetings of that commission, and I saw them deliberately excluding evidence when it was offered, evidence that no court of law would have excluded. I am old enough to have read the report of that commission, to have read the report of the nominees of the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), and if he wants proof, let him read where the Rev. Joseph McLeod distinctly states what I have stated here to-day, that the commission did exclude such evidence, and what better proof does he want than that? Mr. McLeod deliberately stated that from the time the commission started out he had to fight to get in the evidence that he did get in, and that much that he sought to get in he did not get in. What better proof does the hon. gentleman want than that?

Mr. FOSTER. That is very different from what the hon. gentleman first stated.

Mr. McCLURE. Not at all. Only the day before yesterday I read the report to refresh my memory, and let any gentleman examine it, and he will find that my statement is substantiated word for word, and in stronger language than I have put it. So I say the hon. gentleman makes nothing by his interruption. Sir, I do not despair of the ultimate success of the prohibition movement. I do not regret that the plebiscite was taken; I dissent from the proposition that we lost ground by that plebiscite vote. Although not asked for, the campaign that was car-

ried on throughout this country educated the people upon that question in a way they had never been educated before. We had many cobwebs cleared away, we had the leaders of both parties in this House stand up and brush away at once the bug-bear of the revenue which was flaunted in the face of the people as one of the terrors that they had to face, we had hundreds of other bug-bears swept away during that campaign; and there was such an understanding of the prohibition movement when that campaign was over as we never had before. That education and that agitation must still go on. Great reforms of this kind move slowly, and I am not going to be discouraged by the rebuffs that we have met with. You may call me an enthusiast if you like, you may call me an impractical man if you like, you may call me young and enthusiastic; all this is beside the question. I believe in spite of the dishonesty of political parties, in spite of the opposition of party caucuses, in spite of the opposition of party machines, that this principle is bound to have a fair test in Canada. What the result may be it is not for me to predict. But I do believe that in face of the gigantic evils of the liquor traffic, the enormous evils that press upon us every day, when we see not merely the victims of the traffic themselves, but the thousands upon thousands of others who are suffering indirectly from its consequences, when we cannot go into a home, when we cannot go into a community, without seeing these evils staring us in the face, then I say that the people of this country are forced to the conviction that not only must we have wide education upon this question, but we must have thrown around society the safeguards of restrictive legislation. Let it come from this government or some other government, some day it must come, and I do not despair that even from this discussion, and from the agitation that will follow it, the cause of prohibition will be advanced. If the principle be right eventually it must triumph, and such a proposition as I have made here to-night will be adopted by this parliament.

Mr. THOMAS CHRISTIE (Argenteuil). In rising to support this resolution, I do not intend to occupy the time of the House at any length. I merely desire to express my hearty approval of the motion now before the House in favour of the principle of prohibition, introduced by the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). It is quite true that I would have been glad if we could have gone a step further and secured national prohibition at once; but as that is impracticable, I believe that this resolution, if adopted, will be a long step in the right direction, and is calculated ultimately to secure the total prohibition of the liquor traffic throughout the whole Dominion. In view of the fact that the majority of the electors voted in favour of prohibition, and

especially since all the provinces with one exception gave a decisive majority for it, I think it devolves upon this House, it devolves upon the government, to see that some action is taken to meet the wishes of the electorate; indeed I think it is imperative that we should go as far as we possibly can in order to carry out the mandate of the electorate as expressed at the polls. It is quite true that a majority in the province of Quebec voted against it, but, whilst that might be a reason why prohibition should not be forced upon that province, it should not, in any way, bar the way to prevent other provinces from securing this great boon. If this measure is carried to a successful issue, as I hope it will be, we may reasonably expect that, even the province of Quebec will soon fall into line and be abreast of other provinces on this question, but, if no action is taken, if the vote of the people should be ignored, there can be no doubt that the country will be woefully disappointed. I trust that this measure will be carried, and that there will be ample measures taken for its enforcement, and if so, I have no doubt that it will be a great boon, that it will contribute very largely to the prosperity, the well-being, and the happiness of this Dominion. I will not further trespass on the time of the House, because I would like to see a vote taken, and it is not desirable that we should spend too much time speaking upon a question which has been so thoroughly discussed already.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). Mr. Speaker, I think that all the members of this House will admit that this question is one of the most important that we could discuss. I cannot say that I agree with the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) in stating that this question is not at all political, because, I think, it has been made political. I think the hon. member for Yarmouth, when he was in opposition, for several years, made this question a political one, and attempted to put the government in a hole at that time, on many occasions, by moving, not a resolution such as he has moved to-night, but a resolution in favour of total prohibition. I think it is worth while to contrast the attitude of the hon. member for Yarmouth at that time with his position at the present time. Then, he moved a resolution for the total prohibition of the importation, sale and manufacture of liquor in Canada.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig) seconded it.

Mr. CRAIG. Yes; I stand just where I stood before. I am not going to second this one. That is the difference between the hon. member for Yarmouth and myself. I would not stultify myself by moving such a resolution as has been moved to-night in favour of partial prohibition. Now, I think

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there is one object of this resolution moved by the hon. member for Yarmouth, one very plain object, and that is, to get the government out of a very difficult position. The government placed this plebiscite in their political platform as one of the most important planks, and they gave the people the idea that they were favourable to prohibition. They did not say so distinctly, but they said: We will do this for the temperance people of the country. If we get into power we will grant a plebiscite, and if a majority of the electors vote in favour of prohibition we will give them a prohibitory liquor law. I think there is no doubt about that at all. I may have a little political feeling in the matter myself; I may look on it from my own standpoint, but, I think I can prove what I say by what was said by one of the hon. gentlemen who spoke here to-night, who belongs to the Liberal party, that the object of this resolution is to get the present government out of a difficult position. Just let me read some of the remarks made a few minutes ago by the hon. member for East Prince, P.E.I., (Mr. Bell). Referring to this resolution, the hon. member said that if this is granted, the sting of defeat will be taken away and the temperance people will feel that they have not been robbed. I think that amply sustains the statement that I have made, that this resolution has only one object, and that its object is to get the government out of the position they are in. A great many of the temperance people to-day feel that they have been robbed by the government, that the government have deceived them, that the government have not treated them properly, that the government promised to give them the plebiscite, and if there was not a direct promise there was an implied promise, that prohibition would be the result of a majority of votes, but we found afterwards that there was some secret understanding that there would have to be a certain proportion of votes cast before prohibition would be granted. I think the temperance people feel that they have been robbed by this government.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig), himself said that there ought to be 50 per cent.

Mr. CRAIG. I am discussing the government; I am not discussing myself. I am not in a hole, and the government are. I did not propose the plebiscite. We did not go before the people offering them a plebiscite, but the government did, and they have placed themselves in this unfortunate position, that the hon. member for East Prince tells them that a great many people would abstain from voting unless they gave them something like this proposed measure, and that a great many others would vote against them. I do not say that; I am quoting

what he says himself. He comes from the same province as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, so that the hon. minister should be rather afraid of the result of the election in his own province. I want to read a little further what the hon. member for East Prince said. He said that the carrying of this resolution will show the temperance people that the government is their friend. That is political, I think—that the government is their friend, and that the Liberal government could be relied on to keep their pledges. I think the resolution is a very good one, taking it in that light. I do not think it is a bit of good for prohibition, but the hon. gentleman commends that resolution to the government because it will help the government out of the hole they have got into. I am not going to help the government out of a hole in that way. I do not think I should be called upon to do it. I think it is all right for their own supporters to do this; I think it is all right for members of the Dominion Alliance who belong to the Liberal party to do this, and there is no doubt that they are doing it, and that they are trying to help the government out of their difficulty. There is no doubt at all that a great many temperance people feel that they have been robbed, and now this resolution is brought forward to show them that they have not been robbed, and the hon. member for East Prince makes an appeal to the government to support this resolution and make the temperance people feel that they have not been robbed and that the government is their friend. The hon. gentleman says that it will show that the Liberal government can be relied on to keep their pledges. I am afraid that it will be found that the government cannot be relied on to keep their pledges. The temperance people will find that they have been robbed, and that the Liberal party cannot be relied on to keep their pledges. There is a great deal of politics in this. The hon. member for Yarmouth says that there is no politics in it. I want to read something from the *Montreal Witness*, which is an independent paper. We all know how independent it is. The *Montreal Witness*, in its edition of April 18, has an article entitled 'The Mandate of the Plebiscite,' and it goes on to say that Mr. Flint, of Yarmouth, will move in parliament demanding from the government a measure which will carry out the mandate of the people on prohibition. Which is not so at all because this resolution is not the mandate of the people. Then the article goes on to say:

The government has signified in the plainest terms that it does not regard the verdict of the plebiscite as warranting it in granting the legislation for which the country by a small majority pronounced.

And the *Witness* goes on to apologize for the government, and to excuse them from granting prohibition as a result of that

plebiscite, arguing that they cannot and ought not do it because Quebec went against it, and the government should not do anything to offend the conscientious objections of Quebec. Well, there is no politics in that of course. The *Witness* is a very strong temperance paper, and the *Witness* is a very independent paper, but I venture to say, without fear of being at all libellous, that if the Conservative government had granted the plebiscite and the result had been the same as in the last plebiscite, we would not have found an article like this in the *Montreal Witness*. On the contrary, we would have found the *Witness* insisting that the Conservative government should bow to the will of the people, and insisting too that the temperance people all over Canada should demand that the Conservative government would give effect to that vote in accordance with the pledge made to this very important section of the community. I venture to say that that is what the *Witness* would have argued if a Conservative government was in the same position as the Liberal government on this question. But of course there is no politics in this. The *Montreal Witness* has written a very strong excuse for the government, and in fact, it says, that the government cannot grant prohibition under the circumstances. There is something else in this article, which of course is not at all political, as hon. gentlemen will see when I read it. It says:

A demand now that it should do this—

Referring to passing prohibition legislation for the whole country.

A demand now that it should do this would merely court the solid opposition of the government party on the ground that it was an expression of want of confidence, and of the majority of the Conservative party, because they do not believe in the measure.

Now, that is very kind of the *Montreal Witness* to allow the inference to go forth to the country, that if it was not a want of confidence motion the Liberal party are such strong prohibitionists they would vote for it; but the Conservative party could not vote for it, because they do not believe in prohibition. And yet there is no politics in that. The *Montreal Witness* goes further and talks about the excuse the government may make and it pretends to answer this excuse. It says:

Every one knows that prohibitionists want national prohibition, and demand nothing less. Every one knows that there must be many difficulties and imperfections about bringing about and enforcing provincial prohibition that would be eliminated by a national measure.

And yet the *Montreal Witness* goes on to argue in favour of the motion of the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint.) It says:

The debate will, we hope, show to some extent where the members stand, &c.

I have merely read this article to show that as the member for Yarmouth, says, there is no politics in this. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that so far as I am concerned there is no politics in it. I have taken my stand on this question, and I shall abide by it. I was accused by members of my own party, and I was accused by the newspapers, of letting the right hon. the Prime Minister out of a hole by my statement, that I thought the government should not be asked to bring down a prohibitory Bill unless over 50 per cent of the voters on the list voted in favour of it. I stated that because it was my candid opinion, and I state so to-day. I stand right there, and I leave politics out of the question. I think this is a question above politics; but unfortunately this question is dragged into politics every time. I say without any offence to some hon. gentlemen, that many of the speeches made in this House with reference to prohibition are made from political motives, and made by members because they think it will be pleasing to their constituents; or because they feel they have to make them. I, Sir, do not believe in treating such an important question in that fashion. As was well said by the hon. gentleman for Yarmouth, or perhaps it was the member for East Prince (Mr. Bell), who said, that this prohibition Act could never be carried as a party measure. I agree with that. I say here to-day, that if the government will now bring in a prohibitory Bill, I will vote for it. If they bring in a Bill for the total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in this country, I will support the government in that measure. That is where I stand, but I do not believe in these side winds which are brought in, and which are really brought in for political purposes, and I think the temperance people of this country should be done with them once and for all. I say, Mr. Speaker, that I have very little hope of seeing prohibition in this country. I have very little hope after the last plebiscite vote. That vote did not show that the people of this country were very anxious for prohibition after all. I say that frankly and sincerely. It did not show an overwhelming desire on the part of the people of this country for the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. I go further and I say, that I have not very much hope of seeing prohibition just because temperance men, the same as other men, stick to their party too much at election times and let the prohibition question stand to one side. We see that the Liberal party before the last elections were opposing the Conservative party because the Conservatives were in favour of protection. We heard the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), when in opposition denounce the Conservative party because they held to protection. Do we find any party in this

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country denounce any other party because they are not in favour of prohibition. We do not. Is protection more important than prohibition? It would seem so, for the members of the Liberal party will vote against a Conservative because he is in favour of protection, but they will not support a Conservative because he is a prohibitionist. I found that in my own experience. I found in my own election that I lost a good many voters who worked in a brewery because I was a prohibitionist, but I gained hardly any prohibitionist votes, because I was a prohibitionist. That is one reason why I have very little hope of seeing prohibition. I do not blame the members of this House; I do not blame the government, I blame the people themselves. If they want prohibition they can have it. I think it was Sir John Macdonald who told them, that they could have prohibition if they wanted it. If the people of this country want prohibition they can have prohibition, because they can send men here who can pass a prohibitory law and force the government to carry it out. I oppose the motion of the member for Yarmouth, and I do not think he believes in it himself in his heart. I doubt if he does. I do not think that any sensible person could believe in a motion of this kind. I have said that I have very little hope of seeing prohibition in this country, but I go further, and with reference to this motion before us to-night, I say that if it were carried into effect the condition under it would be far worse than any condition of things we have to-day. Just imagine prohibition in Ontario existing with the present state of affairs in the province of Quebec. I do not know how it could be enforced at all. One objection made to total prohibition is the difficulty of its enforcement, and that is a very great difficulty. It is a greater difficulty than the loss of revenue. Lying alongside a country like the United States for thousands of miles, the difficulties of enforcing total prohibition in Canada would be enormous. It might be possible—I do not know whether it would or not—but if there was total prohibition, the difficulties of enforcing it would be nothing compared with the difficulties of enforcing partial prohibition. So, Sir, I say that leaving politics out of the question altogether, and looking at it as a citizen of this country, and as a member of this parliament, I could not think for one moment of supporting the motion of the hon. member for Yarmouth. It would be impossible to enforce it. I have great sympathy with the temperance workers of Canada, and I stand along side of them. I said in this House before that I would always vote for a prohibition resolution, not that I thought prohibition was coming at once, but that I would like to see prohibition if we could have it, and it could be enforced. I would vote always for a prohibition resolution to

show on what side I stood. I do not want to be ranked on the side of the liquor men. I stand on the side of the temperance people of this country. I respect them for what they have done, and even if they do not get prohibition, no one can look at what they have accomplished, and at the great strides in temperance which have resulted from their labours without having respect for the temperance people. I respect no temperance workers more than I do the Women's Christian Temperance Union. They are doing a great work in this country. They are exerting a great moral influence; and they will, no doubt, continue to do a good work. While I say all that, and while, if I were outside of this House, I would urge the government to pass a prohibitory liquor law, yet as a member of this House, I cannot stultify myself, with the sentiments I hold, by voting for the motion of the hon. member for Yarmouth. I hold in my hand a letter sent to me by the treasurer of the Dominion Alliance in Toronto, in which he points out that my constituency had a majority of 753 in favour of prohibition. I find, on looking at the figures of the plebiscite vote, that 1,368 voted for prohibition out of a total vote on the list of 4,700; whereas the total vote cast at the last Dominion election was 3,365. So that there were not half the number of votes cast for prohibition, that were cast in the Dominion election of 1896. I do not think that is any warrant to me to vote for prohibition; and especially I do not think I have any warrant for voting for partial prohibition. I am satisfied that this partial prohibition, if we were to have it, would be a complete failure. I do not intend to take up the time of the House. I have expressed my honest sentiments on this question off-hand. If the temperance people of this country are in earnest in their desire for prohibition, let them vote against every government that will not give them prohibition. If they do that, they may in time get a government that will give them prohibition; but until they do that they will never get it.

Mr. ROBERT HOLMES (West Huron). Mr. Speaker, while there is considerable force in the remarks of the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), I am willing, as an individual, to go a step further than I did last year, and I intend to support the motion of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure). The attitude which I took in the House last year, was that in my opinion, the government were not justified on the plebiscite vote in passing a prohibitory liquor law. That is still my opinion; yet I believe that the principle of prohibition is right, and that sooner or later it should be recognized in this country, in the form of law. I do not think there is an individual in this House who will attempt to minimize the evils that arise from the

liquor traffic. I think these will be conceded by almost every member in the House; but whether we are able to put into operation and to enforce a prohibitory liquor law or not is an entirely different question. I believe that if a prohibitory liquor law were adopted, the people would rise to the emergency and would endeavour to enforce it. The argument has been put forth that this is a political dodge to get the government out of a hole. If the members on the opposition side of the House want to be consistent, it seems to me that, according to their own reasoning, they can put the government in a bigger hole than ever by voting for one of the two motions before the House tonight. I do not think the government is to be condemned because it has not introduced a law in harmony with the plebiscite vote. If we are to make any advance in prohibition legislation, we must do so apart from any political considerations. The question is one that is rising in public opinion; there is a certain amount of force behind it; and whether we desire to do so or not, we cannot as a legislature afford to ignore this important question. I see a great many obstacles in the way of the enforcement of a prohibitory liquor law, particularly provincial prohibition; yet we find prohibitory laws in force in some of the neighbouring states. In the state of Maine, so successful has the prohibitory liquor law been, that it has become a part of the state constitution. When I have been told that it has been a failure in that state, I have asked, how comes it that the people of the state of Maine, knowing the shortcomings of the law, as they must, and knowing the evils that would arise from its non-enforcement, have yet made it a part of the state constitution, and on two occasions have refused to repeal it? That is an evidence the measure is fairly successful; and, I believe, that if such a law were introduced into this country, there would be such a strong force of public opinion behind it, that it would become as successful as any law of that kind could be. I do not wish to take up the time of the House, as there are, no doubt, many others who wish to speak on the question; but I have no hesitation in saying, so far as my individual vote and influence are concerned, that I am in favour of prohibition of the liquor traffic, with all the objections and disadvantages of such a law, and I am willing, as an individual, to do all I can to assist in its enforcement.

Mr. PETER MACDONALD (East Huron). Mr. Speaker, this question has come before this House for many years. I think that there have only been one or two sessions during the fifteen sessions in which I have had the honour of a seat in this House, in which a resolution of this kind has not been moved. I suppose that there are not many here who do not know my opinions

on this question. Personally I am a prohibitionist. I would like to see a prohibitory law on the statute-book of Canada, if I felt sure that the public sentiment behind it were sufficiently strong to carry its provisions into effect. It is said that the government are to blame in having given the opportunity to the people of this country to express their desire for prohibition. I think the government did what was fair and just in placing that opportunity before the people, free of all entanglements, so that each person had an opportunity of coming forward and voting for or against prohibition. I have never heard or read anywhere, where the government promised prohibition on a mere majority vote. My own opinion is, and I have candidly expressed it, that the vote given in September, 1898, would not justify the government in introducing a prohibitory liquor law, and placing it on the statute-book. When the opportunity was given to the people of this country to vote on the question, and only 41 per cent of the entire vote was polled, that fact conveys to my mind the strong conviction that those who did not vote, had the temperance question very little at heart indeed. When I spoke on public platforms on the question, I urged very strongly the necessity of the people coming out and polling a very large vote. I told them that the government would attach importance to the non-voters, and that I regarded seven out of every ten who did not vote, as being practically against a prohibitory liquor law—that any man who would not walk two or three blocks or drive two or three miles to vote, would not be likely to give any assistance in carrying out the law, but would probably tell us that we were the cause of bringing the law into effect, and might carry it out as best we could. Therefore, I regard a prohibitory law for the whole country as out of the question at present. But a large section of the temperance people, particularly in Ontario, in the western and in the maritime provinces, are desirous that some measure should be adopted whereby each province that felt so disposed, could have a prohibitory liquor law.

Although I must candidly say that I do not feel very much confidence in a local prohibitory law, still I do not feel justified in opposing this demand that is made by such a large and respectable body of men as the Dominion Temperance Alliance. If, after much consideration on their part, and weighing all the difficulties, they have come to the conclusion that a law of that kind would be beneficial, I do not think I would be justified in voting against it. Therefore, when the vote comes, I will record mine in favour of the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth, believing that in some of the provinces there is a sufficient preponderance of sentiment to enable the law proposed to be carried out in such a way as will tend to the great moral and material advantage of the people.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I have just a word or two, Mr. Speaker, to say with regard to the amendment now before the House. I wish to say, in the first place, that I have received from a lodge of the Royal Templars of Temperance, a resolution, which they have asked me to bring before the House at the proper time. It is dated the 5th March, 1900, and is as follows:

Mr. Geo. Taylor, M.P.

Dear Sir,—At the last regular meeting of Gananoque Council, No. 284, on motion of Brother C. H. Hurd, seconded by Brother R. Sheppard, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas the present Dominion government took a plebiscite of votes of the people as to the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes in Canada on the 1st day of September, 1898;

And whereas, out of the total number of votes polled a large majority thereof were for prohibition;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Council No. 284, Royal Templars of Temperance, duly in council assembled, demand that the Dominion government redeem the pledges given to the electors of this country and at once, without further delay, introduce the question of prohibitory legislation in parliament;

Also, that a copy of this resolution, officially signed and sealed with the seal of this council, be forwarded by the secretary to our representative, Mr. Geo. Taylor, M.P.

Signed in behalf of Gananoque Council, No. 284.

Yours in H., L. and T.,

O. W. SHEETS,

Select Councillor.

C. R. HURD,

Recording Secretary.

R. SHEPPARD,

Financial Secretary.

It appears to me that that has the true ring about it, without any politics. This government did make a distinct pledge to the people. They pledged themselves that, if returned to power, they would have a plebiscite on the question of prohibitory legislation, and that if the people declared in favour of prohibition, they would give effect to their will. The people took them at their word and elected them to power. After waiting a year or two, this government submitted the question to the people; but in place of allowing the people to express their unbiased opinion, without being influenced one way or the other, three cabinet ministers took the stump in the province of Quebec against prohibitory legislation. They said to the habitants down there: If you vote in favour of prohibition, you will put the government in a hole, you will ruin Sir Wilfrid Laurier, you will drive him from office, and not only will you do that, but you will tax yourselves \$2 a head to make up the deficit in revenue. You can well imagine, Mr. Speaker, what a heavy tax that would be in the province of Quebec, where it is not unusual for families to number fifteen or twenty persons. That would

mean a tax of \$20 or \$30 per family. When we found such men as the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) telling his constituents that if they voted for prohibition, they would be voting for a tax of \$20 or \$30 per family, besides drive Sir Wilfrid Laurier from office, how could it be expected that they would cast a vote in favour of prohibition? Why did not the government submit the question fairly and honestly to the people, and leave the people free to form an unbiased judgment?

I have also a letter from a political organization, the Dominion Alliance, which has been running this question for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite for years. That cannot be doubted. I have seen Mr. Spence and his associates up here, year after year, assisting my hon. friend, the author of the resolution before the House. (Mr. Flint), to manipulate temperance sentiment, and help this government out of the hole they got into. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a circular from Mr. Orr, on behalf of the Dominion Alliance, one of the many which he has sent out to hon. members of this House, asking them to support the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth.

An hon. MEMBER. Read it.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is too long and absurd, and the hon. gentleman has one himself, which he can take every opportunity to read. I have also a letter from a Methodist minister in my own constituency, who writes to me as follows:

I understand that you are the prohibitionist—

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. TAYLOR. He is correct in that—

—yet, though I ask your support for the resolution of Mr. Flint, I do not feel satisfied with it. It seems to me it should have been a Bill instead of a resolution—giving effect at once to the policy it advocates.

That gentleman is honest, straightforward, and sincere, and the resolution is not. If my hon. friend from Yarmouth wants a law put on the statute-book, why does he not propose a Bill, or use his influence with the government to introduce a Bill, giving effect to the pledge they made to the people. If the government cannot go the whole hog, if they want to exempt the province of Quebec, let them bring in a Bill, and not a bald resolution—a resolution carefully devised and with an amendment already prepared to be tacked on to it. The whole device is too thin, and the people can see through it—a resolution from a supporter of the government and an amendment from the same side. My hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), did not ask my hon. friend behind me (Mr. Bennett), who has been always honest and straightforward in his principles, to support his amendments or his resolutions, introduced from year to year, sometimes on going into

supply, when the carrying of such an amendment would have the effect of defeating the government.

Mr. FLINT. It never was moved on going into supply.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend, the Minister of Inland Revenue, when I referred to him a moment ago, rose from his seat, and I thought he was going to reply, but he simply went out, and I see he has returned.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) I did not hear what my hon. friend said, and would be glad to hear him now.

Mr. TAYLOR. Had my hon. friend remained in his seat, I intended to make other references to the plebiscite in Quebec. Not only did three members of the government take the stump against prohibition, but the ballot boxes were kept open for weeks after the polls were closed. In some polls the ballot boxes contained more votes against prohibition than could be found on the roll. How did these bulletins get into the ballot boxes, if they were not stuffed?

I have another statement to make before resuming my seat. Mr. Spence, the secretary of the Dominion Alliance, when he worked out this percentage on behalf of the government, made the statement that he had counted every name on the voters' list. Well, I know that in my own municipality, the names of hundreds of voters appeared two or three times on the lists, and they were all counted as voters, although only one vote could be given. But in the province of Quebec, one man would have his name on the lists in several municipalities, and would cast a vote in each, so that his vote would be counted seven or eight times against prohibition. That is the way the percentage of 23 per cent was arrived at, to which my hon. friend has referred. It must be admitted by any one who is not biased, that there was just as large, or nearly as large, a vote given when the plebiscite was taken, as is usually given in a parliamentary election.

An hon. MEMBER. Larger than in the last election.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, and yet they say the vote cast was only 23 per cent. It certainly was more than 23 per cent of the persons entitled to vote. I am prepared to support any honest movement in favour of total prohibition. And I am not in favour of trying to get this government out of the hole they have got into with the honest temperance people of this country, when they promised to submit a vote so as to have a fair expression of public opinion and if the majority favoured it, they would give effect to the will of the people. Now, let them do it.

Mr. GILBERT W. GANONG (Charlotte). Last year, when this question came before the House, we had an effort made to relieve this government of responsibility, which is repeated this year. The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) appeals to keep this question out of politics. He also states that this parliament is responsible, that any parliament would be responsible rather than the government. I would like to know what action that gentleman has ever taken to find out what the opinion of this parliament as constituted to-day is. This evening he stated that he was simply carrying out the views of the alliance. I would like to ask him if he ever submitted this resolution to the leaders of this government before he brought it to the House. The hon. gentleman is not prepared to answer. His instructions last year from the Temperance Alliance were to make his resolution cover just as much as the members of this government would allow him to bring into the House. Did he do that? No, Sir. I have it on the word of Mr. Spence, the secretary, that he did not follow out his instructions. This year, we have the same farce over again. Last year they put the job up, they did not even placard it upon the door, that the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) would move an amendment, and the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Parmalee) would be on his feet before it was possible for any one to move. I do not know whether the hon. member for Shefford has gone back on them this year or not. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) is not here to move the adjournment of the debate. Perhaps some one else will fill that place. I believe, as the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig) has stated, that this is nothing more than a farce to get the government out of a hole. Even the hon. member for Colchester says he does not want to hold the government to the plebiscite. Of course he does not, for that would make the government responsible. He is fulfilling his part also, with the post office over in Truro in prospect. The hon. member for East Huron (Mr. Macdonald) does not seem to take the word of the hon. member for Colchester. The hon. member for Colchester stated that this does not suit the maritime provinces, but the hon. member for East Huron says that it is desired by the maritime provinces. Let us see what they say :

Provincial prohibition has been proposed by resolution in parliament. It was not the humour of our association to confuse the direct issue by approving of partial and untested measures.

This is part of a resolution passed by the Maritime Prohibition Association in the city of Moncton, where all the maritime workers for prohibition met within the last few weeks. The secretary, I believe, comes from the county of Yarmouth.

Now, there is no question whatever that
Mr. TAYLOR.

this is one of the most important questions that has ever come before the country ; but, it is evident the government do not think so. How many are there on the front benches to-night? The right hon. leader of that party (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), not only on this question, but on every other question, has had his roller skates on ever since 1896 ; and when he makes the next political circuit these same rollers will land him in opposition again. I say to those hon. gentlemen : You cannot very well stand on the old platform, for you have put it in pawn, and you will never take it out again. What did the right hon. gentleman say in the past ?

If the plebiscite meets with the support of the majority of the people, those who find themselves in a minority will have to concur in the verdict of the majority.

Is he on the same platform, or has he rolled out of sight on that question? But that was before an election. He was trying to head a procession, and he had as his lieutenant the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to assist him. Now, things have changed. He knows that he has 278,000 people that he has to be responsible to pushing behind him, and he knows with that vote against him, he will be where he was before 1896. They claim that the government were not bound by the plebiscite. Is this government bound by anything? The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) comes down to my county and says : You must not judge the government by the statement of one member of it. And the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) stood on the same platform and made the same statement. I have it here in a Grit paper, if he would like to hear me read it. But, where is the right hon. First Minister? What did he say in regard to this question? He committed every member of the Liberal party, if he is leader of the Liberal party, when he made the statement recorded in *Hansard*, pages 94-95, 1899 :

Let me say this: When we put that plank into our platform there was an implied agreement between the members of the party who believed in prohibition and those who did not believe in prohibition. The implied agreement on the part of those who did not believe in prohibition was that if the voice of the people spoke unmistakably, if it should be shown that the great majority of the electorate were in favour of prohibition, then those who did not believe in it would surrender their views to those of their brothers, and would work honestly for the success of that policy.

But he did not stop there.

On the other hand, there was an engagement on the part of those who believed in prohibition that if the voice of the people on the subject should not be of sufficient strength to warrant the adoption by the party of the policy of prohibition they would also square their views to those of their brothers—

What next?

—and we would hear no more of that question in the ranks of the party. That was the policy we adopted, and that was the policy we carried out, and what is the result?

Where is the First Minister to-night? Has he changed his opinion? The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who sits behind him, when questioned by the late Mr. Ives, shrank from answering as a square man should answer. He hid beneath the skirts of his leader. Will he hide beneath the skirts of his leader on this question? He is as much pledged to-night as the First Minister, and every man in that party, was pledged by the statement of the First Minister that, so far as the Liberal party is concerned, the prohibition question will never be heard again in the ranks of that party. I would suggest to hon. gentlemen opposite that, when sending out campaign literature they should send out this declaration that, so far as prohibition is concerned, you will never hear more of it in the ranks of the Liberal party.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture, when he was asked by Mr. Ives in regard to that statement on the question as to the vote—and I believe the hon. member for Yarmouth is in the same box as the Minister of Agriculture—answered:

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Ives) must know perfectly well that the Prime Minister has made a statement here on the floor of this House, and he is bound to accept that statement. I have nothing further to say in the matter, Mr. Speaker.

Now, there were other statements of the Minister of Agriculture, one of which was to this effect:

He felt that he had been selected for a seat in the cabinet largely as the representative of the temperance sentiment, but he assured his hearers that the temperance cause had many other friends in the Council Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, would you be kind enough, for the information of this House and this country, to ask the other members of that council who favoured it to stand on their feet. We know that there are several who spoke against prohibition in Quebec. We know that the new member of the cabinet, the member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), when he was chief whip of the party, told his followers in the committee room upstairs that they were making fools of themselves, and that they did not know what they were talking about. So we would like to have some expression from the other members of the cabinet. I see there are three of them in the House at present, and if those who were in favour of prohibition would show it by standing on their feet, it would be a great satisfaction to the country. Now, Sir, the fact is that the member for Yarmouth has been used merely as a scapegoat for the party. He has used up hundreds and

hundreds of pages of *Hansard* advocating prohibition. He offers a resolution to this House to-night for which he has no mandate from the electors of his county. Not a man who will vote for that resolution to-night, if it be voted on, will have a mandate from his constituents behind him. The majority of those who voted on the plebiscite voted for total prohibition and not partial prohibition. Now, the member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) is very much afraid that possibly he or somebody else might be called upon to vote for a good Liberal prohibitionist. I have only this to say with regard to that matter. I take the statement of the Prime Minister that so far as the party is concerned that question has been dropped by the party. I do not believe that any honest temperance worker, either Liberal or Conservative, can vote for a Liberal at the next general election, because if he votes for a Liberal he votes for the leader who has given his word that so far as the Liberal party is concerned the question of prohibition has dropped for ever. I have just had placed in my hand a copy of the *Hansard* where I find that the Minister of Agriculture has stated:

There was no secret arrangement made of any kind whatever.

Well, where is the First Minister? He is on his rollers again. Is it possible that the member for Yarmouth can tell us just what his resolution means? Does it mean the total suppression of the manufacture as well as the sale? The resolution is very indefinite when you come to read it. Today a prominent temperance worker outside of this House, expressed to me his surprise that such a construction could be put upon the resolution. Unless it does mean that it would be possible to manufacture all the whisky you had a mind to in Ontario or Quebec, even if they passed a law so that they might carry out the question of restricting the use of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. It may possibly not be open to that construction, but it is quite evident that the temperance workers have already put that construction on it. Now, Sir, I will go a little further perhaps than any of the prohibitionists who have spoken this evening. I am a prohibitionist on principle, I believe that prohibition is possible, and perhaps I am a little too radical in my opinions on that question. If a law were passed I should make it a Dominion law with all the force of the Dominion parliament behind it, the same as a customs law. I would go further. I do not think the Customs Department is overworked, and I would authorize our hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), to enforce that law through his numerous officers. I would go further still—and I am very glad to say that this would not apply to the present Minister of Customs—I would set a limit of time within which every offi-

cer in that department should quit using alcoholic beverages, or else lose his position. That, Mr. Speaker, is my position on the temperance question.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). In rising to speak on this question, I will say at the outset that my principles as a temperance man lead me heartily to desire that the legislation of this country should be of a character to forward the interests of temperance. I should be glad if we could have a law upon our statute-book prohibiting the manufacture, the importation and the sale of intoxicating drinks. That is a position that, as a temperance man, I am prepared to uphold, a position, which in my opinion, is unassailable so far as the principle at stake is concerned. But while it may be desirable to have a certain kind of legislation, while it may be desirable to attempt to regulate the habits of the people of this country in such a way as to promote their welfare and temperance habits, yet the question will naturally arise as to the ability of this House to perform that task and to carry out such legislation. Now, Sir, the question of prohibition was referred to the people of this country for an expression of their opinion, and the government pledged itself to be governed by the clearly expressed opinion and desires of the electorate. That question, upon reference to the people, received the votes of 44 per cent of the entire electorate. At the previous election, on a list three years old, 66 per cent of the electorate voted. Upon this occasion there were 22 per cent less than voted in the previous general election. Now, while I would have been glad to see a pronounced expression of the public opinion of Canada in favour of prohibition, yet I am sorry to say that such a pronounced expression of opinion was not given, that but 23 per cent of the entire electorate voted for a prohibitory law. Under these circumstances I cannot believe that the government received a mandate from the electorate of Canada as to the course it should pursue in this regard; I think that under the terms of the reference of that question to the people, the government were not warranted in taking action in a direction which only 23 per cent of the electorate sanctioned by their votes. For that reason, although I would have been glad to have seen a pronounced expression of public opinion in favour of such a law, although I would have been glad to have seen that law on the statute-book, yet, I think, that a greater disaster than the ravages of intemperance, to-day, would be the placing of a law on the statute-book in reference to the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors which was a dead letter, and having no public opinion to sustain such a law, the law would be a dead letter. I have known, in the course of my experience, cases where prohibitory laws have been placed on the

statute-books of commonwealths, and I have known cases where these laws were totally disregarded, where there was no public opinion to back them up, where there was no public opinion demanding their enforcement, where there was, in consequence of the existence of such laws, no regulation whatever in regard to the liquor traffic, where it was a matter of free trade in liquor with no government supervision and no check upon the traffic, and I believe that such a condition of things in this country would be infinitely worse than it is under the plan whereby the liquor traffic is regulated by the different provinces in this Dominion. I repeat, that, while my opinion and wishes would have been in favour of such a law, yet, I do not think that, under the circumstances, the government were warranted in taking the step that many of our friends think they should have taken, because, they have no evidence of the existence of a public opinion that demanded such a law, or that it would have sustained such a law in its operations if it had been enacted. Last year when this question was discussed I thought the demand that the government should have enacted a law on the mandate of 23 per cent of the electorate of the country was not a reasonable demand, and that, if it had been complied with, it would have resulted in disaster, and in the defeat of the wishes of those who desired the adoption of the resolution. Taking this view of the case, I am not prepared to vote for a prohibitory law much as I would desire to see one enacted. But, while the condition of the matter is in the shape that it is in, I am quite prepared to say, that if the government sees fit to enact a prohibitory law in the provinces that pronounced in favour of it, and to refrain from enacting such a law in the province that pronounced against it, I am quite willing as a temperance man, and I would desire to support the motion, but, I think it would be an outrage on a province, such as the province of Quebec, to force upon it a law which the electorate has pronounced against. I do not believe it would be in the interest of confederation, I do not believe it would be productive of good results to enact a law of this parliament to provide for prohibition, not only in every province that voted for prohibition, but, for the great province of Quebec, that voted against it. I would hesitate very much before I would think of supporting a measure such as that. But, in regard to the other provinces, if a law which is partial in its application, which is applicable to one province, or to a number of provinces, and which excepts some provinces, or one province, from its operation, is constitutional, I would support such a measure. There is, however, the question as to the constitutionality of that Act. That is not a question for me to decide, and in supporting the

motion of the hon. member for Yarmouth, I state freely and fully, that, while I am in favour of the application of the principle, if it can be applied, the question of its constitutionality will have to be settled, and if it is unconstitutional in this country to adopt partial legislation that relates to a particular province, and relieves from the application of the law one or more provinces, that is a question which I am not called upon to decide, and that difficulty, if such a difficulty does exist, may be overcome, may be obviated by the relegating of this entire question to the provinces, and saying to the provinces: We authorize you to deal with this question on your own behalf. If the different provinces choose to adopt prohibition they may do so, and each province that chooses to refrain from adopting prohibition may refrain from doing so. Under these circumstances, while agreeing fully with the advocates of prohibition as to the desirability of such legislation, while agreeing fully that the evils of intemperance are gigantic and that they cannot be overstated, while expressing the desire that it lay in our power, or was possible for us to attempt to pass a prohibitory liquor law, yet, under the circumstances of this verdict of the people, or want of a verdict of the people, because out of 44 per cent that voted only 23 per cent voted in favour of prohibition, it would be folly, in my estimation, for the government to act upon that verdict of the people in the direction of passing a prohibitory law for the entire Dominion. This is as far as I would attempt to go, as I would think myself justified in going as a member of this House, to vote for the motion which has been tabled by the hon. member for Yarmouth, a motion which I will support with the statement I make that I have doubts as to the constitutionality of the application of the principle that is contained in that motion, although, perhaps, the necessity would be found to exist, if the motion was passed, that we should come to the point of relegating this question to the provinces themselves.

Mr. J. GUNION RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to occupy very much time in the discussion of this question. I regret exceedingly that a question such as this should be treated by hon. members on the other side of the House as a political question. I think it is a question altogether apart from the ordinary political issues that we are called upon to discuss, and it was with a feeling of sincere regret that I heard hon. gentlemen, calling themselves prohibitionists—ardent prohibitionists—attacking the hon. member for Yarmouth, (Mr. Flint), as if he were actuated by political motives in bringing this resolution before the House. It appears to me that there need be no great discussion of the question of the advisability of introducing a prohibitory liquor law ap-

plicable to the whole Dominion, because, as has been stated by several speakers, here to-night, neither the government, nor this parliament, have received any mandate from the people of Canada, asking for such legislation. The plebiscite was, to the prohibitionists throughout the Dominion, myself among the number, a very great disappointment because it showed, that, while there were certainly prohibitionists in Canada, there were not enough of people earnestly desirous of having prohibitory legislation enacted to make it safe or reasonable for the government, or this parliament, to pass such legislation. The small percentage of votes cast did not warrant the government in introducing a general prohibitory law, while there were other difficulties. The vote of the province of Quebec, was an insurmountable obstacle, and, as has been stated, there was considerable difficulty in the way of having an Act enforced throughout the whole Dominion, unless there was a very much greater popular sentiment in favour of it than was demonstrated by the vote on the plebiscite. This resolution, while, perhaps, open to the objection raised by the last speaker, the hon. member for North Norfolk, (Mr. Charlton), that it is not constitutional, I must confess, appears to me, a very reasonable substitute for a general prohibitory law. I read this resolution somewhat differently from the hon. member for North Norfolk. I think under this resolution, it would be quite competent for this House to pass legislation, giving the provinces power to regulate the liquor traffic for themselves.

An hon. MEMBER. Does the resolution say so?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. We will take this last sentence of the resolution:

—enact such measures as will secure the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage purposes in at least those provinces and territories which have voted in favour of such prohibition.

Now, the question arises whether that applies to the general plebiscite or to the provincial plebiscites. For instance, the province of Ontario voted strongly in favour of prohibition in the provincial plebiscite, and so also did the province of Manitoba whence I come. Not being a lawyer, it is just a question with me whether or not this resolution is so worded that it would be competent for the government to pass legislation relegating the power of legislating on prohibition to the provinces themselves. Taking the ground that it is, I am certainly in favour of this resolution. I think it is a very good step on the way towards general prohibition. Those of us who have watched the trend of public opinion upon this question all know that popular sentiment in favour of the abolition of the liquor traffic is steadily and rapidly growing. In the memory of the

youngest members of this House, a very great change has taken place in public opinion upon this important question. The suggestion made by the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong), in a mere jocular way I suppose, that the officials of the Customs Department should be informed that if they did not desist from the use of alcoholic liquors they would be dismissed; while perhaps not practical entirely, is one which is well worth the consideration of this government, and not only in regard to the officials of the Customs Department but in regard to all the other public servants in the country. We know that very many of the largest employers of labour in Canada are now making it a rule that their employees shall be abstainers from alcoholic beverages.

Mr. ELLIS. You should begin with parliament.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I think it would be a very good idea. I may say that so far as I am concerned I began some time ago.

Mr. ELLIS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. There is to my mind no good reason for this House refusing to allow the provinces to legislate on this question for themselves. There might be a constitutional reason, however. I understand that the British North America Act gives the power of dealing with trade and commerce entirely to the Dominion parliament; but I fancy that even that could be got over if this parliament were to approach the British House of Commons with an amendment to the British North America Act, excepting the liquor traffic from the operation of that clause. As was mentioned by one speaker on the opposite side, the late Sir John Macdonald informed the people of Canada that if at any time they wanted prohibition they could have it. Well, if at any time the people of Canada want to give the provinces power to legislate on prohibition they can do so; the one is as true as the other. Taking this view of the case the argument of the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), that it would be impossible for us to enforce the law if it were passed in the provinces individually, can have no force; because it would devolve upon the provincial governments which brought the prohibitory legislation into effect to enforce the law, and not upon this government or upon this parliament.

I wish to speak for a few moments upon the purely local aspect of this question as it affects Manitoba. The hon. member (Mr. Craig) stated that great difficulties would exist in maintaining a prohibitory liquor law against the province of Quebec and against the United States. As far as the province of Manitoba is concerned, this argument does not apply. The province of Manitoba not only gave an overwhelming vote in favour of prohibition in 1892, and

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again in 1898, but it is so situated geographically that there would be little or no difficulty in enforcing prohibition there, provided the power to deal with the question were vested in the local legislature. Manitoba is bounded on the east by an almost uninhabited portion of the province of Ontario; it is bounded on the south for the greater portion of its length by the state of North Dakota, which has been a prohibition state for a great many years. There is a small portion of the state of Minnesota on the south-eastern part of the province, but that can be very easily guarded against. On the west it is bounded by the North-west Territories, a sparsely-settled country, and on the north, of course there is no settlement at all. I do not know where there could be a more favourable field for the experiment of provincial prohibitory legislation than in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. TAYLOR. Do not grant any licenses and you have got it.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. That would not interfere with the importation or with the manufacture, and these are the two difficulties which we have to meet.

Mr. CASEY. You would reduce your revenue.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The revenue of the province would be very little reduced by prohibitory legislation, but, as I have pointed out, the refusal to grant licenses would not do away with the importation or manufacture. Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of Manitoba are really very largely in favour of prohibition. In my own constituency they voted 10 to 1 on the Dominion plebiscite, and I think even a larger percentage in the provincial plebiscite in 1892, voted in favour of prohibition. The people there in many cases are total abstainers. The part of the country in which I have the honour to live, the Portage Plains district, is noted for the sobriety and temperance of its citizens, and I may say that in that part of the province the licenses are exceedingly few and far between. In the town of Portage la Prairie there are several licensed hotels, but for 90 miles in a north-westerly direction no license exists. No license at all exists to the north unless it is in that newly discovered country at the North Pole. No license exists within 56 miles to the east, no license exists within 50 miles to the west, and no license exists within 40 miles to the south. You have there an enormous area of country which is to-day practically under prohibition. I am satisfied that the local conditions of that province are entirely in favour of such an experiment as we have outlined in this resolution. I have dealt with the geographical and local conditions, and I shall now deal with the political conditions. The people there are anxious to have this legislation and the late provincial

government went as far as it possibly could in that direction. In 1893 it approached the Dominion government and asked for legislation having in view the granting of the power to the province to pass prohibitory legislation, but without success. The present Prime Minister of that province, Mr. Hugh John Macdonald, has pledged his word to pass prohibitory legislation as far as he possibly can, and I think it would be a mistake for this government and this House to stand in the way of the hon. gentleman's ambition in that direction. I think that the government of that province should be given full scope to deal with this question in whatever way it might deem best. The hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong) said that no member on this side of the House who would vote for this question had a direct mandate from his people to do so. Well, that just depends upon whether the mandate given by the people of, say my own constituency, at the provincial election plebiscite in 1892, holds good in this case or not. For my part I think it does. When the people of my constituency voted in 1892, they voted in favour of obtaining just such rights and privileges as are outlined in this resolution, and therefore, I consider that I for one have a direct mandate from the people of my constituency to vote for it. So far as I am concerned, I am a practical prohibitionist; I prohibit myself, and I fancy that if all the people of Canada would do the same thing, we would have no difficulty in enforcing this legislation. I am also in this case an advocate of provincial autonomy. I believe that the provinces should have the power to legislate on this as on other questions. I do not think it is fair that the great majority of the people in the province of Manitoba who are in favour of prohibitory legislation should be denied that privilege, because people many hundreds of miles away, under entirely different conditions, do not desire it. Therefore, without taking up any more time of the House, I have much pleasure in stating that I will support the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint).

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to occupy very much time in the discussion of this subject. My constituents, and in fact all the people of the eastern townships, know pretty well my views on this question. There is one thing on which we all agree, that is, that it is a very important subject. I think we also agree that the liquor traffic is a great injury to individuals as well as to the community, and a great obstruction to the prosperity of the country. That it is an evil all will admit. Efforts have been made for many years to do away with this evil by means of different laws. We have had the Dunkin Act of 1864, and the Scott Act of 1878; but both of these laws have proved

ineffectual. The Scott Act has been cited as the most important Act in the way of prohibition that has ever been placed on the statute-book of this country; but that Act has been discarded in almost every part of the country where it has been tried. I have in my hand the reasons assigned for the repeal of the Scott Act by the secretary of the Dominion Alliance in a book entitled 'The Facts of the Case.'

The Scott Act was not what the people wanted. They had petitioned parliament for total prohibition. They were given a local law, and therefore manifestly difficult of working. The measure was a compromise, and as such did not enlist the enthusiasm that would have hailed the measure which the people desired.

The Scott Act, which the hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell) now proposes to extend to the provinces, was thus condemned by the secretary of the Dominion Alliance. Another objection to it was 'the giving of evidence by witnesses against their neighbours, thus leading to much bitterness and hard feeling.' Another objection was 'the conflict between the Dominion and the provincial authorities,' which it has taken a great many years to settle, and which is not settled yet; and, from the indecision of all the lawyers who have spoken on this question, we have reason to believe that the conflict will continue for many years to come if the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth is adopted. I think some hon. gentleman cited the *Witness* as stating that the Dominion Alliance had demanded this resolution. I would like to know what right any one has to say that. I regretted very much to hear the hon. member for Colchester speak so disrespectfully of that large and important institution. The resolution is entirely contrary to the principles of the Dominion Alliance, unless those principles have changed since 1898. Let me read what some of those principles are:

The council watches Dominion legislation and persistently seeks to press upon the parliament the important question of national prohibition.—

Not local prohibition.

—that the traffic in intoxicating beverages is hostile to the true interests of individuals, and destructive of the order and welfare of society, and ought therefore to be prohibited.

Nowhere in the articles of faith of the Dominion Alliance can it be found that local prohibition is what they recommend. After the repeal of the Scott Act in all the counties of Ontario and all the counties of Quebec except perhaps one, the temperance Reformers of Canada came to the determination that they would accept no local option law, but that they would follow the advice of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and strike out straight from the shoulder for prohibition. That was the advice he gave from the public platform to the temperance people in the eastern town-

ships, on many occasions; he advised them to accept nothing short of total prohibition, and that is what the people want at the present time, and not a local option law. We have good evidence of that in the vote in Ontario. Twenty-five counties and two cities in Ontario adopted the Scott Act, a local option law, and in 1898 and 1899 it was repealed in every one of them, while in the plebiscite vote a large majority of the electors of Ontario voted in favour of prohibition. In the county which the hon. Minister of Agriculture represents, since the vote on the plebiscite, the Scott Act was submitted for repeal, and while that county voted by a majority of about 500 in favour of prohibition, it voted by a majority of nearly 500 for the repeal of the Scott Act. The county of Stanstead also voted on the plebiscite in favour of prohibition by a majority of 1,000, while it gave a majority of 142 against the Scott Act. This shows conclusively that the sentiment of the people of this country is in favour of prohibition and not in favour of a local option law such as is proposed in the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth. My feelings are well known with regard to the action of the government in connection with this matter, and I need not take up the time of the House in saying that I believe that the temperance organizations, the churches and all who have expressed their views on this matter, hold that the government are reprehensible for their action. I will say no more with regard to this question, but if it comes to a vote, I will vote for the motion of the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), which is for the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors throughout the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I would like some of the hon. gentlemen opposite to point out what they mean by saying that the government have had a mandate to bring in a prohibitory liquor law. I do not know of any moderate prohibitionist in Canada, one who is not a blind partisan, who will not admit that the plebiscite was not by any means a mandate to the government to bring in a prohibitory measure.

My hon. friend from East Durham (Mr. Craig) stated distinctly in this House tonight, as he also did previously, that he does not consider the vote given a sufficient mandate for the government to bring in a prohibitory measure, so that there is at least one gentleman, among hon. members opposite, who is prepared to do the government justice on this point. My hon. friend, however, seems to think that this resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth was intended to get the government out of a difficulty. He should remember, however, that the resolution was not prepared by the hon. member for Yarmouth, but by the

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temperance organization of this Dominion, the head of which is in Toronto, and was not introduced by my hon. friend from Yarmouth as the resolution prepared by him, but as one drafted by that body.

My hon. friend from Durham has told us that although a prohibitionist who has always voted in favour of prohibition, and who is known to have very pronounced views on the subject, yet Reformers in his own riding, who profess to be very strong temperance men, did not give him their support. Well, I can reply to my hon. friend that I have met with similar treatment from the Tory temperance people in my constituency. I know that in one township there is such a pronounced temperance sentiment that you could not get a sufficient number of men to endorse an application for one hotel license, and yet, although in every instance in which prohibition has been before the House, I have voted for it, these very men went solidly against me, which shows that, just as in the constituency of my hon. friend from Durham, some men are Reformers first and prohibitionists afterwards, so in my riding they are Tory first and then prohibitionists.

We are told that my hon. friend from Yarmouth should have brought in a Bill instead of a resolution, and that this resolution was merely a subterfuge. But it seems to me that any hon. member who has been in parliament any length of time should know that there is a rule prohibiting private members from introducing any Bill affecting the public revenue. All such Bills must emanate from the government itself. To talk of a private member bringing in such a Bill is absurd. And it must be admitted that the government would not be justified in bringing in a prohibitory measure without first being assured that there was a substantial majority in the country in its favour.

I am quite in accord with all that has been said concerning the abuse of spirituous liquors. No one who has been at all mixed up in the public life of this country could defend a continuance of the sale of liquor if its sale could be suppressed by law. I must say that I was greatly disappointed at the result of the plebiscite. I think it was a great pity that the people of Canada did not take advantage of that opportunity to express their views decidedly in favour of prohibition. If they had, they would certainly have put the government in such a position that it could not avoid introducing a prohibitory law.

It has been stated that the vote cast at the plebiscite in favour of prohibition was as large, if not larger, than that cast for the present government at the last general election. That certainly is not in accord with the facts. In the province of Ontario, the total vote on the Dominion lists, on which the general election is held, was 638,947, and on the municipal lists it was 574,

526, so that there was on the lists upon which the plebiscite was taken, 64,421 votes less than on the Dominion Federal lists. Now, the total vote polled in 1896 at the general election in the province of Ontario was 418,240, and the vote polled in opposition to the late government was 222,678, whereas the total vote polled in Ontario for prohibition was but 114,499. Therefore, the present government holds power, so far as the province of Ontario is concerned, by a majority vote over the plebiscite of 68,179. I have gone carefully through the figures, and the figures emphatically contradict the statement made by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) and others. I have no doubt it is the same in the other provinces. With regard to the enforcement of prohibition you must have a substantial majority back of the Act in order to secure its enforcement. After the discussion took place in Kingston between Mr. Lucas and Principal Grant, I noticed in the public prints that Mr. Lucas had stated that prohibition was an entire success in Kansas, where it was adopted some years ago. I happened to be in Kansas City some time afterwards, and I mentioned to a man that I had seen that statement made. He told me that it was not so; and in order to satisfy myself as to whether prohibition was carried out or not I went into the city of Kansas and in the state of Kansas, and, though prohibition was supposed to be in force, I went through eighteen saloons where liquor was sold every day in the week, including Sunday. I went through them in order to satisfy myself. I was surprised to find that that was the condition of things where a prohibition law had been enacted, and I made some inquiries on the subject. Among the people with whom I spoke was one very ardent prohibitionist. He said that the city of Kansas had given a very large majority against prohibition, and that from that time up to the time I was there, they always elected a council and city officials opposed to prohibition who would not enforce the law. The saloon-keepers were hauled up once a month and fined \$50, or \$600 a year. The city received from these saloons \$10,800 a year, which they spent in improving and maintaining the streets. The saloon-keepers understood so well that they had to pay the fine that they did not wait to be subpoenaed but went up every month and paid the \$50, so that it became virtually a license fee. I made up my mind then that unless you have a very substantial majority, you cannot enforce a prohibitory law. Of course, in our country magistrates and judges are not elected, and in that respect we have an advantage. But there are so many ways of getting around it that a strong public sentiment is necessary to the enforcement of such a law. There can be no question asked as to the evils of intem-

perance. One who has seen homes made desolate and endless misery caused by this traffic cannot but feel that it would be a national blessing if we could get rid of it. For my part, I do not think it can be got rid of until the government take the manufacture and sale into their own hands. Liquor must be produced; there is nobody who will deny that it has its place as a medicine. No druggist can carry on his business without spirits as a means of conveniently and satisfactorily preparing prescriptions. Every intelligent druggist will admit that it is an absolute necessity. But the question is, how you are going to produce it for manufacturing and medicinal purposes and still not have it used for beverage purposes. In my opinion this question will never be satisfactorily settled until the government itself takes over the manufacture and sale of liquor. One thing we have to rejoice at, and that is the improvement in the habits of our people. I can honestly say that in the section where I live you will not see to-day on any public occasion one drunken man for twenty that might have been seen fifteen or twenty years ago. The use of liquor is not now anything like so great as it was even a few years ago. I have been mixed up with politics, municipal, provincial and Dominion for thirty years; and it is a gratification to me to be able to say that I never was associated with a soberer and more temperate body of men than sit in this parliament to-day. I have been here a great many years, and I believe we have the most sober body of men that ever graced this assembly. So far as I know there is not one man with whom the drinking of liquor is an abuse, and I am proud to be able to say it. This is great improvement over what we used to see years ago. If the improvement in the habits of our people goes on at the same rate for another fifteen years, prohibition will be hardly necessary in my opinion. For my part, I shall vote for the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth.

Mr. C. H. PARMELEE (Shefford). I am quite aware that this debate has dragged along and, perhaps, there is not very much more to be said either for or against the resolution or the amendment already proposed. I myself feel, to some extent, sympathy with the object sought by the resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth. I know it has been contended by debaters speaking on that side of the question that possibly such a state of public opinion exists in all the provinces outside of Quebec as to warrant the hope that prohibition could be enforced in those provinces. Whether that is so or not, I think, perhaps, it would be well to call attention for a moment to some of the figures of the plebiscite taken two years ago in the different provinces apart from the province of Quebec.

	Total No. electors.	Total vote polled.	Percentage vote polled.	No. electors in favour.
Ontario	576,784	269,774	47	154,499
Nova Scotia	101,708	40,048	39½	34,646
New Brunswick ...	89,954	36,487	40½	26,911
Prince Edward Is- land	25,245	10,607	42	9,461
British Columbia..	35,469	10,487	29	5,781
Manitoba	49,260	15,397	31½	12,419
Territories	23,042	9,062	39	6,238
	901,462	391,862	...	249,955

You will see, Mr. Speaker, by these figures that after all the percentage of the vote polled for prohibition, in comparison with the total pollable vote, is pretty small, I fear almost too small to warrant the optimistic view of the member for Yarmouth and others, that these provinces are ripe for prohibition. Take the province of British Columbia, for instance, and we find that less than one-sixth of the electors voted for prohibition. I do not think it can be contended in the face of a percentage so small, that British Columbia at any rate is ripe for prohibition. When we come to the province of Ontario, we find a lack of interest exhibited in many districts. The returns show that in the great city of Toronto less than one-fifth of the electors voted for prohibition. In London, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Carleton, and the two Renfrews, less than a quarter of the vote was polled for prohibition. In the four ridings of Middlesex, in the Ontarios, Perths, and in Peel, only about 33 per cent of the electors voted for prohibition. In Nipissing less than one-ninth of the electors voted in favour of prohibition. I do not think we can fairly argue from figures of this kind that Ontario is ripe for prohibition. In this connection, it may be proper to mention that on the plebiscite vote only 44 per cent of the electors on the list voted; of these 22½ per cent voted for prohibition and 21½ per cent against. Fifty-six per cent of all the voters on the list did not take the trouble to go to the polls at all. But, perhaps, that is not quite a fair way to put it; perhaps we ought to take the pollable vote and go back to the elections of 1891 and 1896 for our guide. We find on these occasions that about two-thirds of the votes on the list were actually polled, or about 66 per cent. Making a comparison in that way, we find that one-third of the people voted in favour of prohibition and just about one-third against, leaving the other third, which did not vote at all. Looking at the circumstances under which the campaign was carried on last year, I think it is fair to assume that, perhaps, a large proportion of the unpolled vote was not in favour of prohibition. I give the prohibitionists credit for having conducted a very able campaign in this country, I think they did all they possibly could to mould public opinion, and by organization to get

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out their full vote, and I am bound to believe that they did actually poll as large a vote as the public opinion of the country would warrant.

Now, the hon. member for Colchester has declared that he is in favour of total national prohibition. Well, that is an object with which, I presume, a great majority of the members of this House are sympathetic, and one which a great majority of the members of this House would like to see attained. But, we are here to legislate and everybody understands perfectly well that when you pass sumptuary laws you cannot hope to have them at all effectively enforced unless you have a very strong public opinion behind them. Now, can it be contended that one-third of the people of this country represent a public opinion sufficiently strong to secure the enforcement of a prohibitory law, a law which would revolutionize our whole fiscal system, a law which deals with the habits of the people, a law which, as I said before, is the most difficult kind of legislation in the world to enforce? In the county which I have the honour to represent, a large number of the electors are prohibitionists; but the majority of them at any rate take this broad view, that while they want prohibition, while they believe that, given the proper conditions, and supported by a sufficient force of public opinion, a prohibitory law would achieve very desirable results and would raise the moral and material standing of the people, still they do not desire to see prohibition tried under conditions which would ensure its failure. They want to see prohibition tried under conditions that would give it some measure of success, and would enable them to regard its operation with satisfaction.

Now, in respect to provincial prohibition, that is, perhaps, something that we could obtain in this country. I do not believe that it would be wise for this parliament, in view of possible constitutional difficulties, to attempt to legislate upon the liquor traffic by means of partial or provincial prohibition. I would remind my hon. friend from Yarmouth that already the means are provided by which each province may have prohibition just as soon as the state of public opinion will warrant. In 1895, a series of questions were submitted to the Privy Council respecting the jurisdiction of the federal and provincial legislatures in regard to the prohibition of the liquor traffic. One of the questions was this:

Question No. 3: Has a provincial legislature jurisdiction to prohibit the manufacture of such liquors within the province?

Answer to Question No. 3: In the absence of conflicting legislation by the parliament of Canada, their lordships are of opinion that the provincial legislatures would have jurisdiction to that effect if it were shown that the manufacture was carried on under such circumstances and conditions as to make its prohibition a merely local matter in the province.

Now, it would seem, in view of that decision, that the provinces have it in their power to prohibit the liquor traffic within their bounds, both the sale and the manufacture. I think, moreover, we already have local option laws which cover the case. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would remind the prohibitionists who say they ought to have more legislation, that legislation has kept pace with, if it has not kept a little ahead of, the state of public opinion in this country. Our provincial laws already provide means by which we can for all practical purposes obtain provincial prohibition. In all the provinces it requires a majority of the ratepayers in order to secure a license. In New Brunswick, for instance, the law is as follows :

No license shall be granted or issued within any parish or municipality in this province when a majority of the ratepayers resident in such parish or municipality shall petition the municipal council against issuing any license within such parish or municipality.

There is a provision which the people of the municipalities may take advantage of to do away with the liquor traffic. Perhaps there might be a locality here and there where the state of public opinion would not warrant it, but if the opinion is so strong in favour of prohibition as we are led to believe it is, there is a way already provided by which, to a large extent at any rate, the people may get rid of the liquor traffic. In Nova Scotia, this is the law :

Licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor shall only be granted by the council upon the presentation of a petition of two-thirds of the ratepayers of the polling district in which the tavern is intended to be established, praying for such license.

Licenses in incorporated towns are granted on petition signed by two-thirds of the ratepayers of the ward in which such license is proposed.

In the province of Quebec our license laws give the people the same privilege. In the municipalities outside of the large cities the people may ask the council to submit the question to the vote of the ratepayers, and in the event of the majority declaring for no license, the councils, or the government, grant no licenses whatever. It seems to me that with provisions of this kind in our provincial laws the people who favour prohibition ought not to feel utterly dissatisfied. They ought to take advantage of the local option laws until a considerable public opinion has been created warranting total prohibition in this country. A good deal has been said at one time or another about the state of public opinion in the province of Quebec. A year ago a good deal of suspicion was sought to be cast upon the honesty and integrity of the vote in that province. I believe, coming from that province, that the plebiscite election in Quebec was conducted as honestly and as above-board as in any part of Canada. I believe that, perhaps, it more

nearly expressed the opinion of the people than the vote in many other parts of Canada, because, I cannot help remembering, and I presume it is within the personal knowledge of almost every hon. member in the House, that a very considerable vote was cast, not because it was a vote in favour of prohibition, but, from motives of political expediency. I know that such a vote was cast in my own part of the country, and I believe it was cast largely throughout Canada. In the province of Quebec there is no very strong feeling in favour of prohibition. The French Canadian people are a sober people. I think that the French Canadian farmers are, perhaps, the soberest people in the world. But they are not in favour of prohibition. They believe it to be legislation in restraint of the natural liberty which they always have enjoyed and which they wish to enjoy in the future, and I believe that the province of Quebec has come nearer to the ideal state of prohibition than any other province in the Dominion. I believe that to be the case. Take the rural parts of the country. Out of nearly 1,000 rural municipalities we have only about 250 in which there are any licenses at all. There are no licenses in the others simply because there is no demand for liquor, because the inhabitants are sober, because they are abstemious in their habits and because they have no use for licenses or licensed hotels. I, perhaps, ought not to speak at any greater length, but I wish to say that I cordially support the wisdom of the policy of the government in refusing to see, in the plebiscite vote, a mandate for attempting to pass a total prohibitory law in this country and in taking that position I am supported by moderate prohibitionists all over the country. When the results of the plebiscite campaign became known, when the people knew what the vote had been, there was a consensus of opinion, from one end of the country to the other, that the results left no hope whatever that we could pass and enforce a prohibitory law in this country. Men like Dr. Potts, Dr. Dewart, Dr. Rose, Dr. Kerr, in all cases leading prohibitionists, and in many cases opponents of this government, declared, and they have declared many times since, that the vote was not strong enough to warrant the government and parliament in putting on the statute-book a prohibitory law. It is the opinion, to a large extent, to-day, of moderate prohibitionists, who do not want prohibition in advance of public opinion, that if it were put on the statute-book and not enforced, it would be wiped out in a year or two. They want it tried under conditions that will give some guarantee of its ultimate success. This is the view I hold, and holding it, I believe the action of the government was wise in the interest of the country and in the interest of prohibition itself. Before I sit down, I wish to move a resolution

which embodies my views, at least, and which, I think, will secure the support of a very large majority of the members of this House. I beg to move, seconded by the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey):

That all the words of the amendment after 'thereof' be omitted and the following substituted therefor: 'at the Plebiscite of 1898, only about 23 per cent of the registered electors of the Dominion voted for prohibition; that in the provinces and territories excluding Quebec, only 27 per cent of the registered electors voted for prohibition; that these results show that there is not an active prohibition sentiment sufficiently pronounced to justify the expectation that a prohibition law could be successfully enforced, and therefore in the opinion of this House such a prohibitory law should not be enacted at present.'

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin). Mr. Speaker, in rising to second this resolution, I wish to offer a very few remarks. I notice that some hon. members of this House have spoken as if they understood the resolution, proposed by the hon. member for Yarmouth, to mean that the provinces ought to be invested with the power to prohibit within their own boundaries. The resolution does not ask for anything of that kind. It says that this House should enact partial prohibition within the bounds of those provinces where the plebiscite has shown that prohibition would be popular. As that other proposition has been discussed, although it is not directly before us, it may be remarked that any such proposition in a motion to that effect would be entirely out of the question. This House cannot delegate to the different provinces any powers which are inherent in this House under the British North America Act. If the provinces have the power to practically prohibit, within their own boundaries, as has been urged with great force by the mover of the present resolution, then, they do not need to be endowed with that power either by this House or by the Imperial parliament. If they have not that power, nobody but the Imperial parliament can give it to them. I therefore think that any discussion of provincial prohibition, enacted by the provincial legislatures, is entirely out of place in this House, and in the consideration of the present resolution. Returning to the proposal that this House should enact partial prohibition, should enact, rather, provincial prohibition in the provinces where the vote has shown that it is called for by the people, I beg to doubt the whole of the premises on which that proposition is based. In the first place, the vote, even as taken, does not show that the majority, or anything respectably approaching one-half, even of the electors of any province, want prohibition, but, we must not forget that the proposition laid before the people of the provinces was Dominion prohibition. They were not asked to vote whether they wanted prohibition

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within the limits of their own provinces. Any one knows that they would have voted differently on a proposal of that kind. We will say that 25 per cent in Ontario voted for Dominion legislation. Does any one suppose that 25 per cent of the people of Ontario would vote for a bogus half measure of prohibition, which only applied to the province of Ontario? No, Sir, I do not believe that 15 per cent of them would vote for it. Why not? Because such a measure would in its essence and of necessity, be an ineffective measure, incapable of being enforced and would be a distinct detriment to the province in which it was enforced. Look at what would be the position of this city of Ottawa if there was prohibition here and free liquor on the other side of the river. Does any one suppose that the people of Ottawa would vote for a proposal to have prohibition confined merely to the province of Ontario. Not by a large majority, Mr. Speaker. The assumption, therefore, that the people of any province have asked by a majority of votes, that prohibition should be adopted within such province, is utterly baseless, and should not form the foundation of any resolution adopted by this House, or even of any argument to be laid before this House. Let us come to the other proposal we have actually before us, which is in itself, comparatively speaking, a logical one, namely: That this House should declare in favour of prohibition throughout the whole Dominion. There is, at all events, a straightforward resolution, calling upon this House to declare distinctly what the members believe to be their duty in regard to this great issue. But, Sir, this resolution, logical enough in its form, is supported like the other resolution, by arguments, which, I believe, to be unfounded. The only ground on which we can be asked to carry that resolution is, that the people of Canada, as a people, do desire by a considerable majority to have prohibition enacted throughout this Dominion. My hon. friend (Mr. Parmalee) put as clearly as any one could put, his reasons for believing that that argument is utterly baseless. We are not here to legislate for carrying into effect the views of one-quarter of the people of Canada. We are here for the purpose of carrying into effect the views of the majority of the people of Canada, and, I believe, that no one in this House really disputes in his own heart and conscience, the assertion, that the plebiscite vote distinctly showed that a great majority of the people of Canada are totally opposed to prohibition as a Dominion measure. We all know that those who favour prohibition used every influence of platform oratory, of domestic persuasion, of ridicule, even by casting shame on a person who would not vote for prohibition, and all that sort of thing, to bring out a large vote in favour of that measure. We know on the other hand, that the liquor men of the country foreseeing what the result would probably be, did not

take active measure to influence public opinion or to drum up the vote against prohibition. They knew very well, that if they came out canvassing actively, in that direction, they would turn a large number of other people in the direction which they did not wish, and they consulted their own interests by letting things have their way. The result, as a matter of fact, was that the full prohibition vote was polled, and that, on the other hand, the vote of those who did not believe in prohibition, was not fully polled. It was looked upon by every one, not so much as a question of who should get the majority vote, but, of what strength the prohibitionists should show at the polls, and whether they could show strength enough to justify parliament in passing such a measure. It was not an ordinary vote between two opposing propositions; it was an opportunity given to one side to show what strength they could muster at the polls without regard to what strength the other side could muster. It was a one-sided expression of opinion, and it turned out that all those who could be induced to express their opinion, in favour of prohibition, were roughly speaking, about one-quarter of the electorate. We all know that very many of those who voted in that way, did not vote from their conviction; did not do so with the idea that their vote would lead to prohibition, but they did so in part, for the purpose of embarrassing the government. We all know that of our personal knowledge among the circle of our acquaintances. They did so in part again, because they were urged and teased to vote that way; and because they did not believe that anything would come of it. But, after all this, not more than one-fourth of the vote was polled in favour of prohibition. Now, Sir, the question immediately before us is a choice between these two last resolutions—the one declaring logically and directly for general prohibition; the other declaring that the vote taken on the plebiscite would not justify this House in passing a resolution in the direction asked for by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure). I have no hesitation in casting in my own voice with the resolution which I have seconded. In fact, Sir, I would be prepared to go further than the actual wording of that resolution. That resolution says: 'That the plebiscite vote has not shown that we would be justified in expecting a prohibitory law to be carried out. I go even further. I say that that vote has shown that no government with due respect to its duty to the majority of the people, could honestly propose such a measure. I go this far again, and say, that any government that did propose such, could not be returned to power again. We know that the great majority are against such a measure. We know that those prohibitionists who are opposed to the government politically, would not support the government because they had in-

troduced such a measure. We had sad experience in that, in the case of the Canada Temperance Act of 1878, commonly known as the Scott Act. That did not win the support of Conservative prohibitionists; but it did lose to the government of the day the support of a great many who were opposed to such a prohibitory measure. No government could carry such a measure as this and live through an election, and no government, I say, who proposed such a measure has any idea of its duty to the majority of the people of this country. For both these reasons, I am very glad to see the straight issue taken as it is between the resolution of the member for Colchester, and the resolution of the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Parmalee). I hope that it will come to a vote. I hope that the vote will be decisive. I would say to my colleagues in this House: Let us be honest in this vote on this question. It is about time that individuals—I will not say parties, because no party has been unanimous on this question—it is about time that individuals in this House or groups of individuals in this House and throughout the country should give up the attempt to make prohibitionists believe that what they are asking for is a practical thing or can be carried by the aid of this or that party, or this or that individual in the country. We all know in our own hearts that it is an impossibility. Let us honestly vote that the result of the plebiscite has shown that, and let us clear our minds and our consciences of this question for a number of years to come.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). I wish to say that I intend to support the motion of the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint); not because I agree with everything that is contained in it, but because I wish to be one to affirm the principle that the people who want prohibition are entitled to have it. I do not agree with the argument that is held by a number of the members of this House, that a vote means nothing unless the majority of the people vote. I hold that when a general vote is called for, the only possible construction that can be placed upon the action taken is that that vote is to be followed by legislative action in accordance with the vote. Now, the circumstances connected with the plebiscite were such that apparently it was not possible to follow it by legislation as demanded or expected. I am not speaking now of my own view. This was the conclusion arrived at at the meeting of the Dominion Alliance, held here last year—that prohibition for the Dominion was not immediately practicable, on the evidence given by the vote cast in the plebiscite. Admitting that for the sake of argument, I still claim that if the whole Dominion is not entitled to prohibition on the strength of that vote, certain parts of the Dominion just as certainly are; and it is because this motion contains that principle that I am prepared

to support it. The point in which I do not agree with the motion is, that I think under our system of government, in the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and particularly in view of the result of the plebiscite, prohibition would be much more practicable, and in much nearer reach, if it were made a provincial instead of a Dominion matter. If it is a fact that the provinces are not now empowered to pass prohibitory laws, my judgment would be to secure for them that power; and instead of this parliament passing legislation which would be applicable to the provinces, as suggested in the motion, this parliament should be a party to an amendment to the constitution that would place the whole control in the hands of the provinces. The reasons for that view are many. One is that experience has shown the difficulty of making prohibition a leading issue in the Dominion House—for the very good reason that there are many other important issues which must be dealt with, which cannot be dropped out of sight, and which it is impossible in the interests of the country to subordinate to the single issue of prohibition. That is not the case in the provinces. It would be quite possible to make prohibition a leading issue as a provincial question; and I believe that to have effective legislation or the effective enforcement of legislation on the subject of prohibition, we must get it by having a legislature elected to pass the necessary law and to provide for the enforcement of that law. That could only be secured by making that question a leading issue in a general election. Our experience is that we have not been able to make it a leading issue in a general Dominion election; but it would be possible to do so in a provincial election, and to secure the election of a legislature that would be pledged on the subject of prohibition. Then, if that legislature were in a position to pass legislation you would be in a better position to get it passed and in a better position to get it enforced.

As to the enforcement of this kind of legislation, it is generally taken for granted that the enforcement of prohibition would necessarily be more efficient in the hands of the Dominion than in the hands of a province. I hold a directly opposite view. I take it that inasmuch as the administration of the civil law under our constitution is entirely in the hands of the provinces, and as the enforcement of prohibition would necessarily be a part of the civil law, it is under provincial administration that a prohibitory law could best be enforced. Where does the enforcement of any law begin, and where does it end? When you undertake to put any law into force, you begin at the local magistrate. He is the appointee of the province and he administers the law under the direction

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of the provincial government. If the case goes beyond the magistrate, who gives the final decision? The neighbours of the accused in the form of a jury. The court of local public opinion is the beginning and the end of the enforcement of law, particularly civil law; and inasmuch as the province has the jurisdiction over civil law, it would be impossible for the Dominion to enforce prohibition in a province having a local government hostile to prohibition; but it would be possible for a provincial government to enforce it within the province when the majority of the people of the province were in favour of it; as I claim the majority of the people of several provinces are—taking their word for it, according to the vote cast two years ago.

Mr. GODBOUT moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). Mr. Speaker, I object to the debate being adjourned at this early hour. I think we ought to have a vote on this question. A great many people will be disappointed if the House of Commons adjourns the debate without a vote. If we do not vote to-night, it is very probable that this matter will stand over several weeks and then not be reached. Last year the House reached the hour of three o'clock and many members, who desired to speak, had not been heard, and I did not feel warranted in then pressing for a division, but I think that to-night, at this hour, we ought to continue the debate or take a vote.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I think that the right hon. leader of the House should either allow us to vote to-night, without the intervention of a motion to adjourn, or promise us that another sitting will be devoted to this question. To-night's proceedings bear a most striking resemblance to those which took place last year, when the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) moved a motion, and the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) moved an amendment, and the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Parmalee) moved an amendment to the amendment. The only dissimilarity between the proceedings to-night and those of a year ago are that my hon. friend from Beauce (Mr. Godbout) intervenes in the place of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who intervened last year. Last year the whole matter was shelved. The motions, although different in words, were almost identical in meaning, and the motion to adjourn finished all discussion and precluded a vote. I think that the House ought to have an opportunity to vote on these different motions. The country would rather see us vote after we have spent several hours valuable time, than have the question shelved until another year comes round. I make these few remarks in the hope that

the right hon. First Minister will give us another day for the discussion of this question and an ultimate vote on it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am very much of the opinion that the country is entitled to have a vote from this House, but my hon. friend will agree with me that it is useless to expect a vote this evening. The House is very thin. On the opposition side I do not count more than twenty members, so that under the circumstances it would not be fair, even to the opposition, to take a vote. Better let the question stand until another day. I am not prepared to say that the rules of the House should be broken to bring it up again out of its regular order, but, if that be the wish of the House we can do so. Several aspects of the question have not been discussed, for instance, the constitutional aspect, and I think we can very well spend another day in discussing the matter.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). As in all probability this resolution has been heard of for the last time during this session, I desire to state where I stand on the question. I intend to be guided by the voice of my constituents. In 1888, the county of Halton repealed the Scott Act, which was a partially prohibitory measure, and thus declared that it was not in favour of a measure of that kind. The resolution of the hon. member for Yarmouth is simply an extension of the Scott Act, and, therefore, is not in accord with the views of my constituents. In 1898, when the plebiscite was taken, they voted strongly in favour of total prohibition. I intend, if this resolution comes to a vote, to give effect to the sentiments of my constituents in the manner they have indicated to me in those two votes.

Mr. FOSTER. I understand that an opportunity will be furnished the House to take up this question again?

The PRIME MINISTER. I said that this would be taken into consideration.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, I am not ready for a vote on the motion to adjourn, because, with a good many others, I have something to say on this question. The right hon. Prime Minister knows whether he intends to let the House have another opportunity to decide this question, and should have the courtesy to say so. If he does not intend to give us another opportunity, let him say so, so that we may know exactly how the matter stands.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend is aware that in all probability this motion will come up again for discussion under the rules of the House. It will go on Public

Bills and Orders next Monday, and be probably taken up, because there are no debatable motions on the paper. If we do not take it up then, I will be prepared to consider the question of setting apart a day for it.

Mr. FOSTER. Favourably?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

Motion (Mr. Godbout) agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.45 a.m. (Tuesday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 24, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PORTAGE DU FORT AND FRENCH RIVER RAILWAY COMPANY.

Mr. GEO. E. CASEY (West Elgin) moved:

That Bill (No. 97) to incorporate the Portage du Fort and French River Railway Company be referred back to the Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines for further consideration.

Mr. TISDALE. I would like some explanation of why this Bill is to be referred back.

Mr. CASEY. The explanation is simply this. This Bill came up on a day on which a good many of us did not expect that the Railway Committee was to meet. For example, I only received the notice after I had come away from the Railway Committee meeting. The notices had been sent out late the night before, and we did not all receive them before the meeting of the committee. When the committee did meet there was a rather exciting Bill before it, which took up most of the time. When that Bill was disposed of, a large number of the members of the committee left; and when this particular Bill came to be discussed and voted upon, there were only forty members present, as was shown by the call of the roll. The majority against the preamble was only two, the vote being 21 to 19. Seeing that a company was granted a

charter by the same committee last year by a very considerable majority for a railway covering the same ground, with an extension for a greater distance, I see reason to think that the accidental vote taken upon this Bill last Friday was not a real expression of the views of the Railway Committee. For that reason, at the suggestion of a large number of members who feel as I do, I have moved that it be sent back for further consideration, feeling convinced that in a full committee, with full consideration, the result would probably be different from what it was.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that the course which the hon. member has just proposed to the House to adopt is one fraught with a good deal of inconvenience. We spend a great deal of time in the large committees appointed by the House to discuss questions relating to railways and other matters. The hon. gentleman proposes to refer this Bill back to the committee which has already decided upon it, but he has not given any strong reason why that should be done. The hon. gentleman says that the members were absent from the committee. Well, Sir, the notices were sent out, and the order of proceeding always accompanies these notices, so that the members know whether it is important for them to attend or not. But, I beg to differ from my hon. friend in regard to the size of the committee. It was a very full committee. It was not as full as I have seen it on other occasions; but there were a larger number of members present than I have seen on occasions when very important Bills came before the committee. The hon. gentleman says that owing to the fact of a very exciting Bill having been discussed before the present Bill was taken up, many members had left. Well, Sir, was it because of fatigue after that excitement that members could no longer stand the strain of remaining in the committee to take up the discussion of the other Bills that were to follow? I leave it to any hon. gentleman who was in that committee. The Bill had an exhaustive discussion. It came up, not merely once, if I remember rightly, but twice before that committee; and it seems to me that when it was known to the members that it was coming up a second time, it was their duty to be present. After an exhaustive discussion, the committee decided against the preamble of the Bill. The company opposing the granting of this Bill is a company which has expended a large amount of money in building a railway which is altogether in the interest of the district which it traverses, and which, up to the present time, has not paid its working expenses. I believe the object of every member of parliament is to develop the country; but, how can that be done if after granting a charter for a railway such as the Pontiac and

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Pacific Junction Railway, which is not paying its working expenses at present, we grant a charter for another line to run parallel and compete with that railway throughout almost the whole of its course? I have no more interest in the matter than the interest I have taken in the discussion before the Railway Committee; but when we grant a charter for a railway, we must believe that in so doing we are promoting the interests of Canada, and we should not destroy our work by permitting another road to run alongside of it and prevent it doing the good we intended it to do. I think it would be establishing a bad precedent to pass this motion. If the work of the large committees is going to be revised by the House after those committees have expended a great deal of time in discussing the questions submitted to them, we shall have many applications of the same kind, and a great loss of time and inconvenience will result.

Motion negatived.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yeas and nays.

Other hon. MEMBERS. The Speaker declared the motion lost.

Mr. CASEY. As Mr. Speaker spoke in a very low tone, and what he said was not heard throughout the House, I should think some allowance ought to be made, and a vote taken.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. I declared the motion lost, and I think the House heard me. I must say that the call for the yeas and nays was not made for some considerable time.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTIES OF DRUMMOND AND BAGOT.

Mr. LOUIS LAVERGNE (Drummond-Arthabaska). (Translation.) I beg to introduce a Bill (No. 140) called 'Act concerning the parishes of St. Eugène of Grantham, in the county of Drummond, and St. Nazaire of Acton, in the county of Bagot.'

The object of this Bill is to provide for the franchise of certain electors of the 12th Concession of Upton, which was taken from the parish of Ste. Hélène of Bagot, and put in the parish of St. Eugène of Grantham, in the county of Drummond.

It is but fair to enable those electors to vote in the county of Drummond, to which they now belong, for all purposes whatsoever, whether provincial, municipal or school purposes. This House, I hope, will let this Bill pass without offering any opposition, as it is only fair to give the franchise to those electors, the more so as

at the general elections held in 1896, and at the by-elections held on the 13th November, 1897, and in December, 1898, they could vote neither in Bagot nor in Drummond and Arthabaska.

The same remark applies to that portion of the township of Grantham which was taken from the parish of St. Germain of Grantham, in the county of Drummond, and put in the parish of St. Nazaire of Acton, in the county of Bagot. Those electors have no franchise in the county of Bagot.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I promised my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, the other day, that I would lay the correspondence with regard to the Imperial commissions on the Table, but owing to the absence of my hon. colleague, the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), who has had to go to Niagara for the dedication of a monument, I will not be able to bring down those papers until the day after to-morrow. The hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) asked me for some papers with regard to representation in the Yukon. They will be brought down to-morrow.

Mr. FOSTER. Did the right hon. gentleman prevail on the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), to amend the defective return he brought down?

The PRIME MINISTER. I spoke to my hon. colleague, and he told me that he had sent one of his officers to my hon. friend to find out exactly what it was my hon. friend wanted.

WELLAND CANAL—DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

Mr. WILLIAM McCLEARY (Welland). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the government to the distasteful attempt made on Saturday last by three or four scoundrels, to blow up one of the most important locks on the Welland Canal. A detachment of the 19th Battalion of the city of St. Catharines was called out to protect lock 25, and it was found that there was not a single round of ammunition in the armoury, and they had to borrow forty rounds from private sources. It appears also that there is not a single shell in the armoury at St. Catharines for the splendid guns, with which the Welland Canal Field Battery have been equipped, nor is there any ammunition in London, Hamilton or Toronto. I am not an alarmist by any means, nor do I consider this miserable attempt of those scoundrels to do nefarious

work on the canal, of any national importance. But living on the border as I do, I know very well the feelings towards this country of the people on the other side, and it has been for more than six months a topic of conversation in the hotels of the city of Buffalo and along our neighbourhood, that something might be looked for. I think that the government cannot be too alert regarding the providing of ammunition in western Ontario. I understand that the ammunition factory is in the province of Quebec, but that is too far away for the supply to reach our district readily. I bring this subject forward at the present time, because my attention has been called to it by those connected with the militia in my own neighbourhood. I am sorry that the Minister of Militia is not in his place so that he could give us some definite information in regard to the subject.

The PRIME MINISTER, (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I also am sorry that the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), is not in his place to-day. He is absent, however, in pursuance of a very meritorious object. I have just had a telephone message sent to the Deputy Minister of Militia, and he will be here in a few minutes, and will give us information in regard to the whole matter.

Mr. WM. GIBSON (Lincoln). I may say that if my hon. friend from Welland (Mr. McCleary), instead of trying to make some political capital against the Minister of Militia and Defence—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. GIBSON. Wait until I get through. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary), instead of trying to make political capital, against the Minister of Militia and Defence, about the volunteers in St. Catharines and other places, not being supplied with ammunition, should have presented the subject on its merits. I happened to be in St. Catharines, on Saturday and Sunday, and there was not a word of anything of that kind from the officers of that battalion, whom I met. My hon. friend (Mr. McCleary), who lives almost on the banks of the Welland Canal, probably knows that the present superintendent of the canal, some years ago, wrote to the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) or the department, and asked—and very properly asked—to have every lock tender, and bridge tender on the canal, made a special officer, with power to arrest any one of a suspicious character, found upon the canal whose business did not take him there. This power should be given to the superintendent of all canals. The work that was done on Saturday, might have been done at any time, and it would not have mattered if every volunteer in the counties of Lincoln and Welland had

been supplied with ammunition—that would not have prevented it. These men came in open day, at seven o'clock in the evening. They dropped off a train and lowered a canvas bag of dynamite down very carefully in front of the lock gate, and set a fuse on fire with a detonator at the end of it to explode the dynamite. It is quite evident, that the information must have been given to them, or in some way they must have been very familiar with that section of the canal. The point chosen was lock 24, at the head of the long level which comprises about a mile and a half of water stretch of 16 feet depth. The damage would have been terrible if the lock gates had been blown open, as fortunately they were not, the reason being that the men applied the detonator to the wrong side of the lock. Instead of blowing the lock gate open, the force of the explosion made them, if possible, tighter on their hinges. On the other hand, if the explosion had been successful, as a result of this nefarious trick—and there is no language too strong to denounce such an outrage, and in that respect I agree with every word spoken by the hon. member for Welland—these scoundrels would have destroyed the lives of 500, or 1,000 innocent persons, as well as, probably, a vast amount of property. The water would have run over the top of the canal bank and swept away the railway station and embankment and works of the Grand Trunk Railway, at that point. If all the volunteers of both Lincoln and Welland had been supplied with ammunition that would not have prevented this outrage taking place. What I wish to point out to the government, is, that no time should be lost in giving power and authority to the superintendents of all the canals, to arrest every suspicious person found upon the canal bank, who has no business there, and that the use of the canal banks should be prohibited to every one except those in the employ of the government. Because, if any evil disposed persons had put a detonator cartridge down the chain hole, as it is called by the lock tenders, he could have blown out the whole side of lock 24; and if this had taken place, there would have been no possibility of repairing the lock gates at the entrance to the canal at less than from six weeks to two months. It is quite evident to me, that they choose not only the proper place to go to, but they choose the proper time, almost within a day or so, of the opening of the canal, which, I believe, takes place to-morrow. Some have said that this is a Fenian rising. I do not take that view. I believe that there is a feeling among the grain shovellers in Buffalo, that there is a probability of a divergence of the grain trade from Buffalo by way of the Welland Canal, and I dare say that an agitation has been got up which has had this result. There were strikes in Buffalo not very long ago. This affair has

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no political significance beyond the fact that it might be a labour agitation got up among the grain labourers of Buffalo, and they took this means of trying to destroy one of the most important public works in the Dominion.

Mr. CLARKE. What do the Buffalo labourers gain by an effort to destroy the Welland Canal?

Mr. GIBSON. As I have just said, they were under the impression that the building of elevators at Port Colborne and Montreal, would have led to the grain trade being diverted from Buffalo. So far as the damage is concerned, I am happy to say, it is not of a character to stop the working of the canal for a single hour.

Sir, CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I think the House will agree with me that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson), who has just sat down, has made a very foolish speech. He has pointed out to these miscreants exactly how they can destroy the Welland Canal in the easiest and most complete manner. He has explained that the reason they did not succeed in this case, was that they did not understand what to do, and he has told them exactly how to proceed when they wish to make another such attempt. However, I did not rise for the purpose of referring to that particular point. I listened to the hon. member (Mr. Gibson), very carefully for some justification for the statement that he made with reference to the hon. member for Welland (Mr. McCleary), whom he charged with having introduced this question for party political purposes. But, I listened in vain. I am sure there is no person on either side of the House who does not feel that the hon. member for Welland, would have failed in doing his duty to the House and the country if he had not taken the earliest opportunity to call the attention of the government to the want of ammunition and the absolute want of means of protecting that section of the country at a most important crisis and at a time when, it has been shown, many very serious results might have followed, if any need should arise. A more unfounded charge than that made by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson)—and all the more uncalled for because the hon. member himself says that he agrees with every word that fell from the lips of the hon. member for Welland—never was made. Never has so discreditable a charge been made upon a smaller foundation of fact.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). The hon. member for Lincoln referred to a letter which he said the superintendent of the Welland Canal had written to me when I was Minister of Railways and Canals asking that the lock labourers along the

canal and the superintendent should have power to arrest parties suspected of attempting damage on the canal, and said that if that power had been given, this trouble would not have arisen. The hon. gentleman, I suppose, has authority for his statement. He says he has seen a copy of a letter which the superintendent had written to me. This is the first time I ever heard of any such letter. If the hon. gentleman understood the power of the Minister of Railways and Canals he would never make such a statement as that. How could any Minister of Railways empower any man along the canal to arrest any party upon it? The hon. gentleman blames the member for Welland for introducing politics in his remarks, that he made this statement with a political object. What political object is to be gained by charging that the superintendent of the canals did not do his duty? If the Minister of Railways and Canals had the power of empowering any one to make arrests, what has he to say about his friend the present Minister of Railways and Canals who has been in office for four years and has neglected to do his duty? The hon. gentleman had no grounds whatever for making the statement. I venture to say there is no such letter in existence as the hon. gentleman speaks of. If there is, it was never brought to my attention.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York). I was over in St. Catharines on the Sunday this accident happened, and I was also there yesterday morning. The public opinion of the Niagara peninsula is that the time has come when we must have one or more companies of the regular militia located on the Niagara frontier, and when there must be increased police protection either in the shape of provincial police or Dominion police. There is too much public property jeopardized over there, there is too much political agitation going on in the United States, to make it prudent for us to leave an immense amount of national property on that frontier unprotected as it is to-day. Any man with a package of dynamite can do millions of dollars of damage, he can destroy half a dozen bridges that cost millions of money, and I believe there are on the other side of the river individuals or associations of individuals who would attempt such a thing. In view of what has happened it is high time now that this government or the provincial government should strengthen the police force. There ought to be a second military station there, certainly we ought to have our militia headquarters over there well supplied with ammunition in case of emergency.

Mr. McCLEARY. I am sorry that a political motive has been attributed to me in bringing up this matter, as there was nothing further from my mind. I cannot

see that any political advantage can come to any one from bringing such an important matter to the attention of the government. I hope the condition of affairs is not what I have been told it is. The member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), has referred to certain letters, he says that the superintendent asked to be clothed with power to send out to any of the canal locks—

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman can only speak again to make a personal explanation. No motion has been made.

Mr. McCLEARY. I want only to add that when the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals had control of the department he had guards on that canal at every tunnel. At any point that was unprotected by the lock tender, he had armed guards. Since that time that protection has been withdrawn. I agree with what the member for East York (Mr. Maclean) has said regarding the necessity of the government being on the alert on the frontier.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). As the member for Welland (Mr. McCleary) has said that he acquainted me with his information, I may say that I told him that if he was satisfied with his information I thought it would be quite proper for him to mention it here, but to be careful that the information was such as he could rely upon, and he told me he could. But I told him I could hardly believe it was so, because I thought that every battalion in the country always had a certain amount of ball cartridge at headquarters in case of being called out to aid the civil power. I think it is unfortunate that any gentleman should have ventured to state how this trouble originated, because we have not sufficient information before us yet to justify an expression of opinion. It is a regrettable thing, and probably the authorities are carefully and prudently investigating it.

INQUIRIES FOR REPORTS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman to a most important matter, and that is the absolute impossibility of carrying on the work of the session, either in committee or in the House, until the public reports are brought down. The law is being violated to an extent that I believe is entirely unparalleled. The House is now on the eighty-third day of the session, and although the statute requires that within fifteen days after the session opens nearly all these reports should be laid on the Table of the House, and in the case of the others, the time is extended to twenty days, still at this time, on the eighty-third day of the session, we are without the report on print-

ing and stationery, the report on life insurance, the report of the Secretary of State, the report of the Postmaster General, the report of the Department of Railways and Canals, the report of the Department of Militia and Defence, the report of the chartered banks and of the bank balances, the report of the Department of Agriculture. I may just mention here that the Committee of Agriculture are called to meet to-morrow for the purpose of examining two very important officials, and it is absolutely impossible that the committee can do justice to its work in the absence of the report of the department. These officials are summoned from a long distance for the purpose of giving the information that the department requires, and in the absence of that report time will be wasted, and the parties will have to be called again after that report is brought down. Then we are without the report of the Geological Survey, the report of the Experimental Farm, the report of the Department of the Interior. The report of the Department of the Interior, which the law requires to be brought down within fifteen days after the opening of the session, is still withheld on the eighty-third day of the session. We are also without the report on the archives, the report on the North-west mounted police, the report on the penitentiaries, the report on public works, and on insurance. Now, Sir, I say that it would seem that the government, for some purpose unknown to me, some object with which the House has not been acquainted, wish to prevent this session coming to an end at any reasonable period, although the summer is already upon us. Here, the summer is upon us. I cannot understand the cause of the delay, unless it be that the government really have a design to prevent this House from doing its duty and getting on with the public business. I say that it is absolutely necessary, and I believe it will be my duty, from day to day, to call the attention of the House and of the country to the fact that public business will be delayed and cannot be proceeded with in consequence, either of the incapacity of the government, or of their inability, or unwillingness to let the House have this information, that, by law, they are compelled to lay on the Table of the House, at the outset, 21 days after the opening of the session. We have appealed again and again to hon. gentlemen opposite in reference to these reports, and I say that the time has come that it amounts absolutely to a scandal that this House should be allowed to remain in session 83 days without this House being furnished with the information that is absolutely indispensable to enable it to proceed with the public business, either in the House, or in the committee.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I can assure my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), that, if all the

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reports have not been brought down, there is no sinister intention on the part of the government. We are just as anxious as he is, and I believe we are more anxious than the opposition for the blessing of a prorogation. There is no occasion why we should prolong this session one day more than is absolutely necessary for the transaction of public business. It is true that some of the reports are behind time, and that they should have been brought down. The hon. gentleman has, I think, with some degree of pleasure, magnified the evil, because, he has referred to several reports which come properly under the same head. The reports of the Department of the Interior, of the Postmaster General, of the Department of Justice, and, I believe, of the Department of Public Works are, at present, behind time, and should have been brought down.

Mr. BERGERON. Militia and Defence.

The PRIME MINISTER. I should have said the report of the Department of Militia and Defence.

Mr. WALLACE. Railways and Canals.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, Railways and Canals.

An hon. MEMBER. Go on.

Mr. BERGERON. The Department of Agriculture.

The PRIME MINISTER. I mentioned that. I mentioned the reports of the Departments of Railways and Canals, Public Works, Interior and Justice.

Mr. BERGERON. Agriculture.

The PRIME MINISTER. Agriculture I have mentioned. I have communicated with the several ministers and looked into the departments myself. Just four days ago my attention was publicly called to the backward condition that these reports are in. I personally appealed to all of the ministers concerned, and upon inquiry I found that in some places the blame was with the Printing Bureau, and that in other cases the blame was elsewhere. I have given most strict orders to have all the reports brought down this week, and I am confident that I will be able to implement this pledge with the exception of bringing down the report of the Department of Public Works. I am sorry to say, but I say it frankly to the House, that in regard to the Department of Public Works, I cannot promise that the report will be brought down this week. One of the officials is sick, another has been removed by death, and the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) has been obliged to go away, so that I cannot promise that the report will be brought down within a

week, but I have every reason to believe that all the others will be brought down within a week.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I must apologise to the House for having omitted a very important report which I did not name, and that is the report of the Department of Justice.

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, I mentioned it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. So far from having overstated the case, the right hon. gentleman will find that I understated it.

The PRIME MINISTER. But, my hon. friend will see that I came to the rescue of the hon. gentleman and supplied the omission.

Mr. A. H. MOORE (Stanstead). Mr. Speaker, while this subject is being discussed, perhaps the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will give us a little information in regard to the Statistical Year-book. Old members of this House, perhaps do not require quite so much instruction, but the younger members do, and I find on looking up the records that the latest edition of the Statistical Year-book, which is to give us the information we desire, will be two years old on June 30. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman could give us some information why we have this delay of two years before we can make use of a book of such vast importance as the Statistical Year-book should be.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Moore), I would say that whilst the Year-book, which is available now, appears to be two years old, it was only issued one year ago. The Year-book always comes out one year, or very nearly one year, after the date at which it is supposed to be issued. This is due to the fact that the statistics in the Year-book are based on the returns contained in other departmental blue-books. These blue-books have to be issued before the work of preparing the Statistical Year-book can be commenced, and although the Year-book itself is dated the same year as the ordinary blue-books of the departments it does not appear until ten or twelve months after the blue-books appear. The Year-book, which will appear shortly, which is in the hands of the printer now, is dated last year, although the printing is not yet finished, and that is the practice which has been followed every year since the introduction of the Year-book.

Mr. MOORE. It would be a good idea not to require nine months of the year to issue that book. I think that the United

States government place the information in the hands of the printers in two months' time, and I do not see why we should have to wait for nine months if the public documents are furnished to the statistician. I think that the matter should be hurried up.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The statistician who has charge of the Year-book commences his work as soon as the blue-books are out and continues it as industriously and effectually as he can until the Statistical Year-book is issued.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). The very statement made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), that the preparation of the Statistical Year-book cannot be started until the blue-books are out, is the strongest argument why these blue-books should be out at the earliest possible moment. The financial year, the year for nearly all of these purposes, closed on the 30th of June, 1899, almost ten months ago. The Department of Customs issued the Trade and Navigation Returns only a few weeks ago. Almost nine months had elapsed. The value of these reports which cost the country tens of thousands of dollars for compilation and for printing, depends on the promptness with which they are presented to the people, to the importers, to the manufacturers, the politicians and to everybody. It is astonishing to hear the hon. minister declare that this Statistical Year-book is a year, or two years, behind time. We look forward to the publication of a document in the future, which, when it comes, is largely valueless because of the oldness of the information that is contained in it. The government should wake up. The right hon. Prime Minister has told us that he has done his best, that he has given notice to his ministers to hurry up matters. I would suggest to him that he should get ministers who have some capacity and capability. He seems to be the only member of the government who, in these matters, is right up-to-date, and I would suggest, that, if his ministers cannot do this work, he should get some one who will. The excuse is made that the Printing Bureau is to blame. I dismiss that excuse entirely; there is no foundation for it. Hon. gentlemen control the Printing Bureau. They know its capacity. If a farmer has 600 acres of grain which he does not harvest and he is asked why, he says: I have no binders, I have no men, I have no appliances for reaping my crop. Then, you would reply, you should not go into the business if you cannot do it. Hon. gentlemen opposite know what is required every year in printing. They can cipher it down to a dollar or to a day's work almost. The government should have taken care that the Printing Bureau was supplied with the necessary number of employees to get that

work off promptly. We have in this House asked in vain for our voters' lists, with which, by law, we ought to have in our possession, and the excuse of the government there also is, that the Printing Bureau is to blame for the delay. Well, Sir, the Printing Bureau does all this work under the control of the government, and it should be done promptly and efficiently. The government should have its arrangements made so that the Bureau would be able to have all the parliamentary documents ready for presentation to this House in proper time. But, Mr. Speaker, I assume that it is not the Printing Bureau that is to blame, but it is because there are some things in these reports that the government are afraid to present to the House, and to the people. That is the reason why we have yet to await these reports, in the absence of which we cannot intelligently discuss the matters that come before us or properly discharge our duties to the people.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I am surprised that a member who has been so long in this House, as has the hon. member (Mr. Wallace), should insinuate that the object of keeping back these reports may be because there is something in them that the government does not want to be made public. I have made inquiries, and I find that the Printing Bureau is run to its full capacity, and that the reason why the reports are not down is because the Bureau is not capable of coping with the immense volume of work.

Mr. MILLS. Then get a Printing Bureau that is capable.

Mr. McMULLEN. Will the hon. gentleman keep quiet. The government will either have to add to the capacity of the Bureau or will have to let out a large amount of the work that is being done there now, if these reports are to be got out in time. The manager of the Printing Bureau is doing all that can be done, and he regrets as much as we regret, and as much as gentlemen opposite regret, that the reports are not now in the hands of members. As the business of the country increases, the work of the Bureau increases, and it is impossible for it to overtake the work in good time, unless the government make an addition to their printing establishment or give the work to outside firms. I have no doubt that the government are anxious to economize, as far as possible, and to have all the work done in the Bureau, and with that end in view, they are doing all that they can. It is unfair for the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), to make such an insinuation as he did. I am surprised that a man who has been so long in the House as he, should make these small petty insinuations.

Mr. WALLACE.

Mr. J. ROSS ROBERTSON (East Toronto). It seems to me the question is: Whether the manuscript has been prepared in the different departments in proper time, or, whether the Printing Bureau was to blame for the delay with the work. The right hon. the First Minister has not explained whether the delay was in the preparation of the manuscript for the Queen's Printer, or, whether the delay was in the Bureau itself. I am perfectly satisfied that so far as the Printing Bureau is concerned, there is no better managed department in connection with any government on this side of the Atlantic, or for that matter on the other side. I am certain that we cannot have a better superintendent than Mr. Dawson, and I am perfectly satisfied from what I have seen of the Printing Bureau (and I have been through it from the cellar to the garrett) that unless the Printing Bureau is largely improved by additional space, it would be utterly impossible for that Bureau, or any other Printing Bureau, with the amount of work given it, and with the quantity of machinery, and space at their disposal to do the work in the time required by this House. I would, therefore, suggest that if the Printing Bureau is to blame (and I do not think it is) then the Secretary of State, in whose department it is, should be apprised of the fact, so that the Printing Bureau may have the accommodation it undoubtedly requires, that is, an additional wing, and additional machinery, to ensure that the work can be accelerated. The superintendent has told me, that if they had another wing to that building, they could do the work in probably 25 per cent less time. Therefore, the sooner some public money is spent in that direction, the sooner will the public printing be facilitated, and discussions of this kind prevented.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). It is a very convenient excuse for the non-appearance of these departmental reports, to say, that the Printing Bureau is to blame. There can be no blame attached to the Printing Bureau, and if the First Minister would acquaint himself with the dates on which the manuscripts were supplied to the Queen's Printer, he would find that the reports were gotten out this year as promptly as in any previous year since the establishment of the Bureau. The fact of the matter is, that the reports have not been prepared in time by the departments, and I am perfectly satisfied that an investigation by the Prime Minister will reveal a state of affairs in that respect which is not at all satisfactory. In the early days of this administration, it was called by some of its most ardent admirers, a business government. But, Mr. Speaker, an administration that permits 298 days (almost 300 days) of the succeeding year to elapse, before half the departmental reports for the

previous year have made their appearance, can no longer claim to be a business administration. The Printing Bureau is not at the present time, in some of its departments, worked up to its full capacity, because there is a lack of symmetry in the different departments, but if the demands made from time to time, by those in charge of the Bureau had received the consideration from the government to which they were entitled, there would be no complaint to make now against the administration of that department. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), said he was amazed at the remarks made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), who accounted for the delay in publishing these departmental reports by the assumption that the government desired to keep back from the public certain information contained in these reports, but I would like to draw the attention of the hon. member (Mr. McMullen), to the fact, that he was not always as careful of the reputation of his political opponents as he ought to have been. I find that in the *Hansard*, of April 29, 1895, when a question exactly similar to this, was brought before the House by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), did not hesitate to allege that one of the reasons why the report of the Auditor General had not been brought down, was because some revelations might be made from its pages that would not be creditable to the then government. In *Hansard*, 1895, 29th April, page 315, the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), said :

I think the reason is to be found in the fact that the Auditor General's Report forms the basis of the investigation held, and therefore it has not been laid upon the Table.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the report of the Postmaster General is amongst those which have not yet been brought down, and, I notice that in 1895, the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), expressed some surprise at the delay in bringing down the departmental reports, as well as some returns ordered during that and the previous session. At page 321 of *Hansard*, 1895, he said :

It seems rather singular that the House should be called together for the despatch of business when the government are not prepared to make the proper returns and render an account of their stewardship, as they are bound to do. They appear not to have known their own minds. They have done those things which they ought not to have done, and they appear to have left undone those things which they ought to have done.

Then, there was an interruption, which I need not read. The hon. gentleman went on :

The government think they are all right when they assemble parliament and bring us to sit here day after day, with no business to discharge. What an exhibition before the country! We may well ask, have we got a government at all?

This statement was made after the House of Commons had only been eleven days in session. As has been pointed out, this House has been now over eighty days in session, and from time to time requests have been made to the government for the presentation of the departmental reports, and many of them have not yet put in an appearance. I think very good ground exists for complaint against hon. gentlemen opposite for their neglect of duty in not having the fullest information laid before parliament and the country at the earliest possible moment. We on this side of the House have also reason to complain, because in debates which have taken place from time to time statements have been made and figures quoted which we have no opportunity of checking. We do not, of course, allege that the statements made are not correct; but, it would be much more satisfactory, when such statements are made—for instance, as to the number of immigrants arriving in Canada—if we had an opportunity of checking those statements, and ascertaining where the information comes from which hon. gentlemen opposite make use of. I think we on this side of the House have a right to the fullest information on all these matters. It is manifestly unfair that information of any character relating to the affairs of this country should be given to gentlemen on one side of the House and withheld from gentlemen on the other side. I hope that no further delay will take place in bringing down these departmental reports, because the business of the House is certainly impeded by reason of the fact that one-half the members do not know what has been done by the departments during the year, and cannot, therefore, intelligently discharge their duties to the people who sent them here.

Mr. ROBERT HOLMES (West Huron). Mr. Speaker, I fancy that this is one of the many opportunities taken advantage of by members of the opposition to try and create a little capital against the government. It may be a disadvantage to them not to have all the departmental reports before them; but it does not follow that the government is responsible for holding them back. Two of the gentlemen who have spoken are newspaper men and practical printers, and know something of the congestion of a printing office. Two of the ministers stated, over a week ago, that their reports have been in the hands of the printer for some time. They showed that the responsibility for the non-appearance of the reports did not rest with them. They showed that their copy was in the hands of the printer, but that the printer was not able to put it up. A question has been asked as to the publication of the voters' lists. I take for granted that there can be no object in holding back the voters' lists, even if there could be any object in hold-

ing back the reports ; yet, the fact remains that the voters' lists have not yet been got out, simply because the Printing Bureau has not been able to get them out. If any of these gentlemen will visit the Printing Bureau, especially those who are newspaper men, they will find that the congestion of the bureau was so great that the responsibility rests with it and not with the ministers. I think it was unfair and exceedingly bad taste on the part of the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), after the denial of the First Minister that there was any delay on the part of the ministers, to try to hold them responsible, when the fact is that the delay may be due to the congestion of the Printing Bureau.

Mr. A. C. BELL (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity of inquiring why we have not some of the reports of the Finance Department that do not seem to require much preparation. For instance, the House has not yet received the blue-book containing the returns of the chartered banks, nor the annual abstract of statements in connection with insurance, unpaid dividends and annual report of insurance companies. As these are returns which have to be made to the government by a certain day, it does not seem to me very clear why we should not have them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The abstract of insurance is down. I brought it down myself yesterday, on behalf of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I made application to-day for a copy to the clerk upstairs, but could not get it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is the fault of the clerk upstairs.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The explanation of the Prime Minister leaves this House in the dark as to whether or not this singular want of information is due to the neglect of the ministers to complete their returns or to any want of capacity in the Printing Bureau. It strikes me that the effort made by members on the government side of the House to hold the ministers entirely guiltless on the ground that the fault is in the Printing Bureau, is rather a weak defence. If the Printing Bureau is inadequate to do the business of the country, on whom should the responsibility for that state of affairs rest? Should it rest on the opposition, who can do nothing but point out the defects, or on the government, who are responsible for the condition of all the public business? This statement of the Prime Minister is very unsatisfactory. On the eighty-third day of the session, he informs us that only four days ago, on the seventy-

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ninth day of the session, did he become aware of the fact that the parliament of Canada was sitting here in a state of profound ignorance on almost every subject on which it requires to deliberate and decide. That is a very evasive statement. No doubt it is true, since the Prime Minister has seen fit to make it; but it makes it almost impossible to believe that the government are paying proper attention to the business of the country. On the one hand, the several ministers composing the government did not have their work in readiness; and in addition to that, the Prime Minister, on whose shoulders rests the responsibility, is unaware that this neglect on the part of the officers of his administration is going on from day to day. While the country has a parliament which is assembled once a year to do its business, it is a great wrong to the people of the country if the government can be shown to be at all derelict in their duty, either in withholding information from the House or in failing to give information to the House within a reasonable time. While I would not for a moment attribute any motive or design to the government, I think it is sufficient to put the government in a very bad light before the people if it can be shown that, through their neglect, the representatives of the people in parliament are denied the information which it is absolutely necessary, in the public interest, they should possess. If the fault lies in the Printing Bureau, as stated by the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes), then the government should spend more money in properly equipping that department. Had the government shown itself exceedingly economical, we might make some allowance for its lack of zeal in this direction, but inasmuch as it has shown itself quite the reverse we think it should include in its liberality the Printing Bureau and have that Bureau properly equipped to do promptly the work required of it. It is most unsatisfactory that we should now be here three months and still not have the public documents we require to properly criticise the policy of the administration of the government. I rose more particularly to ask the right hon. First Minister when we may expect to have the returns from the Finance Minister, more particularly the return of unpaid bank dividends and the annual insurance report.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I could not give the information at this moment to my hon friend.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). I am more particularly interested in the report of the Interior Department, because that report deals with immigration. I asked the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture not to call the deputy minister or the other parties who have to do with immigration before the committee until we had the re-

port, and he agreed with me that it was desirable we should have the report before examining these gentlemen. But as it was difficult to get anybody else to appear before the committee, the deputy minister came before the committee at its last meeting and was examined, and to-morrow we are to have Mr. Pedley and Mr. W. T. R. Preston before the committee, and it is very unsatisfactory that we should not have the report in our possession before questioning them. A good deal has been said about the Printing Bureau being behind, but I doubt very much whether it is the Printing Bureau that is to blame. Last year we had the same trouble about the Auditor General's Report, and the Printing Bureau was made the scapegoat, but I see in the report of the Queen's Printer to the Joint Committee on Printing of both Houses, that he had to wait sixty-two days for copy, and that was the reason he was behind.

The PRIME MINISTER. We are not responsible for that.

Mr. WILSON. Somebody must be responsible. Does the right hon. the First Minister pretend that the government is not responsible for the delay in sending copy to the Printing Bureau.

The PRIME MINISTER. Certainly not in the case of the Auditor General's Department.

Mr. WILSON. Perhaps not, but I venture to state that very few of the departments are up to time, and I have no doubt that if the right hon. gentleman will investigate the matter he will find that the fault does not lie so much with the Bureau as with the departments.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). It is abundantly evident, Mr. Speaker, from the discussion so far, that it is not due to any fault on the part of the Printing Bureau, but rather to the ministers themselves that these reports are not before the House. What do we see to-day? Of the ministers complained of, the only one present is the Minister of Agriculture, and the right hon. the First Minister refused to assume any responsibility for the delay in his report, because he was there to answer for himself. But, although present, he has not answered. My right hon. friend told us that he had communicated with his colleagues and asked them to bring down their reports and that these reports would be down in a week. But he does not seem to know as much about the matter as does the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), for that hon. gentleman immediately rose and suggested that it was not the ministers who were in fault at all, but the Printing Bureau. Then came the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes). He probably recognized that in the outfit of the

Printing Bureau, there was a lack of that machine which was so effective in West Huron, particularly in printing matters, because I believe they issued a new lot of ballots out there; and recognizing the lack of that machine in the Printing Bureau, he was very loud in his condemnation of that department and in his excuses for the ministers who are behind with their reports.

I have in my hand a very striking instance of the want of candour on the part of hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. In the report of the Justice Department for 1898, which is supposed to go as far as the 30th June, 1898, would you believe it there is a report of the commissioners appointed to investigate some charges against the late engineer of the Kingston Penitentiary, which is dated the 29th December, 1898? So that this departmental report, which is supposed to go only as far as the 30th June, 1898, contains matters that should be only put in the report for 1899. Evidently the intention, when making up that departmental report, was to go before the country, and this was considered proper election material to be circulated during the campaign. The government afterwards changed their mind, and are behindhand with their reports. They do not want the House to see the substance of these reports; they do not want us to see the campaign documents that they will contain. We are justified in concluding that the government are preparing campaign sheets to go into the reports, and do not wish us to be in possession of these documents until it is too late to discuss them.

And I am informed that if there is any congestion in the Printing Bureau, it is not due to the work that legally devolves on the Bureau, such as the printing of the voters' lists, because there are complaints from every part of Ontario that not one of the lists is yet printed. In fact there is only one county in Ontario represented on this side, that has the last list, the one at present in force in that province. But the reason why the Printing Bureau is behind is because its time is taken up getting out campaign literature for hon. gentlemen opposite, which is being circulated by the ton every day.

The PRIME MINISTER. Would my hon. friend specify what literature?

Mr. QUINN. I am informed that speeches of hon. members of the government are being printed by the thousands to the exclusion of all other work. If that is the condition of affairs, it should be put an end to at once, or otherwise we will be kept here during the dog days, if we are going to do our duty to the country by discussing the departmental reports as they are brought down.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I wish to call attention to what I think is a mis-

take on the part of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn), who has just addressed the House. I believe it will be found upon investigation that the report with reference to penitentiary affairs is brought down to the end of the year, and, therefore, it is perfectly proper that the report for 1898, which was brought down to the 31st of December, should be appended to the report of the Minister of Justice. I think that on investigation the hon. gentleman will find that his discovery is a mare's nest.

Mr. QUINN. In explanation, I may say that the first meeting of the commission of which I have note was on the 1st of January, 1898, and the last on the 4th of August, 1898; and they are in the report which is said to be for the year ending 30th of June, 1898.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) is of opinion that hon. gentlemen on this side have discovered a mare's nest, in complaining of the absence of these reports. But what is the object of getting out these reports? Is it not to inform the people of the country as to what is being done in regard to public business, and to provide members of parliament with the information that they must have to enable them to do intelligently the work that is given them to do? For that purpose, the law orders that the reports shall be down, many of them, fifteen days after the opening of the session of parliament. What reason can there be for this, but that members of parliament may be provided with the facts to carry on intelligently the discussion of public affairs? We have been here going on 80 days and are still without many of these reports, including those that we most require. Yet we are told that we are over-critical because we ask for them. What were we here for? The Premier (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says: It is not our fault, it is the fault of the Printing Bureau. But is nobody responsible for the Printing Bureau? And whom are we to hold responsible, whom can the country hold responsible if not the government of the day? The government cannot shirk responsibility in that way. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself recognizes his responsibility, for he has told us that he sent to the various departments and told them that they must send in their reports, that parliament wanted them. Did he send to the Printing Bureau? No; he sent to the departments under the control of the several ministers in order that they might speak to their subordinates and have them push forward the preparation of these reports. Is parliament to be paralyzed by the indifference or want of business capacity on the part of the government of the day? This is a very strange state of affairs that confronts us. For my part, I

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do not admit that the government has given us any reasonable defence against this charge that is brought against them of being derelict in their duty. If the Printing Bureau has not the facilities to turn out the reports, the government has it in its power to provide additional means. We know that a great deal of the government printing is done outside of the Printing Bureau entirely. Why do they not do the same with the reports? Or, if the Printing Bureau is not large enough, why do not they enlarge it? They are spending money in every other direction, we know. But this is the one above all others in which money must be spent if it is necessary to avoid this unreasonable delay. I am satisfied that the country will hold the government responsible for this dereliction of duty. I was amused to hear the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen) speak in their defence. For years and years that hon. gentleman attacked the late government for dereliction of duty if the reports were not down at an early day; but now he comes forward as the apologist for his friends and urges every excuse that he can think of, in the hope that some of them may be accepted as good reason for the delay for which this government is responsible. Through the absence of these reports we are unable to do our duty in this House. The hon. member for Lennox (Mr. Wilson) has pointed out, very properly, that we shall be engaged to-morrow in the consideration of immigration in the standing committee of this House having charge of that matter. We have had the deputy minister before us giving us information as to how the immigration work is carried on. Hon. gentlemen on the other side have quoted statistics of immigration that are not available to members of this House generally. They could only have got them privately from persons in the department. We cannot refute those figures, or explain them, or even admit them—because we know nothing about them. And why? Because the report of the Minister of the Interior is not before us. We cannot deal intelligently with this subject either in that committee or before this House. Will the people be satisfied with that kind of management of their affairs? I think not. Can the members of the government plead innocence? No. What is their position to-day? Their position is that they are not faithfully discharging their duty or else that they are incompetent. We are to continue our work in the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization to-morrow. We are supposed to criticise and to ask questions in regard to immigration. But we cannot do it intelligently, because we do not know the result of the operations of last year. We are told that the department has 275 agents in the United States promoting immigration. But we do not know what they are doing, how many people they sent

in last year, or how much money has been spent in this service. We are literally in the dark as to what has taken place and yet, to-morrow, we shall be expected to bring out such information as the House ought to have to enable it to discharge its duty to the country with regard to immigration. The estimates, also, are under consideration here from time to time. But we have no reports of the departments to show what has been done with the money that was voted last year. We are kept in the dark through the carelessness or want of business ability of the members of the government in preparing and presenting these reports. Some of the ministers plead innocence—that they do not know. They sit here and do not know whether the reports, even of their own departments, are presented to this House or not. How much must they know then, of the work of their departments? It is a shame and a disgrace to any members of the government—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. I say it advisedly; it is disgraceful to have the head of a department sitting here and not knowing whether his report has been presented to parliament or not. He pleads ignorance. He ought to be ashamed of himself. He ought to vacate his place and let some one take it who will have information laid before parliament at the proper time.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse). It is amusing to hear hon. gentlemen opposite complain that information is not supplied to them. They have kept us here three months, a good many of them making four-hour speeches. If they have not had the information they required, they must have been drawing largely on their imagination, or they must have rehashed information supplied in previous years.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I am quite willing to accept the responsibility of what rightly falls on my shoulders. But, I would like to inform the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), if he does not know it, that the immigration returns and the returns dealing with the immigration department, are not in the Department of Agriculture, and do not appear in my report. Therefore, it does not at all matter to him whether the report of the Minister of Agriculture is down or not. I must confess that I am much disappointed that my own report has not been laid on the Table of the House before this. I urged my officers from the very commencement of the year to prepare their several parts of that report and send it in as quickly as possible. It was a few days after the opening of the House that the report was sent to the Printing Bureau; I cannot give the exact date from memory, but that report was sent to the Printing Bureau with-

in a few days after the opening of this parliament. I may say, in view of the remark made by an hon. gentleman opposite, that these reports dated from the 30th of June, or the 1st of July last, that the report of the Department of Agriculture and the report of the Experimental Farm are made up until the 1st of November, and that, consequently, there has not been so long a delay in respect to them as hon. gentlemen have led the House to believe.

Mr. WILSON. Why do they extend up to that date?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. These two reports deal largely with agricultural operations, and it is desirable that they should cover the season's operations up to the 1st of November.

Mr. GEO. GUILLET (West Northumberland). I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture how he explains the state of congestion in the Printing Bureau at so early a period in the session? There could be no extraordinary amount of work to be done at so early a period of the session.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman must remember that I am not in charge of the Printing Bureau and cannot give detailed information. But, I may mention one thing that may account for it, and that is, that a large new press was ordered for the Printing Bureau to obviate this delay, but the director of the Bureau has not been able to install that machine, because the firm from which he ordered it has not yet delivered it from pressure of work. I talked the matter over with him, and I had hoped most earnestly that this year the printing would have gone along more rapidly than it had been done, and to accomplish that end we asked for a sum of money last session to put in a new press of larger capacity, but, unfortunately, that press is not yet in operation, and, consequently, the work has not been proceeded with any more rapidly than before.

Mr. CLARKE. When was that press ordered?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It was ordered soon after the vote was passed last year.

Mr. GUILLET. At least, the manuscript of the reports ought to have been in the hands of the printers long before the session opened.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has spoken once.

Mr. GUILLET. I merely wished to make a remark on an answer to my question. I do not yet understand why the machinery of the Bureau is not sufficient to do the ordin-

ary work. If the government found that the session was going to be of such a character as to furnish more work than anticipated, their explanation would be in order, but, at first it was thought the Printing Bureau would be sufficient to do all the ordinary work. Besides, the pressure of work on the Bureau has been relieved to some extent by giving large contracts to newspaper offices in different parts of the country, work which had usually been done by the Printing Bureau, so there could have been no especial strain upon the ordinary plant of the establishment.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a supply to be granted to Her Majesty ; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. MONK (Jacques Cartier). (Translation.) I have very little to add to the remarks I have offered the House, the other evening, in fact, that evening, as I had to deliver my speech to the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), who alone composed my French audience, I spared no effort in order to carry conviction into his mind, and to induce him to vote in favour of the amendment now under consideration. I do not know whether I have succeeded or not.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). (Translation.) I think not, but my hon. friend may try again.

Mr. MONK. (Translation.) If I have failed, I am inclined to think that I was right when I said that the hon. minister was asleep.

I was saying, when concluding my remarks the other day, what was the position taken by Mr. Colmer, and what was his proposal in connection with the imposition of a slight duty upon the articles which are of large production in Canada, such as meats, breadstuffs, and a few other commodities, imported from foreign countries into England, and already referred to ; and I said that the imposition of that duty, according to a leading statistician, would not lead to an increase in the price of those articles in the English market, and further that it would be of the greatest advantage to the farming community, and would open for the country an unprecedented era of prosperity ; but I need not dwell at any greater length on this aspect of the question. That scheme, which won the approbation of the congress of the chambers of commerce of the empire, when it was expounded before them, would entail for Great Britain the imposition of duties to the amount of £2,700,000 sterling. But that proposal, in order to

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win popular favour, needed some amendment. Mr. Colmer altered it and showed how the tariff could be readjusted by reducing the duties which are actually imposed on tea, coffee, cocoa,—articles largely consumed by the working classes—representing a loss of revenue of about £2,000,000 sterling, the revenue derived from the duties on foreign produce being about £700,000.

Now, as I said, when this proposal was explained to the congress of the chambers of commerce, the scheme of mutual trade preference evoked much more sympathy than it had done previously ; and from careful perusal the speeches delivered by the men of eminence who took part in that congress, one must come to the conclusion that this scheme is quite within the range of practical politics ; and to-day there is no doubt that it would be hailed with satisfaction and favourably received at the hands of the public of Great Britain, notwithstanding what English papers may have said to the contrary.

There is another document, Sir, to which I desire to draw the attention of this House, and it is entitled : ' Proceedings of a conference between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Premiers of the self-governing colonies.' This conference was held in July, 1897, and the report of its deliberations was submitted to both Houses of the British parliament. Upon that occasion, Mr. Chamberlain had to address the premiers of the self-governing colonies which were represented in London ; and what does he say about this mutual trade preference system ?

Does he give them to understand that this proposed amendment of the fiscal system is a chimerical scheme, outside of the pale of practical politics ? Not at all. Page 10 of this important document, I find the statement made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it reads as follows :—

I pass on, then, to another question, and that is as to the future commercial relations between this country and her colonies. How far is it possible to make those relations closer and more intimate ? I have said that I believe in sentiment as the greatest of all the forces in the general government of the world, but at the same time I should like to bring to the reinforcement of sentiment the motives which are derived from material and personal interest. But undoubtedly the fiscal arrangements of the different colonies differ so much among themselves, and all differ so much from those of the mother country, that it would be a matter of the greatest complication and difficulty to arrive at any conclusion which would unite us commercially in the same sense in which the Zollverein united the Empire of Germany. It may be borne in mind that the history of that Zollverein is most interesting and instructive. It commenced entirely as a commercial convention, dealing in the first instance only partially with the trade of the empire ; it was rapidly extended to include the whole trade of the empire, and it finally made possible and encouraged the ultimate union of the empire. But this is a matter upon which at the present time, rather

than suggest any proposals of my own, I desire to hear the views of the gentlemen present.

In the meanwhile, however, I may say that I note a resolution which appears to have been passed unanimously at a meeting of the premiers in Hobart, in which the desire was expressed for closer commercial arrangements with the empire, and I think it was suggested that a commission of inquiry should be created in order to see in what way practical effect might be given to the aspirations. If that be the case, and if it were thought that at the present time you were not prepared to go beyond inquiry, if it were the wish of the other colonies, of Canada and of the South African colonies to join in such an inquiry, Her Majesty's government would be delighted to make arrangements for that purpose and to accept any suggestions as to the form of the reference and the character and constitution of the commission, and would very likely take part in it.

It is clear, from the tone of the remarks of that eminent statesman, that the scheme which he advocated before the congress of the chambers of commerce of the empire was by no means impracticable. But what he desired for the moment was to hear the suggestions of the premiers as to the carrying out of that plan.

And, later on, did the government of this country give effect to the invitation which was extended to them under such solemn circumstances? Did they confer about the matter with the Imperial authorities, prior to introducing the extensive changes which are embodied in the resolution now under consideration? Since 1886, no attempt has been made by the government to promote that great movement, inter-Imperial preferential trade; they have not taken a single step nor approached the Imperial authorities with a view to the carrying out of that proposal which was one of the planks of the Conservative platform.

I stated in the course of this debate, that public opinion in the province of Quebec was favourable to no concessions which fall short of the complete realization of mutual trade preference. We have fresh evidence of it in the report of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, which is composed of French Canadian business men residing in the great commercial metropolis of Canada or in its immediate vicinity. This report coincides in the views expressed in the reports of the other chambers of commerce. The document from which I am going to quote derives a fresh interest from the fact that it conveys the views of the French Canadian people. Not only does it contain an expression of opinion from that important body on the matter which is engaging our attention, but it also discloses their views on each of the questions which are going to come up for discussion in June next at the congress of the chambers of commerce of the empire. The committee which prepared this report was composed of Messrs. L. E. Geoffrion, D. Masson, H. A. A. Brault, L. E. Morin, sr., J. Contant and Armand Lalonde.

As to the question which is now engaging

our attention, do these gentlemen hold that we ought to make concessions without receiving anything in return? Quite the contrary; but let me now quote from that report which is in English:

Then, why should not this meeting examine—the matter being within the jurisdiction of boards of trade—the possibility for England to admit the principal of compensation to her colonies, in the shape of premiums (or in some other forms) on their trade—that is to say, on the exports of the colonies shipped direct to British ports, and that according to a schedule that might be fixed?

As far as we can see, the foreign countries to which the empire is bound by commercial treaties could find no plausible objection to this.

Those premiums, acknowledgments or compensations—the name matters little—could not be considered as the equivalent of a preferential duty, which England cannot grant without compromising the system of her commercial revenue, but rather as an invitation to the trade of her colonies to increase their productions, and the empire can probably as easily give such encouragement to its subjects beyond the seas as it can furnish subsidies and grants to its subjects in the United Kingdom.

The view respectfully submitted by this 'Chambre' is open to developments which the limits of this report will not allow, but it may be that the discussion of the subject (as well as that of how the colonial governments should use the premiums referred to), will bring on a solution of the problem of the difficulties created by the commercial system of the empire, and show distinct situations and needs.

I shall quote no further from this report; but, I ask, does it not clearly state that England ought to impose a duty on foreign produce, in favour of her colonies, as suggested by Mr. Colmer in his essay? The principle is formally laid down here, that we ought to obtain a compensation in return from concessions. Such is the prevailing opinion in the province of Quebec.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). (Translation.) What is the date of that report?

Mr. MONK. The 14th March of this year. I think that, if these gentlemen, who have, no doubt, considered attentively the question, as shown by the able way in which they have dealt with it, had thoroughly studied Mr. Colmer's essay, they would have completely endorsed the proposition which he develops in his book. At all events, they admit that we should get something in return for our concessions, and rightly so.

Let us consider our position. It is my firm belief that this preferential tariff policy is going to lead to retaliation on the part of foreign countries. Germany and Belgium have already done so, and the other European countries are going, before long, to take example from the United States in this respect. We shall find ourselves isolated. We have, it is true, the British market, but we find ourselves, in this market, exactly on

the same footing as the other countries which compete with us, and especially agricultural countries like the United States.

In the details of the scheme proposed, Mr. Colmer does not mention all the articles on which duties should be levied, so as to give us a preferential treatment. He selects only 18 out of 219, but there are others: the trade in eggs, for instance. That is an article which we export in large quantities, but the American competition in this respect is very acute. Should a light duty be levied on eggs coming into Great Britain from foreign countries, it would not increase the price paid by the British consumer, but it would be a great boon to our farming classes. I do not want to take any more of the time of the House, in discussing this scheme. But, before resuming my seat, Sir, I wish to refer briefly to attacks, altogether unjustifiable—and I may say, disloyal attacks—on the part of a paper, which is the organ of the hon. Minister of Public Works. We all know, Sir, by experience, what are the troubles of life; I mean the real anxieties and trials of this life; and, in the face of such trials, one may well remain impassable and indifferent to the attacks of a political sheet; but there are certainly limits to human endurance in this respect. The organ of the hon. Minister of Public Works seems to take this position: that it is impossible for us to criticise the acts of the minister, without assailing or offending the French Canadian nationality. Such is the proposition, as I understand it. But I say that, for those of us who have a thorough knowledge of the condition of affairs in Montreal, such a proposition is simply grotesque. Are we then to be told that this gentleman is the expression of all that is noble and virtuous in his race? Are we to be told that he typifies and represents to such a degree the qualities of his race that it is impossible to upbraid him without attacking thereby the whole French Canadian people? Such a pretension is unreasonable. From time immemorial, and as early as the period of the Conquest, in 1759, we have had truly representative men. There are still men of such a character nowadays; but I doubt very much whether the hon. Minister of Public Works is entitled to rank among them.

Sir, it was but fair that we should be represented by a French Canadian at the Universal Exhibition which France is giving to the world, at the dawn of the new century; but I am satisfied that, if there had been a plebiscite taken in the province of Quebec, in order to ascertain who should represent us in Paris, I am satisfied, I say, that the name of that hon. gentleman would never have come out of the ballot-box.

Once only, Sir, I deemed it my duty to call the attention of the House to what I thought was a contradiction in the statements of the hon. gentleman. We all know that his health is not very good, and I have never said anything to the contrary; all I

Mr. MONK.

ventured to say was that the activity displayed by him in Paris could certainly lead us to believe that he could have remained here.

Well, what am I, for having said that and for having had the audacity of criticising the conduct of the hon. gentleman who represents us upon this memorable occasion? The language I used was unimpassioned and moderate; and yet, in spite of all that, it seems that I am no gentleman, that I am but a clown. That is how we are treated on this side of the House, when we venture to criticise the acts of the hon. Minister of Public Works.

All I can say is this: that the title of gentleman is not delivered by letters-patent, as formerly nobles were created by means of letters of nobility. Should I wish for the certificate of character, I would not go and look for it in the office of *La Patrie*.

I have spent most of my life among French Canadians, and I ought to know them. I may say that upon every occasion,—and those occasions were numerous—I have received the most generous treatment at their hands. Are the attacks of the salaried writer of that article, with its ill-construed and obscure sentences, in which the rules of grammar are trodden under foot and the rules of syntax murdered, are those attacks, I say, going to change my feelings towards the French Canadians? No, never.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I certainly will not undertake to answer, in his own language, my hon. friend (Mr. Monk), who has just taken his seat. I wish that I had a knowledge of the French language, but, unfortunately, I have not, and I shall leave the reply to him to some hon. gentleman who will follow myself. I shall endeavour to pay some little attention to the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). That hon. gentleman made a very extended speech in the House a few evenings ago, and he made a great many statements, that, in my humble opinion, should not be allowed to pass without some reference to them, and without being answered. He said, in the first place, that prosperity comes in spite of the government. We admit that prosperity is not absolutely dependent on the action of any cabinet, but a good government can do a great deal in helping forward the prosperity of the country. We know that hon. gentlemen opposite, from 1874 to 1878, charged the Mackenzie government with being responsible for the unfortunate condition of things that existed during that period. They said that they were flies on the wheel, that the country was languishing for want of a government that could handle its affairs successfully and in a statesmanlike way, and that if the country had such a government, prosperity would be at once experienced by the people. They persuaded the country that a change of government, in order to bring

about prosperity, was absolutely necessary, so that, on that occasion, while they appear to have argued before the country that a change of government, for the sake of prosperity, was necessary, on the present occasion, they argue the very reverse. They say that the present government have nothing to do with the prosperous condition of the country. I claim that they have a very great deal to do with it; I claim that the change of government was a happy incident in the history of this country at the time at which it took place. I claim that immediately upon that change taking place, there came about a general change in the condition of things, which, at least, points to the fact that the change was absolutely desirable, because it revived trade and brought about a condition of things that we had not experienced for many years previously. The hon. member for Halton said that we had not largely increased the free list. Well, Sir, I contend that the changes that we made were very much in the interest of the farming community. While the government and their supporters sat in opposition, they claimed that it was necessary that some things that were the raw materials of the farmer, should be placed on the free list, and the government, for better or for worse, and I consider it was very much for the better, placed these things on the free list, such as barbed wire, binder twine, and some other commodities that they thought it was necessary should be placed on the free list in the interest of the farming community. Then, my hon. friend referred to the Intercolonial Railway. He said that a million of money had been thrown away, through the deal that had been made with the Drummond County Railway people. If ever there was a condition of things in the history of any country that warranted and virtually required the government to take active and immediate steps to bring about such a change in the management of a public enterprise, that, instead of there being a deficit, it would, at least, pay running expenses and return something to the country for the enormous amount of money sunk in it, it was to be found in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. Hon. gentlemen opposite claim to be blessed with all the statesmanship that is to be found within the bounds of this Dominion. They are actually under the impression that under their hats all the brains that are available for the direction of the affairs of this country, are covered. They believe that they themselves possess all the wisdom that is in the country, but, for many years they allowed the only road owned by this Dominion, to remain in such a condition that there was a never-ending deficit, year after year, which amounted, in the aggregate, to something like \$8,500,000 for the number of years which it had been run, to pay the running expenses, and in addition to that, all the interest paid on the \$55,000,000 of money

sunk in that road, had to be paid out of the pockets of the people. They allowed that condition of things to exist, and made no effort to improve it. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that, in some years, they were able to show that it was paying running expenses. How did it pay running expenses? At the time that the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) was Minister of Railways, in order, if possible, to show that the road was paying running expenses, he actually charged to capital account snow fences all along the line, and snow sheds. He charged everything to capital account that he could charge to it, and the result was that he showed a very small surplus. Then, again, we know, that the recent Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart), when he came into power, endeavoured to bring about the same condition of things, or to show that the road was paying running expenses. When he came into office there was about \$700,000 worth of supplies scattered along the line and principally at Moncton, and when he left the management of the road, there was \$350,000 less of supplies than when he went in. He had taken these supplies for the improvement of the road, he had not replaced them, and he claimed that he was running the road within the limits of its earnings, when, the fact was, that he was exhausting the supplies that had been bought in former years and put in for the purpose of maintaining the road. In that way, he presented a statement that led the House to suppose that he was meeting running expenses, when he really was not. With all these experiences, the government, when they came into power, made up their minds that a change should take place, and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), and the government of the day deserve credit for the manner in which they have so successfully handled the road, and for the change that has taken place in its connections and management. Hon. gentlemen opposite charged that the bargain that was made with the Drummond County Railway Company was a corrupt bargain. They endeavoured to impress that upon the House and upon the country. I cannot understand why hon. gentlemen opposite, on all occasions, have endeavoured to fasten on the government corrupt acts in reference to every single transaction that they have put through. They tried to do the same thing in connection with the Yukon, in connection with the Drummond County road, and in connection with every public expenditure. They appear to have had the idea that corruption permeated every transaction of that kind. I suppose they were, in all probability, actuated, in coming to that conclusion, by the experience they had, when they sat on the Treasury benches. They evidently must have thought that the government of the day were bound to conduct the

affairs of this country on the same principles on which hon. gentlemen opposite conducted them when they occupied the Treasury benches, and as a result they came to the conclusion that corruption was rampant in every department. After a very vigorous search, after the search-light had been turned on every transaction of the government from the time they were elected to power down to the present moment, they have failed to fasten one improper transaction upon any minister of the cabinet, or to point to one improper thing that has been done that reflects discredit on the government, or any member thereof. I contend that the transaction with the Drummond County Railway Company, resulting in the bringing of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal, was a most happy and prudent act on the part of the government, and this is evidenced by the fact that to-day, we have the prospect, that the road, at least, will pay running expenses, and eventually return something to the country for the very large amount of money that has been sunk in it.

The next thing that the hon. member for Halton spoke about, was the Franchise Act. He said, that we had a Franchise Act with such an absurdity in it, that, in the province of Quebec, men, in some cases, have the right to vote five or six times, while men in the province of Ontario, only have the right to vote once. We know that the province of Quebec elect to this House some 60 members, and that, in the province of Ontario, they elect some 80 or 90 members to this House. Each province is confined to a certain number, according to the population within the province. I would like to know what concern it is to the people of the province of Ontario how the people of the province of Quebec choose to elect their 60 members and send them here. If they choose to give a man a vote for every piece of property he has in the province of Quebec, or, if they choose to enfranchise all the ladies in the province of Quebec, or if they choose to give votes to all the children in the province of Quebec, of what moment is it to us, as long as they only elect 60 members and send them to this House? It is a matter of their own concern how they shall elect these 60 members. In the province of Ontario we give one man one vote, and we elect 90 members, and send them here. It is entirely a matter that concerns that province, and if every man in the province of Quebec had 20 votes, it would not make a bit of difference so far as the representation in this House is concerned, so that it is a matter of no moment from the standpoint of the representation in this Chamber.

Mr. MACLEAN. Will the hon. gentleman let me tell him the difference?

Mr. McMULLEN.

Mr. McMULLEN. You can tell it when you make your speech, I know it already, and it is not worth while occupying time listening to it now.

Mr. MACLEAN. All right.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) spoke of railway bonuses, and he said that the government were now paying \$6,400 per mile in place of \$3,200, which the Conservative government paid. In the case of some difficult railway construction this government considered it prudent to add an additional amount to the \$3,200 per mile, but they did it in connection with a statesmanlike policy by which they asked these railways to contribute 3 per cent upon the amount of the bonus, which should be returned to the country in the performance of such work as the carrying of the mails or other government business. That is an idea which never struck the Conservative government. While the railways are now getting an increased grant towards construction, they are called upon to pay interest at the rate of 3 per cent upon that grant, and as Canada is to-day borrowing her money for something over 2½ per cent, then while we are helping these roads, we are simply lending them money, and lending it to them at a rate in excess of what we are paying for it ourselves. Every road which is put into full operation will certainly be able to pay at least 3 per cent on the \$6,400 per mile which is granted by this government. The policy in that respect adopted by this government is a wise and prudent one, and it never occurred to the Conservatives during the eighteen years they were in power.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) next referred to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, and he claimed that a large sum of money was sacrificed in connection with that road. Well, when the Conservative government built the Canadian Pacific Railway they inserted conditions which placed the people of Manitoba and the North-west Territories in a very unfortunate position, and the progress of these provinces was greatly restricted by the enormous freight rates the people had to pay on shipments going into the country and coming out of the country. The settlers appealed to the late government in vain, and they again appealed to the present government, and the present government thought it was a good opportunity to get the Canadian Pacific Railway to relax their enormous freight charges. It was, therefore, made a condition precedent to the Crow's Nest Pass Railway subsidy that the Canadian Pacific Railway should relax these freight rates. An hon. member from Manitoba stood up in this House and declared that the conditions imposed by the government on the Canadian

Pacific Railway in this connection would be worth \$600,000 a year to the people of Manitoba alone. That shows that the bargain made by this government was a prudent one, and that it relieved the people of Manitoba and the North-west Territories from the thralldom into which the Conservative government had plunged them. The hon. gentleman from Halton (Mr. Henderson) tried to persuade the House that under the preferential tariff the people were actually paying more for coloured cotton than they were paying under the Foster tariff. Let us see how that is. The amount of printed cottons imported into Canada from Great Britain last year was to the value of \$2,247,683, and the imports from the United States amounted to the value of \$769,600; in all, \$3,017,283. Under the Foster tariff of 30 per cent, these coloured cottons would have paid in duty \$905,184.30. Under the Fielding tariff, 35 per cent duty, with 25 per cent preferential off, the goods coming from Great Britain, and 35 per cent on the goods coming from the United States, this importation of cottons would have paid \$859,376.79, or \$45,808.11 less under the Fielding tariff than would have been paid if the Foster tariff was in operation. My hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) will not attempt to challenge this statement, I am sure. I have given him the actual figures of the importations from Great Britain and of the importations from the United States, taken from the blue-books, and if he will go over the figures carefully he will find that my statement is correct.

Mr. HENDERSON. That does not contravene my statement, because it is an answer to a different thing altogether.

Mr. McMULLEN. The statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) was that the people had paid more duty on printed cottons coming into Canada last year than they would have paid under the Foster tariff. Well, the reason why they paid more duty last year was simply because they imported more goods. The reason why each family paid more duty last year was simply because the good wife used two printed cotton gowns instead of one. Under the improved condition of the people last year they were able to buy more goods, and of course, they had to pay more duty, but it is a very unfair argument for the hon. gentleman to use, that because the gross amount of the duty last year was larger than previously, therefore, the people paid more duty. The figures I give to the House are correct, and if under the Foster tariff people imported and used the same quantity of cottons as they did under the Fielding tariff, then they would have paid \$45,808.11 more under the Foster tariff than they had to pay under the Fielding tariff. Again, let us suppose that the people of

Canada will import the same amount of printed goods next year as they imported last year. Next year the preferential tariff will be 33½ per cent off, and the duty the people will have to pay will be \$793,819.37, as against \$905,184.91, which is the amount of duty they would have to pay if the Foster tariff were in force. Therefore, on printed goods alone there will be an actual saving to the people on the year's transaction of \$111,385.53. My hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) was therefore far astray in his argument. Now, suppose the hon. gentleman was a retail merchant and he imported ten bales of printed goods, fifty pieces in the bale, being 12,500 yards, at say 10 cents a yard, or \$1,250. The duty under the Foster tariff would be 30 cents on the dollar or \$375. Now, we will take it under the Fielding preferential tariff. The ten bales of cotton, containing the same 12,500 yards, at 10 cents a yard would cost the same price, viz., \$1,250, and at 26 per cent, which would be the preferential rate, the duty would be \$328.11, or \$46.87 less than the Foster tariff. If my hon. friend (Mr. Henderson) bought \$1,000 worth of cottons and he was importing them into Canada, I would like to know whether if he had the choice he would import them under the Fielding tariff or under the Foster tariff. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) answer that?

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). My hon. friend desires me to answer the question, and I shall. The statement I made with respect to coloured goods was absolutely correct, namely, that in the first two years of the preferential tariff we paid more duty on coloured cotton goods by \$17,025 than we would have paid under the Foster tariff. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) makes another proposition with which perhaps I may deal. I submit this to him: That if he cannot get these goods in England, which at the present time he cannot get of the character named, viz., the coarse cotton goods to which I referred, then there is no competition between Great Britain and the United States, and the result is that we pay for the goods, as before plus the 5 per cent duty that the Liberal government added in 1897.

Mr. McMULLEN. My hon. friend will not answer the plain question which I put to him, simply because he knows perfectly well that if he said he would import his goods under the Foster tariff, he would admit that he was paying \$46.87 more than he would pay under the Fielding tariff, and the result would be that nobody would believe him. My hon. friend is a money-lender, and I would like to know, if he tried to make his customers believe that 30 per cent is less than 26½ per cent, how many would he get to believe him? Suppose my hon. friend imported \$1,000 worth of carpets. The duty under the Foster tariff

would be \$300, and under the Fielding tariff, with 25 per cent off, it would be \$262.50, which gives a saving of \$37.50 on the \$1,000 worth of carpets. Again, suppose he imported \$1,000 worth of cutlery. Under the Foster tariff the duty would be 32½ per cent, amounting to \$325. Under the Fielding tariff the duty was reduced to 30 per cent, and 25 per cent off, that would make the duty on the \$1,000 worth of cutlery, \$225; so that under the Fielding tariff you could bring it in for \$100 less than under the Foster tariff. Take oilcloth: \$1,000 worth brought into the country would have to pay, under the Foster tariff, \$300, and under the Fielding tariff, \$225; so that there would be a saving of \$75 on \$1,000 worth of oilcloth imported from Great Britain. The hon. leader of the Opposition said that the tariff was a deception and a fraud. He said there was nothing in it for the British manufacturer. If the hon. gentleman wanted to buy a parcel of oilcloth or carpets, and he had laid before him the American sample, the German sample, the French sample and the British sample, all equal in weight, texture and quality, I would like to know where he would place his order. When he looks over the duty and finds that on \$1,000 worth of carpets or oilcloth he could save \$100 by buying from England rather than from France or Germany or the United States, if he is an intelligent man he will buy his goods in England. I would like to know if that condition of things is not a decided advantage to the English manufacturer? It undoubtedly is. Take an importer of silk, say a wholesale merchant of Montreal, who imports \$4,000 worth in a year. On that importation, under the Foster tariff, he would have to pay 30 per cent, or \$1,200; under the Fielding tariff he would pay the same rate, less 25 per cent, or \$900; so that on the importation he would save \$300. I do not think he would find a merchant in Montreal who, under these circumstances, would place his order in France or Germany rather than in England. It is quite clear from these statements—and they are all taken from reliable sources—that the present tariff works admirably well in the interest of the English manufacture. Now, let us see how it works in the wholesale line, because we cannot pay too much attention to this feature of the tariff. Take an English manufacturer who exports to Canada \$200,000 of printed cotton goods in a year. The duty on these under the Foster tariff would be \$60,000. Under the Fielding tariff the duty would be 35 per cent, with 25 per cent off, or \$52,500, a saving on the whole importation of \$7,500. Take a man who imports \$200,000 worth of carpets and oilcloth, which are largely imported from the United States as well as from England, France and Germany. The duty on these under the Foster tariff would be \$60,000,

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and under the Fielding tariff, \$52,500, or \$7,500 less. Take cutlery: A man who imports \$100,000 worth, or an English exporter who sends that amount to Canada, would have to pay, under the Foster tariff, a duty of \$32,500, and under the Fielding tariff, only \$22,500. Under the Fielding tariff he would save \$10,000. The result would be the same in many other lines, so that it is quite clear that when hon. gentlemen opposite are endeavouring to persuade the consumers of this country that they are not benefited by the Fielding tariff, they are trying to impose upon the intelligence of the people. Again, when the leader of the opposition attempts to persuade the people of Canada, and also the people of England, that there is no advantage whatever in the Fielding tariff, he is setting himself in opposition to the expressed opinion of the entire press of England itself. It is amazing that a man of his extended experience and education should make such a statement.

My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) claims to be a very pronounced and loyal Canadian. He pretends to be a stickler for home manufacture, and to believe in patronizing everything Canadian. He poses as the apostle of protection, and was sent by our manufacturers to Washington as their agent to look after their interests. But my hon. friend, with his two brothers, are interested in a fair at Woodbridge, and when he wants show bills for this fair he goes to Cincinnati to have them printed. He did this at the last fair in order to save to himself and his associates some \$5 or \$6. Here is one of the bills (showing bill), displaying in vivid blue and yellow all the grandeur and attractions of the Woodbridge Fair. On this bill, I find the names of no less than three Wallaces. One is secretary-treasurer, the hon. gentleman himself is president, and another Wallace occupies some other position. They manage the whole business. My hon. friend knows that he could have had his bills printed in Toronto; he knows that the Toronto Exhibition has all its lithographing done in that city, so as to patronize our home industries; our hon. friend himself has been a very pronounced champion of home industry, and has lectured us by the hour on that question. But in a moment of weakness—and what a fall, Mr. Speaker, was there!—for the purpose of saving some \$8 or \$10 to his exhibition company in the town of Woodbridge, he sent the order for his posters to Cincinnati, and in that foreign city he had them printed by foreign labour, to be circulated throughout the province of Ontario. I do not think the hon. gentleman went so far as to smuggle these bills through the customs, but he certainly got them printed across the line, and he told us the other night that he saved \$20 or \$30 by the transaction. Yet he is the same hon. gentleman who would prevent a

Canadian labouring man or farmer going across to the other side to buy a buggy or a wagon. Woe betide any man in his riding who would dare bring discredit on that riding and on the reputation of the hon. gentleman, as its representative, by purchasing a wagon on the American side. That man would be disgraced for the rest of his life; but when it is a question of saving a few dollars for the hon. gentleman himself and his associates by getting their show bills printed by American labour, then the hon. gentleman's patriotic principles vanish into thin air.

Mr. HENDERSON. Would the hon. gentleman let me put him a question?

Mr. McMULLEN. I am dealing now with my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) and prefer not to be interrupted. I wonder if the manufacturing institutions of this country will again employ my hon. friend, after this lapse from grace, to go down to Washington and look after their interests the next time we have a Washington conference. Probably it was down at Washington that the hon. gentleman learned about the cheapness of bill printing on the other side, and conceived the idea of having his posters printed by American instead of Canadian labour. When I think of the invectives and the denunciations of my hon. friend against the policy of letting Americans come in here and take away the bread of our labouring men, when I remember the paths with which he depicted the ruin caused our artisans by American cheap labour, and his denunciations of this government for not enforcing the labour law and keeping out American workmen from this country, I can hardly realize that it was this same gentleman who had his show bills printed in Cincinnati. But here, Mr. Speaker, are the bills which speak for themselves. Here they are witnesses of the delinquency of this hon. gentleman, who stole away quietly and secretly to a foreign city and placed his order with a foreign industry to the detriment of home labour.

My hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) has told us that our farmers have been injured by the present tariff. I am really at a loss to know where he got his inspiration. As I have said before, our farmers have not been for years in so prosperous a condition. I do not think that my hon. friend will deny that. The farmers themselves are perfectly satisfied. They are getting the highest price for live hogs that has been paid in Canada during the last ten years. They are getting something like six cents a pound, live weight.

My hon. friend also endeavoured to persuade the House that the government were charging the farmers more for twine than they should. He quoted the price and said it was the price of sisal, and taking the

price of sisal and the price of twine he said that the government was charging an excessive rate. That is not correct. I have here a letter addressed to the Minister of Justice on this question, and the prices of sisal as certified to by the Department of Justice are as follows:

On April 1, 1898, the price of manila hemp was 4½c. to 4¾c. per pound. In April, 1899, it was 8¾c. In April, 1900, it was 13¼c. per pound. The price of sisal hemp on April 1, 1898, was 4½c. per pound. In April, 1899, it was 8¼c.; and in April, 1900, it was 9c. to 9¾c.

In the face of this statement, which gives the correct figures at which the penitentiary bought its raw material, my hon. friend should revise the statement he made. I believe my hon. friend should wish at least, to make a correct statement, but the statement he has made is incorrect.

Mr. HENDERSON. No, my statement is correct.

Mr. McMULLEN. Here is the certificate of the Minister of Justice, in whose department the sisal and manila are bought showing the figures at which those purchases were made. My hon. friend was trying to show that while they bought sisal at 4½ or 5 cents per pound, they were charging the farmers 13 cents and 14 cents for the twine. That is not correct, as shown by these figures from the Department of Justice. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson), may have got his figures from wrong sources. He knows perfectly well that the supply of sisal is bought a considerable time before it is used, some years. But, even take the prices previously paid. In 1898, they paid 4 cents and 5 cents. In 1899—and it certainly would not be bought a year over the time it was used—the price paid was 8 3/8 cents. My hon. friend says it was some 4½ cents. That is most unfair. He may be able to persuade his constituents—perhaps they do not read beyond his speech—that his statement is correct. But I earnestly hope that the people of the county of Halton are an intelligent people, and will read for themselves; and if they do, they must begin to lose confidence in my hon. friend, when he attempts to bulldoze them with a statement of that kind. The hon. gentleman may have taken his position from the Auditor General's Report—

Mr. HENDERSON. Hear, hear.

Mr. McMULLEN. But, that report may show what was paid for a previous year. But, the sisal has been used, and here I give the actual prices paid. These show that the farmers of this country are getting twine at the actual cost of manufacture. It is unfair that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson), should attempt to make the farmers believe that the Department of

Justice is treating them unfairly, by charging them more for the twine than it is worth. They get the twine at the lowest possible figure, the government allowing the farmers to buy until the 1st of May; and I believe they will extend that time, so that any farmer wishing to buy twine for next harvest may get it at actual cost.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. McMULLEN. When you left the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I was endeavouring to reply to an address made by the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson.) I referred to several points he had endeavoured to make with regard to the advantages of the old tariff over the new, and was answering those points wherein he challenged this government to show that the public are reaping as much benefit under the new tariff as they were under the old. The hon. gentleman stated that the ex-Minister of Finance had given us true tariff reform in 1894. Well, the ex-Minister of Finance, made some effort at changing the tariff in 1894, but I think most members of this House will remember that he went back to the original condition of things under the guise of correcting clerical errors; in fact he was forced by the manufacturers to go back to the point where the tariff originally stood. It would be impossible for any Minister of Finance, who was committed to the principle of protection to the extent that the ex-Minister of Finance was committed to it, to reform a tariff in the interests of the consumers. His object, his aim, his entire life as Minister of Finance was devoted to promoting the interests of the manufacturers, and the interest of the consumers was regarded by him as a secondary consideration.

Now, my hon. friend, in another statement, said that farm implements were not reduced by the present government. Surely he did not mean to convey to the House the idea that the old government had reduced all farm implements to 20 per cent. Some were reduced to 20 per cent, but it is an error to say that all farm implements were reduced to 20 per cent. There was a large line of farm implements that remained at 30 per cent and 35 per cent, and it was left to the present Minister of Finance to alter the law, so as to bring them down to the tariff at which they now stand. So I think the hon. gentleman was astray when he attempted to lead the House to the conclusion that farm implements were reduced to 20 per cent.

Again, he referred to the increase of the debt, and he challenged us to say what items in the national debt we objected to. Well, there are a great many items in the national debt that we object to, a great

many items in which we say the country has not received value for the money spent. Take, for instance, the St. Charles branch, that cost this country over \$1,700,000, while the estimated cost in the first place was \$450,000. We object to that. We object to the enormous amount of money spent on the labour improvements in Montreal and Quebec, and on the graving dock on the Pacific coast. We object to them on the ground that they cost the country far more than they should have cost. It was proved before a committee of this House, that instead of their costing the country \$2,000,000, they actually cost over \$3,000,000. It was proved clearly that \$964,000 were actually stolen in connection with the construction of these works. We object to the Baie des Chaleurs Railway in which \$620,000 of the people's money has been sunk. That was a scheme got up from the beginning for hoodling purposes, it was carried on for those purposes, and it has now dropped into the hands of the sheriff. We object to the Langevin Block, having cost so much money. The original estimate of that block was \$300,000, while it actually cost \$740,000. We object to the manner in which the money of the country has been squandered in connection with that work. We object to the Tay Canal, where \$473,000 of public money was sunk for the purpose of producing a trail race to the saw-mill of the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals, a work that only yields a revenue of \$134 per annum. We also object to the Onderdonk contract. In an investigation which was held here it was clearly proved that the rolling stock was taken off the hands of Onderdonk at something like \$200,000, when it was not worth \$70,000. We know perfectly well, that the men who were appointed to arbitrate on that work were badgered and virtually forced into consenting to an award that took \$200,000 out of the treasury of this country, on the urgent appeal by the then Minister of Railways and Canals. But, I shall have something more to say about that later on.

Then the hon. gentleman said something with regard to superannuation. He said that the present government had promised, prior to coming into power, that they would abolish superannuation. The government did promise that superannuation should be done away with. But, who is responsible for its not yet being done away with? When the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), introduced his Bill into the House it had for its object the abolition of superannuations to the extent that it was possible to abolish them. Who fought against its being abolished? Hon. gentlemen opposite. They rose, one after another, at that time and opposed the provisions of that Bill. They fought against doing away with superannuation; they fought for the civil service of Canada, as a man would plead for an only son, day after

day, and eventually we were led to understand that unless the government were willing to take such a Bill as they were willing to give, the probability was that it might receive the same treatment at the hands of the Senate as the Redistribution Bill received, and that it might be thrown out. In the face of that fact hon. gentlemen opposite know that they opposed the abolition of superannuations, that they fought for its existence, that they fought for its continuation, and yet, they have the hardihood and the brass to get on the public platform and say that the government have not abolished superannuations. The government would have abolished superannuations had they been permitted to carry through their Bill, which was at last, whittled down to a point that its provisions should only apply to those who entered the civil service after the Bill became operative. Had hon. gentlemen opposite consented to the abolition of superannuations, the country would not be called upon to-day to pay the amount of money that the government are called upon to pay on account of superannuations.

Mr. MACLEAN. Have the government a majority in this House?

Mr. McMULLEN. There is another subject that I wish to refer to. The hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) said that by the admission of corn into Canada, the government had very seriously injured the price of coarse grains raised by the farmers of this country. He said that the price of coarse grains had gone down—

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. McMULLEN. I hear an hon. gentleman cry, 'Hear, hear.' I have, in my hand, a list of the prices of oats, on the 3rd day of March in the city of Montreal in each year from 1892 to the present time. The prices were as follows:

Year.	Per bushel.
1892.....	29c.
1893.....	34c.
1894.....	41c.
1895.....	40c.
1896.....	30½c.
1897.....	22c.
1898.....	33½c.
1899.....	31c.
1900.....	31c.

It will be noticed that the price of oats on the 3rd day of March last was 31 cents, and that on the 3rd of March, 1892, it was 29 cents, so that hon. gentlemen opposite, when they are claiming that the introduction of corn into Canada free of duty was a serious injury, or an injury at all, to the price of coarse grains are stating what the condition of the market in the different periods which I have quoted will not sus-

tain or carry out. Then, I have the prices also of oats in the city of Toronto, on the 2nd of March in each year from 1892 to 1900. They are as follows:

Year.	Per bushel.
1892.....	34c.
1893.....	36c.
1894.....	41c.
1895.....	37c.
1896.....	29c.
1897.....	22c.
1898.....	34c.
1899.....	34c.
1900.....	31½c.

That shows that none of these coarse grains have suffered by the admission of corn. Oats, to-day, are as high in price as they were before corn was admitted free.

Mr. TAYLOR. What about 37 and 41 cents?

Mr. McMULLEN. As was pointed out by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) the admission of free corn is one of the greatest boons that the farmers of Canada have had for many years. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) further said that the admission of free corn had stopped the growth of corn in Canada. I hardly think he was serious in that statement.

He drew attention to the fact that the Liberals had promised to reduce expenditure. It is quite true that some of the hon. gentlemen, who were supporting the government on this side of the House and who were in the House at that time, did promise to reduce expenditure and to reduce it considerably, and had the items of expenditure to be provided for remained such as they were during the time that hon. gentlemen opposite were in office, there would have been a substantial reduction in the annual expenditure. But, in place of remaining at the point at which they were when hon. gentlemen held office they very largely increased. As has been already shown there was an enormous increase in the postal service. Then again, in regard to the Yukon Territory, that was little known when hon. gentlemen were in office, the government have had an additional expenditure. The government had to undertake a very large expenditure in connection with the development of that particular territory. They had also to undertake several additional expenditures in connection with the development that has taken place in British Columbia. Take, for instance, the city of Rossland, B.C. In the year before last the collection of revenue there amounted to something like \$144,000. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) had to provide a staff of officers for that place. He had to make the necessary provision to do the business of the Customs Department, and in doing so it required an increase of ex-

penditure. Where you have to overtake trade of that kind, and when there is such a large expansion in trade, it is necessary for the government to rise to the emergency and to provide efficient services and in doing so they must increase the expenditure. But, had it remained at the point at which the trade of this country was when hon. gentlemen opposite held office there would have been very large savings in the matter of public expenditure. I have already referred to the fact of the enormous increase in the postal service. I think if there is any minister of the Crown who deserves special thanks for the manner in which he has handled the affairs of his department, that man is the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). There is not a man in Canada who has done more to try and give the country the service that is necessary and to overtake the arduous work devolving upon him in connection with a public department than the hon. gentleman has done. He has acted admirably, and I believe the people of the country appreciate his efforts in that direction. He has established 559 new offices, and he has increased the mileage in mail services in the country to the extent of about 2,500,000 miles as compared with the services that were performed when he came into power. I would like to know if hon. gentlemen opposite would expect, that, in the face of such an enormous expansion, the government are to be condemned because they have not reduced the volume of expenditure. It is absurd. If they simply had had to deal with the items as they found them when they came into power, and if they had exceeded their predecessors in the matter of expenditure, they might then fairly have been challenged, in view of the professions they made in opposition, but in the face of the expanded trade that had to be overtaken, and the enormous extent to which the services of the country have expanded within the last four years, it is not to be wondered at if they had to increase the expenditure. The hon. member for Halton made a very loud and pathetic appeal in regard to the old wagon. He said that it was subject to a tax of 25 per cent, and he described to this House, in a very vivid way, what use was made of that particular old wagon. It is true that it served a good purpose in years gone by, and I dare say it has served that purpose up to a very recent date. He said that it was used, not only for drawing in the farm produce but for carrying the family to church on Sunday. I believe that was the experience of a great many farmers during the life of hon. gentlemen opposite politically. I can tell the hon. member that the people in my district, on account of the improved condition of things, are able to purchase better and more commodious buggies to go to church in than the old farm wagon, but, perhaps, in the county of Halton they are

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sticking to the old farm wagon yet. Does the hon. gentleman not know that this government has very considerably reduced the duty on the articles of which the old wagon is composed—iron reduced from \$10 to \$7 a ton, and to \$5 if imported from England. Then, curry combs have been reduced from 32½ per cent to 25 per cent, and saws from 32½ per cent to 25 per cent. These are items much used by the farming community, and the farmers appreciate reductions of that kind. The hon. gentleman told us that the farmers threshed their grain with a windmill. I have heard of such a thing, but I earnestly hope that under the present prosperous conditions, the people of Halton will be able to get better appliances for threshing their grain than windmills, and I trust that after next election they will not send any more windmills to this House—

Mr. TAYLOR. From North Wellington.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) told us that the average price of cattle has been much reduced during the past few years. I dare say that the price per head dropped, but that is largely due to the shipment of poor cattle from Manitoba last year, and the year before. Those who have knowledge of the cattle trade know that last year a great many cattle were sent across the Atlantic that should never have been shipped; I saw them going aboard myself. In view of that, I do not wonder that there was a reduction in the price per head, but I contend that the Ontario farmer got as good a price for his cattle last year as he realized any other year. I am satisfied that the farmers who produced the proper kind of cattle were satisfied with their returns. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) spoke about the reduction in the duties on sugar, but he forgot to say that after the duty was reduced on sugar in 1895, the Conservatives had a deficit that year of \$4,153,000. The Liberal government reduced the duty upon commodities imported by \$1,735,500, and they had a surplus that year of \$4,837,750. There is a contrast for you. After the Conservatives reduced the duty the rate of taxation rose the following year to \$18.26 per head, and they still had a deficit of \$330,000. The average rate of taxation from 1887 to 1891 inclusive was \$21.14, or \$4.45 more than the rate of taxation under the Liberal government in 1899. Mr. Foster, in 1899, would have collected \$6,840,000 more than what was collected from the people under the Fielding tariff, so you see that the Liberal government have taken over \$6,750,000 less from the pockets of the people, and they have a surplus to boot of \$4,837,000. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) claims credit for having put sugar on the free list. Well, he did put a certain quality on the free list, namely, raw

sugar under 16 Dutch standard. But, he put the duty on refined sugar at 80 cents per 100 pounds, which gave the refiners just that much an advantage, and they got the raw material free. The present government have changed that, and they have put 50 cents per 100 pounds on raw sugar and 1 cent per pound on refined.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). \$1 per 100 pounds.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, \$1 per 100 pounds on refined sugar. The result of that is, that upon the 200,000,000 pounds of sugar consumed in Canada, as was shown by the Minister of Customs, there is \$600,000 a year of a saving to the people upon that commodity alone, compared with the tariff that was in force under the Conservatives.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. McMULLEN. When I get through.

Mr. CLANCY. Did the hon. gentleman say that the duty on refined sugar was 50 cents per 100 pounds?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. McMULLEN. The percentage on total imports for 1896 was 17·13 per cent; in 1899 it was 15·86 per cent, a lower rate under the Liberals by 1·23 per cent. The total imports were \$162,764,300 multiplied by 1·23, leaves \$2,148,490 of a saving to the people. That was the money that was retained in the pockets of the consumers of this country, simply because, by the application of the new tariff it was not taken out of their pockets, and if the Foster tariff had been in operation the people of this country would have paid just that much more money. The Tories collected on barbed wire an annual duty amounting to \$126,885, and this government made barbed wire free. Hon. gentlemen opposite continue to repeat the charge that this tariff has done nothing for the farmers, notwithstanding the clear proof given by the Minister of Customs as to the advantages that the Liberal tariff confers on the farmers, yet, it is necessary to repeat it again, lest the people might come to think that hon. gentlemen opposite have some ground for their statement, which they everlastingly reiterate. The Tory government, under the Foster tariff, collected a duty of \$45,000 on cream separators, and this government made cream separators free. On spades and shovels, under the Foster tariff, there was collected a duty of \$10,851, and under the Fielding tariff, only \$8,665. There was a substantial reduction made by the Liberals in the duty on coal oil. On account

of the regulations they made enabling coal oil to be distributed all over Canada in tank cars and tank boats, coal oil was able to be delivered cheaper than if the Foster tariff was in force. But, coal oil has gone up in price. Hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to clothe the government with the responsibility for that, by stating that the Liberals encouraged the Standard Oil Company to come to this country. That is not so. We defy them to prove that, and we offer them a committee if they want to try and prove that this government is in any way connected with the Standard Oil Company. The Standard Oil people came to Canada as other speculators do, and I am here to say that this government have no connection, directly or indirectly, with the Standard Oil Company in Canada. Looking at the history of that company on the other side of the line, and the manner in which they have extorted large sums of money out of the pockets of American consumers, I would have been glad if they did not get a foothold in Canada. But they are here. We did not invite them, and we did not encourage them. There was nothing in the tariff to induce them to come here. The duty on coal oil was never so low as when they established themselves in Canada, and it was not because of the tariff that the Standard people came. On the contrary, if the tariff had been higher, as it was under the Conservatives, there would be more inducement for the Standard Oil people to come to Canada. We know perfectly well that those who are anxious that coal oil should not be interfered with came to Ottawa and strongly urged that the duty on coal oil should remain as it was. However, in the interests of the consumers of Canada this government did reduce the duty. Had the supply of crude oil remained what it was, they would be getting oil as cheap to-day as they did before. On coal oil there were \$85,000 less taxes in one year. On woollens there was a saving of \$451,000; on silks \$63,000; on hats, caps and bonnets, \$52,000; on fancy goods, \$32,000; on iron goods, \$32,000; on flax, hemp and jute, \$35,000; on earthenware and china, \$41,000; on drugs and chemicals, \$21,000. The total reductions amounted to \$2,885,000. Hon. gentlemen opposite persist in asserting that the consumers in Canada reap no advantage from the tariff changes; and yet these are all substantial reductions that have been made, as will be proved by reference to the blue-books. During the eighteen years of Conservative rule, the trade of Canada had increased \$19,000,000 or \$1,000,000 a year, whereas, during the Liberal rule, it has increased \$14,000,000 a year. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that the government are not to be thanked for that increase of trade. There is one thing certain, however, that immediately on the leader of the government taking control of the Treasury benches,

there prevailed a spirit of confidence that the affairs of the country would be properly conducted, and the people have not been disappointed in that respect. That feeling has become more and more confirmed every day. The people of Canada are satisfied that the affairs of the country are being prudently and well managed, that there is no boodling or stealing, but that their money is spent honestly and in the public interest. They are not so exacting with regard to the amount of money that is spent, so long as they feel that they are getting value for it, and that honesty characterizes every transaction. During seventeen of the eighteen years of Conservative rule there was an average excess of imports over exports of 17 per cent. During the four years of the present government, there has been an average excess of exports over imports, of 9½ per cent. That shows that according to the ordinary style of keeping accounts, Canada can show a considerable amount to her credit. I always like to see the balance on the right side of the ledger, and I think Canada's balance is on the right side of the ledger to-day. The percentage of duty on the total value of goods imported in 1896, was 18·23 per cent, in 1897, 17·87 per cent, in 1898, 16·95 per cent, and in 1899, 16·70 per cent, showing a continuous reduction. Yet hon. gentlemen opposite will persist in asserting that there has been no reduction. I admit that the imports this year are some \$4,000,000 over the exports. This may be accounted for perhaps by the rise in freight rates, and by the difficulty in getting space for cattle; otherwise there would have been a large export of cattle from the North-west. I was talking to a ranchman in the Russell House a short time ago, and he told me that the reason more cattle were not shipped from the North-west last year, was that they could not get space on account of the war in South Africa; therefore, they were compelled to hold over their cattle. But next year there will probably be more cattle exported from the North-west than in any previous year since its settlement. In the North-west Territories there has been an enormous increase in the amount of duties collected. Since the year 1891, the average was \$218,023 a year. Last year it was \$2,511,460. Then, my hon. friend said that they had increased the debt \$118,000,000, and we unearthed a steal of \$964,000 out of an expenditure of \$3,000,000. If the public expenditure during the time of hon. gentlemen opposite was characterized by such transactions as were unearthed in connection with the harbour improvements at Montreal and Quebec, there must have been an enormous amount of money stolen that no one knows anything about. There was hardly an item of expenditure investigated by us when we were in opposition, in connection with which there was not proof of something wrong. Then, the ex-Finance

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Minister claimed that in 1891, he gave back to the country \$15,000,000 in sugar taxes. He had not the money to give back; he never collected it. The reason why the late government were compelled to reduce the duty on sugar, was that it was reduced across the line, and they knew that if it were kept up to the old point, on this side, the people would come to realize that they were paying enormously under the protective system. Then the hon. gentleman says that governments may come and governments may go, but trade will go on and develop the country. That is a very different doctrine from what these hon. gentlemen preached during the time they were in power. When one doctrine does not suit them, they are willing to adopt another one. They now claim that the trade of the country goes on whether they are in power or not. They claim that the present government have had nothing to do with the great development that has taken place in the trade of the country. From the time they came into power in 1878, until we had a streak of bad times, they boasted that the price of wheat, eggs, cattle, and everything else that was improving was influenced by the national policy. They credited the national policy with the increased price of every commodity which the farmers had for sale. But now it does not suit them to admit that the government deserve any credit, and so they say, governments may come and governments may go, but the development of the country will go on. Then, the ex-Finance Minister said that everything the farmer has to buy is increased in price, and everything he has to sell is reduced. I have already shown that that is not so, but that the farmers are getting a fairly good price for everything they have to sell; and the evidence of that fact is that there has never before been in Canada such a widespread spirit of contentment among the agricultural classes as there is to-day. They are well satisfied with the existing condition of things, and they hope it may continue. To give some little idea of the expansion of the trade of Canada, I have in my hand a statement showing the exports from the mines, the fisheries and the forests of Canada to Great Britain:

	Great Britain.	United States.
Mines—		
1894.....	\$ 257,613	\$ 5,128,881
1895.....	388,407	6,270,247
1896.....	175,512	7,436,205
1897.....	354,769	10,532,689
1898.....	212,304	13,835,690
Fisheries—		
1894.....	4,586,715	3,260,677
1895.....	4,143,994	3,025,171
1896.....	4,462,002	3,301,671
1897.....	4,366,081	2,998,655
1898.....	4,822,688	2,979,404

	Great Britain.	United States.
Forests—		
1894.....	\$2,722,606	\$4,079,932
1895.....	1,843,224	3,644,362
1896.....	2,803,274	3,239,958
1897.....	2,381,626	3,651,606
1898.....	2,645,627	3,334,178
Animals and Other Products—		
1894.....	28,986,095	2,311,100
1895.....	30,022,479	3,713,148
1896.....	32,523,071	3,341,275
1897.....	33,600,891	5,081,811
1898.....	39,737,089	4,192,943
Agricultural Products—		
1894.....	12,431,275	2,784,520
1895.....	10,414,380	3,710,022
1896.....	9,551,316	3,232,793
1897.....	13,507,342	2,419,814
1898.....	27,747,140	1,133,293
Manufactures—		
1894.....	11,873,700	11,678,176
1895.....	11,076,889	11,870,206
1896.....	13,182,798	13,820,937
1897.....	15,295,087	14,998,722
1898.....	17,893,728	8,834,725

The total exports of these different commodities is as follows :

	Great Britain.	United States.
1894.....	\$ 63,538,856	\$35,809,940
1895.....	61,856,990	41,297,676
1896.....	66,690,288	44,448,410
1897.....	77,227,502	49,373,472
1898.....	104,998,818	45,705,336
1899.....	99,091,855	45,133,521

This shows the enormous increases from time to time in our exports and the countries to which those exports went.

I propose, now, to deal, for a few minutes with the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). That hon. gentleman, in the speeches he makes in this House never fails to pay himself a compliment. A few evenings ago, replying to the hon. Minister of Finance, he said the only portion of the Finance Minister's speech worth repeating was a citation which he read from a speech made by the leader of the opposition. Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is in the habit of treating us to addresses on ancient political history, and never fails to tell us of all that he has done for Canada ; and the last time he spoke he brought to my mind a passage in the Good Book, 'Ephraim has turned to his idol, let him alone.' But the hon. gentleman had a compliment left which he bestowed on the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), who, he said, was the highest authority on finance in Canada. No doubt that is the opinion of the hon. leader of the opposition, but no one who knows anything of the conditions of things in this country for the last four years, and who is not blinded by partisanship, can fail

to recognize that the gentleman now at the head of the Treasury is far superior in every respect to the ex-Minister of Finance. We gave the ex-Minister of Finance credit for a certain amount of ability ; but there is a smallness about him that is recognized by every man in this House and that we have seen exemplified on several occasions. He may be the best financial gentleman on that side of the House, and I believe he is—and that is no very great compliment to him—yet I do not think the leader of the opposition is doing himself credit, to say nothing of doing Canada credit, when he says he is the greatest financial authority in Canada. Then, the leader of the opposition paid some little attention to my esteemed friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). He always appears desirous of having a particular fling at him. And that is not much to be wondered at, because the Minister of Trade and Commerce has dealt many a strong and effective blow at the leader of the opposition. I do not think there is any man in this House or any man in Canada whom the leader of the opposition fears more than he fears the Minister of Trade and Commerce. He said the Minister of Trade and Commerce was carried back on the shoulders of the people to a position and to a seat in the cabinet. There is one thing certain—the Minister of Trade and Commerce has rendered very valuable service to the people of Canada and the people of Canada fully realize it and appreciate it, at least they do in the province of Ontario. The sacrifices he has made and the devotion he has shown to the best interests of the country, and the way he has fought to secure a better state of things in Canada than existed a few years ago have won him the gratitude and admiration of the people. He and his family have never cost the country anything like the money that the leader of the opposition and his friends have cost. When hon. gentlemen opposite were in office, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) and his friends used to draw from \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year. There are no two ministers of the Crown who together draw anything like that amount to-day. No doubt, the leader of the opposition is anxious to get back to the sweets of office which he enjoyed for so many years. The hon. gentleman administered a very undeserved rebuke to the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), saying that he was totally incapable of discharging the onerous duties of arranging for the fast Atlantic service, to arrange for which he had crossed the ocean. If the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) had thought for a moment, he would never have challenged the sending of the hon. member for Quebec West on that service. If there is a man in Canada who would be an unwelcome visitor to the financial markets of England, that man is the leader of the oppo-

sition himself. Consider those who were induced by his efforts to invest in the Chignecto Ship Railway, in the Baie des Chaleurs Railway, in the dead meat scheme, and it will be readily understood that there would be very few who would care to invest money in a project on a recommendation of his.

The leader of the opposition found fault with the government because they did not send the contingent to South Africa very much sooner than they did. He complained, and a number of his followers complained very loudly and declared that the government had sent the contingent only when they were forced to send it. And the people of this country are under the impression that the government acted at the proper moment; they did not act a moment too soon or a moment too late. They waited until they had felt the pulse, not only of the press, but of their supporters and opponents as well; and when they came to the conclusion that they should act, they acted promptly and effectively. There is one point in this connection that has not been touched upon, and I wish to mention it. The leader of the opposition had he been in power would have sent the contingent entirely at the cost of Canada. He would have said to the millionaires, the dukes and lords of England: Keep your money in your pockets; do not spend a dollar; I am going to put the whole cost upon the taxpayers of Canada and they will have to pay for it. You millionaires, you lords, you men of unlimited wealth in England, we do not ask you to pay anything; the poor, laden-down taxpayer of Canada will bear this burden in addition to the burden he bears. I want to know if the people of Canada will appreciate action of that kind on the part of any man, whether he is a member of the government or a member of the opposition. The people of Canada think that, under the circumstances, the government have acted very liberally; they have taken advantage of all the money England is disposed to pay, and, after England has contributed in proportion to what she pays to her own soldiers, Canada makes up the balance. But the leader of the opposition would have put the whole burden upon the people of Canada if he had had the opportunity.

The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) went to Toronto for the purpose of making a speech in reply to that of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce. He went to Massey Hall and delivered a long speech. In the course of that speech he made one particular recommendation to the young men of Canada. He said: Young men read the political history of your country in the light of the record of the great Conservative party. Well, Sir, I am going to go over something of what these young men would gather from the political history of

this country for which the Conservative party is directly responsible. We will commence at the east. I will not go back to such things as the Pacific scandal; I will not go back to such things that are properly chargeable to the men who are gone. I will take things chargeable to the men who are here. Take, for instance, the Chignecto Ship Railway. There was a scheme set on all fours by the leader of the opposition. The hon. gentleman committed this country to a payment of \$170,000 a year for 20 years, which amounts to \$3,400,000. He promised that Canada would contribute that amount of money towards the construction of that scheme when it was put through. There was never a scheme that was undertaken in any civilized country in the world that bears any comparison in folly with that undertaking. The scheme was to build a railway that would carry a ship loaded with 100,000 tons, lift it out of the water, put it on the track, run it across the isthmus ten or eleven miles and dump it into the basin on the other side. No one ever heard of anything like it in any civilized or uncivilized country. There it stands, a monument of folly. It never was finished and never will be, unless the leader of the opposition gets back in power; and if he does, he will commit this country to an expenditure of 3,400,000 to complete that work. I say to the young men of Canada: Read the history of your country in the light of the record of the great Conservative party and admire their statesmanship, copy their example. Now, we come to the St. Charles Branch Railway. There is another thing that was recommended by the leader of the opposition. He made the statement to this House that it could be built for \$400,000, that it would vitalize the whole line and be a grand achievement. He painted in such glowing colours the construction of that road that my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) and the rest supported him in this project, and the line was built. Now, what has been the result? In place of its costing Canada the anticipated amount that he stated in his speech, it cost over \$1,700,000. Then take the Oxford and New Glasgow branch of the Intercolonial Railway. He came to this House and stated that the construction of that branch was vital to the whole system, that the grades upon the old line between New Glasgow and Stellarton were so heavy that the engine could not draw more than ten or twelve cars over it; and he said that by building this branch as the crow flies it would be 45 miles shorter, and the grades would not be half as heavy, in fact it would be almost level all the way from Oxford to New Glasgow. What was the result? The result was that in place of its being 45 miles shorter, it was only 4½ miles shorter; and in place of the grades being lower,

they were actually higher than upon the old line, as was proved before a committee of this House. These were some of the exploits of the Conservative party, and I accept the invitation of the ex-Minister of Finance to the young men to read the political history of their country in the light of the record of the leaders of the great Conservative party, and copy their examples.

Now, take another case. When the leader of the opposition came out to this country in the fall of 1891, he travelled from east to west and declared that he had got his instructions, that Canada had received an invitation from the United States, to go to Washington and discuss a reciprocity treaty. He said that the United States had approached Canada, and he told the electors: If you want reciprocity with the United States, now is the time, vote for the government, and you are going to get reciprocity. He said: We do not want to send a delegation to Washington, unless we have a mandate from the people, and if we get that mandate we are going to Washington, and secure for you the treaty that the United States has invited us to discuss. Now, Sir, during that election campaign in Canada, an election was also going on in one of the border states, and a man named Baker, one of the candidates, wrote to Washington asking the president whether it was true that the United States government had sent an invitation to Canada to discuss that problem. The President replied by saying that no invitation had been sent to Canada to discuss a reciprocity treaty; but that Canada had urged upon the government of the United States to grant Canada permission to go down there and present the question, and the Washington government had granted that request, but no invitation had been extended. Now, what is the proof? After the election was over, Sir Charles Tupper, knowing that the people were anxious for reciprocity, went down to Washington, and he stopped only a few hours. But the first thing Sir Charles Tupper did, was to get down on his marrow bones and confess that his statement that the President of the United States had invited Canada to send a delegation to Washington to discuss reciprocity was virtually a misstatement, that his government had virtually lied to the electors of this country, when they told them that they had an invitation to go down to Washington. This is their record, and I say to the young men: Read the political history of your country in the light of the record of the leaders of the great Conservative party, admire their statesmanship and copy their example.

Then, what have we further? I have already mentioned the harbour improvements at Montreal and Quebec, and the graving dock on the Pacific coast. It was proved that those works had cost Canada over

\$3,000,000, and it was proved beyond all doubt that \$964,000 of the people's money had been absolutely stolen under the eye and under the management of hon. gentlemen opposite. Sir, have they ever unearthed any transaction of that kind under the present government? Not one. Neither will they ever be able to find any such transactions committed by the present government so long as the present Prime Minister of Canada, remains at its head.

Then take the Printing Bureau. Sir, I say we are justified in referring to these things. Hon. gentlemen opposite are continually charging the government with wrong-doing. We want to show the people what their history is, more particularly since the ex-Minister of Finance asked the young men of the city of Toronto to admire the statesmanship of these great men from whom the country has withdrawn its confidence. Now, what is the fact with regard to the Printing Bureau? We proved before a committee of this House that no less a sum than \$50,000 of the people's money was absolutely stolen, paid out by commissions, by cheques, that were procured for orders given for the machinery that is in that building to-day. This money was stolen, misappropriated. The reports are on record and they can be consulted.

The construction of the Langevin Block is also a case in point. That block cost this country \$740,000, and the estimated cost was \$300,000. Sir Hector Langevin, was then Minister of Public Works, he was member of the cabinet, he was a close chum of hon. gentlemen opposite; he was admired, he was worshipped. Sir John A. Macdonald said of him, that he was one of the ablest Ministers of Public Works, that Canada had ever had. What took place in connection with the Langevin Block? Why, from the day that they resolved to construct it to the time that it was finished, there was not a change made, there was not an alteration in the plans, there was not an alteration in the contract, but that was made for the purpose of increasing the extras and putting money into the pockets of the contractors. Mr. Charlebois, was the contractor for the stone work. When he got the building up to the height where they were to put on the first tier of iron girders the man who had the contract for doing that work came along ready to perform his part of the contract. Did Mr. Charlebois allow him to do it? No. He asked him what his contract was. He said his contract price for putting on iron girders was \$32,000. You will have to pay me 25 per cent of that contract, said Mr. Charlebois, or you cannot come on here, I have absolute possession, and I am going to hold it. The contractor went back to Sir Hector Langevin, and told him the reply that he got from Mr. Charlebois. Sir Hector Langevin, turned up the con-

tract, and after perusing it, said to him : It does appear that Mr. Charlebois has got absolute control of that entire ground and the only thing that you can do is to go back and comply with what he says, give him the \$8,000 and we will increase your contract from \$32,000 to \$40,000. That was done in regard to the hoists and in connection with every single thing that was put into that building right up to the copper roof that covers it to-day. Every single contractor had to pay Mr. Charlebois 25 per cent on his contract for the privilege of doing his work, and the 25 per cent was added to the contract of every contractor. That is the Langevin Block; that is the money that was sacrificed under the Tory rule of hon. gentlemen opposite. Young men, read the political history of your country in the light of the record of the leaders of the great Conservative party and copy their example ! Then take the Curran Bridge. There was a transaction that was entered into by the hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart). Right under his eye, and under the supervision of his men that bridge was built ; it was to cost \$200,000, but it cost over \$400,000, or \$450,000, and a very large amount of money was stolen. With an office full of officials, with the chief engineer, with any number of men to send there to guard the public interest, \$200,000 of the people's money was stolen and pocketed by men who took away material, who put men on the pay-roll as having been employed upon the work who did no work at all, and who charged double rates for derricks working on Sunday, with the result that a very large amount of money was sacrificed. This is the history that the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) invites the young men of this country to read. He says : Turn it up and read it for yourselves. I am trying to point out what they will find when they do read it. I am trying to tell them what they will hunt up. If they could ever challenge the present government with being guilty of any of these things I would be ashamed to get up on a platform in the city of Toronto and say : Young men, read the political history of your country in the light of the record of the leaders of the great Conservative party to which I belong. Then again, in the session of 1896, when we were all summoned here to do the country's business, every member in his place, the Speaker in the Chair, the Governor General came down to the Senate and delivered his address and we, upon being invited to go there as obedient representatives, went and listened to the address which he delivered to us. And what happened ? Next day, or the day following, the announcement was made that seven ministers were on strike. Day after day parliament met, and day after day the same announcement was made to carry us over to the following day. At

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last, owing to the treachery of the seven ministers, then out of the cabinet, the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) was brought in. What did he do ? He formed a cabinet, and whom did he take into it ? The seven political cut-throats, and he turned out the man that was the leader of the government. He took into his cabinet the men who had done that which should have relegated them to political retirement, the men who had treated their leader most discourteously, most unfairly and most treacherously. That is what they did upon this occasion, and that is what the hon. leader of the opposition was guilty of when he formed his cabinet. Young men, read the political history of your country in the light of the record of the leaders of the great Conservative party and copy their example !

We had an address the other night from the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague). He gave us quite a lengthy address. He said that the present government had reaped where they had not sown. It is very true that they did reap where they did not sow. They found a nest that was fouled when they came to examine it ; they found a condition of things that was unsavory and that was nothing to the credit of the men who had occupied it before. Even in the reading room there were accounts running for ten years or more, and not paid. Every item that could be hid away, in any way, shape or form, was hidden away so as to conceal it from the public gaze until the elections were over. As has been shown by the hon. Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), the government had to undertake to provide for \$1,500,000 of old debts left by their predecessors, and which had to be settled. That was the condition of things when this government came into power. I say they reaped, unquestionably, where they had not sown in that regard. Then, my hon. friend made some references to the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). He said that he was not a horny-handed son of toil. Perhaps not, but the hon. member for Haldimand was the Minister of Agriculture for some short time before, and I think the training the present hon. Minister of Agriculture got was certainly as good, if not better, than any training that the hon. member for Haldimand ever received. We know that for some time, in the Niagara district, he taught school. That did not add very much to his agricultural experience. We have reason to believe, that, while he taught school during the week, he went across to the other side of the river and preached on Sunday. I do not know, but, I fancy, if his Satanic Majesty wears clothes he would have laughed the buttons off if he saw the hon. member for Hamilton in the pulpit. There was an expenditure, from 1886 to 1891 on a bridge in his riding, to secure his seat, amounting to \$26,327.95. That bridge was

put up, presumably, for the purpose of accommodating the Indians. There is an Indian reserve in that section, and the happy thought struck the government that they could, out of Indian funds, erect that bridge in Haldimand. It was put up for the purpose of securing his election upon two occasions. After that they gerrymandered the riding, and the result was that they wiped out the old constituency of Monck and divided it between the hon. member for Haldimand and another hon. gentleman on that side of the House in order to make their seats sure.

There was a point to which the hon. ex-Minister of Agriculture referred, and I will not allow it to pass without referring to it. That was in regard to the embargo that was placed on our cattle in England. I must say that I earnestly hope that the present government will make a determined effort to have that embargo in England removed. I believe if they do so, and establish a thorough quarantine between Canada and the United States an advantage can be secured to Canada. Hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible to the farmers of this country for that embargo being placed on our cattle in the first instance. There is no question about that. They conducted the quarantine business so loosely that England got to know that it was a mere mockery, and as a result of that, the embargo was placed on our cattle. Why, Sir, it was proved before a committee of this House, that the Conservative government appointed a man to inspect these cattle who was not a veterinary surgeon at all, but was a man who had followed the business of shoe-making. The result was that no proper inspection was made; this man simply went along the cars and pronounced them fit to go through Canada, and the result was that when the English government got to know of this loose system, they quarantined our cattle, and the embargo has been there to the present day. The Conservative government are to-day responsible to the farmers of Canada for the unfortunate embargo on our cattle, and I hope the present government will leave no effort untried to bring about a better condition of things in that respect. There is another matter I wish to refer to and I have done. There is an old adage which says that straws show which way the wind blows. When I was in opposition I criticised many things which the Conservative government did and one was the extravagance of the ministers in cab-hire. I am happy to say that there has been a great improvement in that respect since the Liberals came into power. Before my esteemed friend, the Prime Minister, came into office, the cab-hire, for ten years previously, for the First Minister, and belonging to the Privy Council, amounted to \$17,827.52, or \$1,782.75 per year. I thought that was extravagant and that it should not be tolerated. Let me point

out that the Prime Minister has spent in cab-hire, last year, only \$102.50, as compared with the \$1,782.75 spent by his predecessors. In the four years Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been in office, he has spent, on an average of only \$144 per year for cab-hire. A little thing like this shows the way the affairs of this country are handled; and it demonstrates pretty clearly that the present government are endeavouring to do what is right. They are not going to allow extravagant expenditure of public money, so that their followers would be ashamed to stand up and vote for them. We are not asked to swallow anything that is unreasonable or unfair. I am proud to say that during the four years the Liberals have been in office, I believe, a more honest government never occupied the Treasury benches of Canada. Before I close I wish to make a reference to the *Mail and Empire* newspaper of Toronto. I made a statement in this House some time ago, that if there was any place in Canada where His Satanic Majesty was domiciled, it was in the *Mail and Empire* office. I do not think there is any political editor on this continent—I will not except the most untruthful one in the United States—who can match the political editor of the *Mail and Empire* in bare-faced straight fibbing. You have another paper in the province of Quebec that comes pretty close behind, and that is the *Montreal Star*. When the *Star* gets stuck, and has nothing of its own to produce, it publishes something that appeared in the *Mail and Empire* a day or two before. Here is one item to show the kind of stuff the *Mail and Empire* publishes:

By placing corn on the free list, Mr. Fielding presented the farmers of the western states with a fine market for that cereal, drove our own farmers out of the business of growing it, depressed the value of our other coarse grains, and lowered the average quality of our bacon.

Here is another:

By giving the Standard Oil Company control of this market, he enabled that trust to take the farmers by the throat and force the payment of a greatly increased price for oil.

Here is another sample:

By placing binder twine on the free list, and thus bringing the American monopoly into this country, and by selling the prison output to parties associated with the American agents in a Canadian combine, he caused the prices of binder twine to double.

Here is another:

By placing barbed wire on the free list he closed up our factories and gave the wire trade to the giant corporation, the American Steel and Wire Company.

There are four little nut shells, four straight bare-faced lies. They are put before the farmer in the hope that their continuous reiteration will deceive some one. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that the people of my

province, at all events, know the *Mail and Empire*, and I know that there are Conservatives who will not believe it or allow it to influence them. All its political issues from the beginning of January to the end of the year, are filled with items of that kind in which there is no truth at all. I pity hon. gentlemen opposite that they have to be led by an organ of the character and standing of the *Mail and Empire*. If they think that the people of Canada are going to be carried off their feet by deliberate and persistent lying on the part of a newspaper like the *Mail and Empire*, they are much mistaken. We have an intelligent people, we have a reading people, we have a people that are not going to be caught by any such chaff as the readers of the *Mail and Empire* are treated to every day in the year.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. McMullen), has treated the House to a very amusing, if not a very entertaining or enlightening speech. He has used up two hours of the time of this House in endeavouring not to defend the conduct of the government who are under consideration of the House and the country, but in raking up ancient history, dealing with transactions many of which are twenty years old, and which took place under men who have long since gone to their last home. These are the subjects which the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) has dealt with. I thought that the hon. gentleman would at least have devoted a share of his time to defending his friends in power, because the present government are on their trial. There is no doubt that the country to-day is taking stock of their stewardship, whether the result of that may be for their weal or their woe in time to come, when they appeal to the electors. I expected that the hon. gentleman would have dealt with their management of public affairs, in their legislative acts and their administrative acts. Instead of that, he occupied his time in dealing with past questions, such as the Montreal harbour, the Short Line Railway, the New Glasgow Branch Railway, the Chignecto Ship Canal, the Kingston Graving Dock, the Curran Bridge, the Esquimalt Graving Dock, the Printing Bureau and the Langevin Block. What was that done for? Was it done for the purpose of enlightening his young friends behind him, to whom he frequently turned round and appealed in a patronizing way to read the history of their country? I wonder if he meant to appeal to the young member from Kingston (Mr. Britton) as one not knowing the history of the past. For what purpose was this appeal made? I presume it was to draw their attention away from the present. We are dealing with the active, living present—with men charged for the time being with the responsibilities of govern-

ment; and we are criticising their conduct of public affairs. The hon. gentleman's object was to draw a red herring across the trail, so as to direct public attention from the administration of the affairs of the country by the present government during the past three or four years. The hon. gentleman said there were certain changes made in the tariff in the interest of the farmers. He said: Look at binder twine and barbed wire and corn put on the free list, and he might have fairly added, mushroom spawn—and for these changes in the tariff he would ask the farmers of the country to rest and be thankful. He said that the tariff was reformed by the ex-Finance Minister (Mr. Foster) in 1894 in the interest of the manufacturers only. Does he remember how many articles were put on the free list at that time? If he does not, I can tell him: there were 179, not saying anything about the number on which the duties were reduced. Were these changes made in the interest of the manufacturers? When the government that day reduced the duties on farming machinery and on many other manufactured goods, was that in the interest of the manufacturers? No one at that time recognized more than the hon. gentleman that these reductions were made in the interest of the farmers. His only complaint was that they did not go far enough. But, to-day he says they were made in the interest of the manufacturers. This is quite in keeping with the usual line of argument which the hon. gentleman adopts. From my knowledge of the way in which he handles public questions, I would not expect any better argument from him. It all depends on what side of the House he is speaking for. If he is speaking in defence of his friends in the government, he can see nothing wrong in their conduct; but when he was in opposition he could see nothing good in the late government.

Now, we are here to deal with the financial statement of the Minister of Finance with regard to the affairs of the country. We were told by the hon. Minister of Finance and by every one of his friends who spoke after him, that that financial statement was a magnificent one—that it showed the country to be in a healthy, growing and prosperous condition. We have not denied that; but, the pertinent question which we on this side of the House ask, and a question which the hon. gentleman will be obliged to answer, is, how far are hon. gentlemen opposite, who are for the time being controlling the destinies of this country, responsible for the condition of the country? Is it due to any particular management of theirs that times are so good as they are at present? Is it due to anything they have done in the way of legislation, administration or otherwise? Not by any means. It is due to the good crops which we have had in the country

during the last two years. Before that time we had very poor crops for two years. It is due to the good prices obtained for the products of our country as for the products of other countries. It is due to the large exports and large imports and exports, which brought about the buoyancy of the revenue. The Finance Minister boasted that we had a buoyant revenue. He said:

The revenue is \$6,186,000 over what it was in the previous year; or, in other words, we have this year \$46,741,000 of revenue.

Following the reasoning of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), it might be quite in order for me to ask, what does this mean? The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, when sitting on this side of the House, used to tell the people that they were being bled white, because the government were taking more money out of them than they were able to pay or than was actually required at the time for the government of the country. Is it a fact that this government have taken more money out of the people than they require for the purposes of the government? Look at the surpluses obtained from taxation for the last three years. We are told that in 1897-8, the government had a surplus of \$1,732,000, in 1898, a surplus of \$4,837,000, and that in 1899-1900, they expect a surplus of \$7,500,000. In other words, in these three years, they will have taken in over-taxation out of the people, \$14,000,000 in round numbers. What does that mean? It means an average of \$4,500,000 a year taken out of the people more than was taken by the predecessors of the present government. Let me illustrate that by reference to our municipal affairs. In the province of Ontario we have a municipal council elected every year to look after the affairs of the municipality. They strike the rate of taxation on the assessment of the municipality for the purpose of raising sufficient money to carry on its affairs. If a municipal council were to raise \$4,000 a year more than it required for the administration of the municipality, how long would the people keep these councillors in office? Not any longer than the next election on the first Monday in January. The people would say: If those men cannot strike closer a rate that will take no more than is required out of our pockets to run the municipality, they are not business men and we will replace them by others who can make a closer calculation. The same fate will meet hon. gentlemen opposite. They have shown their utter want of business capacity and knowledge by levying a tariff, which they declared was only a revenue tariff, but which raised \$14,000,000 more revenue in the past three years than was actually required to meet our expenditure, or about four and a half million dollars a year more taken out of the pockets

of the people than should have been taken.

What has this government done to bring about the present condition of prosperity? If they say that this prosperity is due to their administration, they ought to be able to show something that they have done to account for it, but that they have failed to do. There has been no material change in the tariff except the British preference, and no one has the hardihood to claim that any great amount of prosperity has been caused by the preference we are giving England. Neither have this government undertaken any great public works which, by causing a large expenditure, would help to bring wealth to the working people for the time being. They have not undertaken anything in the shape of public works of any importance, nor have they incurred any heavy expenditure of an unusual character that might account for the prosperity that we are now enjoying. Have they opened up any new markets in which our people receive an enhanced value for their products? Not one new market has been thrown open to the people, during the time this government has been in office. How then, are we to account for the good times we are enjoying? Well, Mr. Speaker, we have had two successive good crops, and we have had steady employment of labour, owing to the reaction consequent upon the reduced output of our factories for some years previous to the accession of this administration to office. Owing to this reduced production, consumption overtook supply, and a demand sprung up for more manufactured goods. Then prices rose, both of cereals and manufactured goods, labour got increased employment, and the usual good times followed upon the cycle of hard times through which we had just passed. For the last two years we had the best crops we have had for many years, we have had fairly good prices, and ample employment for labour. None of these things can be attributed in any degree to the policy of the government.

Can we point to any particular class which has benefited by the government policy? Has it benefited the farmer? Since it has opened no new market for our farm products, I do not see how it could possibly have benefited him. But the hon. member for Huron (Mr. McMillan), told us that the relaxation of the quarantine regulations with the United States, which was obtained by this government, has enabled us to send our young cattle, to that country, and he said that in Ontario we sold and killed last year, 555,000 head of cattle, and that the price was increased \$5 per head by virtue of the market we obtained in the United States through the abolition of the quarantine regulations. Let us analyse that statement. At the beginning of his speech the hon. gentleman said:

It seems to me that the duty of every Canadian should be to see that every statement he makes is true, and if there are two sides to the shield, to show both, and let the people judge for themselves.

The hon gentleman followed that up by saying that in 1898 we only exported from 98,000 head of cattle to the old country, and that in 1899 we exported 211,000 head, a very large increase, showing the benefit of the arrangement for the removal of the quarantine between the two countries. He further said:

Ninety-three thousand head went to the United States, and we were benefited also in the province of Ontario, because 555,000 head of cattle were slaughtered or sold in that province, and the farmers benefited \$5 per head, as shown by the statement of the ex-Finance Minister.

I thought I would look it up and see what became of those cattle that went to the United States. The hon. member for Huron says we sent 98,000 head there. In 1896 we sent to the United States 1,589 head of cattle valued at \$6,241. These were one year old and under. Over one year old, we sent to the old country, 102,862 head, making that year an exportation of cattle of 104,451 head, and we got in return \$7,382,000. But the quarantine regulations with the United States were removed by the action of the present Minister of Agriculture, and in 1899 the hon. member for Huron, tells us the farmers of Canada benefited to the extent of an increase in value of \$5 per head on 555,000 head of cattle. That was due to our sending cattle to the United States, 24,396 head, one year old and under. How much did we get for them? We got \$250,000 or \$10.10 a head. Will any intelligent farmer tell me that it is for the benefit of our farmers to ship cattle one year old to the United States, and sell them for \$10.10 per head. Why, I heard the hon. member, when advocating the wisdom of bringing corn into Canada free, argue that we required this corn to feed the cattle of our country so that they might be raised and fattened and exported to England, where they come into competition with the cattle of the United States, because we required that these cattle should be fattened here. At that time there was a great argument going on as to whether it was wise in the interest of Canada that we should send our lean cattle to England and have them finished there; and the hon. member for South Huron claimed that it was not in the interests of Canada that it should be done, but that we should allow corn to come into Canada free, send them to England finished; because instead of getting a few dollars a head for them he would get \$50 to \$60 a head for them. Has that been brought about by the repeal of the duty on corn? No. We find that that is not the case. There were 24,396 head of one year old and under, sent out, for

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which we got \$10.10 a head. We shipped 187,000 head over one year, or a total of 211,000 head, for which we got \$8,522,000. But in 1896, before the quarantine regulations between us and the United States were changed, and before we had free corn, we sent out 104,000 head and got about \$7,000,000. That is we got only about a million and a half less than we got in 1899, though in that year we shipped less than half the number. And remember, every head of cattle we shipped to the United States by virtue of doing away with these quarantine regulations young and old brought us only about \$15.30. The hon. member for South Huron told the farmers of this country that it would be to their benefit to ship these cattle into the United States, because by so doing they would enhance the value of the 555,000 head of cattle in Ontario to the extent of \$5 a head. Let us follow the reasoning out a little further. The hon. gentleman says that we have increased the value of all the cattle in Canada \$5 per head. How much would that be? It would be \$2,700,000. But we only got a little over a million dollars for those we sold to the United States, and now, if his argument was sound, what would happen? If we take that 93,000 that we shipped to the United States and shoot every one of them, we would still have \$700,000 to the good. That is the fallacy and the absurdity of his argument. But I ask the farmers of Canada if they think they were enriched by sending out the 93,000 head to the United States at \$15 per head? Were they enriched by sending out 24,000 head, one year old and under, for \$10.10 a head. I do not think they will come to that conclusion. My hon. friend from North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) reminds me that one of the strong arguments that the hon. member for South Huron advanced in favour of feeding cattle here was that it was necessary to enrich the soil we were cultivating, and I quite agreed with him on that point. But the hon. member (Mr. McMillan) told us that we required free corn to feed these cattle in Canada. Well, before we had free corn here, how many finished cattle did we ship to England? We shipped 119,998 head, in 1897, and realized \$53 a head, and the year before that, \$73 a head. The duty on corn was repealed, and how many head of cattle did we ship last year when we had the glorious advantage of bringing in free corn and reducing the value of the coarse grains of the people of Canada? If the hon. gentleman's argument was worth anything, it would have increased the number very largely. But instead of increasing the number, the number fell off to 115,000. In other words, there was a reduction of over 4,000 head in the number we shipped to the old country after free corn was granted. Will the hon. gentleman tell me that free corn was an advantage there? The hon. gen-

tleman's argument is entirely fallacious and is not borne out by experience. He cannot convince the people that they secure an advantage by shipping 24,000 head and receiving \$10.10 a head or in sending the cattle over one year old to the United States to the number of 68,000 head and getting \$15.33 a head. In spite of free corn, we are sending the unfinished cattle out of the country. Yet, we are told, the farmers should be thankful for what the government has done for them. I think they will come to the conclusion that the government has not done anything for them. But we are told that the government gave them the boon of cold storage. We have heard it again and again that this government is to be credited with establishing the system of cold storage. The hon. member for South Huron has told us that any one addressing this House should give the absolute facts of the case. But the hon. gentleman himself said very frequently that the government had given the farmers the cold storage system. I have here a question which was put in this House, and the answer given to it by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher):

What amount of money was spent by the Dominion government in each of the following years, viz.: 1894-5, 1895-6, 1896-7, 1897-8, 1898-9, in the development of a cold storage system in Canada in connection with both the Canadian railways and Atlantic steamships?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The following are the sums which were paid to railway companies for cold storage service in the various years mentioned:

1895.....	\$2,807 45
1896.....	2,526 37
1897.....	4,189 49
1898.....	3,734 17
1899.....	3,275 52

(The Canadian Pacific Railway account will be about \$700 more.)

The following are the sums which were paid to steamship companies for cold storage service in the various years mentioned:

1895.....	\$10,294 38
1896.....	7,718 09
1897.....	26,000 00
1898.....	33,090 78
1899.....	38,695 61

In 1895, when the system of cold storage was inaugurated by the Conservative party, they spent for the purpose of introducing and starting that system among the railways of the country, \$2,807. In 1896, they spent \$2,526. The present government, in 1897, spent \$4,000; in 1898, \$3,721; in 1899, \$3,275. The Canadian Pacific Railway account will be about \$700 more. The Minister of Agriculture stated that the following sums were paid to steamship companies for cold storage service in the various years mentioned: In 1895, under Conservative government, \$10,294, that was the year they commenced it. In 1896 they spent \$7,

718. In 1897 the present government increased the amount to \$26,000; in 1898, to \$33,000, and in 1899 to \$38,695. Now, what do these figures show? They show that the scheme was devised by the Conservative party, that it was started by the Conservative party, and developed by the Conservative party as rapidly as circumstances would permit. When the Liberals came into power they only took up the same system and followed it out on the same lines, but spent a little more money. I am not grumbling about the expenditure. If they had spent as much more I would say it is all right. I say, as the hon. member for Huron said the other day, let justice be done, and if there are two sides to the shield show them both to the people so they can apportion their thanks to either party where they are properly due. Then, I say this government is not entitled to the credit of inaugurating a system of cold storage; they are only entitled to the credit in so far as they have perfected the system, and I am willing to give them credit for that. But I say it was the genius of the Conservative party that began the system, and they are entitled to the chief credit, whereas the present government is only entitled to the credit of having continued the system.

But we are told that the farmers are entitled to be grateful to the present government because they got new markets for them. I have told you what new markets they got. They got no new market in England, no new market with the people to the south of us, though they were always telling the farmers before 1896: If you bring us to power we can get you reciprocity. They tried to get it and made a complete failure. The farmers have derived no great benefit from anything they did. Did the farmers receive a benefit from a reduction in the cost of agricultural machinery? Not at all, because this government has not reduced the duty in any way, therefore, they did not reduce the cost of agricultural machinery to the farmer. But they say the farmers should be thankful to them because they got free corn. I have given you what, in my judgment, the result of free corn has been. Instead of being a benefit to the farmer, I say it has been the very reverse. But we are told we ought to be thankful because we have got free binder twine. Have they reduced the cost of binder twine? Why, Sir, it has gone up from the day they took the duty off until this hour. I do not say that it was in consequence of taking that duty off, but because it enabled the parties in Canada who handle binder twine, after the duty was taken off, to work in co-operation with the combine in the United States, and the result was a very high price to the farmer. Then they are told to be thankful because the government reduced the duty on coal oil. Why, as a result of the manner in which they have dealt with the

coal oil business, there has been taken out of the people of Canada 5 cents a gallon on every gallon they consumed last year. They have deliberately played into the hands of the gigantic monopoly that control the coal oil interest of Canada at the present time. The result is that on the 20,000,000 gallons of coal oil consumed in Canada the farmers pay 5 cents a gallon more for it on account of the changes that the present government made in the regulations for bringing in coal oil. Then, we are told that they made barbed wire free, and that the farmers are entitled to be grateful for that. Yes, they did. And the first effect was to throw 300 men out of employment in Montreal who were making barbed wire. But did barbed wire come down in price? Why, it is near double what it was before they took off the duty. Then are the farmers entitled to be thankful on account of anything that this government has done to make barbed wire cheaper by taking the duty off? I say that the labouring men in this country were entitled to expect that the manufacturer of barbed wire would be kept for them, since they were residents and taxpayers of this country. But the government threw these men out of employment and left them in a state of starvation by compelling the manufacturers to close up their barbed wire factories. The result is, to-day, that barbed wire comes in free under the magnificent combine and monopoly of the United States, and the farmers are paying heavily for it on that account.

But we are told that they have cheapened the cost of transportation. How? Was it by giving us the fast Atlantic service in the interest of the farmers? They found a contract already made when they came into power, and the first thing they did was to cancel it. They said: We are going to make a new contract and save \$750,000 a year, and we are going to give you a new class of bottle-necked ships. Where are they to-day? Why, they have been bottled up in their own scheme, and this fast Atlantic service is a thing of the past, producing no benefit in the way of transportation. We have the old transportation facilities, and must have them for years on account of the folly and unbusinesslike management of affairs by the present government. Now, we are told that we cannot hope to get a fast Atlantic service for years to come because material has all gone up in price, labour has gone up, and we must wait for hard times to come again before we can get the benefit of a fast Atlantic service. So I say that they have bungled that business from beginning to end, and we have got no benefit from it. Did they benefit the manufacturers of this country? Some say they did. Well, now, they tell us that we have given Great Britain a preference. For what lines? If an additional quantity of goods comes in under that Brit-

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ish preference, you reduce the profit of the labourers of Canada to that extent. To that extent you cut into the product of the manufacturers, and by so doing you throw that many labourers out of employment. That is one way the British preference helps the manufacturers of Canada. The British preferential tariff cannot possibly help manufacturers, but on the contrary it injures them, it injures the labouring men, and it does not benefit any class. But they say they help the labouring class of the country. If so, how? Is anything the labourer buys to-day cheaper by anything the present government has done? Are woollen goods cheaper? Why, they are about 45 per cent dearer. Are cotton goods cheaper? Not by any means; they are higher to-day than they were three years ago. Is anything the labourer uses cheaper to-day as a result of the tariff of the hon. gentlemen? Not at all. In every single line the labourer consumes the price has gone up, while the price of labour stands very much the same as it did a few years ago. An hon. gentleman opposite said the other night: Oh, but the labourers of Canada are receiving better wages. Well, ask the men who are employed in the tannery at Acton if they are receiving better wages, men who are working in slush and filth for \$1 a day, or \$1.10 a day. Are they receiving better wages in consequence of the action of the present government? If so, why are they compelled to strike to get more wages? Why did their employers tell them that rather than increase their wages by one cent they would close up the factory? Ask these men if they are better off to-day by virtue of the preferential tariff that has been introduced by the present government. These are the labourers of the country, and I say that the price of not a single article which the present tariff touches is reduced in value, while their labour has not increased in value, but, on the contrary, has rather decreased, and they are out of employment to-day. But, they did do something with their preferential tariff. They helped somebody. Was it the labourer? Not by any means. They helped the rich people of the country, the people who can afford to pay for the luxuries of life. They helped these people to wear silks, and the manufactures of silks. They brought in \$1,000,000 worth of silks under the preferential tariff. How much does the poor labouring man benefit by that? They helped those who wear flowers, the rich. They brought in \$75,000 worth of flowers. They helped those who wear fancy feathers, the rich. A hundred thousand dollars' worth of fancy feathers were brought in under the preferential tariff at reduced rates. They helped those who wear fancy ostrich feathers, as \$25,000 worth of these were brought in, and they came in at lower rates under the preferential tariff. Of

laces and silks, worn by the rich, \$340,000 worth were brought in under the terms of the preferential tariff, but the poor man was not able to share in the reduction in price. Jewellery to the extent of \$30,000 was brought in, and those who wear jewellery, not the poor man, were benefited to some extent. Manufactures of wool of the higher grade were brought in to the extent of \$1,300,000, and the labour of the men who are engaged in the woollen mills of the country was reduced by the importation of \$1,300,000 worth of these lines. I have gone over the whole list, and I find that over \$4,000,000 worth of these goods were brought in, and they are a class of goods worn by the rich people of the country and not by the poor. They come in under the preferential tariff, but the poor man had no share in the benefit. The labouring man has to labour on for a dollar a day, at the same wages as before the preferential tariff went into effect. We have heard that hon. gentlemen helped the miner of the country. Have they helped the miner? No; the royalty that was paid on the output of the miner was raised to 10 per cent, but when they came to deal with capitalists like Mann & Mackenzie, they gave them a contract under which they were going to charge them 1 per cent of a royalty on their output. They charge the poor miner that goes in and prospects, who takes his pack on his back and his pick and shovel in his hand, 10 per cent if he finds a mine, but the large capitalist only has to pay 1 per cent. Is the miner, or the labouring man, entitled to be thankful for that? I do not think so, and I am quite sure that he will not think so either. We were told the other night by the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) that the government had brought immigrants in to settle up the country. He says that we brought in these immigrants by our immigration system. The hon. gentleman informed us that the government brought 9,000 immigrants from the United States in 1898, and 11,945 in 1899, and he adds that such a movement was never seen in the time of their predecessors. He says: We have no record of that whatever. I would like to ask him, in the first place: To what extent can you rely upon these figures? We know that, in the Agriculture Committee, we have endeavoured to ascertain if the figures concerning these immigrants coming from the United States are reliable, and the conclusion come to by both sides was that the figures are not reliable. But, if they did bring 11,000 immigrants from the United States, by what means did they bring them in? They brought them in by a very heavy expenditure for that one service. Last year, we had, in the United States, 275 immigration agents, acting either as commission immigration agents or agents receiving a direct salary and expenses. This country is paying to the tune of 275 immigration

agents, and if 11,000 came from the United States, it was due to this large expenditure. Yet, the hon. gentleman says that we ought to be thankful, because we are having this country settled up by the large number of immigrants coming to it. If, as the hon. gentleman says, we brought in 11,945 immigrants from the United States, they were brought here in consequence of our paying 275 agents for the purpose of scouring the United States and bringing these immigrants into the country. It is amusing to look at the return and see what it is. It is a very interesting one at the present time. Let me give a few of the agents who are employed in the various states: Michigan, 87; Minnesota, 57; Wisconsin, 58; Ohio, 25; Dakota, 12; Iowa, 10; Kansas, 15; Missouri, 6; Nebraska, 4; Pennsylvania, 3; New York, 3; Illinois, 3; Indiana, 3; Texas, 2; California, 2; Idaho, 1, and Wyoming, 1. We are paying to-day for 275 immigration agents to try and settle up this country, and we are told that we ought to be thankful for it. We complain, and justly complain, because the hon. member for South Ontario was able to quote these figures. From what source did he get these figures? Not from the government return, because that return has not been presented to the House. We are denied the right of analysing these figures the same as this hon. member has done, because the government have not brought down this return, although we have been here for nearly three months, and although we are called upon to deal with this important question. We cannot deal with it intelligently because the return is not before the House, and we are obliged to go it in the dark and deal with the question when the return which should be before us is not before us. Well, this is the way that immigrants are brought into Canada. I have not said anything about the employment of immigration agents in Ireland, Scotland, England, France, or other countries. I have said nothing about the number of inspectors they have, the number of agents they have, the number of superintendents they have, the number of men they send out of the country when they expect that there may be election trials going on and from whom certain evidence might be brought out. We were told that hon. gentlemen opposite were to reduce the taxation of the people of the country. Did they reduce taxation? Not by any means. I have given the House the record of that. Instead of reducing taxation they increased it by \$6,000,000 a year. They promised to reduce the taxes, but they did not do it. Did they reduce the expenditure? Not at all, but on the contrary, they increased it enormously. I find from the official returns that the year before the Liberals came into power, the expenditure by the Conservative government of Canada was \$40,000,000 in round numbers, but last year, under Lib-

eral rule, it was \$48,000,000, or nearly \$8,000,000 a year more than the Conservative government took to manage our affairs. In 1897, the Liberals increased the expenditure from \$40,000,000 in 1896, to \$41,000,000; in 1898, they increased it to \$42,000,000, and in 1899, they increased it to \$48,000,000. It is, therefore, plain, that the Liberals have not carried out their promise to reduce the expenditure. Before the Liberals came into power, they promised the people on every platform that they would reduce the public debt. Let us see how they carried out that promise. The hon. member for Huron (Mr. McMillan), told us that the present government had only increased the debt a little over \$6,000,000 in three years, while the Conservative government had increased the debt \$10,000,000 a year in the three last years they were in power. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), prefaced this remark by the statement that public men should always be very careful to see that their statements are absolutely correct. Let us see how correct his statement was. In 1896, the public debt was (in round numbers) \$258,000,000, and in 1899, it was \$266,000,000, so that the Liberals increased it in three years by \$7,500,000, and not by \$6,000,000, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) said. Again, it is a fact that cannot be denied, that during the last three years the Conservatives were in power, the public debt was increased by \$5,000,000 a year, not \$10,000,000, so that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) was \$5,000,000 astray on that score. What becomes of his theory that a public man should be very careful as to the accuracy of any statement he may make. In the years 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896, the Liberals told the people of Canada, that one of the curses of the country was protection. The hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett) told us the other night that since the Liberals have come to power, they reformed the tariff, and that every farmer in the country was satisfied. He told us, a few minutes before, however, that the farmers of the country were groaning under the burden of taxation, imposed on them by a protective tariff, and he nods his head in assent to that. He tells us that the farmers of the country are perfectly satisfied to-day, because we have a revenue tariff, and that they were dissatisfied before because we had a protective tariff. I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Burnett), as a farmer, how much more duty did he pay for his reaper or his binder under a protective tariff, than he pays, now under what he calls a revenue tariff? Under that protective tariff of former days, the farmers paid 20 per cent duty on agricultural machinery, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Burnett) says they were groaning under the burden, but does he not know, that under this revenue tariff of his Liberal friends, the duty is exactly 20 per cent on the same agricultural implements. How could the farmers be discontented under a protective tariff which charged them 20 per cent duty, and be

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perfectly satisfied under a revenue tariff, which also charges them 20 per cent duty?

Mr. BURNETT. That is right.

Mr. SPROULE. You say the farmers are happy to-day?

Mr. BURNETT. Certainly.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman must have arrived at that conclusion by a process of reasoning, which is peculiar to his own brain. I submit that no intelligent farmer will believe that he is more happy under a revenue tariff of 20 per cent, than he was under a protective tariff of 20 per cent. You may call the tariff by any name you like, but the duty remains the same. There is no farmer in South Ontario who is stupid enough, or ignorant enough, to believe that he is any better off to-day under a revenue tariff, that charges him 20 per cent on his agricultural implements, than he was under a protective tariff which charges him exactly the same duty. Here is a sample of one way in which the Liberals reformed the tariff. They put 21 articles on the free list, and gentlemen opposite tell us that the farmers and the labouring men, and the mechanics should be thankful for that. But let me point out that the Conservative government put 179 articles on the free list in 1894, and yet these gentlemen say that the Conservatives are only entitled to the opprobrium of the people. Because the Liberals put 21 articles on the free list, the consumers of Canada are to be grateful, but because the Conservatives put 179 articles on the free list, they are entitled to no thanks from the people. Where is the logic in that? We are told also that we should be thankful because the Liberals gave us free binder twine, free barbed wire, reduced the duty on coal oil, admitted corn free—and put mushroom spawn on the free list. Well, Sir, the farmers of the country will know how to appreciate all that in its proper light. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) told us that the Liberals had reformed the superannuation law. His argument in that respect was amusing, if not enlightening. It will hardly be believed that he told the House that the Liberal government would have abolished the superannuation law, were it not for the opposition. Who is running the country anyway, and who has the majority in this House? Who forced through the Yukon Railway deal, although it was opposed by the opposition? Who forced through the Franchise Bill and the Redistribution Bill, although they were opposed by the opposition? Was it not the liberal government, with its servile majority at its back, and if their majority enabled them to carry these obnoxious measures, why did not the same majority enable them to abolish the Superannuation Act? The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen), ought to be ashamed of himself to use such an argument in this House, and I am sure that his constituents

are too intelligent to take any stock in it. Let us look how the Liberals reformed the superannuation law. I find that from 1890 to 1896, the highest number of superannuations in any one year, under the Conservative government, was 106, in the year 1895. The Liberals promised the people in their speeches, and in their platform, that they would do away with the superannuation law, but instead of that, the very first year they came into power, the superannuation of 167 civil servants, against 106, which was the highest number superannuated in any one year by their predecessors. The Liberals by doing this added to the burdens of the taxpayers of this country, \$64,239 annually, to pay superannuation allowances to men, many of whom are as able to work to-day as they ever were at any time in their lives. And yet, Sir, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) justifies such conduct as that on the part of the Liberal government. Last year the Liberals superannuated 47 more officials, at an annual cost of \$11,417, to the taxpayers of this country, or, in these two years they superannuated 214 officials, at an annual cost to the people of over \$75,000, and that is a pretty good record for the men and the party who promised that immediately they attained office they would abolish the superannuation law. Is that keeping their word? Is that doing what they told the people of Canada they would do? I say it is the very reverse. Did they destroy the combines and monopolies, as they told the people of Canada they would? Did they destroy the combine handling the coal oil of the country? Has that gigantic octopus which has come from the United States been interfered with in any way by the present government? No; but they have played into the hands of that combine and have allowed it to take out of the consumers of Canada last year 5 cents a gallon on 20,000,000 gallons of coal oil? Did they do away with the combine in barbed wire? No, but they shut up every barbed wire factory in Canada, and the farmers of Canada are to-day paying nearly double the price for their barbed wire because of the way this government have played into the hands of the combine. There is a gigantic leather trust to-day, and the government have been appealed to, to do away with it. Have they attempted to do so? They have practically done nothing. I have here an epitome of the operations of a gigantic combine, or trust, or monopoly—I do not know which to call it. It is an arrangement between nine manufacturers of certain kinds of leather in Canada, who in 1895-6, issued a circular to the consumers of leather in Canada, stating that the sole leather business in this country was overdone, because there were a lot of small sole leather tanners in the country who had no right to be in the business; but that if the users of leather would enter into an agreement to deal exclusively with these

nine firms, they would then be able to run full time and to give a rebate of 5 per cent to their customers, subject to the fulfilment of a certain agreement which was drawn up between them. Let us look at that agreement. It provides that if the users of leather will deal exclusively with these nine firms, they will supply them, on condition that they buy from them every kind of leather they want. These nine firms turn out two kinds of leather which are used largely in Canada. There is what is called the slaughter sole leather, made by the small tanners of the country, and there is the Spanish sole leather made only by these nine firms. Every one who uses Spanish leather must deal with these nine firms exclusively; and to get the rebate they offer, the leather users must buy all their other leather from them except oak tanned leather, which is not tanned in Canada. Here is a affidavit which the users of leather must take in order to get the rebate from these firms:

I, _____ of _____ in the county of _____ to wit, do solemnly declare:

1. That I am a member of the firm of _____ carrying on business of _____ in the _____ of _____ and as such have a full and intimate knowledge of all transactions of my said firm or business, and know that the statements herein contained are absolutely true.

2. That since the _____ day of _____ up to the time of the making of this declaration, I have neither purchased nor used in any way whatsoever, nor contracted to buy directly or indirectly, nor contracted for the production or manufacture of any sole leather of any kind or description whatsoever (except the Oak sole leather), save from the following firms: Shaw, Cassils & Co., Beardmore & Co.—

This is the firm whose men are now on strike to get an increase in their wages from \$1.20 to \$1.25 per day, and who cannot get it because Mr. Beardmore says that the profit of his business will not enable him to give it.

—Breithaupt Leather Co. (Limited), Logan Tanning Co. (Limited), C. S. Hyman & Co., Bowman & Zinman, Dowker, McIntosh & Co., Marlatt & Armstrong, Muskoka Leather Co. (Limited), Acton Tanning Co. (Limited), Magnetawan Tanning and Electric Company (Limited), Wingham Tanning Co., S. Arcott & Co., Benton, N.B., Warren, Tobey & Co.

3. That my firm has not, neither has any partner of mine, nor has any one acting as my agent, nor has any one acting as the agent of my firm, nor has any one acting as the agent of any partner of mine, nor has any one acting as the agent of the business described above, nor has any one employed by me or by any partner of mine, or employed in connection with the business described above, nor has any one connected with me or with any partner of mine, in any way whatsoever in the business referred to above, nor has any one connected with my firm or with the business described above, either purchased or used in any way whatsoever, or contracted to buy directly or indirectly, or received for sale or sold on com-

mission, or dealt in any way with, or contracted for the production or manufacture of any sole leather of any kind or description whatsoever (except Oak sole leather), save from the above-mentioned firms.

4. That I and all who are in any way connected with the business described above, have done no act that would disentitle the said business to the said rebate offered upon certain conditions by the firms mentioned above, in two circulars dated December 31, 1895, and January 31, 1896, but on the contrary, we have faithfully fulfilled, both in letter and spirit, all conditions contained in said two circulars.

5. That the statement marked Exhibit 'A,' to this declaration, is a true and complete account of the sole leather purchased or contracted for by any one connected with the business described above from the above-mentioned firms.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

That is the combine which exists to-day in connection with the leather trade, and you can see how tightly it binds up every consumer in the country. He cannot buy a pound of slaughter sole leather from the small firms, otherwise he will not get the rebate of 5 per cent from the firms in the combine. The government put a provision in their Tariff Act of 1897, that when they found that by virtue of any combine or trust or understanding the output of any article manufactured in the country was decreased, or the price enhanced in value, or the trade in it hampered in any way, they would immediately appoint a commission to inquire into it, and if they found that to be the case, they would take the duty off that article. The tanners affected by this combine appealed to the government in the belief that they would faithfully carry out that promise; and this is a copy of the petition which was sent to the Minister of Finance:

To the Hon. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada.

The petition of the undersigned tanners in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec humbly sheweth:

That your petitioners, some of whom are engaged in the business of tanning slaughter sole leather in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in which most of us have invested all our capital, and others of your petitioners are users and consumers of such leather in our factories.

That certain of the larger tanners in the Dominion have entered into an unlawful and injurious combine, which acts very much to our prejudice in our said business, inasmuch as by reason of the said combine we find our opportunities to do business curtailed and hampered, and in some instances practically destroyed.

The said combine is specially directed to what is known as the production of Spanish sole leather, but it affects injuriously the whole leather production and trade of the Dominion, as will be apparent from the following statements of facts.

The following are, your petitioners believe, members of the said combine, viz.: Beardmore

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& Co., Breithaupt Leather Co., Marlatt & Armstrong, Bowman & Zinkan, Shaw & Cassils, Warren & Tobey, Logan Tanning Co., C. S. Hyman, and Dawker, McIntosh & Co., and these are the largest, or among the largest, producers of sole leather in the Dominion.

They have arranged with the consumers of sole leather in Canada to allow a rebate of 5 per cent on all purchases, which rebate is kept back for a period of six months, when, upon making oath or solemn declaration in the nature of an oath, that the purchaser has not purchased sole leather from any tanner or dealer not a member of the combine, the 5 per cent is refunded.

Some of the said members of the combine also produce light leathers, and by reason of the said combine are enabled to obtain and keep from your petitioners even the trade in such last mentioned kinds of leather.

By reason of the said combine, and as its prime object, the prices of sole leather are kept up above their real value and all competition is prevented by reason of the bait of the said 5 per cent rebate, which attracts the customer, and thus retains the trade in the hands of the said members of the said combine.

Spanish sole leather is not of general production; its production is practically in the hands of the said combine. The customer must have it for his business, and in order to get it he must buy from the combine, and so buying Spanish sole, he is compelled to buy his other sole leather, such as your petitioners produce, from them in order to get the 5 per cent rebate.

Your petitioners believe that the true situation is fairly and truthfully set forth in the printed document hereto annexed, which is a true copy of a letter published in the Toronto 'Globe' some time ago, shortly after the said combine was formed.

Your petitioners have every reason to believe and have had many assurances to this effect, that the said combine is very much disliked even by the consumers who receive the said rebate, but who would much rather buy in the ordinary way in an open and free market.

Your petitioners believe and most respectfully urge upon you and the government of which you are a member, that the said combine is an unlawful combination, and that the proper remedy, unless it disbands, is to abrogate the duty on Spanish sole leather entering Canada.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

J. Hallam, leather dealer, Toronto, Ont.

J. D. King & Co., shoe manufacturers, Toronto, Ont.

W. B. Hamilton, Son & Co., shoe manufacturers, Toronto, Ont.

F. J. Weston & Sons, shoe manufacturers, Toronto, Ont.

J. McPherson Co. (Limited), shoe manufacturers, Hamilton, Ont.

Geo. Winn & Co., shoe manufacturers, Milton, Ont.

G. V. Oberholtzer, shoe manufacturer, Berlin and Port Elgin, Ont.

C. A. Ahrens & Co., shoe manufacturers, Berlin, Ont.

Ph. Jacobi & Co., leather dealers, Toronto, Ont.

Stewart & Co., shoe manufacturers, Toronto, Ont.

C. Tilley, shoe manufacturer, Toronto Ont.

H. B. Dowker & Co., leather dealers, Toronto, Ont.

Joseph King, sole leather tanner, Toronto, Ont.

W. F. & A. Smith, sole leather tanners, Goderich, Ont.

O. S. Doan & Son, sole leather tanners, Clinton, Ont.

A. Smith & Son, sole leather tanners, Stratford, Ont.

S. Arscott & Son, sole leather tanners, Walkerton, Ont.

J. Arscott, sole leather tanner, Walkerton, Ont.

T. Pellow, sole leather tanner, Walkerton, Ont.

B. P. Flanagan, sole leather tanner, Hanover, Ont.

F. W. Graff, sole leather tanner, Clifford, Ont.

J. McDonald, sole leather tanner, Tiverton, Ont.

G. Aikens, sole leather tanner, Orangeville, Ont.

Bell & Co., sole leather tanners, Tilsonburg, Ont.

W. G. Smith, sole leather tanner, Goderich, Ont.

F. G. Lynde, sole leather tanner, Madoc, Ont.

G. V. Oberholtzer, sole leather tanner, Port Elgin, Ont.

Rochette Allaire, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

Jobin & Rochette, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

W. H. Polley, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

J. N. O. Pierri, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

E. Bresse, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

O. Bresse, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

J. S. Langlois & Co., shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

A. Migner & Boucher (per A. Migner), shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

J. B. Drolet, shoe manufacturer, Lorette, Q.

P. Borsseneault & Fils, shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

Porier & Co., shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

Budden & Perry, shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

F. Gourdean & Frère, shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

Gasp. Rochette, shoe manufacturer, Quebec, Q.

Demers & Cie, shoe manufacturers, Quebec, Q.

Whitely Bros., shoe manufacturers, Montreal, Q.

Fred. Whitely, shoe manufacturer, Montreal, Q.

Edmund Varens, shoe manufacturer, Terrebonne, Q.

Alex. Eath, shoe manufacturer, Montreal, Q.

Hackborn & Bisson, leather dealers, Montreal, Q.

Duclose & Payon, sole leather tanners, Montreal, Q.

F. G. Lynde, sole leather tanner, Madoc, Ont.

Piers, Locke & Co., leather dealers, Montreal, Q.

These men, living all over the country signed this petition, and handed it in to the Finance Minister, in the hope that he would keep the promise he made to the people that whenever it was apparent that any line of goods in Canada was controlled by a combine or trust in such a way as to unfairly hamper the trade, and oppress the consumer, or producers he would appoint a commission to look into the matter, and reduce the duty if the complaints made were proven. Not getting any satisfactory reply from the Minister of Finance, the signers of this petition got Mr. Garrow to write to the hon. Minister of Justice, with regard to the matter. Mr. Garrow, in his letter said:—

All the producers in Canada of Spanish are members of this combine. No Spanish, therefore, can be obtained except in one of two ways: one, by purchasing from the combine; the other, by importation.

Then he goes on to say that the pretension that there is competition amongst those composing the combine is purely fictitious. There is no competition. There cannot be competition, when the number in the combine is so small, only nine, and controls the whole trade, so that the trade must buy from these nine firms, and cannot buy from any others. Mr. Garrow proceeds to say: Sales are made by or through a central office, which fixes the price so that control is thus kept over the quantity as well as the price. Five per cent rebate is kept by the secretary in his hands for six months, and then handed over to the purchaser on a solemn declaration by him of a cast iron character.

Sales are either made by or through a central office, which fixes the price, so that control is thus kept over the quantity sold and the price. Five per cent rebate is retained in the secretary's hands for six months and then paid over to the purchaser on a solemn declaration of the most exhaustive and cast-iron character (see copy attached to the inclosed petition), in which he declares that he has not, nor has any one for him, purchased or used from the day of the sale to the making of the declaration, any sole leather of any kind or description whatsoever (except Oak sole leather) from any one not a member of the combine, and that he has faithfully fulfilled all the conditions, in letter and in spirit, mentioned in the combine's circulars, dated December 31, 1895, and January 31, 1896, entitling him to such rebate.

It must be apparent, it appears to me, that this practically ties up the customer. He can only get Spanish, practically, through its producers, the combine. In order to get the rebate on Spanish, he must, practically, swear that he has not purchased either Spanish or slaughter from anybody outside the combine. The bait is 5 per cent, and this is sufficient to keep the customer from his common right of buying where he pleases. The withholding for six months is shrewdly arranged. No one, I suppose, buys a stock six months ahead, so once in you must remain in or forfeit your rebate.

The effect upon the smaller manufacturers of leather, the rank and file, counting many more heads, but with much smaller capital, of course, is easily seen, and, indeed, can need no elaboration. They are simply at the mercy of the combine, picking up such crumbs in the way of shady customers or small concerns, too small for the larger and more profitable game of the combine, as may be left over, and they are, one by one, being pushed to the wall.

The effect upon the consumer is no less beyond question, although not, perhaps, quite so visible or easily demonstrated.

In the first place, a healthy competition is prevented. The purchaser must buy from the combine at the combine price to get the 5 per cent rebate.

They do not, whatever they pretend, really compete in price with each other. They regulate and fix the price to suit themselves. It

would be contrary to all experience if the result to the consumer could or would be, under these circumstances, as advantageous as if he were free to buy as and where he likes, in an open market. The consumers themselves complain of the present conditions. Some of them, among the largest users of leather we have, have signed the inclosed petition. Many more, it is believed, would also sign if free from the trammels of the combine.

The transactions and mode of business of the combine are, of course, kept secret or as secret as possible. One is driven, to some extent at least, to surmise, but it is submitted to you very confidently that the facts before alleged ought to be sufficient to create a prima facie right to the inquiry called for by the Customs Act.

That is the provision of the Customs Act to the effect that in case of a combine, the government will appoint a commission to make inquiry, and this they ask the government to do.

If, after the production of books and papers, and of sworn testimony, it is found that the combine is really the innocent, harmless, beneficial thing it professes to be, the inquiry cannot hurt, but must help them; on the contrary, if, as those I act for, the smaller tanners whose all is at stake, allege, it shall appear that the combine in question is based, as other combines are, upon pure selfishness, a desire to collar the market at their own prices, then the arm of the law ought to be long enough to reach them.

Perhaps I ought to notice some of the arguments put forward by the combine to justify its existence.

It is stated that there is an American leather trust or combine, which threatened the market in Canada by proposing to undersell the tanners here. That might not be comfortable for the Canadian tanner, but it could not, certainly, hurt the consumer; on the contrary, it would be to his advantage.

But our tanners export large quantities of sole leather, thus competing with these same American tanners in foreign markets. Why, if they can and do so compete there, can they not do the same here?

Indeed, I am told that there is no similar combine in the United States, and no real combine at all embracing all the manufacturers of a special class of leather, such as we have in Canada.

Then it is said that the small tanners have unbusiness-like methods, that some of them sell at or below cost, thereby preventing others, as well as themselves, from making a legitimate profit. This is denied by the smaller tanners, but even if true, how are matters for the consumer improved by the combine? Is it part of the duty of the combine to educate those outside in proper business methods, or is it not rather to choke off and destroy them absolutely, thus cutting off all competition from that side?

The letter goes on to ask the government to inquire into the matter. And what is the answer that he gets? He is told that the government cannot inquire into this because the object is to lower prices instead of increasing them. After they had failed with the Minister of Finance and failed with the Minister of Justice, they applied to the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). They

thought, no doubt, that as he was an Ontario man, he would surely do something for them, particularly as he had been so strongly opposed to combines when in opposition, and so strongly opposed to the Conservative policy on the ground that a protective policy tended to foster combines. This is the letter, he wrote them in reply :—

Ottawa, April 28, 1899.

My dear Sir,—I have a letter from my colleague, the Minister of Justice, informing me that the action of the Tanners' Association, about which you complained, does not come within the provisions of the law, inasmuch as any combination that may exist amongst them is, in his opinion, a combination to put down the price, not to raise it.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) W. MULOCK.

W. G. Smith, Esq., Tanner,
Goderich, Ont.

This was a combination, according to the hon. gentleman, to put down prices, and not to raise them. But it was a combination to shut off 36 firms, and put the business into the hands of nine. A combination to reduce prices! Did any one ever hear of such folly? I have here the letter sent by Mr. Smith, of Goderich, who has been taking an active interest in this matter, and he asks what the Postmaster General meant. Was he consistent when he said that combines were a curse, and that if his party were returned to power they would bring in legislation opposed to them. The customs law that they introduced provided the means of inquiry in the case a combine is alleged to exist. We appeal to them to act upon that law, and up to the present time, they refuse to give the power asked for. That combine has gone on, and is going on at the present time, and the people have had no redress, notwithstanding the fact that they had appealed to the Minister of Finance and to the Postmaster General, and to the Minister of Justice, as the parties who ought to do away with the combine. I have in my possession the contract that was entered into. I cannot lay my hand on it at the moment, but it is practically to the effect that parties agree only to deal with them.

Now, I wish to deal with another combine, and to ask how far the present government has tried to interfere to help the people as against these combines. There is a very injurious combine in hardware that is taxing the consumers of that class of goods to an extent unheard of in the history of the country. But have the government stepped in to inquire into the actions of that combine? No. Let me give you a little idea of the operations of that combine. This combination is among the hardware men in this country who turn out axes, scythes and snaths, &c. For several years efforts were made to effect this combine and they have at last succeeded. And now they have sent out to

the hardware trade an agreement for them to sign. If they sign this agreement, and come under the combine they get a rebate of 17½ per cent on the axes and scythes, &c.. they buy, if not, they do not get the rebate. What is that agreement. Here is a copy :

Ottawa, Ont., January 4, 1900.

Messrs. the Canada Axe and Harvest Tool Manufacturing Co., St. Paul, Que.

Gentlemen,—We, the undersigned wholesale hardware merchants, agree during the season of 1900, that is, from January 1, 1900, to January 1, 1901, to purchase our total requirements of axes from one or other of the manufacturers mentioned below; manufacturers, on their part, agree to adhere to the prices and terms as agreed upon. The manufacturers' names are as follows:

- The Welland Vale Manufacturing Co.
- The Canada Axe and Harvest Tool Manufacturing Co.
- The O. S. Rixford Manufacturing Co.
- M. Walters & Sons.
- James Warnock & Co.
- The Bedford Manufacturing Co.
- The A. S. Whiting Manufacturing Co.

There were two concerns outside this combine until lately. James Warnock and Co., and others. But they have come into the combine within the last month or two, and all have agreed that they will sell at one price, and the hardware men can only buy at that price by coming under this combine. What are the prices they compel the hardware men to accept? Here is the circular:—

We herewith inclose you our price list of haying tools for the season of 1899 and 1900. The discount (until further notice) on all goods where prices are listed (except snaths) will be 15, 10 and 5 per cent.

All scythes are sold at net prices, viz.:

	Per doz.
Clipper.....	\$ 9 25
Climax.....	10 00
Excelsior.....	10 50
Cast Steel grain.....	12 50
Silver “.....	13 50
Harvest King grain.....	14 50
Cast steel.....	8 50
Single beaded.....	9 50
Concave.....	10 50
Double beaded.....	10 50
Tip top.....	9 50
Bush.....	9 00

Terms on above are four months from May 1, or 3 per cent if paid in thirty days. All goods shipped after January 1 to be dated from May 1. We expect you will sell all your customers at not better than the above prices named herein. Provided you comply with the above we will give you a rebate of 17½ per cent on all goods purchased from us. Your early reply with specification for your season's requirements will oblige.

Yours truly,

The Canada Axe and Harvest Tool Manufacturing Co. (Limited),

(Sgd.) W. J. CHAPLIN,
Mgr., Sec. and Treas.

Now, this is what they have got to sign, and these are the prices that they have to pay

or them. Now let us compare these prices with the prices they bought the same goods at last year. Take scythes for instance. Clipper scythes were bought last year \$4.75 per dozen, at the present time he has to pay \$9.25 a dozen, nearly double what they were last year. Steel has gone up very little, but as soon as this combine is effected, scythes are increased about 100 per cent. Cast steel scythes last year were \$3.75 per dozen; this year they are \$8.50, after the combine has been effected. Harvesters, \$5.50 last year, this year \$14.50, after the combine is effected. Cast steel crown, \$5.50 per dozen last year, this year \$12.50. Three-pronged hay forks, last year \$2.38, this year \$3.58. Last year the wholesale man was allowed to sell these forks at any profit he saw fit, and he sold them at a profit of 34 cents a dozen to the retailer, while this year he must sell them at a profit of 71 cents a dozen.

The combine not only compels them to buy at increased prices but compels them to sell to the retailer at prices which they choose to fix themselves. I have a copy of these prices here. Take axes. Last year the Michigan Champion and similar grades, were sold at \$4.80 a dozen; this year they are sold at \$5.75, and they compel the wholesale man to sell them for \$6.75 a dozen, or \$1 a dozen higher than the wholesaler paid for them. The wholesaler would be satisfied to sell them at a profit of 50 cents a dozen. Then take the Black Prince axe, it is sold to the wholesale now at \$6.25; last year it was sold for \$5. The combine compels the wholesale man to sell to the retail man for \$7.52 tools which they paid \$6.25 for. Princess Louise axe, sold last year for \$5.25 to the wholesaler, this year it is \$6.50 per dozen, and the wholesaler is compelled to sell at \$7.75. The Model Alligator forged bevel axe, sold last year at \$6.50 per dozen, is sold this year at \$7 per dozen, and the wholesaler is compelled to sell at \$8.25. Garrett's Black Diamond clipper, sold last year at \$6.75 per dozen, sold this year at \$7.50, and they compel the wholesaler to sell it at \$9 per dozen. The Canadian up to four pounds sold last year at \$5 per dozen, sold this year at \$6.50, and they compel the wholesaler to sell to the retailer at \$7.50. I need not go over all these; I have given enough to show the injurious effects of that combine. They have first raised these tools over 100 per cent in one year as soon as the combine was effected. In almost every case they have raised them 25 to 50 per cent, and have compelled the wholesale man to wholesale his goods to the retailer away above what he was in the habit of selling them to the retailer before, and unless he agrees to sell them at this higher figure he cannot get the rebate of 17½ per cent. A rebate of 17½ per cent is a big profit, and in order to get it he has to comply with all these conditions of the combine. The government pretend to say that they are in favour of

destroying combines. Let them attack this combine. Will they invoke the law which is upon the statute-book to-day and impose a penalty upon this combine or those who are engaged in it? I say if they do not they are doing less than their duty towards the people of this country, and less than the people expect of them. Every wholesale hardware man in this country is obliged to come under that combine to-day in order to get this 17½ per cent rebate. Now, look at the effect of the combine in leather, look at it in nails, in barbed wire, in almost every article of hardware. I want the farmers to know these things, I want them to know that they are in the power of that combine by virtue of the inactivity of the present government who are making no effort to interfere with the operations of that combine in this country.

Now, this government came to power to do certain things. They said if the people elected them to power they would settle the disputes between Canada and the United States. Have they settled those disputes? They made several efforts, they sent a commission down to Washington that cost \$34,000. They had a good time drinking wine and champagne at the people's expense, but they neither settled the disputes or got a reciprocity treaty. They promised the people that they would get a reciprocity treaty, but it is as far off now as ever. Have they proved themselves to be capable business men in the management of the affairs of the country? They declared if they were entrusted with power the Premier would surround himself by a class of intelligent, honest, capable business men. Has he done so? Have they proved themselves to be intelligent, honest and capable business men? I say most emphatically no. Why do I say so? Look at the first act of the Postmaster General. When he attempted to reduce the postage he did not know that there was such a thing as a postal union, and he issued a proclamation under his own authority, believing himself all powerful to reduce the cost of postage. He found out afterwards that he could not act of his own mere motion, that there was a postal law made by the postal union at Berne some years ago, of which he knew nothing, and he was obliged to revoke his proclamation and trust to the chances of getting the aid of England to make a reduction in the postage. Was that evidence of capable and intelligent business statesmanship? Then, look at the preferential tariff. When they introduced their preferential tariff it was to apply to every country in the world. When they were told that they could not apply it to every country in the world without getting into trouble with Germany, Belgium and every other country that came in under a favoured-nation clause, they showed that they did not know anything about favoured-nation clauses, but, they were obliged to change their tariff before

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that session of parliament was over. Then, look at the Yukon Railway deal. What were they proposing to do in that matter? They proposed to give away 3,700,000 acres of land, and if we value that at the same price as it is sold to the ordinary miner, \$10 an acre, it amounts to \$37,500,000 for building a narrow gauge railway 152 miles long. A gentleman who sat beside me in the Brunswick Hotel, and who had been a miner for 25 years, when this deal was going on, said: I will take that contract from Mann & Mackenzie, I will go to England and I will bring back \$40,000,000 if they will give me all I can make over that.

Mr. BRITTON. Is the offer still open?

Mr. SPROULE. The offer is still open. If the Senate had not managed to burk that deal, the fruition of it would have been realized long ago by Mann & Mackenzie; they would have been richer to that extent, and the country would have been poorer to that extent. That is a transaction negotiated by these capable, intelligent business men by whom the right hon. Prime Minister has surrounded himself. Did the first Drummond County Railway deal show that they were capable, intelligent business men? The Senate refused to sanction that deal. What did the next deal show? They made a deal two years afterwards, and they saved to the country over \$1,000,000 by the second deal. To whom does the credit of that saving belong? It must belong to the Senate, which burked the first deal. Yet, these hon. gentlemen are described as honest, capable and intelligent business men. When the Crow's Nest Pass Railway deal was put through the government paid for it about \$2,000,000 more than the road would have been built for by their predecessors. They gave away a large amount of valuable coal lands in British Columbia, so valuable that the Hon. Joseph Martin said, a few days ago, that if the coal was put at one cent a ton there is coal enough in these mines that have been given away to pay all the cost of government in British Columbia and to subsidize every railway that requires to be built in that country for the next fifty years to come. Yet, all this was given away by the intelligent and able business men by whom the Prime Minister has surrounded himself.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Did you not vote for the Crow's Nest Pass Railway?

Mr. SPROULE. No, I did not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, I think you did.

Mr. SPROULE. No, I did not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Did you vote against it?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Oh.

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman will take the trouble to look at the record he will see that I both spoke and voted against it. Have the government kept their promises?

Mr. COCHRANE. Not much.

Mr. SPROULE. They said that they would keep free from scandals. How have they kept free from scandals? By denying committees the right to inquire into scandals, by denying our requests to bring these men here to appear before the Privileges and Elections Committee and prove these scandals. Hon. gentlemen, by their servile majority, keep free from scandals by voting down every motion made in this House aiming at bringing to light their scandals. Is there not a scandal in the Crow's Nest Pass Railway deal? I say that there is a scandal in it. Is there not a scandal in the Yukon mismanagement? If we had got the commission appointed that we asked for, we would have shown a scandal of the most gigantic character which has been hidden away by the vote of the servile majority which voted down the resolution. In the Drummond County Railway deal I say there is a scandal, that there was a large amount of money given for election purposes.

An hon. MEMBER. None.

Mr. SPROULE. An hon. member says 'none.' He must know very little about it, or else he does not know anything about it. If he does not know anything about it he is living in a paradise of ignorance that it is well for him to enjoy. An inquiry would have shown that there is a most gigantic scandal in connection with that deal, that a large rake-off of that money went into the hands of Mr. Greenshields and his confrères. I say it openly and above-board, and I believe it is susceptible of proof if an exhaustive inquiry of the right kind had taken place. Is there not a scandal in connection with the corruption in elections that have taken place in West Huron, in Brockville and in North Grey? How are they hidden away from the public, by the servile majority of the government, which has voted down investigation? The records of this House will show. They have kept these scandals from the Privileges and Elections Committee; they are now hidden away by the vote of the majority that hon. gentlemen have at their back and which prevents a full inquiry being made. Look into any one of these and you cannot either congratulate the government or say that they have done what they should have done, or that they have left undone that which they should have left undone in the interest of the country. We are told that, in a short time, this government will go to the people, and that they expect

the farmers, the labourers and the miners to stand by them, because they have done so much for them. But, I say that the course which the government have pursued justifies these classes which I have named in opposing the government, and I believe that they will do that when the day of retribution comes. I say that we are criticising the conduct of the government fairly. We are not going back to ancient history like the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), who, unable to say anything in defence of his friends, tried to draw a red herring across the trail by going back twenty-five years and distracting public attention from the conduct of the government. But, when the people come to poll their votes, when the election is brought on, as far as my judgment goes, they will be prepared to mete out retribution to hon. gentlemen opposite. Let them bring on that election early or late; come when it will, I feel as satisfied as I do that I am standing here to-night that that sun of the government has set. There is no doubt of that whatever. They may hang on to the last hour, or they may appeal to the electorate during the summer, but, as soon as they do, on that day they will go out of power and a class of men will be put into power who are possessed of the genius of government, who have in their ranks capable and honest men to govern the country, and who will govern the country in a way entirely different from that which the people have been accustomed to during the last four years under the party at present in power.

Mr. ROBERT HOLMES (West Huron). Mr. Speaker, I am not surprised that the members of the opposition should make desperate efforts to try and square themselves in view of the wonderful record of the present administration. When we bear in mind the nature of their ante-election addresses, the prophecy that if the Liberals came into power, ruin, desolation and decay would be the outcome thereof, and when we compare these with the wonderful trade returns that have been presented by the present administration, which show that, during the last three years the volume of trade has increased more than it did during the whole of the eighteen years that the Conservatives were in office, I am not surprised that they have to resort to desperate methods in order to meet the arguments that we have to face them with. It is also amusing to me to hear gentlemen like the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) attribute the prosperity to other causes than those which they claimed when in power were the contributing causes to prosperity under the old regime. Hon. gentlemen who are familiar with political history will remember that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), as well as others of his party, claimed that Providence, and the good times in other lands, had nothing what-

ever to do with prosperity in Canada, but that it was the national policy pure and simple. Why, one Conservative member even claimed that the hens laid larger eggs under the inspiration of the national policy. When we consider, Mr. Speaker, the strong financial showing that the Liberal government is able to present, it seems to me that the opposition are fighting against the logic of irrefutable facts. I shall not answer the arguments of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) in any detail, because they have all been answered before, but I want to call his attention to one thing, and I am sorry he has left the House. I agree with him in his desire to see the leather combine destroyed, or to see its power weakened. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) blamed the present government for the existence of the leather combine, but he did not tell the House that the leather combine was formed under the old administration, and if the present government is responsible for its continuance, the Conservative government is responsible for its birth.

Mr. WALLACE. When was it formed?

Mr. HOLMES. The hon. member for East Grey stated that it was formed in 1895. Let me allude for a moment to another matter. The Conservative party in their organs and in this House, state that their defeat in 1896 was due to the Manitoba school question. I agree that that was one factor among others, and it may have been a factor more or less important, but I believe that the Conservative party was defeated because there was dry rot and moral decay within its ranks. To show that I am not alone in that opinion I will quote from an organ which gentlemen on the other side will agree with me is in their confidence; and I am sorry that the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) is not in his place to hear the utterances of his own pen. On June 24, 1896, the *Toronto World* wrote:

The people determined to punish the government for its many and serious shortcomings. The internal cabinet dissensions that all but wrecked the party and the government some months ago were of a most disgraceful character. The people felt that the honour of the country was involved in the public squabbling of the ministers of the Crown. Several notorious jobs, in which the efficiency and honesty of the government was concerned, still further soured the public on the ministry. The Tay Canal, the Curran Bridge, and other similar scandals have added to the general disrepute in which the government has fallen.

We advocated before, and we still advocate, the reorganization of the Conservative party. More than one member of the ministry was a disgrace to any party, and the sooner the party is rid of such men the better for the party.

A more intelligent opinion than that could not have been given by the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross Robertson), who has

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shown himself independent occasionally. The most rabid Liberal journal could not pronounce more emphatically on the decay and ruin of the Conservative party.

I wish to point out, Sir, that the Liberal government now in power has shown its sincerity in carrying out to a very large extent its ante-election promises, notwithstanding what the opposition have asserted—and it is simply a matter of assertion on their part. I shall not dwell on the reforms inaugurated by the Liberal government at any length, but I may point out that this government has shown its good faith in legislating in the interest of the masses in the case of the very important reduction they have made on the rate of postage. The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is entitled, and he receives, the thanks of the people of the country because of that reduction. I was amused at the course of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) on this matter. It amounted to this, that if the Conservatives were returned to power—I do not believe that day will come for a number of years at all events—they would restore the postage rate to three cents.

Mr. HENDERSON. Nobody ever said that.

Mr. HOLMES. I know very well that nobody ever said it, but if there is any logical deduction from the remarks of gentlemen opposite, it is that they would increase the postage rate if they came into power. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) said that the reduction in postage was a great advantage to him as an individual, but that the poor farmer did not get any benefit from it. Let him tell that to an audience of intelligent farmers and he will see what they will say to him. If it is a benefit to him as an individual it is a benefit to the farmer also as an individual, because no individual can enjoy any benefit of that kind that does not react upon the community at large. I am satisfied that the farmers, the artisans, and all classes from one end of the Dominion to the other, even though they only post a small number of letters, agree with the policy of the Postmaster General in reducing the postage. There is also to the credit of the Liberal government, the reduction of the tariff; the preferential tariff; the removal of quarantine restrictions; cold storage, free corn, and a number of other evidences of good faith on their part. Let me make a brief reference to the preferential tariff. It is my opinion that the arguments of gentlemen opposite on this question are entirely misleading. They speak of the preferential tariff as if we were giving something to Great Britain. I take issue with them on that. I believe the truth is we are giving something to our own people, but I do not believe we are giving anything in the strict

sense of the term, to Great Britain. The people of Great Britain do not care a great deal whether we buy their manufactures or not. As a matter of business they may appreciate the fact that we purchase from them, but they are able to sell their products in the markets of the world, and therefore, as to giving Great Britain everything in this matter as the opposition say, I do not agree with that contention for one moment. I believe that the government of this country is conferring an inestimable benefit upon the people of Canada by the preferential tariff. It has reduced the price of goods to the people of Canada and the opposition may argue—to use a common expression—until they are black in the face, but they can never convince the people of Canada that they are not deriving decided benefits from the preferential tariff. Let me speak for a moment as to what we may term the present policy of the Conservative party. In brief, that policy is spoken of as interprovincial preferential trade between Canada and the motherland, carrying with it the imposition of a duty, large or small, upon products going from this country into the old land. I cannot convince myself that the hon. leader of the opposition is sincere in his advocacy of that measure. I cannot conceive that the members of the Conservative party, if they gave any thought to the matter or exercised their intelligence and reasoning power on it, can come to any other conclusion than that the policy they are propounding is a misleading policy, and parliamentary usage would not permit of my describing it in any stronger language than that. The action of the Liberal party since they came into power has been in the direction of forward movements, but the policy that is proposed now by the Conservative party is a retrograde movement. The Hon. Joseph Chamberlain has been repeatedly quoted by hon. gentlemen opposite as having leaned towards a policy of this kind; but we find Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech a few days ago, expressing himself in these words:

We are not going to interfere in the domestic affairs of the colonies, nor are they going to interfere in ours.

What does that mean? It means that Great Britain is not going to allow Canada to dictate her policy. It would be preposterous for this country to suppose that we could go to Great Britain and ask her to put a tax, great or small, on the products of foreign countries coming into competition with ours. I have followed carefully the utterances of English statesmen, and also the utterances of the English press on this subject, and I have failed to find, as yet, a single expression in favour of the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition. Allow me to quote to you from a speech delivered some time ago by Lord Playfair, to show the absurdity of supposing that Great Bri-

tain is going to accede to a demand of that kind:

If this country were to tax foreign food, can any one believe that foreign nations would sit down tamely and would not retaliate on our exports of manufactured goods? Is it not obvious that if we shut our door, in whole or in part, against foreign nations, they will shut their doors, in whole or in part, against England? The colonies would be the first to feel this retaliation, because the value of raw materials actually worked up in the English exports of manufactured goods amounts to 60 millions sterling, largely supplied by the colonies. To this extent the retaliatory tax must recoil upon them, and be extracted from the colonial pocket, so that every advantage the colonies got in one direction would vanish in another. A little reflection would show Canada in how many ways the United States would retaliate if Canadian wheat entered Great Britain free of duty, while that from the neighbouring republic was taxed. Under such a system of preferential duties, the United States would be justified in refusing to Canada her present privilege of passing her traffic through New England in bond. This would be a serious blow, as our colony has no direct outlet for her commerce in winter, and no very cheap railway outlet even in summer. Retaliation would inflict more injury on Canada than any benefit that she could receive from a differential duty in her favour.

Let me also quote from Lord Kimberley:

I should like to say a word upon that which is an interesting topic, namely, this astounding proposal of a customs union with our colonies. Don't let us hide from ourselves what lies at the bottom of this proposal. To be fair to our opponents, we should consider this. What they have in view is the closest possible connection between this country and the colonies abroad, and they think they see in a proposal of this kind a closer connection. Let me point out what it means. If it means anything, it means that our colonies should be in relation to this country in the same position as the States of America to one another in the United States. It means that we should have free trade with our colonies, and it would follow, of course, that revenue duties should be imposed, and that we should have one government for fiscal purposes. That scheme, you would see, is utterly impracticable. I cannot see the possibility of such a system being worked.

Again, he says:

You have heard Lord Playfair say what the result would have been for us, and I am confident there is never likely to be a government in this country which will dare to propose a protective system. The government of this country is not based upon a democratic system. Every man practically has a vote, and the advantage of cheap food and other cheap articles necessary for life has deeply sunk into the minds of the working classes of this country.

I have another authority in the old land to quote from, one which I presume members on the opposite side are willing to accept. The *London Canadian Gazette*, speaking of the action of the Montreal Board of Trade on this subject, said:

But though this was the official decision of the board itself, it is evident that many members are under no misconception of the fate that must

attend such proposals even should they be adopted by the Congress next June. It was recognized that such a duty would involve a complete departure from the free trade policy upon which the British Empire has been built up, and without which historians tell us it could never have escaped destruction at the hands of its innumerable rivals. . . . It is clear, from the comments in the English press this week, that even in those quarters where protectionist views are least heterodox, there is little or no belief in the acceptance of any such proposal in this country. The hopes of most Englishmen point, as the 'Times' says, toward a solution of the problem of an Imperial Zollverein based upon the common acceptance of a policy of free exchange rather than upon a return to the policy of protective duties and protective tariffs, which England deliberately rejected half a century ago.

I have failed to find in any of my reading or observations, any English authority who has expressed himself as favourable to the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition. What, in brief, does that proposition mean? It means that Canada would be bound with Great Britain to maintain certain rates of duty against foreign countries. It means that Canada must admit British goods on fixed terms. It means that no rearrangement of our tariff could take place without the consent of Great Britain. This is one point which, it seems to me, has been entirely overlooked in connection with the absurd proposal made by the hon. leader of the opposition. If it were found, in the course of the changing events of this country, that the development and progress of the country rendered it advisable in our interests to make a change in our tariff, or in our tariff regulations, we could not do so without the consent of Great Britain; and the position in which Canada would be placed under those circumstances must present itself to any one who gives the subject a moment's thought. It means that the hon. leader of the opposition, and his party are willing to sign away our trade independence. At the present time we control our own tariff policy, and legislate just as we like. If the people of this country demand an increased protective tariff, beyond what they have at the present time, they are able to elect a parliament which will grant them what they want. If the people of Canada desire lower rates of duty, the parliament of Canada can grant them. But once we were tied up with Great Britain, in such an arrangement, it would be utterly impossible for Canada to make any change in its tariff. I admit, without any argument, that if we could obtain a preference in the British market, it would be an advantage to the people of this country in one direction; but there are disadvantages and drawbacks which, I think, would offset the advantages.

Mr. WALLACE. In what way?

Mr. HOLMES. Time will not allow me to enumerate them at present. I do not wish to take up too much time, because I am not

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a believer in long speeches, and I wish to get through with my argument without going into so many details as are customary in this House. Even if it were possible for us to obtain from the motherland a preference, which I do not, for one moment think it is possible for us to obtain, I believe the people of this country are too high-minded, independent and fair to expect the labouring classes of the old country to tax themselves for the small possible benefit that would accrue to the people of this country. We are better able to make our own living in this country than the people in the old land. We know that the labouring classes in the old country have all they can do to make both ends meet. With them life is a constant struggle, day in and day out; it is almost impossible for them to make any headway or to lay by anything for a rainy day; and it is preposterous for a leader of a party in this country to propose a system of taxation which the good sense and honesty and fairness of the masses of the people of this country would not tolerate for one moment. More than that, I do not believe, though I hesitate to say it, that the rank and file of his party are sincere in their advocacy of that nonsensical and absurd platform. It is one that appeals to the selfishness of mankind, but I do not believe they are sincere in it. The *Hamilton Spectator*, one of the recognized organs of the Conservative party, refers to it in these words:

Whether Britain would ever accept such a proposition is another thing. That is Britain's affair.

That is equivalent to an expression used by another organ of the Conservative party on a former occasion, when, alluding to the enforcement of the national policy, so far as British trade was concerned, it made use of that historical phrase, 'so much the worse for British connection.' Further, let me say, that I do not think that the party opposite is a unit upon its own platform. It is, on the contrary, at sixes and sevens upon the various issues before the people. The hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), conveyed the idea—by implication) at any rate, if not directly, that the duties on certain articles ought to be lowered, and that, because the government had not lowered these duties, it had not carried out its pledges. If his argument meant anything, it meant that the government ought to reduce the duties. That was the implied sequence to his logic. The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), however, takes exactly the opposite view. He takes the view that the government ought to increase the duties. Why, when he was in my riding, an interview was published in which the hon. gentleman was quoted as having said to a certain manufacturer in the town of Goderich, that if the Conservative party came into power, there would be no free binder twine, no free corn,

no free barbed wire, and the duty on agricultural implements would be increased to 45 per cent. When the hon. gentleman got back to Toronto, three days after the publication of that interview, he took occasion to deny it, but that interview was used in the West Huron campaign, while the hon. gentleman and the hon. member for Kent were taking part in it. It was used at a number of meetings which I know of, and was never repudiated until the hon. member was 150 miles away from the scene of the interview, and then only repudiated in part. While I accept his repudiation or qualification—because he said that in the interview only half truths were published—I must say that the gentleman with whom the interview was said to have taken place—a prominent business man in the town of Goderich—said to me, on more than one occasion, that the report was substantially correct. Therefore, I am justified in saying that these hon. gentlemen opposite are not a unit on their own platform.

I may add that those who read the newspapers will notice that the leader of the Opposition allows himself to be interviewed once in a while. In the city of Quebec, and in one or two other places, when asked what were the prospects of the Conservative party, he has always expressed himself as satisfied that he would be returned by a large majority. But, the hon. gentleman has been somewhat unfortunate in his prediction. On the 22nd of June, 1896, just before the general elections, he was interviewed by the *Toronto World*, and made this prediction:—'I am sure of a majority in every province of the Dominion.' Well, he did not get a majority in any province, and I am satisfied that the people, when next appealed to, will be content to allow the hon. gentleman to remain where he is, in the belief that in his present capacity he can do better service to the country than he possibly could as head of an administration. That hon. gentlemen opposite have no chance of being elected to office, while under their present leader, is an opinion which I am not alone in entertaining. Let me quote from an authority which I think the hon. gentlemen opposite will accept. I am not going to quote from a Liberal journal, or even from a journal that makes any pretense to independence. I am not about to quote, for instance, from a newspaper such as the *Toronto Telegram*, which might lay a claim to some little shadow to independence, though the shadow is so faint that it is hardly worth while making any allusion to it. But, I will give the House a citation from the *Toronto World*, an organ that aspires to be the leading exponent in the press of the Conservative party, an organ which would be very happy indeed to be recognized to-day as the leading organ of the party opposite, and I am free to say, that in some respects it is superior to the

acknowledged organ of that party. The *Toronto World*, on June 27, 1896, immediately after the elections, had the following article:—

The government was handicapped by having among its members individuals who disgrace the party in everything they touch. The rank and file of the party was ashamed of these men whenever they came in contact with them. In the coming reorganization this rotten timber will be removed from the platform upon which the Conservative party is to stand. From the hour of Sir John Macdonald's death till the present time the party has made no progress. It has simply marked time. One of the principal causes of paralysis that prevented the party from advancing was the fact that none of its leaders had been endorsed by the people. Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles Tupper, were each placed at the head of affairs by the politicians. There is a huge difference in the power that is conferred upon the Premier by his ministerial colleagues and that conferred upon him by the people. Mr. Laurier knows exactly where he stands. None of our last four Premiers were sure of the ground upon which they stood. They had no mandamus from the people to give them the assurance and authority that is necessary both for the control of their subordinates and for carrying out of a vigorous policy. The next Conservative leader will be a man of strength. The party will not make the blunder of bringing forward a weakling to face the people.

That is a nice sentiment for the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean), to express concerning the hon. leader of the Opposition. The Conservative party appealed to the country, under the leadership of its present leader, and the *Toronto World* said:

The next Conservative leader will be a man of strength.

Who could the *World* have had in view? Probably the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace). It may be that the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), was the gentleman the *World* had in view when publishing these lines.

Mr. WALLACE. It had the hon. member for East York in its eye.

Mr. HOLMES. Well, there may be a little understanding between the hon. member for East York, and the hon. member for West York. Some people say there is. I have heard it said that the issue in the municipal elections in Toronto was distinctly understood between the two.

Mr. WALLACE. Permit me to say that there is not a word of truth in that statement.

Mr. HOLMES. It was unnecessary entirely for the hon. member for West York to make that statement. I did not say there was any understanding and did not intend saying so. What I said was that it was generally understood that there was. I simply wish to say that the language used by the *Toronto World*, which I have quoted, is strong language. It would be considered exceedingly strong if used by a Liberal

paper; and if it had been used by a newspaper supporting this side, hon. members opposite might take exception to it, and doubt its authenticity. But coming from a paper occupying the position of the *Toronto World*, it is important and very suggestive language. When the *Toronto World* says that the next Conservative leader will be a man of strength, we must take it for granted that the Conservative leader at that time, who is still the leader of hon. gentlemen opposite, was not considered a man of strength by the party as a whole. And when the *Toronto World* immediately after the last general election said:

The party will not make the blunder of bringing forward a weakling to face the people.

What are we to think of the chances of that party which keeps at its head the hon. gentleman whom the *Toronto World* thus described?

I think that it was the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) who alluded to the attitude of the *Mail* and the character of its utterances. Let me just say—and I can give my authority, if asked for it—that a former manager of the *Toronto Mail* gave expression to this statement—and I can prove it—that in a certain line of policy they lied right straight through. It is within the recollection of hon. gentlemen that the *Toronto Mail* at one time ceased to be the organ of the Conservative party, and delighted in running its editorial knife into the leaders and supporters of that party. It had a perfect right to do that, I suppose, while it occupied an independent position, but what better evidence can we have of the insincerity of that paper, which is now the organ of the opposition, than the fact that the very men who are editing it to-day, who are responsible for its utterances and attitude, are the men who were editing it when it was an independent journal. If it was sincere at that time, how can it be sincere now? What reliance can be placed upon its utterances? It is discredited out of its own mouth.

I have nothing further to say except this—that when the time shall come, be it soon or be it late, when it is necessary for this government to appeal to the people to condemn or to endorse their action, I have no doubt what the verdict of the people will be. Whatever the government may not have accomplished, however far they may have failed in carrying out as fully as they had intended their platform and their policy, I believe that the reforms they have introduced, the measures passed for the benefit of the people are such as will receive the cordial endorsement and support of the electors when the time comes to ask for that support.

Mr. J. W. BELL (Addington). It is getting late, and I would prefer to move the adjournment of the debate, unless the First Minister requests me to go on.

Mr. HOLMES.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is a rather early hour for adjournment, especially at this period of the session. But my hon. friend (Mr. Bell, Addington), does not often address the House. So we will give him plenty of time, hearing him to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.10 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 25, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CANADA IN PORTO RICO.

Mr. KAULBACH asked:

Is the government aware that a discriminating duty is exacted on fish and other products of Canada, exported to Porto Rico from Canada, as compared with articles of a similar character exported to that island from the United States?

And, has the government of Canada, considering this unjust condition of affairs—the United States having expressed, when interfering in the contention between Cuba and Porto Rico with Spain, that her only inducement was a feeling of humanity and to merely give these islands their independence—made any overtures to the United States whereby this unjust discrimination can be removed?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With regard to the first question, the answer is, that the legislation at Washington appears to be intended to establish a discrimination between the duties on goods imported from the United States and those imported from other countries.

With regard to the other question, this is altogether a domestic affair concerning the United States, as to which we do not consider that any representation ought to be made.

MILITIA CAPTAINS AND LIEUTENANTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. ELLIS asked:

1. How many captains and lieutenants are there in each branch of the active militia of Canada?

2. How many resigned their commissions and accepted service as privates in the Canadian contingents now in South Africa?

3. What are their names, and the name of the province from which each man hails?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). In reply, I beg to submit the following list:—1. Captains:

Cavalry, 37; field artillery, 17; garrison artillery, 30; engineers, 4; infantry and rifles, 604; medical staff, 22. Lieutenants and 2nd Lieutenants: Cavalry, 124; field artillery, 51; garrison artillery, 68; engineers, 12; infantry and rifles, 1,209; medical staff, 25. 2. Thirty-seven. 3. Ontario: Capt. Ross, 30th Batt.; Capt. Wall, 16th Batt.; Capt. Gorman, 27th Batt.; Capt. Wallace, 36th Batt.; Capt. Garnett, 26th Batt.; Lieut. Southey, 46th Batt.; Lieut. McCosh, 35th Batt.; Lieut. Rorke, 31st Batt.; Lieut. Warren, G.G.B.G.; Lieut. Hayward, 3rd Dragoons; Lieut. Hope, 20th Batt.; Lieut. Read, 46th Batt.; Lieut. Cosby, 48th Batt.; Lieut. Fraser, 40th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Leach, 46th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Campbell, 30th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Hulme, 15th Batt. Nova Scotia: Capt. Ward, 68th Batt.; Capt. Oxley, 93rd Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Ferguson, 93rd Batt. New Brunswick: Capt. Armstrong, 3rd Regt. C.A.; Lieut. Arnold, 8th Hussars; Lieut. Parks, 8th Hussars; Lieut. Onslow, 12th Field Battery; 2nd Lieut. Wright, 71st Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Markham, 8th Hussars; 2nd Lieut. Metzler, 74th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Moorehouse, 74th Batt. Quebec: Lieut. La Rue, 87th Batt.; 2nd Lieut. O'Meara, 86th Batt. British Columbia: 2nd Lieut. McHarg, R.M.C., Manitoba: Capt. Whimster, Man. Dragoons; 2nd Lieut. Cowan, Man. Dragoons; 2nd Lieut. Irvine, 90th Batt. Prince Edward Island: Lieut. Stewart, 82nd Batt.; Lieut. Mellish, 82nd Batt.; 2nd Lieut. Rodd, 82nd Batt.

PAY OF MEN AT WORK POINT BARRACKS, B.C.

Mr. PRIOR asked:

1. What is the rate of pay per diem allowed by the Imperial authorities to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men quartered at Work Point Barracks, in British Columbia, giving same for each separate rank?

2. What is the rate of pay per diem allowed to the same officers and men by the Dominion government in addition to the pay they receive from the Imperial government?

3. What is the rate of pay per diem allowed to the Canadian officers and men now doing garrison duty at Victoria, B.C., as Canadian troops?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: 1. The rates of pay for the Arm concerned. As regards details of these rates, they are to be found in the Royal Warrant for pay. The answer would be too long to give. 2. None. 3. The rates of pay for the active militia of Canada.

Mr. PRIOR. Does not Canada give something extra?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am informed not.

Mr. PRIOR. They used to.

SONGHEES INDIAN RESERVE.

Mr. PRIOR asked:

1. Are the government aware that as yet no settlement has been arrived at with the provincial government of British Columbia for the removal of the Indians from the Songhees Indian reserve?

2. Are they aware that the citizens of Victoria are unanimous in wishing this removal to be carried out without delay?

3. Are they aware that a most brutal murder of a white woman occurred on this reserve some few months ago, and that until this land ceases to be an Indian reserve the city cannot police it effectually?

4. Will the government again take this matter up with the provincial government, at once, and earnestly attempt to come to a settlement so that the Indians may be removed from the reserve?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I beg to reply: 1. Yes. 2. The government has been for some time aware of the desire of the citizens of Victoria to have the Indians removed, and it, therefore, made, as is shown by the papers which were laid on the Table of the House, an early and earnest endeavour to arrange with the provincial authorities for their removal and the disposal of the land comprised in the reserve. The claim made by the province in respect to the land in the reserve made joint action necessary. As the hon. gentleman knows, the failure to effect the removal of the Indians does not lie with the Dominion. 3. The government is not aware that a murder has been committed on the reserve. The government does not know of anything which would stand in the way of the reserve being patrolled by the police of the city, did the civic authorities so desire. 4. As the provincial authorities are aware of the readiness of this government to act in accordance with its proposal, as shown in the papers which were laid on the Table, there does not appear to be occasion for further action on its part at present.

EXPORT OF CATTLE TO THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. HEYD asked:

1. How many cattle and their value one year old and less, were exported to the United States yearly from 1890 to latest return?

2. How many and value over one year for the same time?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). In reply to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Heyd), I would say that previous to 1894, the returns did not distinguish cattle one year old or less, from cattle over one year old, so that, for four years, from 1890 to 1894, I will have to give the hon. gentleman the total, without distinguishing between the classes. The following is a statement showing the number and value of cattle exported to the United States from Canada, during the undermentioned fiscal years:

	Canadian.		Foreign.		Total.	
	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
		\$		\$		\$
1890.....	7,840	104,623	24	2,768	7,864	107,391
1891.....	2,763	26,975	4	2,270	2,767	29,245
1892.....	551	21,327	1	45	552	21,777
1893.....	402	11,032	1	20	403	11,052

CATTLE ONE YEAR OLD OR LESS.

1894.....	37	632	2	33	39	665
1895.....	536	1,410			536	1,410
1896.....	1,423	3,614			1,423	3,614
1897.....	4,688	29,613	2	11	4,690	29,624
1898.....	12,231	108,001			12,231	108,001
1899.....	24,010	242,947			24,010	242,947
Six months ended December, 1899.....	11,978	152,018			11,978	152,018

CATTLE OVER ONE YEAR OLD.

1894.....	219	3,139	1	87	223	3,226
1895.....	346	17,806	4	325	350	18,131
1896.....	223	5,256	284	4,200	507	9,536
1897.....	31,310	479,525	6	200	31,316	479,725
1898.....	75,674	1,131,447	21	6,300	75,695	1,137,747
1899.....	68,824	1,055,223	30	15,370	68,854	1,070,593
Six months ended December, 1899.....	28,784	545,432	50	9,700	28,834	555,132

LOBSTER FISHING REGULATIONS.

Mr. MILLS asked :

1. What is the regulation as to size of lobsters caught in Digby and Annapolis counties, Nova Scotia?

2. What is the time limit for catching lobsters in said counties?

3. Are these regulations of the government being carried out by the fishery overseers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Legal size limit, 10½ inches. 2. Season opens 15th January, and ends midnight, 29th June. 3. A short time ago, the department being informed that the regulations were being violated, called upon the overseer for a report. He reported 19th April, that the reports were much exaggerated, and in a great many cases totally unfounded; and that he was satisfied everything was going on as well as it possibly could under the new regulations.

Mr. DRYSDALE, M.L.A., HANTS, N.S.

Mr. MILLS asked :

Was Mr. Drysdale, M.L.A. for Hants County, N.S., employed by the government in any capacity in connection with the contracts for the supplying of, or fitting up of, the steamships at Halifax for the conveyance of the contingents or Strathcona Horse to South Africa, or in any other capacity?

If so employed, what were his duties?

How long was he employed and what his remuneration?

Mr. PATERSON.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Mr. Drysdale, M.L.A. for Hants County, N.S., has not been employed in any capacity whatever by the Department of Militia, or by the government in connection with the contracts for the supplying of, or fitting up of, the steamships at Halifax for the conveyance of the Canadian contingents, or of Strathcona's Horse, to South Africa. I am including Strathcona's Horse. To my own knowledge he was not employed by the government. The government had nothing whatever to do with Strathcona's Horse, except to lend the machinery of the department to assist Lord Strathcona in despatching his Horse.

Mr. WICKWIRE, M.L.A., NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. MILLS asked :

Was Mr. Wickwire, M.L.A. for Nova Scotia, employed by the government in any capacity in connection with the contracts for the supplying of, or the fitting up of, the steamships at Halifax for the conveyance of the contingents or Strathcona Horse to South Africa, or in any other capacity?

If so employed, what were his duties?

How long was he employed and what his remuneration?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The same answer applies exactly to this question. Mr. Wickwire was not employed in any capacity whatever.

CLERK OF WORKS, POST OFFICE BUILDING, KENTVILLE, N.S.

Mr. MILLS asked :

Who is the local government inspector or clerk of works on the new post office building in course of erection in Kentville, N.S.?

Is he paid by the day, or how, and how much?

How many days has he been employed up to the end of March? What amount has been paid him? What is or has been the usual business of this government official?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. C. L. Dodge. 2. Is paid \$75 a month. 3. Employed 226 days, and has been paid \$540. 4. The department has no official information as to the usual business of this gentleman, but it is understood that he is a contractor and trader.

SUPPLIES FOR THE CANADIAN CONTINGENT.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Were the supplies of meat and hay required for the uses of the men and horses of the Canadian contingent that left Halifax for South Africa purchased by public tender; and if so, from whom, and at what prices?

2. How many pounds of meat, both fresh and preserved, were put on board each of the four transports that left Halifax for South Africa with the Canadian contingents?

3. How much per pound was paid for fresh meat and how much for preserved meat?

4. What was the total amount paid for the meat purchased, and what quantity of fresh and preserved meats respectively was purchased?

5. How many pounds each of hay, oats and bran were purchased, and at what price for each article?

6. How many men and how many horses were transported in the four contingents to South Africa?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The only supplies purchased by the government, were hay and feed for the horses, all the other supplies were furnished by the owners of the transport ships. The price was ascertained by correspondence with several prominent dealers in hay, oats, &c. The purchases of hay were made from W. C. Hamilton, at \$12.50 per ton; of oats, from Horace Hazard, at 37 cents per bushel; of bran, from J. L. Dodge and Co., at \$18 per ton. I am not at present able to give the hon. gentleman the number of pounds of meat, as the statement has not yet been made up. In answer to the last question, the number of officers was 154, of non-commissioned officers and men, 2,708; of horses, 1,783. This includes three officers and 51 men of the Strathcona Horse, but does not include three officers and 101 men sent to fill up the vacancies in the first contingent, and 1 officer and 51 men about being sent at the request of Lord Strathcona.

THE MONTREAL HARBOUR AND THE CONNERS SYNDICATE.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to ask a question of the hon. the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), who, I understand, is acting Minister of Public Works. It is stated in the newspapers that the arrangements between the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, and the Connors Syndicate have come to an end on account of the syndicate not having fulfilled the conditions. If the hon. gentlemen is aware of it, will he be kind enough to tell me, whether the government has taken any action in the matter, or intend to do so.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I must say in answer to the hon. gentleman, that I have never heard anything about the matter he mentions, I am not aware whether such arrangements have come to an end. If the hon. gentleman desires, I will make inquiry on the subject, and, perhaps, be in a position to-morrow to give him an answer.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I desire to ask the acting Minister of Public Works, when the report of that department is likely to be brought down.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am sorry to say that the report of the Department of Public Works has had a very unfortunate career. It was placed in the hands of an officer to prepare, and I asked the deputy of the department, why it was not forthcoming, and he told me that the officer in charge had the bad taste to die. I asked him if there was no survivor; he said yes, and that he had placed it in the hands of a survivor who had had the bad taste to be taken sick. All these things delayed the preparation of the report, and I find that only to-day has it gone to the printers.

Mr. McNEILL. That seems to be a very dangerous document, and I hope it will not be as dangerous to the government as it is to the staff who are handling it. I did not quite catch what the hon. gentleman said about its going to the printers.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I inquired of the chief engineer, who has largely to do with it, and he told me that beyond all question it would be placed in the hands of the printers to-day.

MAIL BAGS AND BICYCLES OBSTRUCTING MAIN ENTRANCE.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). I would like to draw the attention of the acting Minister of Public Works, to the disgraceful state in which the entrance to the Parliament Buildings is at present. Why,

Sir, I think any stranger coming into this building would almost be afraid of stumbling over that enormous pile of mail bags which have accumulated there. The sight is exactly one of a collection of old bags mixed up with a few bicycles, which certainly seem to me to be altogether out of place in this building. At first, there were only a few, but they have now accumulated to such an extent that I am afraid we will have to come in by some side door. The main entrance is likely to become so obstructed that it will be impossible for members of parliament to get through. The government should immediately give its attention to this matter. At a time when the scientific world is so busy with investigating microbes, I fear there must be danger to health in this accumulation of old bags, and that fear is strengthened by what the Postmaster General has just told us of the illness among the officers in his department. I hope the government will take steps to remove these obstructions and eyesores from the portals of this building.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). In reply to the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron), as to the condition of the entrance hall in the Parliament Buildings, I think the obstruction or eyesores are occasioned not only by outsiders, but by hon. members on both sides of this House. If it is the desire of the House that no bicycles or mail bags should not remain in the entrance hall, I will give orders at once to the caretaker not to allow—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Not bicycles surely?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. Not bicycles? Where, then, am I to—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), will have something to say about that.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. Well, perhaps the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron), could arrange to learn and communicate to me the views of his friends about him, and I will do the same with hon. gentlemen on this side, and we can then reach a modus vivendi.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock), being acting Minister of Public Works should know exactly in what way the parliament bags should be kept. It is not often that the hon. gentleman consults the wishes of members on this side of the House. I am quite certain that it is not from the fact that these wishes have not been already expressed that the hon. gentleman has permitted these eyesores to remain in this public building. But, I think, and I repeat, that it is a disgrace to see the entrance to the Parliament Buildings in such a state. It seems to me there might be

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**.

some shed or some room down stairs where these mail bags could be collected without interfering with the beauty of that hall.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron), refers to my having permitted this. I desire to correct the hon. gentleman, and to say, that I have never given permission. But, as he has spoken so strongly, I will give orders to the caretaker to allow no such eyesores in the future, no matter who may seek to continue them.

Mr. **R. L. BORDEN** (Halifax). I would like to say, with regard to bicycles, that I think it would be a matter of very small expense to have a rack for bicycles either inside or outside the building. All large commercial establishments have such racks for bicycles used by their employees. A great many of the civil servants who are employed in this building and a good many members of this House use bicycles, and the only way of disposing of them at present is to stand them up in the entrance. But, I would suggest to the Postmaster General that he should provide a bicycle rack either inside or outside the building—it does not make such difference where. It would be as convenient to have a room down stairs as any place else.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PAYMENT OF INSURANCE CLAIMS.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call the attention of the government to a matter that is very interesting to a number of people. I have been trying to obtain from the Department of Militia an official statement from the War Office of the deaths of men of the first contingent who fell in battle. On the 15th day of March, I wrote a letter to the Minister of Militia and Defence, stating that the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, who were carrying insurance to the extent of \$1,000,000, on the lives of the men of the first contingent, were desirous of obtaining an official list of those who had lost their lives on the field of battle. From that day to this I have been trying in vain to get this information, information that ought to be obtained in an hour. There are thousands of dollars ready to be paid over by this corporation to the heirs of those who have fallen on the field of battle, but down to this moment I have not been able to get that information for the company. I now appeal to the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the government, to ascertain if he can get the Governor General to send a cable to Lord Lansdowne for a statement of the facts, and of the information that is absolutely necessary in order that justice may be done to the heirs of those whose lives were insured.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). After receiving the

letter which the hon. leader of the opposition has mentioned, a letter was sent to the War Office asking for the details. Later on a cablegram was sent, and up to the present moment we have not received the official statement over the handwriting of the proper officer in the War Office for the use of the government. I regret that, but it was no fault of mine. The moment the paper comes to hand, I will send it forward to the office, as I told the hon. gentleman I would, and will send him a copy. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, another word in this connection. I am informed that the other insurance companies who had insured lives of men who have died in South Africa, have paid the risks at once upon the information which we were able to furnish, and which I think ought to be satisfactory to any company, information which has come to the militia office through the official channel, direct from the Commander-in-chief in South Africa, and through the War Office.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Borden, King's) allow me to say that information has been received from the Militia Department of the death of persons who have not died, while persons have been reported as wounded who had been killed. Therefore, the point is taken by this company that there had been these mistakes and misapprehensions through the department here, so, they require a statement from the War Office. That statement can be obtained without the least difficulty, and I am sure my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will take means to get it.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I shall speak with His Excellency the Governor General on the subject. The precaution is not unjustifiable on the part of the company. They naturally require absolute proof that the party is dead. But there is no blame to be attached to the Minister of Militia, as my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) will see.

PRINTING OF VOTERS' LISTS.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). The Prime Minister promised us some time ago to let us have definite knowledge with regard to the printing of the voters' lists, the months are passing by, and we have as yet got no information as to the condition of the lists or when they are to be printed.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) had been here yesterday he would know that the energies of the Printing Bureau are devoted to the printing of the reports of the departments, and these must be disposed of before the lists are taken up.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In what order will the lists be printed; in the order in which they come into the Bureau?

The PRIME MINISTER. They have all been printed in the order in which they came to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And that will be continued?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, certainly.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—NEWS AS TO MISSING MEN.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to mention to the Minister of Militia a matter which I have already orally communicated to him—that some of the members of the first Canadian contingent from my province have been reported as missing, and since that report, there has been no mention in the newspapers of their whereabouts, and so their parents and relatives are in a state of considerable anxiety with regard to them. One man to whom I would particularly refer is Private Munnis, who is the son of a respectable citizen in my own constituency. Private Munnis was reported as missing about four weeks ago, and since that time his father has had no information whether he is living or dead, whether he is in prison or free. I venture to inquire whether the Department of Militia could not take some steps to ascertain—by telegraphing to Col. Otter, I suppose—whether or not these soldiers are prisoners, whether they are still missing, or what is known with regard to them. It seems to me that as these young men have volunteered and as the country have sent them forward, their parents are entitled to this information from the government, and I would respectfully say that the Department of Militia would not be going outside of its duty if it should take some such course as I have suggested in this matter.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). There were, I think, fifteen men reported as missing. Col. Otter was asked for a report. The report came the other day with regard to these men. Their names are not given, but simply the fact that there were fifteen men reported as missing, men who had committed some impropriety in Cape Town, had gone off without leave of absence, but they had all reported and were then with him. To-morrow, I will make further inquiries and I shall be glad to give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax) any further information I may have.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The young man to whom I refer was not one of the fifteen spoken of by the minister. He fell out on the march to Belmont owing to the heat and to fatigue and was reported missing. Since that time, four weeks ago, his parents have been unable to obtain a single word about him, and they are naturally anx-

ious to know at least whether he is living or dead.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. If the hon. gentleman will send me the name, I will make inquiry.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). In connection with that matter, I would mention to the hon. member the case of Private Frank Irwin, who was reported ill in Wynburg hospital on the 9th of March last, since which time nothing has been heard from him. His parents have tried in every way to get information, but have not succeeded. I would ask the hon. minister to get what information he can about him also.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn) has spoken to me about this soldier several times. I feel sure that the fact that we have not had information indicates that the young man is improved. If there had been anything of a serious character we should have heard.

WELLAND CANAL—DYNAMITE EXPLOSION.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). Before we pass to the Orders of the Day, Mr. Speaker, I desire to refer for a moment to a question that was brought up yesterday by the hon. member for Welland (Mr. McCleary), with reference to the alleged fact that when the company or battalion of militia was called out recently, they had no ammunition. I can only say with reference to that, that if there was no ammunition under the control of the commanding officer of that battalion, that commanding officer is entirely to blame for the want himself, as I will show you and the House. By a general order issued in February, 1898, the following, among other things, is provided :

Officers commanding districts and officers commanding units of the permanent corps respectively will take steps to insure a supply of small arm ammunition being at all times in possession of the permanent and city corps and of the rural corps whose arms are kept at regimental headquarters, in the following proportion:

Units of the permanent corps, mounted or dismounted,—

100 rounds per carbine or rifle on their establishment.

City or rural corps—

Which applies to this regiment—

—as above, mounted or dismounted,—

50 rounds per carbine or rifle on their establishment.

This ammunition must at all times be retained in the stores or armouries of the corps as a reserve for service in aid of the civil power or for active service.

A record of this ammunition must be entered on the regimental or company store ledgers, and produced at the half-yearly or yearly inspection of corps in quarters.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it will be quite

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

clear to the House and the country, that so far as the department itself and the headquarters are concerned, we are not in any way responsible. The commanding officer of this battalion is entirely responsible for the fact that he did not furnish himself with ammunition as he was bound to do under the regulations controlling this matter.

Mr. WM. McCLEARY (Welland). I wish to say in answer to the minister, that not being a military man, I know nothing whatever about the military regulations myself, but the fact remains the same anyway, that there was no ammunition; not a single round for the volunteers of the 19th Battalion that were called out on Sunday last. I do not know who is the commanding officer of the regiment. I am satisfied that the 19th Battalion which have recently been reorganized is a first-class up-to-date battalion, and it appears to me that the commanding officer would certainly have had the ammunition in store if that is the militia order, and the ammunition could be got at. That is my opinion about it. I heard the statement yesterday on pretty good authority, as I thought, that there was no ammunition in Toronto, Hamilton, or the city of London, for an emergency.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). Well, the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary) does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. McCLEARY. Possibly I may not, but there are certain gentlemen who hold pretty high positions in the government who very frequently do not know what they are talking about.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is no motion before the House.

Mr. McCLEARY. I do not want to rest on my own opinion, and I shall read what appears in the press.

Mr. SPEAKER. We are not discussing the question at large.

Mr. McCLEARY. I will conclude with a motion, Mr. Speaker. There are three papers in the city of St. Catharines, and two of them have commented on this very matter, I shall read the comment of one.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What paper is it?

Mr. McCLEARY. It is the *Evening Star*, published in the city of St. Catharines. I will not read the whole article, but the conclusion is this :

Quartermaster Groves was approached with regard to this serious state of affairs this morning, and while one could see he was willing to tell the facts, the absence of his usual frank, outspoken manner indicated that he knew a good deal more than he cared to disclose. However, the 'Star' challenges contradiction of the statement that the militia and artillery at London, Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines could not be turned out this week with one round of ammunition per man.

Mr. GIBSON. Read it all.

Mr. McCLEARY. It may be that the gentleman who wrote that article is as devoid of common sense and knowledge as has been imputed to me by the minister. However, the item stands for itself, and the fact remains that they have not ammunition in the armouries in St. Catharines, so that, Mr. Speaker, it is hardly necessary for the minister (Mr. Borden), to say that we know nothing about it, or to use the language he did.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. gentleman stated that he would move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. He withdraws.

The PRIME MINISTER. He cannot withdraw.

Mr. McCLEARY. Very well, I will move the adjournment of the House.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary) seems to take exception to the statement I made across the floor as to his not being well informed in reference to this matter. I can assure my hon. friend that I made no insinuation against the well-known fact that he is generally well informed. But, on this particular matter, I venture to say that he does not know the facts, and that is evidenced by the statement he has made. I am a little surprised that the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary) should be so willing—I will not say anxious—to cast discredit upon the defences of this country, by rushing into the House to repeat gossip and to read unconfirmed newspaper extracts. If the hon. gentleman had been consulting the best interests of his own country, and its defences which I am sure he takes an interest in, if he did not care to come to me he would have gone to some officer in the Militia Department to get the best information he could; and if he could not get satisfactory information there, then he might have brought the question up in parliament. The hon. gentleman seems to have his doubts. There was a doubt implied in the language he used as to whether the general order which I read was really a militia general order.

Mr. McCLEARY. Not at all.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman should know that that order was published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Mr. MONTAGUE. He did not say anything about that.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I heard him distinctly say 'if' there was such an order, and I say he cast a doubt upon the statement which I made as to there being that order.

Mr. McCLEARY. I rise to a personal explanation. The hon. minister is putting

words into my mouth which I never used. I said I was not a militia man, and that I knew nothing about the regulations.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am bound to accept the statement of the hon. gentleman. I certainly understood him to say 'if there be such an order'; but we will let that pass. There is such an order, and it has been published in the official *Gazette*, and is in the hands of the officer who commands the regiment in question, and to-day I can tell the House and the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCleary) that that officer sent forward to Ottawa a requisition for the ammunition which he should have had in store constantly.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is there no one who inspects the supplies and the armouries?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Certainly.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister surely would have a report from that officer.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The ammunition may have been there six months ago and have been used since. We have no means of knowing that. It is the duty of the commanding officer, as clearly indicated in that general order, to see that he has on hand that supply of fifty rounds for each man in the battalion, and I shall take pains to ascertain why this commanding officer has not attended to this part of his duty. It would be very much more to his credit to attend to his duty than to be supplying my hon. friend opposite with information on which he might attack the government. Now, Mr. Speaker, with reference to the supply of ammunition, it is not perhaps in the highest degree desirable, as any military man here will understand, that we should advertise to the world just exactly where our ammunition is stored. But let me say this, in order that my hon. friend opposite will feel more assured, that there is an ample supply of ammunition, that there is an ample supply of ammunition in London, an ample supply in Toronto, and a supply in Hamilton. I may say further, with reference to the artillery ammunition, that some years ago, when General Herbert was here, he insisted that this ammunition, which is of an explosive and dangerous character, should be kept at the two central points, where there is good magazine accommodation, of which I regret to say, we have not enough in Canada, namely, at Kingston and at Quebec. There is an ample supply of artillery ammunition at both of these points, and there is a certain amount at other points in the west, which I need not mention. The ammunition for the batteries, is issued annually in camp for practice, and the different batteries are not allowed to take the ammunition home with them, because of its dangerous character.

This has special reference to the twelve-pounder ammunition, which is cordite, which any one familiar with its qualities knows is exceedingly dangerous. I think I have shown pretty conclusively that the department is not blamable for the fact that there was no ammunition there, and further that there is plenty of ammunition within easy reach of all the battalions in the province of Ontario, and throughout the Dominion, and that, so far as the artillery is concerned, there is also ample ammunition within easy reach.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I understand that the hon. gentleman who brought this question up, bases his statement on an article which he read in the *Evening Star*.

Mr. McCLEARY. I beg pardon. I had not seen that article till yesterday.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman, however, to-day quoted this article in support of his statement, and seemed to place a good deal of confidence in this newspaper. I regret that the hon. gentleman has that confidence in this newspaper, because in the article in question, there are expressions which I hope the hon. gentleman will disapprove of, and denounce in his own county as being of a most malignant character, and calculated to stir up racial feelings in this country. I will just point out to the House the kind of statements which this newspaper, which the hon. gentleman quotes, and apparently endorses, puts before the public. This article is headed 'A Case in Point,' and in the first paragraph it says:

The 'Star' earnestly hopes that, in calling attention to Saturday night's attempt to disable the Welland Canal, and subsequent events, it will not be charged with an attempt to 'stir up racial feeling' by pointing out one or two important things.

That is the heading, and that is the intention; but I will point out the way in which this newspaper tries to avoid stirring up racial feeling. After the portion of the article which the hon. gentleman quoted, and which I will not repeat, it goes on:

No doubt, the display would frighten the intruders, but it would be perfectly harmless otherwise, as there is no ammunition for rifles or guns in Ontario. The Frenchmen at Quebec have it all in their keeping.

This is the way in which the Ontario journal, which, I believe, supports the hon. gentleman and the party with which he is connected, tries to avoid stirring up racial feeling amongst its readers. I would like to know how the hon. gentleman or his friends or the editor of this paper justifies a statement of this kind, which has no connection whatever with the affair in question, and which can have no possible *raison d'être*, except for the express purpose of stirring up racial feeling at a time when all the

members of the militia of this country, to whatever race they belong, or whatever language they speak, or whatever religion they profess, have been ready to show their patriotism and loyalty to Canada, and to the empire. This paper tries to separate the militia of this country into two opposite camps—the one, the French of Quebec, and the other, the English-speaking people of Ontario. I regret that an hon. member of this House should quote an article of this kind, reading portions of it which happen to suit his purpose, and leaving out these dangerous and malignant parts, which I think he ought to have taken the opportunity of exposing and denouncing.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, I really cannot find out how the hon. gentleman, who brought up this important question has attempted to stir up any racial cries. The hon. gentleman put a question to the Minister of Militia. He wanted to ascertain, as it was his right and his duty to do, whether the militia force of the district in which the outrage took place, had the necessary ammunition. My hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, has properly laid down the regulations respecting the ammunition, but he has not gone far enough. It is the duty of the department to ascertain whether this ammunition has been applied for, and is to be found where it should be. Would it be an answer, in case of an attack, for the hon. Minister of Militia to say, we could not defend ourselves, forsooth, because we fancied there was ammunition there, and we found that the commanding officer had forgotten to claim the ammunition to which he was entitled, and hence we were defeated? The Minister of Agriculture has tried to make a point against my hon. friend for quoting a newspaper, merely to show that the ammunition had not been provided as it should have been. The hon. minister says that paper has raised the cry that all the ammunition is in Quebec. Well, Sir, we Frenchmen are really not very selfish, and are not disposed to keep all the ammunition down in the province of Quebec. We are ready to divide it between Ontario, Quebec and the other provinces, and to use it with the other provinces, in defending ourselves against attack from any foe. We want nothing more, and I do not believe the people of Quebec will be at all annoyed at the paragraph which appears in that paper, suggesting that all the ammunition is to be found in the province of Quebec. But I would suggest that the hon. Minister of Militia should draw upon that ammunition and send some of it to the Welland Canal, in case of another attack being directed against those very important public works. It is no answer to say that all the ammunition and gunpowder is to be found in one place. It is the duty of the Department of Militia, to distribute it in such a way that it will be

Mr. BORDEN (King's, N.S.)

useful to the whole Dominion, and not to one section or another alone.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, I think because of the anger which he sometimes, at very little provocation, displays, the Minister of Militia made a statement which is absolutely unfair to the officer in command of the 19th Battalion. The hon. Minister of Militia said that the colonel would have done better to have kept the supply of ammunition good than carry information to the hon. member for Welland. Well, the hon. member for Welland did not tell this House that the colonel had given him any information. He gave the source of his information, and that source was the public press. But, so far as the colonel of the battalion was concerned, the hon. member for Welland did not know who he was, he did not even know his name, until it was given to him last night by the hon. member for South Simcoe (Mr. Tyrwhitt). In view of these facts, the hon. Minister of Militia should withdraw his innuendo, that tales were being carried by the colonel of the battalion. I am sure that the hon. gentleman regrets having cast such an unfair aspersion on that officer.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have no desire to impute any motive to any officer of the militia, but if this particular officer did furnish information to anybody, I think he might have been better engaged. I would simply say this, that there will be an investigation which will not only include this officer, but the officer at the head of the particular district in which the battalion is stationed.

Mr. McCLEARY. I want to say a word in defence of my position. I am glad to find the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) in his place, because we are not often favoured with his presence here.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman must confine himself to a personal explanation.

Mr. McCLEARY. In reference to the item read from the *Evening Star*, it just shows what the size of the hon. gentleman is when he himself, in cold blood, endeavoured to raise in this House a racial question that I never thought of. He charged me with leaving out part of the article because that part would not suit my purpose. Well, the paragraph I read was one that alluded solely to the matter which I was bringing to the attention of the government. Let me repeat that I did not know who the commanding officer of that battalion was until I was told by the hon. member for South Simcoe after I sat down. I never had a word of communication with him, good, bad or indifferent, about this matter, nor with any other officer in that battalion. My information was entirely from a private source regarding the state of affairs on Sunday, when the guard was called out.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). As we are on a subject connected with our war department, might I ask the right hon. gentleman whether we are to have a commanding officer to replace General Hutton, and if so, when? Otherwise, it will not be necessary for us to vote the money to pay him.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend must admit that the question he has put is far removed from the subject we are discussing. He has introduced a subject which has no relevance to the one we are discussing.

Mr. BERGERON. It is very pertinent.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is not pertinent at all. At the proper time, when we are asking an appropriation for the General, the government will be happy to give all the information my hon. friend requires.

Motion (Mr. McCleary) to adjourn, negatived.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Mr. A. MARTIN (East Queen's). I notice that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is in his place, and before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to put to him a question. About a month ago I asked him whether or not all the provinces of Canada were to be represented at the Paris Exhibition, and he led me to understand that they were. I asked him who was to represent Prince Edward Island, and he told me that he would give me the information in a few days. I would like to know now whether anybody has been appointed to represent the province of Prince Edward Island, and if so, who?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). So far, there is nobody to represent Prince Edward Island, but, I am waiting for a report from the commissioners in Paris as to what further assistance they require.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has the appointment been offered to any one?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. JOHN W. BELL (Addington). In rising, Mr. Speaker, to take my part in the budget debate, I will make my best endeavour to be neither tedious nor disagreeable. I would not have attempted to take

up the time of the House in my present state of health, did I not feel bound to discharge a duty which I owe to myself and my constituents. I join my congratulations to those of the government on the prosperity now existing throughout the Dominion. I am glad when we are in a prosperous condition; I rejoice when our trade and commerce are flourishing as they are to-day. I go further, and give the government considerable credit for the prosperity we are now enjoying. I think that prosperity is largely due to the fact that the government have not carried out the policy on which they appealed to the country. Had they brought down a tariff for revenue only, or a tariff based on free trade as they have it in England, we would not be in the position in which we now find ourselves. Governments may come and governments may go, but, so long as protection is the basis of our trade and fiscal policy, the prosperity of Canada is assured.

Sir, I suppose it is my duty to make some reference to the hon. gentleman who preceded me in discussing the budget last night—the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes). I would like to congratulate the hon. gentleman, for I like to say pleasant things, I like to say sweet things; but, if I should undertake to congratulate the hon. gentleman, I do not think I could congratulate him upon his modesty. If I understood him correctly, he referred to the Conservative party as being in a condition of decay and dry-rot—moribund. I do not think that such an expression came with very good grace from the hon. gentleman. He should have considered his surroundings and the means used to gain him a seat in this House. I think he would have acted more wisely if he had been a little more modest. There was one thing with regard to which I agreed with the hon. gentleman. He stated in his address, regarding the preferential tariff, that it had done no good to England and very little good to Canada. That is my opinion. And, having found a point on which I can agree with the hon. gentleman, I will say no more.

Now, I wish to say a word with regard to one particular point in the speech of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), an hon. gentleman for whom I have the highest regard, a gentleman whose views as expressed in this House impressed me very strongly, a gentleman with whose view on one particular point I agreed—superannuation. I remember well how he laboured in this House. I remember that he was instant in season and out of season denouncing inconsistency and corruption in connection with this superannuation system. I did expect that he would continue his labours, and that when his party came into power that great reformation would take place which he had so often pictured. I will not detain the House, nor will I trouble you by quoting figures at length.

Mr. BELL (Addington).

But, regarding superannuation, I have a few figures here. The average amount paid in 1897, 1898 and 1899, was \$324,512; the average in 1894, 1895 and 1896, was \$279,639. The average yearly increase was \$44,873. Has not the hon. gentleman succeeded marvellously in bringing about a better state of things in regard to superannuation? But then, he said, he would have succeeded in having the whole thing abolished and wiped out if it had not been for the opposition. What a weak government, Mr. Speaker—a government that could carry through a Drummond County deal, that could carry through a Redistribution Bill, and yet could not carry through what that hon. gentleman so long advocated, the doing away with the corruption and extravagance which he said characterized the Conservative government's management of the superannuation system, and not only that but spent on the average \$44,873 more every year. I was a little amused at that hon. gentleman. He finished up with a sort of Shakesperian play, leading us through quite a few acts, showing the corruption of the Conservative party. He referred to the Curran Bridge and many other things, and said to the young men of Canada: Young men, read, mark, learn the history of your country. I should say to the young men: Read and mark well the course of the hon. member for North Wellington regarding superannuation; but if you expect to reach the heights of fame, I would advise you not to follow in his footsteps.

Sir, I have been pleased with the debate, to which I have listened attentively. I wish to deal with the question before us as a fair-minded man. I was very much pleased with the speech of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), which was delivered in a dispassionate, candid, and deliberate manner, not as a partisan politician, but dealing with the questions upon their merits, and proving his position step by step, making a case so strong that the hon. member for North Wellington dare not attack it in any way. Now, it seems to me—and I hope I am not partial, I think I can claim at least a certain amount of independence, and that I can deal with these questions fairly and judge them without being partisan—it does seem to me that the speeches on this side of the House are more like the speeches of business men dealing with the business of the country than those of hon. gentlemen opposite. Listening to the hon. member for Kent, Ont. (Mr. Campbell) and others on that side who have spoken, it seems to me that their whole effort is to make excuses, to offer apologies and to varnish over what the government has done. They speak from a political standpoint altogether. My attention was drawn particularly to the speech made by the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Pater-son). I remember the evening when he addressed this House with loud intonation

and vociferous acclamation, pounding his arguments in by striking his desk. I was perfectly astounded, carried away, mesmerized, for my respect for the hon. gentleman is such that I accepted his statements as being founded upon fact. Listening to his arguments, I thought that the Conservative party were done for. If the government had saved so many millions of dollars to the people of this country, there was no use in the Conservative party undertaking to compete with such a government. He set forth the reductions that had been made in the tariff, and, by the way, I do not think that he did it with very much respect for the party on this side of the House; for he placed two tariffs side by side, calling one 'our tariff' and the other 'the old Tory tariff.' I do think that we should try to elevate the tone of debate in this House, and when we refer to the party opposed to us, it should be done with that degree of respect which becomes discussion in the House of parliament. But I find that nearly all the reductions referred to in the hon. gentleman's statement had been made by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) in 1894, and that the present government had placed on the free list only twenty-one articles altogether, against hundreds placed on the free list by the Conservative party. Among these twenty-one articles are four different kinds of steel, which really are only one article. Counting them as such, we have eighteen articles only placed upon the free list by hon. gentlemen opposite. I do think that when hon. gentlemen address this House they ought to observe the principle of honesty and fair-play in presenting their arguments.

Now, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the principles of the great Liberal party in the Dominion of Canada. I have observed that when we touch upon that subject—what some hon. gentlemen call broken pledges, but what I will call the principles of the Liberal party—hon. gentlemen opposite become perplexed and worried. Why? Have we not a right to speak about those pledges? Have we not a right to make some reference to them? When were those pledges made? They were made when the Liberal party were appealing to the country to be returned to power. They made certain promises to the electors in order to obtain power, and we have a right to know what those promises were, and to hold them firmly to the promises and the pledges they made. Did they say that the Conservative party was corrupt and extravagant? Well, Sir, have they been anything else since they obtained power? Did they say the Conservative party had increased the public debt, had increased the expenditure? Have they lessened the public debt and the public expenditure? Here are a few of the principles of the great Liberal party: Free trade, reduced expenditure, reduced public debt, purity in elections, independence of parlia-

ment, superannuation and prohibition. Now, how many of these pledges have they carried out? Have they given us free trade as a fiscal policy? No, Mr. Speaker, and I congratulate them for not having done so. Have they reduced the expenditure? By no means, they have increased it by millions. Have they reduced the public debt? By no means, they have increased the public debt. Now, Sir, what shall I say about purity of elections?

An hon. MEMBER. Impurity of elections.

Mr. BELL (Addington). No, I do not want to call it impurity of elections; but I do say that there is no man in this House feels more keenly than I do the disgrace that has been brought upon this fair Dominion of ours by the corrupt practices they have introduced in elections.

Sir, another promise given by the Liberal party was to procure reciprocity with the United States. We were told that the markets of 70,000,000 people were our natural markets, that it was in our interest we should have reciprocal trade with the United States. Some hon. gentlemen deny that, I think the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) has denied it. But we have on record statements made by the Premier himself and by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and others. I will not repeat these statements, but I will quote a statement made by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce before he became a member of the government. He made a speech in my county during the campaign, where the hon. gentleman frowned severely on the corruption of the Conservative party, and he frowned on protection. You know, that when that hon. gentleman smiles he smiles most serenely, but when he frowns, Mr. Speaker, I will not undertake to describe it. I have here a report made by a reporter of the speech delivered by the Minister of Trade and Commerce in the village of Harrowsmith, in the county of Addington, and I know that it is correct. He said:

The national policy had ruined the country, real estate in consequence not worth one-half what it was previous to 1878; nothing would save Canada from utter financial ruin but unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, with sixty-six millions at our door; absurd to think we could build up a profitable trade with Great Britain, 3,000 miles away. And, oh, the robbery of that horrible national policy, robbing the poor, not for the benefit of the whole, but solely for the benefit of those cormorants, the voracious manufacturers. He dwelt on cotton, sugar, coal oil, the millions taken from the poor on such articles. Coal oil, something awful; the poor, down-trodden workingman—

How sympathetic he was.

—paying 14 cents a gallon. If it were not for that abominable national policy, we could buy the best for 8 cents—'just think of the sin of it.'

These cormorants would sell cotton cheaper to the Chinamen than to the people of Addington. Away with protection; cotton would be

3 or 4 cents cheaper next day. Just figure on the cotton used in Canada, and realize the saving, if you can. The same thing as to sugar.

Oh, yes! then there was the extravagance of the ministers; their private cars and cabs; letting contracts without tenders; their corruption in elections; members sitting with pledges of office in their pockets. Should such incompetent men be intrusted to govern this country?

This was the language that he used to the electors of Addington when the Liberal party were seeking the suffrages of the people. Now, I wish to be fair, I wish to give the government all the credit that is due them. I am ready at all times to support wholesome legislation introduced by this government that is in the interests of the Dominion of Canada. The government did make an effort to secure reciprocity with the United States. They went down to Washington and approached the government of the United States, saying they were anxious to have a treaty of reciprocal trade with them. I will not undertake to go over all that was done there, we have heard it already in this House. I merely want to say, that if they had followed the advice given them on this side of the House they might have saved themselves the journey to Washington, and saved all the money that they expended on that trip. We told them before they went to Washington that the people of Canada were not anxious for unrestricted reciprocity, or commercial union, or any closer trade relations with the United States. We told them that what the people of Canada wanted was closer trade relations with Great Britain. What did their trip cost his country? The International Commission cost the country \$34,600. The sums that the ministers drew for expenses were as follows:

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.....	\$3,821
Sir Richard Cartwright.....	3,361
Sir Louis Davies.....	3,636
Mr. Fielding	200

Then, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), drew the nice little sum of \$2,200 as secretary, and \$1,637 was expended in excursions and dinners. These hon. gentlemen came back with what information? All they have told this House is simply that they found out that Canada was not very anxious for any closer trade relations with the American people. If they had taken our word they would have saved their trip, and it would not have cost this country a dollar. Now, these hon. gentlemen have broken their pledges. It is treated as a joke sometimes by the press of the country, and very little is made out of it. But, now and again they become serious, and they almost make sworn declarations that we have misrepresented the position of the Liberals. This will deceive no one, and I can tell hon. gentlemen opposite that, in this country, we have an intelligent class of men, men who think, men who read, men who remember, men whose memories are longer than a tide-

swept beach. The Liberals have retained a species of protection which I congratulate them upon, but that is not what they promised. They promised to do away with protection, to cut its head off, to wipe out every vestige of protection, but, they have not done it, and for what reason, I feel not like saying very many hard things about the government. They have not got reciprocity with the United States, and we do not want it. Have they appointed any Liberal members of parliament to offices within the gift of the government? When we ask them that question, they say that the Conservatives did so too. They promised the electors before they came into office that they were not going to introduce the spoils system. There is one thing they have done, that they did not promise. They have increased the expenditure. Surely no hon. gentleman can justify an increase in the expenditure. I tell hon. gentlemen that it would become this government to move more cautiously, more carefully, to husband the resources of the country while we have prosperity and then, in the time of depression, with a carefully managed expenditure, we will be able to pass through such a crisis as we passed through in 1894, 1895 and 1896.

Now, I wish to say a few words regarding the tariff, and I want to say them, not as a party man. I want to say them as a man who is interested in the future of Canada, my home, my country. I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the government, and of the hon. Minister of Customs to this one important fact. I do not think it should be the chief policy of a government to study how they can best raise a revenue, to so adjust the tariff as to have a large increase in the revenue, but, I do think it should be the principal object of a government to so arrange the tariff that they will build up the trade and commerce of our country. I am going to speak for a few moments as a farmer, and I am proud of my occupation. I am going to speak about agricultural implements, which I know something about. I can run a binder, a mower, a horserake, or any of the agricultural implements that every farmer uses. I will not trouble the House by quoting very many figures, but, I have taken a number of agricultural implements, to illustrate my point, among them binding attachments, seed grain drills, forks, pronged, harrows, harvesters, hay-tedders, hoes, horserakes, hay and straw knives, lawn mowers, manure spreaders, mowing machines, ploughs, post-hole diggers, and a few others. I find that from 1896 to 1899, the increased importation in these agricultural implements has amounted to \$1,589,564. Now, Mr. Speaker, my view of that question is that it was a mistake, and I thought so at the time, of the Conservative government to reduce the duty on agricultural implements, but, the opposition was clamouring for it, and the people of Manitoba and the North-west Territories

were clamouring for free agricultural implements. Yet, I thought it was a mistake, and I think so still. I will ask the government, for the sake of the trade and commerce of our country, that they will look into this question, regardless of any political capital that may be made out of it. I am not desiring to make any political capital out of it. What benefit has this reduction been to the farmers? Have we had any better implements? I say, no. I say that there is no better binder made to-day, in the known world, than the Massey-Harris binder, and I say that the Smith's Falls manufacturing establishment makes nearly as good a binder, and some farmers like it better than any other, while some farmers like the Massey-Harris binder better. But, we have the very best binders that are made in the world, manufactured in the Dominion of Canada. Have we not proof of it? Do not the Massey-Harris Company send their binders to the continent of Europe where they compete with the world, and sell them in competition with every other firm? Have we got them any cheaper in Canada? We have not got them any cheaper, but we pay more for them to-day than we did five years ago. What is the result? Go through the province of Ontario, on any line of railway, or drive through the country with a horse and rig, and at every village, every town, every station, you come to, you will see, in beautiful letters, painted brilliantly so that everybody can see, the Deering Manufacturing Company, the McCormick Manufacturing Company. I was told by a gentleman in Prescott, that, last year, there were 120 of the Deering and McCormick binders put into the section of the country north of Prescott. If we are not benefiting the farmer, if the farmer is not getting any cheaper machines, if we are not getting them for any less money, I say, put on the tariff and prevent them from being imported. Would it not be a pleasant sight to see the Frost & Wood Company of Smith's Falls, extend their manufacturing establishment so as to cover half the village, employ more men, and make more machines, because they turn out as good a machine as can be made anywhere? I know what I am talking about. I have run a mowing machine made in Smith's Falls, by the Frost & Wood Company, a five-foot cut tubular frame mower. I have run that mower for four years, and I have never had to tighten a nut, it is made so perfectly and carefully with roller bearings. I have a pair of nice carriage horses, weighing less than 1,100 pounds, and I would like to make a wager that with that machine, I can cut ten acres every day of the stoutest hay that grows anywhere in Canada. Having a machine made in our own country, that will accomplish the work and do it perfectly, I say let us make these machines in our country, give employment to the artisans and workmen of our own country, build up the trade

and commerce of our own country, by having the money paid for our machine kept in Canada, and while these men are manufacturing these machines, we farmers can raise the pork, potatoes and beans to feed them. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think some hon. gentlemen opposite are misleading themselves, or trying to mislead themselves, when they rise in this House to make arguments to show how the taxation has been reduced. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), in his budget speech calculated the reduction in taxation at 2.02 per cent, and the hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), thought the Minister did not calculate fairly when he spread the taxation all over the free corn which passes through Canada in transit. There is one way that we farmers can judge whether we are paying increased taxation or not, and it is the true test. There is no man in this country so ignorant that he does not know that what he is called upon to contribute to the revenues of the country, is to be found in what he pays for the articles he consumes. There are none so acute as the farmers on that score. The farmers' wives, the ladies know whether they are paying more for their cotton and woollen goods and for their sugar and tea. The farmers know whether they are paying more or less for agricultural implements than they paid before. You may talk about your reduced taxation as much as you like, but when you appeal to the people you will have to show them that they are paying less for the articles they use before you can satisfy them, that there is a reduction in taxation. I submit sir, that this government cannot show the farmers any such thing. The government did make a little reduction in coal oil, but can they make the people believe that they are getting coal oil cheaper, when as a fact they are paying more for it than they paid when the Conservatives were in power. Sir Richard Cartwright claimed the support of the people for the Liberals, on the ground that if they were returned to power, coal oil would be 8 cents a gallon. That is not so. This government put binder twine on the free list, and that was a mistake. It would have been better had they doubled the duty on binder twine and preserve our own manufactures of twine, and if they had done that, then to-day, our binder twine would be cheaper than it is.

There are some other matters I wish to refer to, but I must hasten on. I suppose I must say something about preferential trade. I agree with the hon. gentleman from West Huron (Mr. Holmes), in the opinion that the preferential tariff does neither good nor harm. I am not very much opposed to it. I think it is like patent medicine, vermifuge and Pink Pills, you may take one pill or swallow the whole box and they will neither do you much good nor harm. That is my opinion of the preferential tariff from a farmer's standpoint. You

can make it 12½ per cent, or 25 per cent, or 33 per cent, or 100 per cent if you like, and I do not think it will make very much difference. The government may have found it convenient to establish this preferential tariff. But what benefit has it been to Great Britain. Has it increased our imports from Great Britain? I will not trouble the House with figures of the amount of importations, but I will only give the percentage to show the effect that the preferential tariff has had on Great Britain. The increase of total imports to Canada for home consumption, from Great Britain, during the three years from 1896 to 1899, is 12½ per cent, the increase from the United States, is 50 per cent, from France, 28 per cent, from Germany, 24 per cent, from Spain, 48 per cent, from Portugal, 30 per cent, from Italy, 52 per cent, from Holland, 67 per cent, from Belgium, 151 per cent, and from South America, 107 per cent. So that in all these countries the increased imports to Canada have been very much greater—doubled in many instances and in some instances ten-fold greater—than in the case of Great Britain. Has the preference increased our importations from Great Britain? It has not. Our importations from Great Britain have not increased in proportion to the increase from other countries with reference to which there was no preference, and consequently it has not benefited the people of Great Britain. And how has the preferential tariff benefited Canada? I put the question to some hon. gentlemen who may speak after me. If the preferential tariff of 1897 and 1899 was the great success that the Liberals claimed for it, I would like to ask the government why they found it necessary to increase that preference from 25 to 33½ per cent? Have they been obliged to do it in order to carry out the threat made by some gentlemen in the cabinet—I charge this not on the Premier, but more particularly on the Minister of Trade and Commerce, (Sir Richard Cartwright)—have they increased the preference for the purpose of carrying out his threats that the Liberals would destroy the industries of Canada? There is another feature of this, which I do not think is at all fair. The Liberals assured the manufacturers that when the 25 per cent preference came into force, that would be the limit of it. But, they have increased the preference still further, and let me ask what is to be the finality? What are the manufacturers of Canada to understand? Now, Sir, as regards preferential trade itself, I am strongly in favour of Canada having preferential trade with Great Britain, and I believe that nothing would confer greater benefit on Canada to-day than would be a wise and prudent system of preferential trade between the two countries. We cannot complain that we are paying too much for what we are buying, but our great need is to find a market for our products, and

that can only be found in a country where they are greater consumers than they are producers. What we want is a market for our natural products, and when we get that to the full extent we will add largely to the prosperity of Canada.

I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), is not present, because I wish to speak of a matter personal to him. I approach this subject with a feeling of timidity and with the greatest caution. I wish not to say a word that could be construed in any way as if I were endeavouring to introduce into this House what has been called a race or a religious cry. Permit me to say, Sir, that there is no man in this parliament who holds broader and wider views than I do, on the great questions that are agitating this country amongst Christian denominations. No man dare charge me, that I have not the same respect for the right hon. gentleman who leads this government because he is a Frenchman and a Catholic, as I would have did he belong to another race and another religion. It is something that never crosses my mind. I care not how he worships or what particular church he goes to on Sunday, when he is ready to join me on Monday morning with the right hand of fellowship extended, working shoulder to shoulder with me with the same aspirations to advance the interests of this grand Dominion of ours, and to make here happy homes for ourselves, our wives and our children. There seems to be some peculiarity about the talk of raising race and religious cries in this parliament. If gentlemen on the other side of the House introduce race and religious cry, and we on this side refer to it ever so cautiously, or make any defence whatever, then we are charged with raising these unfortunate issues. I wish now, Mr. Speaker, to refer to an attack that the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), made upon the Orange order, of which I am a humble member. The hon. gentleman without any provocation went out of his way to make an accusation which might better never have been made on the floor of this House. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in his speech on the budget, said:

I remember when an Orange demonstration was engineered in the city of Montreal for the express purpose of setting religion against religion and race against race if it were to the detriment of the Liberal party. What did these men care then, or what do they care now if the streets of Montreal were to run red provided always that they scored a point against a Liberal administration.

What does that mean, Mr. Speaker? That we Orangemen would be guilty of murder or massacre, of dipping our hands in innocent blood, for party purposes. I say that a more slanderous, false accusation was never uttered by mortal man in this House.

or out of it. It is a shame for a minister of the Crown to utter such a false statement against a body of the most honourable and loyal men in this Dominion of Canada. I make the statement not insisting to recall events of the past that there was no occasion that the Orangemen provoked in any way hostilities of any kind. Deplorable events occurred to which he may have referred, but history records undoubtedly that they were not provoked by any member of the Orange association. Sir, I wish the hon. gentleman were in his seat, for I fling that statement back in his face with utter scorn and contempt. Then, the same hon. gentleman made another statement which seems to me to be of a very humorous character. He said :

The old flag at long last cleansed and purified, has been rescued in fair fight from the hands of the miscreants who traded on it, and degraded it, and the old flag now waves better and purer and loftier than ever.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it comes with ill grace from the hon. gentleman to style the Conservative party miscreants who degraded the old flag. No man in this House stands on more slippery ground in that respect than the hon. gentleman himself—not even the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte). For an hon. gentleman who advocated commercial union and unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, and openly and avowedly refused to grant the same terms to Great Britain, but was willing to discriminate against her, to say that the Conservative party, so far as the British flag is concerned, are miscreants, and that the flag had been rescued from their hands, and had been purified, and now waves better and loftier than ever, strikes me as very humorous. The hon. gentleman was very much mistaken; and I think the Premier himself was a little mistaken in his reference to the Orange Society, though his expression was a more reverent one. If my memory serves me, the Premier said on one occasion that he thanked God that there were no Orangemen in the Liberal party; but I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are Orangemen in the Liberal party. The Orange Society is not a political society.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BELL (Addington). I repeat it, the Orange Society is not a political society, and I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to cite an instance in which it has traded in politics. I can tell them that there are Orange Liberals who would do as much credit to this House as any of the hon. members on the other side.

Mr. WOOD. Ninety-nine out of a hundred of them are Conservatives.

Mr. BELL (Addington). Further than that, there are Orangemen in the employ of the government. One of the organizers employed by hon. gentlemen opposite is an

Orangeman, and he is the man who furnished the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) with information when he attacked the hon. member for Kent, N.B. (Mr. McInerney). So hon. gentlemen opposite should be guarded when they speak disrespectfully of the Orangemen of this country, for they might be speaking of their own friends.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a few general remarks. When the present government came into power in 1896, what Canada needed was a clear-sighted, honest strong-minded government, capable of grappling with Imperial problems. When this government came into power, we were face to face with vital questions affecting the future of Canada. There were three great questions in particular: First, the Pacific cable; second, the fast Atlantic line; third, better trade relations with the mother country. On these great questions the Conservative party had a policy, and there was every reason to believe that they would have achieved success in them in the near future. What has this government done to bring about a successful determination of these issues? What has been done about the Pacific cable? A few days ago there was a probability of a rival line taking the place of the government Pacific cable. What have they done regarding the fast Atlantic service? It would have been a great achievement for this Dominion to establish that line to carry the products of this country to the markets of Great Britain; but, so far as I know, nothing has been accomplished by this government to secure that great want, which the Conservative party nearly accomplished, a contract having been entered into and being ready for signature before they left office. I understand that this matter was left in the hands of the minister without portfolio, (Mr. Dobell). This is the hon. gentleman who has had new light, who stated that once he was blind, but now he could see. Probably he will be able to tell us when we may expect the first fast Atlantic steamer to set out laden with the products of Canada for the old country market. Following that came the discovery of the gold fields of the Yukon. What an opportunity was here afforded to add to the wealth of the Dominion, had we had a government strong-minded and honest, and capable of grasping these great questions. The gold fields were ready, but the government has nothing to show but an absurd tramway scheme, a crop of scandals, and a royalty policy calculated to starve out the best part of the mining interest. I would like to be in a position to congratulate the country on having had a clear-witted, strong-minded, honest government, equal to the occasion, but instead I have to confess that Canada has been obliged to pay a large price for the mismanagement of the Yukon country by the government.

I come now, Mr. Speaker, to another matter—the subject of prohibition. Prohibition is not, by any means, a dead issue. The temperance people of the Dominion are sincere; and however fast and loose the Liberal party or the Conservative party may play with this question, it is bound to continue a live issue. I am not going to make any argument against the Liberal party. I would not be prepared to vote want of confidence in the government for not having introduced a prohibitory measure, but I would be prepared to vote want of confidence in them for the manner in which they have fooled the temperance people by giving these people to understand that if they would support the Liberal party, that party, when in office, would carry out the voice of the people. Instead, however, of carrying out that mandate, they now tell the temperance people of the Dominion that they may go to—Halifax. I have but one remark to make on this point. If the government will themselves introduce a measure and not have a measure introduced by some supporter of theirs on a back seat, or a motion on which a Bill may be framed, and then have another gentleman get up and move an amendment, and then have a third hon. gentleman supporting the government move an amendment to the amendment—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is out of order in discussing prohibition now, for two reasons. First, because that subject is on the Order paper, and in the second place, he is referring to a previous debate.

Mr. BELL (Addington). There is no one who will so willingly and readily bow to the decision of the Chair—

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). The question of prohibition has been constantly referred to throughout this budget debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It is quite different now because the question is on the Order paper.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Since how long?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Since the day before yesterday.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It has been on the Order paper for a month, perhaps two months, and yet the subject has been constantly referred to throughout this debate, because it is a part of the general policy of the government. It is generally understood that in the budget debate all matters concerning the general policy of the government are open to discussion; and this question of prohibition has been referred to in every speech made up to the present during this discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The question before the Chair, is the question of preferential trade, and in that connection the tariff

Mr. BELL (Addington).

question has been also discussed, but as to the question of prohibition that is not in order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is not a question of preferential trade at all, but the budget. Do I understand you to rule, Sir, that we are limited to the question of preferential trade, and that we cannot discuss the question of prohibition which has been discussed up to the present moment in every speech made on the budget.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The amendment before the House is one dealing with preferential trade, but Mr. Speaker has allowed the discussion to be made on the whole budget. My hon. friend from Addington (Mr. Bell), however, is referring to an amendment and a sub-amendment which were moved and discussed a few days ago.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The right hon. gentleman knows that it has always been our practice to discuss the general policy of the government in the budget debate.

The PRIME MINISTER. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The right hon. gentleman will agree with me that the subject of prohibition has been constantly referred to in all the speeches throughout this debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Let me call the attention of the hon. member to page 549 of Sir John Bourinot's work, 2nd edition:

When an amendment has been moved to the question for the Speaker to leave the Chair, discussions should be properly confined to its subject matter.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That has never been carried out in this House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. There is no doubt about that, but I am calling the attention of the hon. member for Addington to the fact that he was referring to a previous debate and to amendments which were discussed the other day, and such reference is certainly out of order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I ask, Sir, whether your ruling is that the debate is henceforth to be strictly confined within the rule you have quoted and that we are not to discuss the general policy of the government?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. With the permission of the House, other subjects have been discussed on this amendment, but I now call the attention of the hon. member for Addington to the fact that he was referring distinctly to a debate which occurred some days ago and was certainly out of order.

Mr. BELL (Addington). I readily bow to your decision, Mr. Deputy Speaker, but I would ask your permission to conclude the brief explanation I was about to make.

If the government should at any time feel like introducing a prohibitory measure, it will have my hearty support, and it will also have my hearty support in opposing any motion of want of confidence that might be brought on account of such measure. There is another subject to which I shall briefly refer, and that is the sending of the contingent to South Africa. A great deal has been said about this on the floor of this House, and a great deal that I regret. As an individual humble member of this House, I would have preferred that that motion had gone through without a word of debate, and that we would have shown that we were all united in the strong British sentiment to assist the mother country in her hour of trial. We did expect our First Minister to be the first in the ranks when the call was sounded; we did expect that the government would have shown no hesitancy; we did expect that there would have been no watching or waiting or weighing by the government when the leader of the opposition, and every member on this side, gave the right hon. gentleman their full assurance that they were ready at all times to support any measure which his government would propose for the sending out of any number of contingents, and the mobilizing of thousands more and having them in readiness to be sent out. There was no limitation put on this side to the action of the government in this respect. But I would like to ask one question. I would like to ask this House through you, Mr. Speaker, what would have been the position of the Liberal party if the Conservative party had been in power when the question of sending out the contingent to South Africa came up. I leave that question in this House to seek its own answer; but having had the assurance of the First Minister and hon. gentlemen on that side that they are loyal, we accept their professions of loyalty. But I do think that if the leader of this government is as loyal as his most beautiful patriotic speech would portray, he should put his heel on the neck of the Minister of Public Works. I am not going to charge any man with disloyalty or say a word that will grate harshly on the ears of hon. gentlemen, but I say that the Minister of Public Works, in my humble opinion, should be called down for his treasonable utterances.

Now, I have just another point upon which I wish to say a few words in conclusion—the old subject of loyalty. We have one reason for being glad that the Liberal party came into power. Since coming into power, they have announced their warm affection for Britain and their warm and loyal attachment to the Queen. It will not now be considered a crime for a Conservative to be loyal. During my campaign it was natural for me to close my speech with a few words of praise for Her Majesty. I remember that exception was taken to that, and I was called almost a criminal for being loyal. Now, since both

parties are loyal, it will not be a crime for any Conservative, or Reformer either, to declare his loyalty. No matter what little differences we may have about sending out contingents; no matter what differences we may have regarding the trade policy of the government; no matter what differences we may have on any of the great questions in public affairs, let us be loyal, let us be true to ourselves and to each other. In this connection let me say that I think our constitution is much better than that of the United States. In their political discussions throughout the country and on the floor of Congress, they have the two great parties dividing them, the Democratic and the Republican. But, in the Dominion of Canada, while we have the two great parties, while each, in campaign meetings, can cheer for his own side, we can unite in cheering for Her Majesty. We may differ as Liberal-Conservatives and Liberals, but we can join heartily in singing the grand old national anthem, 'God Save the Queen.' And so I say, be we French Canadians, be we Scotch Canadians, Irish Canadians, Dutch Canadians—let us respect our nationality, the nationality of our forefathers, who gave us birth and inspiration, but let us feel that we are one Canadian people, let us teach our children to be loyal, true to each other as British Canadians, and let us unite to build up Canada as an integral part of the British Empire. Let us always prove ourselves worthy of the protection of the strong arm of Great Britain, let us cherish the Union Jack as the emblem of the connection of Great Britain and her colonies, believing that

The flag that's waved a thousand years,
Is good enough for me.

May that grand old flag float over every citadel and on every flagstaff from Cape Breton to Victoria, from Cape Town to Pretoria, untarnished and unstained, without a spot or a blemish, without a star or a stripe, from generation to generation, till time shall be no more.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I am not sure that I shall be able to proceed, so deeply am I affected by the closing of the hon. member for Addington (Mr. Bell). It being really the case, as he has conclusively shown, that the Liberals having attained power all parties in Canada are loyal, I submit that there will hereafter be not so much need for such utterance as that with which the hon. gentleman closed his address. I feel sure that the hon. gentleman would not admit that it was necessary to make such remarks to members of the Conservative party, and now that we are, as he said, all the same with respect to loyalty, there are none who need to be urged to drink in the noble principles of which he spoke. The hon. gentleman did not charge disloyalty against the Liberals, but, back of all that he said was an indication that he would like to say that the Liberals

had not been loyal once upon a time, but they had become loyal. He said that he was almost going to be killed because he was loyal. That could not have been attempted except by disloyal men, and I am sure he would say that none of his political friends are disloyal. There is more than one way of hinting at a thing that an hon. member does not want to state openly.

There are just one or two points in the hon. member's address to which I wish to call attention. I may have misunderstood him, and if so, I wish to be corrected. I understood him to say that it was a mistake to lower the duty on agricultural implements; that we could get better and cheaper implements if the duty had not been reduced. I also understood him to say that the amount of the preferential tariff made no difference, and if the whole of it was taken off it would be all the same. Now, let us see where we stand. First, as to the agricultural implements. If they can be got cheaper and better with a duty of 35 per cent than with a duty of 20 per cent, I would like the hon. gentleman to show where the 15 per cent reduction would go.

Mr. WILSON. Oh.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). If the hon. member for Lennox (Mr. Wilson) has an explanation, I would like to hear him give it.

Mr. WILSON. Frost can explain it.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). And that is the proof. All the eulogy pronounced on the hon. gentleman (Mr. Frost) is pronounced on a man who says that 20 per cent is enough.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, he does not.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). He does say so; and, more than that, he says that his factory never was so busy as it is now—that they cannot fill their orders. Now, if taking off 15 per cent from the duty has had the effect of bringing worse implements here, what does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) say to the fact that, with that reduction, this great factory cannot overtake its orders? I come to the second point—I am glad I did not misunderstand him—that the preferential duty made no difference if the whole of it was off. What does that mean? That is to say, that if our average duty of 18 per cent against Great Britain were wholly taken off, it would make no difference, it would not help us any, there is no good in it. Now, I suppose we could follow that with every country in the world, because if it makes no difference with our trade relations with Great Britain it cannot with the United States. I am glad I have got a convert at last to my radical views; for here is a gentleman who says: If you take the whole of it off it won't make any difference, we will be better off. The

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

member for Russell (Mr. Edwards) and myself have a splendid accession this afternoon to our radical views. With his free trade notions, and with his loyalty, he will make a follower of which any leader in Canada might well be proud. It just shows the nonsense that is being spoken. Now, we are agreed upon that, that is to say that in the trade of a country 10 per cent of a reduction in the tariff paid by the people makes no difference. Follow it up in any business you like. Is there an hon. gentleman in this House or out of it, or anywhere outside of the insane asylum, who will say that a reduction of 10 per cent in his expenditure makes no difference? For, after all, governments do not differ from individuals. The government who saves 10 per cent from the tariff it imposes is exactly in the same position as an individual that saves 10 per cent on what he purchases; and when hon. gentlemen opposite say that it makes no difference, why, they are treating not only their own friends but all the people as if they did not really understand that two and two make four. It may not be enough, Mr. Speaker; the reduction of 10 per cent may not be as large as it ought to be; but in the name of common sense let us say it is 10 per cent when we are all agreed upon it, and then let us go on to discuss it. The calculation is as plain as day, any school boy can make it, that a reduction of 10 per cent on the tariff imposed now as compared with the tariff that was in force in 1896, amounts to \$3,000,000 a year more. Does any hon. gentleman say that that is no reduction? Now, you see we may be floating on oceans of words without coming down to a given principle.

I said a few moments ago that it is a legitimate argument for every member in this House to make whether 10 per cent is enough. I have no hesitation in saying that I would be ready for a greater reduction. I believe that we should go further. But very pertinently I ask this question of my Conservative friends: Are they ready to go further? Is there a man among them who will say we have not gone far enough in the interests of the people? He dare not do it. Now, we have cleared the ground away so far as that is concerned. First of all, the present tariff differs by 10 per cent from the old tariff, and let us discuss it from that ground. There may be a difference of opinion whether that 10 per cent, in its relation to the trade of the country, and when taken by individual items, is as beneficial to the people of this country as it ought to be. That is a matter we may fairly discuss. So we have the first standing ground as between the two parties. The party opposite by their tariff would put on 10 per cent more, and we have reduced it by 10 per cent. Secondly, we have the further position that the party opposite would not dare to go any further. Now, let every

man in Canada that wants to pay as small a rate of taxation as possible never forget that he has to deal with a party that has made a reduction of 10 per cent on one side, and with another party that says that is wrong. If they are honest they will say that, and certainly they will give no pledge that they would not go back to where they stood in 1896. There is one point on which we are all agreed. These preliminaries are helpful in clearing away the deck preparatory to joining issue. The second point in which we are all agreed is that no one on the opposite side, except in a faint breath, by a kind of innuendo, will state that the country is not marvellously prosperous. Here are two things in regard to which we stand on common ground. There are only two or three hon. gentlemen who have spoken on the other side who hint that we are not as well off as we might be, they hint it but no more. I would like any hon. gentleman opposite to go before the farmer, the manufacturers, the lumbermen, or for that matter any class of wage-earners in Canada, and tell them that we are not as well off as we were. They cannot do it. They try to make it appear it would be otherwise, if it were otherwise; they try to make it appear that if they were in power it would be so and so, but now that they are not in, it is so and so, and they try to confuse the people in that matter:

A Tory politician asked a farmer if he knew where was the vile Grit evidence to prove good times is true.

The germs of disputative art had never reached his ear;

He tightly clasped his well-filled pipe, and proudly answered, Here.

That argument is worth all the speeches that ever were delivered in the House of Commons or outside. You may carry under one arm one set of speeches that have been made in this House, and under the other arm another set of speeches, you may read them from beginning to end to any one who will listen to you, and still he will say: I feel it about me, I am better off, I know I am. He will just put his hand in his pocket, and where he used to have to borrow he now says, I can pay as I go.

Let no one think that I am claiming credit to the government for all our prosperity, by no means. I am not going to make a statement that the government is entitled to all the credit. If I belonged to the Conservative party and my party were in, I would do it. Why, Sir, if the Conservative party were in power in Canada you would hear every hon. gentleman who got up to speak claiming for the government the whole credit for the condition of things that exists to-day. Dear me, how I have been wearied *ad nauseam* listening to hon. gentlemen opposite who said: We did it, we did it. Why there was not an hon. gentleman opposite but on every occasion insisted that what brought about good crops, what looked like a busy hive of industry,

was the work of the government. If the price of an article was raised 5 cents they claimed it was due to the national policy. Now, we know just where we stand. The Liberals have reduced the tariff 10 per cent, and we have the most prosperous times we ever had in Canada. We now can very easily approach the discussion as it ought to be approached, namely, within the last four years, what have the Liberal party done to gain, and secure and keep the confidence of the people of Canada, and as against that, who have the people of Canada that they can call upon to conduct the affairs of the country? The whole thing comes down to that. I am not careful whether we imported so many dollars worth of a particular article or not. I am not going to anxiously inquire whether we sold, this year, so many steers more than in another year. Why? Because the sum total is what proves it. You may prove that the country is in a splendid state of prosperity, by naming certain articles that we exported a much larger quantity of; and you may prove from the same returns that business is depressed, and that the country is going to the dogs—because we have not done as much business in another particular line. That is nothing at all. It is the sum total that we have to deal with, for, Mr. Speaker, the business of two countries does not differ in one iota from the business of two individuals in any one country. Therefore, we are in a position, simply, of being able to say, that, so far as Canada is concerned, it is prosperous. I leave the matter altogether as to how this prosperity was produced, to the common sense principle, that honest, economical, vigorous government, dealing with the forces of nature that seem never to have been put forth when the Conservatives were in power has produced this result.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I was referring to some remarks made by the hon. member for Addington. It will be noticed that whatever was said by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) was not answered on the other side. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), gave one answer to it, that he thought sufficient, and that answer was that the hon. member for North Wellington was raking up old things done by men, some of whom were dead. Well, I have yet to learn that you can disassociate acts of the past from the present, either of an individual or of a party, so as to make them such as ought not to be referred to. Most of us would like that rule applied to our individual selves, the adoption of a statute of limitations by which you could only refer to matters that had taken place in the later present. Our conduct will be regulated in that way, and we

would appear to be exceedingly decent as matters go, without respect to the past. The Liberal party must bear with the mistakes of their past, as the Conservative party must bear with theirs, and any issue raised between the two parties that can be said to indicate the character of both parties seeking the suffrages of the country for its government, must, of necessity, be raised in order that you can intelligently form your opinion, from the past, as well as the present, as to the ability of either party. But, the hon. member for Addington had another answer to it, and he said that the fact that the hon. member for North Wellington had not done all that he spoke about in connection with superannuation, was an answer. I was rather surprised that the hon. member for Addington forgot the Act that was passed in 1898, relating to superannuation. That very Act has changed the whole character of superannuation in this country. Previously superannuation was given by the country, a small amount being taken off each party. Now, the superannuation is of such a character that all those who come under it, and that will be all, who are hereafter appointed, as well as a large number who have taken advantage of it in preference to the old system, will pay into the public treasury, every dollar they receive, so that, when the present beneficiaries under the old order of things have all died, this country will have an excellent system by which it will not need to pay one dollar to the parties who receive the money, who in the place of receiving a gratuity until they die, will have the sum total of the amount they paid in, with interest added, and they will receive this for the benefit of themselves and their families. The old order of things only looked upon superannuation as something to keep a man alive after he left office. The new order of things, looks to the man as a living being with his wife and family. The amount that the hon. member referred to as being paid in excess of that which was paid previously, is too large. It is less than he stated it to be. The hon. gentleman must have forgotten the facts, or he ought not to have forgotten the facts, because he posed as one of the fairest men I have ever heard. A better character for fairness he could not have given himself, but it was only sustained by his own evidence. He should have mentioned that the added amount which was paid, was counterbalanced five times over by the lesser number of people employed by this new superannuation system. I think the Act that has been passed, will eventually be one of the best Acts passed by the present government, and will lessen the payment that the people of this Dominion have to make to their public servants. The hon. gentleman was not fair in saying, that the policy of the Liberal party, as laid down in the Ottawa platform in 1898, was a policy of free trade. It was not a policy of free

trade. Our Conservative friends everywhere state that the Liberals are in favour of free trade. Personally, I am in favour of free trade, but the resolution adopted at the Ottawa conference did not say anything about free trade. Let us hear what it said :

That the customs tariff of the Dominion should be based, not as now, upon the protective principle, but upon the requirements of the public service. . . . That to this end the tariff should be reduced to the needs of honest, economical and efficient government.

That was not a pronouncement for free trade, but it was a pronouncement for a freer trade than existed before. Let the hon. gentlemen opposite criticise that if they like, but, for goodness sake, let their criticisms be confined to the actual facts. Here is what the Premier said at the Ottawa conference :

I say that the policy should be a policy such as they have in England. But I am sorry to say that the circumstances of the country cannot admit at present of that policy in its entirety.

That was the policy of the Premier laid down.

But I propose to you from this day henceforward, it shall be the goal to which we aspire. I propose to you from this day, although we cannot adopt the policy itself, to adopt the principles which regulate it.

How can any sensible man say that this language means free trade? It was a pronouncement in favour of eliminating from our fiscal policy as quickly as possible the elements of protection to be found in it; nothing more or nothing less. In view of that, it is right that gentlemen opposite should say in this House and in the country that the Liberals, in their Ottawa platform, declared for free trade. Let us have the facts, and I ask for nothing more. I was amazed at a statement made by gentlemen opposite, to the effect that an article that was made free of duty became dearer in price than it was when it bore a duty. Do they honestly think that an article would be cheaper if there was a duty on it, than it would be if it was free of duty? Neither this government nor any government in the world can regulate the price of an article. For example, oranges are dearer in England than in the United States, but England has free trade and the United States has protection. These oranges are grown in the United States, and the freight and other charges is saved on them. But, would it be fair to say that because they are cheaper in the United States than in England that, therefore, protection is better than free trade? No gentleman on the other side would argue that, although they are practically arguing the very same thing every day in this House.

Now, Sir, when the Liberal government came into power in 1896, they found they had to meet three annual deficits of the Conservative government, in the three pre-

ceding years. They succeeded an administration that had been in open, shameful and avowed rebellion; an administration that cared so little for their duties as statesmen as to subject themselves to the laughter of their opponents, while they caused pain and heartburnings to their supporters. When the Liberals came into power, they found want of confidence everywhere; they found depression in trade and they found a state of disorder in race and religious circles such as never existed in this country before, in reference to the education question. That was the legacy left by the Conservatives to the Liberal government, and the Liberals became the residuary legatees of all that. It devolved upon the Liberals to meet the condition of affairs manfully, and how well they succeeded, all who are not politically prejudiced, recognized. I do not say that the Conservative government should be held responsible for their deficits, or for the depression in trade, but I merely point out now that such was the condition of things when the Liberals attained power. For four years the Liberals have carried on the affairs of this country, during which it has prospered, and as an excuse for this prosperity, the Conservatives tell us that it is because we have continued the same old policy. If we have continued the same policy as the Conservatives had, it is rather peculiar that we are not receiving their support. If it is the same policy, the protest made by the manufacturers the other day is a very strange thing. If it is the same policy, it is a remarkable thing that our trade is so much greater than it was when the Conservatives had that policy. Surely like should produce like. Let me ask gentlemen opposite this: If it is the same policy, will any one of these gentlemen say that should such an unlikely thing as a change of government occur, that they will retain the existing tariff in its entirety. There is nothing like testing people. If it is the same policy, why do the Conservatives tell the manufacturers that they are in danger? I was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman from Addington (Mr. Bell) say that when the preferential tariff was made 25 per cent, the manufacturers were told that no further reduction would be made. He must have forgotten the statement made by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), when he told the manufacturers that that was not the end of it, and that they had better prepare for further reductions. The statement was never made that there would be no further preference granted, nor is the statement made now that this is going to be the end of the reduction. I am within the judgment of the House when I say that gentlemen opposite told us when they were in power that the following were sure signs of the prosperous state of the country. The deposits in the savings banks—how we used to hear about these! The deposits in the chartered banks, the advance in life

insurance, the public credit of England—I will not weary the House by giving the statistics; but in all these there has been a larger increase in the last four years than there ever was before in the history of this country. When the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) rose in his place and said it was unfair to contrast the last three years of Conservative rule with the three years under the present government, because times with them were hard, I was reminded of what a distinguished French statesman once said—not as a question of morals, but in view of what always happened—that a lie was always a blunder. Was it true? Why, I have here under my hand the precious literature that was sent out to the country in tons during the last elections. For example, here is an open letter which the Conservatives used all over the Dominion; and you will be surprised to learn that in 1896, eighteen years after the time the Mackenzie government went out of power, the fearful spectre of the bad times under Mackenzie was held up as a warning to the people not to allow the Liberals to come in. Listen to the reasons given as a sort of apology for the Conservative party voting as they did upon the Manitoba school question:

As good Conservatives we could not take the tremendous responsibility in reference to the business interests of Canada. Had we defeated the government, who would have succeeded to power? We remembered what happened in 1874-79—how trade diminished, how the revenues went down and the taxes went up, how the debt rolled up to the figure of \$8,000,000 annually, and deficits were the order of each year; how a hundred thousand farmers petitioned for protection, the artisans walked the streets looking for work, and general depression existed in all branches of business.

Eighteen years afterwards the people of this country were called upon to look back to a similar state of things. Never mind what the Conservatives had done; never mind if they voted for the Remedial Bill against their will. The fearful terror was that the Liberals would get into power and bring back the condition of things that existed in 1878. Is it well for the ex-Minister of Finance to say now, it was mean to make the comparison? The Conservative party after eighteen years could take advantage of what was not true, that the Mackenzie government and the Liberal party were responsible for the depression that then existed. I am not using the argument; I am simply pointing out their position when any man uses their own pet argument against themselves. I remember that in the mining towns of Pictou from 1878 downwards, there was not an election held in which those poor miners were not told: 'If you vote for the Liberals, you will have the same dark days that existed at the time Mackenzie was in power'; and those poor fellows, believing that those men were speaking the truth, felt that their bread and but-

ter were at stake ; yet what happened ? In the county of Pictou there has been more trade in the last four years than ever existed there in any four years previous. I am not going to say that that is a legitimate argument now because it was used then ; but I say that it is hardly fair for the Conservatives, after they lived and moved and had their being on the dark days of the Mackenzie government, now to squirm and squeal because the same argument is applied to themselves. For example, take my own province which I know most about, and I make the statement here and now that never in the history of Nova Scotia was agriculture carried on so largely, so intelligently and so successfully as it has been during the last three years. I say the trade in lumber has never been more successful in the province of Nova Scotia. I say the fisheries have been fair, though they are outside of government action altogether. I say that the coal business has been in a splendid condition. Let us see what they said about coal. No. 5 begins in this way :

Consumption of coal an evidence of Canadian progress. Coal furnishes the great motive power for the trade, commerce and manufactures of the country. The increased consumption of this commodity furnishes convincing testimony of Canada's great progress under Liberal-Conservative administration since 1878.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And the coal duty.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not at all. The duty is not exactly what it was ; it is a little better. But all I have to say is that if it is the same, the trade in coal in the province of Nova Scotia has been greater by 20 per cent than it ever was previously. If in 1896 the fact that the consumption of coal had increased was a convincing argument that the Conservative policy was the right one, the argument that it is now at least 20 per cent more used is a great deal better argument. Then, we were told that if the Liberals got into power the manufacturers of Nova Scotia would all end their days. The iron business in the county of Pictou was, I am bound to say, more heavily struck at than any other industry. The legislation with regard to iron was a very important matter, and I remember that we were told there : ' If you allow the Liberals to come in, these works will close.' In 1896 the change came, and what happened ? The tariff was brought down. Of course, the windows were not closed just then, but what happened ? At once, when the tariff was brought down, they said to the men : ' We cannot go on,' and a man who had got \$1.10 a day had a reduction of 10 cents at once. They said : ' You must suffer, because the Liberals have come in.' Now, what has happened since ? Within the last eighteen months not only has the 10 cents which was taken away been restored, but 10 cents more has been added to the pay of

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the men ; that is to say, a man who during the splendid days of the Conservative policy received \$1.10 per day, now gets \$1.20. But that is not all ; there is more money being invested now in the iron business in Nova Scotia, fifteen or twenty times more, than was ever in the business before. In Cape Breton they are investing from fifteen to twenty million dollars.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that on account of free trade or protection ?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). All I say is that the duties on iron were largely struck, and still the industry is going on.

Mr. WALLACE. And the bounty substituted.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The bounty was in existence before, and given by the late government.

Mr. WALLACE. It is increased.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is less, because there is a sliding scale by which it will ultimately disappear altogether, whereas there was no sliding scale before.

Mr. WALLACE. Under the Conservative-rule it was only for a term of years.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Under the Liberal rule it is for the same term by a sliding scale until at last there will be nothing left.

Mr. WALLACE. For the first five years there was no sliding scale.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Decidedly, and they changed it afterwards, but what I am answering is the charge made before the last election, and I am showing that the Conservative party are not to be trusted, because they were either too ignorant to understand us or too dishonest when they said that if the Liberals came into power these things should happen. Let hon. gentlemen opposite take either horn of the dilemma they choose, the people will hold them responsible.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I will have to speak for a moment about the leader of the opposition in his absence, but I know very well that he will understand that I only do so because the necessities of the case make it absolutely necessary that I should. I have a charge to make against him, which I make here on my responsibility as a member of parliament, and that is that he is guilty of two acts which, in a court of law, would be considered murder. That is a pretty hard statement to make.

Mr. TAYLOR. That will not hurt him much.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, because he is not amenable to the courts. In the first place, I charge him with having murdered Imperial federation. That scheme lies dead—killed in the House of its own

friends. Where is the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill), the father of that noble bantling? Where is the father who nursed it so kindly, who sung sweet lullabys as it rested in his arms? Where is he now? Deprived of his beloved one, killed by his leader, like Rachel he mourneth and will not be comforted. I did think that if there was one thing in the world which the Conservative party held dear it was their shibboleth that when they gave their adhesion to anything at all they would stand by it. Sometimes I used to feel like exclaiming. How well these people stick together! But here we have the death of Imperial federation at the hands of Sir Charles Tupper.

The people are asking: Who killed Imperial federation? And they hear the reply: I, said Sir Charles. Who saw him die? And we hear the mournful response: The people of Quebec. A very clever move it was on the part of the hon. the leader of the opposition to announce the death of this infant in the city of Quebec. As he stood upon the ramparts of the ancient capital, I can hear him say: French rule, my compatriots of the French race, was at one time dominant here, but the English prevailed. I, however, am going to recompense you for the defeat of your forefathers, for I am going to kill Imperial federation here in the province of Quebec; and if that will not make up the loss you have suffered by being separated from your motherland, I know of nothing else that will. Of course the chief mourner is the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill). But there are several others, and they all felt a painful sensation when they heard the bell toll over the loss of the dearest object of their life's devotion. I would suggest that this epitaph should be written, and, as my genial friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) would say, embalmed upon *Hansard*:

Interred beneath this common stone doth lie
Imperial federation, born to die,
To show the good for which it was designed;
It died to save Sir Charles and all his kind.

But that is not all. The second act of murder committed by the hon. the leader of the opposition was the killing of the Manitoba school question: I shall never forget the pride I felt when my distinguished countrymen rose in this House, full of years, but full as well of manly vigour, full of that fight which has characterized him all his days, and, pleading for the rights of the minority, declared that he was ready, not merely to sacrifice his time and means and all the energy of his great intellect in the cause, but was ready to die in order that justice might be done the minority in Manitoba. But what was my disappointment to find after the election of 1896, that not another word was said in its favour by the hon. gentleman in this House, and not one man among his following has been bold enough to rise and demand here that justice

be done. Is not that extraordinary? When one reads, for example, of the great contests in the British House of Parliament, one finds that men, filled with the idea that right ought to be done at any cost, rose in their places year after year and pleaded for what they considered right. In the case of slavery, for twenty successive years resolutions were moved, until at last it was abolished, and truth vindicated. Is truth different here? Is that eternal truth for which a man is ready to die of such a character in this country that the one who is ready to die for it only speaks in its favour when he wants votes, and has not a word to say when he finds that speaking in its favour does not bring him votes? The hon. gentleman pledged himself at the last election to strike a blow, year after year, for the oppressed minority until justice was done them. But when one sees the inertness of the hon. gentleman and his supporters to-day, can one help thinking that after all the Manitoba school question was simply taken up by them in order to gain votes, that it was the last resource of a bankrupt party on which to maintain themselves in office. The people of this country decided against the late government upon that and other questions. On the other questions, these hon. gentlemen have insisted on their views and policy again and again, but on the Manitoba school question they are dumb as oysters. One of two things must be true. Either the question is settled, and there is no need of touching it again, or these men are afraid to touch it. If the hon. the leader of the opposition or any of his followers were manly enough to rise in parliament and say that there was no need to agitate any longer on this matter because it has settled itself, then I could understand their silence. But they have done nothing of the kind. The other day one of them put a question on the Order paper to show that the Manitoba school question was not settled. But if it is not settled, has it not got a friend in this House? Is there no man in this House brave enough to stand up and see that the minority get justice? We do not require to do this on this side, because we were opposed to agitation on that question. We believe that it has been settled. But where is the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron)? Does he not owe a duty to his constituents and race? Where is the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), who fights so bravely on other subjects. Not a word do we hear from him on this question. Was he right in voting as he did before, and was the Manitoba school question the eternal principle his hon. leader said it was? He at least can disassociate himself from his party and see that right is done. Following the noble instincts of a generous and truthful disposition, can he not stand up and vindicate his leader and plead for justice?

Is there none so poor among hon. gentlemen opposite as to do the Manitoba school question reverence? Never was such a fraud perpetrated upon honest people who believed in it, fought for it and felt that they were fighting for that which they ought to have. But what will these people say to the party who went to the country declaring that they were ready to die for it, and when they have left it so? Recalling the declaration of my good friend—and being a Nova Scotian, I can stand by him even when nobody else in the Liberal party can, for I admire him more than a little—I feel that there is the same vein and spirit in him now as there was when he said he was ready to die for the school question. The government made a mistake. Instead of sending two or three thousand men to South Africa, to put down the uprising in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, they should have induced the leader of the opposition to go and engage in mortal combat with Oom Paul, and the thing would have been settled in five minutes; for the man who was ready to die for the school question, would readily enough give his life for the salvation of the empire. But the question is dead; only its history and its connection with that party will remain.

I notice that a new phrase has been coined by members of the opposition. They speak now, not of protection, but of 'fitting protection.' It used to be 'protection,' pure and simple; it used to be the national policy, 'national,' as showing that it was intended to extend over the whole of Canada. Now, it is 'fitting protection.' At first, I did not understand what that meant. A fitting suit for a gentleman means, one that is appropriate, not only in the style of cut, but in the colour, so that he who wears it presents a fitting appearance, because the suit fits him. I can understand things like that. But 'fitting protection,' I did not understand. So I went to the source of information. We all have to gather our information by finding out what the learned have to say. I first consulted Johnson. We have had a good many dictionaries since Johnson published his, but I do not know that, for the size of it, it has ever been very much improved upon. He gives three separate and distinct meanings to 'fitting.' The first is 'to accommodate to anything.' So, 'fitting protection,' means to accommodate protection to anything. That is to say, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) may say: We want everything done in Canada, but when I want a hand-bill, it is fitting protection that I should be allowed to get it outside. Or, an hon. member may want to get a certain article cheap, while he wants to sell the articles that he produces dear. Now, the protection that makes the article he makes dear, on account of the advance of duty, lessens the protection of the man who makes an article that he wishes to get cheap. is 'fitting protection,' because it accommodates

itself to anything. Another meaning, is 'to suit one thing to another.' It is extraordinary, how appropriate that definition is. That is to say, for example, if you can suit a certain amount of money to our campaign needs, we will make a tariff that will suit you—that is suiting one thing to another. Nothing could be more appropriate. The man who invented that phrase 'fitting protection,' understood the eternal fitness of things.

Mr. McMULLEN. A genius.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). More than a genius, because he suits all sorts of people. The late President Lincoln, after he had listened for some time to a man who was explaining the beauties of a certain article, said that for people that liked that kind of thing, that was just the kind of thing. Another meaning is not only to suit one thing to another, but to suit a person with anything. It does not make any difference what you want, 'fitting protection' will suit you. It depends on the power you have, but according to that power, you will be suited with what you want. A person says: I can command so many votes. Very well, replies the Conservative party, we will suit you. Then I turned to Webster. I wished to be cosmopolitan, so I took an American as well as an English dictionary. Webster goes further back and says that the old English word from which 'fitting' is derived, originally meant a song. That is just the thing. How many airs have been used in singing of the N. P. since 1878. The N. P. was the only song. It was sung to the manufacturers, sung to the farmers, sung to the lumbermen, sung to everybody. Of course the instrument had to be changed. One man sung it to a flute, another to a jewsharp, another to a banjo, and another to a fiddle; and the wives and daughters of loyal Conservatives sat at their pianos and sang it. It was the old song of the N. P.—the N. P. has made you rich, the N. P. has made us great, the N. P. has extended our trade, the N. P. is the life of Canada. But Webster goes further. He says that 'fitting' means 'convenient,' 'meet.' It is very convenient about election times, about times when you want to get votes. It is fair that I should explain that the other word is m-e-e-t, though it was also m-e-a-t to that party. Then I went to the Imperial dictionary, and what did I find? I find that 'fitting' means 'in a state of preparedness.' That, I think, is as appropriate as the other. The other meanings are, 'to accommodate any person,' 'to prepare,' 'to put in order for,' 'to furnish things proper or necessary.' It seems to me that this last meaning in the Imperial dictionary surpasses them all. It accommodates a person with anything, it prepares him and puts him in order, and furnishes him with things proper and necessary. Did

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

you ever know a more comprehensive meaning than that? Hon. gentlemen can well understand why the distinguished leader of the opposition wished to get a term that could be understood by the beneficiaries of protection, and in choosing 'fitting protection,' he has a phrase which can be made to suit all. It has not become so popular as I might expect, because I have only heard it twice in this House. But you know it takes people time to become acquainted with a new song. The old song was the N. P., and the words 'fitting protection' does not come in as nicely, and the letters F. P. will not, in their affection, take the place of N. P.

So, the first plank in the new policy is, fitting protection. The second plank in their policy is race hatred. I am not going to dwell long upon that, perhaps enough has been said about it. But, I am bound to say that every effort—I am not going to say of the leader of the opposition or of his immediate friends—but, every effort that could be made was put forward to cause the people of Canada outside of Quebec to understand that the people in Quebec were disloyal. I admit that the people of Quebec need no apologist, but I am going to be one. All I will say is that he cannot be as good a citizen as he ought to be who will not rejoice more in the efforts to please any race in Canada than, scavenger like, to try to find out whether there is not something wrong with them. There can be only one reason for it. I speak for myself when I interpret the speech lately made by the distinguished leader of the opposition in Quebec, as necessitated by the work done previously to try to make our French fellow-citizens appear disloyal. I have no doubt he found it necessary, and his friends instructed him that he must go down and do something in the province of Quebec to counteract the bad influences of the position taken and the words spoken. I have no doubt that this is the counter-irritant to make the people of Quebec believe that he was their friend, and that he would preserve them from the millions that were going to be imposed on them through taxation by the Liberals, both in war and in peace, as part of the British Empire. This was said to frighten them in their pockets, and make them believe that they would be better off with the leader of the opposition than with the Liberals. I notice that hon. gentlemen opposite sing much more chirpy now than they did about that question. The member for Addington mentioned it to-day, of course he was instructed to do it, but he was wise enough not to follow it. Six or eight weeks ago any man that would mention that in this House would go on for an hour to prove the statement he made was correct. Have they discovered that, after all, there is intelligence in Quebec? I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this country, whether Protestant or

Catholic, whether English or French, are too intelligent to be misled by anything like that. Our growth has not been any more than good citizens would hope for, but sure am I that the growth of Canada since confederation has been sufficient to make the people understand the relations in which the people stand to each other in any part of this country. I believe there is a feeling in the hearts of the people that it does not make to the betterment of Canada or to the building up of the highest kind of citizenship to attempt in any way to belittle, or to give a false impression of any section of the people of this country.

The third plank in the platform, in this threefold platform, is that we must have our pound of flesh from Great Britain. We cannot give Britain anything unless we get something. We owe her nothing. We will not give them a preference for a single dime in Canada unless they give us a preference in Great Britain. The hon. member who just spoke before me spoke about our being able to supply Great Britain with food. Did he ever apply himself to study the statistics of Great Britain? Does the hon. gentleman know that it requires over 300,000,000 bushels annually to feed the people of Great Britain? Does he know that last year they only raised between 60,000,000 and 70,000,000 bushels, and that 230,000,000 or 240,000,000 bushels must be got from the outside world to support the people of Great Britain for one year? While last year we exported the largest amount of any year in the history of Canada, we sent less than 25,000,000 bushels to Great Britain. Now, the bargain that is to be made with Great Britain in making this preferential tariff is practically this: Although, in the meantime, you pay a duty upon the food you have to get from the outside world, you have a prospect before you that, whereas last year we only sent you 20,000,000 bushels, yet, some day we will send 30,000,000, and some day afterwards 40,000,000, and so on, until some day we will go up to 100,000,000 bushels. But, Great Britain all the time has to increase the price of her food supply to her artisans and workmen in order that Canada may get an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. I would think that the very mention of these statistics ought to make these people think a little about it. In all the years I have been in parliament, Mr. Speaker, I have felt that letters patent had been issued in perpetuity under the great seal to hon. gentlemen opposite to talk about Great Britain. She was under the shadow of their wings, and nobody else had any right to talk about her. They were ready by day to fight, and lie down upon the cold earth by night without food, and rise in the morning and fight again for Great Britain. No sacrifice was too great for them, they were the people. Did it ever occur to these gentlemen what we owe

to Great Britain? Did it ever occur to these gentlemen that we were never taxed anything by Great Britain? Did it ever occur to them that while she spends millions upon millions on her army and navy she asks nothing from us? Did it ever occur to these gentlemen that the security granted to a Canadian was as great as if he were born within the shadow of Balmoral or Windsor Castle? And if, perchance, in any country in the world he suffered an affront or was badly used, he had, as a free-born Britisher, the protection of every man in the army and every gun in the navy as much as if he were a king on the throne in Great Britain? Do we not owe something to Great Britain? But there was more than that. By the preferential tariff we were not helping Great Britain, we were helping ourselves. Is it not worth something to have a third of the duty upon an article removed. This is the first time in my life I have heard the opposite doctrine preached. Fancy the hon. member for Addington going into a store to buy an article. He is a prosperous farmer, and he knows the value of money. There is an article in the store that last year he paid \$1 for, and he goes in now and the merchant hands him the article, and he hands the merchant his dollar, and he thinks it is all right. But the merchant gives him ten cents back.

Mr. WALLACE. He charges him \$1.50.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I do not need to answer. I just stood for a moment in pity. The hon. member for Addington gets the 10 cents back. I ask him: Would he fling it in the face of the man from whom he got the article and would he pay a dollar for it? Of course he would not. Now, the trade with Great Britain stands exactly like that in so far as the duty is concerned. Here is another thing. Hon. gentlemen opposite do not seem to make any distinction between the sum total of the price that it cost to produce the article plus the duty in one year, or another. Now, they state that we pay more for some articles. Naturally we have to because there is more competition and more demand, but, let me repeat what I said before, and it is that there is no man in reason who would say, that, if there is a reduction in duty, we do not get the article that much cheaper, or who would say that it costs more because we pay less duty. Did anybody ever hear of such folly as that? Of course, articles are dearer. Take iron, for instance. I have said that the works of New Glasgow are experiencing a marvellous change for the better. Iron went up in price, and the industries have increased everywhere. Why is it that the farmers are so prosperous? In the first place they produce more, and in the second place they get a larger price, and they are, consequently, able to pay more for the articles they consume. Would hon. gentle-

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

men opposite want to have it so that an article produced by the farmer should sell at a high price and that the article produced by the artisan should remain at the same price that it was before? Do not hon. gentlemen opposite understand that when times are good and when the price of one article goes up the price of another article also goes up in order that the labourer who produces that article shall receive more for producing it. Of necessity with such a state of things up go the wages of the artisan. I was up, the other day, in the Niagara peninsula and you cannot get a man to work there for less than \$1.50 a day. I am not claiming that the good crops are due to the act of the government, but, if hon. gentlemen opposite had had the chance how much would we have heard in that line? Suppose, in 1896, the Liberals had been defeated, that we had had three deficits and bad times, and that the Tories had come in! Suppose we rose in our places and said that all the prosperity you have is because the farmers have had good crops, and by the way, is it not an extraordinary thing that good crops for the farmers make good times everywhere? We always maintained that. Hon. gentlemen opposite said: No, we will make the country rich by making it a manufacturing country. While there were only about 15 per cent engaged in manufacturing industries, there were 65 or 70 per cent of the people engaged in farming, and they were to go on feeding the 10 or 15 per cent of the people. I think the government have acted wisely in adopting the tariff that we now have, because they have considered both the manufacturers and farmers, and have not gone upon the principle of considering only one class. Every man has a right to be considered. Suppose, as I said before, that we had not succeeded in 1896, and that the Conservatives had been returned to power! What would the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) have said? I think I hear him speaking with that vigour that characterizes him, and something like this would be the result: In 1896 the country was almost in a state of bankruptcy, every industry was paralyzed, men were out of employment, three deficits was the record of the Liberal party, the farmers were in a state, almost, of poverty, they could not pay their bills, but at the general elections, what happened? Why, a change came over the country. The sun, that before refused to give its full heat to the earth, gave out in plenty. Rain fell in plentiful showers, and kindly mother earth opened her bosom because she was now ruled over by the Conservative party, while she had refused to give forth her abundance when the Liberal party was in power. Words like these, repeated in various forms, by hon. gentlemen opposite would be the result. In so far as the crops have been better, that is a good result, and we must look

elsewhere for the cause. But, in so far as the present government gave an impetus to trade by lessening the duties, by giving confidence everywhere that did not exist before, they are entitled to the credit of having done something for the people of Canada. You may talk, as I said a little while ago, as much as you like to the farmers to try to induce them to believe that times have not improved. You may try to explain to them, by methods only known to your own ingenuity, that matters are not at all as they are, but, the fact remains. And, Mr. Speaker, I join heartily with the hon. member for Addington that there is one thing that we ought to do. I concede that the government is not constituted for the purpose mentioned by the hon. member. My idea of the functions of government are fourfold. Legislation respecting morals and all such questions comes before this parliament as a parliament, but there are four principal ways in which a government is expected and ought to be expected to regulate the affairs of this country. The people demand of the government four things. They demand, in the first place, the smallest possible taxation, in the second place, a solvent revenue, in the third place honest expenditure, and in the fourth place, able administration. I rather like that way of putting it under heads. That is the way that I was taught when I was young. Scotchmen brought up under the direction of a great national overruling church believed in that. We have decreased taxation to the amount of 10 per cent, and we have a largely solvent revenue, a revenue such as was never seen in this country before. For myself, I am bound to say that I do not want to see very much of a surplus in any country. I believe thoroughly that the people can look after their money better than the government, but, I want to point out the fact that no man dreamed in this House that we were going to have such a revenue. Did any hon. gentleman opposite, when the tariff was changed, get up and say that this tariff will be such that you will have an immense revenue, that you will have a surplus of \$7,500,000 in 1899? On the contrary, they said that the country would be ruined. But, this wonderful thing happened that the revenue that was only considered sufficient, when collected, to meet the ordinary outlay, as proposed by the government, gives us, this year \$7,500,000 of a surplus. How did this come about? Trade has expanded to an extent that no one ever thought of. I am in the presence of the ministers here tonight, and I venture to say that they never dreamed when the tariff was introduced that there would be such a result. No man ever dreamed of such a trade or that confidence would be restored to such an extent that the revenue would yield such an enormous increase. Then we wanted honest expenditure in this country, and the Liberal

government has given it to us. I admit that two or three things were brought up in the Public Accounts Committee this year that I would rather had not occurred; and as a strong supporter of the government I have rather a grudge against the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), because he did show that a year or two ago, a barrel of flour in the city of St. John cost us \$7—

Mr. TAYLOR. And ninety cents.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Well, that makes it worse against me, but I want to be honest. He did show that a box of condensed milk cost more in Nova Scotia than in British Columbia, and he said he would produce a witness to prove it, but I notice he did not do so.

Mr. TAYLOR. The witness is here now and will answer the questions for himself.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Now the third thing came up in the Public Accounts Committee to-day—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. I call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that no report has been made yet from the Public Accounts Committee, and this reference to it is, therefore, out of order.

Mr. McCLEARY. And he the chairman of the committee.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I was making a verbal report of the proceedings of the committee. I will say, Sir, that it has been stated to me on good authority that it was proved to-day before the Public Accounts Committee that a bill for \$1.20 was discovered for washing collars and other things during a trip of the Minister of Public Works. Notwithstanding that, I do say that we have had an honest expenditure of public money under this government. My hon. friend from Addington (Mr. Bell) spoke about the Drummond County Railway, but does any man in his sane senses think there was anything wrong about that, especially in view of the fact that the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) declared in this House that neither he nor anybody else ever stated that there was anything wrong about the transaction. If there is anything wrong about the Drummond County Railway transaction, why do not these gentlemen opposite show it up. We showed them up when we were in opposition, and if they want a committee to inquire into it, we will give them a committee to probe the whole thing from beginning to the end.

Mr. SPROULE. Why do you not give us an inquiry before the Committee on Privileges and Elections?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman would be better employed in the

interests of the country in probing into the Drummond County transaction, if he thinks there is anything wrong in it, than he is in doing what he is doing now. I tell him that I will not support the government any longer unless they give him a committee, if he makes any sensible charge about the Drummond County Railway.

Mr. SPROULE. I am asking about the Committee on Privileges and Elections which we had appointed last session, and which the government will not allow us to appoint now.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I am talking about the Drummond County Railway, and if you think there is anything wrong in the transaction why are you idling away your time.

Mr. SPROULE. When we got the committee we could not get our work before them.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That is a reflection on the ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart), and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). We sat in that committee from day to day and when the present Judge Lister, who was chairman, asked if the Conservatives had any more evidence, the answer was, 'No.' The ex-Minister of Railways who, to speak even modestly of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) is as able a man as he is, said in that committee: We have nothing to produce, and we never said there was anything wrong.

Now, Sir, I have given the record of the Liberal party, and the country has to decide between the two parties. What is the record of the Conservative party? Under its rule we had higher taxation; we had three deficits; a bankrupt exchequer, a dishonest expenditure, as shown again and again, and which, by the way, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) wants to have forgotten because some of the parties engaged in it are dead; and lastly, we had a shady and quarrelsome administration. We saw one of its members compelled to resign from the government and he has never since returned to this House. That is the record of gentlemen opposite when we appeal to the country. Under Liberal rule new life and new hopes have been infused into Canada. Labour can everywhere find employment, and every man who is willing to work can get a fair day's pay. Sir, no political party, not even the Conservative party, could spoil a country in which every man can find work. I visited most of the Dominion last year from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and everywhere I found the farmers, the artisans, the lumbering men and the miners busy making money. In the North-west I saw large tracts of land, value for \$6,000, paid for in two years. In my own province, the people were never so busy in any period of our history. We all

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

can at least be thankful for that. We on this side of the House, can point to this happy state of affairs, in reply to the taunts of gentlemen opposite, who hold that they are the only divinely created rulers and that the Plebeians among the Liberals could never rule this country with decency or success. I invite hon. gentlemen opposite, many of whom are my friends, to be thankful for our present prosperous condition. Although, perhaps, some of them may think that our affairs are not as well conducted as the Conservatives would conduct them, yet as true Canadians they should rejoice that Canada is happy, and prosperous, and that when they had to get out of power, they were succeeded by men under whose rule such a desirable condition of things obtains. I hear a great deal said by gentlemen opposite as to the result of the elections about to take place. I make no forecast, but I tell these hon. gentlemen opposite that no amount of blatant boasting in this House is going to win the elections for them. I tell the hon. gentlemen that they have got to go before the people and show them that the best interests of all concerned in Canada would be better served and conserved if they went into power. It is easy to say, we are going to win. When the hon. leader of the opposition was in his place in parliament in 1896, I remember hearing him make this statement: 'I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I make the statement here and now, and I want to be judged for all future time by it, and never believed again unless it turns out to be true, that the great Liberal-Conservative party will be returned triumphantly, with a greater majority than they have now.' I take the hon. gentleman at his word; he made his own condition, and I accept it; and I do not believe him now. Prophecy is a dangerous experiment, and I want to point out modestly to hon. gentlemen opposite that too much shouting about what is going to happen is not convenient, and the result may not be what they anticipate. All I know is that we have to present to the people of this country a claim that we need not be ashamed of, and if their claim is better in the interests of the people, they have a right to show that; but they will not win by stating that they are going to.

One word more, and I am done. I refer to a personal remark affecting myself made by the hon. member for Western Assinibola (Mr. Davin). That hon. gentleman referred to a statement which I made in the North-west. It is not a correct statement, but I will take it just as he read it. Addressing the people of the North-west, I said that we ought to judge governments as we judged our friends, our neighbours, our fathers, our mothers, our wives, and our families. I made the statement, and I repeat it now, that if in any of those cases they failed to come up to all that was expected of them,

we were not going to throw them aside if their virtues were greater than the virtues of those we were asked to take in their place. He said :

To such a Liberal who said that the government did not keep its pledges, he would say, look at home. Have you kept the pledges made to your wife before you married her? But what would you think if your wife left you and went off with another man, and that man an unsanctified tram. That woman would be just as vile as the Liberal who turned Tory.

I accept that statement, and I refuse to read into it the innuendo put upon it by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia. All I have to say, Mr. Speaker, is this, that the man that will put a vile construction upon it is a man without modesty or virtue. There is only one man in this House that would do it; thank God, there is no man outside of this House that would do it. We can, at least, discuss political matters as we ought to; we can differ with each other; but when we are vile enough to insinuate things that the words do not bear, we forget for the time being that we are members of parliament, or even decent citizens, and revel in the filth of our own vile imagination. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we shall go to the country; we shall meet hon. gentlemen opposite and they shall meet us. We shall meet as good-naturedly as we do now, and I trust, without reference to personal matters. What any man in this House says or does is not the question at issue. The issue is the record of the respective parties, and their ability to carry on the affairs of the country. I join with the hon. member for Addington (Mr. Bell) in saying that we need not be continually shouting our loyalty; but, whether Liberal or Tory, we can join in the common bonds that make us part of the greatest nation in the world, and work out our destiny. The Conservatives have done much for this country during the eighteen years they were in power. I would be wrong, it would be ignorance on my part, to talk in any other way. There is no man wholly bad, and there is no party wholly bad. You cannot truly speak of one party as perfectly good and the other as perfectly bad. The whole question before intelligent men in Canada is this: Which of the two parties claiming your suffrages should you return in your best interests? Let us, then, discuss the public questions at issue. I have no fear for the result. I will not prophesy, but I will make this one statement, that I shall be quite willing, after the general election, to count heads, and it may be discovered, when the counting is done, that, after all, the prophecies so fondly indulged in by hon. gentlemen opposite will be no more effective to bring about the result as those of the leader of the opposition. I thank hon. gentlemen for the kind attention they have given to me. I hope this long debate may soon come to an end, so that

we may turn our attention to other matters. I have taken up about an hour and a half. I did not intend to take up so much time, but two or three things occurred that made me do so. I know that in the discussion to follow, we shall continue in the same good-natured style, and shall, when we get down to real work, reach results that will be conducive to the best interests of the country.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, before resuming his seat the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) stated that he would not indulge in any prophecies as to the result of the next general election. Well, Sir, I must congratulate the hon. gentleman on one thing, that with increasing years he increases in wisdom; for, if I recollect aright, my heart rather sank when I read an interview in the *Toronto Globe* last December, in which it was stated that Mr. Fraser, the talented and versatile member for Guysborough, N.S., had just returned from Manitoba, where he had taken the stump on behalf of Mr. Greenway, and that the signs were that Mr. Greenway would sweep the country.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Will the hon. gentleman pardon me? I never attended a meeting for Mr. Greenway, and never took part in the local elections.

Mr BENNETT. The hon. member for Guysborough is a good deal like the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). Seeing himself associated with the downfall of Mr. Greenway, he wishes to repudiate all connection with him. It is a notorious fact, however, that the hon. gentleman, with the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and other gentlemen, attended meetings from one end of Manitoba to the other, and that their defence of this administration for its sins and iniquities was what in the main brought about the downfall of the Greenway administration. And I can understand what brought about that result. Fancy a man appearing on a public platform and addressing intelligent farmers such as there are in Manitoba and indulging in a lot of buncombe such as we have listened to for the last hour and a half; and then imagine the electors going and voting for the party which he represented, more especially in view of the fact that this same hon. gentleman, associated with others, had been through that country about three years before. He was then denouncing the Conservative administration and the policy of protection, and along with the Premier and other gentlemen, was making all sorts of pledges and promises to the farmers of Manitoba. The hon. gentleman will not say that he was not there a year or two before the general election; and was it to be expected that the result would be different when men who made all kinds of promises from one end of Manitoba to the other, came back a few years afterwards

with the black record which they have presented, and endeavoured to laugh it off as he has done to-night?

I am not going to indulge in any prophecy but I will tell the hon. member for Guysborough, that if his friends would allow him to go through Ontario, and make speeches of the kind he has made here to-night, I would have no doubt of the result in that province even with the machine thrown into the bargain.

Here is a government that, hampered by pledges and tied down by promises, is, with unblushing effrontery, shifting its position from year to year. The first session these hon. gentlemen asked for time in order that they might make changes in the tariff. The next session we found them promising to make changes, and now we find them attempting to minimize their pledges and laugh off their failures by speeches such as the one we have just heard. But the people of the country are intelligent and are going to hold these men to their word. They are going to ask the hon. member for Guysborough and his associates, if they were telling the truth, when they made the solemn pledge that, if returned to power, one of the first and greatest principles they would stand by would be that not one of their supporters in the House should obtain a position until he had ceased to be a member of parliament for two years. No wonder such deals as the Yukon and the Inter-colonial Railway could be put through this House by a government, supported, as this government is, by men who had the promises of positions. And some, as in the case of Mr. Langelier, were not willing to take the word of a minister, but insisted that the promise should be in black and white before they would cast their vote on a division.

I do not intend to be personal, but there is not an hon. member of this House who could not point his finger to desk after desk, at which sit members who are to be given public positions as soon as this parliament closes. Look at the noble army of martyrs who have already sacrificed themselves:

1. Chas. Devlin, member for Wright, Immigration Agent	\$3,000
2. Dr. Rinfret, member for Lotbinière, Inland Revenue Inspector.....	2,400
3. F. Langelier, member for Quebec Centre, Judge	5,000
4. — Fiset, member for Rimouski, Senatorship	1,000
5. F. Béchard, member for St. John, Senatorship	1,000
6. F. Choquette, member for Montmagny, Judge	4,000
7. C. Beausoleil, member for Berthier, Postmaster, Montreal	4,000
8. M. C. Cameron, member for West Huron, Lieut.-Governorship	7,000
9. James Lister, member for West Lambton, Judge.....	6,000
10. F. Forbes, member for Queen's, Judge.	2,800

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11. Geo. King, member for Sunbury, Senator	\$1,000
12. John Yeo, P. E. I., Senator.....	1,000
13. L. Lavergne, member for Arthabaska, Judge	4,000
14. — McInnes, Senator, Lieut.-Governor British Columbia	9,000
15. Sir O. Mowat, Senator, Lieut.-Governor of Ontario	10,000

These were the very men who, year in and year out, were denouncing the principle of appointing members of parliament to office. If I wished to be personal to-night, I could call out the names of a dozen men who sit opposite, and whose friends openly associate their names with the positions they are to receive. But there is one thing about these hon. gentlemen, they are not selfish. Those of them who are not perhaps ready to take positions themselves, because they cannot get the ones they want, are looking after their friends. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), has half a dozen of his relatives in lucrative posts under the government. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), has a brother in the Immigration Department. The hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Beith), has a brother appointed collector at Bowmanville. And here are a few more appointments of relations of members supporting the government:

James Lister, son, Lieutenant Permanent Force.
Hon. F. W. Borden, cousin, accountant Militia Department.
Robert Holmes, brother, immigrant agent.
Geo. Landerkin, son, government offices, Dawson, clerk; son, clerk Toronto post office.
R. Lemieux, father, inspector, customs.
P. Macdonald, son, physician on Hudson Bay expedition; son-in-law, escort for Li Hung, \$3,000.

Last, but not least, we have that martyr at the public crib, the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), who has a brother-in-law at a clerkship in the Kingston penitentiary at \$700 per year, and the genial whip of the party opposite (Mr. Gibson), who has a brother-in-law at a government clerkship at \$900 per year.

Is it not humiliating that men who had gone all over the country denouncing the appointment to government positions of members of the House, or relatives of members, should take the first opportunity to descend upon these positions like a lot of hungry vultures, and grab them for themselves and relatives; and the meanest part of it all is that they do not allow their friends and supporters to get the positions, but grab them for their own dear blood relations.

What are the farmers going to do with these gentlemen? These gentlemen went about the country telling the farmers that they were being bled white by the agricultural implement men, and that if only a change of government were brought about, the farmers would breathe easier. Well,

what have these gentlemen done for the farmers? We can believe that when the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), made what he thought was a triumphal tour, but which turned out for Mr. Greenway a funeral march, he steered clear of these questions which years ago he was ready to discuss. Let us see what is the record of hon. gentlemen opposite with regard to agricultural implements. Everybody knows that they pledged themselves, time and again, that if elected to power they would bring about a vast reduction in the duties on agricultural implements. But what do we find? We find that last year the farmers paid duties as follows:

Binding attachments	\$ 6,551 27
Cultivators	3,590 80
Drills	12,936 60
Forks	2,746 95
Harrows	10,594 10
Reapers and binders.....	132,920 50
Horse rakes	13,808 60
Moving machines	37,976 00
Ploughs	32,296 00
Reapers	5,013 20
Scythes	7,331 13
Weeders	11,372 75

So I might go on through the whole list and show that instead of making the promised reduction in favour of the farmers, the farmers are still paying thousands of dollars of duties.

What are they doing for the farmers in any other things they require? Last year the farmers paid:

	Duty.
On farm wagons from the United States.	\$19,615
On wagons and drays for freight.....	6,550
Carriages and buggies	12,650
Carts	2,156
Parts of buggies.....	9,460
Wheelbarrows and trucks.....	7,614

The facts showed that these gentlemen are not at all the friends of the farmers they profess themselves to be, but the friends of the manufacturers. But when the farmers complain, they turn around and say: Oh, but look at the free list. Well, I admit that there are certain articles on the free list, and lest any of the farmers should think that this is not a farmer's government, I will read some of the items that to-day are on the free list, which these gentlemen boast so much about. For the benefit of the farmer, the following articles are placed on the free list:

Vaccine points, paintings in oil of the old masters, ice, collections of old coins, collections of postage stamps, bird skins, veneers of ivory, anchors, lime juice, tartar emetic, attar of roses, dragon's blood, cat-gut, chronometers, bone-pitch, mushroom spawn, egg-yolk, bees.

Let there never be complaint by the farmers that this government is not solicitous for their welfare. Should they ever complain of the duty on agricultural implements, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) and the Minister of Customs

(Mr. Paterson), will tell them: Never mind the paltry duty on agricultural implements—look at the fact that you have attar of roses and bone-pitch, and bees free of duty. From one end of the country to the other, these gentlemen disported themselves. They were going to make a tariff for the farmer, even if it should cut the manufacturer in two. And, what have they done? They have kept up the duty on the things that the farmer required to use, and they allow to come in free the things that he has to sell. They permit the importation free of about eight millions of bushels of corn. And the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) has stated in his place, that if this government had not been so idiotic as to make this concession, they might have got something in return for it, perhaps the free admission of our barley into the United States. But the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce said:

When we admitted corn free of duty, we conferred a great boon upon the great mass of the agriculturists of Canada.

I would invite any of the ministers to come up to the riding of East Simcoe, and tell the farmers there that in allowing the importation of eight million bushels of corn into Canada free of duty, and placing it in competition with their coarse grains, they have conferred a boon upon the farmers. If they do so, I think the farmers will very quickly repudiate them. The hon. Minister of Customs—I refer to him, because he is about the only minister in the House, begging the pardon of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) who is deeply engrossed in the debate—does not want the farmer even to have any solace in his trouble. He denies him the right even to have a smoke, without being taxed extra for it. The government have raised the duty on tobacco 11 cents a pound; taking out of the pockets of the people, who use tobacco, last year over \$1,150,000. What have they done for the farmers, so far as the admission of their articles into the United States is concerned? They have gained no concessions at all. They have taxed the farmer at every turn, and even when he comes into the house he is debarred from smoking, on account of the prices of tobacco. And to help him to bear his burdens, they have raised the duty on sugar 33½ per cent, taking out of the pockets of the people last year, more than they did before, no less than \$400,000. I do not wonder that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), did not talk politics in the North-west, but indulged in buncombe, similar to what he indulged in to-night. These are matters that the farmers wish to have dealt with. There was one great promise that they held up to the farmers. They told them, particularly the farmers of Ontario, that their market was in the United States, and if they could gain access to that market,

success would be assured to them. The Premier himself, in speaking on that subject, said :

Our duty is to Canada and not to England. Just as the British government teaches this government that the first duty of the British government is to England and not to Canada so I insist that in all these matters, it is for any self-governing colony to look to its own interests first, last and always.

And, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), said :

It is quite clear to any one who will carefully study those trade returns and will study the figures which I submitted before recess, that the United States market, if it were only made free, is worth more than twice over to Canada that of all the rest of the world put together. It is perfectly clear that it is the only market open to us for a great amount of our productions.

These are the statements with which these hon. gentlemen went about the country. They endeavoured to secure the votes of the farmers on the ground that the Conservative administration had told them time and again that no trade relations could be gained with the United States, that would be beneficial to the country, except at a sacrifice of manufacturing industries, which the Conservatives were not prepared to be responsible for. These hon. gentlemen went east and west and north and south and held out this line of policy to the farmers. Either they knew nothing of what they were talking about, or else they were talking dishonestly, for the Premier last year—although he had made the strong statement, that there was no market in the world so valuable as that of the United States, speaking on the 21st of March—he said :

There was a time when Canadians, beginning with the hon. gentleman himself, would have given many things to obtain the American market; there was a time not long ago when the market of the great cities of the union was the only market we had for any of our products. But, thank heaven! those days are past and over now.

It cannot be that in three years, the whole face of trade has been so completely changed. It simply meant that these hon. gentlemen when they went about the country in 1892, were not conversant with the trade matters of the country, when they made their pledges to the agricultural class, that if they came into power they would go in for a policy of reciprocity. Now, this statement of the Premier was made in 1899, the time when he, himself, stated that he did not believe there was anything to be gained by a reciprocity treaty. When did the change come over his mind? If he was honest in that opinion, then the country could well ask the hon. gentlemen why they went through the farce of the Washington conference and entail on the country an expenditure of \$35,000 for nothing. It will be a matter of interest to the farmers of this country, from whom these large duties on tobacco and

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sugar are being taken, to pay the swelling expenditures of this country, to know where some of that money has gone. It may be well that our farmers could know something of this matter, and I propose that the farmers of East Simcoe, at any rate, shall have the facts placed before them. Of the \$35,000 spent on this Washington conference, the Premier (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), drew \$3,821, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), drew \$3,361, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), drew \$2,630, Mr. Charlton, \$1,766, and Mr. Bourassa, secretary, \$2,200. It will be seen that Mr. Charlton, who was admitted to be the business man of the combination, was more intent on looking after the business than on high living, because his expenses are very much less than those of any of the others. It is scandalous that men should go on a trip of this kind and spend money as they did. Look at some of the items: Banquet at the Shoreham, \$600; floral wreath for Lord Herschell, \$40. One would have thought that they would have paid for their colleagues floral wreath. They paid \$52 for photographs. I suppose they were photographs of the quartette. Entertainment, \$1,637; tips to servants, \$407. Why, it is stated in Washington to-day, that as soon as a Canadian touches the city, the coloured waiters gather around him thinking he is an ambassador from Canada, and is prepared to turn out tips amounting to hundreds of dollars. I am surprised that these hon. gentlemen have the face to place in the public reports, the fact that paltry tips for servants at the table, are paid out of the public till. Cabs cost \$219. It is evident that they did not walk all the time. One grief-stricken minister went down to New York to attend Lord Herschell's funeral, and he carefully charged \$128 for his expenses. Well, Sir, these are facts for the farmers to study over, as to how this economical government dissipates the money of the people. Look at it all through. The humbugged farmer, humbugged on the matter of agricultural implements, humbugged by having free corn brought into the country, humbugged on the reciprocity deal, humbugged in every direction, looks about him for sympathy, and the first man he meets is the humbugged temperance man, and the humbugged temperance man is very much in evidence in this country at the present time; he is endeavouring to deal a blow at these gentlemen similar to what the temperance people in Manitoba dealt to the late Premier, Mr. Greenway. Now, where do we find this government on the question of prohibition? It will be within the recollection of the temperance people of the country that a few years ago a large deputation waited on the late Sir John Thompson, and he announced then that the policy of the Conservative party was not to introduce a prohibition measure owing to the fact that he did not believe such a measure could be

carried out successfully unless there was a large preponderating vote in its favour. These hon. gentlemen, time servers as they always have been, at once set their sails for the temperance vote. The general election was approaching, and a little time afterwards the present Premier started out on a tour of the province of Ontario, prepared at all hazards to catch votes, regardless of whether he would be able to keep his pledges afterwards. In 1895, the year preceding the general elections, the present Premier held a large meeting at Carleton Place, and there he announced the policy of his party on the temperance question. He said:

The Liberal party has pledged itself in convention at Ottawa that whenever in power they would take a plebiscite on the question as to whether the people want a prohibitory liquor law or not. The answer is not in my hands, it is in the hands of the people, and according to their answer such legislation they will have at the hands of the government.

What was the result? A reverend gentleman of the Methodist Church, Mr. Huxtable, a prominent man, I understand, in that denomination, at once congratulated the Premier, and said: My interest and the interest of all my friends will support your party, because the Conservative party have denied to us the prohibition pledge that you are pledged to give. Why, Sir, the Premier caught the fanning breeze as he went further west. After this statement no wonder the temperance people were delighted to meet him. As he went further west he got stronger in his declarations, and to the thousands of temperance people crowded around him at Winnipeg, he said:

He pledged his honour that as soon as the Liberals came into power they would take a plebiscite of the Dominion by which the party would stand, and the will of the people would be carried out even were it to cost power for ever to the Liberal party.

Little wonder is it, after these pledges and statements made on the honour of the Premier, that Mr. Huxtable and other eminent divines, who took part in that campaign, have said that when the next general election comes on all the interest they can command will be thrown against this administration. Well, what happened? The Liberal government submitted the vote. That was an excellent means of scattering a lot of money among the faithful. In my own riding the ravenous Liberals were very anxious to gain some of the lucre, and it was distributed there pretty freely:

Geo. D. Grant	\$353 28
'Times'	27 50
'News-Letter'	4 25
Voters' lists	71 50
Deputies and clerks.....	441 00
Booths and constables.....	260 50

\$1,158 03

And for what? Simply to dissipate money among the faithful in order that they might be square when the necessity arose.

What happened next? The vote was taken. The temperance people had the pledge of the Premier, on his word of honour, that if they got a majority they should have prohibition. The prohibitionists, men and women, turned in and worked with a will. From one end of the country to the other they sacrificed their time and money, they toiled and they worked. These gentlemen saw that there was going to be a large vote in favour of prohibition, and at once all the machinery of the government was set at work to defeat the will of the people. The Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), the late Mr. Geoffrion, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), in fact the whole party in the province of Quebec, was cut loose to assure the people that if this measure was carried by a majority there would be a heavy imposition of taxes, and moreover it would cost the government power.

Now, where was the temperance element? The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), the hon. gentleman who prides himself that he is a temperance man if he is nothing else, met the Women's Christian Temperance Union in the Queen's Hotel in the city of Toronto, and these guileless women said: Mr. Sifton, we know you have full control of this Yukon region, we know there is only one means of access into that country, and we ask you to stop intoxicating liquors from going in there. The Minister of the Interior pledged his honour, whatever that goes for, that liquor would be prohibited from going into that country, while at the same time the minister knew that he was granting permits for thousands and thousands of gallons of liquor to go into that country. Why, there was a statement made in the Senate the other day by Senator Kirchhoffer; that there were men in Brandon, in the minister's own constituency, who had taken thousands and thousands of gallons of liquor into the Yukon district, and these men had made untold money out of it. Yet the Minister of the Interior stands up before these women and assures them that this government was taking every step in its power to prevent liquor going into that country. No wonder the temperance people feel humbugged on this question just as badly as the farmers.

But what else is there? Not only were these made by ministers, but the charge has been made, and made above board, and made by responsible gentlemen in the city of Montreal connected with temperance organizations, that there was preconcerted action to defeat the will of the electors in the province of Quebec on that question, by stuffing the ballot boxes. Sir, there is to-day in the Senate Debates a statement lately made indicating the places where these wrongs were perpetrated, and in some cases actually associating names of members of parliament on the Liberal side with these frauds. Has this government

done anything to inquire into these frauds? This government did spend \$20,000 to inquire into frauds in Manitoba with which they had no concern at all, and which were the business of the local government; but this government is powerless to inquire into the colossal frauds perpetrated in the province of Quebec against the prohibition party. The figures themselves are conclusive proofs of the frauds perpetrated in that province. Now, I am going to read some figures of the votes that were polled in some places against prohibition:

Poll.	Polled.	On list.
No. 23, Quebec Centre.....	105	101
No. 20, " "	121	133
No. 1, " West	114	115
No. 2, " "	111	114
St. Philemon, Bellechasse.....	112	149
Verchères, No. 26.....	134	142
No. 24, Chicoutimi.....	107	140
No. 13, Lachine, Jacques Cartier...	108	111
No. 24, Lévis	122	176
No. 17, L'Islet	117	150
No. 35, Maisonneuve.....	133	141
No. 40, "	113	134
No. 20, St. James, Montreal.....	137	146
No. 1, Richelieu	151	160
No. 10, Temiscouata	103	132

Why, Sir, any sane man who looks at these figures showing that more votes were polled than were actually on the list, knows that frauds were committed, and knows this is the way in which the large majority was rolled up in the province of Quebec against prohibition. Now, I propose to take some figures in my own riding where there was great activity on the part, not only of the prohibitionists, but on the part of the liquor men as well. What was the result? It was this:

Polling Subdivision.	Names on list.	Votes polled.
Gravenhurst, North Ward.....	203	93
Matchedash	138	49
No. 7, Medonte	158	55
Midland East	176	85
Ward North, Orillia	359	193
" West	395	215
No. 7, Orillia Township.....	175	73
Town Hall, Oro.....	192	82
No. 2, Penetang.....	297	139
Tay, Victoria Harbour	318	162
" Fesserton	177	80
No. 6, Tiny.....	225	67
No. 1, "	210	102
No. 17, Toronto East.....	223	107
No. 39, " West.....	210	102

What is the result of looking over these figures? It convinces every man as it has convinced dozens and dozens of good Liberals in my riding, that this government condoned and aided and abetted gigantic frauds in the province of Quebec with the view of defeating public sentiment in this country. They found that they were in a hole. The right hon. leader of the government had given his pledge and the result was that something had to be done, and this enormous majority of 94,344 was rolled up against prohibition in the province of Que-

bec while the other provinces gave a majority of 108,011 in favour of it. The temperance people were not satisfied. On the one hand they had a majority, while on the other hand, they had the pledge of the Premier that their majority would give them prohibition. The right hon. gentleman came down to the House and said: It is true that we gave a pledge for a plebiscite, but, it is equally true that there was an understanding between the members of the Liberal party at the convention that unless there were more than half of the votes polled in favour of prohibition there should be no prohibitory liquor law. What does the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) say to that? He is the embodiment of temperance in this House and in the cabinet. He obtains a standing in the cabinet as a temperance man. Did the hon. Minister of Agriculture, knowing of this agreement, knowing that such an agreement did exist, tell the temperance people that unless there was a large majority, or a majority of half the people in favour of prohibition, there would be no prohibitory enactment? His lips were closed, and he was deliberately misleading the temperance people of the country by not telling the whole truth to them. The House and the country was startled the other day when the hon. Minister of Agriculture stood up in his place and made the statement that there was no such bargain at all ever made and gave a direct denial to the Prime Minister's statement made a little over a year ago. All I have to say is, that it should be the duty of a strong leader to drive a minister out of his cabinet who flatly contradicts him, or it should be the duty of the minister to step down and out of a cabinet when he has his place in it under false representations. There are two masses of people in the country that these hon. gentlemen have to meet. They must meet the humbugged farmer, and they must meet the humbugged temperance man. Some of these hon. gentlemen have referred to the enormous saving that they are going to make under the Dominion Franchise Act. Where is that saving going to come in? First and foremost, under the old system, copies of the Dominion franchise list were sent to the Printing Bureau at Ottawa and were consequently printed in the Printing Bureau. These lists are printed at the Bureau to-day and the cost is exactly the same as it was under the old Franchise Act. The adoption of the local voters' lists in the province of Ontario dispenses with the revision of the so-called Dominion list, and as a result, every year, in the municipalities where these lists are revised a large cost is incurred by the municipalities. It is within my own knowledge that, in East Simcoe, townships have had to pay as much as \$100 in a year for the revision of the voters' lists in order that they may be made use of by the Do-

minion government in its elections. It is a matter on the part of the townships that they are, for the first time, having forced upon them the cost of the revision of the lists for the Dominion House which was formerly paid for by the Dominion House itself. In addition, the judge who is engaged to revise these lists is paid by the local government, so that the only difference in the matter is that the cost is simply shifted from the Dominion government to the local municipalities. I challenge hon. gentlemen to say that it is not a matter of demurrer on the part of the municipalities that they should be borne down with this expense. They say, that before, the revision was done by partisan judges. The answer to that is, that the partisan revising barristers before were country court judges and the revising barristers to-day are county court judges. The whole difference is that these hon. gentlemen have taken the burden of expense off the Dominion government and placed it on the municipalities. The result is that we have a Dominion voters' list that is totally different in every province of this Dominion. You may reside in the county of Glengarry, adjoining the province of Quebec, you may be a large property owner in that county, you may happen to live in the adjoining riding of Stormont, you may be a large property owner in the adjoining riding, you may be a property owner in three different ridings in the province of Ontario and have the right to vote once in the federal elections. But, if you live in the province of Quebec and you happen to have property in four different wards in the city of Montreal, you have four votes. Why should the people of the province of Ontario suffer this disadvantage? I ask the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) why he, as an Ontario minister, says that every man who may own property in three or four divisions in the city of Montreal, should have three or four votes and that a man who may be a large property owner in the province of Ontario should only have one vote. The principle is unfair and unjust. These hon. gentlemen found that there are a large number of men in the country employed in what is known as the Permanent Force, in other words, the paid soldiers of the country, men who are entitled to have a vote, men, who, when called to duty, have to do the fighting. These hon. gentlemen are, to-day, by a Bill before the House, going to debar these men from having the right to vote, while a Chinaman in British Columbia has the right, under the provincial franchise, to vote. Is it not a beautiful thing to say that every intelligent man in the province of Ontario who has taken up the business of a soldier on behalf of his country, has no right to vote, but that a Chinaman in British Columbia has the right to vote? All that hon. gentlemen can make out of the Franchise Act

in Ontario they are quite welcome to, because the people see very clearly that the whole starting point was in favour of hon. gentlemen themselves, and nothing else. There was one thing that the farmer was to have done for him. Hon. gentlemen were going to decrease duties, and, as a result, they would decrease the revenue of the country. The reason why there was to be a decrease in the revenue of the country was that there would be less duties drawn out of the pockets of the people, and they would have less money to pay out in that way. What have these hon. gentlemen done in that regard? These hon. gentlemen, who were pledged to reduce the number of cabinet ministers, added two to the number, these hon. gentlemen frittered away \$200,000 for the plebiscite, these hon. gentlemen frittered away \$35,000 on their reciprocity trip to Washington, these hon. gentlemen frittered away \$10,000 upon an inquiry into Manitoba elections which was no duty, or business, of this parliament, and they have increased the expenditure of this country from \$38,000,000 to \$51,000,000. That is about the gauge of what they have done, and you cannot go into a constituency of this country but you will find that there are party friends who are being benefited at the public cost. The Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) went to Orillia in East Simcoe, and he found a most capable officer there as inspector of weights and measures. This official was a man in the prime of life, but the minister (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), in order to give a place to a party friend, superannuated this official, Mr. Bolster, at \$360 a year, and appointed a gentleman named Smith to the position at \$600. I am surprised that the minister permitted himself to be prevailed upon by his party friends to do such a thing as that, and to place this extra charge on the taxpayers of the country without any reason in the world. It is that way all along the line. The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) found Col. White, one of the most capable deputy ministers in the service, in his department. He superannuated Col. White, at a cost to the country of \$2,240 a year, while at the same time there is another gentleman named Griffin drawing \$2,053 a year as a superannuated Deputy Postmaster General. The Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) did that because, in his riding there was Dr. Coulter, who was an aspirant for the nomination against him, and so he got rid of Dr. Coulter by making him his deputy. This same Postmaster General thought the postmaster in the city of Kingston was too old, and so he superannuated him at \$700 a year and appointed a man to office who was several years older than the former postmaster. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) found in his department a gentleman named Hayter

Reed, who was altogether too smart for the minister, and the minister knew it, and so he superannuated Mr. Reed at \$1,024 a year and put Mr. Smart, who was the minister's rival at Brandon, in the position. Go around the streets of Ottawa, and you find men in the prime of life put on the superannuation list by this government; men like Mr. Balderson, superannuated by the Liberals at \$682 a year; men like Mr. Allan Jones, superannuated at \$1,120; men like Mr. McGirr, superannuated at \$546, and men like Mr. Smith, of Winnipeg, superannuated at \$1,600 a year. This is all done in order that these Liberal ministers may find places for hangers-on who are looking for positions. Here is some more evidence of the economical administration of the Liberal government. In the small county of Lambton, with two judges, this government superannuated Judge Robinson, at a cost to the country of \$1,733 a year, and they appointed Mr. MacWatt, from the town of Barrie, a personal friend of mine, and I am glad that when some one had to get the position, he got it. There is a junior judge in that county, and there were three county court cases tried last year, and so they appointed another judge to help the junior judge. There was a junior judge, and they appointed a senior judge with a salary of \$2,600 to assist in the trial of three cases that might come up the succeeding year. There is a gentleman named O'Reilly, who lived in Prescott, who was found on every platform in my riding from one end of it to the other. Mr. O'Reilly has been appointed by this government, judge of the united counties of Cornwall, Stormont and Dundas, and Judge Pringle is superannuated at \$1,733 a year. They found there, Judge Carman, a capable junior judge, but, instead of promoting him or leaving him as the sole county judge—and although there were only three cases to try in that county court the year before—they have appointed Judge O'Reilly to discharge the duties, and Judge Carman, having got another position, the whole town of Cornwall is anxious to know who the government will appoint as his successor. There was a gentleman named McCallum, from Bruce, who made the welkin ring where a Gaelic audience could be found in Ontario. As a politician he was noted; as a lawyer I never heard of him. He has been sent to Manitoulin as county judge at a salary of \$2,900, and there was one case in Manitoulin Island the year before, which was disposed of by one of the judges from Sault Ste. Marie. Now, there was no necessity for a judge at Manitoulin Island at all, because there was only one case the previous year, which was disposed of by one of the Sault Ste. Marie judges, but, nevertheless, Mr. McCallum is translated into the job. There is a gentleman named Chapple, a defeated candidate in North Ontario, who had to be provided for. The judges from Algoma disposed of all

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the court business in and about Rat Portage which amounted to four cases the previous year. But Mr. Chapple had to be provided for, and so he was appointed a judge. Last, but not least, there is Mr. Neil McCrimmon, who has been heard on pretty nearly every platform in Ontario. There had not been a single case tried in the county court of the county of Ontario the year before, and they had already a junior judge there, but this government appointed Mr. McCrimmon, at a salary of \$2,600 a year, to help the junior judge to administer law in a county where there was but little law to administer. Is it not a farce that the government and its supporters should talk about economy in view of all these things. Why, they appointed every party hack they could find in the country. Some of them, irrespective of fitness—I regret to say, for the sake of the bench—were placed in positions they never should have occupied. That is the kind of thing that goes to swallow up the millions and millions of extra expenditure which this government has been guilty of. And, Sir, while this extravagant expenditure is going on, let the overburdened taxpayer be thankful because the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is doing something wonderful. The Postmaster General found that a man in East Simcoe was carrying the mails thirty-two miles a day for \$1.41 per day. He thought it was an outrage that this man should be paid so much to carry the mails from Coulson, Marchmont and Orillia. He found that this man had obtained the work by tender three years before, and that there had been a renewal of the contract, and so, the Postmaster General put the job up to tender again. A party friend got the job at \$1.08 a day, and ever since then he has been endeavouring to discover a process by which he can get it raised. If he cannot succeed, he does not want any renewal, for he is quite willing to give up the contract. The Postmaster General found another man carrying the mails twelve miles a day for 72 cents per trip. He thought that was outrageous, and he got a man to take it by contract for 51 cents a day; and I am assured by that man that he is quite willing to give it up, because, owing to the fact that there are two large local government institutions in the neighbourhood, and knowing how they are administered, he thought all that was necessary was to put in his tender at a low figure and afterwards have it raised. So, Sir, the farmers in the riding of East Simcoe are assured that while millions and millions are being squandered by the government in big jobs, the Postmaster General is doing yeoman service in cutting down the wages of the unfortunate mail carriers. But, while this is going on, and while the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) palms off alleged jokes in this House, the farmer wants to know: What about coal oil? They want to know if the

gentlemen in power now are the same gentlemen who went about the country a few years ago telling the people that they would reduce the duty on agricultural implements, and put coal oil on the free list. Well, they are the very same gentlemen. It is true they do not ride in an ordinary railway car to-day, but have private palace cars at their disposal whenever they want to indulge in a railway jaunt. True, they are not clothed as they were before; they are a little more gorgeous now. But after all, the farmer brushes off the veneer, and he finds that it is the same gentleman, and he puts the same question. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), was up in my riding, and I hope he will come again, because in the town of Gravenhurst where he spoke, the majority against me was afterwards smaller than it had been before. I would like him to come up and talk to the people about coal oil, because they will hear the other side of the story—how this government is in the grip of the Standard Oil Company, how they have the influence of the Standard Oil Company behind them. Everybody knows that the Standard Oil Company have this government in the hollow of their hand. They have already shown some signs of their strength. Judge Lister, who was a strong candidate in West Lambton—with all respect for the present member, I think equally strong with him—had a majority of 86 in the town of Sarnia, which I find on looking at the returns is a large majority; but since the government made the deal with the Standard Oil Company, that company showed its strength by increasing that majority in the by-election in Sarnia, to 474. The policy of the Liberal-Conservative administration with regard to coal oil was to protect the native industry, thereby bringing about a fair competition, so that fair prices and only fair prices should be paid by the consumer. But as soon as these gentlemen came into power they found the old applicants knocking at their doors, who had knocked at the doors of the Liberal-Conservative government in vain, namely, the Standard Oil Company. Every time that great monopoly applied to the Liberal-Conservative government for privileges, they were denied; but at their first knock, this government were prepared to accede to their wishes; and what happened? A gentleman who was head and shoulders above many members of this administration, but who was not taken into the cabinet—I refer to Judge Lister—after begging and entreating these hon. gentlemen not to make the concession to the Standard Oil Company, allowing them to bring in oil in ships. When he saw that all chance of an effective appeal was gone, stood up in this Chamber on the 19th of June, 1897, and said:

The difficulty is this that these tank ships are in the hands of one vast corporation, who will

use them to compel the railway companies to carry their oil at a lower rate than they gave to the other oil refiners of the country, and in that way secure an advantage over the trade which I venture to predict will compel the trade to yield to that corporation, so that the oil interests of this country will be in the hands of one great monopoly in a short time.

These were words of wisdom from Judge Lister. He knew the situation. He was simply demanding fair-play on the part of the people of the country as a whole. The Standard Oil Company, was a great, greedy corporation, with their hands at the throat of this government. Judge Lister was not as strong as the Standard Oil Company, and the government came down and gave them that concession. What has happened? Everything that Mr. Lister said has proved true. To-day, the country is under the ban of this monopoly. The farmer and the artisan who have not the competition of the electric light and gas are forced to pay prices for their coal oil almost 50 per cent higher than they paid a few years ago. And where does this government stand? This government, who have on the statute-book a law providing that any monopoly or trust shall be dealt with, do not dare to touch the Standard Oil Company, because that company is their master; and the proof exists to-day, in the fact that the Standard Oil Company are exacting from the people of Canada 25 and 30 cents a gallon for coal oil when it is selling in the United States for 9 and 10 cents a gallon. If there was fair competition in this country, there would be a reduction in the prices. There are other American companies besides the Standard Oil Company. On their bended knees these companies have come to this government and have asked them to remove the duty on coal oil. To-day the whole coal oil interest of Canada is in the hands of the Standard Oil Company, and the government are not protecting Canadians by keeping up the duty, but they are protecting this gigantic American monopoly; and these companies have asked the government to throw the field open and let all companies compete in a fair field with no favours. That was not done. The representatives of the Standard Oil Company were here when the last budget speech was delivered. Every one knows them by the size of their diamonds. They left the city after the government had announced that there would be no changes in the tariff; and the next day a cent a gallon was placed on coal oil, the result of which was that the Standard Oil Company made \$200,000 out of the people of Canada. A little time ago, in the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, a court of the country, the rival oil companies came and proved not only that the Standard Oil Company were holding this government by the throat, but that they also held up the railways. It was proved in evidence that under the old

coal oil tariff, before October, 1898, the rate on coal oil from Buffalo to Montreal was 23 cents per hundred pounds, and from Sarnia to Montreal 25 cents per hundred pounds. The Canadian oil producer had to pay 25 cents per hundred pounds from Sarnia to Montreal, while the Standard Oil Company had to pay only 23 cents per hundred pounds from Buffalo to Montreal, and it will be noted that Sarnia was 80 miles further from Montreal than Buffalo. As soon as the government had made the concession to the Standard Oil Company, allowing them to bring in their oil in ship tanks, they were in this shape. They went to the railway companies, and they said: If you will not carry our coal oil at the rate we set and carry the coal oil of rival companies at the rates we dictate, we will bring it in tank ships, which our good friends of the Dominion government have allowed us, to all points on the lakes and rivers. For example, we can bring a tank ship to Toronto, pump the oil out there, and distribute it all through the city, and be entirely independent of the railway companies. We can bring a tank vessel to the town of Windsor, take out so many gallons, and distribute that in wagons throughout the country, and be independent of the railways. What did the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway say? They said: We admit the truth of this. If you persist in doing this, and the government have allowed you the privilege, you will be able to deal altogether independently of the railway companies. The evidence given before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council proved that Mr. Laird, the freight agent, said the lower rates were made to compete with vessels, and made in December, 1898, and the proposition then was received from the Standard Oil Company. Speaking on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Judge Clark said:

The Canadian Pacific Railway agreed with the Standard Oil Company to raise the rate from Buffalo and lower the rate from Sarnia to different points conditional on their not using the tank steamers.

What was the position? The Standard Oil Company, thanks to the favour of this government, obtained the privilege of bringing in their oil in tank ships. They had the railways by the throat, and said to them: 'We have control of all the oil interests at Sarnia. You are charging us to-day from Sarnia to Montreal, 25 cents per 100 pounds, and you are charging the rival companies from Buffalo to Montreal, 23 cents per 100 pounds. What we want you to do is this: We want you to charge us from Sarnia to Montreal only 20 cents per 100 pounds instead of 25 cents, and we want you to charge the rival companies who are doing business in Canada, 35 cents, instead of 25 cents, from Buffalo to Montreal.' That is the bargain which to-day exists between the railway companies and the Standard Oil Company. The rival

companies bring their oil to Buffalo. If they want to take it to Montreal, they have to pay 35 cents per 100 pounds, while all the Standard Oil Company has to pay is 20 cents from Sarnia to Montreal. And here is this government aiding and abetting the Standard Oil monopoly, in keeping up this infamous trust to the detriment and cost of the consumer. What is the government to do? Judge Lister told them. He said, abolish the tank system. What do these other oil companies tell them to do? They say, take the duty off coal oil. These rival companies have what are known as pipes from the oil wells, to a point on Lake Erie. They can take advantage of these pipes to tranship into tanks, but as soon as they touch the Canadian frontier with their tanks, they cannot do any business with the railway companies because the railways are under the control of the Standard Oil Company. What then is the course to be pursued? Let this government take the duty off coal oil, and the opposition companies can bring their oil in, whether in tanks or cars. Then, let this government have the strength to grapple with the railways, and forbid the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway discriminating by charging 35 cents to the opposition companies, and only 20 cents to the Standard Oil Company. But this government is not strong enough to do that, and are allowing the farmers and consumers of coal oil to be bled white by the Standard Company, rather than incur the hostility and ill-will of that company, the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the Grand Trunk Railway.

We have in the part of the country from which I come, a matter that is exciting a great deal of interest, and it is this: We have had, thanks to the local government of the province of Ontario, according to the view of the opposition, a great revival in the industry of manufacturing lumber. There was a time when the local government of Ontario permitted pine timber to go out of the country in logs to be manufactured in the United States. Under the stress of public opinion, however, the Ontario government changed the law. But this government does not wish to keep in the country the logs cut in Canada, but prefers that they shall go out to be manufactured in the United States; and to-day, under licenses to cut timber, on what is known as Indian lands, millions of feet of timber are being exported from Canada to the United States. This government is afraid of the American lumbermen, just as it is afraid of the Standard Oil Company. If it had the strength which the Ontario government has had, it would compel the manufacture in the province of Ontario of the millions of feet of lumber that are going out in logs to the United States. But worse than that, while this government permits the logs of this country to be exported to the United States for manufacture, and while the United States charges a heavy duty on the sawn lumber of

this country, this government allows American lumber to be imported into this country free of duty. Last year there was brought into this country from the United States, over \$2,000,000 of wood imports, consisting of sawn boards, staves, posts, laths, and other descriptions of sawn lumber. Here is a government which is supposed to be legislating for the Dominion, allowing the Americans to send into Canada, to compete with our manufactures, over \$2,000,000 of wood products, free of duty, and yet will not take measures to prevent the export of Canadian logs to the United States. What is the reason? It is simply this, that these gentlemen are altogether oblivious of the interests of what they consider a small part of the province of Ontario, namely, the counties that border to the Georgian Bay, and which are interested in this business. But in this connection the government will find to their sorrow, that the lumber interests of that section—as shown last year by an immense deputation—are hostile to the government on account of the unfair proposition that they have placed in the fiscal policy of this country. They will also find that the employees of the mills in this country, are strongly against the government, by reason of the fact, that although the government talk of an alien labour law, to prevent Americans working in Canadian mills, while Canadians are debarred from working in American mills—

Mr. COWAN. Where?

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman has been dining, and has forgotten.

Mr. COWAN. Not at all. The hon. gentleman is making a statement on a subject he knows nothing about, and which is entirely apart from the fact.

Mr. BENNETT. I have heard many arguments from that source, and they are always about as conclusive as the present one. These hon. gentlemen find themselves, after four years of pure humbugging, in rather a tight place. The farmers have been humbugged just as have been the prohibitionists, and these hon. gentlemen are looking in every direction to find a prop that will support them. They have seen the fall of the Greenway government; they see the wreck of the Ross government in Ontario; they see the means by which the local government in Prince Edward Island is endeavouring to hang on to power; they see their humiliation in Hamilton, when they had to take a senatorship from that town and give it to Brockville, because they were afraid to open a riding in Hamilton. Either that or we must conclude that there was not a Liberal in that city qualified for a senatorship, and I should be sorry to say that that was the case. What then is the result? Finding that they have humbugged the people in every direction, they are starting out on a new track. They are starting out on

the loyalty cry. They are shouting loyalty from the house-tops. But that cry comes ill from them, considering where they have been years before. They know that every statement which the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) is making throughout the country, must have attached to it a considerable amount of weight. They know that in the province of Ontario, which is heart in hand with Britain in this great contest, and that in the province of Quebec, many of whose people are equally patriotic and earnest in their devotion to the mother country, the statements which the Minister of Public Works is making, are condemning this government in the opinion of the people. Take the statement made by the Minister of Public Works in Paris the other day:

It is very possible that in their own minds 99 per cent of the French Canadians disapprove of the South African war, and are of opinion that the money spent by Canada in this connection might have been spent with more practical results elsewhere.

And he further says:

The French Canadians do not desire that the sending of a contingent to South Africa without the previous assent of parliament should in any case be considered a precedent.

They feel that, owing to these statements by prominent members of the administration, they are losing ground in the province of Ontario, and in every English-speaking province; and they know that by reason of their past utterances on trade questions, they are losing ground also. And so these hon. gentlemen are vying with one another now, in raising the cry of loyalty. They start out with the preference to Great Britain. I for one am willing that every possible means should be taken to strengthen, if necessary, the bonds between ourselves and the mother country; but I do not think that the people or the statesmen of Great Britain wish to see the industrial and manufacturing interests of this country injured for the purpose of bringing British goods into this country. But hon. gentlemen opposite seek to bolster themselves up by making a great cry about their preferential tariff. But how does that preference work? We know that we do not today, and never will, import from Great Britain agricultural implements or wagons. We do not import from Great Britain the necessaries generally used by the farmers of our country. These, so far as they are imported, are drawn from the United States. And when these hon. gentlemen go about the country and tell the farmers that they are conferring upon them great benefits by allowing the importation of goods from Great Britain, the farmers and artisans are intelligent enough to know that what we are bringing in from Great Britain are not the necessaries they use, but the luxuries of the rich people. Every one knows, by consulting the Trade and Navigation Returns, that our imports from Great

Britain are silks, high-priced clothing, woollen goods of a superior class, and not such goods as are used by the masses in this country. Great Britain has never evinced through her statesmen, any expectation that such a policy should be carried out. It will be remembered that when the Premier was treating with Mr. Chamberlain and others a year or two ago, the Premier himself—I give the gist of what he said—declared that we did not ask any benefits from Great Britain, but only wanted to give Great Britain the preference in our markets. Intimation must have been made that the British government were prepared to make concessions, otherwise there would be no sequence in what was said by the Premier and Mr. Chamberlain. To my mind, the people of this country want to make an arrangement with Great Britain, if they can, by which the exports from our firms will be placed on the British market on a preferential basis. That may be done by placing a duty on grain and other produce going from the United States and other countries into Britain, while permitting what may come from Canada to enter there free of duty. If such a thing can be brought about, it is the thing to be desired by all Canadians, because it would mean the enrichment of the Canadian farmer. But the preference that exists to-day does not mean to the masses of the people of Canada any advantage or any benefit. And it must be borne in mind that while we are importing and have imported large quantities of high class goods from Great Britain, those goods are not the manufacture of Great Britain at all. Any gentlemen who have seen the ordinary samples displayed in wholesale houses or by commercial travellers, will have had this pointed out, that a large percentage of the woollen goods imported are not made in England at all, but are made in Belgium, Germany and other countries where there is cheap labour. That was strongly brought before the House and the country when these hon. gentlemen brought down their preferential tariff. It was pointed out to them then, that there would be imported from Great Britain goods that were not made in Great Britain. The government said: We do not intend to allow continental goods to come in under the reduction, but only such as have been to a substantial extent produced by British labour. They were asked for a definition of the word 'substantial,' and they simply replied by saying that it was a substantial amount. The result was that the appraisers in the different custom-houses, as was to have been expected, could not agree as to what was a substantial proportion of work in the manufacture of these goods by the application of British labour. Last year the government provided that if 25 per cent of the work in any given article was British, it should be admitted under the preference. The consequence of

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this is that the preference which exists nominally in favour of Great Britain, is far more a preference in favour of German and Belgium goods upon which the trifling change of 25 per cent has been made in Great Britain. Now, I have detained the House at greater length than I intended, and I shall resume my seat. While hon. gentlemen opposite have discussed the budget at great length, they have done nothing but try to excuse and extenuate what the government have done for the last four years. I am not going to prophesy what will be the result of the general elections when they come on. But I point to the signs of the times. The province of Manitoba has spoken, and spoken unmistakably. In the province of British Columbia, the present Premier feels so afraid of having it supposed that this government is assisting him, that he is publishing everywhere with pride the announcement that this government will not assist him at all. He feels that the endorsement of this government means certain defeat, as it meant for Mr. Greenway. The Conservatives stand shoulder to shoulder. It is a matter of great gratification to the Conservative party that, while, in the past, they may have been rent asunder, while they may have had fightings within and fears without in former days, to-day they present a united and solid front. It is not necessary that every hon. gentleman on this side who rises to address the House should, as hon. gentlemen opposite seem to deem necessary, deal in great adulation and praise of their leader. All I can say is that our leader stands without praise; if their leader must be bolstered up with praise, I say, in the name of goodness let them bolster him up. The people of Canada are an intelligent and thinking people. They will judge the government by their past. They will consider them as they appeared in their convention in Ottawa in 1893; they will compare their promises with their platform when it comes to the vote; and they will judge them on their record. But here are some of the things that these hon. gentlemen will be compelled to face: While in other years they told the people that thirty-eight millions was an outrageous expenditure, they will have to seek excuses for an expenditure of over fifty-two millions; while they told the people that the whole aim and desire of Canada should be to have a reciprocity treaty with the people of the United States, they will be forced to explain the words of the Premier recorded in last year's *Hansard*, that the trade of the United States is not a trade that this country particularly desires after all. They will be forced to meet their friends to whom they have made pledges of economy, and pledges all along the line of moral reform, and the result will be that they will meet that punishment at the hands

of the electorate that they richly deserve. But there is one class of the community who to-day are anxious to pass their sentence upon this government, and that is the great moral class of this country, the men who believe that whether or not these 14 or 15 gentlemen should receive their \$7,000 or \$8,000 a year, they do believe that the rising generation of this country should be taught that the men who make pledges in public life should respect them as much as if they were made in private life. They believe that the men who carry on their election contests on the principle that might should prevail and not right, are not the men who can be held up as models for the younger part of this community. When the blackened record of these men is looked over, when the infamies they have perpetrated in every riding in the province of Ontario are considered, when they have seen, as they have seen in my own riding, a minister of the Crown side by side and face to face with a confirmed scoundrel, they will think either that the minister is low down or that the scoundrel is away up. There has not been a constituency that these hon. gentlemen have gone into, whether it was West Huron, or Cornwall, or East Simcoe, where they dare go back and repeat their notorious practices, and there is not a constituency in the whole province of Ontario where honest Liberals do not blush to-day for the infamies that have been perpetrated by these men to endeavour to keep themselves in power, and trying to stem the tide of popular disapproval that is fast setting in against them.

Mr. VALENTINE RATZ (North Middlesex). Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great attention to the remarks of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, and I must say that I think he has adopted the very wise course of refraining to place himself on record as a prophet, or the son of a prophet, in regard to the results of the general elections. I think every member on this side of the House and every member of the Liberal party outside of it is quite willing to abide by the result of the next election, and quite confident of what that result will be. Now, the hon. gentleman has found some fault with the ministers who were sent by this government to Washington to discuss trade questions with the United States government, and he has found some fault with their bill for cab-hire. I am not going to say whether that expenditure was proper or not, but it seems to have been only an ordinary item of expenditure that has been incurred by members of both governments when they were in power. I will just remind the hon. gentleman of a similar expenditure which occurred in June, 1896, when the leader of the opposition, with one of his colleagues, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), not only rode in a private car when they came to the town of

Exeter, in North Middlesex, but they did not find that private car sufficiently spacious, and so they engaged a special train in which they steamed up to Exeter. There they delivered their orations, and after they got through they steamed to the town of Strathroy, and after they got through there they returned to the city of London. Now, I would ask any member of this House, or any elector of this country, whether they deem that a proper expenditure for the country to pay. I do not object to an expenditure for cab-hire or for a private car by members of the government when they are on an official trip; but I am opposed to either ministers or servants travelling in private cars unless they travel in their official capacity.

The hon. member who has just spoken, referred to the action of the Postmaster General cutting down the wages of the mail carriers. He stated that some of the mail carriers were paid the meagre salary of \$1.08 or \$1.10 for carrying the mail 32 miles. That may be a very small amount for the work done, but I can only say that these contracts were let by public tender. If the Postmaster General had gone to work and granted twice that sum, what would hon. gentlemen opposite have said? We know that they are always claiming that all these public works should be let by tender. That has been done, and the lowest tender has been accepted. Now, I think the hon. gentleman should not find fault with the departments in that respect. We all know that the late government let mail contracts that ran from year to year. Some time ago letters were read in this House relating to contracts in the constituency of the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRiviere), where tenders had been invited. After the tenders had been sent in, the previous contractor went to the member of that constituency and asked him to write to the Postmaster General to have his contract renewed. The hon. member wrote a letter to the Post Office Department and the contract was renewed, without the tenders having been opened. After the change of government and the present Postmaster General took hold of the department, the tenders were opened up, and what was the result? It was found that tenders had been sent in that were actually \$100 lower than the sum at which the contract was renewed. That letter was read while the hon. member for Provencher was in his seat, and he could not deny a single word of it.

Now, hon. gentlemen opposite have had a good deal to say in condemnation of the financial policy of this government, but I have not so far heard a single word or argument from them that in any way controverted the masterly statement made by the Minister of Finance. We know that not very long ago the leader of the opposition made a statement from his seat in this

House that not a single thing had been done by his government that was in the interest of this country. Well, we know that as soon as a change of government took place the Minister of Agriculture immediately gave his attention to the quarantine regulations that existed between Canada and the United States, and secured their abolition. What was the result? Previous to the abolition of the quarantine regulations cattle exported from Canada to the United States had to be quarantined at the boundary for 90 days. This practically meant the prohibition of the exportation of cattle to the United States. We know that if they had to be fed and cared for at the boundary for ninety days the expense would all have to come out of the price of the cattle, and, therefore, it was almost a prohibition of the exportation of cattle to the United States. But, after these regulations were abolished we found that the farmers of Canada were able to sell cattle to the United States at prices previously unknown. During the four and a half years that the quarantine regulations were in force 3,762 animals were exported at a value of \$52,000. In the two and a half years since the quarantine was removed, 213,000 head of cattle were exported to the United States, valued at over \$3,000,000. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask any sane man if that action was not of the greatest benefit to the farmers of this country. Any new market that is found for our surplus goods, that will bring millions of money back to this country, must surely be a benefit to this country. The cold storage system which was introduced by this government, which enabled the farmers to place on the British market their perishable products in a fresh condition, and created a new market for the Canadian people, was also the means of bringing more money into Canada. Was that not also a great benefit to the Canadian people? Now, I have here a list of the shipments of products that were exported from Canada to Great Britain in the years 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, and on to 1899. It is as follows:

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
Butter—		
1893	7,036,013	\$ 1,296,814
1894	5,534,621	1,095,588
1895	3,650,258	697,476
1896	5,899,241	1,052,089
		\$ 4,141,967
1897	11,453,351	2,089,173
1898	11,253,787	2,046,686
1899	20,139,195	3,700,873
Six months to Dec. 31, 1899.	22,965,987	4,675,807
		12,512,539
Increase		\$ 8,370,572

The cold storage system was properly introduced in 1899. There is not a sane man but who would attribute the increase in butter exportation to the cold storage sys-

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tem which has been introduced by this government.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
Cheese—		
1893	133,946,365	\$13,407,470
1894	154,977,480	15,488,191
1895	146,004,650	14,253,002
1896	164,689,123	13,956,571
		\$57,105,234
1897	164,220,699	14,676,239
1898	196,703,323	17,573,763
1899	189,827,839	16,776,765
Six months to Dec. 31, 1899.	137,228,887	14,407,951
		63,433,718
Increase		\$ 5,328,484
Eggs—		
1893	6,805,432	\$ 868,007
1894	5,141,586	714,054
1895	6,500,817	807,990
1896	6,520,678	807,086
		\$ 3,197,137
1897	7,476,636	978,479
1898	10,369,996	1,255,304
1899	9,652,512	1,267,063
Six months to Dec. 31, 1899.	8,964,356	1,169,710
		4,670,550
Increase		\$ 1,473,413
Bacon—		
1893	17,288,311	\$ 1,830,368
1894	26,826,840	2,754,479
1895	37,526,058	3,546,107
1896	47,057,642	3,802,135
		\$11,833,089
1897	59,546,050	5,060,393
1898	76,844,948	7,291,285
1899	111,868,938	9,953,582
Six months to Dec. 31, 1899.	68,160,142	6,217,787
		28,523,047
Increase		\$16,689,958
Recapitulation of Increases.		
Bacon		16,689,958
Cheese		5,328,484
Eggs		1,473,413
Bacon.....		16,689,958

Increases during Liberal period..... \$31,826,427
I claim, Mr. Speaker, that a great many of these increases are due to the introduction of the cold storage system by this government.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was introduced by the late government and continued by this government.

Mr. RATZ. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), has told us time and again that the late government had been talking about introducing the cold storage system, and that they had formulated their plans, but the whole thing ended in talk until this government came into power. Hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that the present government have adopted their policy, stolen their clothes, followed their footsteps. Hon. gentlemen claim that their

policy was the best policy that could be promulgated for Canada, they say that we have adopted it, yet they find fault with what this government has done, and criticise us severely. If their contention is correct, if the present government is carrying out the best policy for Canada, why should these hon. gentlemen find fault? If the prosperity that Canada is enjoying at the present time is due to the old national policy as claimed by hon. gentlemen opposite, why did it not bring prosperity to Canada under the reign of hon. gentlemen while they held the reigns of power? If it is the Conservative policy, then the government in power is to be congratulated for carrying it into effect, because hon. gentlemen failed to enforce it in such a way as to bring prosperity to Canada.

When the Fielding tariff was introduced in 1897, hon. gentlemen declared in this House that the Liberal policy would mean ruin and wreck to the manufacturing industries of Canada. It was not the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite then, but it was found to work successfully, when it infused new life into the business enterprise of Canada, stimulated agricultural interests, turned a time of depression into a time of prosperity and has been a success in every respect. Now hon. gentlemen opposite lay claim to this policy and ask it to be christened a child of the old father, of the national policy. In comparing the tariff of the present government, or the Fielding tariff, with the Foster tariff, you will find that great reductions were made, and thereby millions of dollars were saved to the taxpayers of Canada. Figures are very dry and uninteresting to listen to, but in order to show some of the savings to the people of Canada between the present tariff and the tariff of hon. gentlemen opposite for last year, I will be compelled to use a few figures as follows:

Comparative reductions between the tariff of the late government and the tariff of the present government.

Article.	Present tariff.	Old tariff.
Indian corn	Nil.	\$549,977
Binder twine.....	Nil.	102,300
Barbed fencing wire.....	Nil.	126,885
Galvanized iron or steel wire, Nos. 9, 12 and 13 gauge.....	Nil.	42,980
Cream separators	Nil.	45,000
Seed beans from Britain.....	Nil.	15
Rape seed, sowing.....	Nil.	

Agricultural Implements.

Article.	Present tariff.	Old tariff.
Farm, road or field rollers.....	\$ 40	\$ 56
Forks, pronged	2,753	3,858
Hay tedders	1,163	1,628
Hoes	772	1,093
Knives of hay or straw.....	26	36
Manure spreaders	140	175
Post-hole diggers	48	68
Potato diggers	73	107
Rakes, n.e.s.	1,226	1,716
Scythes and snaths, sickles or reaping hooks	8,258	11,994

Article.	Present tariff.	Old tariff.
	\$	\$
Spades and shovels, and spade and shovel blanks, and iron or steel cut to shape for same....	8,865	10,851
All other agricultural implements, n.e.s.	5,409	7,616
Wind-mills	3,926	4,711
Threshers and separators.....	17,934	21,521
All other portable machines....	11,367	15,974

Iron and Steel Manufactures.

Wire fencing, woven, and wire fencing of iron and steel, n.e.s.	3,395	6,524
Stoves	31,693	34,915
Axes	10,353	14,494
Saws	23,146	25,288
Files and rasps, n.e.s.	22,224	26,876
Tools, hand or machine, of all kinds, n.o.p.	142,966	171,746
Table cutlery, n.o.p.	47,212	64,616
Nails and spikes, cut.....	4,554	6,942
Nails, wire, of all kinds, n.o.p...	2,330	3,884
Butts and hinges.....	5,104	5,565
Sleighs	1,487	1,785
Cart or wagon skeins or boxes..	239	321

Miscellaneous Articles.

Coal oil	\$424,888	\$509,866
Collars of all kinds.....	18,268	33,346

Woollen Manufactures.

Blankets	\$ 11,582	\$ 15,906
Cassimeres	35,284	42,786
Cloths	388,156	467,565
Coatings	144,961	182,747
Overcoatings	2,452	3,006
Tweeds	141,936	171,324
Flannels	18,337	21,501
Knitted goods, including knitted underwear	65,456	74,230
Shawls	18,737	19,682
Shirts	10,689	12,349
Socks and stockings	177,722	265,762
Undershirts and drawers.....	22,563	25,411
All fabrics and manufactures, n.e.s.	971,037	1,022,005
Clothing, ready-made, and wearing apparel	313,052	351,491
Hosiery	5,714	7,233
Carpet, tapestry	127,451	143,130
Carpet, 2-ply and 3-ply.....	6,280	7,856

Cotton Manufactures.

White or bleached fabrics.....	\$105,735	\$122,217
Fabrics, printed, dyed or coloured	901,035	940,266
Handkerchiefs	44,093	48,147
Shirts, other	8,679	10,945
Sewing thread on spools.....	59,395	71,004
Clothing	105,996	109,235
Socks and stockings	25,362	34,417
Towels	7,777	8,303
Velvets, velveteens and plush fabrics	53,036	66,987

Flax, Hemp and Jute Manufactures.

Carpeting, rugs, matting and mats of hemp or jute.....	\$ 30,496	\$ 38,459
Damask of linen	86,850	93,068
Handkerchiefs	35,425	38,941
Linen, brown or bleached.....	10,509	17,296
Linen thread.....	22,136	22,775
Shirts of linen	1,606	1,989

On bituminous coal there has been a saving of \$157,000; on coal oil, \$85,000; on Indian corn, \$550,000; on iron and steel manu-

factures, \$850,000; on binder twine, \$102,000; on barbed wire, \$126,000; on galvanized fencing wire, \$43,000; on cream separators, \$45,000; on books and printed matter, \$69,000; on cotton goods from Great Britain under the preferential tariff, \$163,000. In woollens from England, under the preferential tariff there was a saving of \$451,000. Now, woollens are as much an absolute necessity in every household as coal oil or many other articles. In hats, caps and bonnets there was a saving of \$52,000; in fancy goods, \$32,000; flax, hemp and jute, \$35,000; earthenware and china, \$41,000; drugs, dyes and chemicals, \$21,000. These reductions I have mentioned on woollens, cottons, silks, hats, caps, and bonnets, flax, hemp and jute, earthenware and china, and drugs, dyes, and chemicals, are reductions on importations under the preferential tariff. Other reductions could be shown, Mr. Speaker, but these, perhaps, are the chief ones, and if you total them up you will find that they amount to \$2,885,000. And who says that is not a material reduction in the rate of duty that the people of this country have to pay?

This should convince any person who wishes to take an honest view of the question that there have been enormous reductions made in the rate of taxation to the Canadian people. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to take great pride in the fact that a great many articles have advanced in price, but I am sure that they will not undertake to blame this government for raising the price of articles in all the markets of the world. We know that some years ago if a farmer had a horse to sell he would get \$50 or \$100 for it according to the class of animal it was, but if he had the same horse to sell to-day he would get double the price he could get some years ago. In the same way wheat, pork, butter, cheese, and other articles have advanced in price in the markets of the world, and no government either in this or any other country, can regulate prices throughout the world. I can only say that if hon. gentlemen opposite were ruling the country to-day, there is no doubt the markets of the world would be the same. What would they say then? Would they say that their policy was the means of increasing those articles in price? I maintain that a reduction in the tariff has a tendency to cheapen the goods imported into the country. If the duty had not been taken off binder twine, the farmers would have to pay 12½ per cent more for it at present than they do. The other day the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) delivered a masterly speech from his standpoint; but he found a great deal of fault with the tariff changes as made by this government. He took the farmers under his fatherly care, and told this House and the country that the government were the cause of raising the price of binder twine. He told us that the government were hold-

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ing their twine at 14 cents per pound, and by so doing enabled other manufacturers to hold their twine at high figures also. Why, Sir, by placing binder twine on the free list, the government placed all the Canadian factories in competition with each other and with the world. So, if the government hold their twine too high, competing manufacturers are ready to undersell them. When this government came into power in 1896, they did not put their twine on the market. It was lying at Kingston, and it did not go into competition with the binder twine of other Canadian factories. I suppose they thought that if they entered into competition they would reduce the profits of the other manufacturers. This is a matter of business, and twine manufacturers are as anxious to do business as any other class of business men. The manufacturers all come into competition with each other, and the business regulates itself the same as any other business, and prices are cut to the lowest possible profit.

The hon. member had also something to say about post-hole diggers. He admitted that the reduction of duty on these had benefited the farmers; but it was only to a very meagre degree, as the importation was not large, and only some \$20 or \$30 was saved to the Canadian people on post-hole diggers. But the hon. gentleman must remember that nearly all the post-hole diggers that are used in Canada are manufactured in Canada, and on those the price was reduced to the extent of the reduction of the tariff, and has, therefore, been a saving of more than ten times as much to the farmers of Canada as the hon. gentleman has tried to have them believe. While the hon. gentleman had so much to say about the meagre sum saved to the farmers on post-hole diggers, he forgot, or, for some reason, omitted to tell this House that the government had saved to the farmers of Canada \$170,000 by the reduction of duty on fence wire, and by placing fence wire on the free list. I suppose it did not suit his case, yet he tells the people that the tariff changes are of no benefit to the Canadian farmers.

The hon. gentleman also told us a great deal about the cotton duties. We were told in 1897, at the time of the tariff changes, that wreck, ruin and destruction would be the lot of the business industries in Canada through the Liberal policy which was then introduced. But, Sir, for the past two years, hon. gentlemen opposite have all agreed with us that Canada had never before been in as prosperous a condition as it is to-day.

Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman the other day again placed himself on record as a prophet. He told this House that as soon as the orders that were booked with the English cotton companies were filled, then cottons would be dumped on the Canadian market at such a low price that Canadian

mills could not compete against them, and it would be the means of closing our mills.

Mr. HENDERSON. I did not say that.

Mr. RATZ. And again. Idle men are supposed to walk the streets, tall chimneys are expected to tumble down, the cotton mills would close their doors, and so on. So, the hon. member for Halton predicts. Why or for what reason is all this to happen? There must be a cause for it. The hon. member himself has given a very effective answer. He says that the preferential tariff granted in favour of Great Britain will be the means of reducing the prices of cotton to the Canadian people. It will make cheap cottons to the farmer, to the labouring man, to the artisan. The hon. member now sympathizes with the cotton manufacturers. His fatherly care for the farmer has ceased for the present moment. He allows the farmer to content himself with the reduction of duty on post-hole diggers.

The hon. gentleman knows and he admits that the preferential clause means a reduction of taxation, that it makes cheap cottons, he tells us that, and every consumer of cotton knows that a reduction in duties means cheaper goods. He was very much alarmed the other day about the closing of the cotton mills, but I noticed in the newspaper the other night that some of the eastern cotton mills are nearly doubling their capacity. I notice that some of them are adding 3,000 horse power to their motive power. These gentlemen understand the preferential clause just as well as any one, and if they thought that their business was going to be injured by it, they would not go on increasing their plant.

The hon. member told this House that he was perfectly satisfied himself with the reduction of postage, and that it was a great boon to the business man; but here again the poor farmer suffers very heavily, because he does not write as many letters as the business man writes. I would like to ask the hon. member in what respect the farmer or anybody else was injured? We remember quite well that under the rule of hon. gentlemen opposite there was a deficit in the Post Office Department of \$781,000. At that time repeated demands were made by the people of Canada for a reduction in the postal rate; but, Sir, we were always told that it was impossible. We were told that the department was managed with the greatest care, and that the greatest economy was practised, and that with a deficit of over three-quarters of a million dollars, the request could never be granted. But, Sir, when a change had taken place, when this government came into power, when the pruning knife had been applied, when the useless hangers-on had been cleared away, and mail contracts let by public tender, and the department placed under proper business management, then, Sir, a rapid change soon took place.

In two short years the Post Office Department was placed on an equilibrium, a reduction in the management of the department of three-quarters of a million dollars was made in that short time, the mail-carrying mileage was increased by hundreds of miles per day, hundreds of new post offices were opened up all over the country, and a mail service established into the far-off Yukon district, and yet the hon. the Postmaster General was able to grant a penny postage rate, which is a great boon to all classes of the Canadian people.

And, Sir, what is the result? Is it a deficit of \$781,000, such as existed under hon. gentlemen opposite? Not at all. Is it a deficit of a million dollars, as predicted by the hon. leader of the opposition? Not so, Sir. A deficit of \$388,071, with a 2 cent rate, or less than half of what it was under hon. gentlemen opposite, with a 3 cent rate and a 5 cent rate to Great Britain. Does the hon. member for Halton think that such a record would incense the farmers of Canada very much? Does he think they are dissatisfied when they get cheaper letter rates, and the country a better and cheaper mail service?

The hon. member spoke at considerable length of the leather and glove industries, stating that in his opinion they were ill-treated, and very badly used, and that serious crippling of that business would follow. And for why? Because of the preferential tariff which has made a great reduction in prices of leather goods. The hon. gentleman has a very sweet faculty of changing his attitude. A short time ago he was spreading his tender wings over the farmers and consumers of Canada, claiming that they were not well enough treated by the government, because the reductions of the tariff did not go far enough to benefit the farmers. But, Sir, now the leather men are suffering, and the glove men are suffering, and the farmers, and consumers of those goods, are profiting too much by the tariff reductions. I may say to my hon. friend that where it suits him to soothe the farmer he has a happy faculty of doing so, and where he considers it convenient to nurse the manufacturer, he also extends him a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, under the policy of the present government the affairs of the country were well and economically managed, new life was inflated into the business industries of Canada, raw material was made cheaper, so that the manufacturer to-day is able to compete with his manufactured goods in the markets of the world.

The farmer was placed in a better position, taxation upon his articles of consumption was reduced, better markets for his products were secured, and he is in a more prosperous condition, under the policy of the present government, than he ever was heretofore. The artisan, the labouring man, are in a far better position under

the policy of the present government than ever they were before. Factories are filled with orders, shops are working overtime, work is more plentiful, wages have increased, and the demands for labour are increasing everywhere. Such are the conditions of things under an honest and economical management of the best government that Canada has ever had.

Mr. CRAIG moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, April 26, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE FIRE IN HULL AND OTTAWA.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, we meet to-day under very sad circumstances. The terrible fire which is now raging, has already destroyed part of the city of Hull and part of the city of Ottawa, and at this moment, millions of dollars' worth of property have gone up in smoke. Amongst other calamities, I understand, the electric light works and all other light works have been destroyed, which will make it impossible for this House to sit. Therefore, I see no option for us but to adjourn for some days. Therefore, with the concurrence of the House, I move, seconded by the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), that when this House adjourns, it stand adjourned until Tuesday next. In the meantime, I may say, my colleague, the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock), has done what he could, to assist in preventing the spread of this terrible calamity. This forenoon, when it became evident that the fire was dangerous, the following telegram was sent to the mayors of Montreal, Peterborough and Brockville:

Please send to Ottawa by special train, at government expense, whatever fire appliances

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and other assistance you can spare to help in fighting disastrous conflagration here. Most urgent. Fire spreading with dangerous rapidity.

(Signed) WILLIAM MULOCK,
Acting M. P. W.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). The calamity which has befallen the sister city, and which is threatening Ottawa, is of such a nature that, in my opinion, the government are quite right in moving the adjournment of the House. It seems to me, as it does to the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), that it is impossible that we should meet, from the fact that all the power houses are destroyed. I would like to make one suggestion—though, probably, the matter has been attended to. I would ask the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), if he would not consider that it would be right and proper to call out the volunteers.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron), will be glad to know that that was done about four hours ago.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am glad of it, but thought I would suggest it in case it had not been done.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 1, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PORTAGE DU FORT AND FRENCH RIVER RAILWAY.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved that the fees paid on Bill (No. 97) to incorporate the Portage du Fort and French River Railway Company be refunded, less cost of printing and translation, according to the recommendation contained in the eleventh report of the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence.—(Mr. Borden.)

Report of the Department of the Interior for the year 1899.—(Mr. Sutherland.)

Report of the Minister of Justice.—Penitentiaries.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

THE GENERAL INSPECTION ACT.

The Order being called,

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved that the Order for the introduction of a Bill standing in his name, to amend the General Inspection Act, be discharged. He said: The Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), having brought down a Bill dealing with the same subject, and as I shall have an opportunity in committee of bringing forward the views embodied in this Bill, I move that this Order be discharged.

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 141) to regulate and supervise the grain trade in the inspection district of Manitoba.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

Bill (No. 142) respecting the inspection of foreign grain.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 143) to amend the Act respecting securities for seed grain indebtedness.

Mr. DAVIN. Will the hon. gentleman state what it is?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is to relieve from all liability any of the sureties, or endorsers, or bondsmen who became security for those who got seed grain in the west.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved that to-morrow the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Act 52 Victoria, chap. 2, intituled: 'An Act relating to Ocean Steamship Subsidies,' so as to provide for a continuance of the authority given under the said Act to the Governor in Council to grant a subsidy for steamship service between British Columbia and China and Japan for such period or periods of time as may be deemed

expedient, not, however, to exceed in the aggregate ten years and to pay therefor a subsidy or subsidies, as the case may be, of not exceeding the sum of fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000) sterling per annum for a monthly service, or not exceeding the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds (£25,000) sterling per annum for a fortnightly service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to ask the indulgence of the House for a single moment to draw the attention of the hon. member for North Middlesex (Mr. Ratz) to a statement he made in my absence in regard to a matter which is of a personal character, and which, I am sure, hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House would give me an opportunity of explaining. The hon. gentleman, in his speech on the budget a few evenings ago, said:

I am not going to say whether that expenditure—

Referring to an expenditure by the government.

—was proper or not, but it seems to have been only an ordinary item of expenditure that has been incurred by members of both governments when they were in power. But I will just remind the hon. gentleman of a similar expenditure which occurred in June, 1896, when the leader of the opposition, with one of his colleagues, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), not only rode in a private car when they came to the town of Exeter, in North Middlesex, but they did not find that private car sufficiently spacious, and so they engaged a special train with which they steamed up to Exeter. There they delivered their orations, and after they got through they steamed to the town of Strathroy and after they got through there they returned back to the city of London. Now, I would ask any member of this House, or any elector of this country, whether they deem that a proper expenditure for the country to pay.

I may say, Mr. Speaker, that at that time I had the honour of holding the position of leader of the government. I may further say, that I think the hon. member for North Middlesex ought not to have made such a statement as that without having some foundation for it. Had he taken the trouble to refer to the Department of Railways and Canals he would have learned that not a farthing of expenditure connected with my progress to the province of Ontario at a general election, either for provisioning the private car or for any other railway charges, was borne by the government or by the people of this country. The account was rendered to myself by the representative of the manager of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, and was discharged personally, not a farthing being charged to the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION—MR. BOURASSA.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I rise to a question of personal explanation. A rumour has been going through the newspapers that I had refused to appear before the Public Accounts Committee to give explanation as to expenditures in connection with my secretaryship on the Joint High Commission. I did not mind much these rumours. I always remember the words that I heard upon one occasion used by Lord Herschell, that even if he were accused by the newspapers of having murdered his father, hanged his mother, poisoned his children and drowned his wife, he would not take the trouble to correct the report. However, some of my friends told me that I had better give some explanation of the circumstances.

The facts are very simple, and they are these. Not being a member of the Public Accounts Committee, I was not present at the meeting at which the matter was brought up; but, in the evening papers I read that some member of the committee, I believe the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), proposed that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), who was one of the commissioners, and the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who was one of the joint secretaries, should appear before the committee. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) said that it would be proper to call the hon. member for Labelle, and not the hon. member for North Norfolk—at least, it is what I read in the newspapers. Of course, I was a little surprised at that, especially as the commissioners are accountable to the government of this country and to parliament for their expenditure, whilst I am not, not on account of my position in itself, but on account of the dispositions that were adopted at that time by the commission itself. But, I do not mind that. I received, in the evening, a very courteous letter from the president of the committee asking me to appear at the next meeting, Monday, the 9th of April. As I was called out of Ottawa upon special business on that day, I replied in what I thought to be a courteous letter to the president of the committee, not refusing to appear, but simply explaining the facts that I am going to put before the House now.

When it was decided that a commission would be organized between representatives of the British government and representatives of the American government in May, 1898, it was decided that each government should defray the expenses of its own commissioners, and that any joint expenses incurred by order of the Joint High Commission, and so certified, should be paid in equal moieties by the two governments, British and American. At the first sitting

of the commission in Quebec, on the 27th of August, Mr. Chandler Anderson, on the part of the United States, Mr. W. C. Cartwright, and myself, on the part of Great Britain, were named as joint secretaries of the Joint High Commission. Therefore, the expenditures of the joint secretaries who were appointed by the same nomination and under the same authority, came under the disposition of the expenses to be incurred by the commission itself, and to be divided up into equal moieties between the two governments. During the whole time that I occupied the position of joint secretary under the same nomination and under the same conditions as the other British secretary and the American secretary, I never thought, for a moment, that I had anything to do with the government or with the parliament of Canada as far as my expenses were concerned. Advances were made to me by the treasurer, for the time being, of the Canadian government, Mr. Joseph Pope, and of course, I kept an account. I kept, at least, an account of my expenses, but I did not keep any special account, or any details or vouchers. I kept also an account of the amounts I received. Some time this winter I met the Auditor General, Mr. McDougall, who asked me if I had any details. I said no, I had no details, that I always expected that the commission would settle that itself, and that I would be in the same position as the other joint secretaries. However, I sent to the Auditor General a certificate of the money that I had expended and I returned \$1.10 that was left over of the money that I had received.

After I had seen a statement of what had taken place in the committee in the newspapers, and after I had received the letter from Mr. Fraser, I sent him a letter explaining these facts, not stating that I refused to appear before the committee, but simply stating the facts as to my position and as to the position of the members of the commission. On Monday following, the 9th, I was absent, and I understand that the president of the committee was absent also, and that there was a good deal of talk to the effect that I had refused to appear before the committee, which was not the case. Another meeting of the committee was called. I was still absent, and as the president of the committee did not have my letter to read before the committee, some members of the committee concluded that I had refused to appear and was defying the committee. On Friday, the 20th of April, I received notice to attend the committee ten minutes before the opening of the meeting. As I had received no answer to my previous letter, I was very much surprised, thinking, as I still think, that the committee was composed of gentlemen. For that day I did not go to the committee because I thought I was entitled to an answer to my letter. Upon meeting the hon. member for

Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) he explained to me that he was absent himself at the second meeting, and that at the third meeting he had not my letter. I therefore told Mr. Fraser that I would be present at the next meeting of the committee, and give there and then the explanations which I am giving now. So that the whole story which went through the press is absolutely without foundation.

HULL AND OTTAWA FIRE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, when the House adjourned on Thursday last, it was under circumstances of a very distressing character. A large part of the city of Hull and a larger part of the city of Ottawa were at that moment the prey of a most disastrous fire, which continued for the greater part of the night, and when the sun rose upon the following morning, it was upon a scene of desolation and ruin, where, the day before, had been thousands of happy homes and prosperous industries which were the pride of Ottawa. The details which we had on that morning were of such a character that we came to the conclusion that the destruction which had been caused by this most calamitous fire was beyond the reach of private charity, though private charity was abundant, early and speedy. We had a report which has been since confirmed by the investigations that we have had into the subject, that over 2,000 families have been made homeless by fire. Under such circumstances the Privy Council met and came to the conclusion that, as in our judgment, private charity, abundant as it was, was not able to cope with the needs created by this calamity, parliament and the country would sustain us, if the government also came to the aid of the sufferers, and we determined that very day to ask parliament, at its next meeting, for an appropriation of \$100,000. We instructed the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Courtney, whose discretion and judgment are well known, to immediately make an appropriation and place at the disposal of the relief committee the sum of \$10,000, part of the grant which we propose to ask parliament to make. On the afternoon of the same day I thought it my duty to acquaint my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), of our intention. I wrote accordingly, telling him what we had done, and the amount which we proposed to ask parliament to vote, and I have this reply from him:

Ottawa, April 27, 1900.

Dear Sir Wilfrid Laurier,—I am very glad to learn by your letter of to-day, that you propose asking parliament for an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars, to assist those who are suffering from the terrible calamity of yesterday, and that in the meantime you have

authorized the Deputy Minister of Finance to use at once ten thousand dollars to meet the immediate necessities of the helpless. I need not tell you how glad I will be to heartily support the measures the government have taken, and propose to take in the present emergency.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES TUPPER.

The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
Prime Minister, Ottawa.

The government are prepared to ask this appropriation from parliament, and my hon. friend has a message from His Excellency the Governor General.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I have the honour to present a message from His Excellency the Governor General, as follows:

MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons, supplementary estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ending June 30, 1900, and in accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act, 1867, the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

Government House, May 1, 1900.

I move that the said message of His Excellency, together with the estimates, be referred to the Committee of Supply forthwith.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). The terrible disaster which has overtaken the city of Hull, adjoining Ottawa, is almost unexampled in the history of Canada. I had the greatest possible pleasure in assuring my right hon. friend how heartily I would support the measure which the government propose to take, of asking \$100,000 to meet this emergency. No doubt very serious fires have occurred in some sections of Canada before, but the great extent of this disaster, its terrible consequences to a large number of people who are being rendered houseless and stripped of all their property, has made this a very exceptional case. It must not be forgotten also, that this fire has occurred at the seat of government, which, of course, makes the claim stronger from many points of view, than a similar disaster would present in almost any other section of the country. I am quite certain that the government have not only correctly interpreted the opinions of hon. members on both sides, but have anticipated the feeling that pervades all classes of the people of this country, in proposing this appropriation at once, and also in having taken power to deal with the unforeseen contingency, by anticipating a vote of the House. The proposal commends itself to the hearty approval of the House, and, I believe, will be thoroughly acceptable to the entire people of Canada.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of

Supply. He said: I desire, in addition to what has been mentioned by the right hon. the First Minister, to say that besides the work of immediate relief, for which the appropriation of \$100,000 is asked, there is a further obligation incumbent on the government, and that is the reconstruction of the Dominion public works which have been destroyed by the fire. We propose, therefore, in estimates we have submitted to the House and which I ask the House to deal with this afternoon, an appropriation of \$20,000 to rebuild the Hull post office, and \$21,000 to restore the Dominion bridges at the Chaudière, so that the total appropriation you are now asked to consider in supply, amounts to \$141,000. My hon. friend, the acting Minister of Public Works, will give any additional information the House may require in committee.

Motion agreed to, and the House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

The PRIME MINISTER. With regard to the appropriation of \$100,000, I beg to say that it is proposed to pay that money into the hands of the committee which has been appointed for the purpose of coming to the relief of the sufferers. The mayor of the city called a public meeting, and a committee was appointed, of which the following constitute the executive:

George H. Perley, chairman; J. C. Browne, treasurer; H. K. Egan, Sheriff Sweetland, Fred. Cook, Denis Murphy, Ald. James Davidson, Ald. Enright, Ald. Valiquette, Dr. Ouimet, Major R. A. Helmer, Ald. Foster, Mayor Payment, and Ottawa's representatives in parliament.

Besides this, there is an advisory committee composed of Rev. Mr. Scanlon, Rev. Father Jacques, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Rev. Dean Lauder, Rev. Father Whelan, and Rev. Father Valiquette, of Hull. After giving the matter our best consideration, we thought that the best thing we could do was to hand over the money to this relief committee, to be applied as in their judgment will be best suited to the occasion.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I would like to ask the government whether it is proposed to accompany this appropriation by any condition at all, either absolute or advisory. No one who watched the progress of that fire last week could help seeing how almost perfectly prepared that portion of the city was for a conflagration of this kind. It is quite true that the day was exceptional in some respects, on account of the high wind, but I suppose a larger part of that wind was, in the latter part of the day, caused by the fire itself. If in malice prepense, an attempt had been made months before to set a train which would completely surround that part of the city, and cause a conflagration to spread from one locality to another, I do not think it could have been more effectually done than was practically worked out under

the condition of things that existed. This is a serious matter. The government is but voicing the opinion of the country, when it gives its quota, as it is doing, to the relief of the victims, but I think that some conditions of prudence and foresight ought to find expression as well. I know how difficult it is for a government to put these conditions absolutely. I think they have done a wise thing in giving the money into the hands of the relief committee, but there ought to be some means devised between the city authorities and the relief committee and the government—the municipal authorities, of course, having the larger powers—by which these tinder boxes and gunpowder trains, so to speak, should not be allowed to be set here in the city. I do not know quite what measures should be taken, but there is one power the government certainly has. The government has considerable control over the water power along the Chaudière, but any suggested improvement has always been met with the cry of vested interests, with the plea that these large establishments were already built, and that the cost and difficulty of change was very great. But now there is a clear piece of ground to work upon. All buildings have been swept away. Is it not a good time for this government to rise to the occasion and by some wise procedure make it impossible that so great a conflagration can take place again? Having been close to the scene, I know the tremendous intensity of the fire in these immense lumber piles, and I know that not all the fire fighting appliances in the Dominion could have withstood that conflagration. There is now, so to speak, a virgin soil there, and now is the proper time for the government to take hold of the water power along the Chaudière, and by some wise provisions at least lessen the contingency which will always be there if this piling of lumber is allowed. In the city of Ottawa itself the city council seems to allow these lumber piles to be set up in almost every quarter of the city, and in the heat of summer they become almost like tinder and are a menace to human life and property. In some way or other the government should take advantage of the existing conditions and by some wise suggestion, if not pressure, endeavour to lessen the dangers which threaten the city of Ottawa from the cause I have referred to. If the government take action in this matter, I am sure they will be backed up by public sentiment throughout the country.

Mr. WM. GIBSON (Lincoln and Niagara). The first thing which strikes a stranger who comes to Ottawa or Hull is the great danger to which life and property are exposed by reason of these immense lumber piles being allowed in almost every quarter of the city. I sympathize with the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), who has

Mr. FIELDING.

suffered severely from the recent fire, and I would join him in suggesting to the government that in future no piling ground should be allowed within the precincts of the city of Ottawa. If the lumber were taken down the river a few miles in barges, it would only be a question of handling it once more, and it would not be left in the city as it is often for months and years at the disposal of those who buy it for the English market. Of course the longer the lumber is allowed to remain there, the drier it gets and the more danger there is from it. I would suggest to the government that the attention of those who are getting this money should be drawn to the matter, and that pressure be brought to bear on the city authorities to pass a by-law preventing any lumber being stored within the city limits.

Mr. GEORGE E. CASEY (West Elgin). As one who has for long known the condition of affairs in this city, I cannot help adding a word to what has been already said with regard to the danger arising from the presence of saw-mills and lumber piles here. I have seen Hull burned out twice; fourteen years ago and twenty years ago, and on those occasions it was predicted that there would be a great conflagration if the wind blew in the direction in which it blew last Thursday. No one, however, realized to the full extent the destruction that would be caused if a high wind blowing in a certain direction coincided with the existence of a fire among the lumber. As has been pointed out, the government is giving this money practically for relief purposes, and they cannot directly interfere, but I am sure that a suggestion from the government to the city authorities of Ottawa and Hull would have the greatest possible weight. Indeed the government itself has power to regulate what shall be done at and about the Chaudière, the water powers of which are held under leases from the government. Not only should no lumber piling be allowed on any grounds over which the government has control, but, in view of the electrical transmission of power it is not necessary to have these mills at the exact point where the water-power exists. It is quite possible for the power to be generated at the Chaudière Falls and used economically at a spot a few miles away, where the lumber could be piled with less danger, and to which the logs could be brought on the river. I have no doubt that the government have taken this into consideration, but I think it is essential that something should be actually done. There is no hope of establishing a permanent city where Ottawa now stands so long as the lumber industry is permitted to pervade the whole city, as it does at present. I hope something will be done to remedy the existing condition of things.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). The presence of lumber piles within the limits of the city is, of course, a menace to the existence of property; but if the government were to adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity as has befallen the sister cities of Ottawa and Hull, it would be necessary to make provision with regard to the character of the buildings that shall be erected. Nothing is more inflammable than such wooden buildings as existed in Hull prior to this fire. It must be remembered that the fire did not originate in the lumber piles nor upon the premises of the mill-owners of this city. The fire originated in a section of the city of Hull where the houses were small and built of pine, and were, so to speak, simply tinder boxes. The fire originated in a section of the city where it had a long sweep, and as it acquired great force from the high wind, it became entirely unmanageable before it reached the lumber district or the mills. If the government, or if the city authorities desire to adopt measures to prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, it will be necessary to see that only fire proof buildings are erected. So long as we have a city like Hull, consisting almost exclusively of pine board buildings, there will always be danger of a conflagration. The lumbermen of this city have taken all precautions to protect their business from fire. I may be mistaken, but I think you cannot point to a single instance where a fire has originated in the lumber district or where the fact that lumber is piled in the city of Ottawa was responsible for the origin of the fire. Of course, when the fire got beyond control and reached the lumber district, it was bound to sweep everything before it; and had the wind on Thursday last been from the westward, no human power (in the face of a gale blowing at fifty miles an hour) could have saved the greater portion of the city of Ottawa from destruction. It is not right that we should place the responsibility for this calamity on one industry, when, in reality, that industry has simply been called upon to suffer in common with others, and has made provision to the utmost of its ability to prevent such disaster. The lumbermen of Ottawa have always maintained a separate fire organization of their own, and they have always been equipped with fire appliances for coping with any fire in the most efficient manner. I think myself it would be better to have the lumber removed from the city limits as far as possible; but still we must bear in mind that it is impossible to remove entirely the danger that exists, if we are to prosecute the lumber industry in this city. If we are to have mills for converting logs into lumber with the water power of the Chaudière, we must afford those mills such facilities as are indispensable to the prosecution of their business. We might impose

upon them conditions which are onerous and, in fact, unnecessary, and I would simply counsel in this matter the consideration of all the circumstances attending this fire, and a recognition of the fact that the fire did not originate in the lumber district, that the lumber interests were in no wise responsible for it, that it originated in a town of board houses and shanties and had made the progress of over a mile before it reached a single lumber establishment. The primary cause of the difficulty is the character of the buildings erected, and if we are to have adequate protection against fire, we need regulation of building.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York). It seems to have come to a question whether the parliament of Canada shall have its seat here or whether this city shall be the seat of a great lumber industry. This parliament House and the departmental buildings have been jeopardized several times by these fires. I cordially agree with what has been said by previous speakers as to the necessity of the twin cities changing their by-laws with regard to the character of buildings to be constructed. If a change is not made, if these lumber piles are restored and these small pine houses rebuilt, this capital is liable almost any time to a disaster similar to that which has occurred. I think it is the duty of parliament, and I think it is well within our power, to intimate to these cities that they must adopt building laws such as prevail in the other cities of Canada. And, as to the leases in connection with the water privileges, a clause could well be inserted, that there must be no piling grounds within the city. While it is true that the power must be generated at the river side, the saw-mills and piling grounds might as well be several miles away. In that way we should, probably, be saved a repetition of this disaster. I hope that the House will see to it that Hull and Ottawa shall adopt such a system as is in use in other cities.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend from York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) has brought to the attention of the House a subject which may well engage its attention, and in the remarks he has made has strongly voiced the thought which must have occurred to every man resident in the city of Ottawa. I am sorry to say, however, that, in my judgment, we have not all the powers that my hon. friend seems to think we have. But, in the first place, even if we had these powers, the object of the vote we are asking parliament now to make is to afford immediate relief to the sufferers. That is the point to be attended to. There are men, women and children to be fed and clothed, and this ought to be done without any condition whatever. But, when we have done so, it will be only proper that we should call the attention of the municipal authorities to what comes within their domain

Mr. CHARLTON.

rather than ours. With regard to the character of the houses built in the cities of Hull and Ottawa, my hon. friend knows that we have no power over this subject, it is altogether in the power of the municipalities. We can make remonstrances, we can call the attention of the municipal authorities to the fact that they should take extra precautions in this city. We can do this, because we, representing the capital of the nation, have the right to speak not only for the citizens of Ottawa, but for the citizens of Canada, and to ask that extra precautions be taken in order to preserve the cities from a repetition of the calamities to which they have been subjected in the past, an example of which we have just had, and from the danger of which we are not altogether free. I do not think that we have the power which my hon. friend from York seemed to think resided in the government with regard to the leases. If we have any leases to make, we can impose such conditions as we choose: but, with regard to the existing leases, they are not put an end to by the calamity which has taken place, or by the fact that the buildings which were constructed to carry into effect the powers given by the leases have been destroyed. The owners can build again and build under the same conditions under which the leases were granted. In that case also, we can only make remonstrances. But, I believe my hon. friend from York has voiced the sentiment of the people of Ottawa and of the nation at large, that we ought to make the use of these fine water powers as free from danger as possible. I agree in this respect with every word he has spoken. These lumber piles must, of necessity, be a source of continual danger to the city, and if it be possible to induce the lumbermen, who are just as much interested as we are, to remove their lumber piles to a distance from the city, I think we shall have done a good act. This great calamity will have one redeeming feature if our people learn from it the lesson of protecting the city against the danger which has threatened us in the past. But, so far as my information goes, we have only the power to remonstrate, we cannot demand; but we shall not fail to call the attention of all parties interested to this important subject.

Mr. MACLEAN. If the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will pardon me, he may go a great deal further. He can intimate that this House of parliament will not be justified in expending further sums for public buildings here unless there are reasonable laws regulating building within the city limits. An intimation of that kind given to the city of Ottawa would bear good fruit.

Public buildings, Quebec—Hull P.O. to be rebuilt \$20,000

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), or the acting Min-

ister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock), if any conclusion has been come to as to whether this shall be done by contract or days' work?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). No conclusion has been arrived at, but, in conversation with the chief architect, the view expressed was that the work should be done by contract, and I hope it will be possible to carry out that idea. I may make an exception of some little work that is now going on. I was informed that part of the walls that are standing were a source of danger to the people, and I gave immediate instructions to have all the dangerous part of the walls removed at once. I suppose that work is going on now. That, of course, is being done by day labour, but I will endeavour to have the rebuilding done by contract.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not speak in any captious spirit, but I would suggest that in this case, where a great calamity has befallen Tories and Grits impartially, if any portion is to be done by days' work, it should be done with the idea of giving deserving men employment and helping them in that way to earn something for their families. I would suggest very strongly that no attempt should be made to establish any party limit on the employment of men under these circumstances, however strongly such an idea might appeal to a government under other circumstances.

Mr. BOURASSA. I think that this is a case in which the government would be justified in exercising its power to do this rebuilding altogether by day labour, because of the great number of workmen who have been deprived not only of their homes but of work. I am sure that no political capital would be made against the government if the whole work were done by day labour.

Roads and bridges—Dominion bridge,
Chaudière, restoration \$21,000

Mr. FOSTER. Will that complete the restoration, is it supposed?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The first estimate I received was that \$21,000 would complete it, and on that information the vote was prepared. But more accurate figures subsequently, indicate that it will take some \$28,000, and that, no doubt, will be all that is required for the next two months. We will know better after a little while what shortage there is.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose in about two months, the government will be thinking about getting their supplementary estimates down?

The PRIME MINISTER. I think my hon. friend will be going home about that time.

Resolutions reported.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). In resuming the debate on the budget, and on the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition, I have no idea that I shall convert any of the members of the Liberal party to the views which I may express; and I do not suppose that I shall succeed in persuading the government that it is their duty to resign on account of their broken pledges and their lack of competence in conducting the business of the country. But I have a little hope that I shall be able to persuade some people in this country, that this government are not the best government for the country, and that it would be in the interests of the country, at the next general election to turn them out and put more competent men in power. I think, Mr. Speaker, that any unprejudiced observer who has watched the proceedings of the Liberal government since they came into power, must ask himself this question: Have the Liberal party any fixed principle? I do not suppose, Mr. Speaker, that I shall be called an unprejudiced onlooker. We have an onlooker in this House who has been regarding the conduct of the government, and I am afraid he is not unprejudiced either. But, although, I do not claim to be unprejudiced, still I do claim that I look at these matters with as little prejudice as most people, and I have been constrained to ask myself, on more than one occasion, what fixed principle the government of this country has? Have we a right to hold the government to the principles announced in the speeches of the leaders of the party, when in opposition? Now, the Minister of Customs says we have not: he says we have no right to hold the Liberal party to the speeches made by their leaders when in opposition; he says we must take the platform as laid down in the convention by the Liberal party. Well, Sir, I suppose it would be a very hard thing if we were to try to hold the Liberal party responsible for all the views announced by their speakers when in opposition, because the views announced by the different speakers would not agree at all, and no party could carry out all they said in opposition.

Now, in addressing myself to this subject to-day, I do not intend to say anything about the lesser lights of the Liberal party, or the minor leaders of the Liberal party, but I intend to confine my observations entirely to a speaker, whose views we are bound to receive, and to regard as the views of the Liberal party, I refer to the right hon. the leader of the government, and the leader of

the Liberal party. I intend to address my remarks almost entirely, this afternoon, to the question of preferential trade, which is properly before this House on the amendment of the leader of the opposition. But before doing so, I wish to direct attention to one principle of the Liberal party, and to show how they contravene that principle since they have got into power, and, I think, that may be taken as a sample of a great many others. I propose to deal with the question of surpluses. Now, what is the attitude of the Liberal party to-day, as regards surpluses? We know that the Finance Minister, in making his budget speech, gloried in a surplus. He said: We have a surplus this year, and we will have a greater surplus next year, and what a grand thing it is for the country, and what a grand financier I am, that I can show a surplus as the result of the operations of the year, and what a grand government we are altogether, because we have a surplus, when the party on the other side used to have deficits. Well, that sounds all very well, and I notice that the Liberal organs throughout the country are taking up this cry of a surplus. They say: Why do you criticise the government? They have a surplus, they have no deficits to show. Now, Sir, that is the attitude of the party to-day. What was their attitude when in opposition? To find this out, I have only to turn to the *Hansard* of 1894, vol. 1, pages 1225 and 1226. We find that the present leader of the government then made these remarks about surpluses, and I ask the careful attention of every member of this House, to the statements then made by him:

Why, Sir, you heard the hon. gentleman—
That was the present ex-Finance Minister.

—driven to the expedient of giving it as an evidence of prosperity, that during the last fifteen years that the country has been under a protective regime, the finances of the country balanced year after year by surpluses which now aggregate the enormous sum of \$20,000,000. This fact, which I do not hesitate to say to the hon. gentleman, is nothing short of a disgrace and a shame for the administration, was treated by him as a boast. I assert that such a condition of things is a shame and a disgrace to any government.

Well, Mr. Speaker, that is rather strong language for the right hon. gentleman the leader of the government to use in 1894, when we think of the way the Liberal party is talking to-day, and boasting about the surpluses they have. He said at that time that this condition of things was a shame and disgrace to any government. To-day they look on it, not as a shame or a disgrace, but as something to be proud of, and to boast of. But he goes on to say further:

What is the truth about these surpluses?

Now it is a good thing to know what the Liberal party thinks about these matters.

Twenty millions of dollars, says the Finance Minister. The truth is that these surpluses

represent \$20,000,000, of unjust taxation, which have been wrung by the government from the consumers of the country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think we need talk any more about surpluses, I do not think we need try to answer anything said by the Finance Minister, because after all he was trying to show that the government was conducting the affairs of the country right at the present time, and to prove it he said they had a surplus this year, and would have a larger one next year. I think if the right hon. leader of the government was sincere in the views he expressed at that time he ought to call upon the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to resign, and he should place in office a Finance Minister who would not have a surplus, who would be able to make his calculations so that his finances would come out even and who would not wring from the people this unjust taxation. But, I intend, principally, to talk about preferential trade, and I have merely given this one item as a sample of the views held by the Liberal party when in opposition as compared with the views they hold while in power. I think I am not over-stating the case when I say that the views held by the Liberal party when in opposition were entirely different from the views held by them while they are in power. I think I am justified in saying that I cannot find a single fixed principle that they hold, and which they are prepared to hold under all circumstances.

I propose to discuss the attitude taken by the present Prime Minister when leader of the opposition on the trade relations of Canada with Great Britain and with the United States of America. This is a question that is brought directly to our notice by the amendment that has been moved, and I will show unmistakably, without fear of successful contradiction, that he looked towards Washington and away from Great Britain. That may seem to be rather a strong statement, but I intend to prove it, as I intend to prove every statement I make to-day. I repeat, that, instead of backing up the Conservative party in their efforts to develop trade between Canada and Great Britain, he discouraged it. That is rather a strong statement to make about the Prime Minister of to-day, who, to-day, poses as a great loyalist, who professes to be in favour of trade with Great Britain, and who is offering a preference to Great Britain. This is a strong statement to make, but I again say, that, instead of backing up the Conservative party in their efforts to develop trade with Great Britain, he discouraged it on that occasion. I shall prove this by reading from a debate that took place in 1890, (*Hansard*, volume I., page 19). Alluding to a motion made in 1888 by Mr. Marshall, of East Middlesex, in favour of mutual preferential trade which, I see, was supported by the late Mr. Dalton

McCarthy, the present Prime Minister said :

Now, Mr. Speaker, while I agree with those hon. gentlemen in their opinions respecting the evil, I say there is a remedy to be sought for in our condition. . . . The policy we support asks that some reform should be made in the condition of our country. I wish, for my part, that I could agree with hon. gentlemen opposite in the remedy they have suggested; I wish, for my part—

Mr. Speaker, I would call especial attention to these words :

I wish for my part, I could believe that we could find for our surplus agricultural products a market in Great Britain.

The hon. gentleman could not make himself believe that there was a market in Great Britain for our surplus agricultural products. The Conservative party said so. They turned their eyes to Great Britain, and they said : We will find a market there for the surplus agricultural products that we produce. But, the hon. gentleman could not make himself believe that at all, and he did not try to make his party believe it, but, instead of his party turning their attention to the development of the trade with Great Britain, they sought the development of trade with the United States.

But certainly—

He says :

—I cannot agree in the policy which has been suggested to us, for that policy, to say the least of it, is a singularly foolish one.

That was the policy of mutual preferential trade, and in 1890, the present Prime Minister took the ground that such a policy, advocated at that time, in a very forcible speech, in one of the strongest speeches that I have had the pleasure of reading, by the late Mr. Dalton McCarthy, that he could not agree with such a policy, and he said that it was a foolish policy. Then, in 1890, (*Hansard*, volume I., page 20) the right hon. gentleman goes on to argue, that the British workingmen will never agree to any such policy, and then there is a reference to free trade. The hon. gentleman was very much enamoured of free trade. He pointed to England and showed how they had prospered by free trade, and he seems to have looked forward to the time when Canada and the United States would have free trade. He says :

It is true that Canada and the United States are to-day far from this position, but the time may come, and it may not be distant, when Canada and the United States will adopt a policy which we on this side of the House have advocated—

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish the House to mark these words :

—a policy not to seek a market on the other side of the ocean, but to seek a market on the other side of the line.

I think that I have proved conclusively that the hon. gentleman, instead of assisting the

Conservative party to develop trade relations with Great Britain, was opposed to and discouraged every attempt to develop this trade. The Conservative party were putting forth every effort, they were spending money and were bringing their arguments before the farmers of the country to induce them to turn their eyes towards Great Britain. They pointed out to them that Great Britain offered the best market. They said that the United States were the producers of the same articles that we produced, that they were our competitors in these articles, and that we should seek to develop a market in Great Britain rather than in the United States. The hon. gentleman, instead of assisting the Conservative party, says that he looked forward to the time when Canada should adopt a policy :

Not to seek a market on the other side of the ocean, but to seek a market on the other side of the line.

That was in 1890. Well, in 1891, he made unrestricted reciprocity his election cry, involving discrimination against Great Britain. I ask this question in all seriousness. Leaving politics out of the question, if we can for a little while, I ask, in view of the attitude of the right hon. gentleman to-day, if he had carried the country with unrestricted reciprocity, what would have resulted? What position would we be in to-day? Where would this country be? Would we, the Conservative party, have been in the position to ask for a mutual preference? Would we be seeking to trade with Great Britain to-day? I hold that we would be merely a dependency of the United States if that policy had prevailed. Our tariff would be framed for us, and we would be a dependency of theirs, instead of being, as we are to-day, as is claimed by the right hon. gentleman, a young nation. No doubt we are a young nation, a growing, vigorous nation, a nation which is developing year by year. In 1891 the hon. gentleman went to the country with that cry, and the country was almost carried by it. The attractions of this trade near at hand were such, and they were presented in such a way by the right hon. gentleman and his friends all over the country, that it was with great difficulty that their views were opposed, and it was with great difficulty that the late Sir John Macdonald carried the country. If the policy of unrestricted reciprocity, advocated by the right hon. gentleman and his friends at that time, did not prevail, it was not the fault of the right hon. gentleman. He did everything he could to carry that policy into effect. Sir John Macdonald was the man who opposed him at that time, and it was through his efforts that that policy was defeated. Sir John Macdonald gave utterance to a feeling which was rife in the country at that time :

A British subject I was born,
A British subject I will die.

He saw, and Mr. Blake saw, that this policy of unrestricted reciprocity would not only make us a dependency, commercially, of the United States, but that, in the long run, it would lead to annexation. Mr. Blake saw that and said so in his famous letter. There was another man to whom great credit is due for opposing and resisting that cry of unrestricted reciprocity, and that is the present hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). I think I am only fair when I say that it is possible that even Sir John Macdonald might have failed at that time if it had not been for the almost superhuman efforts put forth by the present hon. leader of the opposition. He went all over the country assisting Sir John Macdonald and opposing this cry which was so taking with a great many people who had been carried away with it, and his efforts on that occasion will not be forgotten by the Conservative party or by the people of this country. Not only was this effort of hon. gentlemen opposite defeated by Sir John Macdonald and by the present leader of the opposition, but this effort, Mr. Speaker, was defeated as well by the loyal Canadian people of this country. When I say that, I do not claim a superabundance of loyalty for the Conservative party; but I do say that at that period a great many of the Liberal party were looking constantly to the United States. That was the goal they were striving for. They thought the British market was too far away and they were fascinated by the attractions of the United States of America. It seemed to cast a glamour over them, and they were prepared for any consequences that might result from their policy of unrestricted reciprocity.

Mr. CLARKE. They were hypnotized.

Mr. CRAIG. Now, the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) tells us that he has a great respect for public opinion; but let us see if after the elections in 1891 he bowed to public opinion. He was defeated on the question of unrestricted reciprocity; fortunately for this country and fortunately for himself. I am satisfied that the right hon. gentleman realizes to-day that it would have been a most unfortunate thing for himself and for his party, and for this country, if he had been returned to power in 1891. Here is the language used by the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in the debate on the address in the session of 1891, after the election. I quote from *Hansard*, 1891, volume I., page 27:

Sir, we must have a change, and it must be in the direction of greater freedom of trade. This is admitted on all sides by all parties, and it is admitted even by the staunchest of all Tories—the Imperial federationists.

I direct special attention to these words.

While they commit the mistake of basing their trade policy upon uniformity of allegiance and

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a mere sentiment, we of the Liberal party maintain that the policy of this country must be based, not upon sentiment, but upon business principles; and fresh as we come from the people, I say that the only policy which will benefit this country is unrestricted reciprocity and continental freedom of trade.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, he did not learn a lesson by his defeat, and he was still wedded to unrestricted reciprocity and continental freedom of trade. In the same speech (*Hansard*, volume I., page 29), speaking on unrestricted reciprocity, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

The right hon. gentleman said that this policy was hostile to Great Britain. Again, I deny it; but, Sir, I am free to admit that I, for one, when I made up my mind in favour of this policy, looked first and last to the interest of Canada and not to the interest of England. I am a British subject, and I never forgot it yet; but while I am a British subject, I remember that I am also a Canadian, and I sit in the Canadian parliament. Let the British subject who sits in the British parliament look after the interests of England.

I shall make some comments on these remarks in a few moments, but in the meantime I shall read these extracts from the speeches of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in order that they may be placed together. Discussing the motion of Mr. Desjardins of L'Islet, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said (*Hansard*, 1891, volume II., page 3333):

Sir, I do not believe we can fail, because justice and truth must prevail in the end, and this policy is founded on justice and truth, and we shall not fail.

I wonder what he thinks to-day about that:

But, after all, supposing for an instant that the United States were not disposed to meet us like men, supposing they were disposed to be overbearing and to exact sacrifices from us which we could not make, what would we do in that case? Sir, we would then turn over a new leaf in our book, and I say this to the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien), and to those who believe with him, that I would be prepared then, speaking for myself alone, to look into the very scheme which he has proposed, the United Empire Trade League. I do not believe in the principles of the United Empire Trade League, for the reason that that scheme limits trade to allegiance, it proposes to make allegiance the basis of trade, whereas we desire to make trade interests alone the basis of trade.

In the session of 1892, speaking on the debate on the address, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said, (*Hansard*, volume I., page 26, 1892):

We are in favour of unrestricted reciprocity on this side of the House.

I quote that to show that the Liberals still clung to unrestricted reciprocity. The right hon. gentleman did not speak for himself then, but he distinctly says that the Liberal party is in favour of unrestricted reciprocity. I wish the House to note particularly what the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says about 'mere sentiment.' He stated that the Imperial federationists proposed trade on sentiment, but

the Liberal party did not take any stock in sentiment at all; they were looking at the matter entirely from the standpoint of business principles. Would it be believed that a few days ago I saw a very strong criticism in a Liberal journal on the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), because he stated in this House that the Conservative party wished to have preferential trade on business principles, and wished to get something for something. So it comes to pass that the hon. member (Mr. Montague) is ridiculed now by the Liberal organs for talking about business principles and using the very words used by the Prime Minister when he was in opposition. When we on this side of the House talk about conducting business on business principles, these gentlemen opposite tell us that we are not loyal. I do not think any language could be stronger on that point than when Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: Let the British subject in the British parliament look after British interests, and we will look after Canadian interests here. To-day the Conservative party say that they are sent to this parliament to look after the interests of Canadians, and that it is wrong for this nation to give away a privilege without getting a privilege in return. The Conservative party believe, Sir, that it is possible to get something in return if it is gone about in the right way; and they believe that the reason we did not get anything in return, is because the whole thing was bungled.

Now, Sir, one of the greatest questions that has ever been considered in this country is the question of mutual preferential trade. That policy has been for years advocated by the Conservative party in Canada. What did Sir Wilfrid Laurier say before the elections of 1896 on this question? It has been quoted more than once in this House, but I shall quote it again, because I want to have it alongside the other remarks made by him. Speaking at London, Ont., in 1896, before the elections, the right hon. gentleman said, as reported in the *Globe*:

But I want to point out to you, my fellow-countrymen, upon this occasion, that, in addition to the many reasons which we had up to the present time, there is now another reason which must strongly appeal to the sense of the Canadian people at large—preferential trade. That is a new idea of having within the British Empire preferential trade with all parts of that empire. Goods of English make would be admitted free to this country, and our goods would be admitted free to England, as they are now, but in addition to that we would have for our goods a preference which would not be given to the goods of another nation.

Now, the statesmen of Great Britain have thought that the governments of the colonies have come to a time when a new step can be taken in their development. What is that? That there shall be a commercial agreement between England and the colonies. That practical statesman, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, has come to the conclusion that the time has come

when it is possible to have within the bounds of the empire a new step taken, which will give to the colonies in England a preference for their products over the products of other nations. What would be the possibilities of such a step if it was taken? We sell our goods in England. We send our wheat, our butter, our cheese, all our natural products, but there we have to compete with similar products from the United States, from Russia, and from other nations. Just see what a great advantage it would be to Canada if the wheat, cheese and butter which we would send to England should be met in England with a preference over similar products of other nations. The possibilities are immense.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the new and progressive secretary of the Colonies, has declared that the time has come when it is possible to discuss that question. But, Sir, if England is going to give us that preference, England would expect something from us in return. But the right hon. gentleman has taken away from England any incentive to give us anything.

England would expect that we would come as closely to her own system of free trade as it is possible for us to come. England does not expect that we should take her own system of free trade, such as she has it; but I lay it before you, that the thing the English people would expect in return is that, instead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff, pure and simple. These are the conditions on which we can have that boon.

Now I come to a far more important declaration made by the right hon. gentleman on another occasion:

I would be in a far better position to obtain this boon for Canada than Sir Charles Tupper, because his is a protective tariff, whereas mine is a revenue tariff, pure and simple, and Mr. Chamberlain says that is all that is necessary in order to obtain it.

The right hon. gentleman did not then say it was impossible. He did not say it was impudent to ask for it, as the hon. member for North Norfolk says.

Mr. CHARLTON. He tells us we cannot have it without a zollverein.

Mr. CRAIG. He did not say it was impudent for us to ask for it or impossible to obtain it, but he said to the people of this country: I can get it for you far better than Sir Charles Tupper can. If you want this mutual preferential arrangement, vote for me. Well, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that that was obtaining votes on false pretenses. If the right hon. gentleman held then the views which he holds to-day, I do not see how he could have made a speech of the kind. What he should have said was that, although Mr. Chamberlain thought the scheme feasible, he had no faith in it.

Mr. CHARLTON. Is my hon. friend prepared to grant England free trade and free admission into our markets in return for a preference in hers?

Mr. CRAIG. I will read the citation again for the benefit of my hon. friend from North Norfolk.

Mr. CHARLTON. Read Mr. Chamberlain's latest utterance, please.

Mr. CRAIG. I am going to read what the right hon. the First Minister said. He said, in 1896, before the elections, in the city of London, Ont. :

England does not expect that we should take her own system of free trade, such as she has it; but I lay it before you, that the thing the English people would expect in return is that, instead of a principle of protection, we should adopt the revenue form of tariff, pure and simple.

And he went on to say : That is our policy to-day, and if we get into power we will not require to change our policy. If you want this preference in the English market, return us to power, but do not return Sir Charles Tupper, because he cannot get it.

I am not discussing Mr. Chamberlain, but the right hon. the First Minister, and I want to show where he stood in the matter. Mr. Chamberlain is responsible to the parliament and people of Great Britain, but the Premier of this country is responsible to the people of this country, and if he misled the people and obtained their votes by saying he was in favour of this preference and would get it and could get it better than Sir Charles Tupper could, the people of this country ought to know it, and I intend that they shall.

What did the right hon. gentleman say in 1890, when in opposition, on this question ? I find in *Hansard*, vol. I, page 19, of that year, that he spoke as follows :

Will the British working classes adopt such a policy ? It is preposterous to assume it.

Again, he said :

It is almost impossible to conceive that the British people would adopt a policy so absolutely delusive.

And yet, in 1896, he said to the people of this country : If you want this preference, put me in power. And at the very time he was holding out this bait to the people, he had no faith in that policy at all. If that is not obtaining votes under false pretenses I do not know what is. I want to say a word or two on the attitude which the right hon. gentleman took at the Jubilee celebration in England in 1897. I happened to come across yesterday a quotation in the *Mail* of November, 1897, which is very apposite to my remarks. It gives the remarks of Mr. Asquith on this question of mutual preferential trade. Mr. Chamberlain had talked about a Zollverein and a customs tariff for all the empire, but Mr. Asquith, who is a very pronounced Liberal and free trader, said he was very glad that that idea had died still-born, and that it had been killed by the colonial Premiers. What did Mr. Asquith say about the attitude of the leader of this House ? He said :

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Canada is moving in the direction of free trade in the reciprocal provision of her tariff. Sir Wilfrid Laurier very truly, very candidly, said, being, as he is, a free trader by conviction,—

It is refreshing to learn that the right hon. the First Minister is a free trader by conviction.

—who would not be a free trader by conviction who had constantly before his eyes and on the other side of an almost imperceptible boundary line the enormous and incalculable evils which are inflicted on the United States by the pursuit of the doctrine of protection ?—being, as I say he is, a free trader by conviction, he has adopted this plan as the first step in the direction of a policy of complete free trade. That is the idea by which we ought to secure the end. To attempt to accelerate the better treatment of our trade by our colonies by the establishment of preferential duties in their favour, thereby dislocating the whole of our trade with foreign countries and thereby tempting our colonies, which is the inevitable result of protection, to devote their resources to the production of things for which they do not enjoy the greatest natural advantage—that is a policy which flies in the face of experience.

Those are the remarks that were made by Mr. Asquith, a member of a former Liberal government in England, and I have read them to show what impression he had formed of our First Minister, judging by what the First Minister said at the Jubilee. I notice, however, that Mr. Asquith is not very well informed. I do not think that he could get the hon. member for North Norfolk to agree with him in what he said about the evils of protection in the United States. Those evils are certainly not apparent there to-day, for instead of everything going to ruin, everything is highly prosperous, no doubt owing to protection. What are the United States doing ? Instead of their industries being ruined, they are invading the English market and competing there with the manufacturers of England. Into England, where free trade prevails, all the foreign manufacturers are pouring their goods, and the British manufacturers are feeling keenly the competition from the United States, which, Mr. Asquith says, is being ruined by the policy of protection. And then Mr. Asquith is very much afraid of tempting the colonies to engage in the production of things for which they do not enjoy the greater natural advantages. He wants them to be hewers of wood and drawers of water for the workers of Great Britain. He wants them to pay attention to farming, and not to engage in manufacturing. Canada, he would say, cannot do that sort of thing at all. But Canada is proving that she can do that sort of thing. She is sending furniture and leather also, and competing in the English market with the furniture makers and tanners of Great Britain, and she is making similar advances in other lines as well. All this just shows how, when men are blinded by a theory, especially this

theory of free trade, they are not willing to see things which are clear to the eyes of every unprejudiced man. But what I wished to say was that the Premier of this country gave Mr. Asquith the impression that he was entirely opposed to this mutually preferential trade, because it had in it the element of protection. There is no doubt that these are the facts. I fancy that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), did not communicate to Mr. Asquith the fact that he had been in favour of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, that he had been in favour of amalgamating our tariff with that of the highly protective tariff of the United States. He did not tell Mr. Asquith that he had been telling the Canadian people for years that the United States was the country we ought to imitate, that that was the great market for our goods, and that, while the Conservative party were in favour of a reciprocity treaty in natural products, he was in favour of an unrestricted reciprocity which would open up our markets to the manufacturers of the United States on condition that we should have their markets in return. Had all this been made known to Mr. Asquith, Mr. Asquith would not have talked of the right hon. gentleman as he did. He talked of him as the apostle of free trade, as the pronounced opponent of protection in any shape or form, while, at the same time, the right hon. gentleman had been anxious to unite the fortunes of this country with those of the most highly protected country in the world.

There is another important question in connection with this subject of mutually preferential trade, and that is the question of representation in the Imperial parliament. The Premier to-day says that he is in favour of that policy. In his speeches to-day, his face is turned toward Great Britain, he is looking for a grand British federation with Imperial representation of the colonies. But, I wish to call attention to what he said in 1892. Speaking on a motion made by Mr. McCarthy respecting the appointment of a Canadian representative at Washington, he said, as reported in *Hansard* of 1892, volume II, page 2468 :

The motion is proposed by an hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy) whose views as to the future of Canada, are well known to be in favour of a closer relation with Great Britain than we now have. The motion is supported by myself, and it is known that I do not believe that the present condition of things will endure for ever. The present relations between us and Great Britain must become either closer or looser. My opinion is that in the course of time the relations of Canada with Great Britain must cease, as the relations of colonies with the mother country do cease, by independence, just as a child becomes a man. These are the views I hold, not in regard to the present or actual policy, but as to the future of the country.

Again he says :

The fact remains, so long as we remain a colony, the position, though advantageous in

some respects, is disadvantageous in other respects. We have the advantages of our connection with Great Britain, which no one can value more than I do, but in regard to our relations with the country to the south of us, our dependent relation to Great Britain makes our position extremely awkward.

Now, looking at the speeches I have quoted, and considering what the hon. gentleman has recently said, the question naturally arises : What are the real sentiments of the right hon. gentleman on this subject ? For myself, I do not pretend to know whether the view he holds is that at some future time not too far distant, I suppose, or it would not be worth while talking about it—the present relations of Canada with Great Britain must become looser and must cease by independence. I know that these are the views of some of his followers, for we have heard these views expressed in this House, and, no doubt, these views were learned from speeches of this kind made by the right hon. gentleman. As I say, I do not know whether these are his real sentiments or whether he holds that we should be connected more closely with Great Britain and have representation in the Imperial parliament. I ask myself what are his real views or whether he has made up his mind on this question and whether he has any real convictions upon it at all. It is almost impossible to think that he has any real convictions, when we place his speeches side by side. But, on one subject he has real and positive convictions—he is utterly opposed to mutually preferential trade. I think we may gather that from all his speeches except the one made in London, Ontario, which, however, was an ante-election appeal to the people to gain votes. He thinks that mutually preferential trade is absurd and that it is impossible to obtain it. Now, with regard to that idea of impossibility, there is one thought that occurs to me. The Liberal party has always been the party of despair. There has never been anything proposed in the highest interests of the country, but they thought was impossible of attainment. The building of the Canadian Pacific Railway they thought was impossible for a country situated as Canada then was, and, had it not been for the indomitable courage of the present leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), it is probable that the Canadian Pacific Railway might have failed of completion. These hon. gentlemen tell us now that mutually preferential trade is impossible. But they go further and say that it is absurd. They say they would not ask for it. I think a clear line is drawn between the two parties on this question. The Conservative party firmly believe in this policy, believing not only that it is a good thing for Canada, but that it is possible of attainment. And here I just wish to read a very few quotations from the prize essay of Mr. Colmer, published as a supplement to the *Statist*, May 2, 1896 :

Since 1860 the colonies have had the same treatment as foreign countries in connection with their exports to Great Britain. Preferential treatment between foreign parent states and their colonies, such as France and Spain and Portugal, still prevails. They all admit the products of their several colonies on better fiscal terms to the home markets than those of foreign countries. The rule also obtains in the case of the union between Norway and Sweden, each country extending to the other preferential treatment in the matter of import duties.

Then I wish to read also a resolution passed in this parliament in 1892 :

If and when the parliament of Great Britain and Ireland admits Canadian products to the markets of the United Kingdom on more favourable terms than it accords to the products of foreign countries, the parliament of Canada will be prepared to grant corresponding advantages by a substantial reduction in the duties it imposes upon British manufactured goods.

I read this to show that the Conservative party has always been in favour of this policy, and thought it a feasible one. In the proceedings of the Ottawa conference of Conservative colonial representatives, we find this resolution :

That this conference records its belief in the advisability of a customs arrangement between Great Britain and her colonies, by which trade within the empire may be placed on a more favourable footing than that which is carried on with foreign countries.

This resolution was carried by this very important conference and the men who took part in that conference had no doubt that an arrangement of this kind would be in the interests of the empire, and I think they had no doubt that it was quite possible to obtain it. Then, I will read a short selection from the *London Times* of January 15, 1891 :

When, however, we come to deal with a commercial union, we tread upon ground that has to be traversed with caution—

They were discussing this question :

Sir Gordon Sprigg tells us that free trade is not a fetish in the colonies, and that the theories of the text-books are not allowed to stand in the way of any fiscal measure that seems advantageous. As to the text-books, they are getting somewhat outworn even here—

That is in England :

Our modern economists have so many qualifications to make in the fine, square-cut doctrines of the older schools, that the science is rapidly becoming unrecognizable. There is still a considerable amount of fetish worship, but the ideas upon which any commercial union must rest will not in future incur the furious and unreasoning hostility that would have greeted them twenty years ago.

It is getting to be understood that free trade is made for man, not man for free trade, and any changes that may be proposed will have a better chance of being discussed upon their merits, rather than in the light of high and dry theory, backed by outcries about the thin end of the wedge. The British Empire is so large and so completely self-supporting that it could very well afford, for the sake of a serious

political gain, to surround itself with a moderate fence.

What stronger language could be used? We have heard hon. gentlemen in this House on the other side quote the *London Times*. Well, I am quoting the *London Times*, and I do not think any stronger language could be used by gentlemen on this side of the House. The *London Times* at that time thought it was possible, and that it might be advisable. The last quotation from this essay is a letter of Sir John A. Macdonald, dated 8th of April, 1891, to the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, in which he says :

Manufacturers and their working people must, or rather should, be taught that they can find friendly and expanding markets in the colonies, if they are treated in the same spirit. Now, Canada has undertaken the development of her resources on so large a scale that she must have revenue, and, from various causes, can only look to customs and excise for it. While, therefore, she cannot promise a reduction of her customs duties, she will be quite ready to give British goods a preference of five or even ten per cent in our markets if our products receive a corresponding preference in England. The United States are the chief rivals of manufactures with us at present. With such a differential scale of duties as I suggest, all that we do not make ourselves would be supplied by the mother country. I see that Mr. Cecil Rhodes is in favour of such a policy, and I have little doubt that Australasia will adopt it. The Americans boast that such is the extent and diversity of their soil and climate that they are independent of the rest of the world. But they cannot compare with the British Empire in those respects. It is a world in itself, but I must not weary you with my speculations.

Mr. Speaker, I have read these selections from this essay to show that the writer was impressed with the importance of this question. He did not think that he was writing on something that was utterly impossible, or he would not have written on it as he did. He wished to show from the quotation he made from the *London Times* that that journal, the most influential journal in England, did not think the matter was utterly impossible, and that occasion might arise when it would be not only possible but advisable for England to surround herself and her colonies with a moderate fence. I have read the letter from the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald to the Hon. W. H. Smith to show what his views were at that time, and how sound those views were, and to show that the views held to-day by the Conservative party are the views held at that time by their late distinguished leader. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Conservative party, when a matter is presented to them which is in the interests of Canada, do not say it is impossible, but they say it is possible, and they will work for it on every occasion. The Conservative party worked for this thing in office, and they have continued to work for it when out of office, they have

continued to work for this mutual preferential trade. My conclusion is that if Canadians really desire this most desirable thing they must put the Conservative party in power. I think that is the only conclusion to be reached, because we find that the Liberal party look on this idea as absurd, they look on it as impossible, they say they will not ask for it, and I believe if it was offered them they would not take it, because they say they do not believe in the principle of protection at all.

Mr. Speaker, I have presented the views of the leader of the government. If I quoted the views of some other members of the government it might be said they were not binding on the party. But I think it will be admitted that the views expressed by the leader of the government when in opposition are binding on the Liberal party, and that the views he expresses to-day are binding on the Liberal party. They cannot say that he does not express the views of the party, I think he does express the views of the party. If these views on this question are not the views of the party, then the only thing for the members of the party to do who do not agree with them is to leave a party that looks on this great thing as impossible of attainment, and join a party which thinks it is possible, and which is determined to do all in its power to obtain it, and which looks forward to the next general elections with hope that the country will put them in power, and install a government which will work for the best interests of the country, untrammelled by any theories and looking only to the interests of Canada.

Mr. PETER MACDONALD (East Huron). We have heard these tales so frequently that really I am getting tired. The statements made by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat have been so frequently made that I think they should by this time have something else to tell us. He still insists that the Liberal party are inconsistent, that they have no fixed principles. Now, I think it is Emerson who says, in one of his essays on self-reliance, that consistency is the hobgoblin of weak-minded people and weak statesmen. He says that great men and great statesmen pay no attention to consistency, because on one day they speak out boldly their opinions and principles upon the conditions which prevail on that day, and on the following day they speak out just as boldly their opinions and their principles upon the condition of things that prevails on that day; and therefore, although the opinions may be different on both days, they are not inconsistent, because the conditions have wholly changed in the interval. Now, Sir, that is exactly the case in which the Liberal party of the country is to-day. Eight or ten years ago the conditions were such that we, in our wisdom, believed that wider and

freer trade relations between this country and the United States would result in great advantages to both countries. We expressed our opinions at that time in view of the conditions which prevailed at that time. But the conditions have largely changed, and consequently our opinions have largely changed. If we expressed the opinions which we hold to-day as applying to the conditions which prevailed eight or nine years ago, we would be inconsistent.

Now, Mr. Spaker, I do not intend to follow the hon. gentleman through his meanderings in regard to our so-called inconsistency upon the trade question; but I will only say that the conditions which prevailed eight or ten years ago do not at all prevail at the present time. Eight or ten years ago our principal market was in the United States of America. The Americans were unkind enough to pass almost a prohibitory law against the introduction of Canadian products. First, there was the McKinley Bill, and afterwards the Dingley Bill, imposing heavy duties upon barley, upon cattle, upon eggs and upon many other articles which I might mention. We told the Americans that if they did not give us reasonable conditions for reciprocity we could live without them. Then we turned our attention to establishing markets for Canadian products in Great Britain, and we have succeeded in doing so in a large measure. Canadian farmers who found themselves shut out of the American market for their barley, had gone very largely out of the growing of barley in the province of Ontario, and forced the American brewers to adopt other articles for the manufacture of pale beer, which they had formerly manufactured from Canadian barley. At present the better class of our cattle go much more largely to Great Britain than they did at that time. Therefore, the conditions have changed in these ways, so that a reciprocity treaty would not be so advantageous to Canada now as it would have been eight or ten years ago. At that time we sent nearly all our eggs to the United States, but since then we have succeeded, through arrangements made by the government, in sending our eggs in cold storage, and in placing them on the British market in prime condition. We have established that market, and, therefore, we do not require the American market to the same extent as we did eight or ten years ago. These are some of the conditions which have come up. Would it be reasonable that we, with these changed conditions, should hold the same opinions exactly as we did on the reciprocity question eight or ten years ago? But, I intend to speak to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the House, upon a question which I deem of very great importance. Some few weeks ago I dealt with a question of national importance, namely, the transportation question. I am going to speak to-day

of another question, a question that has a strong bearing on the question of transportation, namely, the question of immigration. I propose to examine what have been the results of the efforts made by the present government in the direction of finding producers, those who can produce commodities that may be transported from the farms and factories to the eastern markets. We have a very large area of fertile soil, and an immense and rich heritage belonging to Canada, and it behooves the government, as far as it possibly can, to get this vast heritage of vacant lands filled up as rapidly as possible, so that our country will be peopled and will be benefited to the very largest and fullest extent. In Manitoba, the North-west Territories and Athabaska, we have no less than 300,000,000 acres of land fit for either ranching or agricultural purposes. This immense area will give a home to millions of people who will make a competence out of it, as well as derive happiness for themselves, and I may say that this large area of our country will accommodate no less than 25,000,000 people. Efforts have been made, Mr. Speaker, for the last twenty-five years, to fill up that large extent of country, but, until recently, the attempts made have not been so successful as we have ardently desired. The present Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), when he assumed office, applied himself to the subject with a will and with a purpose, and he succeeded in establishing a vigorous and well-devised immigration policy, which brings to him, in my opinion, great credit for his wisdom, his tact and administrative ability. He appears, indeed, to have grasped the whole situation, to have appreciated the wants and needs of the country in that respect, and he has conceived and carried out an immigration policy with a degree of ability that redounds very much to his credit. He employed immigration agents possessing a knowledge of the wants and needs of the country. He chose them from among the very best men we have, men of large personal knowledge of the resources and needs of the country. These men were sent to the different parts of the world for the purpose of bringing Canada as prominently as possible before the communities of these various countries. This country was brought before these communities in the form of lectures in regard to its climate, soil, products and markets. Rural scenes were brought before their eyes by magic lantern views, not views of ice castles, of grizzly bears, of war-painted Indians, not views of Miss Canada dressed in her toboggan suit or snowshoes, not her eternal snow-clad mountains of the west, but views of her orchards, her fields of growing grain, and of garnered crops, of thousands of horses and cattle grazing on her ranches, of homes as they were and homes as they are, showing by contrast the improvement and progress made by the people who have come into

the country. These were the scenes that roused in the breasts of those who heard these lectures a desire to come to Canada and share the blessings that Providence has so bountifully bestowed upon us. These were the scenes which were presented, and not scenes of snow and ice, high mountains, and wild animals, which appeared in the pamphlets sent out by the Conservative party, and which were described so enthusiastically by the emigration agents sent out by them. Only about thirty years have elapsed since the first survey was made in Manitoba, and since the first immigrants commenced to go in there. I believe that the province has not filled up as rapidly as it should have filled up; still, I have pleasure in stating that we have no less than 30,000 farmers in the province of Manitoba, occupying about one-third of the soil, but still leaving room for 60,000 more. The saleable products of the province of Manitoba, in 1889, amounted, in value, to no less than \$23,000,000. If the progress of the past even continues for the next ten years, we will have a production in the province of Manitoba the extent of which it is not safe to predict. Take the improvement in Manitoba in one year. In 1899, there were 1,011,355 acres prepared for the crops of that year. The amount prepared for the crops of this year, 1900, is 1,492,085, or in other words, an increase over last year of 480,630 acres, or an increase of 32 per cent in one year. If the saleable products be as bountiful this year as they were last year, we may expect them to be nothing short of \$30,000,000, an increase that is greater than any one year in the history of that province. When I state this fact the House will see what the government has been doing for that country. No less than 10,000 farmers went into Manitoba and the North-west Territories during last year. The wise and vigorous policy of the Minister of the Interior has been crowned with abundant success, and has produced fruits of which we are all proud, irrespective of the party that we belong to. But, I have said already that there is ample room in that vast country for 25,000,000 people. That fact will give an idea of the great work which the political parties of this country will have to do in the near future, namely, to people that country with thrifty and industrious settlers. The task will take time to accomplish, but we must put forth all the energy we possibly can to assist the hon. Minister of the Interior in the efforts which he is making to bring people into the country. I may say that the hon. Minister of the Interior is on the highway to accomplishing a great deal; in fact, he has accomplished a great deal already. We would all rejoice to see that country occupied by our own people, by people from the old country, Anglo-Saxon and Celtic, but, we cannot expect that to a very great degree. While we seek to get immigrants from other

countries, we shall not forget, for one moment, our own people, and we shall try, as far as we possibly can, to obtain as many people as possible from the mother country. When we consider that 30,000 farmers in Manitoba, in 1899, produced \$750 of an average for each, the importance of the rapid settlement of that country must be evident to everybody without distinction of party, and parliament, in my opinion, should vote a much larger sum, so as to enable the government to carry out even a more vigorous immigration policy than up to the present it has been able to do. It would be a grand investment in the interests of the entire country; an investment which would bring back a large dividend to the whole nation, because, as we strengthen that portion of the country, we strengthen the contiguous portions as well. The great addition to the general wealth of the country secured from the soil now lying idle would in a few years be enormous, even at the present progress of immigration. The moneys paid by the incomers for material for building their houses, barns and sheds; the money paid for implements to operate their farms, and for furniture and for clothing and for the hundred and one things they require, as well also as the wages which they would pay to men working on the farms, the taxes they would pay to improve the country, and their contribution to the general revenue of the nation; all that would tend to improve, enlarge, develop and enrich the country. I am pleased to know the principles of the policy of the government upon this question. They are as follows: First, the object of the government is to place settlers upon the vacant lands as rapidly as possible. Second, to offer reasonable and liberal inducements to immigrants from Great Britain, from the United States and from European countries. Third, to give a free homestead of 160 acres of land to each settler over eighteen years of age. Fourth, to avoid the immigration of the pauper class. Towards this end the government has taken the wise precaution that every head of a family must be possessed of a hundred dollars, in addition to the cost of his transportation from the country of his origin to the part of Canada he intends to settle in. The fifth principle of the immigration policy of the government is that the immigrants encouraged to come to this country must be farmers, and must be steady, thrifty, industrious, honest and willing to work. No encouragement is given to any other class but those described, and who are particularly adapted for the necessities of this country. In order to enable the government to get this class of immigrants in reasonable numbers, they must be permitted to draw from countries outside of Great Britain, and the countries to which we must look are those which possess the largest proportion of agriculturists to the entire population.

The following figures will show what these countries are:

	Total Population.	Population engaged in Agriculture.
England and Wales....	30,000,000	1,070,000
Germany	50,000,000	21,000,000
Sweden	4,300,000	1,000,000
Russia (including Finland, Poland and the Caucasus)	108,000,000	48,000,000
France	38,000,000	18,000,000
Belgium	6,300,000	3,000,000
Austria (including Galicia and Hungary)....	43,000,000	24,000,000

In England and Wales but 3½ per cent of the total inhabitants are engaged in agriculture; in Germany, 42 per cent; in Sweden, 23 per cent; in Russia, 44 per cent; in France, 47 per cent; in Belgium, 49 per cent; and in Austria, 56 per cent of the total population follow the plough. It will be noticed that England does not constitute a wide field from which to draw agricultural immigrants. We must remember also that there are about 20,000,000 acres of untilled land in Great Britain awaiting the energy of the tiller of the soil. In other words, these lands are starving for want of labour, and therefore in the future when this land is under cultivation, we cannot expect to draw from Great Britain even as large a number as we are drawing at the present day. Therefore, we must devote our energies to countries from which we can get a large number of suitable settlers for our country. Forty-two per cent of the Germans are agriculturists, and as we all know, they are a fine, substantial people. They are everywhere noted for their industry, probity and economy; but the laws of Germany are opposed to foreign countries sending emigrant agents to Germany for the purpose of inducing her people to settle in other countries, and therefore, though we receive a number of immigrants from Germany every year, they come largely of their own accord. In the future we may hope for a larger number of settlers from Germany than we have had in the past. Now, there are 48,000,000 agriculturists in Russia, (including Finland, Poland and the Caucasus), so that Russia presents a wide field for us to draw immigration from. But the question comes up here, and a very important question it is: Do these people constitute a proper class to induce to come to this country? I heard a member of the opposition say some time ago that the government was unwise in their day and generation in encouraging the people of Russia to settle here. Fifteen or twenty years ago the Mennonites came from Russia, and that immigration was opposed by a considerable number of the people of this country. One objection to them was that their religious creed deterred them from taking up arms in case of war. In my opinion that was a very

feeble objection. That does not arise from any cowardice on their part, but they believe that all international questions can be settled without recourse to arms, a belief in which we agree to a very great extent. However, the Mennonites settled in southern Manitoba, and although their habits and peculiarities were repulsive to a number of our people, yet those who supported them pleaded that they should have a chance to improve, and to-day we find the Mennonites among the most prosperous farmers of Manitoba. Their old habits and customs and peculiarities have passed away, and they have largely assimilated Canadian customs and Canadian modes of life. Formerly, they used to live in villages, but now they are scattering themselves, as the Canadians do, over the farms they cultivate. The young men and the young maidens who have grown up in these Mennonite settlements are Canadians in every sense of the word. As it was with them, so I expect it will be with others who come from Russia. But, what about the Doukhobors? During the session an hon. gentleman on the other side spent quite a number of minutes condemning the government for encouraging the immigration of the Doukhobors to Canada. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), spent a few minutes in denouncing the government for encouraging this class of immigrants, no less than 7,400 of whom have come to this country and been stationed in colonies in the North-west. Although some people object to them on the same grounds that they object to the Mennonites, namely, on account of their refusal to take up arms and their peculiar customs, dress and manners, the same causes, I believe, will operate on them as have operated on the Mennonites, and by the strong forces of assimilation, in less than a generation, they will have acquired the habits and customs and ideas of Canadians, and will be as good Canadians as if they had come from Ontario. The question to consider is not whether their habits or customs are repulsive, but whether they are honest and industrious; and if they possess these qualifications, we are safe in giving them homesteads in our country.

In searching out the evidence both for and against them—for I was not looking for the one more than the other—I came across reports given of these people by men who have personal knowledge of their character. The first is the evidence of Mr. Stevens, the British consul at Batoun. Writing to the Home Office, London, on May 27, 1898, he said:

The Doukhobors belong to a community known to be the best farmers in Russia. They are thrifty, steady, and law-abiding, and have by good behaviour, diligence, sobriety and hard working qualities, brought nothing but prosperity to the barren localities of Russia in which they are originally settled.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

No higher recommendation than this could be given of any people. If this be true—and we have no reason to believe it is not—these people will be of great advantage to our country. But I have further testimony, which I think will be satisfactory to all who are willing to judge by the evidence and are not governed by prejudice. In a letter dated Moscow, August 20, 1898, addressed to Professor Mavor, of the city of Toronto, one of the professors in the provincial University, by Count Leo Tolstoi, I find the following:

The Doukhobors are the best farmers in Russia. They would use land and seeds given to them in the best way. They live the most chaste family life. They would adapt themselves to any climate. They would send their children to the public school, if their children were not obliged to receive religious instruction.

From an analysis of that letter of Count Leo Tolstoi, I gather that these people are skilled in agriculture, that they are honest and industrious, that they are chaste in their social life, that they are liberal and broad-minded in educational and religious matters, and adaptable to our climate and conditions. We could not have any higher recommendation of any class of people. But I have still further testimony. From a letter of October 17, 1898, addressed to the superintendent of immigration, by Mr. J. G. Colmer, secretary to Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner of Canada, I quote these words:

From all the High Commissioner can ascertain he believes the Doukhobors consist largely of agriculturists, and that they are a thrifty, steady, and law-abiding people. They appear to be somewhat similar in many ways to the Mennonites, and if they go to Canada in many numbers it is hoped they will prove to be successful settlers.

Again, in a letter addressed to the Minister of the Interior, dated October 20, 1898, by Lord Strathcona himself, I find the following:

From all I can learn, these Doukhobors are steady, hard-working and thrifty, and are likely to be an acquisition to the country.

These two last quotations are from Lord Strathcona, who represents Canada in England, and who has always taken a very deep interest in the welfare of Canada, which he so ably represents, and who must be in possession of reliable information, or he would not have written about these people as he has done. That testimony is very important. It must be borne in mind—and I mention this, because there is a false impression that the government assist these people very largely, and are doing more for them than they would do for our own people—that the government do not assist these people to come to this country and have not paid a cent to bring them across. But what the government has done, is this: It has been customary for both governments,

Liberal and Conservative, to pay to the steamboat booking agents, one pound sterling for each immigrant brought across in the steamers; but instead of doing that in the case of the Doukhobors, the government paid the one pound per head into the hands of a committee at Winnipeg, and in consideration of that payment, the committee has to see that they are provided for after landing and are placed on their homesteads in the North-west. That is all the government have paid.

I think I can dismiss from my consideration the Doukhobors, but there is another class of people, for the bringing whom into the country we have been strongly blamed. These are the Galicians. The Galicians are Austrians, as Galicia is a province of Austria, and the immigration from Galicia has been going on for many years. It did not begin under the present government. In a correspondence which took place between our former High Commissioner in London, the hon. gentleman who now leads the opposition, and the late government, the hon. gentleman agreed that the immigration of such a class would be valuable to this country, and he highly recommended them. We have now in this country about 16,400 Galicians, against whom strong objection has been made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), and the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor). Against their opinions, let me place the testimony of people who speak from personal knowledge, and whose testimony is thus more reliable than that of these hon. gentlemen, who only speak from hearsay. In looking up the evidence for and against the Galician immigration, I find the following in a report issued by the general colonization agent of the government, wherein he makes reference to this class of people:

Proceeding to inspect the Galician colony of Fish Creek, I found these people had made as much progress as any nationality could be expected to do in the same time. I found also that the Galician girls gave entire satisfaction to their employers. The people are industrious and frugal; they are acceptable to other nationalities, they having made their homes comfortable, and I found it generally conceded that they will make good citizens. Their industry, frugality and thrift have removed the opposition that many had against them at the time of their advent to the country.

This evidence is worthy of the greatest credence, as it comes from a gentleman who was in a position to speak from personal knowledge and, therefore, with authority. Now, let me give you another evidence. In 1893, Sir Charles Tupper, the hon. baronet who now leads the opposition, was the High Commissioner in London. He issued a report, and, under the heading 'Continental Immigration,' I find this statement made:

There is no doubt, however, that the settlements of Germans, Scandinavians, Austrians and Galicians in the different parts of the Dominion are increasing, and that class of immigration is of the most satisfactory character.

The evidence I have given you upon the Galicians is drawn from men whose ability to testify cannot be challenged. It shows the wisdom of the Minister of the Interior in urgently soliciting these people to come to our country.

Now, having said so much with regard to the class of people our government have been inviting to come to this country and, to some extent, encouraging to come, I want to draw some comparisons between the result of the immigration policy of the Liberal-Conservative party and the result of the immigration policy of the Liberal party. It is sometimes said that comparisons are odious. I do not make these comparisons with that intention, but to show the results that will arise from a better policy as compared with those which can be expected to rise from an inferior policy. In the years 1881 to 1890, inclusive, the large sum of \$3,075,000, or an average of \$307,500 a year was expended by the Liberal-Conservative government in promoting immigration. The official return shows that, during these ten years there came into this country not less than 886,177 immigrants. I have here the report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1891, and I will read you the footings of a table, which I give under its own head:

The number of immigrants who arrived during the ten years between 1881 and 1890, inclusive, and who were reported by the agents of the department as having stated their intention to settle in Canada, were as follows:

1881.....	47,991
1882.....	112,458
1883.....	133,624
1884.....	103,824
1885.....	79,169
1886.....	69,152
1887.....	84,526
1888.....	88,766
1889.....	91,600
1890.....	75,067

Total in ten years..... 886,177

Estimated natural increase, based upon the natural increase in United States, 1.4 p.c.. 605,000

Total increase..... 1,491,177

Mr. TAYLOR. That is ancient history.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). It is true that this is ancient history, but it teaches a very modern lesson. As I shall give you reason for believing, these tables must have been falsely made up, though put before this country as truthful official statements, or, these people who were alleged to have come in must have left the country again. Hon. gentlemen opposite may take either horn of the dilemma they please. These figures show a total immigration of 886,177. There must have been some natural increase of Canada's population in these ten years. I think I shall be justified in placing that natural increase at the same

rate as that of the United States in the same ten years, as we all know that the natural increase is larger in Canada than it is in the United States. But in order to make the comparison on a safe basis, I will assume a natural increase equal to that of the United States, which was 1·4 a year. Canada's population in 1881 was 4,325,000. The natural increase, at the rate I have stated, would give in ten years an additional population of 605,500. These added to the immigrants, who, according to the official return, have entered Canada, would represent an increase of population of 1,491,677. Thus we should have had in Canada a population of 5,816,677, but, instead of that, the census returns of 1891 showed only 4,805,000, or 1,011,000 unaccounted for. Where did the immigrants go? Did these people ever come in? It must be remembered that this was a period under the national policy, a period during which the Conservatives tell us, this country was very prosperous and when there was a great demand for labour in all the industries of this country.

That took place during a period which, I must say, was a prosperous period in the history of Canada, which prosperity, of course, the Conservatives attributed to the operation and to the influence of the national policy. If there was a time in our country when these people should remain with us; it was certainly the years from 1880 to 1890, because, as these gentlemen said, they were furnishing labour to so many thousand individuals. I believe myself that not half of this number came it at all, and, moreover, that a very large number left. One of the strongest Conservative papers in the Northwest Territories made this remark in its editorial columns:

The trails from Manitoba to the States were worn bare and barren by the footprints of the departing settlers.

Now, all this is changed under the new order of things. A new era has dawned under the wise administration of the Liberal government. Settlers who come now come to remain with us, come to add to our strength, come to help us develop the country, come to help pay taxes, come to assume the responsibilities of Canadian citizens, come to remain permanently amongst us and be Canadians—that is the difference. Why, Sir, the *Mail and Empire* a few months ago, in its editorial columns, made use of these words:

There is now a change, not only has the exodus stopped, but the Dominion, more particularly Manitoba and the North-west, is being filled with a most desirable class of settlers, particularly from Great Britain and the United States, whose people are very closely in harmony with the conditions that prevail in all phases of Canadian life.

Sir, the evidence must have been very clear, yes, as clear as a sunbeam, to lead the *Mail and Empire* to give such a valuable testimony

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron).

in favour of the immigration policy of the Liberal government. The success of the immigration policy rests upon these conditions: First, the Minister of Interior amended the land regulations to such an extent as to make them much more favourable to immigrants. He appointed intelligent and vigorous immigration agents, he went to work and formulated and carried out a policy on lines based on good judgment and wisdom, and in this way he has accomplished the great ends which I have pointed out. Now, what have we done last year? These are interesting figures, and any person who takes any interest in immigration—

Mr. CLARKE: Where are those figures to be obtained?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). They are to be obtained from original documents, and I have much pleasure in placing them before the hon. gentleman, in order that he may study them. Now let the hon. gentleman listen. The arrivals of immigrants in 1899 from the United States were 11,945.

Mr. CLARKE: Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him where he obtained those figures?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I obtained them, as I generally obtain my figures, by hard work; and if others worked as hard as I do to obtain correct figures, there would not be so many blunders made in giving figures picked up from newspapers and other sources.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the hon. gentleman's authority?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Never mind my authority, it is a good one. I have been long enough in the House to be known as an authority upon figures. I have never used figures yet that have been contradicted, I never used figures that I do not know to be correct. It does not matter to the hon. gentlemen whether they are official or not, so long as they are correct, and if they think they are not correct, it is their duty to correct them. With that explanation, I will proceed to give you the figures, so take out your pencils and put them down. We obtained from the United States, in 1899, 11,945 immigrants; from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, we obtained 10,660; Doukhobors, 7,350; Galicians, 6,700; Germans, 780; Scandinavians, 1,526; France and Belgium, 413; miscellaneous nationalities, 5,169, or a total for the year 1899 of 44,543, as compared with 31,900 in 1898, or an increase last year of 12,643, or 40 per cent. Now Sir, is not that a great change? Did we use to get immigrants from the United States? The immigrants now coming from that country come to people our country, expressing their intention to remain with us and to be Canadians. Many people who formerly went to the American States, now, under the vigorous immigration policy that

we have established, knowing that the Liberals are in power and that they will be justly treated in the North-west, are selling their farms, selling their cattle, and selling whatever they cannot bring with them, and coming into our country to settle permanently and live under the good old flag.

Mr. DAVIN. They came in three years before 1896, in consequence of the Conservative policy.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). You had better not express an opinion until I am done giving figures, and then you will see what they did during the last three years before 1896. I am going to give you the results of the immigration policy of the Liberal government during the last three years of their regime, so please sit quietly and patiently.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—INQUIRY FOR REPORT.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). Before you leave the Chair, I wish to ask the government if the Minister of Militia has had any report to-day from Col. Otter, and if so, whether he will bring it down this evening and give it to the House?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I hardly think that is the case, but I will mention the matter to the Minister of Militia and Defence.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, I had finished giving a statement of the arrival of immigrants in Canada during the year 1899, which showed that a great many more immigrants arrived during that year than for many years past. I was asked some time previously to make a comparison between the results of the Conservative immigration policy during the last three years of their regime with the results of our policy for the last three years. I think that request was made by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor). As I do not see him in his seat now, I will make the comparison for his benefit, so that if he has time at his disposal he may read it. In 1896-7, the immigrants that came into Canada numbered 20,016. That was the first year, as the House will remember, of the regime of the Liberal party. In the first year we were not in a position to put our new policy into operation, and, therefore, the results of that new policy could not be well seen until the following year, when it was put into vigorous operation by the hon. Minister of the Interior. We may say, therefore, that the immigrants that came in during the first year of the regime of this party really came in under the old policy, and as I say, they

numbered 20,016. In 1897-8, the first year, I may say, of the operation of our policy, there came in 31,900 immigrants, or 55 per cent more than those that came in during 1896-7. In 1898-9, the next year of our policy, there came in 44,543, or 40 per cent more than came in during the preceding year, making 96,459 that came in during the three years, counting the number that came in during 1896-7, under, you may say, the regime of the Conservative party. That was an average of 32,153 per year. Now comes the comparison. In the last three years of the Conservative rule, the immigrants numbered 56,130, or an average in each year, during these three years, of 18,710, as compared with an average in our three years of 32,153, or, in other words, during the three years we brought in 40,329 immigrants more than were brought in during the years 1894, 1895 and 1896, or an increase, during these three years, of 72 per cent. Now, I think that comparison should be satisfactory to the hon. member for South Leeds when he reads it. I have here the following facts in regard to homestead entries made in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and it will be interesting to all parties to see that while there is a largely increasing number taking advantage of the liberal land laws and homesteading freely, there is also a greater percentage of the land being occupied by Canadians. These figures will be interesting to the House. In 1896 the total number of homestead entries was 1,857. In 1897 the homestead entries numbered 2,406, in 1898, 4,848, and in 1899, 6,689, a large increase each year. Now, notice the homestead entries by Canadians. In 1896 the homestead entries by Canadians numbered 570 only; in 1897, 703 homesteads were entered by Canadians; in 1898, 1,534 homesteads were entered by Canadians, and in 1899, 2,154. Now, notice the entries by persons having made previous entries. In 1896 there were 385; in 1897, 396; in 1898, 620, and in 1899, 720. Now, notice the entries made by people coming into Canada from foreign countries. In 1896 there were 902; in 1897, 1,307; in 1898, 2,694, and in 1899, 3,835. That table is of very great interest to all parties, because it shows the continual and increasing income into this country, under the regime of the party that has taken hold of the immigration question lately with such vigour, energy and wisdom. Let me give you another comparison, and I shall ask the House if it is not convincing. I shall give now a comparison of the net homestead entries during the last three years of Conservative rule and three years of Liberal rule. You will understand, Mr. Speaker, what I mean by net entries. There are a certain number of cancellations going on, and the term net entries refers to those that are left after the cancellations are made. In 1894 there were 2,044 net entries; in 1895, 1,504, and in 1896, 1,426, making a total, in three years, under Conservative rule, of 4,974. Now,

notice the other side of the shield, under the administration of the present government. In 1897 there were 1,930 net entries; in 1898, 4,220, and in 1899, 6,476, or, during three years, 12,626 net entries, or an increase of net entries between the last three years of Conservative rule and the first three years of Liberal rule of 154 per cent. This shows the vigour and wisdom that must have been brought to bear upon the question of filling up the North-west Territories. There is one point I wish the House to bear in mind, and it is that this does not include the entries made by the Doukhobors, to the number of 2,000, which, in all probability, will appear in future figures. But, I wish to make another comparison between the results of the immigration policy of the Conservative party and the results of the immigration policy of the Liberal party. I think it would be fair to compare the land sales of the different land-owning companies in the North-west during the last three years of the Conservative rule and the first three years of Liberal rule—the Hudson Bay Company, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, the Manitoba and North-western Railway Company, the Regina and Long Lake Railway Company and the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company. The sales made during the years named by these companies are as follows: 1894, 207,856 acres; 1895, 222,499 acres; 1896, 361,338 acres, or a total, during three years, of 719,683 acres. Now, look on the other side of the shield under the progressive government we have in power. In 1897 the sales by the same companies amounted to 719,016, or as much in one year as during the three years that have already been mentioned. In 1898 there were sold by these companies 1,431,774 acres; in 1899, 1,871,224 acres, or a total, for these three years, of 4,022,004. In other words, for every one acre sold by these companies in the years 1894, 1895, 1896, there were six acres sold by these companies during the last three years that the Liberal government was in power. When we consider these comparisons we are led to the conclusion that there must be something more than chance in this and that some of it must be attributed to the wisdom of the policy which this government has so successfully carried out. Let me now compare the homestead entries made during the regime of the Conservative party with the homestead entries made since this government came into power. This comparison will give a fair estimate of the success of the respective policy of each government. To enable me to make this comparison I present a table of considerable value showing the cost of immigration for each year from 1885 to 1899, the number of homestead entries for each year, the number of cancellations, and the net number of homestead entries remaining:

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	Cost	Total entries	Entries cancelled.	Net entries.
1885	\$ 425,860	1,858	620	1,238
1886	257,354	2,657	855	1,802
1887	341,236	2,036	485	1,551
1888	244,789	2,655	735	1,920
1889	202,499	4,416	1,896	2,520
1890	110,091	2,955	926	2,029
1891	181,045	3,523	1,206	2,317
1892	177,604	4,840	1,860	2,980
1893	180,677	4,067	1,464	2,603
1894	202,235	3,209	1,176	2,031
1895	195,652	2,394	890	1,504
1896	120,199	1,857	426	1,429
Total cost	\$2,639,241	36,269	12,563	23,926
1897	127,438	2,364	454	1,930
1898	261,194	4,848	624	4,220
1899	255,878	6,689	213	6,476
Total cost	\$ 644,510	13,921	1,291	12,626

You will notice that the Conservative government ended in 1896 and in 1897 entered upon the first year of the government of the Liberal party. That table brings out very many items, and I shall analyse it and show the particular results which this table proves. The cost of immigration for the twelve years from 1885 to 1896, under the Conservatives, was \$2,639,242, giving a yearly average of \$219,770; the total homestead entries for the twelve years was 36,269, the cancellations numbered 12,563, or one cancellation for every three entries made. That proves that during that time a large number of people who went into that country with the object of becoming permanent settlers were compelled by the land regulations and other avoidable causes to leave the North-west and to seek a living in another country. On no other grounds can you explain such a large number of cancellations during the Conservative government. We are told by gentlemen opposite that the Liberals are not nearly so economical in this, as well as in other matters, as were the Conservatives. As I have said, the total expenditure on immigration during the Conservative regime was \$2,639,242, and the net homestead entries were 23,706, giving an average cost to the government of this country of \$110 for every net homestead entry made during the 12 years of the Conservative government. Look at the other side of the shield and see the results of the immigration policy of the Liberal government. The cost for the three years was \$644,500, or a yearly average of \$214,830, or some \$5,000 less than the yearly average during the Conservative regime. The total homestead entries made during these three years of Liberal rule, 1897-8-9, were 13,921, and the total cancellations during the three years, 1,291, or one cancellation to every eleven homestead entries, as compared with one cancellation to every three entries during the

Conservative regime. The net homestead entries under the Liberal government numbered 12,626, and the cost for each net homestead entry was only \$52, as compared with the cost of \$110 for each net homestead entry under the Conservatives. There you have double the work done for less than half the price. I challenge any gentleman on the opposite side to make any other deduction than that I have made from the official figures that I have given to you.

Mr. TAYLOR. Where did you get them; the report is not down yet?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I got them by my own hard work, and had you not left the committee in bad temper the other day you might have had the information which I am giving you now.

Mr. TAYLOR. You examined the witness before you called him.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). People who go to committees for political purposes and try to break them up in order to accomplish their own ends, and then because they cannot have their own way, get mad and take his own friends and himself out of the committee, certainly lose a good deal of information that they would otherwise have received. It appears to me that these hon. gentlemen do not want to get information, because the other day we brought a party to give information, and they refused to accept of it. Consequently, they are now in darkness, while others are in light, and they wonder where we get the information when they close their eyes to the source from which it comes.

Mr. TAYLOR. We have been waiting for three months to get the report of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). And you may have to wait longer. Now, the average yearly net entries under Conservative rule were 1,975, and under Liberal rule 4,050. The average yearly cancellations under Liberal rule were 430, and under Conservative rule 1,047. The total average homestead entries yearly under Conservative rule were 3,022, and under Liberal rule 4,480. If these figures are not conclusive, no figures in the universe would be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to draw my remarks to a close; and I may say that the efforts of the Liberal party to people our vast domain have been rewarded with great success, as I have shown. It cannot be said that this success was due to chance or accident, and was independent of wise legislation. It cannot be said that it was owing to the expenditure of vast sums of money, for a great deal less has been expended in comparison with the work done. There is great credit due to the government for this success, particularly to the able Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who formulated,

inaugurated and administered the policy under which such abundant fruits were realized and our country enriched. It is one more evidence, Mr. Speaker, to show that it is the Liberal party and not the Conservative party that possesses the 'genius of government.'

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Macdonald, East Huron), would hardly expect me to follow him in a discussion that has little or nothing to do with the question now before the House. The hon. gentleman made a very interesting discussion. He proved to his own satisfaction, and no doubt to the satisfaction of a number of his friends, that his deductions were well founded, particularly when we have the announcement that his figures are in no sense to be questioned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this debate has proceeded at very considerable length; but I am bound to say that I do not think that the debate, even at this late stage, is without considerable interest and profit to the country. I listened at the outset with a great deal of interest to the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance, as I was anxious to know what he would present as the strong reasons for the claim of the Liberal party to the support of the people of this country; and I was not at all disappointed at the ground he took. In the first place, he told us that we had in this country an immense increase of trade, an increase of the bank discounts and deposits, an increase of railway traffic, an increase in the sale of lands, an increase of immigration, a great growth in the iron industry, and a surplus at the end of last year of \$4,000,000 odd, with a promise next year of a surplus of something like \$7,500,000. All the hon. gentleman need have done was merely to state that there was expansion, and all these things would follow, quite independently of the action of hon. gentlemen opposite. Therefore, it was very difficult to discover why these hon. gentlemen should claim credit. The main point now under discussion is that hon. gentlemen opposite are now and have been for the last three years on trial for their fiscal policy. If there is any rule of more importance than all others, which overshadows all others, by which a party that comes into power should be judged, it is the fiscal policy which that party has put before the country. Now, what was the fiscal policy of hon. gentlemen opposite? I am not going into the question of broken promises, because my hon. friend who has just taken his seat says we are not to count on broken promises. He has laid down an excellent rule for the Liberal party. He has told us that we are not to confront them with having been inconsistent. He tells us blandly that all the Liberal party have to do is to hold one set of principles to-day and abandon them to-morrow. Why abandon them?

He says the conditions have changed. I am not going to say that a man should never change his mind; but I say that the party leaders, and hon. gentlemen who follow them so tamely, ought always to bear in mind that if there is a change it ought to be sanctioned by decency, reason and consistency; but that is not the case of hon. gentlemen opposite. They change only when they are defeated in their aims. The conditions that have changed are simply the fortunes of hon. gentlemen opposite, and not such as should govern the people of this country in giving their votes. I intend to delay the House only for as short a time as I can; but I intend to call attention to the rule laid down by the Minister of Finance, when he made his first financial statement in the House, and it was this. He took some trouble to read that portion of the Liberal platform adopted at the convention held in the city of Ottawa in 1893, which gave the keynote of the fiscal policy of hon. gentlemen opposite in attempting to deal with the tariff for the first time. It was this:

That the tariff should be so adjusted as to make free or bear as lightly as possible upon the necessaries of life, and should be so arranged as to promote freer trade with the whole world, and particularly with Great Britain and the United States.

Now, what was the first rule the hon. gentleman laid down? He proposed to have two tariffs; in fact, a sort of twin tariff. One was, to use the hon. gentleman's own expression, a general tariff, and the other was to be a reciprocal tariff to apply to the whole world; and I wish hon. gentlemen to bear in mind the distinction between the reciprocal tariff as laid down in 1897 and the preferential tariff as we have it to-day. What were to be the virtues of the reciprocal tariff? It was to cure all the evils that had beset the tariff under the national policy. Let me read to the House what the hon. gentleman said with regard to the cardinal principles laid down in both of these tariffs. He said:

We propose to adopt a general tariff, and then we propose to adopt a special tariff having reference to the countries which are desirous of trading with us; and, as a matter of course, not by the express words of the resolution, but by the condition of affairs which exists, that preferential tariff gives preference, above all others, to the products of Great Britain.

Now, Mr. Speaker, having thus stated the guiding principles in the matter, I propose to invite your attention to the general tariff; and in doing so, I wish it to be distinctly understood that, as I have already explained, the duties are considerably higher than we intend they shall be, as applied to countries which are willing to trade with us. And, if as I read the items, hon. gentlemen think that the rate upon any of them is too high, I beg them to believe that before I close I shall have something to say which will show that in respect of our relations with Great Britain and in respect of

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our relations with any other country that is willing to meet us on equal terms, we shall be prepared to offer a measure of tariff reform of the most substantial character, which is not contained in this tariff which I am going to read.

The hon. gentleman explains by saying that there are things that come from foreign countries and which we desire to obtain on fair and reasonable terms, and that desire is paramount to every other consideration in dealing with the tariff. So that the hon. gentleman lays down a general tariff in which there is to be little change, if any, and then he lays down a special tariff in which there is to be considerable change. To make myself clear, he says that in any changes which may be made in the general tariff, they are made only for the purpose of reaching such articles as we must have in this country, and that consideration is paramount to every other. But that, except as regards the articles to which he intended to refer as he proceeded, it is not the intention of the government to make any considerable reduction in the general tariff as applied to countries which do not extend any consideration to us. I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to show any proposition on their part to make any reductions in the general tariff as a whole. That was to go without any reduction, and any reductions that might afterwards be made were to be made entirely as the result of the application of a special tariff. To use the words of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, these hon. gentlemen made the first flank movement by which we were to have a reciprocal tariff that would apply to the whole world, and then a second flank movement which was a preferential tariff with Great Britain. Their first flank movement was defeated, and they had to fall back on the second, and the preferential tariff with Great Britain was to be the means of correcting all that they had complained of in the tariff of the Liberal-Conservative party. These hon. gentlemen proposed to put an end to combines. By what means? By what was then called a reciprocal tariff. They proposed to put a stop to the robbery of the public treasury; they proposed to kill protection; they proposed to make a revenue tariff; they proposed to equalize taxation; they proposed to tax the luxuries and make the necessaries of life free. That was a big contract, and when I call the attention of the House to what these gentlemen, when in opposition, complained of in this House and the country, it will be seen that very drastic remedies were required to enable them to carry out their programme.

I am sorry the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) is not in his place, for I want to read to the House what he had to say with regard to what this government was bound to do when it came into power:

He said it was a shame and a scandal that from one end of Canada to the other the man who is most heavily taxed is the poor man. Taxation should be so arranged that the poor man should either not be taxed at all or as lightly as possible, while the rich man should be taxed in proportion to his wealth. In England the poor man is almost entirely free from taxes.

Now comes the promise :

If the Liberal party were returned they would readjust the tariff so that the burden would rest more lightly on the poor and more heavily on the rich and bring about more markets in which the Canadians could sell their produce.

That was one of the evils to be cured, but here is another wail from another Liberal, the Minister of Justice (Senator Mills). Speaking at a public meeting in the town of Bothwell in 1895, that hon. gentleman said :

Out of the \$40,000,000 imposed, only one-half goes into the treasury. What benefit is it to 90 per cent of the people to pay tribute to the remaining 10 per cent. The fact that the government are to-day defending protection shows that it is in the hands of the classes, and that they must defend the national policy.

We see that the flank movement had nothing to do with putting an end to what these hon. gentlemen called public robbery, for the condition of things remained just as it was before.

Then we have the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) telling us what evils must be remedied :

There was the sugar duties, which taxes the people year after year to the extent of \$3,300,000, of which only \$1,500,000 went into the public treasury, leaving \$1,800,000 to the sugar manufacturers. There are the cotton duties which tax the people \$2,700,000, of which the government got but \$139,000, and there were the starch duties, costing \$100,000, of which only \$14,000 went into the treasury.

The House will be surprised when I call attention to the fact that not one particle of change was made by way of reduction in these duties. The sugar duties were temporarily reduced, but they are now higher than in 1896. Was there a reduction of the cotton duties? No. A higher rate is levied upon cottons than before. Then, as regards the starch duties, what happened? The duty on starch stands just as it did before, without the slightest change, notwithstanding the wails and promises made by these hon. gentlemen opposite to the people. After declaring that there was not an interest in Canada that was not injured and withered as the result of the national policy, what do the hon. gentlemen propose to do? There is not an evil that ever was known or could be invented that was not ascribed to the operation of the national policy. But what do they say now? They say: We could not think of taking any rash step, or applying any effective means to change

that policy. Though it robbed the people of sixty million dollars a year, though it fostered combines, though it decreased the value of farm property and in every way impeded the progress of the country; we must put it down by degrees. Could there be greater folly than for hon. gentlemen to take a position of that kind? You might as well talk of pulling a drowning man out of water by degrees. If it were so bad as hon. gentlemen made it out to be, they could not abolish that policy, and introduce a new one too soon. They say that manufacturers prospered very much better under the old tariff that was in existence before the national policy. I am not advocating it, but if they believe so, why do they not apply the old tariff. The fact is, this whole plea is a mere refuge for men wanting in moral courage. It is a refuge for hon. gentlemen opposite who know that they had made a pledge to the people that they dare not fulfil. The Finance Minister is not wanting in astuteness, and he knew very well, that if they carried out this pledge, then the prediction of the Conservatives would be fulfilled and this country would be ruined. The hon. gentleman knew that as well as the Conservative party did. But he makes a feint of showing great reductions in the tariff for the benefit of the farmers. We have a dismal list of some insignificant articles upon which some reductions were made. The hon. gentleman is answerable for a good deal, in view of the fact that this list has been read over and over again, by his friends in this House. Here is the list as it has been given :

Farm rollers, manure spreaders, hay tedders, fanning mills, grain crushers, potato diggers, post-hole diggers, forks (pronged), hoes, rakes, n.e.s.

There is one heading in the Trade and Navigation Returns which has always been there, but which will not be there much longer if the hon. gentleman makes another raid. That heading is 'all other agricultural implements.' The hon. gentleman went into that item and fished out the post-hole diggers, the scythes and snaths, and sickles, and spread them out as evidence that this government had done something for the farmers. I challenge the hon. gentleman to say that he did not go there and fish them out. And, after all, what is the reduction? Give the Minister of Customs his own way, and take the case as he presents it to us, and what does the reduction amount to. He mentions portable engines. How many of these are used by the farmers? Then there are threshers and separators. These are not owned by the farmers as a mass; they are in the hands of a few persons. But, taking the increase to the farmers, how much did he save in giving to the whole farming community of half a million men and their families? He saved \$19,304. I am not trying to reduce that by a single cent,

but taking the figures of the minister himself. The hon. gentleman might easily have found articles in far more general use, instead of going to this obscure list. Take farm rollers, hay tedders, fanning-mills, post-hole diggers, and so on, and what do the whole importations amount to? Only to \$26,535. This was the whole importation. I would ask the Minister of Finance what difference it made to the people of this country, that he reduced the duty on these articles, and what difference it would have made if he had even doubled the duties? It would not have been a drop in the bucket; it would not have been one grain in a sand hill. I will take the same number of articles that the hon. gentleman gives, just to show some of the things that he might have mentioned. From every platform in the country in 1895-6, it was declared by Liberal politicians that the farmers were bled white by the manufacturers, that they were the slaves of the manufacturers. These are the articles I will choose:

Cultivators, grain drills, harrows, binders, horse rakes, mowing machines, ploughs, reapers, farm wagons, freight wagons.

Did the hon. gentleman reduce these? No. And why? Because \$1,540,000 worth of them came in, as against the enormous sum of \$26,535 of the others. Evidently this is a mere pretense of a deduction in duty. In my opinion these questions should be discussed fairly. If the government of the day have made substantial concessions by way of reductions, if their pledges have been fairly fulfilled, no one should be so unreasonable as to make a demand that they should be fulfilled in every detail. But the hon. gentleman, when he made this change, made one that had no substance in it. It was merely an attempt to show the farmers that the government had protected their interests.

Mr. CAMPBELL. The farmers think so.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell), entirely underestimates the intelligence of the farmers. I have no doubt, in spite of the facts, my hon. friend would go upon the platform and endeavour to make the farmers believe that their interests have been protected. I have no doubt as to the hon. gentleman's courage, and, I was going to say, his desire to persuade them.

Now, let us see what is the result of the operation of the hon. gentleman's tariff. He took off and he put on. We are told there has been a reduction. I propose to deal now with what is called the general tariff, and to deal with what is now the preferential tariff, but which, formerly, as laid down by the hon. gentlemen themselves was a reciprocal tariff. Under our system, if we take off the tax in one place, we do not thereby relieve the people to that extent, but we simply shift the burden. What is the rule followed out

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by the hon. gentlemen themselves? When you take off the tax in one quarter you must put it on in another, for the simple reason that, to use the words of the Finance Minister, you must have revenue. Now, what were the principal items the hon. gentleman dealt with? First of all, he took off \$549,977 from Indian corn; he took off \$102,300 from binder twine; he took off \$126,885 from barbed wire fencing; he took off \$85,000 from coal oil, and from iron manufactures of all descriptions, \$405,098; making in all, \$1,126,260. But, let us see whether the hon. gentleman put any on. Why, Sir, he put on rice \$17,322, that is a necessary of life. He put on sugar \$393,203, also a necessary of life; he put on tobacco, \$1,051,466; he put on cotton goods, \$169,958; on woollen goods, \$236,860, or \$742,529 more than he took off. Now, let me call his attention to the fact that under the general tariff his words are entirely fulfilled when he said there would be no reduction in the general tariff. This does not cover all the reductions, nor does it cover all the increases. I have stated the large items that are affected by the tariff as set forth by the hon. gentlemen themselves by way of reduction and by way of increases. The result was, taking both sides of the ledger, applying the rate of 1896 to the year 1899, that when the hon. gentleman had completed his tariff, the general tariff stood, independently of any manner in which it might be affected by the special tariff, \$500,000 higher than he found it. I will show my hon. friend how it affected the poor people. The first thing the hon. gentleman did was to take \$15 off seed beans, and put \$17,322 on uncleaned rice; the next thing the hon. gentleman did was to take \$19,304 off farming tools and put \$169,958 on cottons; next he took \$42,980 off iron and steel wire, and put \$236,060 on woollen goods; next he took \$126,885 off barbed wire fencing and put \$393,203 on sugar. I wish to call attention to the fact that on sugar there is no reduction under the preference. Then, the hon. gentleman took \$102,300 off binder twine, and he put on the poor man's tobacco \$1,051,446. That is the way this is distributed. But, the hon. gentleman went further. He took \$405,080 off iron goods, most of which was in the interest of the manufacturers, those people who were over-protected, who were bleeding the people white, and the hon. gentleman made them a present of this sum. I am not complaining of a reduction in duties that goes to help any interest in this country. I think it has been the policy of the Conservative party in the past, and I hope it will always be the policy of any party having the conduct of the affairs of this country, to make every article free that can be made so in the interest of the whole people and not of a section. But the hon. gentleman took \$549,977 off Indian corn, and he made a present of that to the Americans.

Then, he took \$85,000 off coal oil and handed it over to the oil combine. I now challenge my hon. friend to point out any compensating advantages we have in the matter of coal oil. When we ask them if coal oil has been made cheaper they do not pretend to answer that question at all. Hon. gentlemen charge us with saying that as a result of reducing the duties, goods have become higher. Nobody has ever made such a contention, it would be silly and unworthy of any hon. gentleman to say that as a result of the reduction in duties on any article it has advanced in price. But, what we do say is that hon. gentlemen have taken the duty off, and taken it off in vain. They made a reduction in coal oil duties, and the next moment they turned around and gave the Standard Oil Company, that immense combine that menaces every interest in Canada, tanking advantages that more than overcome it, and the price of oil is to-day to be put up or down as may suit the interests of the great oil combine in Canada. Hon. gentlemen used to talk about the national policy being a means of fostering every combine, but the hon. gentlemen, by lowering the tariff, show that the change had no effect upon the combine. The hon. gentleman, not unwittingly but of design, and knowing what the outcome would be—because the late member for West Lambton (Mr. Lister) pointed out to him what it would be—went ahead and made the change. I tell him now that while there is a reduction of \$85,000 upon coal oil, the people of this country have not the slightest advantage, and the only consolation they have now is to put their hand into the other pocket and make up some other way this \$85,000 that has gone to the oil combine.

Now, let us see what compensation there is with regard to the reduction in binder twine. Faithless in this case as the hon. gentlemen have been in every other case, what have they done? They took the duty off binder twine, and I warn my hon. friends opposite not to make the retort, that because the duty has been reduced that we make the contention that the cost of binder twine has been advanced. Binder twine did not advance for any substantial reason. It has been pointed out in this House that while it was heralded that the raw material had advanced, it had not, during the whole three years, advanced one-third of one cent per pound. But, hon. gentlemen had in their own hands a lever that they might have used with good effect. This country is not so poor that they were driven to take that course they did. The hon. gentlemen, while they had it in their hands to level the price, took the duty off binder twine, and they joined the combination in the United States, and assisted them by every means. I say they assisted them because they failed to prevent them; and one who fails to raise his finger in de-

fence of the country is as culpable as one who does it a direct injury.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Would you be in favour of putting back the duty on binder twine?

Mr. CLANCY. What does my hon. friend (Mr. Campbell), say? Now, Mr. Speaker, I desire, as an outcome of the changes that have been made, the loading and unloading that has taken place from the rich to the poor, to call attention, for just a moment, to the rate of taxation that has been the subject of some discussion in the House during the last few weeks. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), in his budget speech, made the statement that the rate of taxation under Conservative rule, deducting coin and bullion, and making some deductions that I think the hon. gentleman was entitled to make, on his own side, was 19.19 per cent under Conservative rule, and under Liberal rule 17.17 per cent. The hon. gentleman fell into an error that I think he would not have fallen into had he known; the hon. gentleman fell into the error of counting in, for the purpose of showing a low rate of taxation, the Indian corn that was imported into this country and re-exported. I do not believe that the hon. Minister of Finance would have made that statement if he had known at the time. I think he was deceived by the bad book-keeping of the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), and I hope that when the hon. gentleman deals with the question again he will eliminate that, as he should have eliminated it, and that the calculation will be made on the same grounds and upon the same articles and under the same conditions as were applicable to the Conservative party. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), pointed out here, with what seemed to me very great clearness, that there had been a period of very low taxation from 1892 to 1896. There was a five years period of low taxation, the average for the five years being 17.47 per cent. Now, when we take the average rate of taxation imposed by hon. gentlemen opposite, for 1897, 1898 and 1899 we find, if we exclude Indian corn, which ought to be excluded, which hon. gentlemen will not contend should be included, that the taxation of hon. gentlemen for these three years was higher than it was for the five years I have referred to of the Conservative party. Instead of being 17.47 per cent, it was 17.59 per cent. But, hon. gentlemen will say: The preferential tariff did not come into operation during the first year. Ten months of the first year passed before the preferential tariff came into operation. Only one-eighth of it came in at that time and if you wish to deal with us fairly, and if we are to have credit for having made a reduction in taxation by means of our preferential tariff you must not take three years because the preferential tariff was not in force during that time. Well, then, I will take two years for the purpose of my

comparison, comparing 1895 and 1896 as against 1898 and 1899. The rate of taxation for the last two years of Conservative rule was 17.65 per cent, and for the last two years under hon. gentlemen opposite it was 17.47 per cent. But, if we take the average per year for the five years from 1892 to 1896 we find that the average rate was 17.47 per cent, as against the rate of taxation under hon. gentlemen opposite during the last two years which I have given. This was during the time that hon. gentlemen were declaring from one end of the country to the other that the people were overtaxed. During these five years, from the time these hon. gentlemen left this House, until they came back to it the sun never rose that they did not complain that the taxation was too high, and yet taking these five years—and I desire to call special attention to this—the average taxation was precisely what it has been for the last two years under hon. gentlemen opposite and under the operation of their preferential tariff. Now, I am sorry that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), is not in his place because he—

Mr. CAMPBELL. Oh, never mind.

Mr. CLANCY. I do not know whether my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell) is jeering or not. His jeers are not always of the highest order. They do not stand upon a pedestal that many people will look up to, and if he wants to make himself appear a sensible and wise man the less he says the better for himself. We had the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, in dealing with the question of the admission of Indian corn into Canada, making this statement. Referring to the speech of the hon. ex-Minister of Finance, this is what the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce had to say in regard to the question:

That is redolent of the narrowest and most hidebound protection I ever heard advocated. I would like to have my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) let loose; I would like to have my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan) let loose, to answer the hon. gentleman, and to inform him that when we admitted Indian corn free we conferred a great boon on the great mass of agriculturists in Canada.

I am sorry to say that I do not see either of these hon. gentlemen here. I do not see the hon. gentleman who made that statement here. The hon. Minister of Agricultural (Mr. Fisher), so far, has not been let loose, but the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), was unchained, he is loose now, he made a statement, and if he did not convince his own friends, I want to ask the farmers of this country what they think of an intelligent man in this House giving the reason that the hon. gentleman gave for the admission of corn free of duty. He said that if we did not meet this corn in this country we must meet it in Great Britain. Whoever heard of a defence of that kind

Mr. CLANCY.

put up? Who ever heard of an hon. gentleman declaring that we must admit the grain of a foreign country, the products of the farms of a country that pays no taxes in this country and has no interest in our affairs because we have to meet them upon fighting grounds in a foreign country? Could anything be more absurd? There was another proposition the hon. gentleman made. It was that if it did not lower the price of coarse grains in the United States how could it lower the price of coarse grains in Canada. I do not think we are at all concerned as to the view that the people of the United States may take in regard to its lowering the price of coarse grains in their own country. It is not a question of lowering the price of coarse grains in the country in which it is produced, but of lowering the price of coarse grains in the country into which it is imported, and the people of the United States will take good care that Canadian corn will not be in a position to lower the price of coarse grains in that country. But, we are told that Indian corn is brought in to serve the great mass of armers, and it is said to be a great boon, and why? Because it is a grain that is cheaper than our own grain. We bring it in to feed stock for export. If we had nothing to feed stock with in this country there might be some reason and argument in that contention. But, when we are exporting from this country, barley, buckwheat, oats, pease and rye that should be fed to our own stock in this country which is displaced, and when we are forced to send it to a foreign country, instead of bringing in Indian corn let us feed the 14,000,000 bushels of our own grain to our own stock, and let us export our own stock. Could there be a more false position taken than to argue that we should admit foreign grain to displace our own grain? The fact is that the farmer who feeds Yankee corn has to send his wheat, oats and barley to Great Britain not to where he will get the highest price because the local price is always higher than the export price. I appeal to my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell) to deny the statement if he is not compelled as a rule, year after year, to pay a higher price for wheat for milling purposes than is paid as the export price. I challenge my hon. friend to deny that statement.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What statement?

Mr. CLANCY. The statement that as a rule the export price for grain is lower than the price paid for grain for milling purposes in Canada.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What is the reason we export then?

Mr. CLANCY. Simply because we have more than we want; and when the wants of the hon. gentleman and others in the trade are satisfied, we export the balance. It is a fact that we sell oats, pease, barley

and all other grains for a less price in England than we can sell them for at home.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I have been getting more for the flour I export than I get at home.

Mr. CLANCY. That may be, but I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell), told us a rather funny story to the effect that since Sir Wilfrid Laurier had given the English people a preference for nothing, the English people were begging for his flour. The hon. gentleman said he had a letter to that effect, but he never read it, and it occurred to me that sometimes people write letters to themselves. The fact remains that the Canadian producer sells his grain of all kinds at a lower price for export than he would get for it at home. If the argument of the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) has anything in it, it is that they want Yankee corn to feed their cattle, and they do not use the grain grown in Canada, and so our farmers have to take whatever price they can get for it. According to the logic of gentlemen opposite the object of lowering the duty on an article is to lower the price. Then if that be so, when corn was admitted free, the price of Canadian grain was lower. There never was a more unwise policy, and one less in the best interests of the farming community, than to allow corn in free. True there may be a few benefited by it who are engaged in what might be called manufacturing, and the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) is one of these. They buy cattle when they are cheap, but they do not buy Canadian grain to feed them. No, they buy Yankee corn to the exclusion of Canadian grown grain. I challenge the fact that there is not more than one farmer in fifty who buys American corn, and if only one farmer in fifty uses American corn for feeding purposes, then the admission of corn free of duty simply benefits one farmer to the detriment of the other forty-nine. There never was a greater blunder than this policy of the government corn, in view of the fact that we have to send our own grain products out of the country to find a market for them in foreign lands. Common sense and experience show the folly of the government in this. I see the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) is now in his place, and I will point out to him the fallacy of his argument about free corn. The principal argument in its favour advanced by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) was that we would have to meet that corn in Great Britain any way, and we might as well meet it at home. Does the hon. gentleman adhere to that statement yet? Has he the hardihood to hold himself up as an exponent of the farmers of this country and to use such an argument as that. I leave that argument of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), to the intelligent people of this country to pronounce upon it. The hon.

gentleman told us also that we imported something like seven million bushels of corn, and that if we sold pease to the same extent, we would make \$1,000,000 profit. But the hon. gentleman did not know, or he did not take the trouble to inform himself, that we do not export much more than one-third of that quantity of pease, and so the argument of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan) and his \$1,000,000 profit disappear at the same time. I say, Sir, that it was a stupid policy of this government to admit American corn free of duty into this country.

The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) stated that the farmers of this country were prosperous, because since the Liberal party came into power they sold their products at a higher price than before, and bought their goods cheaper. I do not think that any well informed man who has any reputation at stake will seriously assert that the farmers buy their goods cheaper now than they did before. I deny that there has been a general period of prosperity so far as it affects the farmers of Canada. We have had without doubt a wonderful expansion, but we have had no corresponding period of prosperity amongst the farmers. There may be great expansion of trade in a country, but it does not always follow that there is going to be corresponding advantages to every class in the community. Let us see how far the statement of the Minister of Customs is borne out by the facts. I will take the export prices of the principal articles which the farmers have to sell. I will take these prices for the last three years which the Liberals have been in power, and compare them with the average prices for the eighteen years previously when the Conservatives were in power. Here is the result:

AVERAGE EXPORT PRICES.

	3 years, 1897-9.	3 years, 1894-6.	10 years, 1887-96.	18 years, 1879-96.
Horses	\$90 71	\$98 00	\$112 90	\$112 74
Cattle	41 84	73 08	68 45	62 51
Swine	5 48	7 63	6 06	5 35
Sheep	3 54	4 21	3 89	3 90
Butter	0 18.1	0 18.9	0 18.1	0 18.3
Cheese	0 08.8	0 09.4	0 09.7	0 09.9
Eggs	0 12.7	0 12.8	0 13.7	0 14
Bacon	0 08.9	0 09.2	0 09.1	0 08.8
Beef	0 05.7	0 06.4	0 05.7	0 05.9
Hams	0 08.8	0 09.8	0 09.8	0 09.4
Pork	0 03.1	0 05.3	0 06.1	0 06.3
Wool	0 17	0 20	0 21	0 22
Bran	0 68	0 75	0 77	0 75
Barley	0 38	0 41	0 51	0 60
Beans	0 75	1 14	1 31	1 29
Oats	0 29	0 34	0 36	0 32
Pease	0 60	0 74	0 72	0 76
Wheat	0 79	0 61	0 77	0 89
Rye	0 52	0 55	0 61	0 65
Flour	3 98	3 85	4 36	4 64
Apples, green..	2 30	2 51	2 38	2 42
Hay	8 34	8 78	9 28	9 26

Mr. CAMPBELL. Where are these prices?

Mr. CLANCY. They are for all Canada, not for any local market. The only way to arrive at a fair conclusion is to take the average export prices, which I am doing. I have not entered into the trick of selecting a place where the prices might be low or high at the moment.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Where do you take the export prices from?

Mr. CLANCY. My hon friend will get them in the Trade and Navigation Report. These are the average prices that the farmers of Canada receive for all these classes of goods exported to foreign countries.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Beans are \$1.50 a bushel now.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman and his friends are on trial not for a month or two, but for the last three years, during which they declare the farmers have been better off and have been getting better prices; and I am able to point out that with the exception of wheat and flour, and that only for one year, for the three years preceding the advent of hon. gentlemen to power the farmers got better prices for every article except two, while for the whole eighteen years of Conservative rule, during which the farmers were said to be ground down under a vicious fiscal policy, they got a higher price for every article on the list than they have got during the last three years.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How do you account for the general prosperity among the farmers?

Mr. CLANCY. I will account for it first by saying that the hon. gentleman and his friends had nothing to do with it. There was an expansion in the country which the Liberal party and leaders, with all their evil genius, could not prevent—an expansion which marks the world from one end to the other. The hon. gentleman could not locate it in Canada alone, but he repeated what was said by every hon. gentlemen on that side of the House, that the Liberal party do not claim it all, but they claim a large share of it. I will ask the hon. gentleman to tell me what part of it they bore a share in, and I will sit down to let him tell me. The only part they contributed to was where they betrayed their promises to the people. Where they declared they would carry out a certain policy and did not—that is their contribution to the prosperity of this country. It is not what hon. gentlemen opposite did, but what they did not dare do, that accounts for the prosperity of this country. Let me call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the prices that are ruling under the regime of these hon. gentlemen, and I will prove to you beyond doubt that the years of low prices for the farmers are those in which the Liberal party have held office.

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Mr. McCARTHY. That is the time prosperity seems to have reigned supreme.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend declares that prosperity reigns supreme when the prices are low. That is his idea of prosperity. No doubt when the farmer tells him that he has got less for his barley, the hon. gentleman will reply: Yes, but this is a year of great prosperity. If the farmer replies, I am getting less for my pease than before, the hon. gentleman will retort: That makes no difference, this is a prosperous year. He will declare, with all the energy and zeal of a man who believes he is right, that when the farmer is getting less for what he sells and paying more for what he buys, he is still more prosperous than ever he was before. I am prepared to prove that the regime of the Liberal party is the worst that the farmer has ever seen, as regards prices compared with the eighteen years in which the Conservatives were in power. That is a broad statement to make, but it is backed by the facts. The lowest prices paid for horses in eighteen years were paid in 1899. The lowest prices for cattle were paid in 1899, and for sheep in 1897.

Mr. COWAN. Do you think that to compare the prices of 1899 with the prices of cattle prior to 1896 is a fair comparison?

Mr. CLANCY. Why not? My hon. friend suggests that that is not a fair argument. I am very sorry that the hon. Minister whom my hon. friend worships, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), is not here, because that hon. minister could repeat to my hon. friend his boast that by his policy, in a few weeks after he acquired office, he removed the quarantine, and all our calves went over to the other side, and we got very little for them, and that was a great boon to the farmers of this country. But my hon. friend declares it is not fair to make an argument of that kind. The lowest year for beef was in 1897, and for pork in 1899. The lowest year for wool in eighteen years, was in 1899, and for barley in 1897. The following were the lowest years out of eighteen in prices for the following articles:

Beans, 1898.
Oats, 1897.
Pease, 1898.
Rye, 1897.
Flour, 1897.
Apples, 1897.
Hay, 1899.

I think I have made it perfectly clear that in the last eighteen or twenty years, there were none in which the prices of farm products were so low as during those in which hon. gentlemen opposite have held office.

What, then, are the facts as regards the prices which our farmers have to pay for what they consume? It would be interesting to learn whether there have been any counterbalancing influences to compensate

our farmers for the lower prices they got for their products. I would begin with horse rakes, which were selling at \$23 in 1896, and cost \$24 now. Ploughs cost \$14 in 1896, and \$16 now. I am now speaking in the presence of a manufacturer (Mr. Frost), and am about to give the prices of the goods he makes.

Mr. FROST. You have made a mistake in your prices of ploughs.

Mr. CLANCY. No, I have not. The prices I have given are authentic, and not on hearsay. They are as authentic as if I had gone to the hon. gentleman's shop, and got them from himself. Bob-sleighs, which sold for \$25 in 1896, cannot be had under \$27 now. Harrows were sold at \$22 in 1896, and are selling as \$25 now. Farm carts \$35 in 1896 and \$38 now. Farm wagons \$45 in 1896, \$50 now. Mowers, \$45 in 1896, \$50 now. I wonder if my hon. friend will correct me in that. Cultivators, \$28 in 1896, \$36 now. Seed drills \$60 in 1896, and \$65 now. Binders, of which the hon. gentleman is a large manufacturer, were selling for \$110 in 1896, on the best terms, that is when payment was made in October, and they cannot be had under \$120 now.

During the campaign in 1896, the hon. gentleman made a speech in which he declared that the lowering of the duties on iron would have the effect of giving the farmer just as good implements and at cheaper rates. What has become of that pledge? I challenge my hon. friend to cite a single case in which he can say that the statement I have made is not absolutely correct. He knows perfectly well that binders have advanced \$10 in price, and he knows that his party had pledged themselves to make them cheaper. That is the way by which these hon. gentlemen have enriched the farmers. For every article the farmer has to sell since these hon. gentlemen came into power, he is getting less than he did at any time in the preceding twenty years, and on the other hand, he is paying more for every article he has to buy. Even post-hole diggers, one of the list they selected for reduction are higher than they were before under the general tariff, and they do not come in to any extent under the preferential tariff. There is not an article, from a pound of nails to the harvest implement, to which 10 per cent, and in some cases more than 20 per cent has not been added to the price since these hon. gentlemen's advent to office. That means that the purchasing power of the dollar of every farmer and labourer has been reduced to 75 cents. When the farmer sells his products at lower prices than he did before, he has to add to the loss the discount that must come afterwards in the purchasing power of every dollar he received. Instead of this being a period of prosperity for the farmers, there never was a period when they were less prosperous, notwith-

standing the fact that there has been a great expansion in trade throughout the country. I am sorry that I have to make some remarks with regard to pledges made by some hon. gentlemen opposite who are not present. I would shrink from talking in this House about a man's private business. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) smiles at that, but I mean what I say. I do not think it generous to open such discussions. But when an hon. gentleman invites it by his public speeches, when he makes certain declarations upon such a subject and then fails to live up to them when he becomes a minister, he invites a discussion of these matters. The Minister of Customs in a speech he made a few days ago, declared that the Liberal party had made certain pledges, that they had laid down their platform in 1893 and were bound to carry out these pledges. Now, here is what the hon. gentleman said in Harriston, according to the *Globe* of the 14th of February, 1896 :

I do not say and I do not claim that in all cases the amount of the duty is added to the article by the manufacturer who manufactures that article in the country, but it would be more than folly for any man to say that under a system of protection the man who purchases home-made goods does not pay more than he would have to pay if there was free competition. What is protection put on for? It seems to me that it is a waste of time to talk about it in any other respect than that.

Again, speaking at Massey Hall, Toronto, the hon. gentleman said, according to the *Globe* of the 6th of February, 1895 :

What I want you to consider when you go home is whether the law passed by the Tory government and placed on the statute-book that made Paterson rich, has made you not rich, or some of you even poorer than you were before. Whether this is a just law or not, and one that should be continued.

And he made the case still stronger when he spoke at Brantford, according to the *Globe* of the 23rd of March, 1895 :

Had the national policy acted fairly and justly upon all classes and upon all kinds of manufacturer? If it had not, then it had been an unjust law. If it had not imposed equally upon all alike, Dr. Montague had said that the national policy had made him (Mr. Paterson) rich. Was it a matter of reproach for him to try and do away with the policy that had made him rich at the cost of the great mass of the people of Canada.

That was not a reproach, but the reproach comes when the hon. gentleman takes his position as a minister and continues a tariff which, according to his own statement, has made him rich while injuring others. Now, I will turn to the articles that the hon. gentleman got rich on. Confectionery, under the national policy that, according to the hon. gentleman, made everybody poorer, and Paterson rich, was, in 1896, 35 per cent, or $\frac{1}{2}$ cent a pound. How much was it altered when the hon. gentleman became a minister? None at all. On biscuits,

sweetened, the tariff in 1896 was 27½ per cent. Was that altered? No. Biscuits, unsweetened, were dutiable at 25 per cent in 1896. Was that altered? No. Jams and jellies, 3½ cents a pound, equal to about 35½ per cent. Was that altered? No. All the duties that made Paterson rich, and to which he referred in his speech, remained just the same. He asked if he were open to reproach when he proposed to remove a policy that had made everybody poorer, but had made him rich. No; he was not deserving reproach in that. But he is deserving of all the reproach that an indignant electorate can impose for not reducing duties that made him rich after having denounced them throughout the length and breadth of Canada. If he was robbing the people before, he is robbing them still.

I intend to deal very shortly, with another subject, that is the subject of a preference. I believe with one hon. gentleman who has spoken on this subject, that we should remove this matter as far as possible from sentiment. The question is sufficiently important to be dealt with on its merits. If the preference given by hon. gentlemen opposite has any merits, the people of Canada can well afford to acknowledge them and to give the government credit, but if it is not in the interest of the country, the government must expect to receive the criticisms they deserve. I shall endeavour to show in a few minutes that the policy was the most mistaken of any ever adopted in Canada. The first reason is, because hon. gentlemen opposite entered upon what the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) called a flank movement. They entered on a different policy in 1898 from that which they had previously proposed. The Prime Minister had made a pledge to the people of Canada when he spoke in the city of London, in 1896. Dealing with the question of preferential trade, he declared that it was of paramount importance and, not only that, but attempted to show that the only chance the people had of getting it was to place his party in power. He went further and discussed the grounds on which we would expect to negotiate a policy of that kind. He said that England would not expect a system of free trade to be adopted, but that a revenue tariff would be made the ground of negotiation. He then pointed out the great advantage that would accrue from that. But when these hon. gentlemen came into power, the first thing they attempted to frame was the tariff of 1897, having two features, one a special tariff, and the other a reciprocal tariff. I wish to point out that to have taken that course made a preference with England absolutely impossible. How was it possible to have a preference with England when you proposed a reciprocal tariff with every country in the world? I say to hon. gentlemen opposite, and to ministers in particular, that when they adopted the reci-

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procal tariff in 1897, they abandoned every notion of a preferential tariff with Great Britain. By the mere adoption of it, they precluded the possibility of a preferential tariff. England, it is true, came in, but on the same terms that every country in the world came in; therefore, it was to be a reciprocal tariff with the whole world, and no preference to England. There was no idea of negotiating for advantages to Canada by differential duties upon the products of other countries; that was laid aside by the very principle involved in a reciprocal tariff.

Now, what followed? When the hon. gentlemen passed that tariff, attention was called in this House by the leader of the opposition to the fact that a tariff of that kind conflicted with the Belgian and German treaties. It was denied by the hon. gentlemen. Even the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), made a very able speech, as he always does, declaring that it did not interfere with those treaties. The hon. gentleman will not deny that; he declared explicitly that the tariff would escape those treaties. The hon. gentleman went to England to argue it before the law officers of the Crown, still maintaining, not a preferential policy, but a reciprocal policy, for the whole country. The object of the hon. gentleman, therefore, was to uphold a policy, not of a preference, but of reciprocity, with the whole world. Well, I believe they did the hon. gentleman the courtesy to listen to his argument, but they gave judgment long before they heard the argument. They told the hon. gentleman that two courses were open to him and to the government: Either to go back to Canada and repeal the whole reciprocal tariff, or to give England the whole preference as a condition of denouncing the treaty. I challenge the hon. gentleman to say that that was not the prime object, I challenge him to say that England would ever have denounced those treaties, if this government had not formally handed over the special preference to Great Britain and received nothing in return.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There was never any such suggestion, never the faintest hint.

Mr. CLANCY. Well, I tell my hon. friend that it does not inure much to the credit of the astute gentlemen who were in charge of affairs there, and who wanted to get the treaty denounced. Without a suggestion from Great Britain as my hon. friend says, and of their own free will, they had the treaties denounced without a preference in return. According to what the hon. gentleman says he offered, as a condition of England, denouncing those treaties, to give a preference in Canada without asking for anything. Why, it is worse than I was disposed to put it. So they had the alternative of coming home and meeting the

people, and declaring they had framed a policy that must be repealed, or on the other hand, they must give an exclusive preference to England, without anything in return. I say the people will deal with those gentlemen later.

But there was a change of front, the hon. gentlemen on that side of the House entered upon a new policy, and that policy was to declare that we were not entitled to ask for anything. Let us see what hon. gentlemen have said on that side of the House with regard to this question. The hon. the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), is rather a cautious man. He is very careful of what he says. If he could keep a string on his friends, perhaps he would have less difficulty. Well, this is what the hon. gentleman said in his last speech :

The Conservatives insist that England must first give us a quid pro quo. Well, Sir, I am not one of those who will go so far as to say that England will never impose a preferential tariff for the advantage of her colonies. I have said before, and I will repeat it now, that while that is not a very likely thing to happen, it is within the bounds of possibility, even of probability.

Now, we will take the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). He says :

Canada has nothing to offer England in exchange, and it is impudent to ask for a preference. . . . We have not earned a preference, and it would be to cripple England to get it. . . . It is not in our interest to get a preference.

The hon. member for South Brant (Mr. Heyd), has gone so far even, as to warn the people in England. He was not content to warn the taxpayers, but he waved the flag in distress to the 1,100,000 paupers in that country. The hon. gentleman says, that 'a preference is not in the interests of Canada,' 'it would be disastrous to both countries;' 'none but madmen would think of a preference.' The hon. member for East Prince (Mr. Bell), declares that 'Canada should be ashamed to ask for a preference;' that 'it is neither in the interests of Great Britain, nor of Canada, that we should have a preference such as the Conservatives propose.' The hon. member for North Norfolk declares that it is disloyal. Then the hon. member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett), whom I do not see here to-night, made the utterance of a statesman. I commend it to the intelligent electors of his riding, and if they take kindly to it, I think they do not deserve very much sympathy from intelligent people. This is what he says :

Hon. gentlemen opposite talk about a superabundance of loyalty, while on the other hand they are glorifying themselves because they think they now have an opportunity to take advantage of Great Britain's troubles in the Transvaal to get better terms; in other words, they think that, by reason of the war she is engaged in, we can get out of Great Britain what we could not otherwise get, and can make our own terms. What do you think, Mr. Speaker, of an hon. gentleman, who declares that when Eng-

land's hands are tied, we can get certain terms that we could not get otherwise? But what does the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), say :

Nobody ever questioned the desirability of such an arrangement if it could be obtained. To use the strong language of the right hon. gentleman who leads the government, a Canadian who would refuse such a proposition would be an idiot.

Now, Sir, we have the Minister of Finance declaring that he has never gone so far as to say it was not possible, or even probable; and we have nearly every hon. gentleman opposite declaring that it is nothing short of insanity, that it would ruin Great Britain and ruin Canada to have a preference. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman, if the possibility ever arises, what the people of Canada have to look forward to now. Hon. gentlemen opposite, one after another, have risen in this House and have declared that such a policy is against both Great Britain and Canada. There is not a single argument that can be used by the most sturdy opponent, in England, or in any other country, that hon. gentlemen opposite have not used against Canada. I would ask if any person can ever hope, under the leadership of the Liberal party, with these declarations on record, for better trade relations with Great Britain. Why, Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely impossible, when we see hon. gentlemen in this House declaring in the most explicit terms that it would be madness itself to enter upon a policy of that kind, and then to tell us, as the hon. Minister of Finance has told us, that he has never said that it could never be had. He was very cautious. He says that it does not appear likely now, but, if it does not appear likely now, it is due to the attitude of the Liberal party, because hon. gentlemen opposite have done everything in their power to prevent the likelihood of it. It is because there is no effort could be more effective than the position which hon. gentlemen have taken to belittle Canada in every sense, or to put her in the light that the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) seeks to put her in, when he declares that Canada has nothing to offer, that Canada's trade is only about 5 per cent of the total trade of Great Britain. Yet, we are told that as a result of this policy the heart of the English people has been touched. We are told that they buy our products more readily, and that if we have not a legal market, we have, in fact, a substantial market. I have always thought, and I am not going to change my opinion about that, that when Canadians sold their goods in Great Britain, or elsewhere, it was because they produced a first-class article, and because they were ready to go in and compete for that market, and if ever they abandon a position of that kind their market will go. There is nothing that will so belittle the Canadian people as the

position hon. gentlemen have taken in declaring that the sympathy of the English people has been such as to find a market for the people of Canada when in fact this was the result of their own enterprise, energy and skill, and of that element which is seldom found in any country, and which is especially found in the people of Canada, their adaptability to conditions, and their readiness to take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves. To belittle them in the sense in which they have been belittled does not become any party in this country, especially when the statements that they make are unfounded in fact and unfounded in experience. The hon. Minister of Customs made a speech as to the effect of this policy, and I hope the House will bear with me while I read a portion of it, because it is a very important utterance, as are the utterances of every minister in this House. It has a special weight and a special significance. I, therefore, with the permission of the House, will read what the hon. Minister of Customs had to say of the preference that was so willingly granted, the preference for which we got nothing in return. He is showing the advantages that will arise from it, on grounds of sentiment and in his speech he says :

And what has been the result? Why, Sir, I venture to say that nothing has ever transpired in the history of Canada that has touched the English heart so much as this resolution, which is denounced by the hon. gentleman. . . . But I venture to say that by this act the heart of the English people has been touched, their sympathy has been enlisted, and I make bold to say that to-day any statesman from Canada—

Any statesman from Canada, mark you, Mr. Speaker.

—going over there would be able to reach the ready ear of the Englishman with the arguments that can be advanced on our side of any question and that they might yield concessions to this country in matters of trade because of the effect which has been produced by this resolution. Who can say if the Minister of Agriculture were to go over there and speak to the statesmen of that country with reference to the legislation placing an embargo upon Canadian cattle he would not be in a stronger position, that he would not be more readily listened to than he would have been before this resolution was introduced?

Well, now, this statesman is not in his place to-night to answer for the speech and the pledge of the hon. Minister of Customs, and I would like to ask that statesman, and to ask hon. gentlemen opposite, how far that touching resolution that has reached the English heart has inured to the benefit of the people of Canada? Has that statesman gone over and demanded as a quid pro quo—not as a quid pro quo, but as the justice due to Canada, and which has never been given—the removal of the embargo? The people of England declare that they have no protection, but they found a system of the strongest protection that

Mr. CLANCY.

one could possibly think of inventing under the pretense that Canadian herds were diseased, and that, therefore, they would not let them in. They were forced, as the hon. leader of the opposition stated more than once in the House, and as the hon. Minister of Agriculture was forced to admit himself, that there was no disease in Canadian herds. What was the position that was taken? Notwithstanding that it was put beyond the possibility of doubt that Canadian herds were not diseased, that they might have been permitted to be brought into England with safety, they still kept up their embargo, notwithstanding that the Scotch farmers were urging that they should be allowed in. They would not let Canadian cattle come into England, not because they were diseased, but simply because it was impossible to get the farmers of Great Britain to allow them to come in, and this was the means of keeping them out. What has the hon. Minister of Agriculture done in reference to the English heart being touched? Has he gone over and asked for the removal of this restriction? Is there any member of the government who is prepared to answer that? Perhaps I may ask the hon. Minister of Finance, who is always ready to answer reasonable questions, and I think this is a reasonable question. I am going to ask the hon. Minister of Finance if any effort has ever been made, since the passing of that resolution, since the introduction of the tariff giving the preference entirely to Great Britain, to get the embargo removed from Canadian cattle. Can my hon. friend inform me?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I hope my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) is not asking for an answer. Dozens of times this evening he has put his arguments into the form of a question and asked for an answer when I did not think it was expected. I would prefer that he would ask the question when the hon. Minister of Agriculture is in his place.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is never here.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, more frequently than the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has been here.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I have been here for the last week.

Mr. CLANCY. I can tell my hon. friend that I do not think he is quite fair.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think so.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it possible that upon a question of such great magnitude, a question that affects such a large class of the people, a question that was agitated so much by hon. gentlemen opposite, who charged the Conservative party with a

failure to find a solution of it, no proposition was ever made by a member of the government to remove that embargo? The hon. Minister of Finance tells me that I must go to the hon. Minister of Agriculture for an answer to that question. I am willing that the farmers of Canada should accept his answer, and that they should ask the Minister of Agriculture. I can tell the hon. Minister of Agriculture that all the sentiment he has spoken of in this House has counted for nothing. If he made an effort and failed, or if he failed to make an effort to remove the restriction, I tell him that in either case he has sinned and in both cases he has failed. If giving a special preference to England has failed to induce them to extend bare justice to Canada, then hon. gentlemen opposite had better think again, where is our preference in England? What has happened recently? Canadian cattle were allowed twenty days in the English market before being slaughtered, but recently owing to disease being found among Argentine cattle the order has gone forth that Canadian cattle as well as all foreign cattle must be slaughtered five days after arrival in England. Surely this is a suitable time for that statesman to go over to England to try and get the ear of the British government and to have this injustice to Canada stopped. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) seems to know nothing about it; the matter is so unimportant that he has passed it over with a light heart, and he appears to have handed it over to the charge of the Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. COCHRANE. Tarte is in London.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes, but that is not the kind of business the Minister of Public Works attends to. He is engaged in something more sensational just now. There is just another point, Mr. Speaker, that I wish to refer to. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) and other gentlemen opposite taking the cue from their leaders have repeated over and over again, that as a result of their preference the price of goods coming from England would be reduced; the price of goods coming from foreign countries would be correspondingly reduced to the consumer, and all manufactured goods of the same kind produced in Canada would as a result be reduced in price.

Mr. COCHRANE. A long bow.

Mr. CLANCY. It is a pretty long bow, but it was none too long for gentlemen opposite to draw. On the face of it that statement has a sort of gloss that might make it commendable to the people of the country, but let us see how it works out. The hon. gentleman gave a list of articles that would be affected in this way, among others, cuffs, collars, blueing, soap, Paris green, carpets, jams and jellies, mustard ground, pickles, starch, cotton white or bleached and

prints. Now, let us take the prices of these articles. Collars and cuffs sold for 85 cents a dozen when they came from England and 97 cents when they came from the United States. Blueing 9·8 from England and 21·7 from the United States; soap, 5·2 from England, and 4·00 from the United States; Paris green, 11·6 from Great Britain, and 26·6 from the United States; carpets, 64 cents per yard from Great Britain, and 51 cents per yard from the United States; jams and jellies, 7·2 from Great Britain, and 12·8 from the United States; mustard, ground, 21 cents from Great Britain, and 3·2 from the United States; pickles, \$1.09 a gallon from Great Britain, and 79 cents from the United States; starch, 5·8 from Great Britain, and 5·3 from the United States; cottons, white or bleached, 7·6 from Great Britain, and 6·5 from the United States; printed cottons, 8·3 cents from Great Britain, and 6·4 cents from the United States. This proves that the argument of the hon. gentleman has no application whatever. It proves that the class of goods coming in were of a different kind, and did not come in contact with each other so far as prices were concerned, and therefore the preferential tariff had no bearing upon them. We were told by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) that the general tariff would have no substantial reductions. I wish to keep that statement before the eye of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). He told us in explicit terms that the general tariff would have no substantial reductions, that if any reductions were to follow, or if there were to be any modifications of the evils of the national policy it was to be all embodied in what is now called the preferential tariff. Let me point out to the Minister of Finance that last year we imported \$98,000,000 worth of dutiable goods, and of that, just \$26,000,000 or less than 30 per cent came in under the preferential tariff. I point out to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) that although the preferential tariff was to correct everything that was wrong in the general tariff, yet as a matter of fact only 30 per cent of the dutiable goods imported into Canada came under the preferential tariff, while more than 70 per cent came under the general tariff which the Finance Minister declared was not altered.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Surely the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) is not quoting me as stating that there were no reductions in the general tariff.

Mr. CLANCY. The minister (Mr. Fielding) stated that there were no substantial reductions in the general tariff.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I said there were scores of reductions in the general tariff and the records will show it.

Mr. CLANCY. I did not intend to read the hon. gentleman's speech, but now that he has raised the question, I will read the

statement he made to the House, that there would be no substantial reductions in the general tariff.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman will find he is mistaken. I placed before the House a list of items numbering scores in which the general tariff was reduced.

Mr. WALLACE. And scores of items in which it was increased.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is not the question. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is also in error there, but that is not the point.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the Minister of Finance state that if he unloads on one class of goods and increases the tariff on another class, that that is a general reduction? I tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) that when he completed the general tariff leaving it entirely to the operation of the preferential tariff he left the general tariff infinitely higher than he found it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The records will show that there were reductions on a great many articles in the general tariff. As to the effect of lowering the duty on one and increasing it on another that is a fair matter for debate, but I said the general tariff was reduced on scores of items, and any argument based on the assertion that the only reductions were to be found in the preferential tariff is certainly a mistake.

Mr. CLANCY. I tell the hon. gentleman that he is on record in the most unmistakable form, because he is always clear in his utterances; and I will read what the hon. gentleman said on that occasion.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The tariff speaks for itself.

Mr. CLANCY. But did not the hon. gentleman speak for his party? Are his declarations to be taken for nothing? On that subject the hon. gentleman said:

Now, Mr. Speaker, having thus stated the guiding principles in the matter, I propose to invite your attention to the general tariff, and in doing so I wish to be distinctly understood that, as I have already explained, the duties are considerably higher than we intend they should be as applied to countries which are willing to trade with us. And if, as I read the items, hon. gentlemen think that the rate upon any of them is too high, I beg them to believe that before I close I shall have something to say which will show that in respect of our relations with Great Britain and in respect of our relations with any other country that is willing to meet us on equal terms we shall be prepared to offer a measure of tariff reform of the most substantial character, which is not contained in the tariff which I am now going to read.

Is that plain enough?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend asks a question; does he wish the answer?

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. CLANCY. I do.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman is reading from a speech of mine which I have not at hand, but of the substance of which I have a general recollection. I said that in addition to what reductions there might be in the general tariff, although some of the items in it might be high, the preferential tariff to which I would call attention later on would give a very substantial measure of tariff reform. The hon. gentleman attempted to show that in fact no reductions were made in the general tariff. I did not say that, and if I had said so, it would have been absolutely untrue.

Mr. CLANCY. I am not charging the hon. gentleman with having said that there were absolutely no reductions. What I am pointing out is that the hon. gentleman went into a system of changes, and that the whole tariff when he left it was higher than when he took it up. I do not say that there was no reduction in anything; but I say that if there was a reduction in one quarter, there was an increase in another, and the tariff was higher as he left it than it was before. Later on the hon. gentleman said:

But with the exception of those articles to which I shall refer as I proceed I have to tell the House that it is not the intention of the government, speaking of the question generally, and not with reference to any particular article, to propose any great reduction in the tariff as applied to those countries which are not disposed to trade with us.

What did that mean? That meant that 70 per cent of the goods coming into Canada were not to be the subject of any reduction, because there was to be no reduction in the general tariff; but all the reductions were to come through the preferential tariff, which does not apply to the 70 per cent mentioned. Therefore, I say that 70 per cent of the goods imported into Canada come under a tariff infinitely higher than existed before hon. gentlemen opposite came into power. The hon. gentleman was going to give to the people of Canada the boon of a lower tariff, and he said, If you have objections, I have the remedy later on. Where is the remedy? The question is whether this preferential tariff has been a benefit to Canada? I am persuaded that it is not a benefit, that it has not cured or lessened the evils which the hon. gentleman complained of, but that it has intensified the burdens of the people, especially of the poor, because it makes a straight horizontal cut of the duties on both the luxuries of life and the necessaries of life. Was that the fulfilment of the pledge which the hon. gentleman read to this House before he announced his tariff changes, namely, that the tariff should be so adjusted as to make the necessaries of life free or nearly free, and that luxuries should be taxed? That was the announcement which the hon. gentleman made; but this tariff makes a horizontal cut on the luxuries of

life as well as the necessaries, and the poor man has to pay for them. The hon. Minister of Customs and one or two others have attempted to meet that, by declaring that the necessaries of life compared with the luxuries were after all not so disproportionate. The hon. gentleman wishes me to draw the line between the necessaries of life and the luxuries. I decline to discuss that question. All I point out is that both luxuries and necessaries are treated alike, and I leave hon. gentlemen opposite to explain to the people what are luxuries and what are not. I say this is one of the vices of the present tariff. The other is that since we have a cut of 33½ per cent we shall have between two and three million dollars less revenue, which the people of this country will have to put their hands into their pockets to make up. Under our system we cannot unload at one point without putting on at another. Just as in the case of corn, the farmers of this country have to put their hands in their pockets and make up for the loss of revenue on corn that is admitted free, so to the extent to which we give other countries concessions without obtaining compensating advantages, to that extent we tax our own people, because we must make the two sides of the ledger balance. But when that is said, what compensation have we now? The compensation which the Conservative party ask is a reasonable one. If we give to the people of England an advantage to the extent of \$2,000,000 or \$3,000,000, we must eventually tax our people to that extent, and we are quite willing to do that on receiving equivalent advantages in the British markets. The hon. Minister of Finance declared that we were now in the high tide of prosperity and that this was a time above all others, particularly favourable to the Liberal party, but that some day the pendulum was sure to swing the other way. Take the year 1895, when there was the lowest taxation per head by the way of customs tariff, and the lowest revenue we have had in Canada for years, and the lowest expenditure, what followed? Why, we had a deficit that year of something like \$4,000,000. Well, Mr. Speaker, what would be the case now if the pendulum were to swing the other way? It would follow that by reason of the preference we have given to England or to any other country, the \$3,000,000 thus taken from our revenue would have to be added to our ordinary deficit. There are just two ways of overcoming a deficit. There is one which the government cannot control, and that is the expansion of trade, in which case our revenue is increased by the fact that we are importing and consuming more goods, which is after all one of the means by which our taxation is increased. But, if, instead of expansion we have a diminution of trade, as we will have when the pendulum swings the other way, then we will have to make up for our reduced revenue by additional

taxation, and what we propose is that in the general tariff; but all the reductions Great Britain should, in return for the concessions we give her, give us an advantage in their markets which would compensate for the increased taxation, to meet any reduction of revenue caused by diminution of trade. We are not proposing to ask for any favours, but only that we should be given something in return for what we grant, and we ask this because, whatever we do concede must necessarily come out of the pockets of our people. But hon. gentlemen opposite say that England will never make us any concession, because any concession she would make to us would have to come out of the pockets of her own people by an increase of the costs of their breadstuffs. But how does that square with the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite who declare that American goods coming into this country must be lowered in price in order to compete with English goods which are coming in under the special preference we give to England. These hon. gentlemen declare that the Americans will have to take less. But would not the same argument apply to American goods exported to England, should England give us a preference? Would it not follow that the prices of these goods for the use of the English consumer would have to be lowered in order to meet the competition which our goods could offer under the more favourable tariff to us or under the higher rate imposed by England on their American imports as compared with ours. I contend that the English consumer would not, if such preference were given to us, pay a farthing more for the goods that he would bring in from the United States, because the Americans would have to lower their prices to meet our level. Otherwise the argument of hon. gentlemen has, as applied to American goods coming into this country, no foundation whatever. The hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), has told us that the danger to England to-day is that she is threatened with the commercial hostility of every other country in the world, and that she would intensify that hostility by imposing a tariff against them in our favour, and only the hostility, because they know they would have to compete with Canadian products that come in on better terms. But if their tariff were thus raised, these countries would still have to sell to Great Britain, and would have to take less in the English market for the goods they send there, and the English consumer would, therefore, not pay a cent more for them. Nothing could be further from the mark than to say that it is against the interests of England to give concessions to her colonies. But these hon. gentlemen are so solicitous lest the hostility of foreign countries should be increased, that they are willing that we should give a preference to England without getting anything in return. Then not only

does the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite not prove of any advantage to Canada, but it also prevents their ever obtaining any reciprocity with the United States, which at one time they were so anxious to obtain. The fact that they have given a preference to England, at first of one-eighth, and then of one-quarter, and now of one-third of the duties imposed on the goods of foreign countries will effectually prevent any chance of their obtaining reciprocity with our neighbours to the south.

These hon. gentlemen have violated the pledge they made to the people of Canada in the speech of the Prime Minister at London, England. Their tariff, as applied to the whole world, was a failure, and then when they came down with their subsequent tariff, giving a preference to England, that preference did not touch a fringe of the evils of taxation which they said were oppressing the people of Canada. In fact there is not one redeeming feature in their tariff, and its only effect is to delay, so long as it continues in force, what would have taken place long ago, if these hon. gentlemen have followed out the course we advocated. It has the effect of delaying a preference which the mother country would otherwise inevitably give us.

I do not propose to detain the House longer. I say that Canada's interests are inseparably linked with those of the mother country, but Canada has also a destiny in the future of her own. While she has no interests hostile to those of Great Britain she has still conditions of her own which must not be lost sight of. We must have a fiscal policy of our own which must not be hampered by any restrictive conditions, and the greatest gift we can give Canada and at the same time bestow upon Great Britain, in the interests of the enlargement of the British Empire, is to make Canada great and prosperous.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (Essex). At this hour, Mr. Speaker, and at this stage of the debate, it is not my intention for one moment to follow the various arguments which have been advanced by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), who has just spoken. But there are one or two statements he made, to which I propose devoting some small attention before branching into the two points on which I purpose dwelling before I resume my seat. The hon. member for Bothwell laboured for one solid hour to show—and apparently he argued it satisfactorily to his own mind—that farm produce in Canada to-day was cheaper than it was prior to 1896. He then went on to show that the articles which the farmer had to buy were dearer to-day than they were prior to 1896, and then he made the startling admission that the farmer was prosperous to-day, and that the whole country was prosperous.

Mr. CLANCY. I tell my hon. friend (Mr. Cowan) that I made the very opposite statement.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. COWAN. The hon. gentleman's words are not yet cold, and I venture to say that there was not a man who listened to him who will not remember that he quoted the list of cattle, hogs and other articles that are the produce of the farm to show that they were cheaper than they were prior to 1896. I rose in my place and asked him if he thought it was fair to compare the prices of cattle in 1899 with the prices prior to 1896, and he said it was. In reply to an hon. member on this side, I think the hon. gentleman from Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), as to the prices of certain agricultural implements the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) went on to show that the articles which the farmer had to buy had increased in price as compared with 1896, and he wound up with the startling admission that this country was in a state of prosperity. The whole result of the hon. gentleman's argument was what the farmer had to sell was cheaper, and what he had to buy was dearer, and then—and I see that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) nods in assent—he declared that the country was prosperous. If he has argued that satisfactorily to his own mind, he is very far from having argued it to the satisfaction of any other hon. gentleman who heard it. Fortunately, we do not have to take the statement of the hon. gentleman in that regard. I listened, and listened with interest, to the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster), and if the hon. member for Bothwell will turn to *Hansard* of March 27, page 2699, he will find that the hon. member for York makes this statement:

Suppose we apply that rule to 1895, and then compare with 1899. In 1899 the prices were 17 per cent higher, according to the index, than in 1895, so that if you would make a fair comparison, you would have to add 17 per cent to the trade figures of 1895, which would give an addition of \$34,700,000.

There is the admission of the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster). If the hon. member for Bothwell had figured it out, he would have found that in animals and their products alone, the farmer in 1899 received \$1,173,000 more than they would have received for the same sales in 1895. And yet, at this stage of the debate, an hon. gentleman occupying the position that the hon. member for Bothwell occupies or pretends to occupy in this House, makes such a statement as that to which we have just listened. Living near a border county, the hon. gentleman knows—no one knows better—that there never was a more unfair comparison attempted than that which he attempted in the prices of cattle in 1899 and 1896. The hon. gentleman was careful to take the export price. The hon. gentleman knows that in 1899 we exported from Canada, cattle that we could not have exported in 1896 at all.

Mr. CLANCY. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) permit me to ask him a question?

Mr. COWAN. Certainly.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) will remember that I stated that for the three years 1894, 1895 and 1896, prices were, on the average, higher than they were for 1897, 1898 and 1899, and the hon. gentleman need not hinge his argument on a single year.

Mr. COWAN. That makes it all the worse for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), and all the worse for his argument. Every man in this House, and every man, woman and child outside of it, knows that if ever there were hard times in Canada, they were in the years the hon. gentleman first mentioned. And, if the prices were good and still the times were hard, I would like to know where the argument leads the hon. gentleman. In 1899, as the hon. gentleman knows, there were hundreds and hundreds of cattle throughout the western peninsula of Ontario purchased and shipped to the United States that could not possibly have been exported at all in 1896, on account of the quarantine regulations. And I am within the judgment of the House and of every man who raises and sells a bullock in Canada, that the lower grade of cattle are worth \$5 per bullock more than they were prior to 1896, by reason of the abolition of the quarantine regulations permitting the Canadian bullock to go to the nearest market, that of the United States. This has not affected animals actually exported to the United States alone, but it means that every bullock slaughtered in Canada is worth \$5 more.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) knows that the average price was only \$13, and yet he adds \$5.

Mr. COWAN. I say that the average steer that would have sold for \$30 in 1899, could have been purchased for less than \$25 in 1896.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend knows perfectly well that the average price was \$13, and yet he talks of steers being worth \$30.

Mr. COWAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) poses as a farmer. If he does not raise a steer worth \$30 I am sorry for him as an agricultural authority. Now, Mr. Speaker, I did not rise for the purpose of going into a general discussion of the tariff. If there has been anything discussed in this House *ad nauseam*, it is the British preference and the general tariff. Every hon. gentleman who has spoken on that side has delivered himself of the argument that the exports of Canada to the British market should have a preference in that market. Though those exports represent less than 5 per cent of the import trade of Great Britain, the people of the mother country, it is said, should tax themselves on the 95 per cent from other countries for the benefit of the 5 per cent that comes from Canada. It seems

to me that that is an argument that needs no answer. It is an argument no hon. gentleman in this House in his serious moments would dare to make, but for the purpose of attempting to make some political party capital by impressing the people of Canada with the idea that there is a possibility of a British preference. Were it not for this, the time of this House would not be taken up with this discussion. Sir, that brings me to consider a statement that was made by the hon. member for York, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), as found in *Hansard* at page 2800 :

These gentlemen allow the alien labour law of Canada to remain a blank on the statute-book, while the alien labour law of the United States is rigidly enforced against every labouring man and woman who enters the United States. We are opposed, as a party, to that kind of preference.

That brings me back, Mr. Speaker, to consider the whole history of alien labour legislation in Canada, and the attitude of the Conservative party with reference to it. I want to find out just what kind of an alien labour preference the ex-Finance Minister and his associates were in favour of. It is well-known to every member of this House that the newspapers at the time were teeming with accounts of those who had been turned back from the American border, during the years from 1887 down to 1896. The records of parliament, and the pages of *Hansard* show that at different times this matter was brought to the attention of the ex-Minister of Finance, and his colleagues in the government, and we learn from the records the course which they took in reference to alien labour legislation. Now, I find that in 1890, the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor), introduced an Alien Labour Bill. Sir John Thompson, then leader of the government, on February 27, 1890, said, as recorded in *Hansard*, at page 1335 :

Two members of his government had interviewed the Secretary-Treasurer of the United States on alien labour.

In 1890, mark you, Mr. Speaker, matters had come to such a pass in Canada, that two members of the Conservative government felt constrained, without anything having been said on the floor of parliament, to interview the United States government, and the answer which they received was, that :

Congress had deliberately adopted legislation of that kind with the view of enforcing a policy which was thought necessary in the interests of the people of the United States.

At page 1238, Sir John Thompson says :

It would be unwise for parliament to pass an Act extending to the whole of Canada such a measure, because these grievances have arisen in certain localities.

So that although in 1890, the matter was brought up in parliament, while from 1887, outrages of the grossest kind had been per-

petrated against Canadian citizens, who endeavoured to find employment in the industries of the United States, although the matter had become so pressing that, unasked by parliament, without it having even been mentioned in the House, two members of the government had gone to Washington for the purpose of interviewing the government about it, and after they had been informed that the Washington government had passed that Act for their own protection, and that it would have to apply against Canada, as well as all other countries, the leader of the Conservative government rose and said that he would not support a policy which would apply to the whole of Canada, when the grievances existed only in certain localities. When the member for South Leeds introduced his Bill in 1890, the matter was, for the first time, brought to the attention of the ex-Finance Minister, and a committee was appointed. On April 15, 1890, they recommended :

That negotiations be had with the United States, and unless they ceased enforcing the Alien labour law against Canada, Canada should enact at its next session similar laws against the United States.

You will find exactly what the committee stated upon that point, at page 295, of the *Hansard*, of 1892 as follows :

Your committee find, on examination, that the Bill is similar in all respects to a Bill passed by the Congress of the United States in 1885 and amended by that body in 1886.

Your committee have had before them witnesses from different points along the frontier, and find from their evidence, a copy of which is hereto annexed, that the American alien labour law has been enforced in such a way as to compel many of our people to relinquish their employment in the United States, or to remove with their families and reside their permanently, while citizens of the United States are permitted to work in Canada every day, and to return to their homes on the American side every night, without interference of the Canadian authorities.

Your committee recommend that the attention of the authorities at Washington be directed to the oppressive application to Canadians of the American alien labour law, and to allow of such representation being made, and to afford time for its due consideration, recommend that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed until next session; and if some suitable measure for granting relief to Canadians from the grievance complained of be not passed in the interval by the American authorities, that your committee recommend that a Bill dealing with this question be introduced next session and taken into consideration.

That report was made on April 15, 1890. I find that on May 5, 1891, *Hansard*, page 106, the hon. member for South Leeds again introduced his Bill. On May 12, it went to the second reading, and at the request of Sir John Thompson, he withdrew it. I find that on March 3, 1892, for the third time the matter was drawn to the attention of the government, *Hansard*, page 295. The report of the committee I have just read,

was read in the House, and on May 11, page 2457, Sir John Thompson moved the six months' hoist of that Bill, and the ex-Minister of Finance and his colleagues agreed to it. Although the report of that committee had been made two years previously, drawing attention to the necessity of similar legislation in Canada, although during that time, the alien labour law of the United States was being rigorously enforced against Canadian citizens, still we find the Premier moving the six months' hoist of the Bill, and the ex-Minister of Finance agreeing to it. Nothing was done in 1893. For the fourth time, the matter was brought up on June 14, 1894, page 4307, Mr. Lowell, the member for Welland, asked if the government had entered into negotiations with the United States concerning the alien labour law, and Sir John Thompson, the Premier answered No. Although that committee had reported four years previously, although several hundred dollars had been spent in taking evidence upon the point, which evidence had been submitted to parliament, although that committee had recommended that negotiations should be entered into with the United States, still the leader of the Conservative party, and of the government rose in his place, and made the admission that no effort had been made and the report of the committee disregarded. In 1895, Mr. McLennan, the member for Glengarry, introduced a Bill to prevent aliens from becoming interested in public works contracts, as will be found in *Hansard* for that year, page 2520. The hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan), in support of his Bill, pointed out that a law existed that practically prohibited Canadians from engaging on public works in the United States, and he went one step farther and pointed out that there were many states that passed laws prohibiting the employment of aliens on such works, and that this prohibition even extended down to municipal institutions. The hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) spoke against the Bill. A colleague of the hon. member for Haldimand, who shouted so loud and long in this House about a present grievance existing concerning alien labour, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) said at page 2538, that he was glad to see foreigners spending their capital here, and on the next page, he used the words that he would be sorry to see this proposal become law. The debate was adjourned and the Bill died. That was act No. 5 in connection with alien labour, and it is the history of hon. gentlemen opposite. On the 24th of April, 1895, the hon. member for South Leeds introduced his Bill. That was brought up for the sixth time. It was apparently seconded by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), because the hon. member for West Assiniboia, although parliament had sat for three solid months after the Bill had been introduced, on the day that parliament pro-

rogued said that he was going to second the Bill if it had come up, but we must press it next year. Then in 1895, on 10th of June, it was brought to the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite for the eighth time. Mr. Lowell, then member for Welland, at page 2405, moved for all petitions, letters, reports, etc., asking for legislation to prevent alien labour being employed in Canada. That was five years after the committee had made its report. Again, for the ninth time, on January 29, 1896, the hon. member for South Leeds, introduced his Bill. It was read the first time. The House sat for four months until April 23, and no more was heard of it. On February 3, of that same year, for the tenth and last time, it was brought to the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite by the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) who, asked what negotiations had taken place with the United States concerning the Alien Labour Law and the answer of one of the associates of the hon. ex-Minister of Finance was 'none.' So that, although five long years have elapsed, although hundreds and hundreds of dollars of the public money of Canada had been spent in collecting information, although witnesses had been subpoenaed from the Detroit River on the west to Cape Breton on the east to give evidence before a committee of this House, although that committee, a majority of whom were followers of hon. gentlemen opposite, had recommended that legislation be enacted, it was opposed by the Premier of that day, and by every cabinet minister who sat behind him. The hon. member for Haldimand who spoke so eloquently the other day was as dumb as an oyster and the hon. ex-Minister of Finance was as silent as a clam in his shell while these matters were being brought to their attention in this way, and yet, in this year of grace 1900 they stand up and shout with all the gusto of men who intend to be honest, that is not the kind of preference that we are in favour of. Now, Sir, the hon. ex-Minister of Finance went one step farther. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance said that men and women were being turned back from the United States every day. A statement farther from the facts was never uttered in this House. I defy the hon. member for Bothwell who prompted the hon. member for Haldimand, to put his finger on any man, woman or child that has been turned back either on the Detroit or the St. Clair River from Lambton down to Windsor during the last two years, because that individual had a contract to work in the United States. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance knows that the newspapers were full of the details of the outrages that were committed, that alien labour officers beset every train that crossed the international boundary line, that men and women were held up, that they were quizzed as to their destination, that their private correspondence was even ransacked for the purpose of ascertaining whether or

not there was anything in it by which they could infer that they were going to the United States under contract. For seven long years that state of affairs existed under the regime of the hon. gentlemen opposite, until practically every labour organization in Canada and the labouring classes in Canada, from one end of the country to the other, clamoured at the door of parliament for redress from the grievances and ills under which they were suffering, and for seven long years these hon. gentlemen sat down and did nothing, silent as men in the grave, as a chicken in its shell, and then, ten years afterwards an hon. gentleman gets up and says: Our policy is not that kind of preference. I would like to ask these hon. gentlemen, I would like to have a statement from the hon. member for Bothwell, who gave misleading information when the hon. member for Haldimand so badly put his foot in the matter a few days ago; what kind of a labour preference are they in favour of. Sir John Thompson said it would be foolish to pass such a law, or, at all events, that it would not be right to pass a law extending to the whole of Canada, because the grievance existed in certain localities. He never carried out that principle, and no man sitting behind him was ever anxious to carry it out or was possessed of sufficient shrewdness to devise means by which a law could be enacted which would apply to particular localities where such a law was enforced against Canada. The labouring classes of Canada were compelled to wait until these hon. gentlemen went out, until they went into political oblivion and their successors took the matter in hand and placed upon the statute-book of Canada a law which rectified their grievances laid down by Sir John Thompson himself. I am free to confess that, in 1896, I was a little doubtful as to what the working out of the Alien Labor law such as was enacted would be. However, I met at the introduction of it with some strong opposition from some gentlemen on this side of the House. I was asked to accept it as it was, to give it a trial, and if it did not work out well, then, we could come back next year and place a law on the statute-book that would. Living, as I do, in the city of Windsor, I am bound to say that where formerly every day's paper chronicled the turning back of a Canadian citizen, from the time that law has gone into force there has not been one single contract labourer turned back. Up to the time that law came into force the hospitals of Duluth and elsewhere in the United States were ransacked for Canadian nurses, and they were told to get out and go back to Canada. Hon. gentlemen are unable to place their finger on a recurrence of the events which existed for the last seven years in which they were in power. So much for the question of alien labour.

There is another matter to which I intend to refer at some little length. I was extremely sorry and extremely surprised to

hear come from the lips of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) certain erroneous statements about the tobacco duties. I tell the hon. gentleman, that if he circulates that speech of his throughout the county of Bothwell, and if they take no more stock in the whole speech than they will in his statement about tobacco, then the speech will find a repository in the backyard before they get beyond that one single assertion. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) said that this government had put over \$1,000,000 duty on the poor man's tobacco, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) now nods his head in assent. I had hoped that by this time he would have recanted, and would have been sorry for making a statement which is so absolutely far from the facts. No one knows better than the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), because he grows tobacco himself, that you can go into the market of the town of Wallaceburg, or the village of Dresden, where he lives, and you can buy for 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents to-day the same amount of tobacco that you would have to pay \$1 for before 1897. No one knows better than the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) that Havana cigars and fancy Virginia smoking tobacco have increased in price—that is, cigars costing from eight to twelve cents, or that you buy over the counter at two for a quarter of a dollar. Fancy Virginia smoking tobacco, costing from \$1.50 to \$2 per pound, and cigarettes, have increased in price, I will admit. But, Sir, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by a large number of the members of this House, when it comes down to the tobacco that is consumed by the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere), when it comes down to the tobacco which is consumed by the masses of Canada to-day, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) knows full well that the price of that tobacco has been reduced by 50 per cent. Before I take my seat I shall prove to the satisfaction of the hon. gentleman that such is the case. I do not want to be misunderstood on this point. I say that tobacco manufactured from foreign leaf is dearer to-day than it was prior to the tariff of 1897.

Mr. CLANCY. Hear, hear.

Mr. COWAN. I am glad the hon. member for Bothwell agrees with me in that, and I hope he will go further and agree with me in my next proposition. While fancy foreign tobacco has increased in price, I say that the duties imposed by this government have brought into existence in Canada a tobacco the equal in every way of tobacco which is manufactured from foreign leaf, and to-day you can buy one pound and a half of that tobacco for the same price that you paid for one pound prior to 1897. I shall prove that assertion to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), so that when he again makes a speech

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on tobacco he will not fall into the error he has fallen into to-night. Prior to the tariff of 1897, there were twelve plugs to the pound, costing five cents a plug, or sixty cents a pound. You can now buy Canadian tobacco, either smoking or chewing, equal in quality to that for five cents a plug, eight plugs to the pound, or forty cents a pound. You can to-day buy a pound and a half for the same amount of money that you paid for a pound prior to 1897. That means that the quantity of tobacco that cost five cents prior to 1897 can now be bought for three and a half cents, or one and a half cents per plug or fig, cheaper than before the duties were arranged by the Liberal government. I have no desire to give an object lesson in the House, but if any one denies that statement I will refer him to the standard makes of tobacco. I have in my hand—and I will go into the quality later on—'Consols' smoking tobacco, manufactured by Wm. McDonald, of Montreal, probably the best known man in the tobacco trade in Canada. Here is 'Consols' smoking, weight one-fifth of a pound, worth twenty cents a plug at the retail store—and I am dealing with the retailer now, and not with the wholesale man, because after all, it is with the retailer that the workingman deals. We have here five plugs to the pound, at twenty cents a plug, or \$1 a pound. I have another sample, one of the best known brands of tobacco manufactured from foreign leaf, 'T. & B.' made by Tuckett & Billings, of Hamilton. The weight of this is one-quarter of a pound, and some retailers sell it for twenty cents, and some for twenty-five cents, so that its cost is from eighty cents to \$1 a pound. I now hold in my hand the product of the Empire Tobacco Company, of Granby, Que., a plug made out of tobacco grown in Bothwell, Kent and Essex counties, purchased there and shipped to Granby, Quebec, where it is manufactured. This sells at ten cents a plug, four and a half plugs to the pound, being forty-five cents a pound. Here is McDonald's Consols, \$1 per pound, T. & B., eighty cents to \$1 a pound, and the Empire Tobacco Company's tobacco, forty-five cents per pound, or 50 per cent cheaper than the foreign article. So much for that line of smoking tobacco. I produce here McDonald's 'Briar,' eight plugs to the pound, retailed in every store at ten cents a plug, and I have here again the Empire Canadian leaf, nine plugs to the pound, worth five cents a plug. One eighty cents a pound, and the other, made by the Empire Company, worth forty-five cents a pound, and yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) stands up in his place in this House and states that the poor man is taxed \$1,150,000 a year on his tobacco, and the funny part of it is that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) still nods his head in confirmation of the erroneous assertions he made to the House. I am not

through with the hon. gentleman yet. We will now take chewing tobacco. I hold in my hand the 'Prince of Wales,' manufactured by McDonald, sixteen plugs to the pound, at five cents a plug, or eighty cents a pound. I hold here the Empire Tobacco Company's 'Currency,' one-tenth of a pound, costing five cents, or fifty cents per pound. So that, you can buy more than one and one-half pounds for the same price that you pay for a pound of the other. I have here the Empire Tobacco Company's chewing tobacco, ten plugs to the pound, or fifty cents per pound. While McDonald's tobacco cost eighty cents a pound, the Canadian tobacco costs fifty cents a pound, and I ask the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) if the cheaper kind of tobacco I have produced here is not the kind of tobacco—chewing and smoking—that is used by the labouring men and masses of Canada?

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman asks me a very fair question, and I am going to answer it. He has made a correct statement as to the present; but he should have stated to the House that he is quoting the price of a tobacco that forms less than one-tenth of all the tobacco used in Canada. The hon. gentleman knows that. I stated that there is \$1,050,000 on tobacco over 1896, and I appeal to the Finance Minister whether that is not correct.

Mr. COWAN. As usual, when the hon. member for Bothwell opens his mouth, he puts his foot in it; and I will show the hon. gentleman how deep down it has sunk. The hon. gentleman has made the statement that Canadian tobacco forms less than one-tenth of the tobacco consumed in Canada. Well, fortunately we are able to get at the exact amount of Canadian leaf that has been consumed in Canada, and although it is a little out of the line of the argument I intended to pursue, I am going to deal with this at once. The Canadian tobacco produced in the year ending the 30th of June, 1896, according to the Inland Revenue Returns, was 474,205 pounds; in the year ending June, 30, 1898, it was 1,989,429 pounds; and in the year ending June 30, 1899, it had increased to 2,575,955 pounds. Taking the last year of the old regulations, ending June 30, 1896, and comparing that with the year ending June 30 last, there is an increase of 540 per cent, or there is 5½ pounds consumed now to what was consumed prior to the tariff changes. I will go further, and figure it more closely for the hon. gentleman. In the year 1894-5, the percentage of Canadian leaf compared with the total product was only 5·8 per cent, whereas in 1898-9 it increased to 26·2 per cent. For the six months ending the 31st December, 1899, it had further increased to 36·2 per cent, and for the month of January last it had increased to 45·2 per cent. And yet the hon. member for Bothwell knows so little

of the staple product which he himself produces, and which is produced in his own constituency, that he makes the lamentable exhibition and the erroneous statement that less than one-tenth of the tobacco used in Canada is of Canadian growth. Surely, if we can produce tobacco of as good a quality made from Canadian leaf, and it can be purchased in Canada to-day at less than two-thirds of the price of tobacco made from foreign leaf prior to the tariff of 1897, it does not operate as an additional tax on the masses, but as an absolute saving to the people of Canada by giving them 50 per cent more tobacco than they could formerly obtain for the same money. I think that is a proposition that even the hon. member for Bothwell with his fertile imagination and lack of information will hardly contradict. Now, it was stated by the ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace), who had apparently as little knowledge of the matter as the hon. member for Bothwell, that there had been a falling off in the consumption of tobacco in Canada, and that the cause of this was that we had raised prices and caused increased smuggling into Canada; and, strange though it may seem, that hon. gentleman holding a responsible position in this House, and an ex-minister of the Crown, carried the matter one step further and said that we had imposed those tobacco duties in order that increased smuggling would take place along the borders of Canada, for the sole purpose of giving jobs to our political friends as preventive officers. Now, I want to take this matter up, and while I do so I want the attention of the hon. member for Bothwell, because there is no man who demands the attention of every minister of the Crown when he speaks so much as that hon. member. I have noted it since I came into the House in 1896. If a minister of the Crown attempts to engage in conversation with his neighbour while the hon. member for Bothwell is speaking, that hon. gentleman stops and says, 'When the minister of so-and-so gets through, I will proceed.' Surely, if the hon. member for Bothwell is entitled to ask ministers of the Crown to give their undivided attention to him when he is speaking, the hon. member, a private member, should at all events give me his attention when I am discussing an article grown in his own constituency. I will go back ten years. On June 30, 1889, the consumption of tobacco in Canada was 2·153 pounds per head. On June 30, 1896, twenty-three days before the hon. gentlemen were defeated, it had shrunk to 2·129 pounds per head, or, 0·024 pounds per head less under the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite. Then, if the statement is correct that greater smuggling went on, would it not follow as a natural sequence that the consumption would have fallen to a still lower point? But I turn to the population of Canada, as figured out by the statistician, Mr. Johnson, and I find

that on June 30, 1899, the consumption of tobacco had risen to 2·174 pounds per head, or an increase under the regime of gentlemen on this side of the House, of ·045 pounds per head, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite try to base an argument on the erroneous statement that smuggling has gone on in Canada.

An hon. gentleman opposite and the press of hon. gentlemen opposite, and the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Gillies), stated that no cultivation, no care, no expenditure of capital, no skill, no manufacture, would enable a class of tobacco to be grown in Canada, equal to the foreign leaf imported into Canada. But when an hon. gentleman on that side makes a statement of that description, he shelters himself behind the bald, bare statement, as these hon. gentlemen generally do, without one single fact or authority to support it.

When the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), said that the labouring classes of Canada, had been taxed \$1,150,000 on tobacco alone, I thought he would have gone on to show why we did not produce that tobacco in Canada, or, if we did produce it, why it was not consumed by the Canadian people; but like the rest of these hon. gentlemen, who have taken every opportunity in their power to throw a stone at Canada's tobacco industry, they have not produced a single line of authority to show that Canadian tobacco is not in every way the equal of the foreign article. I am not foolish enough to stand up in this House, for an instant, and say that we can produce Havana fillings for cigars, but neither can they do it in the United States. I am not going to say that we can produce tobacco of the fancy types for cigars, or the finest Virginia leaf, but three-quarters of the tobacco consumed in the United States, and nine-tenths of the tobacco brought into the Dominion from the United States, can be produced to an equal, if not greater state of perfection in Canada than it can be in the United States, and I purpose backing that statement up, not by my own bald assertion, but by the best authorities—not one or two authorities, but half a dozen of the best authorities—that can be got in the tobacco world, not only on the continent of America, but the continent of Europe. Let me give you first a Canadian authority, Mr. D. H. Ferguson, of Montreal, a man of wide experience both in foreign and Canadian leaf tobacco, and, I think, I am quite within the mark, when I say that there is no manufacturer in Canada, who has a wider and longer experience, or is more versed in every department of the tobacco business, both as regards the growing of tobacco and its cure and manufacture, in this Dominion. Mr. Ferguson says:

Taking into consideration the short period that the cultivation of tobacco in Canada (particularly in Western Canada) has been in vogue the farmers are to be congratulated on their

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success in producing a tobacco which in point of quality closely approaches their prototypes in the United States. I refer more particularly to the type known as 'Burley' which is now so largely used in the United States and Canada for sweet chewing tobacco.

I have seen and purchased this type of leaf in both the counties of Essex and Kent and can state that they approach very closely in merit the best grade grown in Kentucky and Ohio. The colour and texture of the domestic article when grown under proper conditions leaves nothing to be desired from a manufacturer's standpoint.

I would like to tell my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that I have listened to his voice for two mortal hours, and would ask him to listen to mine, for he is the one gentleman on that side to whom I am talking to-night.

Due allowance should however be made for the want of experience in handling and curing as compared to the long experience and the high state of cultivation which the farmers in the United States have with years of experience brought to a state of perfection. That our farmers can and do now produce a very fair grade of leaf suitable for chewing tobacco and which will improve as their experience develops goes without saying. We now manufacture in Canada plug chewing made from domestic raw leaf which is of very fair quality and compares favourably with that made from good American leaf.

Mr. Ferguson was speaking only of the crop of 1898, and I have just a word to say with regard to that crop. In 1897, the duties upon tobacco gave such a stimulus to the industry, that every kind and grade of tobacco in Canada was gobbled up at enormous prices. The hon. member for Bothwell knows that the manufacturers were paying actually 12 cents and 14 cents and 15 cents a pound for the second growth of tobacco, that would not be cut in the county of Essex to-day. A gentleman residing in Leamington took advantage of the situation to hold meetings through the counties of Essex and Kent in the winter of 1897, and point out to the farmers the enormous advantage which they could gain by abandoning practically everything else and going largely into tobacco raising. He told them that he would buy every pound they grew, at 10 cents per pound and better; and in that prolific district, where they grew a ton of tobacco to the acre, any person can figure up what an enormous profit that would give. That so stimulated the farmers and others in that locality, that many people went into the growing of the plant, who had not the proper means for curing it, and the result was, that some was hung up on the fences, some under shade trees, and a large amount in stables, etc., until fully 50 per cent of the crop went back to the manure heap. These people did not have the facilities for curing it in 1898, yet the best of it was culled out, and that was the tobacco that went on the market in 1899; and so bitter was the lesson

which the producing classes of that community were taught by virtue of the bad advice given them by this gentleman in the interests of the tobacco combine, that they have profited by that bitter lesson, and last year those who went into the industry, were men capable of caring for the plant, and the crop to-day produced in the county of Essex, is as fine as can be found anywhere in Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, York State or Kentucky.

Now, I come to my next authority, Mr. Thomas Semple, of Setric, Kentucky, the purchaser for the firm of Alexander McEwan, of Glasgow, Scotland, one of the largest importers of tobacco in the United Kingdom. In reply to a letter sent to him, Mr. Thomas Semple wrote as follows, to W. O. McNutt, secretary Tobacco Growers' Association of Essex and Kent:

Mr. McDonald, a large manufacturer in Montreal, Canada, buys quite freely this same grade of Burley on the Louisville market.

Burley is the variety of tobacco purchased by this Scotch firm, and samples of that variety grown in Essex were forwarded to Mr. Semple, of Kentucky, on which he gave this opinion:

You should get a purchaser at home in Mr. McDonald, who purchases freely of this same grade of Burley in the Louisville market.

One of the best experts, one who has spent a long time in the tobacco industry, the purchaser for the large importing house of Alexander McEwan, of Glasgow, Scotland, unbound and untrammelled, with no interest in the tobacco markets of Canada, gives the statement I have just read. Then, I come to W. T. Gregory, who is a native of a tobacco district, who was brought up in the leaf tobacco trade, and has been for years expert tobacco buyer for the largest factories in the United States. For two years he has been buying in Essex. When the attack was made on Canadian tobacco by the hon. member for Richmond, N. S., (Mr. Gillies), expecting to follow that hon. gentleman, I telegraphed to Mr. Gregory asking him to wire reply as there was no time to communicate by mail. I have here Mr. Gregory's telegram in answer:

March 10, 1900.

To M. K. Cowan.

In reply to your inquiry, would say that the class of Canadian-grown leaf that enters into the manufacture of tobacco is of the same type and equal in quality to the foreign leaf used by manufacturers in this country.

I subsequently wrote to Mr. Gregory, asking him three questions. First, what his experience had been; second, the names of the firms for whom he had purchased in the United States, and third, their financial standing. I will give you his reply:

In reply to question No. 1, regarding my experience in tobacco, will state that have been in business thirteen years, and during that time have bought 15,000,000 pounds of tobacco. Bought two years for J. D. Cooper, exporter and specu-

lator; bought four years for Allen & Ginter, one of the largest firms in United States, and was for seven years buyer for the American Tobacco Company.

Any man who knows anything about the tobacco trade of the United States knows that the American Tobacco Company is literally the trust of the tobacco industries of the United States, and that Allen & Ginter are one of the largest, if not the largest, firm in the United States in the production of fancy types and cigarettes:

I was raised on a tobacco farm, and have seen the tobacco business in all its forms, from the field to manufactured product. The firms named are of national reputation, as you asked me to state size and standing of firms that the writer represented.

In regard to the amount of Burley used—I would ask you to notice this point particularly, and I wish to diverge again to say that nearly nine-tenths of the tobacco consumed in Canada outside of fancy Virginia grades, cigarettes and Havana cigars, is made from the Burley type:

In reply to question No. 2, in regard to amount of Burley used in manufacture of black chewing tobacco in Canada, will say that the Burley type is used almost exclusively. In regard to 'smoking,' will state that it is not used to the extent as for chewing, but the writer has seen a remarkable, yes, phenomenal, increase in the sale of Burley smoking in the past twelve months. The State of Kentucky (which produces Burley exclusively) is by far the largest tobacco-producing state in America, and a very large majority of all tobaccos are made from the Burley type, Virginia and Carolina tobaccos being used almost exclusively for cigarette and light smoking. Canada is capable of producing a type of tobacco that in flavour, texture and general character will compare most favourably with the Kentucky product. In fact, there is in the tobacco warehouse in Leamington now that is equal in every respect to the foreign leaf. Our growers are just beginning to reach that stage where they can grow it to perfection, having passed the experimental stage.

That is the opinion of one of the best tobacco experts on the continent. But I would like the hon. member for Bothwell to listen to the opinion of Mr. Alex. Harthill, of Louisville, Kentucky, one of the largest, if not the largest, leaf tobacco buyers in the world, and a world-famous authority on all that pertains to leaf tobacco, who paid a special visit to Canada last year for the purpose of investigating our leaf. After a thorough inspection of our crop he returned home, and in an interview with the representatives of the trade press, stated that he had seen tobacco grown by our farmers that was fully equal in quality to that grown in Kentucky.

Now, I hold in my hand the *Western Tobacco Journal*, published in the city of Cincinnati, Ohio. This is a copy of the issue of May 22, 1899, containing about nine columns of a description of the Canadian tobacco fields and Canadian tobacco as written by this same Alexander Harthill, of Kentucky. I do not wish to weary the

House, but I will read one or two short extracts :

I saw little of Canadian cigar tobacco. One specimen of Zimmer's Spanish was a beautiful, silky leaf, but very light in colour; while another was a desirable brown colour, with fine texture. I gave to a friend a cigar made of Canadian cigar leaf of the 1897 crop with Sumatra wrapper, and he pronounced it a good, full-bodied smoke.

Now, if the western district is capable of producing a cigar tobacco—and we all know that Zimmer's Spanish is a cigar tobacco of rich brown colour—acceptable to an expert like Harthill, and yielding, as his friend declared, a large full bodied smoke, then, the western district of Canada is capable of producing a tobacco equal in quality to that which we at present import from the United States. Now, one word more. Hon. gentlemen opposite, the opponents of Canadian tobacco have a tendency rather to hold up the Macdonald tobacco, the Prince of Wales chewing and the pipe tobacco, as manufactured by Macdonald, at Montreal, as the standard, and to say that the Canadian tobacco is not equal to that which he manufactures from the foreign leaf, the imported article far excelling the domestic. This Mr. Harthill, speaking of Macdonald, says :

His using Canadian-grown Burley would be no greater change, if as great, as his changing Kentucky chewing fillers some years ago from Green River (a much stronger tobacco) to Burley entirely, which he uses now.

'To Burley entirely which he uses now.' If that is to be the standard, it seems to me that all that remains to be proved is that the Dominion of Canada is capable of producing Burley varieties equal to those produced in the United States, because of the Canadian, we receive 1½ pounds for the same price we paid for a pound prior to the days of 1897. In the fertile imagination of the hon. member for Bothwell, if you give a man a pound and a half of tobacco for the same price that he paid for a pound before, the member for Bothwell argues that the people of Canada are having taxes wrung from them on that article. Mr. Harthill goes one step further, and in the same article, he says :

Meantime the new Dominion is on the road to making the great staple one of her important industries, and to grow at home, in future, what she has spent millions for abroad in the past.

This is not the statement of any man interested in Canadian tobacco, this is not the statement of any Canadian manufacturer, this is not the statement of any man who would make a single dollar by virtue of the tobacco duties of 1897. There is an authority quite above the interest that radiates from the breeches pocket; it is an authority sent here for the purpose of investigating the tobacco fields of Canada, and he says that we can produce as good a tobacco of the same grades and the same varieties

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as we are now importing from the United States.

The most convincing and irrefutable evidence that can possibly be cited as to the quality and merits of our Canadian tobacco is found in the columns of the *Canadian Cigar and Tobacco Journal*. This publication is the recognized organ of all branches of the trade, an admitted authority on all matters pertaining to the great tobacco industry, and having the same relationship to tobacco affairs that the *Iron Age* does to iron, the *Canadian Lumberman* to lumber, or *The Monetary Times* to matters of finance. Looking over its columns for the past three years I find that when the tariff commissions were touring the country, and when the subject of encouraging the Canadian tobacco industry by a revision of the tariff and excise regulations was first mooted, this tobacco journal was most vehement in its denunciation of such a measure. It stated Canada could never grow tobacco suitable for general consumption, and to attempt such an experiment was utterly ridiculous, so firm was it in its conviction on this point that it culminated in its issue of May, 1897, immediately after the budget came down with the statement that the new tobacco tariff was 'a monument of absurdity.'

We will turn to subsequent issues and see how the wonderful improvement in the quality of leaf now grown and its success with the public has brought about an evolution in the opinions of this undoubted authority. In January, 1899, in a leading editorial, they say :

Few of our readers have more than a vague understanding of the rapid advancement of Canadian tobacco as an article of consumption. Within the past year Canadian plug and cut is now selling on its intrinsic merits and increasing in demand to such an extent that it is quite within the probabilities that the close of the current year will see it constitute fully one-fourth of the total consumption of Canada.

Now, let me for a moment diverge to show why this paper should be taken as an authority. Recognizing the changes that have taken place, recognizing the capabilities of Canada in the production of tobacco, realizing that former utterances had been wrong, and yet wanting to be well within the mark, when it stated it would constitute 25 per cent. in point of fact it constituted 26 per cent and a fraction. It says further:

Canadian tobacco, once under the ban of public prejudice, is now selling on its own merits, and what is more important, is giving excellent satisfaction to the consumers. The result has brought about the development of a heretofore languishing industry, and to such an extent that it now bids fair to eventually change the whole complexion of our trade.

In January, 1900, after another year of experience with both the grower and the consumer, it comes out with an editorial article, saying :

The stability of the industry, in so far as the pipe and chewing tobacco branches are concerned, has now been established beyond all doubt, and with the constantly improving methods of culture and manufacture, there is no doubt that this tobacco is destined to eventually absorb at least 75 per cent of the total consumption of what is the largest tobacco-consuming and revenue-producing branches of the trade.

Turn now to almost its last issue, March, 1900, less than two months ago, and we find an editorial under the heading of 'The Tobacco Tariff.'

A rather uncalled for attack on the tobacco tariff was made in the House a few days ago by Mr. Gillies, member for Richmond, N.S., but as his arguments as to the results of the present tariff and his abuse of Canadian Tobacco were plainly founded on a misunderstanding of the results attained, it will hardly have any effect on the situation. Notwithstanding the abuse which this journal, and with it nine-tenths of the trade, heaped on the tobacco tariff when revised by the present administration, in 1897, and the statements then made that it was absurd to presume that Canadian tobacco could ever become a factor in the trade, the situation to-day is such that we are compelled in simple justice and by force of facts, to admit the wisdom of the administration in the measure then adopted. Not only have our farmers grown tobacco quite the equal of that used for plug smoking and chewing by the foreign leaf factories; not only was upwards of \$600,000 left in the hands of Canadian farmers last year that once went to American leaf markets, but the great masses of the people have been given just 50 per cent more tobacco of equal quality for the same money than under the old tariff. Beyond this, a practically new industry has sprung into life; twenty-five new factories are now turning out Canadian tobacco products, and this influx of capital is ample evidence of the importance and wisdom of the measure. The tax, it is true, did for a time operate as a direct burden—

And therefore the hon. member for Bothwell went to sleep when it did operate as a direct burden.

—on the trade and public, but the evolution of a domestic tobacco has changed this, and it is now a tax on the classes that is handed over to the masses. The million dollars gained from the tax on foreign leaf now little more than offsets the loss of revenue involved in the low tax of only five cents per pound on Canadian tobacco.

There is the evidence of a high authority of the position in which the Canadian tobacco producer and the Canadian tobacco grower stands to-day. The industry is not in the position that its merits must be sounded by its friends. To-day it comes into the camp of the enemy; and after fighting for three long years in the face of opposition, nine-tenths of the trade comes out to-day and says: 'We were wrong and the government of Canada were right.' They are paying the farmers of Canada to-day \$600,000 that formerly went into the brèche's pockets of the tobacco producing classes of the United States of America.

And yet these hon. gentlemen who have stood up in this House time and again, and made the rafters ring in pointing out the glorious future of Canada, in supporting the hothouse and spoon fed industries that never could and never will support themselves, are standing up in Canada to-day trying to blacken the character of a great Canadian industry. The hon. member for Bothwell endeavours to ruin a staple of his own country in order to secure a point against his political opponents. Now, I am not standing here as a protectionist. I have never stood as a protectionist, but I want to tell hon. gentlemen opposite after we have had eighteen long years of protection from them, that, at any time, any man who is an admirer of the principle of protection will point out that the results can be attained for any industry in Canada that have been attained for the tobacco industry of this country, I want it to go on record that so far as that industry is concerned, I am one of the strongest protectionists that could advocate its cause. What are the results? I find that the factories using Canadian tobacco exclusive of cigars for the year ending June 30, 1896, numbered ten and that the factories using foreign tobacco numbered 27. I find that to-day there are twenty-five Canadians and seventeen foreign. The factories using Canadian tobacco in three years increased 250 per cent, while the factories manufacturing foreign tobacco decreased from twenty-seven to seventeen. The cigar factories using Canadian tobacco in 1896 were two in number, to-day they are twelve in number, or an increase of 600 per cent, or, in other words, twenty-five new factories have been started and stimulated by this government. We who come from the west know well that the clarion-toned and trumpet-tongued member for Bothwell goes up and down the counties of Essex, Kent, Bothwell and Elgin saying: Look at the tall chimneys that the national policy, the protective policy, has stimulated and brought into life. And yet, the hon. member for Bothwell cannot rise in his place and show where the protective policy, in eighteen long years, ever stimulated twenty-five factories in all other lines of trades or industry in the four western counties. We can point to twenty-five new factories existing in Canada in the short space of three years in tobacco alone, and to the fact that the greater portion of the benefits resulting from these industries goes to the masses, to the farmers who produce the tobacco, to the labouring men who earn their money by the sweat of their brow in the Canadian tobacco fields and the tobacco factories of Canada, and that the money goes into the pockets of the consumers of the common grades of tobacco. In the face of this the hon. gentleman rises in his place and says that \$1,151,000 was taken out of the poorer people of Canada in taxes. Then, when asked to state why and how

he said because one-tenth of the tobacco consumed in Canada is made from Canadian leaf, while in point of fact, over 45 per cent was manufactured from it in January last. The hon. gentleman actually did not know the difference, although he spoke with all the assurance of a man who could leak wisdom on the subject. Earlier in this debate, and earlier in the night I gave the hon. member for Bothwell the figures of the consumption of Canadian tobacco in Canada from 1896 down. I also gave him the percentage that Canadian tobacco bore to the total consumption, and therefore I need not now weary the House by going into that any farther. But, I want to tell the hon. gentleman that the Empire Tobacco Company distributed \$300,000 last year in wages to their workmen, that they spent \$150,000 in increasing their plant, to say nothing about the twenty-four other factories. Does any hon. gentleman think that these gentlemen, tobacco experts, would invest such large sums of money in the industries for the manufacture of Canadian tobacco were they not thoroughly satisfied that it was a product that would strike the palate of the Canadian consumer, and that it was equal in texture, aroma, flavour and general character to the foreign article. Now, the crop of 1898 was put on the market in 1899. I have already referred to the fact that the growers lacked the facilities for curing it, but they went to work in 1898, and got the facilities, and the result is that the tobacco crop grown last year is only being purchased now, and will not go to the consumer until next year. When it does go to the consumer it will be found that the crop is 50 per cent finer than that grown in 1898. As has been stated by Mr. Gregory, these men have come to a point in Canada that it took the United States years and years to reach. Some hon. gentlemen may ask in view of the fact that under the excise regulations which imposed twenty-five cents per pound excise on foreign leaf and five cents per pound excise on Canadian leaf, giving a protection of twenty cents a pound upon the home grown article, or an advantage of twenty cents per pound, under the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite, how it was that Canadian tobacco only amounted to a little over 5 per cent of the total consumption. Hon. gentlemen opposite sat on the treasury benches for eighteen long years, they saw the tobacco industry, which, at one time, was an industry in this country, but which, by the absolute stupidity of hon. gentlemen opposite languished from year to year, decline by different steps and grades until it got down simply to an infinitesimal part of the tobacco consumed in Canada. At one time they made a man take out a license to grow it. Then there was practically only one man who could buy it and you may depend upon it that the buyer was not Grit. Where there were acres of tobacco in Essex and

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Kent years ago, it got down to practically none, until the business management of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and his colleagues took hold of it, and placed it upon its feet. I will tell you what the explanation is. Prior to 1897 you could not mix Canadian and foreign tobacco in Canada. I could go to Turkey and get the Turkish or Egyptian tobacco; I could go to Cuba and get the Cuban tobacco; I could go to Virginia and buy the lemon wrapper produced in that state; I could go to Kentucky and buy the Burley tobacco, and I could bring them to Canada and mix them and blend them to suit myself, and put any wrapper on them I saw fit; but if I were a producer or a manufacturer of Canadian tobacco, the government of which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) was a bright and shining light—in supporting them, in the back concessions in the western counties—that government said: You can put a lemon Virginia wrapper around Kentucky Burley, but you cannot cover up Canadian Burley with it. Let me tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) that every one of those plugs of smoking tobacco I have produced has a wrapper grown in the State of Virginia, and which cannot be grown in any other State of the American Union. That lemon-coloured wrapper is not grown elsewhere. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was, that the Canadian manufacturer producing Canadian Burley tobacco had to put a Burley wrapper around it. What was the result? We have not yet succeeded in growing a decent wrapper in Canada, but we can grow as good a wrapper as they grow in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania or Kentucky. But, in the United States they do not have to put an Ohio wrapper around Ohio tobacco. The result of the policy of the Conservative government was that we had to put our tobacco on the market just as it was, and its appearance damned it in the sight of every man. This government had business ability enough to grapple with the situation, and when the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) goes back to his county, and asks in the different school-houses what this Liberal government has done, let him put his hands in his pants pocket, produce his tobacco, and every plug of Canadian Burley he finds there with a Virginia wrapper around it will demonstrate to him something done by this government, and something which has meant thousands and thousands of dollars to the people of this country. In 1897, when these tobacco duties were imposed, this Liberal government passed a regulation stating that any factory could take out a license, to blend tobacco. They could have it all Canadian, if they wanted to; they could have it all foreign tobacco, if they wanted to; or they could mix it, and this government showed its wisdom by going a step further and providing as a safeguard, until such time

as the tobacco industry got upon its feet, that the manufacturer should not put a lemon wrapper around any tobacco that did not contain at least 25 per cent of foreign leaf. The government provided that we could take the Canadian tobacco and experiment with it up to 75 per cent, but the manufacturer could not put a lemon wrapper around any tobacco that did not contain at least 25 per cent of foreign leaf. That insured that the industry would not be killed in its infancy by unscrupulous manufacturers who might cover up a shoddy article with a bright-coloured wrapper. That regulation continued in force in 1897, and part of 1898. In 1898, the Tobacco Growers' Association of the western counties met at the village of Kingsville and passed a resolution asking the government to reduce the amount of foreign tobacco necessary to be used in mixing down to 10 per cent, which practically covers the wrapper only. That resolution was presented to the government and was agreed to. By reason of that one regulation concerning mixed tobacco factories, enabled us to put a tobacco upon the market presentable in appearance, and the inside spoke for itself. I need only point this House once more to the expert opinions on our tobacco, and to the largely increased amount of Canadian tobacco consumed in Canada to prove the success of the Liberal policy in that regard. When the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), and when the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson)—I had nearly forgotten him—stated in this House that this government has increased taxation on the labouring men by reason of the tobacco duties, they are making statements which they have not tried to verify, or else they are making unfounded statements for the purpose of getting party capital and caring not what damage these statements might do to the Canadian growers and the Canadian manufacturers of tobacco. I am advised by the wholesale men that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) could have gone to Georgetown, or Oakville, or Acton, in his own constituency, and at least in four places in any one of these towns and villages, he could have bought the Canadian tobacco for forty cents a pound where he would pay eighty cents for the foreign tobacco now, and sixty cents prior to these duties of 1897.

I have one more point, Mr. Speaker, before closing. The hon. member for Richmond, N.S., asked the other day of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac), the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), and other members representing the maritime provinces: How could they explain to their constituents the imposition of an extra duty on the tobacco of the fishermen of the lower provinces. Well, these gentlemen can take up these figures which I have

given from the blue-books of parliament, and from the Inland Revenue Returns, or they can hold up the product of the Empire Tobacco Company to prove the wisdom of the policy adopted by this government. I said then as I say now that I am prepared to go to the country on this issue. I did intend speaking of cigars, but I shall not detain the House at this late hour further than to say that cigars retailing at five cents in Canada and manufactured from foreign leaf are made very largely from tobacco grown in Wisconsin State. I would like to see the Canadian representative in this House who would dare to stand on his feet and say that the state of Wisconsin can produce anything that South-western Ontario cannot produce. In speaking on this question in 1898, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram), and the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), on different occasions, stated that there was a large amount of tobacco smuggled into the western counties of Ontario along the international boundary line. Where the two countries are separated by water, there is no point at which the communication is so easy and so cheap as at the city where I live, there is no place along the international boundary line where, with three immense railways crossing and with the ferry system, the facilities for smuggling are so great as at Windsor. Yet, that there is no smuggling, but that the people of the county of Essex prefer to use the Essex tobacco, as I prefer to use it, as against that manufactured from the foreign product, is proved by this, that the Leamington Tobacco Company started with a small factory employing twelve or fifteen hands in 1899; yet in less than three months the output of that factory was trebled, and in less than six months it was increased sevenfold, and had increased the number of its employees about fourfold, and enlarged its premises threefold. In conversation with Mr. Fenton, the manager of the works, I asked him why he did not get his product down into the maritime provinces, and he answered: "Notwithstanding the increase of our output, the number of hands employed and the factory space, we have never yet been able to get outside of the territory in which we first sold our product. Although the product had increased sevenfold, it was consumed in the counties of Essex, Kent, Elgin, and a portion of Middlesex. He told me that he had never been able to get further east than the city of London, because he could not get out sufficient tobacco to fill the orders west of the city of London. If these hon. gentlemen could obtain any evidence of smuggling, they should obtain it in those counties; but there is no tobacco smuggled into the country there for the simple reason that the article grown at home is equal to the foreign article. Now, there are sev-

eral members of this House who smoke the Empire tobacco, which is purely a Canadian tobacco. I know a tobacconist who told me that he had a caddie of tobacco made from foreign leaf, but that since he had got the product of the Leamington factory he had sold five caddies of that and had not yet finished the one made of foreign leaf, which is sufficient evidence in itself of the high quality of the Canadian article.

Just one word on climate and soil, and I shall close. Any man who knows anything about tobacco, any man who knows a cigar from a piece of cane-stalk, knows that I am quite within the mark when I say that the further north you can ripen a fruit or bring a plant to maturity, the finer will be its quality and texture and the greater its perfection. So the further north you can grow tobacco and succeed in ripening it perfectly, the finer will be the grade of that particular tobacco. Hon. gentlemen opposite might just as well stand up and say that because we cannot grow figs, bananas and oranges, therefore we cannot grow fruit; yet anybody who has been through the counties of Lincoln, Essex and Kent knows that we can produce in those counties a finer peach than can be grown in Southern California, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida or any other part of the United States. The hon. gentlemen might just as well say that because they cannot grow figs and lemons in Nova Scotia, they cannot produce apples of a high grade in the Annapolis Valley. So, because we cannot grow the Havana filler or the Sumatra wrapper, these hon. gentlemen might just as well say that we cannot grow tobacco at all. The hon. member for Richmond, N.S., (Mr. Gillies) said that the flavours of the black tobaccos of the state of Kentucky were the finest in the world. If the hon. gentleman had taken the trouble, as I did, to look up the meteorological reports of the state of Kentucky and of Western Ontario, he would have found that we have as many sunny days during the tobacco growing season as they have in the state of Kentucky. Some years ago the Ontario government, copying an article written of the south-western district, published it for circulation in the old land, and there are one or two extracts in it which I propose reading:

Pelee Island, only sixteen miles from the main shore, is in latitude 41 degrees, 36 minutes. A line east and west through Pelee Island passes through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and California; through northern Portugal and southern Turkey in Europe. One-third of Spain, three-fourths of Italy, and almost the entire Adriatic Sea lie north of Pelee. Fishing Point is fifty miles nearer the equator than the southernmost verge of France.

Due east of the vineyards of Pelee are the vineyards of Old Castle, of the Apulian Valley, in southern Italy, and the orange grove of Barcelona.

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The Island of Pelee, as has been intimated, is famous for its vineyards, and for the wines which these produce. The best variety of grapes can be grown abundantly and of magnificent size. The failure of the grape crop is almost unknown on the island, whereas in eastern France, famous in Europe for its grapes and wines, there is a failure about once in three years, while in only one year of the three does the crop reach perfection. Vineyards of from twenty to thirty acres everywhere dot the island, yielding from four to five tons of fruit to the acre.

Fig and almond trees, with a little winter protection, bear abundantly. Cotton-seed has been ripened. Maize, sugar cane, pea-nuts, sweet potatoes, the pawpaw, white mulberry peach, apricots, nectarine and quince will flourish and bear abundantly.

And what is true of the climate and products of Pelee Island is, in the main, true of the county of Essex, its nearest neighbour on the mainland.

In conclusion, let me say, that if the hon. member for Bothwell—a constituency which lies not 30 miles further to the north—would stand up in this House and say a word or two in favour of the climate and soil, and the inhabitants that he represents, instead of rising here and endeavouring to propagate, through the medium of the public press, the fallacy that the tariff changes of 1897, have resulted in an increase in the price of tobacco—if he had stated what is the fact, that it had resulted in a decrease in the price, instead of an increase, and that you could purchase one and a half times as much tobacco now, for the same amount of money, that it cost prior to 1897—if, in other words, he had told the plain truth, it would have been better for himself, better for his constituency, better for an industry which stands, by virtue of the tariff changes, without a parallel in the history of Canada as regards its growth—if he had stated that the output had increased by 700 per cent, that the manufacture of cigars had increased 600 per cent, and that of leaf tobacco 250 per cent, while at the same time, the article has been cheapened to the people of Canada between 30 and 50 per cent, he would have performed his duty more faithfully and creditably to his country, his constituency and himself.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). I am not a tobacco expert, Mr. Speaker, I do not smoke, and do not intend to enter into a discussion of the question which has just been so fully discussed by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan), who has just taken his seat. I will leave that to my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), who will, no doubt, have some further opportunity to settle the controversy between himself and the hon. gentleman. I shall limit myself to saying, that I hope what my hon. friend has said with regard to the tobacco industry, is quite correct, and that it has actually increased in the proportion he has stated, and will continue to increase at the rate he expects. It was very interesting to me to hear the hon. gentleman en-

deavour to demonstrate that under a high duty it was possible to create a new industry in the country, and at the same time lessen the price of the commodity manufactured. That was a proposition which we, on this side used to maintain, but which the hon. gentleman and his friends, always contended to be absolutely opposed to every principle of political economy and, therefore, utterly absurd. However, I leave the hon. gentleman to settle that point with his own friends, and experience is a good teacher. What I rose to do, was to move the adjournment of the debate.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I hope the hon. gentleman will not persist in his motion. Of course it is no pleasure to stay here so late, and I am anxious that we should not sit any longer than necessary, but I am informed that a very large number of gentlemen have handed in their names, as desirous of speaking; and as we are anxious to close the debate, if not to-morrow, at least the following night, I would urge my hon. friend to go on with his speech, because otherwise we cannot possibly hope to get through within that delay.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). How late do you want to sit?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. At least for another speech. We have had a long recess, and if we intend getting through the debate within a reasonable time, I must, very reluctantly, ask my hon. friend not to press his motion.

Mr. TISDALE. I understood some time ago that we were to adjourn at one o'clock, and it is now five minutes to one. I agreed to stay here until one o'clock, but I understood that we were then to adjourn.

Mr. McNEILL. I think it is really an unreasonable proposal to ask any one to address this House on a question of such magnitude at one o'clock in the morning.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Some of our friends on the other side are prepared to go on, and if we do not sit longer, we will never get through.

Mr. McNEILL. I would not think of discussing a question of this kind at this hour, and if my hon. friend desires the debate to go on, we can talk about something. I have never yet seen an attempt to force a discussion at this hour, result in facilitating business, but have always found it had the very opposite result. I move that the debate do now adjourn.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Sixteen names have been handed in of gentlemen who intend to speak on this debate; and if my hon. friend is not prepared to go on, there are others to whom

he should make way. It is not reasonable that this debate should be prolonged any longer. It is not attracting a great deal of attention, although if all hon. gentlemen could invest the subject with as much interest as the hon. gentleman who last spoke has done, it would be infinitely more interesting. We cannot hope to adjourn before one o'clock every evening. The complaints are loud by the opposition leaders, that the government are not pushing on business, but when we try to force it on, we are met by hon. gentlemen opposite, objecting to the lateness of the hour. Of course the hour is late, and I would not like myself to have to address the House at this hour; but under the circumstances, I do not think we ought to adjourn just yet. The hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong), rose to speak when the hon. member for Bruce got up, and if my hon. friend from Bruce is not ready to speak, perhaps the hon. member for Charlotte is. Let us try and get through with some of the list. There are sixteen gentlemen to address the House.

Mr. CLANCY. How are they divided?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Eight on each side.

Mr. TISDALE. This sudden desire to lay on the shoulders of the opposition, that we are prolonging this debate unduly, and forcing us to speak at one o'clock, will only have the result the hon. member for North Bruce has stated. Attempting to force members to speak at one o'clock in the morning in a debate of this sort is not the way to expedite business. If the hon. gentleman proposes to take a night to close the debate, and say we will sit all night, if necessary, that would be much more reasonable than to force us to continue the debate at this hour. I understood that we were to adjourn at one o'clock.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I did not hear anything of the kind.

Mr. TISDALE. I thought there was some understanding to that effect arrived at between the whips.

Mr. Wm. GIBSON (Lincoln). There was no understanding as to the hour when the debate would be closed, but I understood that the leaders of both sides had a conference this afternoon and agreed that the debate would close to-morrow night. We compared our lists, and there are eight on each side to speak, but it is quite possible that some of them may not speak. There are at least eight Conservatives and seven Liberals yet to speak.

Mr. TISDALE. The understanding of the leaders had better be left alone, and the debate not forced on now.

Mr. McNEILL. I have waited until this hour expecting that after the speech we have just heard the debate would be adjourned, and the understanding on this side was that I was to move the adjournment. If my hon. friend insists on going on with a discussion of this magnitude at this hour, I do not think that will expedite matters. My hon. friend's new-born zeal is not taking very practical form.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is not the first time I have tried to prolong the debate so as to get through, but I have tried it several times.

Mr. McNEILL. I must say that I think the hon. gentleman is very unreasonable. If the determination is to finish to-morrow night, I suppose the debate can be finished then if hon. members desire to sit here late enough. I think the hon. gentleman should accept my suggestion and allow the debate to adjourn.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will not press the matter, but I must say that when the first part of the afternoon is taken up with all kinds of motions to adjourn, and we do not enter on the debate until late, and have only four speeches per day, I do not see when it is to end. However, the hon. gentleman presses very strongly for it, so I will not insist on keeping the House any longer. But I have to say that the country will be without the benefit of the matured thoughts of some hon. members, if the whole sixteen are to speak to-morrow.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 1.05 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 2, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRIVATE BILLS—EXTENSION OF TIME.

Mr. FLINT moved :

That that portion of the 49th rule which limits the time for receiving petitions for private Bills be suspended in reference to the petitions of the Salisbury and Harvey Railway Company

Mr. TISDALE.

and the South Shore Line Railway Company, presented this day, and that the said petitions be read and received forthwith, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the 14th report of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I would like to remind the House that the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in an earlier part of the session, gave notice to the House that the abuses which existed in former sessions would not continue during the present session, and to say that there must be a limit to the time for the introduction of these private Bills and the reception of petitions. The time has been extended, notwithstanding that notification, on several occasions, and there seems to be no limit to it as long as the House is in session. I think the House should come to some understanding, that on some certain dates it stops, because the country cannot have reasonable notice of these things, and the effect is to keep the House in session much longer than it ought to be.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I rather agree with the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), in general terms, but I am sure that the committee would not make a recommendation of this kind unless there were circumstances to warrant it.

Motion agreed to.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That the name of Mr. McClure be substituted for that of the late Mr. Haley on the Select Committee appointed to supervise the Official Report of the Debates of the House during the present session.

Motion agreed to.

REPORT.

Annual report of the Department of Railways and Canals.—(Mr. Blair.)

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I may say that a limited number of copies of the report will be ready for general distribution among the members this evening.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 145) to incorporate the Toronto and Georgian Bay Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 146) to enable the city of Winnipeg to utilize the Assiniboine River water power.—(Mr. Puttee.)

JUDGES IN MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

Mr. BERGERON (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Who are the judges who have sat in the Court of Appeal for the province of Quebec since 1880?

2. Who is the judge who has presided in the Criminal Court in Montreal and Quebec since 1880?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I have here the information necessary to enable me to answer this question ; but the statistics which I have been furnished with are somewhat lengthy, and, I think, uninteresting to the House, and I might simply hand them into *Hansard*, if my hon. friend will agree.

Mr. FOSTER. It cannot be done.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (reading) :

List of the judges who have sat in the Court of Appeals for the province of Quebec since 1880, at Montreal and Quebec :

Hon. Chief Justice Sir A. A. Dorion, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Chief Justice Sir Alexandre Lacoste, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Monk, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Ramsay, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Tessier, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Cross, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Baby, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Church, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Bossé, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Blanchet, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Hall, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Wurtele, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice J. Ald. Ouimet, C.Q.B. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Caron, S.C. ad. hoc. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Routhier, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice McCord, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Chagnon, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice M. Doherty, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Plamondon, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice L. A. Jetté, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice H. T. Taschereau, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Gill, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Mathieu, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Tait, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Bourgeois, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice L. O. Loranger, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Pelletier, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Cimon, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Teller, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice J. Alp. Ouimet, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Pagnuelo, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Larue, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Charland, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice DeLormier, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Davidson, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice C. J. Doherty, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Archibald, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Curran, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Lemieux, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Langelier, S.C. ; Hon. Mr. Justice Lavergne, S.C.

List of the judges who have presided, the Court of Queen's Bench, Crown side, from the year 1880, up to date, at Montreal :

The Hon. Chief Justice Sir Antoine Aimé Dorion ; Hon. Justice Ramsay ; Hon. Justice Baby ; Hon. Justice Monk ; Hon. Justice Cross ; Hon. Justice Church ; Hon. Chief Justice Sir Alex. Lacoste ; Hon. Justice Wurtele ; Hon. Justice Henri Taschereau ; Hon. Justice Hall ; Hon. Justice J. Ald. Ouimet.

Names of judges who have sat in the Criminal Court at Quebec, since 1880 :

April, 1880—Tessier, Cross. October, 1880—Johnson, J.C.S., Cross. April, 1881—Cross. October, 1881—Tessier, Cross. April, 1882—Monk, Tessier. October, 1882—Tessier, Cross. April, 1883—Tessier, Cross. October, 1883—Ramsay, Tessier. April, 1884—Monk, Tessier. October, 1884—Ramsay, Tessier, Cross. April, 1885—Tessier, Cross. October, 1885—Cross. April, 1886—Monk, Tessier. October, 1886—Tessier, Cross. April, 1887—Dorion, Tessier. October, 1887—Cross, Johnson, J.C.S.. April, 1888—Tessier, Cross. October, 1888—Cross, Bossé. April, 1889—Tessier, Bossé. October, 1889—Tessier, Bossé. April, 1890—Tessier, Bossé. October, 1890—Bossé. April, 1891—Bossé. October, 1891—Bossé. Blanchet. April, 1892—Bossé. October, 1892—Bossé, Blanchet, Wurtele. April, 1893—Bossé. October, 1893—Bossé, Blanchet. April, 1894—Bossé, Blanchet. October, 1894—Blanchet. April, 1895—Bossé. October, 1895—Blanchet. April, 1896—Bossé. April, 1897—Bossé. February, 1898—Blanchet. October, 1898—Langelier, J.C.S., and supplementary judge C.B.R. April, 1899—Bossé. October, 1899—Blanchet.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—EXPENSES OF CANADIAN TROOPS.

Mr. FOSTER asked :

What part of the expense incurred in the enrolment, equipment, transport and pay of Canadian troops sent to South Africa is included in the item \$898,172.30 under capital expenditure in 'Canada Gazette,' April 14, 1900, and how much under each of the above heads?

Is any part of the expense included under expenditures on Consolidated Fund account, and if so, what part distributed under the four heads above mentioned?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The expenditure may be divided as follows: Enrolment, including pay up to concentration, and expenses for feeding troops and horses, up to date of sailing, \$34,540.69; transport, \$358,571.64; equipment, including horses, \$382,667.20; pay, including advances to officer commanding, for pay of troops to date of arrival in South Africa, which advances have not yet been all accounted for, \$122,392.77. Total, \$898,172.30. No part of the expenditure is included under consolidated fund.

ELKHORN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

1. Did the government own the buildings on the old Indian Home site at Elkhorn, removed to the new site?
2. If not, what disposal was made of the building not removed?
3. Is the present post office building one of those structures formerly owned by the government?
4. If so, how much was received for it?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. The buildings erected with public money on the old site which were not destroyed by fire, were taken down, and the material of which they were constructed, used in connection with the buildings on the new site 2. The buildings not removed from the old site, were not owned by the government, but had been rented for the purposes of the school when it existed there. 3 and 4. The answers to the first and second questions, leave nothing to be said in reply to the third and fourth questions.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PURCHASE OF HORSES.

Mr. OLIVER (by Mr. Flint) asked :

1. How many horses were purchased west of Lake Superior for the second contingent of Canadian volunteers serving in South Africa?

2. What was the average height, weight and price paid for such horses?

3. How many horses accompanied the second contingent to South Africa?

4. How many of these horses died on the voyage out?

5. How many of those which died were purchased west of Lake Superior?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 455. 2. Average height 15.1; average weight, not obtainable; average price, \$93; 3. 1,206. 4. 63. 5. 9.

PORT GEORGE POST OFFICE.

Mr. MILLS asked :

1. Is Port George, Annapolis County, N.S., a place where money orders are issued and paid?

2. If not, when did Port George cease to be a money order office? And why was this public convenience withdrawn?

3. Was it withdrawn in consequence of continued irregularities in the management of the office by the postmistress or assistants?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. No. 2. On August 1, 1899. 3. Yes, by an assistant. The question of re-establishing the money order business is now engaging the attention of the department.

LAND GRANTS TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. PETTET asked :

1. Have any land grants been made by the present government in subsidizing railways? If so, to which railways?

2. Was it the policy of the late government to make these land grants, and did they do so to a very large extent?

3. What is the policy of the present government in subsidizing railways?

4. Does this policy tend to have a restraining influence in preventing exorbitant rates of transportation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply, I beg to say: 1. No. 2. Railway land subsidies to the extent of 7,437,992 acres were granted by the late government, and a reserve of

some 8,000,000 of acres was set apart for the purpose of the selection therefrom of the land subsidy provided for the Canadian Northern Railway, now in course of construction. 3. The policy of the government on this question can best be determined by the resolutions and legislation introduced by them. 4. In the opinion of the government, its general policy does tend to have a restraining influence in preventing exorbitant rates of transportation.

FISHING SEASON ON LAKES WINNIPEGOSIS AND MANITOBA.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

Is it the intention of the government to enforce the law in reference to summer fishing on Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba this season, or do they intend suspending their enforcement for another year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In reply, I beg to say: There is no law specially referring to summer fishing; the existing regulations permit of fishing under 'domestic' licenses and there is no intention to interfere with them. The use of tugs in netting operations is prohibited on Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba by order in council.

MR. M. A. KENDALL, M.L.A.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's) asked :

1. What amount has been paid to A. Kendall, M.L.A., Nova Scotia, since January 1, 1897, to date for services rendered by him to the government or any department thereof?

2. Has said A. Kendall, M.L.A., Nova Scotia, any commission to England during a part of the time mentioned regarding the exportation of live lobsters, and if so, has he made a report, and what was he paid for the same?

3. Has he any outstanding claim for wages or salary against the government, and if so, what is the amount?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). In reply, I beg to say: 1. Marine and Fisheries Department, \$550. 2. He had no commission, but in connection with the experiment of transporting lobsters in cold storage to Great Britain the department aided his experiment to the extent of \$195 of the expenses. He has made a report, for which he was paid nothing. 3. He probably has, but he has not rendered any account.

PRINTING OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

At what dates were the MSS. of the following departmental reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, sent to the Queen's Printer, namely:

Postmaster General,
Railways and Canals,
Militia and Defence,

Mr. ROCHE.

Agriculture,
 Secretary of State,
 Life Insurance,
 Printing and Stationery,
 Chartered Banks,
 Geological Survey,
 Experimental Farm,
 Interior Department,
 Justice,
 Public Works,
 Archives,
 Bank Balances,
 North-west Mounted Police,
 Penitentiaries,
 Insurance.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In so far as the North-west Mounted Police Department is concerned, for which I am responsible, the report is made up for the calendar, and not for the fiscal year. The material necessary to complete the report for 1899 was complete on the 22nd January, but by arrangement with the Printing Bureau the report was not sent to be printed until the 24th March. This was simply a matter of convenience. We retained the manuscript in the department for purposes of reference until the Printing Bureau got through the heavier work on its hands and was ready to take in hand the report of the Police Department.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I beg to reply to that part of the question which relates to life insurance, chartered banks, bank balances, and insurance, relates to the Department of Finance. So far as these reports are concerned, I have to say that they are not reports covering the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1899, but they cover the calendar year ending 31st December, 1899. All the reports from the Finance Department which cover the fiscal year 1898-9, were sent to the printers in good time, and were laid on the Table of the House early in the session. With reference to the reports named in the hon. member's question: 1. Life insurance and insurance. The returns from the insurance companies covering the calendar year are not required to be made by the companies until the 1st March. The last return this year was not received until the 6th March, and the complete manuscript for 1899 of the abstract of the returns, which is laid before parliament, was placed in the hands of the printers on the 13th March, and the abstract was presented to the House on the 23rd April. The reports as to life insurance companies and to all other insurance companies are included in the abstract. 2. Chartered banks and bank balances. The banks have until the 20th January to make these returns, and this year the complete manuscript for both blue-books was placed in the printer's hands on the 22nd January, or within two days after the date allowed for their reception at the department.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). As regards that part

of the question which relates to the Department of Railways and Canals, I beg to say that all the material—statistical and other matters of that description, outside of the report of the deputy minister—was forwarded to the Printing Bureau on the 31st January last. The messenger who brought the manuscript was instructed at the Bureau to return with it to the department, as the Bureau had not yet got through with the report of the Auditor General, and it would be useless to take up this other matter until that report was printed. The deputy minister sent the report back to the Printing Bureau on the 1st February with instructions to print it at the first opportunity. On the 21st February the deputy minister sent down to inquire what progress had been made, and the reply was that the report had not been touched, but that the Bureau hoped to commence work on the following day. It was not completed until the 11th April, when the first full proofs were received. There was, therefore, no delay on the part of the Railway Department at all. On receipt of the full proofs, the report of the deputy minister was immediately prepared, which did not take over seven days. It was handed to the Printing Bureau on the 18th April, and was put through by the Bureau, I presume, with all possible expedition.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). As regards the inquiry respecting the Department of the Post Office, I would like that portion of the question to stand.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). As regards the inquiry concerning the Department of Agriculture, I beg to say: The MSS. of Archives report for the year 1899, was sent to the Queen's Printer on 25th October, 1899. The MSS. of Experimental Farm Report for the year ended 30th November, 1899, was sent to the Queen's Printer on 23rd January, 1900. The MSS. of the Departmental Report for the year ended 31st October, 1899, was sent to the Queen's Printer on 12th March, 1900.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. As to the Interior Department Report, the first instalment of copy was sent to the Printing Bureau on the 18th December last. Further instalments were sent on the 23rd of that month, on the 4th, 11th, 16th, 22nd and 24th of January, the 2nd February, and the 5th and 14th of March. The final instalment was sent on the 21st March. On further investigation at the Printing Bureau, I find that they say that the report was ready on the 23rd March, even to the index, and might have been presented to the House in two days, but a copy of the report on European immigration had to be included and between Professor Mayor and the officials of the department there was some fourteen days delay, which caused most of the delay in the preparation of this report and its submission to the House.

P.E.I. TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Has the government come to any arrangement with the Anglo-American Telegraph Company for reducing rates and otherwise improving the telegraph service between the province of Prince Edward Island and the rest of Canada?

If so, what are the changes proposed to be made?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No. Correspondence is still pending with the Anglo-American Company on the subject of the telegraph service.

P.E.I. RAILWAY—CURVES AT NORTH WILTSHIRE.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

Has the work of straightening the curve at North Wiltshire, on the Prince Edward Island Railway, been completed?

If so, what is the total cost?

If not, what is the total cost to date?

What is the grade after work is completed?

What was the grade before work began?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). In reply, I beg to say: 1. The work of straightening the curve at North Wiltshire on the Prince Edward Island Railway has been completed. 2 and 3. The total cost is \$24,996.31. 4. The maximum grade is precisely the same as it was last year when I answered this question, viz. : 66 feet to the mile. 5. Before work began, the maximum grade was 17-10 of a foot less, per mile.

MR. T. C. PATTESON, TORONTO POSTMASTER.

Mr. FEATHERSTON asked :

1. Is T. C. Patteson still postmaster at Toronto?

2. If so, does the government allow him to leave his office in connection with the purchase of horses for the British militia?

3. If not, why should he neglect his duties and go to New York to meet Mr. Dent, the purchasing agent for the British government, who has come out here for the purchase of horses?

4. Is it also true that the said T. C. Patteson forced his acquaintance on Mr. Dent at New York, with the assurance that Lord Strathcona had arranged or should have arranged for his association with him for the purpose of purchasing those horses?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Mr. Patteson is still postmaster at Toronto. He applied for and obtained leave of absence to go to New York. I think he was only absent from his office one day, Saturday, the day happening to intervene between Good Friday and Easter Monday.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In addition to what my hon. colleague has said, I beg to say that I am not in a position to give any information as

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

to Mr. Patteson's acquaintance with Major Dent, but Major Dent had no instructions to advise with Mr. T. C. Patteson in regard to his purchase of horses in Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. Is he in any way an official or under the instructions of the Dominion government?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, he is not.

Mr. FOSTER. He has the right to consult with anybody he likes?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

STAFF OF HOUSE OF COMMONS POST OFFICE.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. How many clerks are now on the staff of the House of Commons post office, including the postmaster?

2. How many clerks were so employed there when the late postmaster, Mr. Stansfield, was on active duty and previous to 1896?

3. What are the duties of the postmaster? Did he have any experience in the postal matters or post office work previous to his appointment?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would observe to my hon. friend that this is not a matter which concerns the government; I have, however, got the information for the hon. gentleman. 1. Ten: Mr. Mills, postmaster, \$1,150; Mr. Lemieux, assistant postmaster, \$1,000; 8 sessional clerks at \$4 per diem. 2. Ten; Mr. Stansfield, postmaster, \$1,800; Mr. Lemieux, assistant postmaster, \$1,000; 8 sessional clerks at \$4 per diem. The salaries of the permanent clerks being \$650 less than in the year 1896, and \$1,350 less than in 1893, when the postmaster had two permanent assistants. 3. General supervision of the office and employees. The present postmaster is a barrister by profession; was appointed on 1st of July, 1897, at \$1,100, and has since his appointment performed his duties in an efficient and satisfactory manner in the opinion of the Speakers and the clerk.

PATRICK DALY, KINGSTON.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Has Mr. Patrick Daly, of Kingston, printer or publisher, been appointed assistant superintendent of the Rideau Canal? If not, is it the intention of the government to appoint him to this position? If so, what will be the nature of the duties or services required of him? What salary will he receive?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Daly has not been appointed assistant superintendent of the canal, no appointment has been made as yet. It is, however, the intention of the government to make provision for a general

inspector upon the system, and Mr. Daly will be appointed to that place. The salary which will be allowed him will be \$1,000 per year, or at that rate.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. DUGAS (by Mr. Marcotte), asked :

1. Whether, in his reply given before this House on 23rd April, 1900, the Prime Minister of the Dominion relies solely upon the declaration of a layman, Mr. Carroll, in asserting that the schools question has been so settled as to render to the Catholics all possible justice, or whether he has in his possession communications from any person authorized by the Catholic minority, which enable him to assert that the latter have accepted the proposed settlement as a satisfactory solution of the school difficulty ?

2. In the latter case, who is his informant ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The Prime Minister was asked if he had taken cognizance of a certain report published in the *Winnipeg Free Press* and republished by *La Presse*, of Montreal, and if he still persisted in saying that he had settled the Manitoba school question as to do full and complete justice to the Catholics of that province.

The Prime Minister replied that he had taken cognizance of the said report, which was the report of a meeting between Roman Catholic ratepayers and the chairman and members of the Winnipeg Public School Board, where the said Roman Catholic ratepayers petitioned to have their schools taken over by the Public School Board ; the said Roman Catholic ratepayers representing that there was now a school law that could be fairly taken advantage of and that by having a good, friendly feeling, they could overcome some of the difficulties before them, and that the proposition, though coming from the laity, would be accepted by the clergy on the lines proposed. The Prime Minister further replied that, in view of this statement, he was more than ever convinced that the Manitoba school question had been settled in a manner to do the Roman Catholic minority of Manitoba the fullest and most complete justice that was possible under existing circumstances. He did not go out of the question to give the answer.

PUBLIC WORKS AT SUMAS BAR, B.C.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. How much has been paid to Mr. George Marshall, carriage painter, for acting as overseer of the work done by the Public Works Department on Sumas Bar, Fraser River ?

2. How much has been paid to Mr. W. A. Rose, dry goods merchant, for groceries supplied to the government employees' camp at Sumas Bar ?

3. On what date did the dredge 'Mud Lark' leave the coast, and when did she arrive at Sumas Bar last year ?

4. What was the expense incurred taking her up there ?

5. How much gravel did this dredge excavate at Sumas Bar ?

6. Has the work done this bar stood the freshets, and is it considered satisfactory ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. For salary, \$238 ; for disbursements, \$128.85. 2. Nothing paid by department. 3. She left the coast about the 16th of April, 1898, not last year, and arrived the 19th of April at Sumas. 4. About \$295. 5. None, as water had raised and no work could be done. The channel had already been opened through the bar at low water by scrapers. The dredge was not taken to Fraser River specially to work on the Sumas Bar, but as she was at the time in the vicinity, the resident engineer thought advisable to use her to improve this channel. 6. Yes.

NUMBER AND SALARIES OF CLERKS IN DEPARTMENTS.

Mr. WILSON asked :

What are the respective numbers of permanent clerks and of temporary clerks employed in the Department of the Interior, the Public Works Department, the Post Office Department, and the Department of Agriculture, for the years 1896 and 1899 ?

What are the total salaries paid to the temporary clerks employed in these departments for the same years ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The answer, in so far as the Department of the Interior is concerned, is : 1. The total number of permanent clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1896, was 80. 2. The total number of temporary clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1896, was 38. 3. The total number of permanent clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1899, was 76. 4. The total number of temporary clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1899, was 52. 5. The total amount of salaries paid to temporary clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1896, was \$24,555.76. 6. The total amount of salaries paid to temporary clerks employed in the Interior Department during the fiscal year ended 30th of June, 1899, was \$29,595.20.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). To that portion of the question having reference to the Department of Public Works, the answer is as follows : 1895-6, permanent clerks, 31 ; temporary clerks, 53 ; salaries of temporary, \$38,484.48. 1898-9, permanent clerks, 25 ; temporary clerks, 46 ; salaries of temporaries, \$31,370.66.

As regards the Post Office Department, the answer is as follows :

be asked why I bring this matter before the House at the present moment. A petition has been forwarded to me by some of my constituents asking me to bring this matter before the government. The petition is as follows :

Sir,—The undersigned voters of the village of Lancaster humbly request that you will ask for information, in the House of Commons, concerning the case of a Canadian private soldier at Bloemfontein, named Belyea, who is said to have been condemned to fifty-six days' punishment for killing a hen. We think that the cabinet or some member of it, should obtain for the House a report of the trial, and the sentence, and the names of the officers who passed the sentence. We are of opinion that as the Canadians did not enlist personally in British regiments, but were handed over in a body by the Dominion government to the British government, they still occupy the status of Canadians, and it is the duty of the people of Canada, and of the Dominion government, to inquire into anything which concerns the welfare of the men of the Canadian contingents.

The petition is signed by Duncan Fraser, J.P., and fifty others, all leading men of that place. Mr. Fraser's own son, who was a prosperous business man, a jeweller there, went to Montreal, enlisted, came back, sold out his goods at auction in two or three days and went off with the contingent. His father and the people generally are very anxious to know if such punishments as this are inflicted upon our Canadian volunteers who have gone to South Africa and who have distinguished themselves as they have done. I am sure there must be some mistake about it. I looked over the Militia Act of 1881, and there is no such punishment as has been mentioned. I trust it cannot possibly be true, and in the interest of our soldiers who have distinguished themselves in that country, who have brought Canada to the front, who have done themselves so much credit, and in fairness to the country and to the friends of those brave volunteers I think the government should inquire into this matter, and ascertain what truth there is in the report. It would only be just to the British officers who are concerned in the case. I hope there is no British officer who would do what has been represented in the papers of this country, and for the sake of the British officers themselves, our own officers and militia of this country, I think the government should inquire into it, and I am sure they will. Now, I am only going to detain the House for a minute or two. I find in the press the following :

The Queen's Message to Canadians.

The following was received by His Excellency the Governor General from Mr. Chamberlain this afternoon:

'Her Majesty the Queen desires you to express to people of Dominion her admiration of gallant conduct of her Canadian troops in late engagement and her sorrow at loss of so many brave men.

(Sgd.) CHAMBERLAIN.'

Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise cabled His Excellency as follows:

'Desire to express, in connection with Cronje's surrender, effected by gallant Canadian aid, my congratulations to the Canadians, and my sympathy for their losses. I am proud to have lived among them.

(Sgd.) LOUISE.'

There are many other congratulatory messages and complimentary cablegrams that I might read. Such a punishment should not be inflicted for such a frivolous offence. If we were to put ourselves in the same position as these soldiers who were tramping and marching in the boiling sun and sand of South Africa, probably without a bite to eat for days. I am doubtful if there are many in this House who would not do the same thing that that private soldier did in this case, and he ought not to receive such a punishment and torture. I know that there have been severe tortures in the old days. I have a book here setting forth the criminal law of Great Britain, where they punished people so severely and tortured them to such an extent that I refrain from reading it because it is so extreme and so unreasonable that I do not wish to apply it to this case. I would ask the government to kindly look into the matter in order to satisfy the people of this country. I am glad the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) are here, and I am sure they will look into the matter and satisfy the people that the reports that have come to this country are not true, and that the case is not as bad as it is reported to be.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). It is difficult for me to see exactly what good purpose my hon. friend (Mr. McLennan) expects to serve by bringing this matter up in this way.

Mr. McLENNAN. I have a petition from my constituents.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If he had notified me beforehand, I might have been able to give him some information, if there is any information in the department in reference to the matter. My hon. friend himself states that, from his knowledge of British officers, the thing to which he has referred as having appeared in the newspapers is an impossibility and that it could not have happened. If the hon. gentleman feels that way why should he have considered it necessary to give publicity to it by bringing it forward in the House of Commons, at least, until he had taken measures to ascertain whether there was any truth in the story or not. There is just one single sentence in the petition read by the hon. gentleman which I may refer to. That petition states that the volunteers who have gone out to South Africa volunteered as Canadians, and as members of the Canadian militia, and

that, as I understand the petition, they were handed over and it might be implied that they were handed over against their will to the Imperial authorities for service in South Africa.

No one knows better than my hon. friend (Mr. McLennan), that the General Orders published the exact terms of enlistment under which our volunteers are now serving in South Africa. Just one word more. This is a question of discipline in the Imperial army, and I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. McLennan) would not, unless there was a very serious reason, ask this government to interfere in the slightest respect in a question of discipline within the British army.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). Although the petition reads so, I did not say they were handed over to the British army. I have not the slightest interest in finding fault with the government. I believe the government is anxious to do what is right in the matter, and my object was only to make inquiry.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Before you dispose of this question, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make one or two observations.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order.

Mr. WALLACE. If it is necessary I shall move the adjournment of the House, but I am quite within my right in making a few remarks.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. WALLACE. I have told the Chair that if necessary I shall move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace), but I shall draw the attention of the House to the fact that we have been drifting away from the rules lately to some extent. Perhaps, I am to blame for allowing it to go on. There has been a tendency when a question is raised like the one now before the House, and when an answer is given across the floor, to prolong the discussion to an extent not consistent with the rules of the House. Of course we know that the adjournment of the House under such circumstances must be moved, but I would ask hon. members, unless there is some very strong reason, to confine themselves to the rules.

Mr. WALLACE. It is because there was no answer given to the question that I wish to refer to it still further. The Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), told us that he should have been given notice of this question, so that he might be prepared with an answer. Mr. Speaker, he has the report of Col. Otter on this very subject, and why has he not brought it before the House. I saw a portion of that report in the

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

public press, but I want to know what that whole report is, and the minister should be ready to lay it on the Table of the House in view of all the circumstances. To my mind, Col. Otter should have made a very full report on such a matter as this. It seems to me an extraordinary thing that for such an offence there was a punishment of fifty-six days meted out to this volunteer. It is stated in the correspondence of the *London Telegraph*, that the punishment was of the character described in the petition presented here by the hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan). If such be the case, it is the duty of the government to make full and proper inquiry into the matter. The government cannot say: Oh, these are officers of the British army now, and they are totally out of our jurisdiction and control. The British government has never taken that position in respect to them, but has always been willing to do everything—more than our own government has been willing to do—in regard to these matters. We are entitled to have from the Minister of Militia the fullest report on this subject and it is a matter which should have at once engaged his attention, but which apparently has not, as many other things have not that he should attend to. We should know in this House whether the facts as stated by the hon. member (Mr. McLennan) are true, and if they are not true—and I hope they are not—what portion of them is true. The idea of such a punishment and such indignity being inflicted on men who were placed on half rations or no rations at all for ten and twelve days and who were simply starving! There is no crime in men taking these articles for the preservation of their lives, and I have no doubt they were ready to pay for them, and pay for them at once if they got their pay from the Canadian government as they ought to have got it as they went along. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). I wish to say one word in reference to the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace). The punishment meted out to this man may be exaggerated or it may not. I do not express an opinion upon it—but it will be universally admitted that one of the greatest crimes known to military discipline is the crime of looting. If it is permitted to loot a chicken it will be next to impossible to prevent any other looting. I am not in a position to say that this punishment has been imposed, yet if it was imposed it was because of local conditions which required an example to be made, not so much to punish one individual as to have the discipline and the traditions of the British army respected by the whole corps. I do not see how any portion of the British army, whether they come from Canada or anywhere else, can be excluded from the law laid down in the Queen's regulation which universally applies to the whole army.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Notwithstanding what has been said by my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron), it was, I think, a most proper thing to bring this matter before parliament.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do not deny it.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not mean to put this adversely to what fell from the ex-Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Tisdale). But, Mr. Speaker, with the history of the British army and the history of the British navy before us, nothing could be more fit than that my hon. friend from Glengarry (Mr. McLennan) should do what he has done today. We know well that up to a recent period the punishments in the navy were so severe that nowadays it is a disgrace to humanity to look back upon them. Sir, the way these punishments were mitigated was by discussion in parliament. The consequence of the mitigation of these punishments was the humanizing of the discipline on board our battleships, and the result has been that efficient as our British navy has always been it has grown more and more in efficiency since humanity took her place side by side with discipline. So with the British army. In regard to our gallant Canadians who have gone to South Africa, and won for themselves undying renown by unparalleled valour, is it to be supposed for one minute that when such punishment is imposed upon one who is presumably a hero as well as any of the rest; is it to be supposed that it is not a fit thing to call attention to it in this parliament, and to inquire in its regard of the government? I must say here that the answer made by the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) was most unsatisfactory. It did not satisfy the natural anxiety of the signers of that petition brought before the House by my hon. and gallant friend from Glengarry. It did not satisfy the House, and it will not satisfy the country. If, as my hon. friend from West York says, there is a report in the department from Col. Otter bearing on this very case now before the House, how are we to characterize the evasive, if I may use that expression, the unsatisfactory reply which came from the Minister of Militia?

Mr. RICHARD TYRWHITT (South Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, while I quite agree with the hon. member for West York that this House is entitled to all the information from the hon. Minister of Militia, I am not one of those who feel that civilians, in dealing with military discipline, should always be listened to. There are a number of things to be considered. We all know that officers holding high positions in the British army are humane men, and this punishment would not have been inflicted were it not merited. I have had some experience in dealing with men, and we must not rush away with the idea that every man

in the Canadian contingents is a hero. There are, no doubt, among the men sent from Canada some who are troublesome and who have to be dealt with. In inflicting punishment, a man's previous character must be considered, and it may have been that the man in question was an incorrigible, who would not obey orders, and gave any amount of trouble. I have met with men in my experience who cared absolutely nothing for punishment, who would not obey the law, and who refused to be dealt with in any way. Had the law permitted me to flog them, I certainly would have done so. I think, perhaps, it is as well for us—for we are all humane, and all feel for this man's punishment—to hear the other side; and, for my part, I think that possibly the officers who have inflicted punishment have not erred on the side of mercy.

Motion (Mr. Wallace) to adjourn, negatived.

REPORTS.

Annual report of the Secretary of State.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

Annual report of the Board of Civil Service Examiners.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN WINNIPEG.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the government, and especially the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), whose department has charge of the quarantine, to an account in the *Winnipeg Free Press* of Saturday, April 28, of a very serious outbreak of small-pox in that city. I do not wish to be an alarmist, but as this matter has been very largely dealt with in the press, I think there is nothing that will allay the natural anxiety of the people of the country, caused by the reading of these reports, so much as a short statement from the minister as to the methods by which the department deals with such a case. I will, with the permission of the House, read what the *Winnipeg Free Press* says:

At a special meeting of the city council yesterday afternoon the question of small-pox quarantine was considered. At the quarantine hospital they had accommodation for only five to seven patients, while there are now fifteen cases in town.

Dr. Inglis told the story of the outbreak. On April 13, Mr. Hector Finlayson was brought to the city with what has now proved to have been a malignant type of small-pox. The physicians in attendance saw nothing to indicate the nature of the case. Some of the staff of the hospital thought the case answered to the description of a certain type of small-pox, but their ideas were laughed at. The man died on April 15, and was placed in the morgue. The small-pox incubation period is twelve to sixteen days. Twelve days afterwards, two of the nurses were

taken down with a rash, and on Thursday the advice of the health department was asked. They went up and took charge of the whole hospital at once. Coming from the west on the train, a number of people had been in conversation with Mr. Finlayson and exposed to the contagion; and many of them had also developed the disease. One of these was a train boy who was selling newspapers, &c. Another was a travelling piano dealer; and another rode from Portage la Prairie in the seat opposite the sick man. These cases of infection occurred in various parts of the city, and the exposure had been absolutely unlimited. Up to the present time he had taken charge of fifteen patients, six from the hospital and nine from outside. Regarding the steps taken to stamp out the disease, it was a little too soon yet to do very much. The first thing was to try to find out the people who had been most thoroughly exposed, vaccinate and disinfect premises. They had isolated all houses where cases had occurred, had removed the patients to the pest-house, and had given instructions to prepare accommodation for twenty more cases. It looked as if the city were in for a first-class epidemic. He was afraid the exposure had been so great that the disease had got absolutely beyond control, like the Hull fire. He could not impress it too definitely on the council that they were face to face with a very serious situation. He knew of no epidemic, except that of Montreal in 1885, which had presented so serious an aspect as this on account of the exposure, and the absolute liberty with which the persons exposed had mixed with the public. A wire was received by Mr. Wood from Secretary Fagan, of the British Columbia board, yesterday afternoon to the effect that Finlayson arrived on the 'Empress of Japan' on April 5. He came from New Zealand, via Hong Kong, and was going east to consult a specialist about a kidney complaint from which he was suffering. He was fourteen days on the 'Empress' on the passage across, and three days in Vancouver. The man showed no symptoms of small-pox at the time. Finlayson's case is said to be a remarkable one, as he had no exterior eruption, but was taken with a hemorrhage before his death.

From the length of time which the original case, that of Finlayson, was exposed, and the number of people who came in contact with him, both during the trip from the coast and his confinement, there are naturally a large number of suspects, and two new cases of well known gentlemen were reported.

The first is that of Mr. O. H. Hatcher, general agent of the Deering Harvesting Company, who Thursday was taken into quarantine. Mr. Hatcher boarded the Canadian Pacific Railway eastbound express at Regina on the 11th inst., and travelled in the same sleeper with Finlayson as far as Brandon. He remained off one day at that point and came into the city on the 12th and has since that time attended to the duties of his office and made several business trips to the country. The day before yesterday he felt ill, and Dr. Hutchinson was summoned Friday. That gentleman at once recognized the disease, and Mr. Hatcher was removed to the quarantine.

Mr. Chas. H. Forrester, of the Henderson Piano Company, met Finlayson on board the train under circumstances similar to those of Mr. Hatcher, and was taken to quarantine.

A man whose name cannot be ascertained was taken off car No. 60 of the street railway yesterday, and the company at once took that

car to the shops and are having it thoroughly disinfected.

Some ninety patients were discharged from the general hospital between the 12th and 26th of this month, and these have scattered to all parts of the province and the Territories, and some even into Ontario. Mr. E. M. Woods, of the provincial board of health, was busily engaged in wiring the local authorities at the different points at which the discharged patients are located that they—the patients—were exposed to infection by small-pox before being discharged from the hospital, and that they should be quarantined together with all persons in their present households.

The sleeping car on which the man Finlayson came through from the coast is the 'Tokio.' The provincial authorities have wired the British Columbia board of health informing them that the car is now at Vancouver, and asking them to detain it there until after it has been thoroughly cleansed and fumigated.

The Brandon case is now pronounced to be small-pox unmistakably, and quite secure at that. A telegram was received at the provincial office yesterday morning asking whether permission would be granted to send the patient there to the Winnipeg isolated hospital for treatment. Mr. Wood replied that this could not be done, and that Brandon would have to take care of its own cases.

The small-pox now prevalent is described by physicians as of a most infectious, malignant type of the Asiatic variety.

As I said before, I do not wish to be an alarmist, but, evidently, if this newspaper report can be relied on, there is serious danger, owing to the number of people who came in contact with this man, of the disease being distributed all over the country. Not being a medical man myself, I fail to understand how it was this man did not show the disease on arrival in British Columbia, after having been twelve or fourteen days on the steamer, and three days in Vancouver, as we are told the period of incubation is twelve or fifteen days. I am aware that we have a first-rate quarantine officer, as superintendent of quarantine, in this country, thoroughly qualified to look after such cases as we are now dealing with, and I do not rise for the purpose of making any reflections or casting any blame. But, I would ask the hon. minister to inform the House what he intends doing to ascertain exactly how the matter stands and to prevent our people being exposed to this fearful disease. I hear that in the mining camp of 'Republic,' just across the British Columbia boundary, there is a great deal of this disease, and that it has now also got into Rossland.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In reply to my hon. friend, I would beg to say that I am aware that there is a good deal of small-pox in the adjoining camp of the republic, south of British Columbia, and I have issued instructions to our physicians to examine people coming across the frontier at different points. This, I hope, will be effective in

preventing the spread of the disease. There is a good deal of the mild type of small-pox, known as ambulatory small-pox, in various parts of the United States, but the chief quarantine officer of the department, fully appreciating the nature of this disease, which is of a very mild type, hardly thought it necessary to take extreme precautions against it. To allay any public fear, however, that might prevail, the necessary precautions have been taken to watch persons coming across the border into British Columbia and Manitoba. As regards the particular case which was discovered in Winnipeg, the quarantine authorities cannot be held responsible in any way whatever. The case passed through quarantine in Victoria in the ordinary course, and the man appears to have remained in Vancouver for three days after he left the steamer, during which he showed no symptoms of the disease. He took the train eastward, and on arrival at Winnipeg was found so ill that he was taken to the hospital. The doctors there did not know that it was a case of small-pox. In fact, it was not, I think, until the man's death that they actually decided that it was a case of that disease. So little did they appreciate that the man was suffering from small-pox that they put him into the general hospital, and they allowed patients to be discharged who had been in contact with him, in the same ward, as is stated in the newspaper report which the hon. gentleman read. These patients were allowed to be scattered throughout Manitoba and into Ontario by the health officers of the city of Winnipeg. Under the circumstances, it would be entirely wrong to attribute any blame or responsibility to the quarantine officers at the port of Victoria. In the interior of this country, the provincial health boards, acting under provincial laws and appointed by the provincial authorities, have the entire control and management of the public health, and it is only in connection with the international boundary or the sea-coast that my department has any control. That control we try to exercise with the utmost vigilance, under the management of Dr. Montizambert, our chief quarantine officer, whom my hon. friend has rightly described as a most efficient officer. He has had now some thirty-five years' experience, and is one of the acknowledged authorities on quarantine laws and management on the continent of America. Under the circumstances, there is no blame to be attached to the department, and there is really nothing we can do in the matter.

As to the period of incubation of the disease, it is undoubtedly most extraordinary that a man should have been fourteen days on board the steamer and three days in Vancouver, and that some four or five days afterwards the doctors in Winnipeg, who examined him, could not tell that the dis-

ease from which he was suffering was small-pox. It seems one of those exceptions required to prove the rule that the period of incubation is sixteen days. There have been other cases in the experience of the medical fraternity in which all the rules with regard to the period of incubation were set at defiance and the disease appeared entirely out of the usual course. I cannot say anything further, except that my officer at Victoria has made me no report, because he did not find any disease at the time this man passed through his hands.

HULL AND OTTAWA FIRE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the following resolutions adopted yesterday in Committee of the Whole be read the second time, and concurred in :

1. Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$100,000 be granted to Her Majesty out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada to provide for a grant towards relief of distress caused by the recent fire in Hull and Ottawa.
2. Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$25,000 be granted to Her Majesty out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada towards the rebuilding of the post office at Hull.

Motion agreed to.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 147) to grant to Her Majesty certain sums of money required to defray certain expenses for the public service for the year ending 30th June, 1900.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first and second times, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I would like the time of the House for a moment in order that I may direct attention to a matter which came up in a conversation with a leading banker in the town, and there are, it seems to me, some excellent points about it which I desire to lay before the government as a suggestion upon which something may be based to bring about what we talked of yesterday, an amelioration in the condition of the district which has been burned over and which will be probably rebuilt. One thing we so much deplored yesterday was the character of the buildings which stood on this district, which were built entirely without regulation, which were not fire-proof, and indeed rather invited a conflagration. I think the whole House will agree that if in some way the buildings were brought somewhere near fireproof, such a conflagration in the future would be rendered less possible, and the object entertained by the large and generous donors of money which is being sent to this city for the re-

relief of the distress, would be in the best way gained. The suggestion was something like this. Suppose the large donors were to indicate a certain direction in which they would like their gifts to be expended. The large donors giving an intimation of that kind, would catch the attention of the authorities who have the disposition of the money. A large amount of money will come in, thanks to the generosity of the public all over the world, and probably a good deal more than is needed for permanent relief in respect to food and clothing, and a residue would have to be expended in some other way. The suggestion is that a trust be formed which should have placed at its disposal \$200,000 we will suppose which would provide interest on a loan, that trust to borrow a million dollars, which can be borrowed at 4 per cent easily under these conditions. The purpose of the trust will be to take persons who have been householders and who propose to remain here as householders, who have lost their property, who have had no insurance, who are reputable and of good character, and to such a person as that who will put a house worth at least a certain amount of money and under conditions which should be imposed, to loan to the extent of two-thirds of the cost. Suppose a house cost \$2,000, or nearly that, then you would make him a loan of two-thirds upon that. Allow that loan to go without interest for the first five years, let the trust take a mortgage upon the property, let it be a condition of that loan that the amount should be paid back in ten different instalments extending over ten years. After the first five years have passed without interest, then for the remaining five years let the person pay on the money loaned, or what remains of it, at the same rate as the trust borrowed, say at 4 per cent. These are the general outlines of the plan. If that could be done then with that million dollars you would secure without any cost outside the cost of administration, at least one thousand homes in the district which has been burned out, where the buildings would be put up according to regulations and under fireproof conditions. One thousand homes made certain in that way to deserving persons, and to those who are or who intend to be residents, would work a revolution in that district. One of the first results would be that the city would feel obliged by the very force of this arrangement to insist also that conditions approaching fireproof should hold over the district which is built up, at least over a certain prescribed area of that district. Now, so far as this government is concerned, I believe the government could not devote the amount of money it has donated to the fund in any better way, and considering that the seat of government is in this city where these insecure conditions have prevailed in the past, it is not an unreasonable thing for the government to insist upon its donation being applied in that

Mr. FOSTER.

way. Nothing could be better for the city of Ottawa than to divert its donation in the same way. It would be for the permanence of the city, and for the best service of those who have suffered. I am certain some of the large banks who have been donors would indicate that they would like their subscriptions to be applied in the same way. It would not be difficult to make a condition that the \$200,000 given by this government and the city should be used in the line that I have suggested. There may be points about this which could be criticised; still I think the suggestion might lay the foundation of a plan which would bring about a condition of permanence. People have given heartily at this time, but you may take it as certain that the fountains of generosity will not be aided if their generosity is distributed and the same old conditions are allowed to remain. You cannot repeat that unless you take care to guard against a like conflagration in the future. This suggestion is not original with me, it is the suggestion of a banker and business man residing in this city, and I lay it before the House for its consideration.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). One point occurs to me which I would like to draw to the attention of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) to that is a question as to how we could obviate a certain difficulty that would be found to confront those who attempted to put into operation the regulations that he proposes. I understand that the houses in the city of Hull, are built largely upon leased ground, and that this fact accounts for the flimsy and inflammable character of the buildings that were constructed and that fell a prey to the flames. I would ask the hon. gentleman how he would obviate that difficulty. In this case it strikes me that it would be rather impracticable to attempt to secure the erection, upon that territory, held under that tenure, fire-proof buildings of a costly character, such buildings would hardly be erected for the use of common labourers. Under the system of industry that prevails in Ottawa, with large industrial establishments, and with thousands of people employed in these establishments, who are receiving moderate wages and who must necessarily live in humble and cheap homes, it is a question as to whether the proposition put forth by the hon. gentleman, though so meritorious in itself and so desirable, is in any degree a practicable one. I would like his opinion as to the point I raised in regard to the difficulty that exists in the matter of the tenure by which the land is held in Hull. Parties cannot obtain the fee simple, and they would be little disposed to the erection of good buildings on land where the title is of the character that I have referred to.

Mr. FOSTER. I am not prepared to discuss the details at this moment. No plan

can be suggested at all which will not be surrounded by difficulties. But, is there not in that the basis of a plan which may be practically worked out where the land is not leased land. Maybe in placing the figure at \$2,000 I placed it at too large a sum for that class of house. But, the figure can be made a more reasonable one, which would take in that large class of people who are deserving and to whom this relief may very properly be directed. The object is to work out some system and to give a proportionate loan under it. It may be possible that the leased lands are in the hands of public-spirited citizens who are in accord with a plan like this instead of putting difficulties in its way, and, therefore, a good deal of trouble may be avoided.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that it would be utterly impracticable to work out any scheme under the authority of this House. The first need is food and clothing, which must be attended to at once, and those wants will be supplied out of the fund that comes from every portion of the country, as well as the fund supplied by this House. I do not think it would be in consonance with the wish and desire of the people in all parts of the country who have contributed that you should set apart any portion of the fund for any specific purpose beyond that of supplying food and raiment to the people. Then, it would be bringing the action of this House into conflict with the local authorities, because this is a matter of municipal authority under the control of the municipality. It is true that we might give this money under certain conditions, and say that if it is not applied in that way we will not give the money, but, it would be inhuman to do such a thing. I think that the suggestions which are thrown out by this parliament may be, and ought to be, taken up by the municipal governments of the municipalities of Ottawa and Hull. In that way I have no doubt the proposed principle would be carried out to a very large extent. But, I do not think it would be possible to surround the gift of this parliament with a condition that would be onerous to carry out. I do not think it would be satisfactory if the committee who are entrusted with the distribution of this fund were to say: We will arbitrarily set apart a portion of the fund for any other purpose than supplying food, raiment and shelter to those who want them so much at the present time.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). Mr. Speaker, I think the suggestion thrown out by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) is one that we should consider. It seems to me that this is the right time and place to throw out such suggestions. We cannot go into the details now, but, really, it seems that some means should be taken to get the concrete sanity of the

community at work in the rebuilding of this district. It is not only Hull and Ottawa that are concerned, because, after all, this is federal Ottawa, and Canada is concerned in this matter. If anything can be done, it seems to me that now is the right time to see whether we cannot have federal government around this city. The parliament buildings are a large stake; every citizen of Canada looks with great pride to Ottawa, we are building up a large country, and it seems to me that this is the right time to give attention to the building up of Ottawa. It strikes me as being extraordinary, that with all the wealth and prosperity displayed in the industries carried on around those falls, the workmen who are employed in them should live in little hutches on both the sides of the river. I think that something should be done to obviate this in future. As far as the suggestion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is concerned, that the government or a committee, or somebody shall raise a million dollars and let it out, and have no interest paid, is a feasible one, and it is one which could very well be adopted, not only in the case of fires and calamities, but at all times. I think the government should take some action to see that the people are properly housed.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). Mr. Speaker, the suggestion thrown out by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) contains many difficulties, but it is one well worthy of the attention of this House. If some such scheme is not adopted there is no doubt that the city of Hull will be rebuilt in exactly the same manner as it was before the fire, and another fire will be a mere matter of time. It is a difficult scheme, but it is one very well worth the attention of the government and of this House, and I believe that if the government would name a committee to inquire into it and to see if there are not some means of carrying out a plan something in the shape of a trust, good would be done. I think my hon. friend's figures as to the cost of a house, \$2,000, is far too high—for a house that should be taken hold of by such a trust as this. I think if a trust were created there would be no practical difficulty in carrying out the scheme if it were placed in the hands of men earnestly interested in carrying it out, and I think \$1,000,000 would be very well and very safely expended, and Hull would be made a city that would be worthy of being a suburb of Ottawa. If this is not done, and this money is expended by haphazard, Hull will simply be rebuilt, to a great extent, with wooden houses, and it will only be a matter of time before it will be burned down again. Fire-proof houses can be built for workmen for under \$1,000 now, and if they are properly directed, the workingmen of Hull can rebuild their houses, and Hull will be practically fire-proof.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). This is a subject in which I naturally take a very deep interest. The suggestion that has been made by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) has, no doubt, some very good elements in it. The difficulties, as pointed out by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), are not so serious as one would think at first sight. I am familiar with the land tenure in Hull, and I know that only a certain limited number of lands are held in the way which has been indicated by the hon. gentleman. The leases spoken of are for long terms. A great many of these leases are for ninety-nine years, and they are practically perpetual. Some are perpetual, and some are for ninety-nine years, so that the difficulty which has been pointed out by the hon. member for North Norfolk is not really a serious one. Again, I say that the suggestion made by the hon. ex-Minister of Finance is a very good one. But, I cannot agree with the limitation which my hon. friend wishes to add to the fund coming from the government. This parliament has contributed \$100,000, the city of Ottawa has contributed \$100,000, the Ontario government \$25,000, the Quebec government will probably contribute \$25,000, the city of Toronto has contributed \$25,000, and subscriptions are coming in from all over. I do not think we could very well impose a condition that other donors are not imposing. I think this parliament ought to be satisfied with the composition of the committee of citizens which has this matter in hand. I know from personal experience and knowledge that every man on that committee is very deeply impressed with the views of the hon. ex-Minister of Finance. I know they are very anxious that means should be devised to provide for the better safety of the city; for its reconstruction on a more permanent basis and with fire-proof buildings. I have every reason to believe that these matters will be very seriously considered by that committee, and the suggestions thrown out will no doubt receive their early and serious consideration. For my part, I think the matter might well be left in the hands of that committee, and if the committee deems it advisable it may constitute itself into a trust as suggested, and if necessary apply these funds, or a portion of these funds, in the building of homes for the people. It seems to me that it would be unwise for parliament to attach any limitation to the grant in question, but that they should leave it to the influential and respectable body of gentlemen who form that committee to deal entirely with the matter. This committee is composed not only of gentlemen from Ottawa, but of gentlemen from Hull as well. I repeat that the suggestion made by the hon. gentleman from York, N. B., (Mr. Foster) will no doubt receive from that committee the most earnest attention.

Mr. OSLER.

Mr. FOSTER. I would not like the idea to go out that I was interfering with the work of the committee, which, so far as I know, is a very excellent one. I would not like any impression to be created that I had any feeling that the committee were not quite able to do their work. My suggestion was on the idea of making this a permanent help. Suppose that scheme were adopted by the committee, then the committee would have to put itself into a permanent position to carry it out. I do not mean that parliament should take charge of that at all, but in order to carry out that trust extending over ten years or may be longer, the committee would have to form itself into a corporation for that purpose. My idea was not to take it out of the hands of the very excellent committee which has been appointed. With regard to the other objection, that this is all for food or clothing; why, it is absolutely impossible to use the money for these purposes. Unless you are going to store up food and clothes for years to come, thanks to the generosity of the public, there is plenty for immediate necessities, and a large residue will be left for permanent help in some form or other.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BELCOURT. The committee is well impressed with that idea. After proper food and shelter have been provided, they are impressed with the necessity of applying the balance in some permanent way.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I wish to make one observation, and I make it with very great diffidence, in regard to this matter. While all of us believe that a most admirable committee is in existence, and that they will do their duty thoroughly according to their lights in the matter, I do think—speaking with the greatest possible confidence and in the presence of lawyers—that this parliament is the custodian of the national welfare. I do think that this parliament is the custodian here of our national treasures, and this parliament has surely the right to see to the protection of these national treasures. It seems to me that this is not a local question but a question which affects the whole Dominion. The library here is a Dominion treasure under the guardianship of this parliament, and I think that we as a parliament have the right to bring some pressure to bear upon the authorities so as to ensure that these our national treasures are not in any way endangered.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am far from saying that there is not merit in the suggestion which has been made by my hon. friend from York, N.B., (Mr. Foster). On the contrary, there is a good deal to be said in favour of the view he has taken, but in so far as this parliament in concerned we discharge our full

duty when we place the bounty of the country in the hands of the committee appointed to look after the interests of the sufferers. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has placed before the House a very valuable suggestion, and I may say that I have received several other suggestions, some in this direction and some in other directions, all having merit in them. However, after considering the matter thoroughly, we thought, as far as the government was concerned, the best thing we could do would be simply to place the money in the hands of the committee to do what they think best with it. It may be that the committee will be influenced by the views of my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) as to how the money should be appropriated. My hon. friend is quite right that there is more money than is necessary to supply the immediate wants of the people. Whether the money should be given as a gift, or whether it should be loaned, is a matter upon which I have no opinion at this moment. In the city of Quebec there was a trust appointed after a similar disaster to this, but I do not know that the experience there was such as to commend it for repetition. I believe I voice the sentiment of hon. gentlemen in saying, that it is well that the matter should be discussed here and discussed in the press, so that no hasty judgment should be formed. The committee have ample time to consider the matter, and I have no doubt that they will arrive at the best conclusion that can be arrived at in the circumstances. If the committee find it in their way to provide for buildings of a permanent character it would be all the better, but I would point out that this question as regards Hull, or indeed, as regards Ottawa, is not free from difficulties. The city of Hull was built largely of wood, but we all know that houses built of stone are little less free from destruction. The stone in this vicinity is a limestone and is hardly more resisting to the action of heat than is wood. I know the house of a friend of mine in Hull, which was a stone building, and had all the appearance of being fire-proof—

Mr. BELCOURT. And the court-house.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, the court-house crumbled to dust.

Mr. FOSTER. Intense heat will do that.

The PRIME MINISTER. I merely point out that the matter is not free from difficulty, and at the present time all that we can do is to vote the money to be entrusted to the committee.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I understand this is a Supply Bill and that the money goes to the government to be used in part if necessary for the help of these sufferers by the fire. In common with all others I have every confidence in the committee, but I do see a great deal of force in the suggestion made by the

hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). It seems to me that there is ample money at present to provide for the urgent and immediate needs of the people; and that when that is done, for the present it is all the government is required to do. When some scheme is thought out in reference to the disposition of the larger part of this money it will be time enough for us to consider that question. If permanent good is to be accomplished, a corporation must be created to administer the trust and when that trust is appointed it will be quite time for the government to act in regard to the protection that is to be given to the public, and in regard to what class of buildings shall be erected. I assume that fire limits will be established in Hull, as has been done in Ottawa and that only the prescribed class of buildings shall be erected within these fire limits. All this is for the future, and while we are voting this money I think we all believe it would be wiser on the part of the government not to hand over the entire of the \$100,000 to the committee, until the suggestions which have been made are more fully considered as to the future application of this grant.

Bill reported.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). As I was in the Chair of the committee, I would like to make one observation. With regard to the expenditure of the relief fund, I think it would be wise for the gentlemen who have it in charge to apply it immediately as far as possible for the purpose for which it is intended. In the city of St. John, we have now a relief organization which has been in existence twenty-three years. I am a member of the organization, though I take no part in its administration. My judgment is—and I think it is the judgment of a large number of the citizens—that it would have been better to have disposed of the whole fund as at as early a day as possible—not in an absolute hurry, but not to continue the management and control of such a fund for a long period of time. In the first place, it excites jealousies and cupidity, and gives an opportunity for the exercise of some of the less noble qualities in the human mind. Then, the main object of the giver is at the earliest possible moment to replace what has been lost; and so long as that can be done in a reasonable and fair way, it is better than to have people depending for a great many years on the committee for sustenance and support. I am not speaking to the House so much as to the country, and especially to the gentlemen who have the management of this fund. Of course, we must all desire that better buildings shall take the place of those that have been destroyed. This is a matter for arrangement

between the committee and the municipalities. But, I do trust that those who have the funds in charge will not continue their organization for a long period.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). If the suggestions which have emanated from the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), could be crystallized into some definite form, I think they would accomplish what the hon. gentleman desires. There are valuable germs in those suggestions, and the presentation of them does not of necessity involve any lack of confidence in the philanthropy or the business ability of the committee appointed to take charge of this fund. It seems to me that the opportunity should be taken advantage of, as he has suggested, to distribute, either as a gift or at a low rate of interest for a number of years, a small percentage of the cost of reconstructing the buildings of the operatives who have been deprived of their homes. I think no better way could be found of applying the money. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat that this money should be distributed as expeditiously as it can be wisely distributed, and that the relief committee should not continue to exist for ten or twenty years; for no matter how carefully its business may be carried on, abuses are likely to creep in.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time and passed.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty, and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. A. C. BELL (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, I presume that it is not likely that anything very new can be said in reference to the budget, which has been discussed now at considerable length and from almost every conceivable standpoint. Even those who have had the pleasure and advantage of being present in parliament have perhaps failed to arrive at any very decided opinion as to the result of the debate, and I presume that even worse is the case of the citizens of Canada who are deriving such information as they can from the reports of the speeches of the several members who have addressed themselves to the consideration of the subject. I must confess that so far as I am myself concerned, I would feel somewhat at a loss to know exactly what conclusion to arrive at, if I had not made an independent study of the question, so contradictory and so opposite have been the statements made by members of the government and hon. gentlemen supporting them and members on this side of the House.

Mr. ELJIS.

One remark made about the budget speech of the Finance Minister, by the Minister of Customs, struck me as somewhat remarkable. I am, of course, well aware of the merits and ability of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), having known him in public life a long time, and I am naturally gratified, as a fellow-citizen of his in the province of Nova Scotia, to find that his abilities are appreciated. I, therefore, can relish the very high compliment paid to him by my hon. friend the Minister of Customs, when he said that the budget speech was the best he had ever heard in the course of his parliamentary experience of twenty-seven years; but when I heard that remark, I could not help recalling the circumstance that my hon. friend, the Minister of Customs, has had the opportunity of hearing in this House nearly all the great financiers who have presided over the Department of Finance of Canada, since confederation, and consequently must have heard the budget speeches which were delivered, during the administration of the late Mr. Mackenzie, by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who at one time was looked upon as the most likely candidate for the position of Finance Minister in this administration. And when my hon. friend, the Minister of Customs, in the plenitude of his parliamentary experience, assured this House that the budget speech delivered by our present Finance Minister was not only an able speech, but the best he had heard in twenty-seven years, I felt that this government had not made a mistake in passing over the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), in favour of the minister who now controls our finances. But, when I returned to the speech of the Finance Minister, and read it, as it appeared in cold print, with my appetite stimulated by that very strong expression of praise from the Minister of Customs, I was somewhat disappointed. It was, no doubt, an excellent delivery, but that it was a model budget speech, and still more, that it was the ablest statement ever made by any Canadian Finance Minister, on the financial position of Canada, and the course and development of our trade, I am not at all prepared to admit. Despite the very flattering eulogium of the Minister of Customs, I find some things lacking in that speech. I find that it is open to the criticism of being unfair, if not an absolutely dishonest exposure of the financial condition of Canada to-day, as compared with that condition during the period when the Liberal-Conservative administration was in power. In the portion of his speech in which the Minister of Finance contrasts the position of Canada to-day with its position in 1896, which was the last year of the late Liberal-Conservative administration, I think his conclusions were not at all warranted by the facts. Of course the figures he gave are very startling. There

can be no question whatever that there has been an enormous expansion in the trade of Canada. Undoubtedly the total trade of the country in 1899, and the trade predicted in 1900, as contrasted with our total trade in 1896, show an enormous increase, and in that increase and expansion we rejoice. On this side, we enjoy this great advantage that we do not at all feel under the obligation of decrying or endeavouring to belittle our country. There was a time when the opposition seemed to feel that it was their bounden duty to minimize, as much as they could, every statement made concerning the prosperity of the country from the government benches. Some of their ablest authorities, such as the Hon. Mr. Blake, and the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, wasted all their ability, eloquence and skill in endeavouring to minimize the statements made from the government side, and to show that these statements regarding the prosperity of our country were absolutely fallacious. That was the role which these gentlemen assumed, and that is a role which we, who have succeeded them in opposition, do not feel the slightest inclination to take up. We are to-day as highly pleased with the position in which Canada stands financially, as any member upon the government side can possibly be, but we contend that the credit is not due to the present administration, but to the fact that during that long period of constructive statesmanship, which extended from 1867 to 1896, with the sole exception of the years from 1873 to 1879, the destinies of Canada were in the hands of a party which gave to the administration of this country men who were capable of conducting its business in such a manner as to lay the foundation of permanent prosperity. They set the tide of prosperity flowing broad and deep, so that no temporary obstruction, caused by the change of office to another set of men, could possibly interfere with the flow of that current. We do not agree with the Minister of Finance and his supporters in attributing the great prosperity which prevails to-day, to the accession of these gentlemen to office. We attribute that prosperity to the fact that Canada has been on the whole well governed from the hour it took its place among the nations of the world as a new Dominion, down to the present. We attribute it to the fact that that policy, which was inaugurated in 1879, by the Liberal-Conservative party, was a policy calculated to set this country firmly upon its feet, and that that policy has been continued down to the present. To-day we are reaping the benefit of that policy. To-day we have arrived at that period of expansion, which, in the fullness of time, it was bound to produce, and which has realized that enormous increase in the business of the country which it is the good fortune of the present government to have occur during

their regime. I go further. I say that this prosperity is due, not to anything the present government has done, but to the things it has left undone. It is due to the fact that these hon. gentlemen have wisely made up their minds not to be bound by their utterances when in opposition, not to be bound by the platform which they made public in their convention at Ottawa, but on the contrary, to profit by the lessons taught them by the representatives of our industries who came before them when they held that commission of inquiry, after they came into power, and decided to let matters stand as they were. It is due to their decision, wisely taken, not to interfere with the protective policy inaugurated by their predecessors, but to go on administering our affairs after the example set for them by the various Conservative administrations which held office during the many years when these gentlemen were in opposition. Therefore to that extent, to the extent that they are not positively hurtful to the country, I think they are entitled to a certain amount of credit. They might have done a great deal of harm. All that was necessary that they should have done enormous harm was that they should have been consistent, that they should have honestly endeavoured to put in force when they had the opportunity, those things that they taught, those things that they professed as their belief. I say they deserve a great deal of credit for the fact that they preferred to assume the odium and to a certain extent to sink under the reputation of being men who are insincere, who were willing to make any kind of plea, who were willing to make any kind of pledge, to hold out any kind of promise to the discontented and the dissatisfied of the country. I say the fact that they are willing to rest under the onus, under the odium of being men who are prepared to swallow their statements, to falsify their statements—which is certainly better for the country—shows that they were prepared to assume that position rather than to make their words good, and in which case I think there can be no question they would have hurt Canada. The proof of that is evident.

There can be no doubt at all that to-day we are prosperous, that our country is enjoying extraordinary prosperity, which is the greatest in some respects that we have ever seen. Still, it is a prosperity that has come to us just in the regular course of affairs, without an interruption in the policy of the country. Following naturally upon a period of depression, we have this period of expansion; and as the government has done nothing at all to change or to interfere with the policy of the late administration, therefore, it seems to me perfectly plain that this state of affairs that has come about is the natural result of the fact that these gentlemen have not interfered,

have not changed anything. Now, can we believe for a moment that if the opposite were true, if these gentlemen had changed the policy of Canada, had adopted any one of the doctrines they promulgated when they were in opposition, we would not have had an entirely different condition of affairs from that in which we stand to-day? It is rational to suppose that if the country is moving along satisfactorily and securely under the same policy that has prevailed since 1879, and if the opposite were the case, and if that system were overthrown, we would not to-day be realizing to the same extent that great condition of prosperity in which it is my pleasure and my pride to know that Canada to-day is placed.

Now, there are a great many hazardous statements made in the course of speeches delivered by hon. gentlemen opposite. An enormous amount of time and labour has been expended by the various speakers in collecting figures, in calculating averages; but the result of the whole thing is to show that practically no change has been made in the fiscal system of Canada. That is the result of all the study that is bestowed upon that question. The average rate of duty collected, the average rate of taxation, the average rate of duty paid, whether it be upon the total imports of Canada to-day or upon the dutiable imports of Canada to-day, shows that practically no change has occurred. I do not think it is wise to deal too much with these complicated figures, because I believe that they are perplexing not only to the House but to the country; it is to place upon the pages of *Hansard* a great many things which will not be read. But take the fact that the percentage of duties on British goods collected to-day is 30 per cent inclusive of the preference—it is about that. I am not giving the exact percentage, but we will say it is 30 per cent inclusive of the preference—how much does that differ from the percentage that obtained when the Conservatives were in power? Scarcely any at all. Practically the tariff of to-day is the tariff of 1894. Some small changes have been made, on some items the rates have been raised and on some others the rates have been lowered, but leaving out of sight the preferential, or reciprocal tariff as it was called in the early days, I say that the tariff of to-day is the same as the tariff of 1894.

Now, perhaps some of those gentlemen opposite who try to a certain extent to maintain some kind of claim to sincerity in the utterances they gave vent to so freely when they were in opposition, will endeavour to say that this is not the case. I have been amused to hear in this House assertions made from time to time, and they are occasionally made in high quarters, that this government is to-day moving towards a revenue tariff. That assertion has been

made, I think, by no less a person than the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright). Now, what is there in all the course of the present government to justify the statement that this government is moving towards a revenue tariff? Nothing at all that I know of. When the question was explicitly asked across the House as to where any great change in the tariff had been made the answer given by the Minister of Finance, himself no mean authority on this matter, the highest authority in the House, was that it was found in the preferential tariff to England. That was the only point to which he could refer. He specified that, he laid stress upon that as a proof of the fact that they were travelling towards a revenue tariff.

Now, Sir, I hold, and I think I can maintain successfully, that the very existence of that preference clause is a proof that this country is not moving towards a revenue tariff. Just as I maintain that no country can satisfactorily make reciprocal arrangements with another country or have a reciprocity treaty with another country, unless it has a tariff which permits of some concession being made, unless it has to some extent a protective system, so I maintain that, far from this later concession by the preference being a proof that this country is moving towards a revenue tariff, or is departing from a policy of protection, I maintain that very circumstance, the fact that this government does extend to England a reduction of one-fourth or one-third of the duties, is a proof that they are maintaining a protective tariff. Otherwise what concession have they to make to England or to any other country? These tariffs when maintained, as Lord Salisbury said in the course of one of his speeches, are the basis upon which we can carry on negotiations with other countries, they furnish us with matters upon which we can make concessions when the time comes; we can concede a certain portion of those duties, and in return for them we can obtain concessions from the other party. But if we abandon these duties we have nothing to concede. Therefore, I maintain that the very fact that this government made such a concession, and laid stress upon it, and took great credit to itself for making this concession to the mother country, shows to my mind in the most conclusive manner that this government is not at all disposed to move towards a revenue tariff, and is entirely averse to any system of free trade. While the government would naturally, under these circumstances, endeavour to satisfy some of its supporters, still to make the assertion that they are a free trade party, that they are a revenue tariff party, that they are not a protectionist party, is something that passes my understanding. I maintain that so far as their acts are concerned, so far as

their legislation is concerned, so far as the whole tendency of their conduct is concerned, they are now a protectionist party.

Now, I do not think it is right for this government to make the concession that is made to-day to the people of England in the matter of increasing the preferential tariff. I think it is an objectionable thing in a great many ways. In the first place, I am not at all in favour of a preference being given to England, even to the extent of 12½ per cent. I do not think it is a proper course for the government to pursue. It would be entirely proper, I think, for this government, maintaining as it does a protective system, maintaining a fair tariff, calculated to protect the interests of Canada, to make such concessions to any country from which they could receive concessions in return. I think that it is their duty to use the position they hold in order to purchase concessions in return. To make concessions for which no concessions are received is, to my mind, on the part of the government that is protecting the interests of Canada as is has protected the interests of Canada for the most part, with certain exceptions, an unfair thing and one that will bring condemnation upon them. It strikes me that the lesson that the government learned through their tariff commission, appointed previous to the session of 1897, was that the great mass of the people were in favour of protection, and that no government could stand securely in Canada that is not in favour of protection, that is not prepared to carry out that policy of protection which was carried out by the Conservative party. By increasing the preference which has been extended to England without any return whatever the government is guilty of a breach of faith with the manufacturing interests of Canada that will bring condemnation upon them. There is, to my mind, a certain amount of unfairness in its course. It must be remembered, that not only has this government adopted a tariff which is practically a protectionist tariff, but assurances have been given to the people of Canada and the manufacturers of Canada that that system would be maintained. We can all remember the speech delivered by the hon. member for Centre Toronto (Mr. Bertram), whose death I regret very much, in which he declared, speaking apparently with considerable authority, that a tariff adopted by the government was adopted with the view not of injuring any Canadian interest, but of protecting it, and he gave the assurance from his place in the House to the members of the House and to the people of Canada that that system would not be interfered with. I think, if I am not mistaken, that he said that the tariff would stand practically unchanged as it was then for ten years. The session before last the hon. gentleman occupying the still higher position of Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

speaking, if I am not mistaken at the town of Perth, Ontario, made the statement explicitly that this issue was now a dead issue. He said that all parties were agreed that protection was no longer an issue between the parties, that the government and the opposition were agreed to look upon the system of protection as it had been established in Canada as one not to be disturbed. That being the case it seems to me that nothing could be plainer than the fact, that, in this extraordinary concession which the government has made to some interests, or some fancied sentiment by extending this preference from 25 per cent to 33½ per cent, they are guilty of a breach of faith, and they are guilty of an act of wrong doing. There is only one view in which, to my mind, that preference can be at all condoned. I will not say justified—but condoned, and it is in the view that up to this time it has been practically inoperative. It must be borne in mind that there are always a great many articles in regard to which the British producer would have an advantage in Canada. There has been great activity in the markets of the world, particularly during the last few years. There has been a great increase of business, and it is well known that the manufacturers are oppressed with orders. In probably every department of activity it is well known that there is a tremendous demand for the products of manufacturers, that manufacturers are oppressed with orders, and therefore, it may be well understood that any evil effects that this preference may have, so far as the Canadian manufacturer is concerned, will correspond with any good effects that the British manufacturer may derive from it, which will not be realized during such a period as I have described. But, we are coming to a time, and we are not far from it—the signs are in the air—in which we are going to have a period of depression. We are coming to a period when the purchasing power of the people will be reduced. This will reduce production, and the manufacturers, instead of being oppressed with orders, will be looking for orders and will not succeed in getting them. We are coming to a period of depression in the business world in which the Canadian manufacturer will require all the advantage which the protective system of Canada can give to him to enable him to compete against the enormous organized interests and the enormous money power of a country where interest is not more than half what it is in Canada. The time is coming when the Canadian manufacturer will really feel where the British preference is going to hurt him. I have no question in my mind that it is going to hurt him. I think it is an impossibility that a system that was established, not by haphazard, but which was carefully entered into in 1879, which was adjusted year after year, and always with the view of assisting the

consumer, because we never had a high protectionist tariff in Canada excepting in one or two items, can be disturbed without injury to our manufacturers. Throughout all the period of the national policy there was a strong sentiment in Canada, strongly voiced in the House of Commons by the opposition of that day, in favour of the consumer and the protection in Canada was pared down year after year and session after session to the quick, to the bare living point. We have never had an extreme protectionist system in Canada. We had a bare living system, and I maintain that the time is not far distant when we will have a period of depression. I am sorry to say it, but we must look at it as we look at the changes of the season. Just as sure as winter follows summer so sure will we have the period of depression which will change the conditions under which we are now living. That being the case what reason was there why the government should give this preference to Great Britain? I think, perhaps, if sentiment were to rule in these matters, we might all be more or less disposed to say: Let us show our good-will to the mother country. But, I think if we were all asked in what way we would show our good-will, I think that not one in a hundred, if left to himself, would have suggested the idea of showing our good-will by such an act as giving a preference under our tariff. It is not an act of kindness extended to the whole people of Great Britain. It is, on the other hand, an act of favour extended to one particular class of the British people which has not been favourable to us. It is a favour extended to the Little Englander, to the man who thinks that England is all and all and that the colonies are merely encumbrances on the empire. Why would it not have been just as easy, more kindly, more beneficial and more in consonance with the wishes of the people of Great Britain, instead of giving this concession away, to maintain our tariff for the protection of our own manufacturers, and to have given bounties on breadstuffs, animals and other agricultural products exported to England by the farmers of Canada, thereby helping our own farmers and bringing the effect of Canada's beneficence to the door of every man in the mother country? You can conceive the enormous advantage that would have resulted, and as my hon. friend from Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), says, it would have built up the North-west Territories. You can conceive of numerous ways in which this government might have shown its kindness, attachment and affection to the mother country much more deeply and in a much less objectionable manner than the one adopted by the government. I maintain that we may assume fairly in the future that of the different questions that are, to a certain extent at issue between the two parties, this is the particular issue upon

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

which the government has chosen to fight its battle at the next general election with the opposition. I think this is not an unfair assumption. The only way at all in which the tariff brought down by hon. gentlemen opposite in 1897 gave any pretense to have any features of originality differing from the tariff of their predecessors was in regard to this preferential clause.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There were two.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Yes, but the only Liberal ear-mark on the tariff of 1897 was this preference. It struck the House when the Finance Minister was dealing with the general tariff, that his tariff was practically the old Tory tariff, and that the few changes made, some in the direction of increasing, and some in the direction of lowering duties, were not in point of fact, changing the tariff at all. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), was speaking, the suggestion was made to us on this side of the House: Wait a moment; there is something coming that will change the appearance of this tariff, and eventually it came, and when it did come, we found it was this particular preference to Great Britain. At that stage, however, it was not a preference particular to Great Britain. I believe it was intended that it should be, because I remember that the Minister of Finance declared, with fine eloquence and uplifting of spirit, that in the morning, after he made his speech, every custom-house in Canada would be opened to the goods of Great Britain on more favourable terms than to the goods of any other country. However, in that, as in many other things, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding), was making a very great mistake. The result proved that, the mature wisdom which guides the gentleman who leads the opposition, pointed out the true state of the case. It was seen in the sober and statesmanlike view of the case taken by Sir Charles Tupper, that this was but a pretended preference to Great Britain, and he did not hesitate to point that out to the Minister of Finance. The mature wisdom of that statesman (Sir Charles Tupper) of whom Canada is so proud, recognized that this promise of the Finance Minister, was as illusory as it possibly could be. The respected leader of the opposition there and then predicted that it would fail to carry out the promise which the Finance Minister made for it, but would, on the other hand, involve this country into admitting free of duty the products of several other countries that were maintaining high protective tariffs against Canada. The result justified to the letter the assertion made from this side of the House, by the leader of the opposition, and in the end, the reciprocal tariff of 1897, became the preference tariff of 1898.

Mr. WALLACE. There was no preference tariff in 1898.

Mr. BELL (Pictou) My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), objects that there was no preference tariff in 1898. I am perfectly prepared to admit that the results show that this preference is to a certain extent as illusory as was the preference of 1897, because what had been expected to be realized from the operation of this tariff has not been realized. Our trade from Great Britain has increased, it is true, but not in proportion to that of other countries. Perhaps the best thing about the preference tariff is that it has not had the effect that was anticipated for it by the members of the government. For that we on this side of the House have reason to be thankful. If it had had all the effects promised for it by gentlemen opposite, then, I believe, we would be suffering to-day in Canada from the operation of that tariff. It is a fact that the trade of Belgium, the trade of France, the trade of Germany, and the trade of other countries at which this particular tariff was apparently aimed; it is a fact that our trade with these countries has increased much more largely than has the trade of Great Britain; the very country for whose benefit it was avowedly established and is now maintained. That, of course, is, I presume, a source of deep regret to the hon. gentlemen who originated this tariff, because, I think, we are fair in admitting that when they did introduce this departure in tariff-making—and it is a departure and a novel idea—they did expect it to have some effect. I have heard it said that the birth of this tariff scheme might be dated so far back as some time previous to the year 1873 or 1874. I have heard it said that it had its birth in the brain of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and that if he had not been disappointed in introducing to the House the protectionist tariff which he had ready at his desk, Canada might, so early as 1873 or 1874, have had that preference tariff. However, that is merely a matter of speculation. It is one of these interesting things that will come to light when the historian writes in full detail, and with the maturity of knowledge which is only acquired by the lapse of time, the history of our Canadian governments and of our great men during the latter part of the nineteenth century. We may assume that it must have been expected by the government that some result would flow from this preferential tariff. The fact remains that as the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), has said, that there is no sign of a preference to be found in our trade returns. Sir, this fact removes from the government, and takes out of the mouth of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), that answer which the other day he gave to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace), when he pointed to this preferential tariff as a step in the direction of revenue tariff and of free trade. That argument of the government being removed,

what is there left? The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing left, and to-day, we see that the government are obliged to fall back on the statement of policy announced by the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), when he said in Perth, that the tariff was not an issue, that both parties were agreed on it, and that the policy of the government of Canada was the policy of protection to native industries. Therefore, what this government should have done now—because their hour of grace is fast passing away—what the government should have done was to have remedied the mischief that is possible under that preference. They should have abolished it in the year 1900 instead of increasing it. That they have increased it shows apparently that they are going to the country on that issue. It is hard to conceive that so able and intelligent a gentleman as the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), should have been set up at an inopportune moment in the most extraordinary manner to raise this issue in the House, to provoke a vote upon it, to set the two parties in array on one side and the other, it is improbable that that should have taken place if it was not the deliberate design that the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), as spokesman for the government, was deliberately laying down the lines upon which the battle at the next general election should be fought, and that the government were staking their existence on this particular feature of the tariff, which, as I have said, is the only distinctive thing about it. Sir, I hope that we may have no better battle ground than that on which to go to the country at the next elections. The motto of the Conservative party is: Protection for our native industries; no sentiment in the matter; love to the mother country, sacrifice of every man and every dollar, if the time comes when the empire is in danger; but, that in the conduct of our affairs, we should follow the example of the mother country, and show that we regard the interests of Canada as paramount, and not to be safely interfered with. The motto of the Conservative party, Sir, is to put Canada first of all, in order that Canada may be a great, strong power, that can stand worthily beside the mother country in the next world-war, in which Great Britain may be engaged.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 54) respecting the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, and to change its name to 'The Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada.'—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 92) to incorporate the Royal Marine Insurance Company.—(Mr. Penny.)

Bill (No. 98) respecting the Yarmouth Steamship Company (Limited).—(Mr. Penny.)

Bill (No. 130) respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company.—(Mr. Edwards.)

Bill (No. 136) respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

Bill (No. 75) to incorporate the Quebec Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. Bernier.)

Bill (No. 71) respecting the Dominion Cotton Mills Company.—(Mr. Quinn.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 116) to incorporate the Acadia Mortgage Company.—(Mr. Russell.)

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

Mr. A. C. BELL (Pictou). At six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was referring to some features of the tariff as they are affected by the preferential clause. There are some things in the budget speech which require more particular attention. Perhaps the point on which the government seems to lay the most stress as establishing its claim to credit for bringing the affairs of Canada into a good condition, is based upon the trade returns.

Now, it seems to me the manner in which that has been presented to the House by the Minister of Finance is not altogether fair. It is not entirely satisfactory, to my mind, that he should take the years he has selected for comparison. He selects, in the first place, the period from 1869 to 1879, then from 1879 to 1896, and from 1896 to the present time. The result, as shown by him is that in the last period which falls altogether within the period of this government, there is an immense increase in the business of the country. That increase is calculated by the hon. gentleman and reduced to percentages. He shows how much the increase is in every year, and what the percentage of increase is. Then taking the long period that existed from 1879 to 1896, a period of some 18 years, he shows that the percentage of increase during that time was very much less. The hon. gentleman no doubt intended by this comparison to make the country believe there was something in his argument, that it was a fair presentation of the question. I think it will not be hard to show that it was an utterly unfair presentation of the question, one that, if it were done designedly for the purpose of producing a mistaken impression on the public mind, is unbecoming in a gentleman holding the position of Minister of Finance. Even if you look at the matter in its most favourable aspect, if you take the trade returns and give to the present government credit for the greatest possible advance, if you not only allow them for the great increase that has actually taken place in the commerce of the country in the last

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year, but also allow them to use their own calculation as to the total trade of 1900, allowing that the trade may be as much as they anticipate it will be, I say that even then a fair consideration of the trade returns of the country during the period the Liberal-Conservatives were in power, will show that, even selecting that period which seems most favourable to the hon. gentleman's administration; during the time the Liberal-Conservatives were in power, there were periods of equal prosperity for the country, as great or even greater than this amazing prosperity that we enjoy today. For instance, if we allow that 1900 will show a total trade of \$360,000,000, it will surpass 1895 by \$136,000,000. Now, 1895 is not the last year of the Conservative government, but it was the worst year. In 1896 there was recovery to a certain extent from the depression; but, even selecting 1895 as the worst year in the depression during which the Liberal-Conservatives were in power, then the trade of 1900 will surpass that of 1895 by \$136,000,000, or by 56 per cent. an immense increase, an increase for which the country ought to be thankful, and which is very gratifying to every one on this side of the House.

But I would like to call attention to the fact that in 1873, when the Conservatives were in power, the trade surpassed the trade of 1869, another year under the Liberal-Conservative regime, by \$87,000,000, or by 66 per cent. a larger percentage than that by which this chosen period, this growing period, surpassed the poorest year of the Liberal-Conservative administration. It is perfectly true that the increase is greater in the last period and why? Because the country is greater, its trade is greater, its resources are greater, the volume of its trade, both of exports and imports, is greater, because the country is greater, its business is wider, its population has increased. So I say, though the volume of increase is greater in the last period, the percentage of increase is not so great. The trade of 1900 will surpass that of 1895 by 56 per cent; but during the time the Conservatives were in power there was a period to which they could have pointed as showing greater prosperity than the present. In 1873 the trade surpassed that of 1869 by 66 per cent. Then again, coming further down, in 1883 we have another maximum year that surpassed the poor year of 1879 by \$77,000,000, or 50 per cent. In 1893 the trade of the country surpassed what it had been in 1889 by \$47,000,000, or 23 per cent.

Now we come to make a much more useful comparison by taking the periods of years before, during and after the country had touched the bottom point of the depression. If you take such years as they include the last year before the depression, the year of the deepest depression, and the year following the depression, you have a very fair

presentation of the trade. Take the period of depression and contrast that with the three following years, the three growing years, three such years as those during which this government have been in power—and it must always be remembered that they have seen no bad years as yet, and I believe they are not likely to see any bad years. I think they will be preserved by a kind Providence from any such affliction, for they will be removed to—should I say a higher sphere? Now, during the period of 1868, 1869, and 1870, when the trade of the country was at its lowest point, it was \$410,000,000, and at its highest point it was \$582,000,000. The three best years surpassed the three lean years by \$172,000,000, an average of \$57,500,000 per year. Coming on further to 1878, 1879 and 1880, those three years were low years, they had a trade of \$500,000,000. In the following good years, the fat years, namely, 1881, 1882 and 1883, there was a trade of \$656,000,000; during those three years the increase was \$156,000,000, an average of \$52,000,000 a year. Again, take the years 1885, 1886 and 1887, the total trade was \$590,000,000; in 1892, 1893 and 1894, three good years, the trade was \$730,000,000. There was an increase of \$140,000,000, or \$47,000,000 per year. In 1894, 1895, and 1896, the three last years of the Liberal-Conservative administration, which happened to be the years preceding the lowest point of depression and comprising the first year of recovery, the trade of the country was \$704,000,000. In 1897, 1898 and 1899, under the hon. gentlemen opposite, the trade was \$883,000,000. The recovery amounted to \$179,000,000, or \$60,000,000 per year, as against \$47,000,000 per year in the last period before that, \$52,000,000 in the year preceding that, and \$57,330,000 in the year preceding that. Now, these years, from 1868 to 1873, all fell within the term of the Conservative administration; so did all the rest, excepting a portion of the years of 1877, 1878 and 1879, during the Mackenzie administration. Now, how unfair and how deceiving would it be to the country if the Conservative government had taken these figures in those few years and had said to the country: See what an enormous increase has occurred. Still, they could show just as good results, indeed. I have proved they could show better results, if you consider the matter from the percentage point of view, than can the present government under the peculiarly favourable circumstances in which they stand. They came into power in the fat years of the increase, in the years of the expansion, and they deliberately contrast these years of expansion with the years of depression: with the last years of their predecessors, and they ask the country to look upon that as an example of the great, the good, the powerful and the successful government, because they say: Look at the increase of

trade. To make the matter worse, the hon. Minister of Finance figures out the percentage of trade increase during these good years after three bad years, and asks the people to believe, because that is the result of what he asks them to believe, that this is a normal state of affairs under Liberal administration, that this large percentage, some 35 per cent, is to continue. I think he must know, because every one knows, that just as surely as the bad year 1895 was succeeded by the good years 1897, 1898 and 1899, will these fat years, these years of expansion, be succeeded by a period of depression. There can be no question about it. As I have already said, it is as sure as that one season follows another. Therefore, I maintain, whether it was done intentionally or not, that when the hon. Minister of Finance undertook to present to the country the argument that he based on these trade returns showing that during his occupancy of the office of Minister of Finance there was a large increase of trade as against the last years of the government that preceded him, if he did it knowingly, there was an attempt to deceive the people, and to put forward arguments which were perfectly misleading, perfectly deceitful and unworthy of the administration that pursued such tactics. There are some things in the hon. gentleman's speech that are useful, and there are things that are not in his speech. I will refer to some things that I think are of value to us as being in that speech. I suppose that, if there is one thing more than another upon which the members of the present government based their appeal to the people and which was the subject of constant attack upon the Conservative administration under its various leaders, it was the rate at which it maintained the expenditure of the country. That was a constant, unflinching source of attack upon the former government. In 1893 the expenditure was attacked more explicitly throughout the country than at any other time as being not only too high, but the present members of the government, then composing the opposition, undertook to tell us how much it was too high. There was a great deal of variety in their figures. Some of them said that the expenditure could be reduced by \$2,000,000, some said that it could be reduced by \$3,000,000, some by \$4,000,000, and some by \$5,000,000. I think they were not at all particular as to the number of millions of dollars they mentioned. It is perfectly evident from what has followed since that they never intended to attempt to materialize any one of the promises that they made. Therefore, I presume that the gentleman was most successful in the country who threw his millions about most lavishly or took his millions off the expenditure most liberally. We may take the average. Suppose we take the statement made by

the right hon. gentleman who now leads the government. He estimated that the government of the country could be carried on for \$3,000,000 less than what it was being carried on for. Now, in 1893, the expenditure on consolidated revenue account amounted to \$36,814,000, and if the government could be carried on for \$3,000,000 less, it follows that the expenditure in that year should have been, under an economical and honest administration, \$33,814,052.90, because, I presume, that they would require the odd dollars and cents if they were compelled to take off \$3,000,000. In 1900, the expenditure, as we have it, upon the authority of the hon. Minister of Finance, and this is one of the valuable things in the hon. Finance Minister's speech—it furnished us with figures that I think will scarcely be gainsaid on the opposite side of the House—is going to be \$43,175,000. If the expenditure that was suggested by these hon. gentlemen, when they were in opposition to the late administration, was a proper one, if the administration had taken them seriously to heart, or had found it possible, in the honest discharge of their duty, to meet their views, they would have reduced the expenditure to \$33,814,000. The population at that date was estimated at 4,215,000, and the expenditure would have been \$6.74 per head of the population, instead of being \$7.45 per head, as it was, if I am not mistaken. If you are going to take these hon. gentlemen at their own statements, if you are going to make them apply what they said would be a proper amount under which the government of Canada could be carried on, if you are going to restrict these gentlemen to the \$6.74 per head, the amount which they said was a proper amount, the sum to which they pledged their standing as a party, their character as public men, their judgment, their intelligence, what position are they in to-day? These hon. gentlemen pledged themselves, in the face of the people of Canada, to the statement that Canada could be governed for \$6.74 per head. If these gentlemen were honest then, and if they are prepared to stand up manfully now and admit that they knew nothing about what the governing of a country should cost, they might, perhaps, be forgiven for the manner in which they have lapsed, and for their departure from the rule they laid down. But, if they are to be held to this expenditure of \$6.74, their expenditure should be \$36,169,000, giving them exactly what they said was enough, no more, no less. They should govern Canada for \$36,000,000, and what are they governing Canada for? These hon. gentlemen, who have said so often and so loudly that Canada could be, should be and would be governed for that sum if they were returned to power, and have often said, let us be banished from power if we fail to keep the expenditure within this sum, and

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taking them at their word, they deserve to be condemned and turned out of power, because, not only have they not governed Canada for \$36,000,000, but they have required \$43,000,000, or \$7,000,000 more in this year. We had the assurance from the hon. Minister of Finance that they are going to tax the people, and that they are going to expend in Canada \$7,000,000 more than they protested everywhere and at all times was a proper amount to be expended.

Mr. CLANCY. Is that all on consolidated fund account?

Mr. BELL (Pictou). All on consolidated fund account, and not including capital expenditure. Instead of having the expenditure reduced to \$6.74 a head, as these hon. gentlemen said they would reduce it, it will be \$8.05 per head next year, an increase of \$1.31 per head of the people of the country, and serves them right for believing the men who went before them and based their whole scheme for being returned to power on a system of reasonless, unreasoning, unjust fault-finding with the party in power, and who promulgated no reasonable policy. However, I may exonerate the people of the country; they did not return them to power because of any faith they had that they would carry out their promises. Their coming into power was due to a painful and unfortunate circumstance in the country in which we live. Now, there are some things in the budget speech that are useful to us, this notice for one thing. We have the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance, which is beyond doubt or dispute, as to the expenditure which is to be made in Canada this year, showing that hon. gentlemen have wantonly departed from the expenditure set up by them for their opponents in office. There are some other things in the budget speech that should not be there. Although my hon. friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) has told us that it is the greatest budget speech that was ever delivered in his experience of twenty-seven years; although we are led to believe that in his opinion it was the greatest budget speech that was ever delivered since Joseph was Prime Minister of Egypt, still there are some things in that speech which should not be there, and these are one or two things which were calculated to gain a little passing credit of a very evanescent character for the administration. One of these was the manner in which the government claimed credit for having succeeded in placing the funds of Canada upon the list of trust funds in England. We have discovered since the delivery of the budget speech that that statement was not warranted, the fact being that while it may become true it has not yet been accomplished.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Will the hon. gentleman quote the words of my speech on that subject before he criticises them?

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I simply refer to the statement of the Minister of Finance who congratulated the country upon the fact. I have not the budget speech at hand, and I did not suppose that this would be disputed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am disputing my hon. friend's interpretation of my remarks.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). In what respect?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) says that I made some statement which is not correct. I now ask him what was that statement.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I did not look at the exact words, because I did not think this would be questioned, but the object of the speech was to proclaim that the government should be congratulated upon the fact that Canadian securities were placed upon the trust funds list in England.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That statement was not made in the budget speech. The statement that was made in the budget speech was correct.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Well, I shall be glad to be corrected if I am wrong.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Then I trust the hon. gentleman will pardon me for interrupting him. He said I made the statement that Canadian securities were now on the trust funds list. I did not make such a statement. I stated there were negotiations with the Imperial government which had agreed to introduce legislation for that purpose, and that when such legislation was carried in the British parliament and corresponding legislation was passed in this parliament, the matter would be completed. That is the statement in the budget speech, and the hon. gentleman has only to turn to *Hansard* to see it.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The amount of trouble required from the hon. gentleman to explain that he did not say it, shows that the impression in this House and in the country as well was that he claimed the government were entitled to credit for that.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I still say that the government are entitled to credit for having made the arrangement. I did not say then nor do I say now that it had been consummated, nor can it be consummated until legislation is carried through both parliaments.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Having so largely discounted the matter, I presume the Finance Minister will be satisfied to leave it at that point. He says he did not state the arrangement had been consummated, but that the government deserves credit for having initiated the proceedings.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I did not say that either. I said the government deserved credit for having made the arrangement with the Imperial government.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Then I understand that the Finance Minister has proved to his own satisfaction as well as to mine that the government does not deserve any credit in the matter.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The Minister of Finance also spoke of the treaty with Trinidad in the budget speech, and I do not know how far he took credit for that treaty.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman had better find out before he criticises it.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). He gave the idea that an arrangement had been concluded with Trinidad.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is no such statement in the budget speech. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) is setting up a man of straw for the privilege of knocking it down.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I believe the Finance Minister is perfectly right in calling it a man of straw.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Let my hon. friend (Mr. Bell) quote what I said, and I shall not dispute it.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). The Minister of Finance should at least have been as careful as he requires me to be before he mentioned the treaty with Trinidad in the budget speech, because I find there was very little warrant for his speaking of a treaty with Trinidad at all.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Let my hon. friend point out what was wrong in my statement.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I find that on the 29th January the delegates from Trinidad were here, and they had an informal or perhaps a formal discussion with the government, and they gave the government to understand that no matter how willing the government of Canada might be to make any arrangements with Trinidad, they did not think it likely that any satisfactory arrangements could be made, giving as their reason the fact that while Canada consumes 130,000 tons of sugar per year, the West Indies produced 230,000 tons a year, and therefore they did not think it likely that Canada would conclude a treaty with one of the islands, leaving the others out, as the supply of sugar in the British West Indies was very much larger than that required to meet the consumption in Canada. Furthermore, they referred to the fact that

the United States were offering them particularly good terms ; not only a low rate of duty upon their sugar, but as the Minister of Finance said in his budget speech the other day, they were placing upon bounty-fed sugar, countervailing duties which were much to the advantage of the products of the West Indies. Then I find that on the 27th February the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) made an offer to the government of Trinidad, and on March 24, a month later, he consented to have that offer which was made in confidence (and had been made known to the home authorities) communicated to some members of the Board of Trade in Trinidad. A little later in the correspondence on the subject comes the message from this government indicted by the Minister of Finance himself, acknowledging the receipt of a communication from the Governor of Trinidad, in which he informs him that the whole arrangement was entirely off, and that an arrangement had been concluded with the United States on the 13th February—a fortnight before he made this communication to the government of Trinidad, and six weeks before he gave authority to treat it as anything but a confidential communication. Therefore, practically the Minister of Finance may be accused of having introduced this matter into the budget speech, knowing that there was no possibility of a treaty with Trinidad, and knowing that a treaty with the United States had been arrived at by the government of Trinidad. But, Sir, the coincidence of these dates is rather remarkable, because on the 23rd of March, the day after Sir Richard Cartwright gave his consent to communicate the contents of his message to the board of trade of that island, the Minister of Finance made his budget speech in this House. Now, I leave to the House and to the country how much warrant there was for the Minister of Finance making any mention of a treaty with Trinidad. It strikes me that it was almost an unwarranted introduction of such a subject, and I shall not characterize it further. Here is what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) said in his budget speech :

Up to the present the Trinidad authorities have made no final statement, but they have declared themselves anxious to develop trade with Canada, and there is every likelihood of a satisfactory arrangement being concluded.

That was the language used by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) six weeks after the reciprocity treaty with the United States had been concluded, and which in the opinion of the Governor of Trinidad made it impossible to conclude an arrangement with Canada.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell) must be aware that when he is speaking of a reciprocity treaty being concluded, that what took place at

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

Washington was a confidential matter, and that we could know nothing about it. It was not until that arrangement was concluded by the legislature of Trinidad that there was any indication that they were not free to deal with us. Up to that moment there was no intimation that they were not free to deal with Canada.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). I am sorry to say the hon. gentleman has been unfortunate in being rather ill-informed as to the progress of these negotiations.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, I had all the information that anybody else had.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). On March 23, six weeks after the government of Trinidad had signed the bond with the government of the United States, he still informs the people of Canada that there is every likelihood of a satisfactory arrangement being made. If in nothing else, I think the hon. gentleman will permit me to say that in matters of trade and commerce, and the negotiation of treaties, the House ought to receive his assurance of the great probabilities of satisfactory arrangements being made, with a good deal of reservation.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We had not information of the confidential communications between the government of Trinidad and the government of the United States, and, therefore, I could not make any comment upon them. We could not know of them ; we had no right to know of them.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Here is what the hon. gentleman says as to the position of our funds :

The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), when he filled the important position of High Commissioner, gave a great deal of attention to the subject, and I know from my inquiry at the time, and from information I have since obtained, that my hon. friend laboured hard to accomplish that great boon for Canada, the admission of our securities to the trustee list. But my hon. friend failed, as all others had. Many things, however, which were impossible for Canada a few years ago, have become possible under the better conditions that have arisen.

The change of government, I presume.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Largely.

Mr. BELL (Pictou)—(reading) :

A year ago, realizing as fully as my hon. friend did the desirability of obtaining admission to the trustee list, I went into the subject very carefully, and prepared a full report upon it, urging, as no doubt my hon. friend did in his day, that Canada ought to have her securities recognized as among the best on the English market. Negotiations were carried on for some time through the intervention of our present High Commissioner, who has laboured hard, and has done great service to Canada in that, as in every other respect, and I have now the satisfaction of announcing that the difficulties

have been overcome, and that by arrangement between Her Majesty's government and the Canadian government, legislation will be introduced in the Imperial parliament this session, when I shall have the honour of submitting a Bill to this House also, dealing with the subject, and when these two Bills, purely formal in their character, are adopted, the securities of Canada will be admitted to the trustee list from which they have hitherto been excluded. My hon. friends, the leader of the opposition and the ex-Minister of Finance, both of whom are thoroughly familiar with this question, will realize, I am sure, the great importance of this concession which we have obtained from Great Britain.

While possibly my hon. friend was right technically in correcting my statement, I think he will admit that that was a somewhat explicit assurance of a state of affairs that had not yet come to pass.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It was a statement correct in letter and in spirit.

Mr. FOSTER. Better say spirits.

Mr. BELL (Pictou). Nearly the whole interest of this debate has hinged, first of all, on the point with which I have dealt, the increase of the total trade in the years during which hon. gentlemen opposite have been in power; and, secondly, upon a presumed reduction in the customs duties which we have been led to believe, has been of great advantage to the consumers of Canada. On that matter, there is a wide discrepancy of opinion between hon. gentlemen opposite and hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. My hon. friend, the Finance Minister, declares that the present tariff—taking the duties actually collected on the dutiable imports—is 2·2 per cent lower than the tariff of the late administration. My hon. friend, the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), by a process of reasoning, which, to my mind, seems very fair, reduces that to ·92 per cent; and the hon. ex-Controller of Customs (Mr. Wallace), reduces it still further to ·27 per cent, or a little over one-fourth of 1 per cent. One thing tends very strongly to confirm the view taken by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, that the reduction has not been very material; that is, that in 1899, the average rate of duty on British goods, giving them all the advantage of the preference, was 29·62 per cent, while in 1896, the average rate of duty was 30·20 per cent, or a difference of only ·58 per cent. These figures taken from the blue-books, show that the actual reduction made in the duties upon British goods, based upon the trade of the country, is something like one-half of 1 per cent. That may be very material, amounting to a considerable sum of money; but in another sense it is very immaterial. It does not go to show that this government have made a substantial reduction in the tariff, whereas, there can be no question of that fact that a government, which was avowedly and continuously protectionist did in 1894, make large reduc-

tions in duties upon goods, very much larger than the reductions that have been made by this so-called free trade government. Just as they have failed in keeping the debt within the old limits and in reducing the expenditure, so they have absolutely failed in reducing the tariff so as to be of any benefit to the consumers of this country.

Now, there are some things which I think the hon. Finance Minister might very well have discussed in his budget speech, which have not been mentioned. At a time like this, when the annual stock-taking of the country is being made, the government and its officials, who have access to all the necessary documents, should give the country some idea of the direction in which its trade is tending, and give us some reason why certain fluctuations in our trade have taken place. One of the reasons for the great expansion in trade at the present moment is to be found in a rather abnormal state of affairs which has existed in Canada during the last four years; that is, that whereas during the whole history of Canada our exports have been largely exceeded by our imports—our exports having exceeded our imports in only one year previous, and that by the sum of \$1,500,000—during the last four years the opposite has been the case. The great prosperity of the country at the present time may be attributed, not only to the fact that it has been well-governed, that its industries have been well established, and that it has an enormous area of productive land to which its surplus population can flow, but to the fact that there has been an enormous increase of production, coincident with an increase in prices. Whereas during the whole period in which we have been a country, with the exception of one year, we have had a state of trade showing a large excess of imports, amounting to nearly \$15,000,000 a year, in the years 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1898, we have seen exactly the opposite condition, although, I believe, it is now rapidly passing away. In 1895 our exports exceeded our imports by over \$3,000,000, in 1896 by \$3,000,000, in 1897 by \$19,000,000, and in 1898, under the influence of good crops and good prices, by \$24,000,000. That is a state of affairs which is altogether abnormal. It shows that we are sending out of the country large values, and it tends to account for the enormous increase of imports into Canada at a time when, if you look into the towns, if you look into the homes of the people, you will fail to see that prosperity which you would expect from the state of trade, because in many localities you will find that the people do not recognize any improvement in their condition. Previous to the accession of this government to office, there was only one year in which our exports exceeded our imports, but we have now that abnormal state of affairs that in these last four years there has been an excess of exports

over imports of \$49,000,000. That, coupled with the fact that between 1896 and 1898, there has been an increase of 5 per cent in values accounts very largely for the extraordinary volume of trade we are now enjoying.

I am perfectly willing to admit almost anything for the sake of argument, but to be called upon to conclude, in the face of this abnormal condition of affairs—a condition in which we see our exports soaring up to these enormous figures, which can only be counter-balanced by an enormous increase in imports—that this condition is due to a change of administration is one of the most absurd contentions we can possibly conceive.

The only matter in respect of which the government deserves any credit is that it has not carried out any of its free ante-election promises and has not interfered with the protection of Canadian manufactures except in so far as the preferential clause of the tariff is concerned. But with that feature I have dealt so fully before, that I do not think it necessary to refer to it again.

In my opinion a government cannot safely ride two horses any more than can an individual; and if the government has such pressure brought upon it by its friends and supporters as to induce it to protect certain interests, then, I say, it is unquestionably committed to the policy of protecting home industries, and that being the case, it seems to me to be an unsound course for any government to pursue, to interfere with the true and natural course of action which it is necessary to take in order to give effect to that policy of protecting our home industries. That policy they unquestionably have adopted. There are certain manufacturing interests that have been and are and will be protected by the present administration. Of that there can be no question. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), for instance, has had no interference with his particular industry, although his products are the very things that are the food of the people; and if this were a free trade administration, holding the views of free trade administrations elsewhere, it would be in favour of reducing the duties on these very articles. But, instead we see this government maintaining these articles at the point of protection at which they stood before, so that it is perfectly obvious that this government is in favour of protecting such industries. If that be the case, why should it not make its course consistent? Why should it imperil certain interests by an attempt to set up a bastard free trade or a revenue tariff system that is not honest or genuine, or the real thing at all, but entirely deceptive.

Hon. gentlemen on this side see no reason, either in the history of the past, or the conditions of the present or the prospects of the future, to conclude that the late government did not act wisely in the course

they followed, and we are pledged to continue that course in the future.

There are some other things referred to in the budget speech that are not of so much importance. One or two of them were put in apparently for the sake of creating a little political capital and exciting some little effect, for example, the reference to the Trinidad Treaty and the trust funds. These hon. gentlemen opposite have again trotted out the exodus question. We are told that the exodus has ceased, that under the policy of this wonderful administration the tide of population is now flowing into Canada instead of out of it. Well, it is scarcely worth while for these hon. gentlemen to do what my hon. friend just now accused me of doing—set up a man of straw for the sake of knocking it down, or worse still, setting up a dead man for the sake of knocking him over. They told us last year that they killed the exodus. One of their great boasts, in the budget speech of last year, was that the exodus had been done away with. Is it possible that it has come to life again during the recess and has to be killed over again? Or is it a hydra-headed monster which is no sooner killed than it springs into renewed life? If these hon. gentlemen require to kill it every year, the condition of affairs cannot be much improved. In my opinion there never was much in that story of the exodus during all the years we were in power, except in the opinion of a few men who thought to make political capital out of it against the Conservative administration. In fact, the movement of population to-day is pretty much what it has always been. You will find, Mr. Speaker, that as many people are going to the United States from eastern Canada to-day as formerly but on the other hand, there is a larger number of people coming into our western country.

There are a good many things in the speech and a good many not in it to which I would like to refer, but there is one point, and one more only, which I will mention, and that is the omission in the budget speech of any intention to reduce the burdens on the working people. There is no mention anywhere in that speech of any intention to reduce the burden of taxation. These hon. gentlemen boast of a surplus last year of \$4,500,000, and this year \$7,500,000. But what use are they making of these surpluses? Are they using them to reduce taxation, as did the preceding administration? No, they want surpluses, and, if possible, will heap them up higher than ever. But by what means? By maintaining their taxation which is excessive. It is recognized everywhere that good financing means carrying on business on a sound basis and avoiding deficits as much as possible. But to carry on the administration in such a manner as to extract the largest amount of taxation from the

people and heap up surpluses, which are to be vaunted in the press of the country as an evidence of good administration, is perfectly unjustifiable. It is worse than a crime, it is a blunder. Our Finance Minister estimates that he will have a surplus next year of \$7,500,000, and yet does not propose a single reduction in the taxation of the people. He does not propose to return to the people one cent of the enormous surplus he anticipates. Such administration cannot be looked upon as that of a good financier. Good management means close and careful management and the carrying on of the government of the country with as little expense to the people as possible. But to take from the people money by millions in excess of what is required cannot be called scientific or masterly management or financing. There are some matters in respect of which the people has a right to expect reduction. When there is a deficit, taxation has to be increased, because we must take from the pockets of the people sufficient money to carry on the affairs of the country. If trade is bad, if the revenue diminishes, if the country cannot pay its way and a deficit is facing it, the people recognize the fact and consent to the Minister of Finance increasing the taxes, and they will by this increase of taxation lift the administration out of a hole. On the other hand, they have the absolute right to require of the administration, when its revenue is overflowing, that these excessive burdens that have been laid upon them temporarily should be removed.

It is unfair to the working people of Canada to maintain upon them the excessive burdens that are involved in the duties upon sugar, coal oil, and particularly upon tobacco. That is one point upon which I feel that a great wrong is being done. Possibly some Reformers may maintain that tobacco should not be used at all, and that therefore every imposition of taxation upon tobacco is an effort towards restraining an evil, of preventing what they maintain to be a bad habit. But that is not the view the people of Canada take of the subject. Tobacco is in almost every part of Canada a necessary of life, at any rate it is a luxury which has become to many men almost a necessity; it is perhaps the only luxury they enjoy. Now, under this administration the tobacco user is compelled, either to pay an exorbitant price for the tobacco he uses, or to use an inferior article that he does not like. The increase of the burden placed upon tobacco consumers in Canada is utterly out of proportion to their numbers. It amounts to 87 cents per head of the population; or if you take an average family of $5\frac{1}{2}$ persons, then the head of that family, if he is a tobacco user, pays into the revenue of the country \$4.78 per year of taxation. It is an unfair thing. This government could have easily thrown off that taxa-

tion of nearly \$1,100,000 which they imposed upon tobacco in 1897, but one result would have been that they would have diminished their anticipated surplus this year by that sum of money, and instead of having \$7,500,000 they would have had \$6,400,000. It would be better, fairer and more satisfactory to the sailors, the farmers, the fishermen, the miners, to whom their chew of tobacco or their smoke is a daily luxury and solace to their toil—I say it would certainly be much more satisfactory to them to have in power a government that would recognize their feelings and was willing to administer the country in such a manner as to increase their enjoyments.

Now, the same is true of a great many other articles. This government, in introducing its tariff in 1897, increased the duty on cottons. Now, cotton is not a luxury, it is one of the articles used by every workman, and by every workman's wife and daughter. Upon that this government increased the duty, and now instead of reducing it they are maintaining it at the point to which they raised it, and they are keeping a burden upon the shoulders of the people that is not warranted from any point of view whatever.

Therefore, it seems clear that whereas this administration does not deserve credit for the surpluses, does not deserve credit for the increase of trade—because that would have come just as surely whether they had been in power or not, does not deserve credit for tinkering with the tariff in the direction of a preference, a false preference extended to Great Britain, does not deserve credit for anything like an attempt to distribute more fairly the burden of taxation, does not deserve credit for any attempt to remit taxes so as to lighten the burden on the workmen of Canada. I think this vaunted budget speech, which we are told is the best delivered in this House during the last twenty-seven years, is very much lacking in some essential particulars, and contains some most objectionable features in others. If it be possible that such a presentation as that budget is going to increase the strength of this administration in Canada, we can only believe it by assuming that the people of Canada who will shortly be allowed to use their ballots, are pleased with this state of affairs, are pleased with seeing promises broken, are pleased with seeing the debt increased, are pleased with seeing an expenditure amounting to \$7,500,000 beyond what this administration said it should be, are pleased with such loose financing as takes out of their pocket in one year \$7,500,000 that is not needed by the government. I say if the people of Canada can be pleased with such a programme, then we may expect to see them support this administration. But if the country prefer to have in power men who, when they are protectionists, say so, and live up to it

men who, when they have to increase the debt of the country and to maintain the expenditure at a reasonable point, do it without any false or hypocritical protestations that they are going to do something else, then I say the people will condemn the present administration and mark their condemnation by sending them back to the shades of opposition in which they so long lingered.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is really no advantage in going over a great multitude of figures, because I do not think I could fairly ask my constituents to read these long lists when I could just as well put the whole gist of the matter in a few words. When you can show them from the returns that even under the preferential tariff there is only a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent instead of, as the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) said, 50 per cent or something in that neighbourhood; when you can show them, not by cleverly made figures, but by the returns, by the revenue of the country, by the blue-books prepared by the government, that instead of a reduction of anything like a large percentage there is apparently a reduction of only $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent; more particularly when you can show them, as was done by the member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), taking a few articles more commonly in use, that on almost every one of them an advance has taken place, and that to-day in the shops and in the markets, people are paying more for the very articles which they had been led to believe would be reduced in price, than they were paying before, then, Sir, you present them with the final touchstone by which the people can try which administration is carried on in their interest and which is not.

Mr. GEORGE McHUGH (South Victoria, Ont.) I do not hope to be able to add much that is new or original to this debate. A great deal has been said, and as I do not wish to repeat what somebody else has said, and said perhaps better than I can do, my remarks will be somewhat brief. I have listened with a great deal of interest, and I hope with some profit, to what has been said. I listened with great satisfaction to the speech of the Minister of Finance, delivered in this House a few weeks ago, when he showed that there had been such a development of trade in Canada as had never been seen before, that we were enjoying a period of prosperity greater than had ever existed before; and I think that it sent a thrill of keen joy into the hearts of the Canadian people to have heard such a statement from the Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to deal with a few of the remarks that have been made, but only in a general way. I am not going into a long array of figures to prove the existence of this prosperity which has been so much

Mr. BELL (Pictou).

spoken of by hon. members on the Liberal side of the House, which some hon. members on the opposite side of the House say does exist, and which other hon. members say has no existence. I heard the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) last night say that there was an expansion of trade in the country. But that the prosperity did not reach the agricultural classes of the community. I think that the prosperity that exists in the country has reached the homes of almost every one of the citizens of Canada irrespective of the calling they are pursuing. I would ask hon. members in this House, and the people in the country, to use the same means to find out whether that prosperity exists now or not that we suggested when the friends of the present opposition went through the length and breadth of the land trying to convince the agriculturists of the country that they were in a prosperous condition during their term of office. We told the farmers then to look and see if there was a reduction in the mortgages upon their chattels, to look and see if there was a reduction in the mortgages upon their homes, to look into the banks and see if the balances were on the right side of the ledger so far as they were concerned, to put their hands into their pockets and see whether the prosperity that we were told existed then was evident there. They found then, that the chattel mortgages and mortgages on their homes were increasing, they found that the mortgages on their lands were on the increase, they found that money was harder to be got, that the value of their stock was decreasing, that the value of their lands was decreasing, and that their bank accounts were on the wrong side of the ledger. To-day, the Liberal party and the government can go to the agricultural classes of the country, to the manufacturers of the country, to the business men of the country, and can ask them to adopt the same means of ascertaining whether they are prosperous or not. If we were to tell them to adopt the same means as we suggested when our opponents were in power, I am sure that we would find, amongst all classes of the community, that they would say that mortgages have been wiped out from their chattels, that land mortgages have been greatly decreased, that money is very much easier to get to pay the interest on the mortgages that do exist, that savings bank accounts are increasing, that government bank deposits that we use to hear so much about are on the increase, and that on every hand there will be found a condition of prosperity that has had no existence in this country for many years. I know that some hon. members on the opposition side of the House have told us that the price of farm stock and of the products of the soil has not increased, and that this prosperity has not reached the farmers. The hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Ber-

geron), the other evening, and the hon. member for Bothwell, last evening, told us that none of this prosperity had reached the farmers because the price of farmers' stock had not increased, and they took up the reports of the government to show that the average price of cattle was better in 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896, than in the last two or three years. Let them go amongst any farming community in this country and tell the farmers that the products of the farm have not increased in value. I would ask no one to give me a better illustration of the condition of the farmers than to ask the farmers themselves what their condition is. I know from practical experience and from going through the country that the prices of farm stock have nearly doubled to the farming community. You can go into a farmer's barnyard to-day and you can find that a yearling beast that you could buy for from \$5 to \$7 in 1893, 1894 or 1895 could not be got now for less than from \$10 to \$15. A yearling colt that you would have to sell at from \$16 to \$25 in 1893, 1894 and 1895, will bring now from \$25 to \$40. I know whereof I speak. A cow that would sell in these years at from \$15 to \$25, to-day will bring anywhere from \$25 to \$45. The best horse that a farmer could put on the market in 1893, 1894 or 1895, would not bring more than from \$40 to \$75, whereas the same animal will bring, to-day, from \$80 to \$125. When the hon. member for Bothwell tells the people that he is a farmer and quotes prices like he did last night in order to show the farmers that they are not getting any better prices than in 1893, 1894 and 1895, I would tell him to ask the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan), or the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston), or the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour) who, I think, is as good an authority as he is on the prices of agricultural products at this time, and if he does I do not think he will repeat the statement that he made to the House last evening.

We have heard a good deal from the opposition as to the increase in the prices of articles consumed by farmers. Some of them have found fault with the reduction of the duties, while others have found fault because they were not reduced enough. It is pretty hard to get any consistency from these hon. gentlemen along these lines. The duty was taken off Indian corn, and some hon. gentlemen condemned the government for taking that off. I would like to ask hon. gentlemen in whose interest the duty was taken off Indian corn. They have tried to create the inference that it was taken out of disloyalty to Canadians and to do something for the benefit of the Americans, when they know in their heart of hearts that it was taken off solely for the benefit of the farmers of Canada. Who use Indian corn to-day? The farmers of Canada. If it were not to the advantage of the farmers

to use Indian corn would they buy it to feed to their stock? It has been said that we have coarse grains enough. The introduction of corn has had no effect on the price of coarse grains. So long as the people of Canada produce coarse grains for export, the export price makes the price for what is consumed at home, and the farmers of Canada, to-day, are exporting largely of their coarse grains. Indian corn coming into competition with these in Canada has not reduced the price of coarse grains one cent. Oats command a better price to-day than they did when Indian corn was on the dutiable list. Pease command a better price to-day than when Indian corn was on the dutiable list. The cheaper grades of barley command a better price to-day than when Indian corn was on the dutiable list. Oats will not make a full ration for a beast, and the result is that the farmers sell a quantity of their oats, barley and pease, and they feed Indian corn instead. They find it to their advantage to do so, and I do not think that any government has a right to step in and say that the farmers should not be allowed to judge for themselves as to what is best for them in their particular line of business. If they did not consider it was best for them they would not buy the Indian corn, and the government was wise to allow them to buy it or leave it alone, just as they thought was to their advantage. Speaking of the prices of articles which the farmers use, nails and scythes and barbed wire and binder twine and coal oil, and things like that, many of the Conservative members of this House have blamed the government for taking the duty off, stating that that was the reason the price of these articles had increased.

Mr. CLANCY. Who made that statement?

Mr. McHUGH. The statement has been made that the reason why barbed wire and coal oil have increased in price is because the government took off the duty. That statement was made by the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), and, probably, if I inquired further, I would find it was made by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy).

Mr. CLANCY. I see the hon. gentleman is repeating the statement after I warned him that the statement has not been made which he alleges.

Mr. McHUGH. I know that the statement has been made over and over again in this House, and I will repeat it. It is true that wire nails are higher in price, but that is no argument against the government. They are higher in price in all the markets of the world, and the relative cost of these articles in the markets of the world shows whether the consumers in Canada are paying a fair price for them or

not. We know that iron and all articles which are made out of iron have gone up in price, but what has the government to do with that? No government could control the price of these things. Some hon. gentlemen opposite find fault with the government because they have lessened the duties on a great many articles, while other gentlemen on the Conservative side of the House say that the government are maintaining the same tariff as they found when they came into office. Well, Sir, there is not much consistency in an argument of that kind. The Liberal party, before they came into power, promised a revenue tariff, and the best evidence that they have redeemed their pledge in that respect is, that they have a tariff which is a revenue tariff; a tariff that is producing more revenue than was ever produced before in this country. Protection begins just where revenue ends, and I say that the Liberal tariff is not a protective tariff, but a revenue tariff. Revenue commences where protection ends, and protection begins where revenue ends, and this is a revenue tariff, and it is producing a better revenue than any other tariff that ever was in existence before in Canada. There has been a good deal said in this debate, Mr. Speaker, as to the preferential tariff given England by this government, and we know that some members on the Conservative side have condemned the government for giving that preference to the motherland. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bell, Pictou) who last addressed the House, speaks for his party, then if the Conservatives came into power they would abolish the preferential tariff. Well, Sir, the people of Canada believe that the preferential tariff was passed in their best interests, and they feel it has been a great boon to them. It was not passed in the interests of the people of England, but in the interest of Canadians. It created a kindly feeling for the people of Canada in the British mind, and it has enabled us to increase our trade with England. As the result of it, we have got cheaper manufactured goods from England than we had before. I say, Mr. Speaker, that any political party which goes to the country upon the repeal of that tariff will meet with a cold reception from the Canadian electors. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that we have here in Canada a great country. It is great because it is a colony of the British Empire; it is great because of the union of the provinces, and I know that so long as that union of the provinces is maintained, with harmony and good feeling among our people, then Canada has a great future before her. Our best achievements in the past will be but mere infants compared with what our future possibilities shall be. It would be a sad day for Canada, Sir, should any politician endeavour to raise dissensions between the people of the sister provinces of this Dominion, and I trust that day shall never

Mr. McHUGH.

come. If Canada is governed in the wise and judicious manner in which the present government have managed our affairs, then, Canada will not only be the premier colony of the British Empire, but she will move along in prosperity until she is almost equal to Britain herself. Let me say, Sir, that this government has redeemed its pledge to the people. No one in this House will deny that there has been a reduction in customs duties, and a reduction of these duties means a reduction of taxation. We have heard a great deal in this debate as to the increase of the national debt, but I feel positive that when the next census is taken, it will be found that there has not been an increase per capita in the national debt of Canada, but that, on the contrary, there will be a decrease per capita as compared with what it was when the Conservatives left office in 1896. These, Sir, are evidences of good government which the people of Canada will appreciate when the Liberal party again appeals to them for their support.

Mr. GILBERT W. GANONG (Charlotte). Mr. Speaker. The world moves. I would not have you, Sir, for a moment suppose that I claim that as an original expression coined by me, for I am simply repeating the statement made by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding) in 1897, when he was delivering his budget speech of additional burdens on the people of this country. I do not think that the expression was even original with the Finance Minister, nor was it well applied by him. If the expression were properly applied, without doubt it would be well demonstrated by every gentleman who occupies the front benches on the government side, as well as by every member who has had the privilege of sitting on that side of the House since the elections of 1896—not only those who have been relegated to fat offices provided for them, but also those who are sitting there in the anticipation of good political jobs to come. We know of a good many of these gentlemen opposite who are simply awaiting translation—the hon. member from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), from whom we hear so very frequently, the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure), the hon. member for North Essex (Mr. McGregor), and several others of these gentlemen, who are simply awaiting their turn to get positions that they know are ready for them when the proper time arrives.

Mr. COWAN. You are talking through your hat.

Mr. GANONG. I am not talking gas.

Mr. COWAN. It is a poor quality of gas you are giving us.

Mr. GANONG. I believe that the Postmaster General, who introduced a Bill some

years ago to provide for the independence of members of parliament, is equally guilty with the others; for he has not only condoned the appointment of members to other departments, but he has even gone so far as to make one or two good appointments in his own department. If you have any doubt that the world moves, you simply have to ask judges Lister, Lavergne, Langelier, Choquette, and a dozen others who have been removed from the floor of this House, who were presumed to have been elected as independent members to represent the people here, but who had promises, many of them in writing, of appointments, and who sat here and voted like machines before they received those appointments. It would have been very much better indeed if the Finance Minister had said, in that manner which he has, of raising his tone and shouting across this House in order to make what he says more impressive: 'Behold we who sit here on the front benches have all moved since the elections of 1896,' and if he waits for a few weeks or a few months the honest electors of this country will not fail to tell them: 'So say we all of us.' They have moved into power, and have moved away from every principle which they advocated before 1896, and no one knows that better than the Minister of Finance, who a few years ago was the leader of a secession party in the province of Nova Scotia and was advocating the disruption of the Dominion of Canada, the breaking of the bonds that bind these provinces together, which, if carried out in the spirit in which it was advocated, would have finally tended probably to the disruption of the empire. But on the 23rd of March of this year the hon. gentleman was shouting just as lustily for loyalty and for Imperial unity. This same gentleman, in 1891, was one of the strongest advocates of unrestricted reciprocity with discrimination against Great Britain. Why has all this change come about? Why? Does he believe to-day that the preference for Great Britain is the best thing for Canada?

We have a right to doubt these sudden changes, these bursts of loyalty from gentlemen who, only a few years since, favoured the trade policy of unrestricted reciprocity with discrimination against Great Britain. We have a right to doubt them because the Minister of Finance was a secessionist and may be one yet. We have a right to doubt them because every one of them on the public platform nailed that flag of unrestricted reciprocity to the mast, and declared themselves determined to stand by it until they died. What was the answer of the hon. Minister of Finance to the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) in regard to this very matter? After he had been shouting for several hours about loyalty to Great Britain and preference to Great Britain and the advantages of it, the hon. member for

Haldimand asked him what position the country would have been in had their advocacy of unrestricted reciprocity, in 1891, succeeded, and he stated that he believed that Canada would have been in a better position. So it is quite evident that the hon. gentleman's conversion is not a very deep one. What is the reason of all this stampede of these ministers falling over one another and shouting loyalty at this particular time? Simply for political capital, nothing more or less. But the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) are as true to-day to their old love as they were in 1891. They and their party were then prepared to make a common tariff with the United States against all the world, Great Britain included, and if Great Britain suffered it was no concern of theirs. That was the extent of their loyalty prior to the election of 1896, and it stands on record as the most effective answer to their present pretensions. There are one or two others of these whose conversions may possibly be a little more genuine, and I shall perhaps refer to them a little latter. I think we should particularly give credit to the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Chariton), especially as he is now occasionally discoursing on evidences of Christianity.

Now, Sir, as to the question of prosperity and its effects in this country, there are no members on this side of the House who will dispute the fact that the year 1899 was a record-breaker—a record-breaker in taxation, a record-breaker in expenditure, and a heart-breaker to the old-time Liberals who had been expecting that those hon. gentlemen when returned to power would keep at least a few of their election promises. We can all rejoice with the Minister of Finance that the world-wide prosperity has not passed Canada and left her without some advantages in the way of trade. It has given us largely increased exports which made possible largely increased imports, to the undoubted advantage of the revenues of this country.

Sir, the Minister of Finance boasts that we have exported \$13,248,164 more in value during the past eight months than during the corresponding period of last year, and we are all proud of it. Does he think than any one is fool enough to suppose that the fiscal policy had anything to do with that? The hon. gentleman knows that it is a beneficent and bountiful Providence, and to that alone, that the good harvest reaped last year is due, and that we owe whatever advantage may be derived from our increased exports. Therefore, if Canada is in a position to hold her own, it is in spite of the hon. gentleman's fiscal policy and in consequence of the blessings which have been showered upon us from on high.

I have no disposition to take credit for that opinion. I would have you understand that it is the opinion of another gentleman—a gentleman who, in 1892, was Mr. Louis Davies, who is to-day Sir Louis

Davies. But if this was correct in 1892, how much greater cause have we at this time to be thankful to this all-bountiful Providence for the great crops we harvested in 1896, 1897 and 1898, and marketed in 1897, 1898 and 1899. In 1896 we produced 33,000,000 bushels of wheat, in 1897, 47,000,000 bushels, and in 1898, 57,000,000 bushels. Is it possible that the sun was any more potent during the time of this Grit government, that the soil gave up any more rich fruitage on account of it? Did we receive any advantage from these pets of the Minister of the Interior, the Doukhobors and the Galicians? I think not.

Although the Minister of Finance did not say so in so many words, he challenged the admiration and applause of his followers by intimating in some way or other that the government should receive credit for these large exports.

For my part, I fail to understand why the government should be entitled to any credit whatever. The hon. gentleman, I know, poses as a medicine man, pretending that he can bring about good crops or bad crops, just as he pleases. I rejoice, as well as he does over the magnificent harvest of last year, which was a godsend to Canada from one end to the other. I rejoice that in the province from which I come, we had a magnificent harvest that saved us from a great deal of misery. I rejoice that the harvest of the North-west was one of the best that country ever had, and put a large amount of money into the pockets of the farmers. But everybody knows that the government cannot in any sense be entitled to the least credit for these good crops. The hon. gentleman might beat his political tom-tom over every wheat field in Canada, and he might get his lieutenant, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to curse by all his gods, and the grain would grow just the same as ever, and the fisheries would yield up their fruits, and so would the mines. The hon. gentleman is absolutely powerless in the matter.

That is another gem from a speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries in this House in 1892. Why should not the gentlemen who represent constituencies and sit on this side of the House rejoice that the country is now reaping the fruits of the long years of labour which they put in in the interests of Canada, and in which they were opposed in the most strenuous manner by the gentlemen now occupying the government benches? Why should we on this side not rejoice that the granaries of that great western country which we acquired despite the opposition of the gentlemen now on the Treasury benches, are filled with the best grain raised in any country in the world? Why should we not rejoice also that the Conservative administration, in their wisdom, provided sufficient facilities and railway and canal communication to bring that grain to the seaports where it might be marketed at reasonable prices in competition with the grains of the rest of the world? We have a right to rejoice that we acquired British Colum-

Mr. GANONG.

bia, which the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) showed his contempt for by calling it a sea of mountains, but which the Minister of Finance this year is very glad to use in order to swell his figures and show that the country is prosperous. The mineral products of that country in 1896 were valued at \$22,584,513; in 1899, they reached the value of \$46,245,878, or an increase of \$23,661,365, which these hon. gentlemen, who formerly decried that province, now view with immeasurable pride and satisfaction. But where do hon. gentlemen opposite come in, in these glorious achievements anyway? They come in simply where they have always been—natural-born kickers. They were kickers out of power against extension and consolidation. They were kickers against even Nova Scotia remaining a portion of the union. They were kickers against railway and canal extension, and now that they are in power they keep up their reputation by being kickers against an adequate fast Atlantic service. They kicked so hard that they kicked it out of sight, when instead they should have kicked the hon. gentlemen out of the cabinet who were responsible for the fiasco. They have kicked themselves out of their old political clothes, and in their new suits they feel so comfortable and look so well that they actually begin to think that they are as honest as the men they are trying to imitate.

In the public accounts I find some interesting figures, but shall not weary the House with a great many of them. I find that the expenditure on ordinary revenue in 1896 was \$36,949,442. According to the estimate of the Minister of Finance in 1900, it will be \$43,175,000, being an increase over 1896 of \$6,225,858. That is what my hon. friend (Mr. McHugh), down here intimated was making the hearts of the people glad. Then let me take up the increase in expenditure on ordinary revenue and capital, combined, and this increase is in contradistinction to the pledge of these same hon. gentlemen that there would be a reduction of from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000, showing that there is only a difference between their estimates of what the expenditure would be if they came into power and the actual expenditure of some \$10,000,000 or \$11,000,000. The average combined revenue and capital expenditure from 1892 to 1896, amounts to \$42,141,703. In 1899, it amounted to \$51,542,656, an increase of \$9,480,800. That may make the hearts of some of my hon. friend's constituents glad, but it does not gladden the hearts of the good old-time Liberals in the maritime provinces.

The hon. Minister of Finance cannot tell just how much taxes he will extract from the people in 1900, but he predicts a total revenue of \$50,000,000, or \$4,000,000 more than last year, and as that \$4,000,000 will be so much taxes taken from the people, the

total taxes will be that much more in 1899. In other words, this government will take \$39,000,000 from the people, showing that the taxes have been augmented in this way :

1896.....	\$27,759,285
1897.....	28,648,620
1898.....	29,576,455
1899.....	34,958,569
1900.....	39,000,000

Or, in round figures, \$11,000,000 more than the Conservative administration deemed it either just or wise to take from the people. This is a record breaking time—certainly a growing time for taxes. These figures stand out in very bold relief in contradistinction to their pre-election promise of reduced taxation, which these gentlemen pledged themselves to bring about.

I do not purpose taking up any such array of figures as some hon. gentlemen, but there are some to which I will devote a few minutes. Any one who will take the trouble to read the speech of the hon. member for Bothwell last night will be satisfied that the figures are alarming, a great many of them, to the people of this country. A better statement of the facts could not be put before the people, and no such analysis, in my opinion, of the tariff tinkering of these gentlemen has been put before the country before. There are some things that strike an ordinary observer as rather odd. These hon. gentlemen are running wild over their loyalty now and their love for Great Britain, but all the time there is a menacing cloud hanging over them. There is the condition in the order in council that can be seen from one end of Canada to the other. 'No precedent.' That is what is making these hon. gentlemen tremble. That is what is making them tumble over each other, from the front benches to the back seats, in their zeal to shout loyalty.

The hon. Minister of Finance referred to the Liberal tariff as a moderate one. I presume that he would call the tariff of 1896 a highly protective tariff. Is that his understanding? I pause for a reply, but the hon. gentleman does not wish to take any heed to that item taken from his speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will be glad to answer any item found in my speech, and the hon. gentleman will find that every one I gave is correct.

Mr. GANONG. I find in the hon. gentleman's budget speech that he said that the Liberal rule was a time of moderate tariff.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If you read that in my budget speech, it is correct.

Mr. GANONG. I presume he means us to infer that the tariff of 1896, was a highly protective tariff.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I believe that the hon. gentleman's friends claim that for it.

Mr. GANONG. Then the hon. gentleman does not think so ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. In some things it was.

Mr. GANONG. I am glad to have even that admission. It is very kind for the hon. gentleman even to admit that. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), I believe, has also that opinion of it, and I regret he is not in his place to-night, because there are some matters in connection with that hon. gentleman to which I wish to refer later. When on this side, the hon. the Minister of Customs pounded his desk even harder than the one behind which he sits at present, but to a different purpose and with a different object. But he is like all the rest, he has found that the world moves, it moved him into office at \$5,000, and it moved his salary up to \$7,000 ; so he has ample evidence that the world moves in his direction. But there is other evidence. He, like other ministers, has made a great many statements that he wishes could be wiped out. But their statements will appear before them and give them a good many nightmares. In 1890, Mr. Paterson declared :

In 1888 we were taking \$6,115,000 more in taxes out of the people than we should, and we spent \$7,571,000 more than we should. He declared that an era of economy in expenditure should be at once entered upon.

This hon. gentleman has moved since that time, and he is in new quarters now at \$7,000 a year. Instead of reducing the expenditure and taxation, instead of bringing about this era of economy, he is assisting as far as possible in taking millions of dollars in taxation out of the people more than is required. I will not quote any more of the hon. gentleman's figures. I think myself he does not understand half the figures he produced in this House. If he does he must have taken leave of his senses while he was preparing those figures. He puts on the airs of a conscientious man ; but if he is so, he must be seeing visions that would outclass those of Dante's Inferno. However, there is one statement made by the Minister of Customs that I would like to repeat, one that for utter foolishness is beyond anything we can possibly conceive as coming from a gentleman claiming to have the ability to fill the position of Minister of Customs of this country. I will read it :

There is a market right at your very door for forty millions of bushels of wheat. If we have free intercourse, Canada will be the market from which these states would draw the supply

of wheat for the ten million barrels of flour they need per annum. They need every product the farmer has to sell. There is your market.

Now, if anything was ever uttered more silly from a business man's standpoint, I would like to have it pointed out. It has only been equalled once, and that was by the First Minister when he woke up after eighteen or twenty years sleep, and said in the city of Paris that Canada had become a nation. Why, this statement of the Minister of Customs is belied by his own tariff. The duty on wheat is 12 cents. What for? Not surely in order to assist in producing a surplus of \$6,000,000 or \$7,000,000. The duty on flour is 60 cents. What for? Why protect yourself against a country you are going to sell all your goods to? The duty in 1896, I presume, was a highly protective one according to the idea of the Minister of Finance. The duty on wheat, I believe, has been reduced 3 cents a bushel, and on flour 15 cents per barrel. Now, for what purpose is that tariff retained on wheat and flour? It cannot possibly be retained for a revenue. It is simply to carry out the

protective features of the old policy. If you do not believe this, ask the member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) why it is on. He knows well enough. If he wants free wheat why not give him what he wants? The Minister of Customs is taking everything he wants that is in sight, and I do not know why the member for Kent should not have free wheat and flour if he desires it.

Now, I said I regretted that the Minister of Customs was not in his place to-night. Some gentlemen on this side of the House have made an occasional reference to the business of the Minister of Customs, and I feel it is only right that he should have justice. I desire to place a few statements before this House so that the minister may not be misrepresented in any degree whatever. I presume it is his own modesty that has kept him from placing himself on record. The figures I shall give may be relied on as they are furnished by the trade returns made up by his own officers; and to save time in quoting them I shall only mention the quantities in pounds. From section 2, pages 28 and 29 of the Trade and Navigation Returns, I glean the following in regard to the biscuit business of Canada:

Class.	Imported from.	1896.	1899.	Increase.	Decrease.	—
		Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
Sweetened biscuits...	Great Britain.....	37,468	38,487	1,019		
	United States.. .. .	191,967	96,559	.....	95,408	
	Totals.....	229,435	135,046	1,019	94,380	Less than 1896.
	Less Yukon....	.....	9,530	.....	9,530	
	Total, less Yukon.....	.....	125,516	.....	84,859	" "
Unsweetened biscuits.	Great Britain.....	21,811	52,947	31,136		
	United States.....	339,110	328,727	.....	10,383	
	Totals.. .. .	360,921	381,674	20,753	.....	More than 1896.
	Less Yukon. ....	.....	150,695	150,695		
	Total, less Yukon.....	.....	230,979	129,942	.....	Less than 1896.

Decrease of sweetened goods imported in 1899 as compared with 1896..... 84,859 bs.

" unsweetened goods imported in 1899 as compared with 1896.. .. . 129,942 "

Total decrease of sweetened and unsweetened goods imported
in 1899 as compared with 1896 (not including Yukon)..... 214,801 "

In regard to this increase of sweetened goods from Great Britain, you will notice that under the preferential tariff there were only 1,019 pounds more imported, or about 3 per cent, and considering all the circumstances it was no credit to the preference, as more than this increase of 1,019 pounds was occasioned by the abnormal trade incident to the Yukon demand. This also applies equally well to the increased imports from Great Britain of unsweetened goods. Now, there are some peculiarities about the biscuit business that I wish you to take note of. The English goods are much better adapted to Yukon trade, being packed in tins and other styles to stand changes of climate. It is interesting to note that in proportion to population, Ontario takes less of imported sweet goods than any other province, British Columbia taking most, Nova Scotia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba, all coming in order before Ontario. The total of sweet goods going into Ontario under preferential tariff in 1899 was only 5,754 pounds, out of a total of 38,487 pounds imported into Canada from Great Britain. So our friend the Minister of Customs has not much fear of English competition on sweet goods in his own territory in the province of Ontario. The competition he fears is that of United States factories making similar lines to those produced by his firm, on which the duty he has admitted is a highly protective duty—being 27½ per cent. Now as to unsweetened goods. This is really the line on which the hon. gentleman most fears competition. His cream sodas, pilot, &c., which I am pleased to say are good, could not well stand competition of these American manufacturers, so the protective tariff of 1896 of 25 per cent is retained by the hon. gentleman on his own goods.

Briefly stated the facts gleaned are these: The hon. gentleman has no competition from Great Britain on sweet goods as the masses do not take those lines from England, so preference does not injure his trade \$1, but on the competition most feared, that of the United States, he has a high protective tariff of 27½. On the unsweetened goods so largely imported from the United States in the past, he also has a high protective duty of 25 per cent. But more surprising than all is the fact that the business of the hon. gentleman, who railed so against protection, but kept the highest protection on his own goods—gives the most ample evidence of the successful working out of the national policy. Nothing could possibly better demonstrate the beneficial effects of that policy. Note the effect—gradually decreasing imports, although if the statements of the hon. minister are correct, the country is consuming largely increased quantities of their products. I have no doubt of it because there are new factories growing up all over the country.

We have this demonstration of the effect of the national policy, that by retaining the duty we have been able to manufacture the goods in our own country instead of importing them from foreign countries. The imports of both classes were, in 1896, 590,356 pounds, while in 1899 they were 516,720 pounds, showing a decrease of 73,636 pounds. But, this is hardly a fair statement. Last year we had an abnormal trade going into the Yukon, which unfortunately, on account of the arrangement made by the government the goods were chiefly shipped via Seattle and San Francisco by American transportation companies. But, deducting this abnormal trade we find that the imports were reduced in 1899 to 356,495 pounds, showing that, not allowing for the increased trade in the country at all, 233,861 pounds more were made in Canada in 1899 than in 1896, which means that Canadian farmers raised the grain and provided the lard, that the Canadian workmen produced the flour and the sugar, that Canadian workmen produced the goods and sold them, and that Canada was just that much richer in labour and its profits by the retention of the national policy and the high duties imposed by the Conservative party and retained by the hon. Minister of Customs on his own goods. This is but a sample truth which equally applies to every industry in Canada, and would be applied no doubt if the manager of each concern could be Minister of Customs. I trust I have been able to do the hon. gentleman justice. If the hon. gentleman will call attention to any points I may have overlooked I will be glad to touch on them.

Perhaps, Sir, I should apologize to the House for taking so much time on this subject, but I felt it was only fair that this evidence of the good results of protection should go on *Hansard* to show how unselfish is this protectionist minister of the new Liberal school.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish you would stand up some of these truthful men—these Georges of the Washington of the North, these loyal men—the right hon. the First Minister and the Minister of Customs, stand them upon the floor of this House face to face with the hon. members of this House and the country. Let the right hon. First Minister repeat his saying of former years, 'Our policy is the removal of every vestige of protection.' If the hon. Minister of Customs is honest in his reply, it will be: My policy is to retain every possible protection for my own goods. Whatever may have been the purpose of the government in bringing in this fiscal policy that they presented in 1897, whatever may have been the impression in the country as to its effect, both were fully demonstrated by such a close analysis of the trade returns as were made by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) last night. The basis of the revis-

ion was not love for Great Britain, the basis of the revision was the extortion of the largest possible revenue, the largest amount of taxation from the people and giving the people the least possible advantage from it. But, from the fact that these tariff tinkers did not understand the very principle of protection their cutting and slashing must necessarily injure some lines. It must injure woollen goods, for instance. While their aggregate trade, considering world-wide conditions, will not show any material increase in the imports from Great Britain in many lines when competition gets to work under better conditions, these lines of business must necessarily suffer. It has had the result of increasing the cost very materially of many classes of goods that are used by the working people. Sugar and tobacco are two notable instances, the prices of which have been increased. There is a law of trade known to every successful business man, that price or even quality alone, does not govern demand, and in no country has that been better demonstrated than in Canada, and why? Here we are placed beside a country which has sixty or seventy million people, with a border of 3,000 or 4,000 miles, with climatic conditions, especially in the north, similar to our own, with a people of the same origin, whose habits are very similar to ours, a people whose natural products, to a large extent, are identical with our own, a people speaking the same language as we do, and we are placed here in immediate contact almost with the manufacturing business and social centres of the United States. What results accrue from these conditions? Simply, that the tastes of the two people are bound to run on similar, if not identical lines. The fashions set by the cities of the United States, with whose citizens our people socially come in contact, are bound to be followed by the Canadian people. They will follow them not only in colour, but they will follow in style. Our people do not so largely copy the styles of London as they copy the styles of New York. This is true in relation to millinery goods, fancy dress goods, and more particularly new styles in fancy cotton goods in which the United States now are excelling to a very large degree, and which our people, according to the trade returns, are importing very much more freely and in increasing quantities than similar goods from Great Britain. Boots and shoes are also among those lines in which our people are imitating the people of the United States, rather than the people of Great Britain, as shown by our trade returns. I shall simply refer to one or two articles. In 1899, I believe the hon. Minister of Finance made some little changes in the tariff, some little changes in his fiscal policy. He purposed then, in order to make the government popular, to try and establish some new trade relations by giving a

preference to the West India Island and British Guiana. He was very frank in his statement. He said he was going to try and get a preference, it is true, but that he expected that as an incident of the increased import duty on sugar, he would get \$500,000 more revenue. When you come to get at the facts of the case, the preference was the incident, and the revenue was the real fact. Without going into a full statement of the returns from this trade, I think you will find on examining the report, that the exports to British Guiana and the West Indies in 1899, over those in 1898, were simply \$178,773. That is less than one-fourth of the amount taken out of the labouring classes in 1899 by the extra sugar duties imposed by this government under the guise of stimulating trade between the West Indies and Canada, but which really, according to the historical utterances of the Liberals, was taxation taken out of the people to bleed them white. I believe, Sir, that the labouring classes of this country, the farmers, the fishermen and the artisans, will think that \$700,000 is too much of their good money to pay in additional duties to assist in bringing to us the profits of trade of \$178,773 to Canada. But, finding that this was not likely to prove a success, why did the government not act honestly with the people. If they had a desire to assist the working people of Canada, it was open to them to do a good thing to benefit these people. When they found that this preference would not give them any trade advantages, why did they not include sugar in the preferential list with Great Britain? Raw sugar is taken to England to be refined and refined sugar is imported into Canada to the extent of 27,000,000 in 1899, only 7,000,000 pounds of which came from England, and it paid the full duty. If the Liberal government wanted to do a service to the workingman, and still keep up the loyalty racket that they have been trying to work off on the people, here was a practical way of doing it. But no, the government would not do this, because that would have thrown almost the whole sugar business into the hands of the English refiners. For my part, I cannot see how it is possible that there is any less loyalty in a one-third preference on sugar, than there is on a one-third preference on boots and shoes and cotton goods. No, Sir, there is no less loyalty, but there would be less taxation, and as that means less revenue, the government do not propose to make any changes that would bring about that. Their whole plan and scheme, in connection with this, has been to give the government a maximum of duties, and the labouring classes a minimum of advantage. Not only that, Sir, but they play into the hands of a class of people who are wealthy enough to wear silks. They will allow silks and the manufacture of silks in at a rebate of one-

third of the duty, and we find that from Great Britain last year, we imported \$2,000,000 worth of silks. This government is placing in the hands of the wealthy people a preference of one-third off the duty on silks, while the labouring classes must still continue to pay the full duty on the sugar which they import from Great Britain. There is one other article which is used largely by the working classes, and to which I wish to refer, and it tends very largely to do away with the claims they have been attempting to put before the people in regard to the influence of this preferential tariff on our trade. I shall refer to the coloured cotton goods, the prints and gingham imported to Canada. You will remember, Mr. Speaker, that the government raised the duty 5 per cent on these goods before they gave Great Britain a preference at all. In 1896, we imported from Great Britain, 24,777,228 yards of coloured cottons, and in 1899, we imported from Great Britain, 24,773,173 yards of coloured cottons, showing under this preference, an actual decline of 4,000 yards of coloured cottons imported from Great Britain. The average cost, however, of the goods imported from Great Britain, in 1899, was 9.21 cents per yard, and the increase in cost in 1899 over the cost in 1896, was actually 1.18 cents per yard. In the meantime, there had been a reduction in 1899 of the duty under the preference, amounting to \$193,175, which the government claim they put right into the pockets of the people. I do not think it is possible for the government to prove any such statement. Both gray and white goods imported from Great Britain showed an actual decline in 1899, from prices of 1896, but the coloured cotton goods showed an advance. White cotton goods, which are not imported so largely as coloured, but more largely than gray, show importations from Great Britain in 1896, at an average cost of 8.29 cents per yard, and in 1899, at an average cost of 8.02 cents per yard, showing that there really was no reason for the advance in coloured cotton goods over those of 1896. It shows that the market was fairly even, there being scarcely a quarter of a cent difference in the price. The average price from the United States of coloured cotton goods, was also uniform. In 1896, we imported from the United States, 6,774,492 yards, at an average cost of 7.38 cents per yard, and in 1899, we imported from the United States, 10,511,822 yards, at an average cost of 7.34 cents. So that the price in 1896 and 1899 on cotton goods from the United States, was absolutely uniform. Now, Mr. Speaker, what does that prove beyond any question? It proves, not that the working people of Canada saved the reduction of duty under the preference, viz.: \$193,715; but it proves that that astute business man John Bull, said to himself: That cute offspring of mine from over the water, whose manager did not know enough of business to

ask a preference in my market, has given me a preference in his, and he has set up the duty 5 per cent against my older son, Samuel, on these goods that are required from me, and I will give them a little lesson in business, and show them that John has still an eye open for that sort of thing. And what did John Bull do? He set up the price fully equal to the reduction in duty by the preference and the additional duties imposed on the United States goods. And what is the result? Of coloured cotton goods, we imported from Great Britain, in 1899, 24,773,173 yards, at an advance of 1.18 cents per yard, by which we paid \$292,323 more than we should have paid. But that is not all. The working people of this country also paid 5 per cent advance on all the goods imported from the United States, which on the \$894,888 worth imported, was equal to \$44,744. That is in all, we actually paid \$337,067 more than we would have paid on these goods under the tariff of 1896. But we got a rebate in preference of \$193,715, so that the working people have actually paid net, for this farce that the Liberals call a preference with Great Britain, to the tune of \$143,352. This statement can be verified, Sir, by any gentleman who takes the trouble to look at the trade returns.

It means that the working people of this country, the poorer classes, who use these goods chiefly, had to pay this additional amount of \$142,352, because the business acumen of the British manufacturers and the lack of acumen of the Canadian government made it possible under this preference. If the farmers were getting a preference for their products in exchange for this, there might be some reason for it; but, with this government it is all give and no take. I suppose we should make some exceptions, because we have had some of these tin-pot titles and Cobden medals; and possibly more are to come in the future, as I think some hon. gentlemen opposite are getting their good clothes ready. The claim of hon. gentlemen opposite that this preference reduces the price of goods made in the country as well as of those made in the United States, does not obtain in any particular. I do not say that in some few small lines it may not obtain; but, in the lines of the greatest imports it has not been the case. This same staple in the United States has not varied to any extent. It was virtually the same in the years 1896 and 1899; and still we had a large increase from the United States. The conditions are such between the United States and Canada, as I said before, that our people follow the styles prevailing in the United States; so that, we imported in 1899, 10,511,822 yards as against 6,744,492 yards in 1896, showing that it is not the lower price that governs the demand, but the colour and style of the goods, because the prices were virtually the same. If the statement made years ago by

those now on the government benches, and still, I presume, advocated by hon. gentlemen opposite, is correct, that the manufacturers of this country simply add the duty to the cost of the foreign price of the goods coming into this country, they simply made it possible, not that goods should be lowered in price, but that they should be increased in price by the 5 per cent they added at the time they made their revision. These business men in a business cabinet have not yet found one thing—that protection is a relative quantity. They have only two gods left them now to swear by: one is surplus, and the other volume of trade; and they are setting these on high, praying that these may save them from the electorate whom they have deceived and cajoled for many years.

As I have stated, protection is not a fixed, but a relative quantity. While 25 per cent on some lines of goods may be highly protective, it may not be sufficient on other lines. You cannot apply one general rule to all imports. The conditions must be considered. A uniform tariff is utterly impossible in a large producing country, and I am going to take two lines of manufactures to illustrate this. The business of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), for instance, requires three things in order to make it successful. It requires capital, which I am glad to know the hon. gentleman possesses and has accumulated under a protective tariff; it requires machinery, which his capital will also provide; and it requires good management, which I have no doubt he gives it. It is not a business influenced to any extent by the low cost of labour in any country with which he must compete. It is not a business in which the labour must be expert and draw high wages; the workmen engaged in it do not require technical skill. It may be that this business is too highly protected, considering all the conditions, although I am a protectionist myself. But, there are industries in a wholly different condition. For instance, in the county I represent there is a red granite industry, which is the only red granite in Canada, equal to the Scotch granite. It is an industry that requires skilled workmen, who have to put in years of experience in order to do their work in such a way that the granite will compete with the Scotch granite. Nature has given us an abundant store of the raw material, and capital is required to develop it. Machinery plays a very small part in it, but it requires brains and years of experience to work it. Every man, from the quarryman to the man who puts the last tap of the mallet on his chisel, in working the granite, requires to be an expert. It requires a great deal of careful and intelligent handling from start to finish. The Minister of Customs has retained a highly protective tariff on his own business, which requires only capital and machinery, in

which skilled labour is not nearly so largely required as in this granite industry; but, what has he done for the several granite firms in the town of St. George? What has he told them in regard to this preference, which means a preference for Scotch labour? He says to them in substance: 'I shall protect my business; I am retaining the highly-protective tariff which the Conservatives put on it in 1894; but, so far as your business is concerned, it is true you have to compete against the low-priced labour of Scotland; but, we cannot consider you in the matter. It is true your business demands a great deal more skilled labour, and consequently provides in wages a great deal more money to be invested in other Canadian manufactures than my business does; but, we cannot consider you, even though your business represents ten times the advantage to this country in labour than mine does. Even though you have to pay greater freights in order to land your goods in the large centres, in Montreal and Toronto and the west, than is paid from Aberdeen to these points, while my trade is within easy reach, still, we cannot consider you. You must remember that some one must be sacrificed, and after considering all these things, the Liberal party have determined that your business must be sacrificed; but, my business must be protected.' So, he simply sacrifices their business to the tune of one-third of the duty. He sees that his business has a protection of 25 and 27½ per cent, though capital and machinery does the work, whereas, where brains and skill are required, and where competition with the low wages of Scotland has to be endured, he says that 23½ per cent is all that this government will allow. That is the way the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Customs are talking to the skilled labour of this country, not only in the granite industry, but in the woollen and other industries, while the Minister of Customs sits down and piles up his ducats to run another election in Brant. While the first cut was no doubt to overcome that disastrous cry of the party to discriminate against Great Britain, in 1891, that did not suffice, and now they make a second cut of one-third of the duty, and trying to cover up that wonderful phrase, the no-precedent clause in the order in council relating to the first contingent.

Now, Sir, I have a few remarks to make about a few other gentlemen in this cabinet. It would take a month to deal with all the jibes and jeers of the Minister of Trade and Commerce against the protective features of the national policy. You can count all the years from 1878 to 1896, and you will find that they were filled with one continuous round of abuse of the national policy by that hon. gentleman. But, the world moves, and the Minister of Trade and Commerce, enjoying the sweets of office and a fairly good

salary, and under the hypnotic influence of his good doctor, the Minister of Finance, he now swallows, almost in its entirety, the protective features of that policy against which he railed for so many long years. It would be hard to recognize him as the same hon. gentleman who gave us his most solemn assurance that he would fight protection until he died. Any one who knows him and his record must come to the conclusion at once that he did die in 1896 when he accepted office under this new ministry, and was relegated to a back seat in the cabinet, while his friend who sits at his left (Mr. Fielding) was put in the place that for many long years he fondly hoped to occupy. Protection is still with us. If the hon. gentleman has any doubt, let him ask his hon. colleague, the Minister of Customs, let him ask the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), let him ask the hon. member for North Leeds (Mr. Frost), and a few other gentlemen who are sitting on that side. There is no question about protection being here, and these hon. gentlemen know it. But, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is in a peculiar position. Each successive year, 1897, 1898 and 1899, he has filled the place assigned to him, and each successive year he has tamely approved, ratified and confirmed the protective features of the tariff, and each successive budget speech has been an obituary notice informing the people that, so far as any political influence is concerned or any influence on the trade of this country, the Minister of Trade and Commerce died when he accepted office. But, the good old-time Liberals throughout the country, who were wont to take everything he said almost as the law and the gospel, who pinned their faith to him when he said the Conservative government were bleeding the people white, now that he is taking from their pockets \$7,000,000 more than was taken in 1896, will be a little mite surprised. But, they need not be. It is only another evidence that the hon. gentleman has died to all his former professions.

They will also remember other things in connection with the hon. gentleman. They will remember that he once said :

I say it is a disgrace and a shame to the government that has been entrusted with our affairs to come down and ask for an expenditure of \$38,000,000 a year for federal purposes. I have said before, and I repeat it, that \$38,000,000 is a monstrous sum for this people to be called on to provide for.

But, when his good doctor, the Minister of Finance, brought, in 1897, estimates amounting to \$42,972,755, just about \$5,000,000 more than the amount which the hon. gentleman had railed against as excessive, he said to him: Be good, Sir Richard, now and take your medicine, for if you will not, I will take you at your word and abolish the office you said should never have been created. And the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce quietly took his medicine.

Then, in 1898, and 1899, and 1900, as each successive budget speech was brought to the hon. gentleman, he swallowed it whole, although each succeeding one contained a little more gall than its predecessor, and the hon. gentleman sits there at times and tries to look pleased, as if he really enjoyed his medicine. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce, when at Toronto, said he was simply an onlooker. That is quite evident. It is perfectly evident that the hon. gentleman is dead, and that he is simply floating over this country nowadays in the form of a spirit, so far as any influence of his is concerned. He has lost all the influence he ever had on his party, and will find that he has lost all the influence he ever had in the country. He has proved that he has certainly lost all his professions of economy. But, the hon. gentleman is simply like the others—he does not forget. He is still there, willing to occupy the position he holds, willing to draw his salary. But there are some honest Liberals in the party, there are even some on the front benches of the party over there. There is one whom I propose to quote—a gentleman who was wholly ignored when this government came into power, a gentleman who deserved recognition at the hands of the party. But the position he should have occupied was stolen from him and given to a man who dared not even come out and show his colours during the fight in 1896. I propose to quote the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) with regard to some statements of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Shortly after that memorable speech was delivered in Toronto by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, after the Minister of Trade and Commerce had politically died, the hon. member for St. John published in his paper these remarks :

The intelligent observer of public affairs cannot fail to see that the tone of this speech, and its general tenor, are very different from speeches which were delivered by Sir Richard some time ago.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce, before he died, used to rail against that most extreme method of protection, namely, the giving of bounties. He said at one time :

I disapprove of the whole business altogether. For my part, I refuse to be bound by it, and I say, expressly for the benefit of manufacturers, that I for one utterly refuse to be bound by any such proposition. I take the opportunity to protest against it in advance, so that parties hereafter, should there be a change of policy on the part of the people, may not be able to say they never had any warning.

But, what happened? When this government took office and the Minister of Trade and Commerce became responsible, the bounty was increased from \$2 to \$3 a ton, and was extended to puddled bars and steel ingots, with the provision that it should continue in force until 1907. Truly, the

world moves. I have one more reminiscence or two in connection with this hon. gentleman. He said :

Two of the most barbarous taxes even in our present barbarous tariff—I doubt if it is possible to find two more utterly odious and detestable taxes—were the taxes on coal and flour. This tax on coal may be considered as the tax of all others which sets most at defiance every sound principle of political economy and of common sense.

Now, you see where the doctor comes in. The doctor had to protect the coal barons, and so, when the tariff was brought down with the coal duty still on, good Sir Richard had to take this dose and swallow his medicine, and take back his statements of former years :

You cannot conceive of any tax more indefensible, which is more absurd, which is worse in its practical operation than the same duty on coal.

But, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has one consolation. He is not the only one of his party who has received the attention of the doctor. The doctor gave an absent treatment to some of his supporters, particularly to the hon. member for North Norfolk, who years ago discoursed upon the beauty of improved trade relations with the United States, but who, a few weeks ago, was just as loud in discoursing on the beauties of a preference to Great Britain, and shouted loudly loyalty and Imperial unity. He must have ransacked the whole of Webster's dictionary in order to find adjectives enough to express his horror and contempt of the United States for the usage they had dealt out to Canada. But, the great medicine man of the land of Evangeline (Mr. Fielding) quoted this :

'There is that that scattereth and yet increaseth.'

The member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) retorted.

That is quite true. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) is scattering the funds of this country with the hope of increasing his term of office. It is true, these gentlemen who are tumbling over each other in order to show their loyalty, seem to have a community of interest. They are taking millions of money out of the people in the way of taxation, and spending millions more in expenditures than they contracted to spend. But they must have it, their friends demand it, for we remember that the Minister of Public Works said that elections are not won by prayers. And have we not the same sort of evidence from the Minister of Railways and Canals who, of all men in this country, should know something about elections being won by other means than prayers? He has stated his opinion of the uses of the resources of civilization in elections. We had a speech from the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) the other night, and there was one notable thing

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in it or not in it. He did not repeat his pre-election advice that 'if we did not reduce the expenditure by \$3,000,000 in two years, turn us out.' That was one of the things the hon. member forgot to put in. What a nightmare he must have, in view of the increasing taxation, the increasing burdens and expenditure; and worse than that, the horror of impending doom when he returns for re-election. The only time that hon. gentleman has really looked pleasant this session was on that evening when he exhibited that caricature of himself in petticoats, representing a maiden lady of sour mien and uncertain age. The hon. gentlemen, however, is doing work which was done a few years ago by the former member for Lambton, who occupied the same position the member for North Wellington does to-day. When anything abusive was required the member for Lambton was called upon, and he performed the task in good order. Result, a judgeship at \$6,000 a year. Well, the member for North Wellington must have taken up the same position. All he needs is a nod from the leader of the House or from one of the ministers, and he is ready to use his powers of abuse. I have no doubt that hon. gentleman will get his reward. These hon. members, you know, when you suggest anything like that across the floor of the House, deny that they are promised anything, they are simply working for love. They are simply doing—I would not like to say the dirty work of the party, but they are doing work that is at least discreditable to them and to the party who asks them to do it. But they disclaim any hope of reward. They remind me very much of a certain gentleman who, in the Southern States a few years ago, was giving an exhibition of the X Rays. Among other things he suggested that if he turned the rays upon a man's stomach he could find out what he had been eating. A darky came up and said: Mr., is that so? Yes, replied the exhibitor. If I have been eating a chicken, can you see that chicken? Yes, sir. Well, the darky thought a little while, and then he said: Mr., there is just one other question I would like to ask you: Could you tell the roost from which that chicken came? Now, these hon. gentlemen disclaim having any offices promised to them, the member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), as well as others. But everybody knows that they are there. The only question is as to whether we can tell just exactly the roost these chickens are going to. Now, the world moves, as is evidenced by the member for North Wellington. It will move him probably into office or out of North Wellington, one thing or the other. But I advise the hon. gentleman, who, I believe, is of a poetical strain, to revise that little couplet of his and make it apply to his own party :

Joined together heart and hand,
Liberals for protection stand.

I intended to quote a little from the speeches of the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton). I think his speech in this House removes any doubt as to whether the world moves or not. Had that hon. gentleman started from Tonawanda and tumbled himself all the way west and north around the lakes to Ottawa, he could not have more thoroughly upset himself than he upset every policy he has advocated for the last 15 or 20 years. Just one more such somersault and this hon. gentleman would hate the United States so much that he would not let a log or a stick of Canadian timber go there, and that would be a lamentable thing for him. The country will wonder if this conversion of the member for North Norfolk is real and genuine. We have had three or four gentlemen equally great sinners in their particular lines. The Minister of Finance, the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Customs and others rose in this House during this debate and confessed their sins, confessed that the things they once loved, unrestricted reciprocity and discrimination against Great Britain, they now hate. But the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of Finance are again grovelling in the mire. I believe, however, the Minister of Customs is still sticking, in fact there is no gentleman in the House that has so good a reason to stick. He will not advocate a policy of unrestricted reciprocity because it might close up his business. I think the country will look upon these gentlemen with doubt. These death-bed confessions and repentances among politicians are not very satisfactory to the common mind.

Now, one other hon. gentleman I wish to refer to, is the Hon. David Mills, the Minister of Justice. He has also discovered that the world moves. The world moved him out of Bothwell as a representative, and the intelligent electors of that constituency returned a man here who will be true to the principles he advocated before his election in 1896. By the interposition, not of Providence, but of Grit government, Mr. David Mills was moved into the Senate, he was moved from his forced retirement to a seat where he will not be called upon again to meet the electorate that had refused him. What are some of the statements made by this hon. gentleman?

We are asking for a reduction of taxation, we are asking for economy in the management of public affairs.

Mr. Mills also stated that they estimated that the probable saving, if they came into power, would be \$4,000,000. Now, in the light of such statements made by Mr. Mills before 1896, what will the present Minister of Justice say? What will he have to say about Mr. David Mills who, in 1893, said there should be a reduction of at least \$4,000,000? What will the Minister of Justice say to this hon. member who claimed that this saving should be made, and that economy should

reign. He surely cannot condone it. It would be passing strange if he should abet the action of Mr. David Mills, in 1900, after making these statements in 1896. Surely a David must have come to judgment. Will he condemn the David Mills of 1893? Oh, no; he will say: I will have forgiven you for your name's sake. And then beside that, I must help my friends and others who placed me here when I was defeated by my constituents. The world moves in this instance still, and the least the hon. gentleman could do now would be to write a poem describing the difference between promises made, but never kept, and the delectation of taxing the people \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 more than he had stated was necessary, and having a share in this largely increased expenditure of \$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000. These cold facts sound rather harsh in prose, but if the hon. gentleman would put them into poetry the rough edges might be taken off them. I have had occasion already to quote from the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), who, I regret to see, is not in his place. He claims to represent the garden of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. He said that the Liberal party believed that several millions should be lopped off the public expenditure without injury to the public service. That was while he was Mr. Louis Davies, in 1893, and he spoke for the old Liberal party. Now, what is the difference. He is to-day the leader of the new Liberalism. He says, in substance. What do we democratic knights, made and to be made care for a few millions more or less robbed from the people? It does not mean anything to us. He said:

You have a market to the south of you where everything you can draw out of the sea or delve from the mines or grow from the soil, will find a ready and profitable sale.

What has the hon. gentleman done to open up that market? He has assisted in spending \$36,000 of the people's money without gaining any market to the south. The hon. gentleman is absolutely ignorant of the capabilities of his own province. Speaking in this House in 1892, he said:

In the face of the fact that heretofore over 50 per cent of the total exports of all the maritime provinces have been sent to the United States, the hon. gentleman told us that we must change our mode of farming and make cheese and send home fat cattle to England.

Was there ever better advice given to the farming community. The hon. gentleman continues:

The hon. gentleman knows we have tried that time and again. I remember a few years ago when the people of Prince Edward Island invested their capital to the extent of £34,000 sterling or £35,000 sterling in the purchase of a large iron ship which we put on the route between the island and England, in the hope of opening a trade.

This is one of the business men of the cabinet.

We shipped our cattle for one or two years. We tried to ship our sheep and other products, but I am sorry to say, after it had been tried a year or two, it was not found profitable, and the enterprise was entirely given up. It is no use denying the fact that our natural trade and market lies in the United States.

That was Mr. Louis Davies, a gentleman who to-day is shouting for a preference to Great Britain. Now, this hon. gentleman, in a speech as late as last December, makes some remarks in regard to this matter.

On Prince Edward Island—the garden of the Dominion—we were going backward under the old order of things. We are now going forward. Cheese factories, lobster factories and scores of other factories are springing up everywhere, and the exodus has almost ceased.

What are the real facts of the case? In 1892, under Conservative rule there was one cheese factory established. In 1893, there were eleven cheese factories producing 48,000 pounds of cheese, and in 1894, sixteen cheese factories producing 90,000 pounds of cheese. This has been continued as a result of the work of the Conservative government, until last year the record showed 39,000,000 pounds of milk were converted into 3,746,168 pounds of cheese, and that 16,719,338 pounds of milk were converted in 722,614 pounds of butter. He did not know what was going on in his own province, and it is no wonder that in the late local elections they turned him down. We had a visit in my country from two hon. ministers of the Crown, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries accompanied the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals. They had been making a tour of the province. The supposition is, and it is very strongly confirmed, that the hon. Minister of Railways had been looking for some place where he might offer his services with safety to the lost cause. Two weeks advertising of this big meeting, the first time that two ministers were ever going to visit the town of St. Andrews, excursions run from the Island, two steamers, the government steamer brought into requisition to bring the people, some gentlemen invited to ride down in the private car of the Minister—they wanted to see how it would feel to be in a private car—and the result of it all was that they had an attendance of 500 or 600 people in a town of 1,200 people. They succeeded in bringing twenty-seven fishermen out of 8,000 who are dependent on the fisheries. They presented an address to the minister which I regret, is so long. It is really worth preserving. Among other things they said to these hon. gentlemen that it was the first time in the history of St. Andrews that its residents had the signal honour of meeting on the public platform two responsible—responsible, mind you—ministers of the Crown. They went on to say:

We recognize in you the representatives of one of the most progressive and patriotic governments that Canada has ever had the good fortune to possess.

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Later on they say that they appreciate the works of the government:

Particularly by the patriotic course of your government in so promptly responding to the appeal for troops to be sent to Africa, and in offering to the Imperial government a second volunteer contingent.

Later on they say:

A breadth of patriotism has been evinced, which we feel sure will redound to the future advantage of Canada as well as to the empire at large.

These are a few of the things that were said in the address presented to the hon. gentlemen before they made their speeches. Now, we had quite a number of good Liberals on the platform, among them Mr. A. H. Gillmor, a gentleman who was honest in his convictions, a gentleman who has not varied very much in the convictions which he expressed in 1896, but to show the House the opinions of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, I will read an extract. It is taken from a Liberal paper, so I presume it is gospel. He said that:

He had great pleasure in listening to the ringing notes of Mr. Gillmor. He had been his desk-mate for ten years. He had much confidence in Mr. Gillmor's wisdom. He regretted that he had not been returned at the last election. In parliament there was no man who was listened to with greater pleasure and profit.

Well, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gillmor), is now out of trouble. He is where even the Minister of Railways and Canals cannot overlook him. He can do as he chooses, so I wish to put on *Hansard*, the record and the opinions of this hon. gentleman, that they have recently put in the Senate. In 1897, he visited a fish fair at Campobello, and among other remarks, this Senator Gillmor said. This report is taken from a good Tory paper, and so it must be true. Mr. Gillmor said:

He favoured free trade now as he always did. His friends in power did not differ from their late predecessors as much as he would like them to. If he was in their place he would try to come a little nearer to his promises than the party is doing.

That is the evidence of Mr. Gillmor's wisdom, suggested by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). Lest there might be some possible doubt about that, I hold in my hand a letter signed A. H. Gillmor, in which he compliments the reporter of the Conservative paper, for reporting him so fairly. I would pass the letter over to some hon. gentleman on the other side, but I have some recollection of West Elgin ballots, and I might lose the letter. Again in 1898, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gillmor), referred to the jubilee celebration, in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier had taken so prominent a part, and he is reported to have said:

He felt that plain old common sense and plain old honesty should be more prominent in politics and religion than was noticeable at present.

If that is complimentary to hon. gentlemen who are now occupying the Treasury benches, they are welcome to it.

He felt that plain old common sense and plain old honesty should be more prominent in politics and religion than was noticeable at present. He was not responsible just now for anything going on at Ottawa or Fredericton, but he remarked that there might be a little closer adherence to old methods of common sense and honesty than were observable among some of the politicians and some of the churches at the present time.

That is the opinion of this honest old-time Liberal, and I think it should go on record, because there are a few of his sort left in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), made a pilgrimage to the north, and his friends, three or four weeks before that, had been arranging his meeting, and when he got up there, there was one of those spontaneous outbursts that come from the people in such form, that they presented him with the nomination prepared beforehand. It was all arranged for the show. The minister (Mr. Blair), feels a little doubtful of Queen's and Sunbury. He has been there recently at a municipal election, and his friends were turned down. He is now looking for some other constituency. It is even rumoured that he went to Charlotte to see what shape that county would be in, and he brought with him the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), to appeal to the fishermen there. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair), knows whether that is correct or not. But, at all events, there was no nomination for him in Charlotte. They did not get but 27 fishermen from the islands, and that would have been rather a weak number to sign the nomination paper, even after all the advertising they did. The people of that county had some vivid recollection of Mr. Louis Davies, when he dropped briny tears over what they were suffering from the coal oil duty, and the flour duty, and other duties that, he said, were grinding down the fishermen. And they presumed that Mr. Louis Davies was coming down to say something encouraging. They remembered that he said :

What is the use of pointing the people of New Brunswick to the market of England for their produce, when they send nothing there except, as I said, deals and deal ends. Everything else they have to export goes to the United States; and if you do not enlarge the market there and knock down the barriers which prohibit the people from trading there, commercial atrophy will continue to exist, as I regret to say, it does exist in that province.

They expected to hear the hon. gentleman say, how much return he was bringing them for the \$36,000 of their money he expended. Has he knocked down any barriers for these gentlemen in my county? No, Mr. Speaker, not a barrier. They expected this hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), to show how

much he knew of the capabilities of Canada after all his years of experience in political life; after all his years of playing statesman. Now, let me read you one item from the hon. gentleman's budget, to show how much he has learned. Referring to the statement of the Minister of Finance in 1892, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is reported thus :

He was pleased and joyful when he announced that the exports of Canada had increased, but the great pean of congratulation which he offered to his followers was this (that the door was closed hereafter against any trade with the United States, that there was no hope of reciprocity, unrestricted or otherwise) and that hereafter we were to treat with England and England alone.

He was treating at that time, as all the Liberals were, with the United States. The United States was the only hope of the Liberal party at that time, and he acknowledges here that the hope of the Conservative party was as it has always been, the hope of doing trade with England :

It was seen well where the hearts of his followers were.

Sir, the hearts of the Conservative party in this country, are now, and have always been, with the motherland, and we only wish we could say as much of the Liberal leaders of Canada.

It was seen well where the hearts of his followers were. The cheering which greeted his statement with respect to the exports was moderate, but when he announced that hereafter we had better not discuss the question of reciprocity, the enthusiasm of his followers knew no bounds. The Minister of Railways sat behind him smiling and laughing, not ashamed to be proud that the negotiations, whether honest or dishonest, I will not for the moment say, with the United States proved to be absolutely a failure. Hereafter, said the hon. gentleman, our farmers must change their mode of farming, as they must look, not to the markets to the south of us, but across the seas, and hon. gentlemen opposite cheered him to the echo.

Is it any wonder they cheered him? Has not that been the policy of the Conservative party ever since they came into power in 1878. At all events, Mr. Louis Davies, readily showed where his longing eyes were cast. He further said :

Are we to legislate in the interests of Canada or in the interests of the British exporter?

In whose interests is he attempting to legislate to-day? Certainly in the interests of the British exporter. Further he said :

Whose interests are going to be paramount if they clash? For my part, I have long since made up my mind that when they clash my vote will go for Canada.

The world moves, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), is voting to-day in the interests of the British exporter. He said further :

Sir, we do not hold that the door is closed. We have good reason to know better, not only

from the official statements made in Congress, not only from the articles in the newspapers, not only from the constant flow of our people back and forth from the United States, but by conversations which we, individually, have had—and I speak for myself, which I individually have had—with a large number of leading statesmen of the United States, all which facts cause me to believe that it is quite possible for an honest man who goes there with a sincere desire to promote a fair treaty, to negotiate one in a very short time. Sir, we will have to give as well as to take; there must be justice done to both sides.

Did the minister from everywhere recite his story of '92 to that meeting at St. Andrew's? Did he say, I Louis Davies, Esq., in '92 said, it is quite possible for an honest man to promote a fair treaty, but when I, Sir Louis Davies, K.C.B., Minister of Marine and Fisheries, went there, they treated me as dishonest. We, the present government, had followed out our ideas of giving; we had given free corn, free binder twine, free barbed wire, and we have since given free coasting on the lakes. I was ready to take, but all the opportunity I had offered, was to take my traps and start for Canada, which I did at your expense. And every man on that commission is ready to sing the old refrain, 'I'll never go back any more.' Did he say, when we went to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with the United States, they took us for a lot of political fakirs, and justly so. Did he say, look at our records and see if they had not good reason to do so. What is that record? Mr. Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Louis Davies, Mr. John Charlton, swearing to stand by unrestricted reciprocity with discrimination against Great Britain, one day (but that was when we were honest, in '92); but when we went to negotiate a treaty, see us as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister; Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; and Senator John Charlton, of Michigan. We now had increased the tariff against the United States, and were shouting even more loudly for preference for Great Britain than we were for discrimination against Great Britain in 1891 and 1892. He did not tell the people this, but it is a fact just the same.

Mr. Speaker, you will note, this was no ordinary political meeting—the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Minister of Railways both know that it was specially called for special purpose, which however, failed. The Minister of Railways was driven out of York county in the local House. He took good care not to commit himself in the elections of 1896 until his party got into power, and he was sure of his office. Then, Sir, he was in a nice position; he was playing puss in the corner, that good old game. He stood in the centre of the province of New Brunswick, and said, 'Poor pussy wants a corner'; and there was not a corner open. After a while the hon. gentleman waved around a

couple of flags, one with the post office of Marsh Hill on it, and the other with a senatorship on it; and then he found the pussy who would take another corner—first in the post office and then in the Senate, and the hon. gentleman found a corner in the county of Sunbury and Queen's. But to-day he is in a worse position than he was in 1896. He stands there, and there is no corner for him. He went up to the county of Restigouche and got a nomination, but it does not look like a safe thing. He came to Charlotte and cried: 'Pussy wants a corner,' but it does not like a sure position. So to-day the hon. gentleman is crying, 'Pussy wants a corner,' in the hope that Providence will show him some safe seat which will return him to this parliament.

I say it was a visit—a first visit of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to a community depending on the fisheries—8,000 of them. It was to be presumed fishing interests were most to be considered. Let me ask this hon. gentleman a few questions. Did he tell the fishermen he had opened any new markets for their products? Did he tell them that instead of the fishing regulations in the United States against Canadian fishermen being relaxed, they were enforced even more stringently than before his government came into power? Did he tell them that the great West Indian markets of Cuba and Porto Rico, that take upwards of \$1,000,000 of the products of these toilers of the sea in eastern Canada—shipped either direct or in bond through New York—have gone absolutely under the control of the United States, and that we have no guarantee the markets may not be closed on our fish any day? Did he tell these fishermen that communication by telephone from Deer Island with Eastport, Me., the principal market for their fish, which had been urgently pressed upon the government, has been refused so far, although the annual charge for interest would be less than \$100 per year? Did he tell them that their demand voiced through their convention for a standard measure for fish, which had been presented to this House in the form of a Bill and concurred in by the Minister of Inland Revenue, had been thrown out by his opposition? There is another Bill of the same kind coming before the House this session, and if he thinks it best, let him oppose it, and see how much advantage it will be to his party among the fishermen in the county of Charlotte. Did he tell the fishermen that the present regulation would be changed in regard to hours for fishing on Saturdays and Mondays, which, owing to tidal conditions requires weir fishermen to lose Monday fishing, only leaving them five days a week to earn their living where others have six? Did he tell them that his government had increased the price of sugar to the consumers by increased duties

of over \$700,000 for 1899. It would not do to make that statement, for on the same platform was the only honest free trader in their party, who had shouted free sugar, the Hon. A. H. Gillmor. Did he tell the fishermen the government had increased the duty on tobacco, so it now costs from 25 to 33½ per cent more than in 1896. And just here I want to say, with reference to the remarks of the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan) last night, that in the fishing industry native tobacco, whatever its virtues may be, has not been adopted. The fishermen as a rule will not use it. So that the tobacco which formerly cost our fishermen 6 cents is now costing them 8 cents, which shows the great advantage of being under Grit rule. I do not know whether it will ever be possible to get our fishermen to use the native tobacco, as they have tastes which are perhaps peculiar to themselves. They are very large users of tobacco. Of the \$1,151,000 of increased duties paid in 1899 on tobacco over 1896, the fishermen paid a very large proportion.

Did the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries tell them what the lobster law was, is, or is to be? No, Sir, he did not even know himself. He changed the law while he was there. Did he do it on the representations of the county convention? No, Sir, he did it on the representations of two or three of his political friends. On their representations, this guardian of the deep shifted the whole lobster law of the Bay of Fundy, and the lobster does not know whether he should shrink a quarter of an inch or stretch a quarter of an inch to protect himself from illegal fishing.

Here is the greatest outrage on the people a minister was ever guilty of. It has been the habit to license weirs to be built along the shores of our country. A man would pay \$5 to the fishery guardian and have permission to go on and build his weirs. He had necessarily to cut the brush in the winter before the sap had started out too much. But the government did away with new weir licenses this year, and I know of one gentleman who spent \$200 in getting his weir ready only to find out a couple of weeks ago that notices were sent out forbidding the building of any more weirs although it had been an established fact for years that these men had the right to build them. Instead of giving the notices in time, they allowed these men along the shores to expend \$100 or \$200 each in labour getting their weir material ready, and then told them that they must not build them. Even now it may be too late as all that weir stuff must be put into water before it gets a chance to dry up too much. This is one of the advantages which the hon. gentleman did not tell he had brought about when he addressed the fishermen in our country. If ever there was a moral, if not a legal, liability, this government is morally liable to the fishermen of Charlotte county in many thousands of dollars.

Nor did he tell them about their representatives in Paris, which appointment is one of the most laughable things that ever occurred in this country. I do not say that Major Gordeau is not a good departmental officer, but I have yet to learn what knowledge he has of the habits and conditions of the fish in this country. Did he tell these people down by the sea that the gentlemen he sent to Paris to have control of our fisheries exhibit cannot tell a sprat from a mackerel or a whale from a bottle neck ship. When I made inquiry as to his qualifications in this House, the Minister of Marine did not know enough himself to reply, but he had to relegate that duty to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, and that hon. gentleman said:

I beg to say that the Deputy Minister of the Marine Department has gone to Paris in charge of the fishery exhibit, and that he has a technical and practical and scientific knowledge of the fisheries of Canada.

What a wonderful discovery that was for the hon. member for Brome (Mr. Fisher)!

That he has experience in connection therewith, and it is for that reason he was appointed to do the work.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the facts were known, he was appointed beyond doubt at the suggestion of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who wanted somebody to show him around Paris, and help him to spend the \$50,000 granted for the purposes of the exhibition. They sent this gentleman over to do what? To represent an industry which employs 81,500 fishermen, on which 400,000 of the citizens of Canada are dependent, and in which \$10,000,000 capital are invested, and in which the gross business represents from \$20,000,000 to \$22,000,000 annually. Why did they not send a more practical man, who did know something of the fisheries of this country? These men down by the sea expected to hear some encouraging words from the Minister of Marine, something pertinent to their own business, but I do not see what they could expect from a minister who could not reply to the question I put him regarding the qualifications of the representatives he sent over to Paris to take charge of our fishery exhibit, although the question was on the Order paper some two or three weeks. As regards the reply of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, I have only this to say, that if that hon. gentleman knows as much, and no more, of agriculture than he does of the qualifications necessary for one who represents the fishing interests of Canada at Paris, I would advise him to read that classical work, 'Chimmie Fadden' and he will learn what kind of a farmer he is in the opinion of fishermen, and that the sooner he gets a duchess to direct his actions the better for the country.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as these ministers did not talk business to the fishermen as they had expected, it is open to question what they came for. I made an inquiry of a good old time Liberal, as to results of the meeting. His reply was—'I did not go down to hear apologies for increased taxation and increased expenditure, or to hear them spend so much time white-washing Mr. Sifton and Mr. Tarte.' He had supposed before that meeting we had responsible government, but both Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Blair had disabused his mind of that. In his description he said: Mr. Blair put forward a proposition in principle as follows: A man so disposed can organize a band of robbers, sit down at a council board, and discuss their mutual interests, delegate one of the company to rob a bank and return with the spoils to divide, but the company would not be responsible, but only the men who robbed the bank. That was the view of Mr. Blair and Sir Louis Davies, and I do not think we need go very far to prove this, because in the newspaper, which gave a report of the meeting, I find that the very same thing was stated by both these hon. gentlemen. They said that we must not take the opinions of any one man, but must go back to the old platform and make that platform do all that is required. The ministers were not responsible at all. It was nothing but the platform that was responsible, but, as this man said to me; the platform has been out of sight for a long time, and I think the people throughout the country are of that opinion. These hon. gentlemen virtually said that each member of the council was at liberty to do and say what he pleased, and the government could not be held responsible. We had a sample of this in the House the other day, when the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), quoted the speech of the Minister of Public Works in Paris. Some of us supposed that the first minister would repudiate that speech, but he did not. He simply condoned it, although it had been reproduced identically in the paper of the Minister of Public Works in this country. Why did he not repudiate it? Simply because he feared the Minister of Public Works, who is the conductor of the whole show. He, it was, who insisted on the famous 'no precedent' being inserted in the order in council, and who holds the whip over the whole cabinet. I will now take the liberty to quote from the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries said:

It is not by the utterance of any one individual that the party ought to be judged, but by their platform.

And the Minister of Railways said:

Sir Louis Davies has pointed out where are to be found the Liberal pledges. They are to be found, not in the utterances of individual members of the party, but in the resolutions of 1893, passed by the Liberal convention. Beyond these the government is not committed.

Mr. GANONG.

The people of Charlotte county are not all fools. They may possibly have been talking to a few Liberals whom they thought they could hoodwink, but they will find when the elections come that they will want some stronger argument than that. I said the Minister of Public Works was the conductor of the show. He is just as much the conductor of the show as it is possible for any one to be. The position occupied by the First Minister and the Minister of Public Works are about the same as those of the motorman and the conductor in an electric car. The First Minister acts as motorman to turn on and off the power as he is directed. The Minister of Public Works acts as the conductor, he starts the show, he stops it, he side-tracks it, he puts his no-precedent-trail around it, and the First Minister does just as he is told.

At that meeting down in St. Andrews, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries dilated on the excellency of the Minister of the Interior and his marvellous handling of Yukon affairs; but I believe he did not try to rob the Minister of Railways and Canals of all the glories and infamies of the Yukon tramway business. Now, if the Minister of Marine and Fisheries thinks he has successfully defended the Minister of the Interior, I ask him to come down again into that county whence fifteen or twenty good honest men have gone into the Yukon to endeavour to get their share of the gold fields, and who are writing home from day to day of the infamies of the government in control of that country. The Minister of Railways apologized for his friend the Minister of Public Works, who made the first Drummond County Railway deal on which the Conservative party saved the country \$500,000.

But, there is one thing that is noticeably absent in this address. You do not hear prohibition or plebiscite mentioned in it at all. They won't talk of prohibition or plebiscite, although that was a county that had given 2,000 majority for the plebiscite. The people voted honestly, believing that the Minister of Agriculture would stand by them, believing that the words of the First Minister could be relied on. It was a strange omission, and one that I feel the next representative of the Liberal party in that county will have to account for. All I have further to say in regard to that meeting down there is this: I would like to have these two hon. gentlemen come back to the county again, I am sure the people would like to hear them. They would like to hear these hon. gentlemen attempt to defend the hon. gentleman who forced the government to put the no-precedent clause in an order in council, trying to prevent loyal Canadians from going to join loyal Australians to help the motherland in upholding the rights of British subjects. Now, Sir, the First Minister is no less a sinner

than all the rest of these hon. gentlemen. On this question, he said :

We can reduce the amount two, yes, three millions of dollars per year.

And yet we see the increasing millions of expenditure stand out in bold relief in the speech made by the Minister of Finance. The electors begin to think that the First Minister was talking in that long sleep of his. There was another thing that the First Minister stated in his speech. He blamed the Conservatives for certain law expenses, claiming that they were used for a corrupt purpose. But if the hon. gentleman will look up the records of his party he will find that he is not guiltless, but that \$267,650 were spent in the same wasteful and corrupt manner that he undertook to stop.

Now, the shipping policy of the hon. gentleman so far as the preferential trade is concerned, is well known. I would advise the hon. gentleman some time to write a book. He may be more successful in that than in some other things. I would suggest as a title, 'How I obtained the Cobden Medal,' or 'How I sacrificed the interests of my Canadian friends.' The Minister of Public Works might also write a book on 'The true story of the no-precedent contingent,' and I would suggest that on the title page he place the words of the junior member for Halifax :

It was the opportunity and the privilege of the leader of the opposition to initiate a proposal to offer Canadian troops for service in South Africa. It was a proud, an enviable, a distinguished opportunity.

Now, Sir, in connection with this matter of the preference, I propose to quote from a Liberal paper of the city of Quebec :

The mutual preference means dependence, with our commerce tied up or imprisoned by a tyrannical treaty.

The mutual preference leads straight to a customs union or British Zollverein.

It will not stop at a commercial bond.

Little by little, slowly and without effort, in fact, by the force of circumstances, it will finish by absorbing us completely and by extinguishing our liberty and our autonomy.

This is what the mutual preference signifies; it is imperialism disguised.

I do not read that particularly for what there is in it, but to show just where these hon. gentlemen would have stood if they had carried out their policy of 1891, if they had carried out this continental free trade and unrestricted policy business. It will not stop at a mere commercial bond. The Hon. Edward Blake recognized that, and he repudiated the whole thing. He recognized that a preference for the United States and a discrimination against Great Britain would eventually lead to a political as well as a commercial bond. The First Minister, who could not send the first contingent, at last got a move on himself and he sent the sec-

ond one, principally, however, because he was forced to do so by the leader of Her Majesty's loyal opposition and by the public demand. I believe he has even allowed a third one to go. But in the meantime what do we find from the papers supporting this hon. gentleman? *La Patrie*, the organ of the Minister of Public Works, was abusing the Conservatives for urging the government to do this duty. This is what *La Patrie* says :

Mr. Taillon, Mr. Beaubien and Mr. Bergeron constituted themselves the lay figures of Toryism and of the Orangeism of Ontario, that is to say, of the most fanatical and baneful influences that exist in this country.

We denounce them in the name of sound public opinion. We ask our fellow-citizens to brand them as criminal cowards.

I do not believe that he could place this, no-precedent Premier who made one of the most brilliant speeches on this question that has ever been delivered in this parliament anywhere, except amongst these criminal cowards that are referred to, but I question very much whether the gentleman referred to by *La Patrie*, will consider that the company would be much improved. If the ideas of the hon. Minister of Public Works, and some of his fellows were carried out, we would have to change the prayer in this House in regard to the Queen, so as to read: That she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies, and add to it: But, good Lord, do not consider this a precedent.

Mr. Speaker, I have not recited one-tenth of the evidence of the great trek of the Liberal leaders from the slough into which their policies was landing them, over into a land of peace and plenty already prepared for them under protective conditions. Others had laboured for years while they sulked and kicked, and these gentlemen came into the fruit of the others' labour. Now, Sir, the time is coming near, when these gentlemen will appeal to the country. Have you heard one of these hon. gentlemen quote their former statements as to taxation or expenditure on the floor of this House. Oh, no? Will the Liberal papers from now until the time of an election, print in parallel columns, their pre-election statements as to taxation and expenditure, and the statement of taxation and expenditure for 1900, by the Minister of Finance?

Oh, no; that is the last thing they wish to place fairly before the electors. All they will shout will be: See our surplus, which actually means increased taxation; see our trade returns. But, Sir, they will find the electors will have something to say. They will say: We are not so ignorant as you seem to think us. We know Providence has given us bountiful harvests, and the condition of the world's requirement is such as to give us a large export, with corresponding agricultural prosperity. We know the Conservatives gave us railway and canal facil-

ities for handling these products in spite of your years of opposition. We know the Conservatives would have given us a fast Atlantic service, which you killed as soon as you came into office. We know the Conservatives gave us cold storage. We know the Conservatives started and stimulated the butter and cheese trade. We know the Conservatives initiated the bounty system on iron, which is now tending to an immense development of the iron and steel industry. We know the immense mineral productions have come without your aid. We know you played us false on the plebiscite. What have you done, anyway?

And, what will the electors hear in reply? Simply the same old cry. See our increasing revenue, our increasing foreign trade, to which the farmers and artisans will answer in the words of Mr. Louis Davies in 1892:

The hon. gentleman is absolutely powerless in these matters of trade. Foreign trade is governed by supply and demand.

What the farmers, fishermen and artisans would like to do, is to stand these seventeen Liberal ministers of this business is business government, up in a row from the First Minister to the raw recruit from Quebec, the Minister of the Exterior. Ask them to put on their sunniest smiles, and speak up sharp. The farmer wants to know: Why has the sale of prison-made binder twine been so manipulated to the advantage of your political friends, as to make it possible for the Brantford Binder Twine factory to rob the farmers of a profit of 100 per cent? Why have you made every effort to kill any possible chance of mutual preferential trade within the empire? The workmen want to know: Why you, under a guise of reciprocity with the British West Indies, increased the duty on sugar, so that you have taken over \$700,000 more out of them in taxation than they would have paid under the Conservative tariff of 1896? The workmen want to know: Why you have taken \$1,151,000 more from them on their tobaccos—the solace of the workingman, after his day's labour? Why have you left coal oil in the position that you have, so that it is possible for a great monopoly to rob this country to the extent of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a year? The fishermen want to know: Why you have not obtained the long-promised reciprocity with the United States for their products, which you repeatedly asserted any honest man could obtain? All want to know: Why you did not dare to have a judicial investigation into Yukon affairs? Why you tried to perpetrate the Yukon Railway steal of gold lands for Mackenzie and Mann, and others, whose names did not appear in the contract? Why you made a contract by which you are to pay the Grand Trunk Railway 4 per cent on \$3,500,000 in perpetuity, while you asked us to accept 2½ per cent on our hard-earned savings, really giving away \$87,500

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a year in interest, providing this country can raise the money at the rate the hon. Minister of Finance claims they can? Why did you pay the Drummond County Railway who were your political friends, \$500,000 more than the road had been offered for, to others? Why did you think it a crime to collect \$20,000,000 in customs taxation, and now esteem it a virtue to bleed us white by taking \$27,000,000? Why has economy changed since you took office, to mean extravagance and corruption? Why did you play us false on the plebiscite? Why have you dropped the prohibition question as a party, as stated by your First Minister? Why did you not promptly offer help to Britain in her hour of need? Why did sixteen of you, taken at your own estimate of yourselves, as possessed of all the talents, allow the seventeenth to delay the sending of a contingent, and then bulldoze you into adding a no-precedent clause? These are the things the electorate want settled by you gentlemen on the front benches, before they will again give you their confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that some provision may be made, by which our sailors and fishermen may enter the service of the empire through the navy. I believe it is the earnest desire all over the country, and what a grand recruiting ground we have for this branch of the service, among these 81,500 sturdy, loyal-hearted Canadians. But, gentlemen of this government, or any other government, these men do not want a no-precedent clause to a first, second or third contingent.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the great body of Liberals in Canada, English and French, are loyal to Canada and the empire. I will not say the leaders are disloyal, but rather, that they are decidedly wanting in evidences of loyalty, that they have been so pronounced in the action of loyalty in the other colonies. The disgrace of delay, and no-precedent incident, has been largely wiped off our country by the gallant Canadians at Belmont, Paardeberg and other points, but the disgrace is still and ever will be on this government. As far as it is possible, it has been blotted out of Canadian history by the blood of those heroes who have given their lives for the empire and the glory of Canada. And in no way can truly loyal Canadians so well show their appreciation of past benefits and those to come through British connection, as by showing by public opinion there is a bond indissoluble between Canada and every part of the empire, and although this bond be unwritten on parchment, it is one even more binding, being written deep in the hearts of all loyal Canadians, and now sealed as no written parchment bond was ever sealed—sealed by the mingled life-blood of our heroic sons, French and English, who have fought and died for the empire, side by side on South African mountains and plains. Mr. Speaker, I shall end as I began—the world moves.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). Mr. Speaker, at this late hour, and at the conclusion of this debate, I will not follow the bad example of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ganong) who has just spoken, and make a long speech—a speech that I do not think any one will ever attempt to read. I shall condense my few remarks into practical shape, so that they may possibly reach the intelligent people of this country, and especially the farming class which I represent. I shall confine myself to treating of the tariff as it affects the agriculturists of this country, for I know that the manufacturers are pretty well looked after in this House. I should wish, Sir, that the farming community were spoken of in a different way from that in which they are often referred to. Some hon. gentlemen speak of them as if they were a people hardly worth considering.

An hon. MEMBER. That is the Conservatives.

Mr. ROGERS. That has been done by hon. gentlemen opposite unfortunately too often. A great deal has been said by members on both sides of the House in this debate from a party standpoint, and I shall venture to do now, as I have done before, namely, speak from an independent standpoint. I feel that at no time in the history of our country was there more necessity to speak from an independent standpoint than at present. The national policy was introduced in 1878, and I can well remember that the late Sir John Macdonald announced at that time that it was only a means towards an end; that it was only proposed in this country because the Americans threw down the gauntlet to us and put a very high tariff against our Canadian industries, which at that time, both agricultural and mechanical, were at a very low ebb. It was felt by many that our industries required a little pap as it were so that they would be able to hold their own against their rivals on the other side. I, with many others, supported the national policy when it was inaugurated, and I supported it conscientiously, and could give reasons for the faith that was in me, which, I am sorry to say, is more than a great many gentlemen can do. The farmers at that time felt that the national policy would be a burden on them, but the farmers are a loyal and patriotic class of the community, and are willing to bear a burden if they conceive it to be in the interests of the country that they should do so. Well, Sir, the national policy got a fair trial for eighteen long years, and I must say for myself that I felt that fifteen years was long enough. I broke away from the old ranks, and I am proud to say that I had the courage of my convictions, and that I told our representatives in the conventions at that time that the national policy was a failure, and an injury to the farmers of

Canada instead of a benefit. When the platform of the Patrons of Industry was established, I heartily endorsed it. One of the main planks in that platform is: Tariff for revenue, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries and not upon the necessaries of life. That platform took such a strong hold upon the people of the country that men of both parties, to the number of 175,000, subscribed to it. The Patrons were established in 1891, I believe that the reduction made by the Conservative government in the tariff in 1894 was largely done through the influence of the Patron organization, because the Conservatives felt that they could not appeal to the country with a tax of 35 per cent and 40 per cent on a large number of articles of necessity. They, therefore, put many articles on the free list and reduced the duty in many cases from 35 to 20 per cent. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that if the Conservatives had done that in 1891, that the Patron organization would possibly not have started in this country, but the people got tired of the high tariff and would not stand it any longer. Well, Sir, the Patrons were not satisfied, and I can tell you that the farmers of this country as a whole are not yet satisfied with the present reductions in the tariff. Now, speaking my own opinion, and without responsibility for the opinions of others, I feel that the reason the present government have not made further reductions in the tariff is that the national policy which we supported for so many years and which took so many millions of dollars out of the pockets of the farmers through high protective tariff and combines and trusts, has had so many ramifications that we know that money has been wielded to slash at us and to make us feel that we have to submit to the burden as long as the power of money is allowed to influence. The farmer knows very well and the country knows the influence that money has on election day. It may be said that you cannot get an honest government until you get an honest people, and there is some truth in that. When we look at the statistics of our own country and the statistics of the great country to the south of us, we can see what protection has done for the agriculturists. In the province of Ontario, the only province for which we have statistics, in ten years the rural population decreased by 35,000, though the natural increase is about 10 per cent. The national policy did not do much to increase the population of Ontario. The assessed value of our property decreased by \$11,000,000, whereas I am sure it ought to have increased three times \$11,000,000, if agriculture had had a fair chance in the race with other industries. The census statistics of 1891 in the United States showed that of the 12,000,000 farmers living on farms, over 50 per cent were living on rented farms, and of the remaining 50 per cent, 30

per cent were encumbered, leaving not much more than 20 per cent of the farms of the United States free of encumbrance. That was not a very creditable showing for that country, and I am credibly informed that the coming census of 1901 will make a very much worse showing for the farmers of this country. Therefore, it is no wonder that the farmers of Canada are sick and tired of protection. The principle of protection in the United States may stand through the coming elections; but I feel sure that if we live to see the succeeding election, we shall see it swept off the face of the land; and I hope, though gradually and very slowly, that it is being swept away here. I could not help remarking that when the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), while speaking of the preferential clause in the tariff, was asked if he would repeal it if returned to power, he replied that accomplished facts are accomplished facts. It is hard to sweep away the principle of protection all at once, when it has been so long in existence; but if I had the power, I would sweep it away faster than it is being done now. A good deal has been said about the little reduction that has been made in the interest of the agriculturists. The few articles that have been put on the free list have been treated, I must say, in a very unstatesmanlike manner by the opposition. They claim that the binder twine interest was thrown into the hands of the Americans, and that our own factories were closed when this government took the duty off binder twine. But these gentlemen cannot really feel that way, because when there was a general cry that the duty must be put back again—which showed the greed of the combine—the farmers, fearing that the government might be influenced to do so, signed a petition by thousands warning the government against putting back the duty; and the factories that had been bought up under a protective tariff of 25 per cent. The hon. ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), and the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), all said that the reason the binder twine factories were closed was because the duties were taken off, and they could not live.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend could not have been present, for I made no such statement.

Mr. ROGERS. I was reading it ten minutes ago; but I will say that the hon. member for Bothwell did treat the question fairer than other hon. gentlemen.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not think that is fair to the other hon. gentlemen.

Mr. ROGERS. I have a copy of the petition here, if the hon. gentleman wishes to know what was said in it. Among other things, it said:

Mr. ROGERS.

That in view of the past history of the Consumers' Cordage Company your petitioners feel assured that the replacing of any duty upon binder twine would simply have the effect of putting the Canadian farmers and consumers at the mercy of this combine, as they have been for years past. Under the former tariff of 25 per cent duty on binder twine, it is a matter of common knowledge that the Consumers' Cordage Company were able to subsidize and purchase the following binder twine industries at that time in existence in Canada:

Bannerman Bros., of Lachute, Que., whose mill has been closed for seven years, during which time they have received the sum of about \$8,000 per annum from the Consumers' Cordage Company for keeping the mill idle.

John Brown & Co., of Quebec, whose mill was bought up by the Consumers' Cordage Company for about \$140,000, double the actual value, and has been closed ever since the purchase, over six years ago.

Thomas Connor & Sons, of St. John, N.B., whose business was bought up by the same combine about seven years ago, at a very large figure, and has been closed during the whole of that period.

James Lochrie's mill, at Toronto, which has been kept idle for about six years at an expense to the Consumers' Cordage Company of about \$6,000 per annum.

Ferguson Bros., of Kingston, whose mill has been closed for about three years, at a compensation of about \$1,800 per annum.

A. Main & Son, of Hamilton, who received the sum of about \$3,000 per annum from the same combine for keeping their mill idle, while other factories controlled by this combine have been kept idle for long periods during the past few years, that were formerly in full operation.

It was not putting binder twine on the free list that closed all these factories up, for some of them were closed seven years ago. This was in 1896.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What was the price of binder twine then?

Mr. ROGERS. The Consumers' Cordage Company were reported to have made over 150 per cent, yet still these hon. gentlemen had the audacity to ask this government to put the duty back on binder twine, and I am very sorry to see that we have a representative in the other House, one of the wealthiest men in the country, who introduced a deputation to the minister asking him to put the duty back. And these hon. gentlemen opposite will persist in saying that because the binder twine was put on the free list, these factories were closed up.

The scarcity of binder twine that year gave the combine greater facilities in buying up the few factories that remained, which might not have been able to do except for that scarcity.

It has been alleged in this House several times that the Farmers Binder Twine Company made enormous profits, when they sold the twine at 7½ cents per pound, in the season of 1898, before the combine bought up all the twine, and we can well imagine what

enormous profits the Consumer's Cordage Company made when they sold the twine at the increased rate of 11 to 13 cents per pound after they had got control of the market. That same spring, before the Cordage Company got the control, I could have got binder twine in the Kingston market at 7½ cents per pound, but after the combine was formed we had to pay 11 to 13 cents per pound for it. Of course it cannot be expected that the Kingston penitentiary, which only produces 500 tons out of the 9,000 to 10,000 annually consumed, can control the price and prevent the combine charging higher rates for the great bulk of the consumption which they produce.

I think the government have adopted this year a wise policy in selling the twine direct to the farmers and regret that they did not adopt this policy last year. But it is very difficult for a government to handle this matter so as to satisfy all parties, and we must not forget that the late government, which distributed their twine among a number of purchasers, failed to collect some \$8,000 or \$9,000 due them by different parties, and that these arrears were only collected this last month by the present government and the country is out four years interest on the amount.

It has been said time and time again that the government have entered into arrangements to fleece the farmers and have associated themselves with the combine, but I am proud to say that the people have not so low an estimate of our public men as to believe that any government would enter into a combine to fleece the farmers. These hon. gentlemen opposite said that manila only costs six cents and that the government were charging the farmers fourteen cents per pound for the twine. This was stated by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), and the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), and also the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). But it is also contradicted by these hon. gentlemen themselves. I find that the hon. member for Halton, in his speech on the budget, said that the government had bought 62½ tons of manila at five cents per pound, in the year prior to June 30, 1899. But that same hon. gentleman, lower down in his speech, says that on March 1, 1899, manila in New York cost 7½ cents and sisal 6½ cents. That shows what reliance can be placed on the statements of these hon. gentlemen. It is true that the government had bought 62½ tons of manila at 7½ cents, as shown by the Auditor General's report, in 1899, but that was a very small quantity compared with the 500 tons which the penitentiary produces, and for the remainder of the quantity required to produce that output the government had to pay 8½ cents per pound for sisal and 12½ cents to 13 cents per pound for the raw manila. I can tell these hon. gentlemen also that this spring binder twine was selling in the penitentiary at 10½

cents per pound, in ton lots, although sisal and manila cost the figures I have just mentioned. I bought it this spring myself from the penitentiary at 10½ cents per pound.

Mr. HENDERSON. It is very strange that the government will not sell it to anybody else for that.

Mr. ROGERS. The hon. gentleman is badly informed because it was advertised at that price in the newspapers. It was advertised at 10½ cents per pound, if purchased by the ton, and 12½ cents when purchased by the car load, and not only was it advertised at these prices in the newspapers, but those were the prices quoted by the warden of the penitentiary to all those who wrote to him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman read us the advertisement.

Mr. ROGERS. I am sure there has been a thousand letters sent out from the Kingston penitentiary:

Fifty ton lots and upwards....	12½c.	9½c.	8½c.
Car-loads	13c.	10c.	9c.
Ton lots	13½c.	10½c.	9c.
Less than ton lots.....	14c.	11c.	10c.

Some of our farmers club together and buy in ton lots.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. gentleman means to tell us he did not buy pure manila.

Mr. ROGERS. It is 1½ cents cheaper than the Farmers' Binder Twine Company quoted theirs at. I might say, as regards pure manila, that they could not buy the raw material for less than 14½ cents lately. Nobody can sell pure manila at that price. Nobody can make any capital out of what the government is doing in regard to binder twine this season, because there are thousands of letters all over the country quoting these prices.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When was this to be bought?

Mr. ROGERS. I am told that the time has been extended to June 1.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How much has been sold to the farmers?

Mr. ROGERS. We ordered a ton from our section. We did not know how much we would want; and they were selling it as fast as they could manufacture it. To show you that in the States as well as here the raw material has gone up. I will read an article from the *New York Post*:

There are 27,000 tons of manila hemp awaiting shipment from Philippine ports which have been closed to trade by the action of the United States military authorities. The value of the hemp there detained is \$6,000,000, and as a result of its detention hemp has gone up in the United States from 4½ cents in 1895 to 14½ cents at the end of 1899. Sisal from Mexico, used as

a partial substitute for manila, has advanced in sympathy from 3 to 9 and 10 cents. The Republican politicians, fearing the effects of dear binder twine on Republican party prospects next fall, are endeavouring to secure the release of the hemp now in the Philippines, and General Otis has promised to do this as soon as he can send troops to occupy the districts where the hemp is now stored. But the supply of manila hemp will be very uncertain until peace once more reigns in the Philippines.

All this proves that the raw material could not be bought for anything less than that price. It has been said that the Farmers' Binder Twine Company has made enormous profits. It is true, and they frankly admit it. Unfortunately, many other manufacturing concerns will not tell the public how much profit they are making. This company sold every ounce of twine they had in 1898 at 7½ cents. If this company made 60 per cent, what must other companies been making in the past when they got 9 cents and 10 cents all through, in spite of the influence of combines? Hon. gentlemen opposite talk about putting binder twine on the free list as having increased the price. How can they make the farmers believe that? There is no foundation for such a statement.

Now, there is the subject of free corn, upon which a good deal has been said. Last year, for the first time, I heard arguments in this House, that it would be better for the farmers to feed their corn and coarse grains to their cattle instead of selling them. We were told that the farmers are so poor that they could not afford to keep their cattle, they could not afford to put up buildings to house their cattle, they were obliged to sell their coarse grains to pay debts on the farm. That is the argument they made use of last year, and that we were giving away our markets to the Americans for free corn. In 1898 the Americans raised 22,000,000,000 bushels of corn, and they exported over 200,000,000 bushels to European countries, and we took 5,000,000 bushels. Do you think the Americans would make any better bargain with us on account of our taking 5,000,000 bushels? It would have no effect upon them when we were trying to make a bargain with them. The longer I look into this matter the more I feel that free corn has been the greatest boon the farmers ever received. The member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is coming round to the opinion that the farmers would do better to feed their coarse grains instead of selling them. Why is it that Americans come over here and buy 130,000 head of cattle and take them over there and feed them on the very grain that we get from them free of duty? I am glad to see that hon. gentlemen are coming to their senses in this matter. I would like any hon. gentleman in this House to show me where home consumption materially affects the price of an article which we have to sell.

Mr. ROGERS.

The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) says that home consumption does not affect the price of anything that we have to sell. Last year we exported over 12,000,000 bushels of pease and oats to Great Britain. The member for Leeds, who buys grain constantly, knows that the price is regulated according to what he can pay. If he can pay 30 cents, it will follow him out, and vice versa. So, a few bushels of corn coming in here does not affect the price of our coarse grain in the least, and our farmers are not such fools as to believe it. They are the shrewdest business men in the world, otherwise they could not hold their own in this country. No other industry could live with the small profits which the farmers have. I am often amused and astonished to hear the advice given to the farmers by lawyers, doctors and bankers how they should conduct their business. If they had a little practical experience they would not talk so much—I will not say rot—as they do talk sometimes. I will give the House a little illustration of what is taking place in my own county in regard to free corn. There is a Mr. Reid, a farmer, and a cattle dealer who buys and exports thousands of head of cattle every year. He is a very strong supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite and has been all his lifetime. He told me, the year before last, that he raised between 200 and 300 tons of hay himself and that he bought 300 tons more. That was about 600 tons that he fed that year, and he said that he would not have used a pound of that hay if he could not have got corn to feed with it. I was sitting at luncheon at one time with a gentleman who was the local member for our county. He deals in hogs and pork, and he said: You may say that we could not export pork at the price it is if we had not corn to feed. It is not a good thing to feed to much of one thing to any animal. People who speak whereof they know and who really have knowledge of the subject cannot but admit that a mixed ration of corn and other grain makes the best pork. You do not want to feed the hogs when they are too young, but after they are three or four months old, you want to feed them a mixed ration of corn and some other grain. If the farmers find that it is not in their interest to feed corn they will feed something else. I say that instead of feeding 7,000,000 bushels, as they did last year, if they had fed 16,000,000 bushels it would have been more to their interest. I know they will come to it in the future. In my own county, farmers that were much against the thought of free corn, I saw coming in last spring to the mill, and taking away their loads of corn at the price at which it was selling, and they were very glad to get it. The hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) admitted, himself, that if the farmers get it a little cheaper they will feed it. As soon as it is cheaper there is no doubt that they will buy it.

There is another question that has been troubling the farmers. Reference has been made to the price that they have to pay for barbed wire. It has been said by hon. members opposite: See what the farmers have to pay for barbed wire. I want to ask hon. gentlemen what is the reason that they have to pay more for it than they formerly did. The reason is the curse of a high tariff. The Americans, have under the operation of a high tariff, organized trusts and combines and they have got this article almost into their own hands. Mostly every line of business in this country admits that there is no justifiable reason for the increased cost of the manufactured articles, excepting that business is booming and that they wish to take advantage of it. They take advantage of the opportunity that the principle of protection has put into their hands and they grind the masses. You cannot show, in any instance, that there is a justifiable reason for the prices which prevail, except it be owing to the existence of those combines and trusts, and I say that one of the very live subjects that the farmers have to deal with to-day is that of combines and trusts, because we all know that they could not exist if there were no protection. I am going to give the House a little evidence of that. We know that this is a very live subject with the people to the south of us. About two years ago a commission was appointed to investigate into this matter, and to ascertain the facts, and among those who gave evidence was Mr. H. O. Havemeyer, the father of the great sugar trust, representing a capital of \$120,000,000. He says:

The chief owner and promoter of the American Sugar Trust has made statements before an investigation commission to the effect that these combinations could not exist without the aid of the tariff which permits them to plunder the people.

The father of one of these trusts admits that in his own evidence.

Under free trade it would be quite possible for all the sugar refineries in the United States to organize a trust and cut down the cost of management and manufacture by combining their business under a single head. But it would be impossible for them to charge the consumers more than the natural price for their product. The existence of the trust does not depend on the tariff, but its evil effects do. Without the aid of the tariff the trust could cut down expenses, but could not advance prices.

What better evidence could you want than that?

It could not levy a price sufficient to pay dividends on watered stock, for outside competition would make that impossible. In Britain an attempt at the American method of fictitious capitalization has resulted in a failure, because there was no protective tariff to aid in the securing of inordinate profits.

I could quote columns of evidence given before the same commission to the same effect. The man who has made his millions

out of this trust is honest enough to make these admissions. The farmers feel that this is the bugbear which they have to fight, and anything that will tend to increase the disability under which they labour will not go down well with them. It is surprising to hear the hon. ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Montague), a man who is supposed to be the friend of the farmer, saying: Let the government put the duty back to where it was before, and in every instance I will give it my hearty support. The hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), said the same thing. I will not say that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), who has a farm himself, is considered to be a friend of the farmer, said that; in fact he did not say it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Would you advise taking the duty off agricultural products?

Mr. ROGERS. I said I would reduce it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. On pork?

Mr. ROGERS. I might mention pork. At the time that the national policy was introduced there was no such thing as raising pork for cured bacon. The farmers then raised heavy pork. They never thought of killing pigs until they weighed 200 or 300 pounds. During these last few years conditions have changed entirely. It would not affect us a bit if the duty was taken off pork, because what regulates the price of our pork is the English market. A traveller of the Nelson, Morris Co., a friend of my own, came through the country, and was selling heavy pork among the fishermen and lumbermen, he said that he could sell our Canadian cured pork in the eastern cities on account of the quality, it being much superior to western pork. The farmers cannot now make anything out of heavy pork.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What I understand from the hon. gentleman is that he favours the destruction of the protection given to agricultural products.

Mr. ROGERS. As I said last year: If it is going, you bet your life we will have our share.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that protection was a curse, and I thought he did not want his share of it.

Mr. ROGERS. I say give the old farmer fair-play. He asks no favours; he asks no class legislation. But, as regards pork, although the protection was necessary at one time the conditions have changed. The farmers cannot make any money out of heavy pork any more and it is in light pork that they expect to do business. To illustrate how the high tariff is affecting the people of the United States I may mention that the democrats have a plank in their

platform against combines and trusts and the Republicans propose to go them one better and to altar the constitution of the United States so as to get at these combines. Governor Pingree, of Michigan, who takes an active part against trusts and combines, shows that there are the following trusts and combines in the United States:

Trust.	Capital.
Oil trust	\$150,000,000
Steel and iron.....	347,000,000
Coal combine	161,000,000
Gas trust	432,000,000
Havermeyer sugar trust.....	115,000,000
Telephone trust	56,000,000
Cigars and tobacco	108,000,000
Alcoholic trust	67,000,000
Electrical appliance trust....	139,000,000
Miscellaneous trusts	1,349,000,000
Total.....	\$2,717,000,000

The miscellaneous trusts comprised sixty-three, such as leather, tobacco, &c. As I have said one political party—the Republican—have proposed to change the whole constitution of the United States so as to get at these combines. In Canada we are constantly talking about the constitution, but I claim that the people are the bosses and not red tapeism. We have not the laws of the Medes and Persians in this country, if the law is wrong the people have a right to remedy it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But we have a law against trusts in Canada if the government will only enforce it.

Mr. ROGERS. In the United States they have a law against trusts in many of the individual states, but as between state and state, they cannot regulate them, and so they propose to change the constitution to do that. I give this as a lesson to the government to resist the pressure brought on them for protection and high tariff. Protection has been the curse of all countries, and the people are bound to get rid of it. Here is a reference to some of the severe penalties against trusts in some of the states of the union:

The penalties that are visited upon offenders are sometimes severe to the point of harshness. In Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee the courts will not assist the trusts to collect their debts. In Illinois a grain combination was exempted by the courts from accounting to one of its constituent members in the use of the common fund.

Notwithstanding that, the trusts in the United States are so powerful that they manage to evade the law, and therefore severer measures are proposed against them. As an instance of some of the ironical statements made on the floor of this House, I find that the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) is quoted by the Kingston *News* as speaking as follows:

Mr. ROGERS.

Mr. George Taylor (Leeds) in his speech said that the Minister of Agriculture—

Mr. Taylor referred to the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, but this paper has it as if he referred to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and that has gone out to the country as if it were gospel.

Mr. George Taylor (Leeds), in his speech on the budget, said that the Minister of Agriculture and other government supporters were shareholders in the Brantford Binder Twine Company, which paid 100 per cent dividend, and that the price of binder twine made at Kingston penitentiary was kept so that those men could continue to realize large profit.

I can tell the House that the farmers of this country, whether they be Conservatives or Liberals, are too intelligent to believe any such rot and nonsense as that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many farmers are stockholders in that Binder Twine Company?

Mr. ROGERS. I would not care if I was one of them myself.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is sensible.

Mr. ROGERS. I bought twine from them for three or four years, and I watched them pretty closely, and I believe that were it not for the Farmers' Binder Twine Company, the heartless, soulless, rapacious brutes of the Consumers' Cordage Company would have made 500 per cent out of the farmers. I am sure that the members of that Brantford Company have a little heart in them, although they are not all angels yet.

Mr. CLANCY. They are satisfied with 100 per cent.

Mr. ROGERS. Less would have done them, but when they started that twine company the Consumers Cordage Company had bought out all the other companies.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is there a combine.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I call the attention of the Minister of Customs to that, and I ask him to enforce the law against combines.

Mr. McCARTHY. But the word 'unduly' is in the law.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Do I understand that the Minister of Customs thinks that 500 per cent is undue, and that 100 per cent is not?

Mr. ROGERS. I admit there are too many combines. If I wanted to make an hour's speech, Mr. Speaker, all I would have to do would be to take up the speech of the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). I know the farmers he represents in the county of Halton, and I have some of my own relations in his county.

Mr. HENDERSON. They are decent people, too.

Mr. ROGERS. I do not know whether they support him or not, but I can assure him that I would not be afraid to take that speech of his and follow him on any platform. The hon. gentleman has asked the farmers to give his party a chance again, but does he think the farmers are devoid of common sense to do that, when he announces that if his party gets into power they will increase the duties. The farmers feel that there is room for a still greater reduction in the duties, and when hon. gentlemen go before their constituents, they will find the farmers demanding a greater reduction. I accept what reduction is given by the government and still hope for more, and will continue to fight for more. The farmers being very British, are pleased with the preferential clause. I said last year that it was the redeeming feature of the whole tariff. I hoped that it would be made 50 per cent, but I am glad that the government have made it this year 33½ per cent. When hon. gentlemen of the opposition say that it has no effect on the people, that it does no good, that the farmers get no benefit from it, I would like to ask them if there is no good from the preference of 33½ per cent on the \$7,686,000 worth of woolen goods that come into the country from England. When you tell the farmers that the \$3,976,667 worth of cotton goods that come in under the preferential clause do not lower the price of all cotton goods in Canada, do you think they will believe you? When you tell them that \$415,000 worth of drugs, dyes and chemicals which come in under the preferential clause do not affect our markets, do you think they will believe you? When you tell them that the imports of flax, hemp and jute manufactures to the value of \$1,610,210 from England, will not affect the price in Canada, do you think they will believe you? When you tell them that of glass and manufactures of glass the \$289,049 worth that come from England will not affect prices in Canada, do you think they will believe you? When you tell them that of machinery \$453,728 worth, and of other iron and steel manufactures \$1,865,642 worth come from England, but will have no effect on prices in this country, do you think they will believe you? When you tell them that \$2,062,428 worth of silks come in from England, but have no effect on the price of silks from other countries, will they believe you? I suppose you will say the farmers do not require silks; they can wear their old woolen rags. You may talk that way here, but you will not talk that way on the platform.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman should not speak while his friends are cheering.

Mr. ROGERS. They are cheering so much that I would never get done if I did not keep on. \$389,065 worth of oil, and \$255,967 worth of paints and colours come from England; and if you tell the farmers that these will not affect the prices of the same goods coming from other countries, do you think they will believe you? You may say the farmers do not need any paint, that white-wash will do for them. About \$184,000 worth come from the United States, and about an equal amount from Germany. Do you think the amount coming in from England under the preferential rates does not regulate the price of all the others coming in? Of paper and the manufactures of paper, \$248,745 worth comes from England. Has that no effect on the market value? Of pickles, sauces and capers, \$118,724 come from England. Of carpets, rugs, etc., \$121,936 worth come from England. The farmers occasionally require a new carpet, too. Sometimes our politicians and other wise men tell us that if we lived as our forefathers did, we could get along without these comforts; but I am glad to say they are getting afraid to talk that way now. Of collars and cuffs, \$44,870 worth come from England. Of china and earthenware, \$577,290 worth comes from England, and this must affect the price of all the same class of goods in the country, whether imported or manufactured. Of fancy goods, \$892,239 worth come from England, of hats and caps \$794,338 worth, and of leather and the manufactures of it \$200,794 worth. We heard the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) the other day complaining about the poor tanners in his county, being affected so that they could not pay their wages. Why can they not, when they get their raw material free? He mentioned that in his section 140 or 150 men could not get work. If he went out through the country, he would find that at present any man who wants work can get it. In my section of the country it is almost impossible to get agricultural labour, and such as we can get is in many cases of a very inferior kind. Of course, farmers cannot afford to pay the wages that other people do, and when I hear these manufacturers saying: If you do not give us protection, we cannot pay the wages required, I wonder what they would say if the farmers were to talk that way? The farmers have to compete in foreign markets just as well as the manufacturers, and they do not make the profits that the manufacturers do. We know that this is the age of combines and trusts, and the plea on behalf of these combines is that they can manufacture cheaper than individual firms. But, why should we not form a company of farmers, and take into that company some of the leading men on both sides of this House. We could then go before the government, as the manufacturers do, and ask that the manufacturing interests should be taxed for our benefit in order

to enable us to compete against the cheaper labour of foreign countries. And we would have a much better case in our favour than they can possibly have, for they admit that agriculture is the basic structure on which all other interests depend, and that when the farmer is prosperous all the other classes of the community benefit. If each member of the government would take, say, \$25,000 worth of stock in this agricultural manufacturing company, and the leaders of the opposition a like amount, that would bring them into closer touch with the farming community, and put them in a better position to deal with the representatives of the manufacturing interests when they urge the government to tax the agricultural community for the purpose of enabling them to compete with the cheap labour of foreign countries. Our farmers have a right to be put on exactly the same footing as the manufacturers; and if they were, we would hear less of this wail on the part of the latter for increased protection. And not only would the government have the support of this powerful agricultural manufacturing company at its back, but it also could plead the interests of the 700,000 or 800,000 individual companies, families consisting of the father and mother and children, down to the seven years old child, who are also engaged in the same field of operations. Those manufacturers complain of the hard stress they are put to in order to make a profit in the face of the keen competition they meet from foreign sources, but let any of them put their money into farming and they will then realize that the difficulties they have to contend against are very slight as compared with those which confront the bone and sinew of our country, who are opening up and developing our waste lands, and on whom more than any other class the prosperity of this country depends. A few instances will show how other industries are prospering:

CENSUS 1890-91.

Statement re Cotton Mills.

Dominion—

Fixed capital invested.....	\$9,730,047
Working capital invested.....	3,478,074
\$13,208,121 at 6 p.c. interest..	\$ 792,487
Total wages paid for the year	2,102,603
Total paid for raw material.	4,208,253
	<hr/>
Total value of articles produced....	7,103,343
Total profit for year (equal to 19 p.c.)	8,451,724
Protected by average duty of 28 p.c., equals	1,348,381
	<hr/>
Total hands employed	2,366,482
Average wages paid per year.....	8,502
	\$255

Mr. CLANCY. What is the hon. gentleman reading from?

Mr. ROGERS. I am reading from a pamphlet prepared by Mr. A. T. Leach, secretary of the Farmers' Institute of Manitoba. They are not the gentleman's own figures, but taken from the census of 1890.

Mr. ROGERS.

Statement re Furriers and Hatters.

Dominion—

Fixed capital invested	\$ 482,155
Working capital invested	1,565,736
\$2,047,881 at 6 p.c. interest..	\$ 122,872
Total wages paid for the year	724,054
Total paid for raw material.	2,793,179
	<hr/>
Total value of articles produced....	3,640,105
Total profit per year (equal to 67 p.c.)	\$4,984,941
Protected to 25 p.c. duty, equals.....	1,344,836
Total hands employed.....	1,246,235
Average wages paid per year.....	2,518
	\$288

Statement re Gloves and Mitts.

Dominion—

Fixed capital invested	\$ 137,478
Working capital invested	284,540
\$422,018 at 6 p.c. interest.....	\$ 25,321
Total wages paid for the year.	135,387
Total value of raw material..	391,329
	<hr/>
Total value of articles produced.....	552,037
Total profit for year (equal to 46 p.c.)	747,732
Protected by 35 p.c. duty.....	195,695
Total hands employed.....	261,705
Average wages paid per year.....	440
	\$308

Harness and saddlery, protected by duty of 30 per cent; nails and tacks, protected by an average duty of 32½ per cent; salt works, protected by an average of 20 per cent duty. Total profit for the year was equal to 45 per cent. The total profit on saddlery was 42 per cent. Sugar refineries: fixed capital invested, \$3,665,700; working capital invested, \$2,258,700; total paid for wages in the year, \$709,811; total value of articles produced, \$17,127,100; total profit for the year equal to 19 per cent.

Woollen mills: fixed capital invested, \$5,247,710; total wages paid for the year, \$1,884,483; total value of raw material, \$4,037,767; protected by an average duty of 29½ per cent.

Oil refineries: fixed capital invested, \$901,418; working capital invested, \$972,500; total wages paid for the year, \$140,370; total profit for the year equal to 21 per cent; now, I believe it is 80 per cent.

Speaking about the oil industry, we have been told that it is a very difficult thing to control. The Americans have found that a hard thing to handle. I was looking over the statistics for Ontario this last year, and I think about 26,000,000 gallons of crude oil were produced in that province alone. The question is often asked: How would you tackle the oil combine? Well, for my part I would take some of that \$7,000,000 surplus and would build a government refinery, and then we would never need to fear any combine. I believe the people of this country would consent to be taxed for that purpose. I do not think it is right to have too much of a surplus at the end of the year. When times are prosperous and an enormous amount of money is coming in—and no doubt the Minister of Finance did not expect so great a surplus as we have this year—I would suggest that he make a radical reduction in the tariff to begin with. I would take a couple of millions and put it into the sinking fund to pay off our debt. I am sure that the farmers would not growl about that. I said last year, and I say here

again, that the farmers of this country do not like a burden of debt on their backs. They have reduced their bonded indebtedness on municipalities two or three millions the last ten years, notwithstanding the pressure of hard times. I say to-day that they would bear direct taxation, if necessary, in order to reduce the debt which is piling up against us.

In regard to the preferential clause in the tariff, we feel that is a move in the right direction. We will not be satisfied unless the government go further in that direction. I think, when the time comes, the farmers will make their opinions known on this subject to those who meet them on the public platform. Any one who will say to the people that he wishes to put the duties back to where they were before, in every instance, will get very little sympathy from the farmers. I was struck the other day, at hearing the hon. member for South Leeds saying that he feared for the manufacturers and the artisans of this country. I wonder how he, a man representing an agricultural constituency, could talk like that before the farmers. If he had his money invested in a farm of two or three hundred acres, and if he had to toil, as his constituents do, all day long with his family, I wonder whether he would cry out that he fears for the manufacturer and the artisan. I want no better campaign literature than that, to use before any audience of farmers.

Now, I shall not longer detain the House. I have not used up half of my notes, but I will reserve them until I get upon the platform before the farmers when I shall have a more appreciative audience and when I shall be speaking to men of experience and expressing to them the opinions which I hold. I thank hon. members for the very patient hearing which they have given me and for the hearty appluase which I have received from both sides of the House. I will not detain the House any longer as I do not wish to weary hon. members at this hour of the morning. I will leave the remainder of my remarks until another time.

Mr. McDOUGALL, moved the adjournment of the debate.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I am sorry that there is not more disposition on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to proceed with the public business. It is still early and I had hopes that we would make some further progress, but if hon. gentlemen opposite are going to delay the public business, I suppose we will have to yield.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding), moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 1.55 a.m. (Thursday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, May 3, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. H. G. CARROLL (Kamouraska). In the absence of Mr. Champagne, chairman of the Debates Committee, I beg to present the fourth report of the committee appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of the House during the present session, as follows:

The Committee recommend that Mr. T. J. Grondin who has been employed in the capacity of proof-reader in connection with the French version of the Official Report of the Debates, be paid for his services at the rate of \$4.00 per day, such remuneration to date from the 8th March ultimo, to the 8th May, inclusive.

Mr. CARROLL moved that the said report be now concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

BILLS WITHDRAWN.

Bill (No. 114) to incorporate the Canadian Nurses' Association.—(Mr. Carroll.)

Bill (No. 103) to incorporate the Port Arthur Railway and Terminus Company.—(Mr. Sutherland.)

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 144)—from the Senate—for the relief of Catherine Cecilia Lyons.—(Mr. Mills.)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—CANADIANS KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden, King's.) Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to read to the House a cablegram received from South Africa, which will be of interest to the members. Since the last meeting of the House, the following sad news has been cabled by Lt.-Col. Buchan, who is commanding the Canadian Regiment, I suppose, during the time that Col. Otter is laid up by his recent wounds. The cablegram contains the following intelligence:

No. 8176, Pte. A. E. Zong, 66th Battalion, died from enteric fever on the 1st instant.

Killed in action on the 30th ultimo or 1st instant:

No. 7468, Pte. H. Cotton, 43rd Ottawa and Carleton Rifles.

Wounded in action (slightly), same dates:

Lieut. J. M. Ross, 22nd Oxford Rifles.

No. 7955, Pte. John Lutz, 74th Battalion.

No. 7952, Pte. J. Letson, 62nd St. John Fusiliers.

No. 7486, Pte. P. R. Foster, the G.G.F.G.

No. 7204, Pte. R. Irvine, 19th St. Catharines Battalion.

I may mention that Private Cotton is the son of the Assistant Adjutant General of Artillery in the Militia Department.

PRINTING OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Davin) asked :

At what dates was the MSS. of the following departmental reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, sent to the Queen's Printer, namely :

Postmaster General,
Militia and Defence,
Secretary of State,
Printing and Stationery,
Geological Survey,
Justice,
Public Works,
Penitentiaries.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The manuscript of the report of the Secretary of State was sent to the Printing Bureau complete on January 10. The first batch of the manuscript of the report of the Department of Justice and penitentiaries was sent on January 17, but the copy was delayed owing to the illness of Mr. Douglas Stewart, the superintendent of penitentiaries. The manuscript of the report of the Geological Survey was sent to the printer on February 7.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The Militia report has already been laid on the Table of the House. It comes up to December 31, 1899, not to June 30 last, as implied in the question. A part of the manuscript was in the Printing Bureau on December 12 last, and the rest on March 28. The report was laid on the Table two or three days ago

HALIFAX GARRISON—MEAT SUPPLY.

Mr. POWELL asked :

1. Who supplies the meat for the Canadian garrison at Halifax?
2. Is the meat supplied under contract? If so, was the contract price fixed by public tender?
3. What prices are paid for the beef and mutton supplied to the garrison?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The meat is supplied at present by Maling & Co., of Halifax. There is no contract. The price is fixed by that paid to the Imperial contractor. I am not able yet to give the prices, but have sent to Halifax for them, and hope to have them in a day or two.

Mr. DAVIN. In that case the question may stand.

LETTER CARRIER SHRAPNEL.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

- (a) Was W. Shrapnel employed as letter carrier in Vancouver?
 - (b) Is he now so employed? If not, why not?
 - (c) If Mr. Shrapnel is dismissed, did the Postmaster General receive a petition asking for his reinstatement, and if so, what action was taken upon it?
 - (d) Has there been a full hearing of Mr. Shrapnel's case? If not, will the Postmaster General grant him an investigation so that he may,
- Mr. BORDEN (King's).

if possible, show that the facts of his case have been improperly and unfairly represented to the Postmaster General, and that he is entitled, on the merits, to be reinstated in his former position?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). Mr. W. Shrapnel was employed as a temporary letter carrier in the Vancouver post office, but is not now so employed, his services having been dispensed with, on account of the unsatisfactory manner in which he discharged his duties, and for absenting himself from duty without leave. The postmaster reported that he had suspended Mr. Shrapnel for absenting himself without leave, that he had been performing his work in a very unsatisfactory manner, and that complaints were numerous of the non-delivery of newspapers on his route. Whilst so suspended, Mr. W. E. Bennett, acting as inspector of city post offices, inspected the Vancouver post office, and the postmaster brought the case of Mr. Shrapnel to the attention of Mr. Bennett, and recommended to him that Mr. Shrapnel's services be dispensed with. Mr. Bennett, after careful inquiry, concurred in the recommendation of the postmaster, and accordingly Mr. Shrapnel's services were dispensed with. The department has no reason to doubt the accuracy of the representations of the postmaster at Vancouver, and, therefore, does not think any further investigation necessary. A petition asking for Mr. Shrapnel's reinstatement was received through Mr. Maxwell, M.P., and dealt with in the manner indicated in the following letter :

Ottawa, March 15, 1900.

My dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., inclosing petition asking for the reinstatement of letter carrier Shrapnel, of the Vancouver post office.

On looking into the papers I find that in December last Mr. Shrapnel was suspended by the postmaster at Vancouver, who recommended that in view of the unsatisfactory nature of his services, his services be dispensed with, and instructions have accordingly been given for his removal. I, therefore, regret that it is not possible for me to meet your wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) W. MULOCK.

G. R. Maxwell, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons.

SAWDUST IN RIVERS.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Frost) asked :

1. In view of the complaints made last fall by the people of Studholm that a certain sawmill was fouling the mill streams with sawdust, and spoiling the run of salmon for spawning purposes, what steps the government have taken to prevent, and if the sawdust will be kept out of the river this spring?
2. The same question in regard to Hammond River?
3. Is the government aware that until the river was blocked with slabs and sawdust, this was a splendid salmon river—even now the salmon lay in pools unable to get up the river?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). On complaint last August that streams in King's

County, New Brunswick, were being polluted by saw-mills, the intention of the inspector of fisheries was immediately directed to the alleged practices. On being asked for a report, he states that he instructed the guardian at Studholm to stop sawdust going into the river, who reported he had done so. No recent information has been received about Hammond River, or its pollution by sawdust, but inquiry will be at once made.

CENTRE NEW ANNAN POST OFFICE.

Mr. BELL (Pictou) asked :

1. Who is postmaster at Centre New Annan, Colchester County, N.S.?
2. If the position is vacant, how long has it been so?
3. Is it the intention of the postal authorities to fill the vacancy, if any, and how soon will action be taken?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. Robert Wilson. 2. The position is not vacant.

TATAMAGOUCHE MOUNTAIN POST OFFICE.

Mr. BELL (Pictou) asked :

1. Who is postmaster at Tatamagouche Mountain, Colchester County, N.S.?
2. If the position is vacant, how long has it been so?
3. Is it the intention of the postal authorities to fill the vacancy, if any, and how soon will action be taken?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. Isaac Harris. 2. The position is not vacant.

PREVENTIVE OFFICER AT BRULE, N.S.

Mr. BELL (Pictou) asked :

1. Who is preventive officer at Brule, Colchester County, N.S.?
2. If vacant, how long has the office been vacant?
3. Is it the intention of the Department of Customs to fill vacancy, if any such, and how soon?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1. There is no customs preventive officer at Brule, Colchester County, N.S., at present. 2. The office has been vacant since November 16, 1899, when Mr. David Campbell, the late incumbent, died. 3. The question as to whether the vacancy will be filled or not, has not yet been definitely determined by the Department of Customs.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND 'SWEATING.'

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. What contracts have been entered into by the government since June 30, 1899, containing a clause prohibiting 'sweating'?
2. With whom have such contracts, if any, been made, and for what articles, and (3) what is the amount paid to each contractor?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). No contracts have been entered into since June 30, 1899, for the manufacture of

mail bags, uniforms, &c., for the Post Office Department.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I wish to add, that in the Militia Department contracts, containing the clause referred to, have been continued, and are in existence with the Sanford Manufacturing Company, for the following articles : Tunics, frocks, trousers, and pantaloons ; also with Mark Workman, for the following articles : Great coats, cloaks, cavalry tunics and artillery pantaloons. To the third part of the question, the answer is : The Sanford Manufacturing Company, for \$115,000 ; Mark Workman, for \$36,000.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—SUPPLIES FOR CANADIAN CONTINGENT.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. Were the supplies of meat required for the use of the men of the Canadian contingent that left Halifax for South Africa, purchased by public tender ; and if so, from whom, and at what prices ?
2. How many pounds of meat, both fresh and preserved, were put on board each of the four transports that left Halifax for South Africa with the Canadian contingents ?
3. How much per pound was paid for fresh meat, and how much for preserved meat ?
4. What was the total amount paid for the meat purchased, and what quantity of fresh and preserved meat respectively was purchased ?
5. How many pounds each, of hay, oats and bran were purchased ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). This question, except paragraph 5, has already been asked by Mr. Clarke, and was answered on the 25th of April last, and I am not at present able to add anything, except as regards paragraph 5, to which I beg to reply : 5. 411 tons of hay ; 11,813 bushels of oats ; 115 tons of bran.

EXCLUSION OF JAPANESE.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. Has the Premier's attention been called to the following extract from an article appearing in the Victoria 'Daily Times' of April 19th last : 'Sir Wilfrid Laurier is undoubtedly right in his contention that he has never been made aware of any sentiment in this province in favour of the exclusion of Japs' ?
2. Has the right hon. gentleman ever contended that he was not aware of the existence of such sentiment in British Columbia ? If so, when and where ?
3. Is the Premier aware that many members of parliament, including Mr. Maxwell, Mr. McInnes and Mr. Prior have spoken strongly in this House in favour of restricting the immigration of Japanese ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My attention has not been called to that article.

Mr. PRIOR. Would the hon. gentleman reply to the last part of the question

The PRIME MINISTER. I will have to read the article before I can answer.

PELEE ISLAND LIFE-SAVING STATION.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

Has the life-saving station building at Pelee Island, Ont., been sold ?

If so, to whom and at what price ?

Were tenders called for ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The life-boat house on Pelee Island was not sold, but was given to A. Henning, who had been coxswain of the lifeboat, under the following conditions: The department found it expedient to remove the station from Pelee Island to the mainland. It would have cost more than it was worth to take down the cheap frame boat-house and remove it. The retiring coxswain offered to take the boat-house off the department's hands, and to consider the transfer full compensation for his claims against the department which the department reckoned to be one season's care of the station, \$75, and the transfer was accordingly made. The boat-house is 13 years old, and the department thinks it made a very good bargain.

OPENING OF SOULANGES AND BEAUHARNOIS CANALS.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals if the Soulanges Canal is opened to navigation permanently, and if the Beauharnois Canal will also remain open during this season of navigation ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I think that we will not decide to close the Beauharnois Canal this season. We hope that there will be a good deal of traffic, and as the larger vessels will take the Soulanges Canal and the smaller ones the Beauharnois Canal, we do not think it well to close the latter this season.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE YUKON TERRITORY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton). I would like to ask the Acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) if he can give any information as to when we may expect the report of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory for the past year. On page 19 of his report, which is dated the 28th of February, the Deputy Minister of the Interior says that the report of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory for the past year has not yet been received, but is likely to be received in time to be published with the general report of the department.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). As I have several times before explained, the report of the department was held over some considerable time pending

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

the receipt of the report of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory. But owing to the delay in the receipt of that report, we thought that it might be printed with a supplement. I had instructions telegraphed the other day to have it forwarded, and do not see why it has not been sent in, but am hurrying it up as much as possible.

OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE INSURANCE CORPORATION—SOUTH AFRICAN CONTINGENT.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Before proceeding to the Orders of the Day, I wish to refer to a matter brought up on the 25th of April by the hon. the leader of the opposition. I would have referred to it the next day but the House did not sit on account of the fire, and yesterday the hon. gentleman was not in his place. I refer to the strictures which the hon. gentleman made on the Department of Militia and Defence with reference to some information which he had asked for and which was required by an accident insurance company before they would pay certain risks taken on members of the contingent who had been killed in South Africa. The hon. gentleman said that the information asked for 'should have been procured within an hour,' and I was not prepared at the moment to reply fully and in detail. But I desire to show now what was done, in justice to the officers of my department and myself. First, let me read the letter written on the 19th of March by the representatives of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation :

Montreal, March 19, 1900.

L. F. Pinault, Esq., Lieut.-Col.,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—We have your esteemed communication of the 17th instant and beg to state that we will require the death claim papers to be filled in in so far as possible, only excepting as to the relationship and title of the heir at law, which of course will have to be minutely completed, and we will require an official and original information from the English War Office.

We cannot accept telegraphic messages as sufficient in the premises. We understand Sir Charles Tupper has asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier to obtain official confirmation by letter under seal of the English War Office for all claims of first contingent.

Yours truly,

(Signed) ROLLAND, LYMAN & PURNETT.
General Managers.

On the 23rd of March, 1900, the following letter was addressed by the Deputy Minister of Militia to the Governor General's secretary :

Sir,—I am directed by the hon. the Minister of Militia and Defence to inclose to you, herewith, the accompanying correspondence relative to the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation and the risks they have taken on the lives of the members of the first contingent sent to South Africa by the Dominion government, with

the request that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor General to transmit the same to the Imperial authorities in order to ascertain whether the official certificates applied for by the above named corporation can be procured by them from the War Office.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

L. F. PINAULT, Lieut.-Col.,
Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

A little later, the hon. the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), having spoken to me personally about the matter, I caused a cablegram to be sent to the High Commissioner in London to ascertain what was the cause of the delay. The following cablegram was sent on the 11th of April, 1900:

To Dominion, London.

Press War Office official list killed and deceased, South Africa.

PINAULT.

The following answer was received :

London, April 12, 1900.

Militia, Ottawa.

Do not quite understand your message eleventh. Understand complete lists killed, wounded and deaths other caused among Canadian contingents telegraphed you direct from Cape Town. What further is needed.

DOMINION.

In reply, we sent the following cablegram :

Ottawa, April 12, 1900.

Dominion, London, England.

Official list is required by insurance company.

PINAULT.

Now, I think it would appear from that that we in the Department of Militia did the best we could. The hon. gentleman also stated that he objected to the list which we had here in the department, because, as he said :

Will my hon. friend (Mr. Borden, King's) allow me to say that information has been received from the Militia Department of the death of persons who have not died, while persons have been reported as wounded who had been killed.

I was not aware of such being the case, and asked for an explanation from the officers of my department. And this is the explanation given :

Ottawa, April 26, 1900.

The Deputy Minister,
Militia and Defence.

With reference to the statement yesterday in the House of Commons by the Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart., that 'the department had reported men dead who had not died, and reported men as killed who were wounded,' I have the honour to state, for the information of the hon. the minister that the only instance in which an incorrect announcement respecting the killed or wounded in action in South Africa was made by this office was in the case of the two Smiths of 'B' Company, second (special service) Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment.

The cable despatches reporting the killed and wounded at Paardeberg on February 18 last included, among others:

Killed, 7236, Smith.

Wounded, 7156, Smith.

This office accordingly announced, having used the official nominal roll as an aid to identification, that No. 7236, Corporal J. Smith, 22nd Oxford Rifles, was killed, and 7156, Private R. Smith, 26th Middlesex Light Infantry, was wounded.

When Lieut.-Col. Otter's lists of killed and wounded were received by mail, they showed that:

No. 7236, Private R. Smith was killed.

No. 7156, Corporal J. Smith was wounded.

While the numbers agreed with the cable report, the initials caused doubts to arise as to whether the identification upon the cable report was correct.

The families of the two men were immediately communicated with to ascertain if they had received any information which would enable it to be determined who was killed and who wounded, and upon receipt of replies that no information was available, Lieut.-Col. Otter was cabled. His reply showed that Corporal J. Smith, of the 22nd Oxford Rifles, announced as killed, was wounded, and Private R. Smith, of the 26th Middlesex Light Infantry, announced as wounded, was killed. The correction was immediately communicated to the families concerned, and announced in Militia Orders.

The unfortunate mistake was caused by the men's regimental numbers being transposed in the nominal roll, which was prepared en voyage to South Africa. There was no mistake in the cable message, or in the action taken thereon by this office.

I have the honour to suggest that, in order that there may be no uneasiness caused to the families of the men who have been killed and wounded fighting for their country, the minister might take an opportunity to give publicity to the facts of this case, which is the only foundation for the statement made by the leader of the opposition in his place in the House of Commons.

Mr. WALLACE. Was there not a mistake in the case of Dr. Johnston's—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, there was no mistake in that case. I may say further, that since the occasion on which the hon. leader of the opposition brought this matter up, a report has been received by the Militia Department from His Excellency the Governor General, being a copy of a report from His Excellency, Sir Alfred Milner, Governor of Cape Colony, and High Commissioner of South Africa. And on receipt of that report the following letter was addressed to the hon. leader of the opposition :

Department of Militia and Defence,
Ottawa, May 1, 1900.

Sir,—Referring to your communications with regard to the original confirmation from the English War Office of the deaths of members of the first contingent of Canadian troops in South Africa, I beg to inform you that I have not yet been able to obtain from that office what you require.

This department has received a copy of a report forwarded on March 13 last by Sir Alfred Milner, Governor and High Commissioner of Cape Colony, to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, which is unquestionably authentic, and should satisfy the requirements

of insurance companies as thoroughly as other similar documents emanating from the War Office.

The original document is in the hands of His Excellency, and no doubt a certified copy can be obtained, if considered sufficient proof by the insurance companies to pay death claims upon.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) L. F. PINAULT, Lt.-Col.,

Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.,

&c., &c., &c.,

House of Commons, Ottawa.

I have only one single word to add, and that is, to point out to the hon. leader of the opposition that this copy of the list which is in the hands of the department must be quite as authentic as anything in the hands of the War Office, because the source of information of the War Office is precisely the same as the source of our information. I presume that His Excellency the Governor and High Commissioner Milner sent precisely the same report to the War Office as he sent here, and I have no doubt at all as to the authenticity of the paper referred to in the letter addressed by my deputy to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper).

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton).

I may say that I was extremely reluctant to bring this subject under the notice of the House, because I thought it was a matter on which I ought to obtain prompt assistance from the Militia Department. On the 25th of April, I read to the House the letter which I had written to my hon. friend the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) on the 15th March. That letter, as the House will remember, stated that the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation required the official list from the War Office, and I stated to my hon. friend my anxiety to get that at the earliest possible moment. The response to that letter written on the 15th of March, I received on the 3rd of April, having made inquiries, meantime, several times, as to whether an answer was to come. This is the letter I received :

Department of Militia,

Minister's Office,

Ottawa, April 3, 1900.

My dear Sir Charles,—Your letter of the 15th ultimo came to hand while I was in Halifax, and I regret to say has only now been brought to my notice among the large mass of unanswered correspondence which accumulated in my absence. As the matter is somewhat urgent, I venture to say to you, first, that the list of killed which we have here is official, having been received from Sir Alfred Milner; secondly, this list has been accepted by certain insurance companies as satisfactory evidence.

If, however, you desire an official certificate of the War Office, if you will kindly let me know by return post, I will cable for it, and thereby insure as little loss of time as possible.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) F. W. BORDEN.

The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.,

House of Commons, Ottawa

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

I accept the statement of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden, King's), of the reason of this being overlooked, though I cannot but say that I think his department did not do justice to so important a matter in allowing it to escape his attention from the 15th of March to the 3rd of April. I may say that I have waited for my hon. friend to give me the information from the War Office which he had promised. I informed him that the company required the official information from the War Office because it had been stated that inaccuracies had occurred. The hon. gentleman explains how it arose, that the party who had been wounded, was represented as killed, and the party who was killed had been represented as wounded. I may say that I have never objected to accept any testimony. I am most anxious to accept anything. But it is not for me to say; it is for the insurance company; and, the insurance company having taken the position that they will only pay on receiving official communication from the War Office, of course, I am obliged to ask the aid and assistance of the government—which, I am sure, they ought to be most ready to give me—in obtaining that information. Now, my hon. friend did not ask the Governor General to communicate with the Secretary of State for War, Lord Lansdowne, who would have seen the importance of the matter, but one of his officials sent a communication to Lord Strathcona. But that communication was not understood. If they had been informed that the insurance money could only be paid on obtaining from the War Office a statement of the parties who were killed in battle, I have no doubt the information would have been at once obtained; but the High Commissioner not having received the information that was needed to enable him to secure what was found to be necessary, the matter remains in abeyance, I inclosed the letter of my hon. friend to the company, and I received in reply :

We are in receipt of your esteemed communication of the 3rd instant, and in reply beg to say we require an official list from the War Office, not a copy of the same.

I sent that to my hon. friend in order that he might see the need of complying with the request that was made, and I still hope the government will pursue this matter until we get an official list, which we are entitled to receive, and I am quite sure Lord Lansdowne, if he were informed that an official list from the War Office was required, would at once send it to the Governor General. I may say that before calling the attention of the House to this matter on the 25th of April, which I had pressed upon his attention on the 15th of March, I sent over to my hon. friend the letter received from the father of one of these unfortunate volunteers, who had been killed, wishing to know when the

amount of insurance could be recovered. I said to my hon friend: What am I to say in answer to this? I admit he was very much occupied at that time in answering questions, and was not able to return me an answer. As I was obliged to leave the House immediately I went over and asked him, and he said he had not been able to get the information yet. Then it was I felt I must appeal to Lord Lansdowne through His Excellency the Governor General to get this information that was so important to some thirty or forty people.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. It is quite true the hon. gentleman wrote to me on the 15th of March, and that his letter was not acknowledged until early in April. But I have shown by the correspondence that the interests of the insured did not suffer from that fact, because on the 23rd of March—and I think the leader of the opposition perhaps has not heard distinctly the letter which I read, written on the 23rd of March—the very thing was done which he says ought to have been done, that is to say the Governor General was moved, and I have no doubt did, write to the War Office to ask for the following information, and the correspondence was sent. The letter was as follows:—

I am directed by the Minister of Militia and Defence to inclose to you herewith the accompanying correspondence relative to the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, and the risks they have taken on the lives of the members of the first contingent sent to South Africa by the Dominion government, with the request that you will be good enough to move His Excellency the Governor General to transmit the same to the Imperial authorities in order to ascertain whether the official certificate applied for by the above named corporation cannot be procured from the War Office.

That was written on the 23rd day of March.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no information of that. In the letter which the hon. gentleman wrote to me on the 3rd of April, he did not give me that information.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. Very well, that is the fact. Now I wish to repeat again what I said with reference to the question. Of course, I know the hon. gentleman is merely acting in the interests of the company, or rather of the insured.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Not of the company at all, but of the insured.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. Certainly, and we are all equally interested. But let me point out to him for his information that His Excellency the Governor General is now in possession of a complete and authentic list, as complete and as authentic as can be got anywhere, and which emanated from precisely the same source from which the official list in the War Office

must emanate. As we have now an official written list, not a cable message at all, coming from His Excellency the Governor General and High Commissioner Milner, it seems to be extraordinary that that list cannot be accepted, and I believe it will be accepted by the insurance company the moment they understand the facts.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I should like very much to be placed in possession of that list, and no doubt I will be.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—RECENT CASUALTIES.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I would ask the Minister of Militia and Defence, if he has a list of casualties of recent date, and would tell us what time that list was received by his department?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I received it at my office this morning. I am not able to give the hour.

Mr. WALLACE. What time did it come to the department?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. I am not able to say. I will find out and let you know.

RIFLE RANGE AT MONTREAL.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I would like to ask the Minister of Militia and Defence a question of which I have given him notice, and which interests the military men in the district of Montreal. A day or two ago we saw in the papers that the government had acquired a property for rifle practice known as the Captain Andrews Range, for the price of \$65,000. As we have been a long time without a range in the district of Montreal, I would like to ask the minister if that information is correct. Is it also the case that this range is only suitable for short range practice, and not for long range practice with the modern rifles now in use? I would also like to ask the minister how this property was purchased. It is learned that there were many properties offered on the island of Montreal, and that some good friends of the government were anxious to sell their properties, or to place a price upon them. I would like to ask how it is that this bargain has been closed without any occasion having been given for competition, without tenders having been called for. I believe there was one property situated in my own county which was reported upon as being at least as good as the one reported to have been purchased, and the owner was not even asked to place a price upon it. That is my information.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I am happy to give the hon. gentleman all the information at hand. It is a fact that a rifle range has been

selected near the city of Montreal, at Pointe aux Trembles, which is known, as the hon. gentleman mentioned, as the Andrews Range. The land, or a portion of it, is owned by a man named Reeves. With regard to the property purchased, I desire to relieve my hon. friend in the House at once from any doubt by saying that it provides for the longest range required by the new Lee-Enfield rifles. This range was selected after a great deal of care and search over the whole ground of Montreal and vicinity, by a board of officers chosen by the General, and it was inspected by General Hutton himself and by other Imperial officers, and officers of the garrison in Montreal especially who were chiefly interested, and who all reported favourably that this range was the best obtainable in the vicinity of Montreal. No price has been settled upon, but I am quite sure the price will be much less than that mentioned by the hon. gentleman. As to my hon. friend's method of selecting a rifle range, I am afraid it is scarcely one to be seriously adopted. The idea of asking for tenders for a rifle range seems to me to be carrying the principle of tender and contract rather far. The course pursued was the only reasonable course that could be pursued. Men who possessed technical and special knowledge in this matter were asked to select the range. Several ranges were pointed out to them. Every single range that was offered, or mentioned, to the Militia Department, was brought to the notice of the officers and of the board: they were asked to inspect the proposed range, and afterwards, having gone carefully over the whole of them, their judgment was given in favour of the range that was selected.

Mr. MONK. What is the length in yards of this range? I may be under a misapprehension.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am not able to give that, except that I may tell the hon. gentleman that a thousand-yard range is provided for and the ground in the rear of the targets extends for a very great distance, something like a mile, I think. If I had known that the hon. gentleman would have brought the question up I could have given him the exact width and the exact length. The range contains about 400 arpents. An arpent, I understand, is a little less than an English acre. I am not able, at the present moment, to give the width of the range, but, when the estimates are under discussion, or, perhaps, earlier, I may give the information.

Mr. MONK. Was I correct in stating that another property had been reported upon as favourably as this one, and that the owner was not asked to put a price upon it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

WAYS AND MEANS—THE BUDGET.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising a Supply to be granted to Her Majesty; and the motion of Sir Charles Tupper in amendment thereto.

Mr. HECTOR F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, when I was requested, at two o'clock this morning, to move the adjournment of the debate, I did not intend to have anything to say on this question. I did so at the request of an hon. gentleman who was unable to be present at the time. But, now, I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to say a few words, and I promise to be very brief. In the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), he modestly, if not delicately, referred to the question of the great industry which is now being established in the county of Cape Breton, which I have the honour to represent, and the part that he played in respect to the establishment of that industry. I find that the remarks of the hon. minister on the question as to the part that he played were very brief. I was curious to know what had been said on that question during the discussion that took place since March 23, when he made his speech. I looked with a good deal of curiosity for some statements from his friends on that side of the House, or for any reference from this side of the House, to the part which the hon. minister played in connection with the establishment of that industry, as to which he made that brief and delicate reference. I propose to take advantage, now, of the present opportunity which is afforded to me to bring the matter to the attention of the hon. minister and to the attention of the House. This great industry is one of very great importance, not only to the people in the county in which it has been established, but it is of importance to the whole of Canada. It is due, however, I think, to those who took part in all movements which tended in the direction of the establishment of that industry that we should be allowed to refer to these movements and to the parties who took part in them. In the year 1878, as hon. gentlemen know, the national policy was unfolded to the people of Canada. The hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) took advantage of the opportunity afforded to him of paying a visit to the island of Cape Breton, and during that visit he addressed a very large assemblage of people, largely miners, workingmen, farmers and fishermen in the county of Cape Breton, at the town of Sydney. On that occasion the hon. leader of the opposition offered to the people engaged in the mining industry the policy of protection to that industry in the way of imposing a duty on the products of similar industries in

the United States, which had the effect of injuring the development of that industry in this country. The people were told, on that occasion, that if they supported the Liberal-Conservative party and accepted the promise of such protection, they would have such results as would place that industry in a living condition, a condition in which it was not at that time. That was the inception of the national policy as it was unfolded to the people of the county of Cape Breton. In connection with the establishment of this great iron and steel industry, three very important conditions were brought into play. The first was the development of the coal industry, the protection to that industry and to the iron and steel industry, which was subsequently taken hold of by the Liberal-Conservative party and carried through this parliament. Another condition, and a most important one, was that which that part of the country looked for at that time most anxiously—the building of a railway. Without the development of our coal industry, without what has been done to encourage the iron and steel industry, and without the building of a railway into the island of Cape Breton, we could not have expected to have a steel or an iron industry in the course of construction nor in operation at this day, or even thought of. The Liberal-Conservative party, led by Sir John A. Macdonald, assisted by the present hon. leader of the opposition, undertook to give protection to the coal industry, and undertook it with a great deal of success. That measure from its inception was opposed by the Minister of Finance and by his newspaper organ in Nova Scotia. It is unnecessary for me to quote the utterances of the minister or of his newspaper, for everybody knows them. That then was the first part that the Minister of Finance played in respect to this industry. When the policy was prominently before this House as regards coal, the Minister of Finance and his organ not only refused to give the slightest assistance to that policy, but on the contrary they gave it their most strenuous opposition. When the coal industry was taken hold of by the Conservative party at that date, its condition was so bad that a number of the mines were closed or idle in the county of Cape Breton, and nearly all of the mines were unable to pay to the provincial treasury the royalty due by them. When the mines were about emerging out of their difficulties, and when several of them had the prospect of being able to pay the arrears of wages, and the royalty as well, they expected to be able to take means to make the coal industry self-sustaining as well as profitable to the investors and owners. Under these conditions what did the Minister of Finance do? He went to Cape Breton and exercising the powers that the laws of Nova Scotia gave him, he closed down the Blockhouse coal mine at Cow Bay, the first one of im-

portance ever closed in the county of Cape Breton. He accomplished that by sending the sheriff to take possession of the rolling stock and outfit by which that mine was operated for the arrears of royalty, and he thereby prevented the mine from being further operated and from doing anything towards paying the labourers. Then some years subsequent to that when the mines got into a state of prosperity, the Minister of Finance imposed on the people engaged in that industry an increase of taxation by raising the royalty from 7½ cents a ton to 10 cents a ton, and he accompanied that legislation with a threat that he could raise it to 15 cents a ton if he wanted to, or if they did not behave themselves. These facts are on record, and are within the reach of all, and I need not do more than refer to them in this House. Then, Mr. Speaker, came the time—and that is the time I believe to which the Minister of Finance had reference when he spoke so delicately about what he had done for the coal industry—then came the time when he passed legislation in Nova Scotia which resulted in the consolidation of a number of these coal mines. I need only say that at that time these mines were prosperous and had excellent prospects for the future, such as to induce new capitalists to join and that measure of consolidation was passed through the legislature by the Minister of Finance and his supporters. As a result of it, in a year or two afterwards, some of the most thriving of the collieries that were operating under the protection of the national policy were closed, and a number of the operators who earned their living in these mines and had spent ten, fifteen, or twenty years building homes for themselves, were obliged to abandon these homes without being able to realize a dollar on the value of their property. I am pleased to-day to acknowledge that we have at the present time a number of our mines enjoying the greatest prosperity, but, Mr. Speaker, we had expected, and we had every assurance from our experience up to the time that that legislation was passed, that they could have enjoyed the same prosperity without such legislation. I say, Sir, that that legislation was costly to a number of the people of Cape Breton, and it is costly to-day to the new investors who were compelled to accept that legislation with the additional taxation it imposed, and since forced them to work only the best paying of their mines. I am opposed to taxing any industry unduly, and I am particularly opposed to taxing an industry such as the mining industry that can only be carried on with great danger and risk to the operators and the workmen engaged in it. I say that no greater mistake could be made than to increase the taxes upon the products of the industry of workingmen, and especially workingmen who have to perform such arduous labours as those employed in coal mining. We

should remember, that these people have to go hundreds of feet under the ground and work there in dangerous darkness to earn the bread of life, and what a hardship it is to them to find when they mine a ton of coal and come to the surface that that ton of coal has to pay a tax of 12½ cents, to say nothing of the other taxes which the workmen have to meet in their ordinary course of living. I have always been against the imposition of that heavy tax upon coal. I shall now leave that, Mr. Speaker, to the people to consider whether it was an advantage to them or whether it was a disadvantage.

I come now, Sir, to the time when this parliament suggested a bounty to the iron and steel industry. At that period the Minister of Finance then in Nova Scotia used his strongest language both on the platform and in the press he controlled to discredit any such policy, and he denounced the party who enunciated it. That is another measure in which the Finance Minister played an important part. But, Sir, more recently than that, when in 1898 those who after that bounty was offered by this parliament had operated for a number of years and found their operations met with a considerable success; when they wanted to extend their operations and looked around to see where they could with best advantage to themselves extend these operations, they centred on the town of Sydney in Cape Breton. After having spent many thousands of dollars in equipping themselves with the necessary information they came to this parliament; they came to the Minister of Finance, they came to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), but they failed to get what they were seeking, namely, a promise of the continuation of the system of bounty, in order to enable them to secure further means to go on extending their operations. The town of Sydney, represented by its mayor and councillors and its board of trade, brought every possible influence to bear upon the government of the day. The aid and influence of the hon. leader of the opposition was implored by the people who wanted to see that industry started; and through his influence and such other influences as could be brought to bear on the Minister of Finance, he, after over a year's delay, with great reluctance—for the Minister of Trade and Commerce could not stay in this House while such a policy was submitted—agreed to bring in a measure to extend that system of bounty to the iron industry for a short time. These are the circumstances under which the hon. Minister of Finance found himself compelled to ask this House to grant this concession. I imagine now that I see my hon. leader taking the Minister of Finance by the ear, and leading him before you, Mr. Speaker, with that measure in his hand, for it very much resembled that. The hon. leader

Mr. McDOUGALL.

of the opposition, backed by the influence of people who wanted to see that done, secured that boon for that great industry; and now the Minister of Finance comes before this House and says he played an important part in bringing about the establishment of this industry. It was an important and a serious part for him, for he had to swallow everything he had said on that subject for twenty years, and had to make his peace with the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I myself brought the matter before the House near the close of the session of 1898, when I learned that there was nothing to be done in that direction, which I regretted, as did every one else who desired to see that great industry started. I took advantage of the opportunity afforded to me by the introduction of a Bill into the House for making some regulations for the payment of the bounty as the law then existed. I expressed my regret and disappointment at that Bill not going a little further, and giving to the people engaged in that industry some guarantee that their wishes would be complied with. I received a very unfavourable and very cold answer from both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Trade and Commerce. That is briefly the history of the bounty and the circumstances which brought about the present condition of our coal and iron industries.

Then I come to the question of our railways. I will not detain the House for any length of time on that question. For years before 1882 the people of Cape Breton wanted a railway extended to that island; but they failed to secure the accomplishment of that great work either by the government of Nova Scotia or the government of the Dominion. In 1882, however, the government of Nova Scotia, known as the Holmes-Thompson government, introduced a measure and passed it through the legislature at Halifax, providing for the consolidation of the railways of the province of Nova Scotia, and also for the extension of other lines of railway, one of the principal of which was that running into the Island of Cape Breton. That measure was perfected at the time when the hon. Minister of Finance and his party came into power in the legislature of Nova Scotia; and what did they do? They trampled that measure under foot; they refused to do anything towards carrying it out. Then the people of Cape Breton were compelled to come to this parliament and beg of it to give them an extension of the Intercolonial Railway into the Island of Cape Breton. The first time I had the privilege of speaking in this House was in the session of 1885. On that occasion I took advantage of the opportunity offered to me to lay before the House my views with regard to the industries of the Island of Cape Breton and of my county in particular, and to show to the House how the interests of both the Island of Cape Breton and of the Dominion of Canada would be served by the proposed extension. I am not ashamed to-day of what

I predicted on that occasion; I am not ashamed of referring to anything I said. I am pleased to say that very soon after that date this parliament undertook to build that railway, and it was completed about the year 1890. To-day that railway cannot do half the business that is offered. It is operated in the interests of Canada as well as in the interests of Cape Breton. That railway contributed to the bringing about of the present condition of affairs in the island. It enabled the people of Cape Breton to send their coal to New Glasgow to be used in connection with the smelting of iron and steel carried on by the Nova Scotia Steel Works; and that experiment proved so successful that to-day the greatest portion of the coal used in the manufacture of iron and steel in the county of Pictou, one of the greatest coal counties in Canada, comes from the Cape Breton collieries. These are the people who went out and surveyed the land after having tried the Cape Breton coal, and selected Cape Breton as the place for extending that great industry. Hence the great development promised us to-day in Cape Breton by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company and by the Nova Scotia Steel Company, which is about to begin business as a separate concern. The conditions which brought about this great development emanated from the national policy and from those who gave their support to that policy from 1878 down to the present day, for it was the national policy that aided our coal industry, our iron and steel industry, and our railway industry. We could not have a railway to-day were it not for the conditions brought about by the national policy, which enabled the Dominion government to extend the Intercolonial Railway and make it a great factor in the development of trade and traffic of the country. The people to whom the credit is due for the prospect of great future development in the county which I have the honour to represent are the Liberal-Conservative party, the Liberal-Conservative leaders, who enunciated and brought about that policy, and the people who are ready to support those leaders, whether as members in this House or as voters in the country. The humblest citizen in the country who gives his support to that great national policy deserves greater credit for helping to bring about this condition of things than the Finance Minister, who never did anything to support that industry except what he was forced to do. I shall not detain the House any further.

Mr. ALEXANDER McNEILL (North Bruce). I had not intended, Mr. Speaker, to take part in this debate at all. I had so often, I am afraid, wearied this House by remarks in connection with the subject of the amendment now under discussion, that I thought it would be as well were I to remain silent on this occasion. But my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, said that he thought it would perhaps, under

all the circumstances, be proper that I should say a word or two in reference on the subject before the House.

I think it will be difficult to find in the annals of parliamentary government a condition of things parallel to that with which we are face to face in Canada to-day. On the all important question of our relations to the empire, we have no less than four of the most prominent members of this government enunciating views deliberately, officially enunciating views, which are absolutely inconsistent with one another. We have the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) repeating this session what he repeated last session, and what he astonished the House by saying, I believe, for the first time in 1888, that this country, owes nothing to the mother country except Christian forgiveness for her mismanagement of our affairs. We have, on the other hand, the Minister of Finance stating that we owe so much to the mother country that in recognition of that debt, he is prepared to make a reduction in our tariff, in her favour, to the extent of 33½ per cent. Then we have the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) declaring that he is a Frenchman first and a British subject afterwards. We have him, through his official, personally inspired organ of the press, stating that we have nothing to do with the war in South Africa. We have the organ which supports him in this city stating that not a man and not a cent should the government of Canada provide for the assistance of the mother country in the struggle which she is waging on behalf of our own fellow-subjects and in defence of our own empire in South Africa. We have that same minister introducing to you, Mr. Speaker, as a member of this House, a supporter of the government who had resigned his seat, as a formal protest against the policy which the government has pursued in this matter, and who since then has been carrying out the propaganda of the minister who so introduced him, if we can believe the reports in the public press, by warning our French Canadian friends in the province of Quebec that they must have a care lest, if those who are in favour of the unity of the empire should have their way, the poor habitant may have his door battered down, his home invaded, and the flower of his family dragged away to fight the battles of the empire, on a barren desert and under some blazing sun in a far off land. Just as if, Mr. Speaker, any Imperialist had ever proposed or suggested or imagined that any single French Canadian should leave this country to fight the empire's battles, except of his own free will. We have indeed thought, we have believed, and we still believe, notwithstanding the sinister statements of the hon. the Minister of Public Works in Paris, that the descendents of French Canadians, who so heroically shed their blood and risked

their lives in defence of the empire in the past, would be prepared to-day, if the need arose, to prove again their devotion to that cause. I say we still believe it; we still believe that the compatriots of Major Girouard would be prepared, if the need arose, to defend that flag under which they peacefully enjoy special privileges and rights which they hold very dear. But, Mr. Speaker, the statement that it has ever been proposed or suggested, as I have said, to send any French Canadian by compulsion out of this country to fight the battles of the empire is a statement absolutely without foundation in fact, is viciously untrue, and only surpassed by that other statement, to which I called attention some time ago, and which was published in the official organ of the Minister of Public Works—the statement intimating that the English-speaking people of this country were about to invade the province of Quebec by force of arms, and that this country was within two steps of civil war.

I regret that the hon. gentleman who has been carrying out this propaganda in the province of Quebec (Mr. Bourassa), and who is not, I am sorry to say, in his seat at this moment, had not laid to heart the broad and liberal views expressed by the archbishop of his own church and by other dignitaries of that church in the province of Quebec in reference to the university riots. I regret that he has not shown himself as broad-minded as other members of his church in this House, who, we know, are liberal and broad-minded in regard to these matters. But perhaps it is simply because he is acting under the orders of his master and the master of the administration, and is not really expressing his own sentiments. We know that when a member of this House—a Roman Catholic of Irish descent—a short time ago, made reference to this South African question in terms which I think the House will agree did as much credit to his head as to his heart, the hon. the Minister of Public Works—the master of the administration, and the master of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa)—said that there must be something the matter with his heart when he, an Irishman, ventured to express loyalty towards the empire and towards that august lady who has won to herself the veneration of every good heart in christendom, and whose 'eighty winters' may well be said 'to freeze with one rebuke all great self-seekers trampling on the right.'

Now, Sir, I say that this statement made by the hon. gentleman is absolutely untrue, and absolutely without one shadow of foundation; and I want to tell hon. gentlemen like himself, who make that statement, that the British people have in the past proved themselves well able to maintain their own quarrel in foreign lands without calling in compulsory aid from any quarter whatsoever, and are wholly persuaded

that they were never better able to do so than at the present time. Voluntary aid, such as we are receiving from our French Canadian friends in South Africa, will always be received, Sir, with genuine gratitude, as evidence on their part of a kindly appreciation of treatment under this flag, which, I hope, even we may, without impropriety, describe as not illiberal. But, the statement, or rather, I would say the proposal, that any single French Canadian should be compelled to such service contrary to his own will, is a proposal that would not be tolerated for one single moment by the British people in any part of the empire, and of this fact every member of this House must be well aware, or ought to be; and if he is not, he ought to be ashamed of himself. But, Sir, while we have the hon. member for Labelle pursuing this pernicious propaganda in the province of Quebec, and while we find him accompanied in his peregrinations throughout that province by another supporter of the government, who openly advocates the dismemberment of our empire, and while the Minister of Public Works is talking veiled treason in Paris—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. McNEILL. Well, perhaps, not much veiled. However, I do not think it could be less—

Mr. COWAN. Take it back.

Mr. McNEILL. No, I cannot take it back. I regard it as such. While the Minister of Public Works is, in my judgment, talking veiled treason in Paris, we have the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) declaiming in terms of burning eloquence in favour of a still closer union of the empire, and declaring to this House that the sending of the contingents, under the circumstances under which they were sent, was justifiable and patriotic and wise. That is a little evidence of the conflict of views which exists among the members of this government. But, that is not all, Sir. We have the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), year by year, coming down and formally stating in his official financial statement that there is one, and only one, way in which we can obtain preferential trade with the mother country, and that is by the operation of a great wave of public sentiment, and not on any business basis whatever. On the other hand, we have the Prime Minister coming down year by year and declaring that there is one, and only one, way in which we can obtain this preferential trade, and that is by approaching the mother country on a purely business basis and saying to her: For such and such concessions in your market, we are prepared to admit your goods into our market free of duty. The Minister of Finance tells us that we shall never obtain it on a business basis, while the Prime Minister tells us that it is only on a business basis

it can be obtained. Now, I wish to ask, Mr. Speaker, how is it possible to discuss great public questions with a government whose members express, with regard to those great public questions, views absolutely divergent and contradictory of one another? Who is the representative of the government? Who is the mouthpiece of the government? I suppose we must take, as the statements of greatest authority, the statements of the Prime Minister himself. But, the unfortunate part of the matter is, that when we come to deal with those statements we are no better off; for, just as the members of the government contradict one another, so does the Prime Minister contradict himself. As every one knows, in London he told the people of Canada that preferential trade would be a great boon to the people of this country. He told them a great deal more than that; he told them he would and could obtain preferential trade for them. I am sorry my hon. friend from North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is not in his place, as I would like to have called his attention to that aspect of the matter; but, he is not here, and I will pass it by. The Prime Minister told us, in London, that preferential trade would be a great boon. But, in Liverpool he said he did not want it. And, to the *Chronicle* he carefully explained that this which he had said would be a great boon, would be an injury to Canada. He came back a few weeks afterwards, and, in Toronto, he told the people of Canada that he would be wanting in patriotism and wanting in reason—that he would be an idiot—if he was not in favour of obtaining for Canada this very thing which, a few weeks before, he had declared to the *Chronicle* would be an injury to Canada. He said in England that he did not want preferential trade, because it savoured too much of protection; he told us in this House that he did not want it because it savoured too much of free trade. Last session, in a carefully-prepared utterance, in reply to a speech of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), he made use of these words in reference to a resolution which had been long before the House:

But I will endeavour, without any circumlocution, to come to the main point at once and to meet the motion of my hon. friend definitely and squarely.

That is a good, straight British statement.

The motion affirms that it is the duty of the government to endeavour to take steps with a view to obtaining for the products of Canada preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain. To that proposition I have not a word of dissent to offer; on the contrary, I fully concur in it. I say at once it is the duty of the government of Canada, by all means in its power and as soon as it is possible to do so, to get preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain.

That was the right hon. gentleman's deliberate statement. Forty-eight hours after-

wards a resolution was moved to this effect, in his own very words:

That it is the duty of the government of Canada, by all means in its power, and as soon as it is possible to do so, to get preferential treatment in the markets of Great Britain.

And my right hon. friend refused to support the resolution, absolutely declined to support the statement which, forty-eight hours before in a most carefully prepared speech, he had made to this House. He said that it was impossible to condense in the form of a resolution an hour's speech. That was his explanation. But I think if any one will examine the hour's speech, he will find that the hour was taken up by discussing the statements, as to fact, made in the resolution which the right hon. gentleman objected to, and, that there is not a word in his speech which modifies the statement that I have read.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it would be well for us to inquire what all this means. We have a government prepared to denounce to-day what they supported yesterday, and to advocate to-morrow what they denounce to-day. What does it mean? What does it prove? Well, Sir, I think it proves, and I am sorry to be obliged to say it, that this government as a government is absolutely and utterly devoid of political principle. I can draw no other conclusion. I say that they are absolutely determined not to be guided by principle, but by convenience only, the convenience of the moment. Sir, I do not make that statement without some verbal authority for it; I have a high authority for the statement I make. I find that the right hon. gentleman himself, in Toronto, on the occasion to which I have already referred, made use of these words:

Now I am not above telling you, I can say it without any secret, that I am always ready to put on the clothes of my opponents—

When, do you suppose, Mr. Speaker? When he thinks they are in the right? When he approves of the principle they advocate? Not at all, Sir, but:

—whenever I think it to my convenience.

It matters not at all that the policy he is prepared to adopt is one that he has all along opposed; it matters not at all that the policy is one for opposing which he and his supporters received support at the polls; it matters not at all that they hold their seats by reason of the fact that it was understood by the electorate that they were pledged to oppose that policy; it matters not at all that the right hon. gentleman thinks the policy unwise and mischievous; if only it is to his convenience to adopt it, he is ready to do so. That was the right hon. gentleman's own statement, and I say that a more sinister statement it would be difficult to imagine, made by any man holding the position that right hon. gentleman holds in this country. I say that it is an absolute abandonment of political principle,

it is an absolute dismissal of political principle; and it is not surprising that after that statement, publicly made, by the Prime Minister of Canada, we should find the flood-gates of corruption let loose in this country. What was it, if it was not a mandate to his friends in the country, if it was not an advice to them, to follow the policy whatever it might be that was convenient for the moment, if it was not a mandate to the ballot stuffer and the ballot stealer to pursue their course? Why, after this, it is not surprising, if we find that the gentleman who has managed their 'threshing machine' so well, has been rewarded by this government with a most valuable appointment.

Mr. MILLS. They always reward men of that kind, they have done it in my county.

Mr. McNEILL. They have done it in this case, too, without doubt. Now, it is remarkable that while the right hon. gentleman and the members of his government have thus shown their contempt for consistency, while they are absolutely callous as to pledges publicly given, they have by their actions, as I stated last session, proved themselves to be remorsefully consistent in their determination that the people of Canada shall not enjoy any privilege in the markets of the United Kingdom over their rivals in the United States. Now, the government knew, and none better than the right hon. gentleman, that there was one essential step that had to be taken, if we were to have preferential trade in the markets of the mother country. They knew what that step was. They had been warned what that step was, over and over again by Mr. Chamberlain. In his speech, which has been so often referred to, before the Chambers of Commerce, he said:

If the colonies desire, as we desire, and as we believe they do, this closer union; if they are willing to make some sacrifice of their present arrangements and convictions in order to secure it, let them say so; let the offer come voluntarily from them, and I believe it will be considered in this country not in any huckstering spirit.

Nothing could be plainer than that, and at Liverpool, he spoke in exactly the same sense. So the government knew that the first preliminary step was to say that we wanted this thing, and they have deliberately refused to take that first essential, initial step in this matter. Mr. Speaker, they not only refused to take that step, as I have said, but they did more, they compelled their supporters the very next session, after the right hon. gentleman had made his statement in Toronto, that he was in favour of preferential trade, to oppose the resolution of the conference, which declared merely that it was advisable that we should have this preferential trade; and they put up one of their supporters, a gentleman who, I think, is known to you, Sir, to move a resolution in

Mr. McNEILL.

this House in amendment to the resolution to which I have referred. So that by their action on that occasion, the government not only did not tell Mr. Chamberlain that they wanted this preferential trade, but, on the contrary, they gave him to understand in the most explicit manner, that they did not want it. They would not say it was desirable or advisable we should have it. They not only would not say that, but they compelled their supporters to oppose a resolution which did say so. I think that under the circumstances, it is not less than ludicrous for hon. members to rise in their places and endeavour to gammon the people of this country into the belief that we are not obtaining preferential trade because it is useless to ask the authorities of the mother country to give it to us, when they themselves have refused to support a resolution, have defeated a resolution, declaring that it was advisable that we should have it.

Now, Sir, in Mr. Chamberlain's speech at the Canada Club, he suggested that there should be a conference or commission of inquiry. What is the history of that matter? Every one knows the right hon. gentleman had declared that he was in favour of such a commission; every one knows that he had pledged himself to support such a commission, and to do his utmost to promote it. Well, he not only did not do so, he not only did not carry out his pledge to the people in that regard, but he did a great deal worse. After having had a most pressing invitation, subsequent to making that pledge, from Mr. Chamberlain to join in such a commission of inquiry, the right hon. gentleman, instead of doing as Mr. Chamberlain suggested, has allowed three years to elapse, and has deliberately held aloof, refusing to have anything to do with the matter. If the right hon. gentleman would like to know, and if the members of the government would like to know how this want of action on their part is regarded in England, I will give them some authority for it. We have heard a great deal about the Duke of Devonshire's views on this question of preferential trade. Whether he is in favour of preferential trade or not we know what his views are in regard to free trade. We have his statement in that regard recorded here. But I would like to call the attention of the House to what the Duke of Devonshire said in reference to the fact that the government here did not respond, not to Mr. Chamberlain's pressing invitation, but to his mere suggestion in his Canada Club speech. The Duke of Devonshire spoke in London on the 3rd of December, 1896. That was at the end of the year, at the beginning of which Mr. Chamberlain had made his suggestion for a commission of inquiry. After the right hon. gentleman had perambulated this country stating that he was in favour of a commission of inquiry, but doing nothing to promote it, the Duke of Devonshire said:

But it must be acknowledged—and here again I come to one of the checks which those who have this cause at heart have sustained—that that suggestion—

That is Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion at the Canada Club.

—has not hitherto met with any such response from the principal colonies as would justify its becoming the subject of discussion at another conference, and probably we must admit that the time is not ripe for discussion, either of the commercial proposals which were made at the conference or of that other proposal which Lord Ripon and Mr. Chamberlain suggested might probably become a subject of discussion between ourselves and the colonies.

There is the view of this most moderate of British statesmen in reference to the want of action on the part of the right hon. gentleman, not in regard to the pressing invitation of Mr. Chamberlain, but in regard to the suggestion that Mr. Chamberlain had merely thrown out in his Canada Club speech. He regards it as a check to the movement. After that statement of his we have the pressing invitation; three years have elapsed and nothing has been done. Yet, hon. gentlemen have the audacity to rise in this House and talk as if the fact that no progress has been made has nothing to do with the want of action on the part of the government. The right hon. gentleman said, in Toronto, that the reason that he had not asked in England for preferential trade was that he was afraid of asking too much. If that is the case, how did it come, that, at the next session after he made that speech, he compelled his friends here to oppose the resolution of the conference declaring that preferential trade is desirable? Now, I come to a point to which I would earnestly invite the attention of the members of this House, and not only the members of this House, but the attention of every man throughout the Dominion of Canada who is interested in this matter. I want to call attention to another statement that the right hon. gentleman made in Toronto. Speaking in Toronto, on his return from England, the right hon. gentleman said:

There is nothing in the way now. The coast is clear. The ground is ready for discussion—

And this is what I want to call special attention to.

—and it can be discussed with the hope of obtaining some satisfactory solution of the problem.

Well, then, Mr. Speaker, if the right hon. gentleman had come to the conclusion, after his return from England, that the coast was clear, that the time was ripe, and that we could discuss this question with the hope of obtaining preferential trade upon satisfactory terms, I want to know why it is that he has rejected every overture that we have made from this side of the House to have the matter taken out of the lines of party

politics and to let this parliament act as one united body in pressing this great policy on the favourable consideration of the mother country? I want to call the attention of the House to the fact that it was not merely before he went to England that the right hon. gentleman said he could obtain preferential trade, but that after his return from England, fresh from his interviews with Mr. Chamberlain, he declared that the coast was clear, that the ground was ready for discussion, and that we could enter upon the discussion with the hope of finding a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. What is the explanation that the right hon. gentleman gives of his inaction? He said that Mr. Chamberlain proposed free trade pure and simple. I say so too, because I think we are bound to accept Mr. Chamberlain's statement in regard to the matter. I may say, in passing, it would not have been a very remarkable thing after the reception his suggestions received from the right hon. gentleman in Liverpool that he should venture to go no further than to make such a suggestion as that, but, suppose that Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion was what we accept it to be, a suggestion for free trade pure and simple. Does it follow that Mr. Chamberlain was determined to adhere rigidly to the very terms of his suggestion, that he would make no modification of its terms, that he would not modify its terms in the direction of the suggestion that we supposed had been made in his Canada Club speech? Is it to be supposed that on a question of such enormous importance he would not follow a well-known principle of British statesmanship? We know that one of the cardinal principles of British statesmanship is moderation, compromise and concession. Is it to be supposed that in reference to a question which he described as the most important of all Imperial questions he would depart altogether from the traditions of British statesmanship and adhere rigidly to this one proposal and make no concession whatever? The suggestion is absurd; common sense and a priori reasoning tell us it is absurd. What does the *Daily News* say, that great organ of the Liberal party in England which, next to the *Times*, has a standing as high as any public organ in the world? It is exceedingly interesting to see what the *Daily News* says. It says, referring to Mr. Chamberlain's proposal:

The real question is, what amount of compromise with that principle—

That is free trade within the empire.

—the colonies would require and the mother country could admit to produce the advantages above described.

That is what the *Daily News* says. The date of the article is the 10th of June, if I recollect right. That is an expression of opinion on the part of this great organ of the Lib-

eral party in England, an organ which one would suppose, would, naturally, be opposed to Mr. Chamberlain's views. But, we have more than that; we have the statement of the right hon. gentleman himself, who, coming fresh from his interviews with Mr. Chamberlain, declared, judging from what he had seen and heard, that we could enter upon the discussion with the hope of obtaining preferential trade upon satisfactory terms for Canada. Therefore, it is absolutely useless to pursue the controversy further so far as this aspect of it is concerned. It is simply breaking a butterfly on the wheel; nothing more nor less, and I do not propose to delay the House longer in reference to it. It is, I think, Mr. Speaker, clear to the meanest comprehension, that this government stands here to-day convicted out of the mouth of its own Prime Minister of having known that the door was open, and that they could, as he himself said—I am glad my right hon. friend is now in his place—that we could, as he himself said, when fresh from his interviews with Mr. Chamberlain, enter upon this discussion with a hope of obtaining a satisfactory solution of the problem. This government knew that the door was open and they deliberately slammed the door in the face of the people of Canada, and they have barricaded that door and kept it closed from that day to this. Sir, the Canadian people may approve of conduct of that kind. If they do approve of such conduct they will have an opportunity of saying so at the polls; but I venture to think that unless their ballots are stolen and unless they are thus disfranchised to keep this government in power, the people of Canada will tell a different story. That, Sir, is at least my belief.

A good deal has been said, Mr. Speaker, about the state of public opinion in England with reference to this matter, and the question has been discussed so much better and more fully by others that I do not intend to take up the time of the House with a discussion of it now. I will say that I have many extracts—from the *Times*, the *Daily News*, the *Telegraph*, the *Standard*, the *Morning Post*, the *Chronicle*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *St. James Gazette*, the *Westminster Gazette*, the *Saturday Review*, the *British Trade Journal*, *Invention*, the *Textile Mercury* (published in the very heart of the Manchester school), the *Glasgow Herald*, the *Belfast News-Letter*, and the *Irish Times*, all of them showing that this question has taken a tremendous hold of the public mind in the United Kingdom, and almost all of them favourable to the view which we favour on this side of the House—at all events, writing encouragingly in reference to Mr. Chamberlain's proposal. The hon. gentleman who leads the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) has already pointed out that a very large number of the Conservative members of the Imperial parliament were returned, pledged to support such

a policy as this. The representatives of one of the Chambers of Commerce at the great conference of Chambers of Commerce of the empire, made use of one or two expressions which I will give to the House in a moment. The representative of the Warrington Chamber of Commerce said:

I have the honour of being chairman of a workman's confederation, and I tell you that every member of that organization is strongly in favour of preferential duties.

The representative of the Middlesboro' Chamber of Commerce made this remarkable statement with reference to a resolution in favour of preferential trade which had been proposed at a meeting of the Chambers of Commerce in London:

The great industrial centres of the United Kingdom, voting through their chambers were strongly in favour of that resolution, while smaller towns were not in favour of it, and hence it was that it was lost.

So that we have the great industrial centres of the United Kingdom with us.

I think, Sir, that those evidences are sufficient to satisfy any reasonable creature that all this talk about there being no public opinion in England favourable to this policy is mere moonshine. But, Sir, I do not rest the case upon these evidences alone. I take also into consideration the fact that so astute a statesman, and a statesman of the high standing of the Colonial Secretary, has deliberately suggested that it might be advisable for the mother country to alter her whole fiscal system and to impose duties upon foodstuffs and raw material in order to bring about this closer union of the empire. I rest the case also upon the further fact that Mr. Chamberlain suggested that there should be a commission of inquiry to endeavour to arrive at a satisfactory solution of this matter. I rest it also upon the fact that the Duke of Devonshire, as I have shown, has stated that the mere fact that the first suggestion of Mr. Chamberlain was not acted upon, had acted as a check to the movement. I rest it upon the further fact, that the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) stated in Toronto immediately after his interviews with Mr. Chamberlain: That we could enter upon the discussion of this question with the hope of arriving at a satisfactory solution of the problem. I rest it upon the additional fact as well, that a short time after the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) had made that statement in Toronto, Mr. Chamberlain made a further statement in Liverpool in which he said he was prepared to meet the colonies more than half-way; and in order to encourage the right hon. gentleman to proceed, said: That he would not allow any consideration of economic pedantry to stand in the way, and that he believed that the mother country would not regard it as a question of present profit and loss, but would look, and wisely look, to the future for her reward. I venture to say—using the term

employed by the right hon. gentleman himself, and subsequently employed by my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Russell)—that the man who really wants preferential trade, the man who desires to have it for Canada and believes in it, is no less than an idiot if he is of the opinion that this government in regard to this matter has not betrayed the interests of Canada and of the empire. I see my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) opposite; I do not know whether it is right to refer to what he has said, because it is not strictly apropos to this debate, but I must say to my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) and to the House, that I think it was unfair to him, that it was not less than cruel to him, to call upon him to attempt (as he himself describes it) 'to justify' the course of the government in this regard. I think it is always an unfair thing and an unkind thing to drive a willing horse to death. It is unfair to ask a man to make ropes out of the sea sand, or to carry water in a basket, or to prove at the same time that two and two are four and that two and two are not four; and I think that it was just as unfair to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) to endeavour to reconcile the utterly self-contradictory statements of the government of which he is a supporter—to attempt to 'justify them' (as he says himself) without perforce condemning them. And, Sir, I know that to an hon. member of his practical turn of mind, nothing could be more unpleasant than to find himself condemning his own government. At least, I have been sitting with him in the House now for some five sessions, and I am not aware of any occasion on which he has arisen to differ from the administration of which he is so brilliant and so worthy a supporter. I may be mistaken, but I have never had the privilege of hearing him calling in question any act, great or small, of the government in this House, whether it was the Yukon deal, the Drummond Railway deal, or the burking of inquiry in reference to corruption at elections; and I can quite understand that my hon. friend, constituted as he is, would naturally think there was something mystical in the make-up of any one who, at times, took a different course with reference to the government he happened to support. I say it was unfair; and while I listened with pleasure, and with more than pleasure—with admiration—to a speech which the hon. gentleman made earlier in the session, I must say, with great frankness, that having read his speech on this matter—I had not the pleasure of hearing it delivered—it does not come up to what I would have expected from him. But, we must remember that he was asked to do the impossible. I thought, when my hon. friend was reduced to say as a criticism that the hon. leader of the opposition was splitting hairs in the discussion of this question, that he had got into very deep water when he had to catch at a straw of that kind. Why, who

ever heard of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition stopping in a discussion to split hairs? Perhaps the hon. gentleman had reference to the kind of warfare that Robert Bruce carried on at the battle of Bannockburn, as described by Sir Walter Scott:

High in his stirrups stood the king,
And gave his battle-axe the swing;
Right on De Boune, the whiles he pass'd,
Fell that stern dint—the first—the last!—
Such strength upon that blow was put,
The helmet crashed like hazel-nut;
The axe shaft, with its brazen clasp,
Was shivered to the gauntlet grasp.

That is the kind of warfare my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) carries on, and if the hon. gentleman chooses to describe that as splitting hairs, we need not object. But, I would rather describe it as a splitting of skulls and a scattering of brains, that is, where there are any brains to scatter. I admit that my hon. friend has a good supply, although I would like him to use them at times to better purpose. It is very amusing to read my hon. friend's speech, because he is so very often brought to the point where he is just about to condemn the government, and then he makes a desperate struggle to get out of the difficulty. He has a long magnificent sentence piled up here about the selfishness of our demanding of the mother country, after all she has done for us, to impose duties upon her breadstuffs and her food, and to stifle her trade, which is the very lifeblood of her arteries. It seemed to me as if the hon. gentleman, when he got to that point, said to himself: 'Confound it, Laurier said he wanted this thing,' and so, he turns round and says: 'It would be selfish to ask for it, but if it were offered to us, we might accept it.' I think my hon. friend was hardly doing himself justice. If it was so dreadfully selfish to ask for this, if we were really proposing to stifle the trade of England and to injure England, I do not think we should accept from her an offer to that effect. I think that would be only one degree less selfish on our part. But, the fallacy of my hon. friend, as I think he must know, consists in the fact that we do not propose to ask England to do anything that is not beneficial to herself; and the beauty and the glory of this policy is, that while it benefits Canada, it benefits England also. But, there was another very amusing slip which my hon. friend made. He said that when we proposed any kind of trade arrangements with the mother country, we would be acting the part of President Kruger. I do not want to misrepresent my hon. friend in any way, but I think that is what he said, that when we were proposing any kind of arrangement for a quid pro quo, we were pursuing a Kruger policy. When my hon. friend said that, he remembered one thing and he forgot one thing. He remembered that

President Kruger was, perhaps, the most corrupt politician of modern times, but, he forgot that his leader had declared in this House, in express terms, that he personally entertained the most profound admiration for President Kruger. My hon. friend also forgot that the British Empire League, of which he is a member, and of which Her Majesty is the patron, has laid it down as a principle that we should strive for reciprocal trade between the different parts of the empire. Of course, I know that my hon. friend's mind is more practical than mine; but, to a mind constituted as mine is, I do not see how we can discuss these matters without entering into a discussion of a business kind. However, I do not know that it is necessary to deal any further with the speech of the hon. gentleman, except to say that when he said that it was an infinitely small concession that Mr. Chamberlain had made in his Canada Club speech, when Mr. Chamberlain said that an exception might be made of all articles taxed chiefly for revenue purposes, I think my hon. friend was not showing that practical grasp of the subject which I would have expected of him, because, if there could be a large concession, I think that is one of the largest we could have expected to be suggested by Mr. Chamberlain at such a time.

Now, I am afraid I am wearying the House; but, if I am not, I would like to make reference to another matter which, I think, has scarcely received the consideration which its importance deserves. We know, all of us, I think, that if we obtained preferential trade it would enormously benefit the farming community in Canada. We set out in our resolution last year, that this policy, if adopted, would be a great benefit to the farming community, that it would set in motion a great tide of immigration to our shores, that it would people the vast wheat areas of our North-west, that it would enhance the value of farming lands in the older provinces, that it would promote the unity of the empire, and deliver the empire from a dangerous dependence on a foreign food supply. These things we set out last year, and I do not think they were gravely disputed by any member of weight in this House. But what about our manufacturing industries? How is such a policy as this going to affect them? Is it not going to be injurious to them? That is a question which I think we ought to consider very gravely. Well, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, two years ago—and I think they ought to know something about this matter—passed a resolution in favour of this policy, and within the last few weeks they have passed another resolution endorsing it. That, I think, is pretty strong evidence that it is not likely to be injurious to our manufacturing interests.

Mr. McNEILL.

That the adoption of this policy would increase the population of Canada with a rapidity, and to an extent altogether unprecedented in any British colony, I think goes without argument. There is not an immigrant in every thousand who would deliberately select the south of the line, and have to pay a duty to get his produce into the English market, if by going to the north of the line he could get his goods into that market free, and thus obtain a greater value for what he would have to export than he could possibly obtain to the south of the line. Therefore, I think the tide of immigration would be attracted to the north, and Canada would become the magnet. The Manufacturers' Association realize this, and they know that a prosperous population with its many and ever increasing wants—a population which would be increasing by leaps and bounds at their own doors—means unprecedented prosperity for them, even if there should be a reduction in favour of British manufactured goods, and a displacement in this market by British manufactured goods of foreign manufacture. That itself opens a prospect of vast advantage to our manufacturers. But this by no means exhausts the benefits which are contained in the policy of preferential trade for the manufacturers of Canada. The mother country imports manufactured and partly manufactured goods to the enormous sum of \$500,000,000 annually, and that huge trade is to-day controlled and operated almost exclusively by the foreign rivals of the empire. Then, what would not be the advantage to our manufacturers, the moment there is discrimination against those foreign rivals and our manufacturers get their goods into the English market with a preference as against the foreigner? We are competing in the English market to-day in many lines with these foreign manufacturers, but we are competing under enormous difficulties. How great would be the advantage if we had preferential trade and discriminatory duties against our foreign rivals in that huge market? Mr. Speaker, the main portion of that advantage would go to the manufacturers in England, as a matter of course. But who will set bounds to the advantages which would accrue to many of our manufacturers in Canada? Take for example our lumbermen, take the manufacturers of dressed lumber, take the manufacturers of doors and sashes and mouldings, of furniture, of handles for implements, of agricultural implements, take our four millers and others, take the many lines of boots and shoes which we manufacture in Canada, take our canned meats and canned fruits, and canned fish, take hosts of other lines of industry which can be mentioned, they would all be enormously benefited by this advantage, given to our manufacturers over

our foreign rivals in the enormous markets of the mother country. Surely that would be an immense benefit to this country.

But even this does not exhaust the treasures that are contained in this truly Imperial policy for the manufacturers of Canada. What about our possessions in the Orient? What about our trade under the Southern Cross, in South Africa and the West Indies, on the day when it is declared that there shall be a preference in all British markets to all British goods over foreign goods? Take India, for example. Germany has got in there with her exports now. She has increased her export trade in India since 1890 to the extent of 300 per cent. The United States is carrying on an export trade with India to the extent of four and one-third millions to four and one-half million dollars, I forget which, and is rapidly increasing that trade. Take Australasia, the United States is carrying on a trade in Australasia to-day of \$19,500,000. That trade has increased since 1867 from \$9,500,000 to the figures I have given, and it would have increased a great deal more had it not been for the fearful financial calamity which overtook those colonies, a few years ago, and in which every financial institution almost went by the board, and when, had it not been for the interposition of the Bank of England, the whole financial fabric apparently would have collapsed.

The Australian colonies, according to the British Trade and Navigation Returns, have a foreign import trade of \$29,000,000, but these returns, as was clearly shown in the consular reports presented to Mr. Chamberlain a year or two ago, do not by any means show the extent of the foreign imports of the Australasian colonies. They only show the port of export and not at all the country of origin, and it would be probably very much nearer the mark if we said that that trade amounted to \$35,000,000 rather than \$29,000,000. Take South Africa, the total import trade of that country is \$130,000,000. In the Cape Colony alone, the imports amount to \$90,000,000. How much of that trade do you suppose our American competitors are walking away with to-day? Ten and a half million out of the \$90,000,000, and in lines in which our Canadian manufacturers could well compete.

For all those lines which Canada is especially calculated to produce, these vast regions will be opening wider and wider the door as time goes on, and great as the advantage to the Canadian farmer of this great beneficent British policy would be, I very much question whether it would not be almost, if not quite, as great for the Canadian manufacturer. Of course I do not wish to make the suggestion for a moment that in all this trade to which I have referred, the great manufacturers of the mother country would not, as a matter of course, have the lion's share, but the benefit to

Canadian manufacturers would be enormous.

I am afraid I have spoken too long, but I just wish to say before closing, a word or two with regard to the 33½ per cent preferential rate, and then I will have done.

Now, with regard to this 33½ per cent, I have to say this—although it may seem an unkind thing to say—that I regret the reduction of the duties in favour of the mother country by 33½ per cent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Hear, hear.

Mr. McNEILL. Yes, I regret it; and I regret it for two reasons. As I have said here before, for my own part, speaking personally, I would be quite willing to make some small concessions without asking anything in return, as a mere evidence of good-will, as a recognition of past favours received, and especially as a breaking of the ice, as an initial step, in the prosecution of this great policy. But we have gone altogether too far. I object to this as I say, for two reasons, first, because it will injure our own Canadian native manufactures, it will cripple them. They are at present, I believe, under the 25 per cent reduction, just staggering along, many of them, even in these prosperous times. So soon as the pendulum takes a swing in the other direction, many of them, I believe, will be unable to resist the pressure even under the 25 per cent. Now that the preference has been increased to 33½ per cent, I believe it will mean the crippling and destruction of many important industries in Canada. I think that anything which will retard the development of Canada, this great member of the empire will injure the mother country herself—will injure her trade and detract from her strength and security; and therefore, I say, from that point of view, I regret that this concession has been made. I regret it still further for a second reason, because it is an encouragement to those in England who are opposed to this policy, and who even now say that it is unnecessary to make any concession to us in order to obtain free access to our markets, because we are rapidly coming around to free trade. I think I have proved conclusively that the government has demonstrated that it is hostile to this policy of preferential trade; and I must say that if they had desired to strike it another severe blow, I do not think they could have adopted a better course than they have adopted in making this further reduction. In order that hon. gentlemen may see the effect that it is having already in England, I will read from the *Times* as quoted in the *Toronto Globe*, the organ of hon. gentlemen opposite themselves:

'It was, perhaps, within the bounds of possibility, said Mr. Fielding, that England might be induced to impose a duty for the benefit

of the colonies.' We do not question the possibility, in the abstract, but, inasmuch as Canada has found her advantage in successive reductions of her tariff in favour of a country which imposes no duty except for revenue purposes, it is perhaps, equally possible that the solution of the problem of an Imperial Zollverein may, in the end, be found in the common acceptance of a policy of free exchange rather than in a reversion to a policy of protective duties and preferential tariffs.

So, if hon. gentlemen desired to furnish arguments to the opponents of this policy in England, if they desired to plant the leaven of opposition to this policy, they have evidence that they have succeeded and that that leaven is working.

Again, I fear that this increase in the preference to the extent of 33½ per cent is going to be a very serious injury to the mother country herself. Under this preference, the mother country is not given what we propose to give. The proposition we make is a preference in a market which will be an increasing market, increasing both in population and in purchasing power. But the preference that the government is giving is a preference in a restricted market, in a market which will become more restricted by reason of the preference that is given. Their preference is in its very nature restrictive, ours is expansive. Therefore I say, on behalf not only of my own mother country, but on behalf of Canada, in which I have spent almost thirty among the happiest years of my life, I regret the policy that the government has pursued in making this reduction.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it is not my intention to traverse throughout its whole length and breadth—for I dare not say, its depth—the ground covered by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) who spoke before recess, and who is known as the father of the empire. But, after the eloquent and patriarchal address we have heard this afternoon, I think the hon. gentleman is entitled to the still more venerable name of grandfather of the empire. I do not pretend to set myself up as an authority as to the rather ill-defined ground upon which the budget debate has turned. Moreover, that debate has now been so long engrossing the attention of the House, that it is no easy task for one as inexperienced as I am, to approach the discussion of the various questions under review. I shall, therefore, confine myself to the consideration of what may be called the paramount issue in this debate. I mean the preference given by our government to the trade of Great Britain in 1897, a preference which they are still bettering to-day in a certain measure. Three

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years ago, I was glad to vote in favour of the preferential treatment of 25 per cent tendered by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to British trade. The reason for the position I then took is very simple and consistent with the political principles which I have always acted upon, and which I still adhere to, and it was because I thought that, by that tariff abatement, the burden of taxation which weighs upon the Canadian consumers would be materially lightened. Now, in dealing with the proposal laid before us by the government, I still view the question from a purely Canadian standpoint. For the same reason, should circumstances allow it, I would also place myself on record in favour of any government proposal to reduce duties on articles of large consumption in this country, coming from the United States or from any other foreign country.

A few weeks ago, I deemed it my duty to register my vote against a proposal submitted to the House by my hon. friend, the member for Halifax (Mr. Russell). I think that action of mine created quite a scandal in political circles,—supposing that I can be a stumbling block in such quarters. If I voted against that proposition, it was not because I was opposed to the preferential tariff in favour of Great Britain. No, far from it, and I have just shown it—but because to my mind, that resolution was apparently inopportune and unjustifiable. In fact, the statement embodied in it was but an academical statement which, under the circumstances, seemed to answer no useful purpose. Either the preferential tariff of 1897 is a policy that commends itself to our approval or it is an objectionable policy. If it is a good measure, it cannot be bettered by the academical resolution to which the government deemed it fit to give its support; and if it is a bad policy, it will remain so, in spite of the resolution. But the chief ground on which I voted against the resolution of the hon. member from Halifax, was this: That, this resolution as worded, is instinct with a feeling, and embodies a principle which does not commend itself to my approval, and further, because it received from its promoter an imperialistic import which I could not accept. I need not tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I am opposed to imperialism. I think I have placed myself on record clearly enough on that question, both by my speeches and my votes. Let me tell you further that so long as I shall enjoy the confidence of my constituents, my attitude on the floor of this House will be that of a Canadian, it will be the attitude of a representative of the people of Canada. Whenever a measure is brought down which is calculated to promote the interests of the Canadian people, I will give it my support; but as often as a measure is brought forward, involving some change in the con-

stitution of the country or in our relations with Great Britain, I shall oppose it, unless they positively tell us where they are prepared to stand on that imperialistic policy. On the same ground, I intend, to-night, to give my vote against the amendment brought down by the hon. leader of the opposition, an amendment which, I think, savours still too strongly of imperialism. I know that imperialism is now the rage. A wave of imperialism is sweeping over the country, and politicians who like to go with the stream, allow themselves to be carried away by the wave, without even knowing what country the billows will drive them to. I must say at once that I have no fault to find with the attitude taken by my hon. friend from Halifax. I quite realize the position into which he is forced. I received, a few days ago—and most members have, no doubt, also received it—the report of the Halifax Board of Trade for 1899. The contents of that report are quite variegated; the first section is being devoted to the dry goods trade, the second, to the wholesale grocery trade; the third, to the hardware trade; while the fourth section deals with our West India trade, and the fifth is devoted to a vindication of imperialism and winds up with the following lines :

Britain's myriad voices call:
Sons, be welded each and all
Into one Imperial whole,
One with Britain, heart and soul,
One life, one flag, one fleet, one throne.

They then pass on to the trade in cured fish. When a body of responsible business men, having to deal with trade matters, go so far as to insert in their return lyrical lines of that description, I quite realized what position the unfortunate member who has the honour of representing such a poetical city finds himself in.

However, I am free to say that I do not feel too uneasy about all those inflamed statements, and about those poetical outbursts whose merit is more or less questionable: for their daily repetition cannot fail to bring about a reaction. I remember reading somewhere that in Sweden and Norway, in the case of persons suffering from dipsomania, a strict homeopathic diet is prescribed. It seems that those wretched persons are forced to eat and drink nothing but food and beverages saturated with alcohol. At first, they are delighted with their diet, but there comes a moment when the constant absorption of alcohol provokes such a loathing in them that they cannot even bear the smell of alcohol. They are thus cured permanently. Nowadays, wherever imperialists meet, whether they meet in legislatures, in municipal councils, in trade and banking circles,—and it matters little whether they are two or three or a hundred,—forthwith they give free course to their enthusiasm, translating it either into verse or into prose. But, Sir, a reaction is sure to come at no distant date. That

reaction has already set in, at the Antipodes, in Australia. Allow me, Sir, to read to the House a recent statement from Mr. Walter Griffiths, a member for South Australia, who is at present in London, where he is engaged in looking after the passing of the Commonwealth Bill by the House of Commons. I translate from the *New York Herald* :

Australia's patience is worn threadbare on this federation proposition. We have spent too much time and thought and money perfecting the scheme, and getting it endorsed by our people to tolerate any trifling at the hands of Downing Street or Westminster. We do not intend to permit our constitution to appear to sanction the false notion that it is necessary for Australia to nestle under the wing of England. . . . We are loyal to the mother country, but our loyalty must be purely voluntary. The slightest suggestion of compulsion will estrange our people from the empire beyond recall, with the result that a united states of Australia, a republic modelled on American lines, will be added to the independent powers of the earth.

We cannot consent to any arrangements which will compel us to assume all England's burdens and responsibilities. We love the mother country, and will do whatever is reasonable to defend her, but our national position and resources are such that we must decline to take any steps that shall deprive us of liberty of action in any particular emergency that may arise.

In Canada, the reaction is slower in taking place, and the reason for it is mainly to be found in that racial cry which is raised and in those appeals to national prejudices which are made at every turn, and I might say almost invariably without purpose. A certain number of politicians of British descent and some followers of the government think it their duty to protest of their loyalty, as an off-set against what they are pleased to call the disloyalty of the French Canadians. On the other hand some French Canadians in order to ward off the blows aimed at them, think it fair fighting to join in that steeple-chase and to outrun their English-speaking fellow-countrymen in their professions of ultra loyalism. Thus, it comes to pass that English-speaking Canadians confound loyalty to the British Crown with jingoism, and so it is also that French Canadians confound cringing and servility with conciliation.

However, a reaction is sure to come, and I have no hesitation in saying that it will come sooner or later with greater force perhaps in the English-speaking provinces than in the province of Quebec, because our English-speaking fellow-countrymen will come back from a longer way off. We have had fresh evidence of it. A few weeks ago, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association gave a banquet in the city of Toronto. Now, some of those gentlemen, like their fellow-countrymen of the Halifax Board of Trade, after putting themselves on record as being strongly in favour of the unification of the empire and after venting their

loyalty in verse and in prose, ended by saying this: That is all right, but let us now attend to business. We are very loyal and we all stand by the empire and its unity, but on condition that it does not cost us too dear. And these gentlemen did put themselves on record as being strongly opposed to the government policy, as they think it savours too much of imperialism and because it is not favourable enough to Canadian interests.

I venture to say, Sir, that the proposition submitted to the House by the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) proceeds from that current of opinion and that it is conceived in the same spirit as the speeches delivered in the city of Toronto before the Manufacturers' Association.

The hon. leader of the opposition, in spite of his advanced age and his strong convictions, is the most accomplished acrobat among Canadian politicians, and he throws in the shade all his rivals in the art of wheeling round and changing his batteries. Of late, upon two different occasions he succeeded in putting himself on record, before the electors of the province of Quebec, as an anti-imperialist.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) was good enough to tell me, the other day, that he had no use for me in his party. I am quite aware that owing to his long political career, and the position he occupies in the country, any comparison between the hon. gentleman and myself would be odious; but let him allow me to tell him that I have no use for him in the ranks of the opponents of imperialism.

The hon. gentleman is no doubt, a man of great experience, but in the matter of anti-imperialism, I venture to tell him that to my mind, his new-born zeal bodes the cause no good.

I agree that the resolution of the hon. leader of the opposition has less sentimentality about it than the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell). It is apparently more practical and more consistent with Canadian interest. It savours less of imperialism than the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax, but it is perhaps still more ill-timed, and it is less justifiable than the former. At all events, it has received from the prophet of imperialism a plain and sharp answer. Forty-eight hours after the hon. leader of the opposition had brought down his proposition, Mr. Chamberlain publicly stated that neither the British government nor the people of Great Britain would agree to a measure of commercial reciprocity with the colonies, which falls short of complete free-trade within the empire. That is, no doubt, the best solution of the problem from the standpoint of British interests, but I need hardly add that the suggestion of the Secretary of State for the Colonies is altogether outside the pale of practical politics here, at least under the

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present circumstances. Canada, under the Conservative regime, has committed herself to a policy of extreme protection. Now, under the present regime, a political party who had pinned their faith upon free-trade or at least had shown a leaning towards free trade, were compelled to maintain to a large extent the protective tariff adopted by their predecessors. Therefore, it stands to reason that we cannot launch out with full sail into free trade, though it were limited to British-made goods. In fact, by the adoption of inter-imperial free trade, our home industries would be for the most part, left to the tender mercies of British manufacturers who are able to manufacture under much more favourable circumstances than we can. Moreover, we would thereby be handing over to Great Britain the control of our trade relations with foreign countries; while, we ought, on the contrary, to direct all our efforts towards securing the exclusive control of our fiscal policy and our trade relations with every country in the world. That is one of the principles to which the Liberals are wedded, and on which they had repeatedly placed themselves on record prior to their advent to power. I hope, at least, that we have not yet gone back on that promise, as on so many other pledges.

Mr. BERGERON. Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA. (Translation.). It seems to me that Canada—and whether you call her a colony or a free country bound to Great Britain by a light tie, matters very little—should have the necessary power for controlling her fiscal policy. Our fiscal policy should be framed by Canada, and for Canada, with a full eye as to what is in the best interests of the Canadian producer and consumer.

Of course, when we enter into trade arrangements with England and other countries, I agree that we ought to make certain concessions, if we wish to secure corresponding advantages. We told the American government that we were not willing to give them any preference in our markets unless they consented to give us a quid pro quo; and I would be ready to take a similar position towards Great Britain. And still, there is a wide difference between the two cases. The people of the United States are our next-door neighbours, and American products naturally seek our home markets; while British made goods and products are thousands of miles distant from our markets and owing to the cost of transportation alone, we ought to be able to reduce the customs duties imposed on those articles, without imperilling the vital interests of Canadian industries.

I say that Canada, in framing her fiscal policy, should legislate with a full eye as to what is for the interest of Canada. Whether that policy goes under the name of moderate protection or revenue tariff, and

whether, within ten or twenty years hence, it is known as fair trade or absolute free trade, it matters very little, provided the guiding star of the framers of that policy be to safeguard Canadian interests. That is the reason why I could not support the proposition of the hon. member for Halifax, and that is also the ground on which I have made up my mind to cast my vote against the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition. That our fiscal policy should be framed with a view to fostering the interests of Great Britain or drawing closer the ties that bind us to the motherland, is an idea which I most strongly antagonize. We are called upon here to legislate on behalf of Great Britain. The British people have their own free institutions; and their past record shows that they are quite able to take care of themselves. I say, therefore, that any public man in Canada who would legislate here from the standpoint of British interests rather than with an eye to what is in the interest of the Canadian people, would prove false to his duty and would be unworthy of the mandate he has received at the hands of the people.

As to our attitude towards the United States, Sir, I may say that there is nowadays a display of hostile feeling towards our American neighbours, or rather that this antagonistic feeling, which has always existed, is prevailing and spreading more and more. I agree that the people of the United States are the first to blame for that state of things. I am aware that there is, in their midst, a school of exclusivism which, at the time of electoral contests, seeks to revive American prejudices against Canada. In Canada, the Tories enjoyed for many years that monopoly, trying to embitter the feelings of the Canadian people and to excite bad blood in the country against the people of the United States. And, strange to say, a certain fraction of the Liberal party is apparently seeking, nowadays, to emphasize and revive that spirit, after having, for so many years, counselled moderation and preached the gospel of conciliation at any price, towards the American republic.

But when we come to sift the real facts and when we thoroughly analyze the policy pursued by our neighbours to the South, it would be sheer nonsense to pretend that American statesmen are actuated by a feeling of hostility towards Canada. I hold that such a proposition is indefensible and absolutely puerile. Besides, there is a fact which we should not forget, and it is this: that, let our policy and our trade relations with Great Britain and the United States be what they may, the neighbouring republic is and shall always be our natural market. And we have that statement from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) himself, who enjoys in such matter an undisputed authority. On the other hand, we are and we shall always

rank among the best customers of the American producers. Quite possibly, through our fiscal policy, that natural position may undergo changes of more or less importance; but to believe that we could throw down those natural barriers and substitute to them artificial barriers of our own creation, which would divert the course of trade, is sheer nonsense. We may fancy that we are all-mighty, but our all-mightiness has not yet reached that degree. The work of the creator was built up on stronger lines of foundation than the policy of the imperialists, even such a policy as advocated by the hon. member for Bruce (Mr. McNeill): We should have no sympathy with a policy the underlying principle of which is a pre-conceived hostility towards the United States. We ought simply to stand upon the firm ground of Canadian interests and tell Great Britain: 'We are ready to trade with you, provided that your terms be acceptable.' To our neighbours of the American Republic we should say this: 'Whenever you are willing to meet us upon a common ground, we are ready to join hands with you.' Let us beware of fostering an exaggerated British feeling which would only prove a source of difficulties to us, whenever we are ready to develop mutually advantageous trade relations with foreign countries.

To sum up, the guiding star of all the nations, whether small or great, rich or poor, powerful or weak, is their own interest. The people of the United States, in framing their policy, have been guided by their own national interests and Great Britain has also followed a similar course; why then, should not the interests of Canada be the guiding star of our policy and legislation?

Some are trying to fool the people into believing that if the British consumers buy our products, it is out of love for us, because we are always waving the British flag, and singing 'God save the Queen'; because we have sent our sons to fight and shed their blood on the battle-fields of South Africa in a war in which we are in no way concerned. I need not say that such a view is preposterous. I know that sentiment is a great factor in the general government of the world, but to ignore the incentive of self-interest would be a sad mistake. There are circumstances when sentiment prevails and a wave of enthusiasm sweeps over a country, but a reaction is bound soon to set in.

If British consumers are buying more and more our products, the reason is that those articles reach the English market with less delay and in a better state of preservation than was the case formerly. You may send as many soldiers as you like to fight the battles of England in South Africa; you may spend as much money as you choose for Great Britain; that is all right, but I say that if you send over to England and place on the British market decayed eggs

and rancid butter, the British consumer will not buy your things, under the pretense that you are spilling your blood for him on the battle-fields of South Africa. No, Sir, the British people are guided by their own interest. I would like Canada to follow in their wake. I am loyal to the British Crown; I am a great admirer of the British people; I admire their political institutions, and their commercial genius, and it seems to me that we would have everything to gain by following their example. It often happens that hon. gentlemen bandy charges across the floor of the House, and fling at each other, for not doing enough in favour of Great Britain. For years and years, the Conservative party tried to make political capital in charging the Liberals with being disloyal and professing principles inconsistent with our allegiance to the British Crown. But to all those old-stock arguments which they trotted out, we used to oppose a triumphant reply—at least from the viewpoint of sound logics and reason—by saying that we had a Canadian policy and that we placed the interests of Canada above those of Great Britain. I do not mean to say that since our coming into power, we have turned our back to our profession of faith in this respect; but I think we are too fond of apologizing to the hon. gentlemen opposite, and telling them that we are more loyal, more British than they are, and that we have done more for England and for the empire than the hon. gentlemen themselves did when in power.

What the people of Canada expect from their political men is that they should place the interests of Canada above the interests of the British people or the people of Australia.

I may perhaps be told that the manner does not always show the intention and that, provided we secure from Great Britain, the commercial advantages which we expect from her, it matters little whether or not we make more or less fuss about our patriotism and whether the note of loyalism rings more or less throughout our speeches. I quite agree that it matters very little whether we introduce more or less sentiment into these matters or not. However, I think we should guard against those outbursts of enthusiasm, lest we make ourselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world. Let us show the British people that we are as practical, and as intelligent business men as they are themselves. What do we see, to-day, at the very moment when the watchword given to the British press is to trumpet the merits of the colonies and to sound very high their praises? The Secretary of State for the Colonies seems quite disposed to exact the pound of flesh and tell us: 'Go on, gentlemen, and you will have your reward!' Mr. Chamberlain does not say anything very definite as to the nature or the value of that reward. And when we ap-

proach the consideration of the matter from the standpoint of our interests and when we stand on the solid ground of material facts and figures, he merely says: 'I am a British minister first and Secretary of State for the Colonies secondarily; and if you want reciprocal or mutual trade, you will have first to put it on a basis which suits Great Britain.'

Well, let us take the same position; let us put our trade relations with Great Britain and the colonies on such a basis as is calculated first to favour the interests of Canada. I do not intend to enter into the merits of that preferential tariff; nor am I prepared to say whether this additional reduction of duties to the extent of one-third which we are making this year in favour of British-made goods, will result favourably to Canada. I do not pretend to be competent or to pose as an authority on the matter. But, when I see such a conflict of opinions among those who can speak with authority on these questions, I think it more prudent to be silent on that point. Arguments have been brought forward pro and con, with respect to that abatement of duties. Some gentlemen said to the government: 'When you brought down your tariff, three years ago, you stated that you were laying down a settled policy, and that you would not interfere with it, until it had produced substantial results. The manufacturing industries of the country depended upon the stability of the tariff; while the traders throughout the country, when arranging for their sales and purchases, and fixing their prices, were under the impression that the fiscal policy would not be interfered with; but to-day, you come down and without a word of warning, you tell the country that you are going to make another act in the tariff in favour of England. But they say further: 'These are growing times; prosperity prevails to-day throughout the country, business is improving in all directions, and we are quite able to face the competition of British traders.' But let me remind them this: fortune will not always smile on us; these booming times will not go on always; a time will come when commercial depression will give place to this extraordinary activity, when capital will become more timid, and when competition will bring down prices; and then it is that the efforts of this tariff abatement will be keenly felt and that Canadian interests will suffer. But here I am confronted with an argument whose strength I do not attempt to conceal. They say: 'The two-thirds of tariff duties are still maintained against British-made goods; and to that you have to add the cost of transportation of British goods from Great Britain to Canada, the cost of shipment and transshipment, the cost of rail transportation; now, if, in the face of those charges by which British trade is handicapped, Canadian industries cannot

compete with British produce, then those industries have no right to live at the expense of the consumer.' As I said, these reasons seems to me most cogent, and, moreover, the reasons for which I supported the reduction of 25 per cent still hold good. Therefore, I shall vote in favour of the further abatement of duties proposed by the government, hoping that this policy will result beneficially to the Canadian consumer. I do not say that this measure cannot be improved, or that its results will show that it was a wise policy, but it seems to me that the objections raised against it are not strong enough to warrant my opposing it. Besides, should competition materialize later on, it will always be open to us to remedy it.

I shall, therefore, vote against the proposition of the hon. leader of the government and in favour of the government policy, and in so doing, I stand by the principles to which the Liberal party have committed themselves.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Speaker, in rising to address the House, in this most important debate, it is not my purpose to discuss exhaustively all the points that have been brought by hon. members on both sides of the House. But, my object in asking the indulgence of the House at this late period of the debate, is more particularly for the purpose of addressing myself to some points which I consider of the greatest possible importance, not to Canada alone, but to the whole British Empire. Mr. Speaker, after I have touched on these points, I hope my hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa), who has just taken his seat, will permit me, in a very few words, to reply to what he has said to-night. I state that it will require very few words, because the attack from the hon. gentleman has been more against his own party, than against the one which he is supposed to be combatting on this side of the House, and I have no doubt that, as on former occasions, his leader will find somebody on his side of the House to reply to the attacks which have been made by the hon. member against his leader, and the policy of his leader, upon the very important questions which have been brought up. Sir, there is in the foremost rank of all the questions which, at the present moment, are interesting, not Canada alone, but which are agitating the whole British Empire, the question of Imperial federation. If one reason induced me more than another, at this late period, to rise and express my views, it is that I consider that upon a question of such importance, every public man who is supposed to represent public opinion in Canada should have an expressed opinion of his own upon the point, and the country should know exactly on what ground he stands when this great and important question is brought before the parliament of

Canada, as it has been brought before the Imperial parliament in Great Britain. Now, there is one thing that must, to my mind, impress those who study the evolution of public sentiment, upon the great and important questions of the day; there is one point that must strike the close observer of the course followed by the two great political parties in Canada. I claim, and before I resume my seat, I venture to express the hope that I shall be able to convince parliament, and to convince the country, through parliament, that the policy of the Conservative party, upon that vital, that great and important question, has never varied, and that it is to-day what it has always been. My hon. friend who has just resumed his seat, has expressed his views as a Canadian, isolated, as he happens to be, on his own side of the House, he seems to believe that he is also isolated in this great country, among the members representing other constituencies, as a great patriot. Sir, the hon. gentleman has stated that his policy was to remain a Canadian, and he said:

Our loyalty must be altogether voluntary. That is our policy.

Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of the Conservative party, and traditionally, in the history of that party from the day when the late lamented chieftain, Sir John Macdonald, was controlling the destinies of this country, up to the time that other eminent leader of the Conservative party (Sir Charles Tupper), who is controlling the destinies of that party, the same old Conservative policy has been followed, and the fact that that policy has never varied, is the reason why, within the ranks of the Conservative party, we find no dissensions such as you find, as exemplified by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, in the ranks of the Liberal party. Let me turn back a few pages in the history of this country, and let me tell you what our policy has been. The hon. gentleman said:

Our policy must be altogether voluntary.

Sir, it is absolutely voluntary, in so far as the Conservative party is concerned. Referring to the well-known book, written by Mr. Joseph Pope, relating the events of the eminent career of the great leader of the Conservative party, Sir John Macdonald, at page 215 of that book, I find among the oldest records, and probably the beginning of the movement in favour of Imperial federation, what Sir John Macdonald lays down as his policy, and the policy which the Conservative party has followed ever since. He says:

I am, of course, in favour of any feasible scheme that will bring about a closer union between the various portions of the empire, but I have not yet seen any plan worked out by which this can be done. The proposal that there should be a parliamentary federation of the empire, I regard as impracticable. I greatly doubt whether England would agree that the

parliament which have sat during so many centuries at Westminster should be made subsidiary to a federal legislature. But, however that may be, I am quite sure that Canada would never consent to be taxed by a central body sitting at London, in which she would have practically no voice; for her proportionate number of members in such an assembly would amount to little more than an honorary representation. That form of Imperial federation is an idle dream. So also, in my judgment, is the proposal to establish a uniform tariff throughout the empire. No colony would ever surrender its right to control its fiscal policy.

This was the inception of the movement in favour of Imperial federation. Sir John Macdonald well remembered the hard battles which Canada had fought for her autonomy, and as the leader of a great political party he knew that it would be impossible to get a political federation in which Canada could preserve that autonomy. And, Sir, standing in my place tonight as representative of the people in this federal parliament, I say that Canada will never give up her autonomy; nay more, Sir, the day has long since passed, when Canada will allow herself to be governed from Downing Street in regard to matters which are absolutely within the control of this Canadian parliament. While I thus raise my voice in protest against interference with the autonomy of Canada, I am in favour of Imperial federation; I am in favour of it as my leader, Sir John Macdonald was in favour of it, I am in favour of Imperial federation as the present leader of the government was once in favour of it, but has now ceased to be. I continue the quotation :

But while Sir John Macdonald regarded both these schemes as unworkable, he by no means despaired of the future of Imperial federation. Indeed, I may say that he looked upon it as necessary to the continuance of the empire's greatness that some form of co-operation—some common bond, other than their common allegiance—should be established between the colonies, uniting them with one another, and with the motherland. That bond, in his opinion, should be one of material interest. Parliamentary federation we could not have, but he saw no insuperable difficulty in the way of a commercial union between England and her great colonies. A union for purposes of defence and trade was, in his judgment, the true Imperial policy. Take, for example, the case of the Dominion. Sir John Macdonald believed that a mutually preferential commercial arrangement between England and Canada, under which a small duty should be levied upon foreign corn coming into the United Kingdom, and a similar advantage accorded to British manufactures by Canada, would not raise the price of food in England, and would result in a large and permanent development of trade, both to the mother country and the colony.

That was the opinion of Sir John Macdonald, and I may say that I had the great advantage of being in England when Sir John Macdonald was laying down these principles which have become the political programme

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and policy of the Conservative party, and which, following in his wake, Sir Charles Tupper, the present leader of the Conservative party, is now advocating. I quote again from Pope :

Sir Charles Tupper, in two able papers ('Nineteenth Century,' for October, 1891, and April, 1892), sets this forth with great clearness. He shows from official reports that, in the years 1890 and 1891, when the price of corn varied 10 shillings and 6 pence a quarter, the fluctuations had to reach practically 10 shillings a quarter before it made a halfpenny difference in the four-pound loaf. In the latter article, Sir Charles Tupper states that, during the Canadian elections of 1891, he had several conversations with Sir John Macdonald upon this subject of 'inter-imperial' trade, and that their views practically coincided.

Those are the views of the Liberal-Conservative party in Canada. Sir, I have had the honour of serving in this parliament for very many years, and although that may be an advantage in one way, it is a disadvantage in another, because it reminds one of how old he may grow in the service of his country. At all events, speaking as one who has for a long period been concerned in the discussion of all these great questions under the leadership of men in whom was reposed the entire confidence of the Conservative party, I can say, that I cannot recollect the day or the moment when that policy of the Conservative party varied in any shape or form. No one will venture to deny that Sir John Macdonald's ideas as to more intimate connection with the empire, and his desire to draw closer and stronger the bonds connecting the colonies with the motherland; no one will dare to deny, I say, that the ideas and hopes of Sir John Macdonald in this respect, could not be exceeded by the hopes of the most ardent enthusiast on the subject. But, Mr. Speaker, while we are Imperialists, let us not, as Canadians, forget that we must also look after the interests of Canada. I believe that the true way to give strength and power to the empire, is to give strength and power to the colonies which compose Greater Britain. We should not give up one iota of the policy which has made Canada the great nation she is today; that national policy which has made this country since 1878 prosperous and happy and which has enabled the government now in power to announce to the people that they had a surplus of \$7,000,000. The reason why the Liberal government has been enabled to announce a surplus in the Treasury, is because the leaders of the Conservative party in former years; men like Sir John A. Macdonald, established the policy upon which was based the future prosperity and greatness of our country. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who now leads the government, when in opposition, announced that the national policy was detrimental to the best interests of Canada, and yet, when he came into power, the first thing he did, was to cling to the national

policy, which was introduced by the Conservative party. I say, Sir, that the policy of the Conservatives to-day upon Imperialism is an absolutely national policy, in so far as Canada is concerned. It is a policy under which Canada wishes to be more closely united to the empire, but it is a policy under which Canada, standing up as a nation says to the motherland: We are prepared to give you reciprocal advantages for the advantages which you will give to Canada under a preferential tariff, and which will apply to the empire all around, as against countries outside the empire. That, Sir, is carrying out the old national policy in Imperial affairs, and that, Sir, is making Canada in this agitation all over the empire, true to the policy of protection for Canada, while she is also true to the policy of drawing closer the links connecting the motherland and her colonies. Sir John Macdonald went on to say:

Meanwhile manufacturers and their working people must, or rather should, be taught that they can find friendly and expanding markets in the colonies, if they are treated in the same spirit. Take Canada, for instance; our tariff is a revenue tariff in substance, and averages 30 per cent, while the prohibitory tariff of the United States averages fully 60 per cent. Now, Canada has undertaken the development of her resources on so large a scale that she must have a revenue, and from various causes can only look to customs and excise for it. While, therefore, she cannot promise a reduction of her customs duties, she will be quite ready to give British goods a preference of 5 or even 10 per cent in our markets, if our products receive a corresponding preference in England. The United States are the chief rivals of English manufacturers with us at present; with such a differential scale of duties as I suggest, all that we do not make ourselves would be supplied by the mother country.

I see that Mr. Cecil Rhodes is in favour of such a policy, and I have little doubt Australasia would adopt it.

The Americans boast that such is the extent and diversity of their soil and climate and products, that they are independent of the rest of the world. But they cannot compare with the British Empire in those respects. It is a world in itself.

The present leader of the Liberal-Conservative party (Sir Charles Tupper), not very long ago addressed a meeting in Quebec on the same subject. Owing to the multiplicity of his engagements, he had not had an opportunity of visiting Quebec for a long time, and I can say that his friends there were delighted to meet him. On that occasion he said that Canada could not abandon the liberties which she was enjoying at the present time to accept an Imperial regime based on representation of the colonies in the Imperial parliament. Mr. Chamberlain also, not long ago, said that parliamentary representation for the colonies did not appeal to his experience and his judgment as being the proper means whereby the bonds between the colonies and the empire could be tightened. My

right hon. friend the leader of the government viewed the matter from the same standpoint; but he differed from Sir John Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper and the Conservative party. One day the right hon. gentleman entertained one opinion upon this important question, and on another day, without very much trouble and without any qualms of conscience, he entertains another opinion. The hon. gentleman said, in his London speech:

Look at what an immense advantage it would be for Canada if our wheat, our cheese, our butter, which we send to England, could obtain in that English market a preference over similar products coming from other nations.

He said the possibilities of such a policy were absolutely immense. Well, Sir, in crossing the Atlantic Ocean, which to-day takes so little time, the right hon. gentleman changed his views completely; and instead of believing that policy would be an immense advantage, not only to our farmers, but to our manufacturers, whose wealth depends upon the prosperity of the farmers, when he reached England, and when the Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Chamberlain, and all the other leading men of England, were expressing the opinion that the time had come for England to put aside the old theories about absolute free trade, and to make some change with the view of giving advantages to the colonies in return for the advantages which England was getting from the colonies, my right hon. friend said to England: 'We will give you a tariff which will be preferential to you.' The English statesmen were rather astonished at this extraordinary liberality on the part of the Canadian people, because they felt that, rich as Canada was, it was not rich enough to make a free gift to the wealthy manufacturers of England, who have been enriched by centuries almost of protection. The right hon. gentleman, at a great dinner, where the Prince of Wales was present, said: 'Canada wishes to make a free gift to England of this preference.' And his liberality in this respect, since he has been studying the great question of Imperial federation, has increased to such an extent that he has increased the preference from 25 per cent to 33½ per cent. Well, Sir, I believe in Canada for the Canadians. I also believe in Imperial federation, because that gives us the strength of the empire added to the strength and the permanency of the colonies. I say that the Dominion of Canada, Australia and South Africa enjoy privileges in our connection with the empire that we could not possibly enjoy if we were independent. I do not believe in independence, so far as Canada is concerned, for this reason, that I cannot believe that five or six millions of people, with the great advantages we possess—with the River St. Lawrence, the great artery of this continent, and the Canadian Pacific Railway, the shortest route across

the continent that can be built—could never hope to be allowed to remain independent by seventy-five millions of Americans to the south of us. The only thing that has preserved our independence and permitted us to grow quietly and peaceably from year to year, developing our resources, and improving our country by the construction of great and important public works, has been the fact that we were part and parcel of the British Empire. Strong Imperialist as I am, I am a strong Canadian as well, at the same time. I want something for everything that Canada has to give, except her loyalty, that would always be given freely. Our loyalty to the empire, that sentimental feeling which is the inheritance of every Canadian, we give without any material consideration. We give our loyalty to England, but when we come to discuss questions of trade, questions of tariff, questions of finance, England will respect us all the more when she finds that she is dealing with business men and not with men who are willing to give her everything that Canada possesses without Canada getting anything in return. I venture to express the opinion, Mr. Speaker, that when the great appeal to our people takes place, one of the most important questions that will be discussed, will be the question, whether the right hon. leader of the government was true to his trust, as the representative of the party in power, framing the policy of the government, when he went back on the policy he announced in his London speech, in which he showed the great advantage it would be for us to have our products given a preference in the English market over the products of foreign countries—whether he was true to his trust in giving up that great advantage, which it was in his power to obtain, for simply the vain glory of boasting that Canada had made a present to England, which England did not and could not expect to obtain without giving an adequate return. These are the views entertained by the leaders of the Conservative party.

I do not wish to weary the House. I know that, coming late as I do into this debate, it is almost venturesome for me to ask hon. gentlemen to listen to me for more than a very short time, and my only excuse is that if I do take up a little time tonight, I do not do so frequently, and I only do it because I think that on this important question every Canadian public man should stand by what he has stated in parliament; and the people should know exactly what are his views.

Leave out the leaders of the Conservative party, leave out the leaders of the great Liberal party, and go to the practical men of business, go to the commercial men of this country, the men who very frequently have no politics, but who have invested their capital in the industries of the country, and are developing these industries by the study of every possible question which may affect

them. The right hon. gentleman was interviewed by a deputation of the manufacturers on the preferential tariff. These men came from all parts of the Dominion, and they presented to him the memorial of their association. They had not the high privilege of dining in the Hotel Cecil in London with the Prince of Wales, and of being captivated by all the great privileges which were accorded to our representatives who happened to be in England at that particular moment. These men remained in Canada, where they studied the interests of Canadian industries, and what are the conclusions to which they came:

Resolved, that while this association is heartily in favour of the principle of allowing a reasonable preference on goods manufactured in Great Britain, it desires to place itself on record as being strongly in favour of reciprocal preferential trade between Canada and every part of the British Empire with which arrangements can be effected to their mutual benefit, and by means of which each would receive a substantial advantage in trade as a result of its relationship, especially with Great Britain, which is not only the natural, but the best market for the bulk of our surplus products.

So it would appear to any man who has at heart the interests of Canada. England is our great market, our best market, and when hon. gentlemen opposite failed in the attempt they made shortly after they came into power, to open up the American markets to our products, as others had failed, I am quite prepared to admit, before, they found that really England was our best market. But where does the advantage to us come in, if we are going to give everything to England and get nothing in return? I do not pretend to have gone thoroughly into the study of these complicated financial and commercial questions, but it seems to me to appeal to the common sense of any reasonable man that the first duty of our statesmen, in their endeavour to get commercial advantage in England, was to say to England that for any privilege we would grant her she should be prepared to give us in return an equal advantage. Otherwise, I believe that, without helping England, we would be sacrificing the best interests of Canada.

These are the points upon which I wish to express my views as a Canadian and as one who takes a great deal of interest in these matters. I go in for Imperialism upon this one ground. I am in favour of Imperialism, just as the late Sir John Macdonald was and Sir Charles Tupper is, and all the leaders of the Conservative party have been, upon this one ground. I do not desire that Canada should have representation in the parliament of England, or that all the colonies should have such representation, and I will give you the reason why. Is it possible to imagine that England would consent to have her parliament controlled by her colonies, by Australia, by Canada and South Africa, whose population some

day, and whose representation consequently would outnumber the population and representation of England. The great principle of representation underlies the principle of taxation. If England were to have an Imperial parliament, in which all the colonies would be represented, our parliament in Ottawa would cease to be of any value at all. All the great questions affecting Imperial interests would be decided by the Imperial parliament in London, in which England would be outnumbered by the colonies, whose population exceeds hers. England will never accept such parliamentary representation, because it is impossible to imagine that she would ever consent to have her fiscal policy, her national policy, her foreign policy controlled by the colonies, and on the other hand Canada would certainly never consent to give up her autonomy. I for one would not consent to give up the autonomy of Canada and allow Canada to be controlled by the vote of an Imperial parliament in Great Britain. Not because I do not consider that the statesmen of England are not fitted to deal with any question affecting the empire. But, Sir, this is transplanting a plant into a soil in which it cannot live, it is transferring from the colonies the autonomy for which we fought, which we have gained, which has made England stronger, which has made the empire more powerful than it could have been if we had remained as we were under the control of the Foreign Office in Downing Street. Hence, I say that, so far as I am concerned, I want Imperial federation by the process of more intimate commercial relation by preferential advantages between England and her colonies as against other portions of the world that are not within the charmed circle. That is the policy which I am prepared to discuss before the people, and which, I believe, will appeal to their sentiments, that is the policy upon which I am prepared to meet my electors.

Now, I wish to refer, briefly, to another point. I said I was not going into figures, and I do not mean to go into figures, except so far as one department is concerned, and that is the department of the Postmaster General. We had to wait a long time for the Postmaster General's report. We appealed to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) that his report should be placed upon the Table, but, it seemed for a time impossible to induce him to bring it down. And, now that it is before us, I am sorry to say that, in running over it, I find we have been waiting in vain, and that the report is a very unsatisfactory one. I wish to give to the House a few figures which have been taken from the reports of the different years mentioned in the statement, beginning with 1896, the last year when I was in the department:

A comparison of the statements contained in the reports of the Postmaster General for the

years 1896, 1897 and 1898 shows that the expenditure for mail service by stage and other vehicle or by hand was as follows:

1896.....	\$847,080
1897.....	847,660
1898.....	765,660

For Steamboat Services.

1896.....	\$79,218
1897.....	83,734
1898.....	84,743

For Railway Mail Service.

1896.....	\$1,285,383
1897.....	1,350,786
1898.....	1,352,257

For Salaries (Outside Service).

1896.....	\$1,249,402
1897.....	1,250,609
1898.....	1,175,185

Total Expenditure.

1896.....	\$3,665,011
1897.....	3,789,478
1898.....	3,575,411

The reduction in the total expenditure for 1898, compared with 1896, was \$89,600; but, of this reduction, no less than \$74,217 has been saved mainly by withholding from the junior members of the outside service the annual increase of their salaries, to which, I contend, the law, the practice and their good services equally entitled them, and the rest by scrimping the post office service in every possible way. I am sorry the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is not here; but, upon the estimates, we shall have an opportunity of discussing these facts and figures. Of course, it is very true that, for the year 1898, the difference between the revenue and the expenditure of the Post Office Department was only \$47,602. Hon. gentlemen will remember that the Postmaster General stated that the difference between the revenue and expenditure in the Post Office Department was only \$47,000. But, Sir, the hon. gentleman did not take the House into his confidence; he did not tell the House that the increase in revenue was not one for which he really deserved any credit, it resulted from the postage stamps containing the map of the world. This made them wonderfully attractive, and collectors all over the world came to the Postmaster General, who actually peddled in these new stamps. I can tell hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House that they have merely to take the different reports from which I have quoted here—and if I make a statement which is incorrect, I shall be glad to be corrected, and will be ready to admit that I am wrong—that the increase in revenue was largely due to the peddling of the postage stamps which was carried on to a vaster extent than has been at any time within my recollection. While the annual increase in the revenue of the Post Office Department, for the five years ending 1896, was \$125,800, the increase in 1897 over 1896 was \$305,353, and that for 1898 over 1897

was \$375,406. So that, hon. gentlemen will see that the increase of revenue for the two years amounted to \$680,759. This added to the \$74,317 which represents the increases properly due to the members of the outside service and refused to them, increased the amount beyond the \$733,549 by which the Postmaster General claims to have reduced the expenditure of the department since 1896. He did not go to the trouble of calculating these providential things which came to him in the shape of remittances from collectors of stamps, and a reduction of \$74,000, and when you put these figures together, you find that they represent the increases of revenue which the Postmaster General claims. As one who presided over that department, I had occasion, in the first year when the hon. gentleman occupied the position which I do now occupy, to state that the annual increase was part and parcel under the law of the salary of the post office clerks. I want to show the hon. gentleman how this matter stands. Schedule B of the Civil Service Act says :

Clerks in the city post offices, third-class clerks, salary \$400, by annual increase of \$40 to \$800.

Now, I want to know whether, if the law states that the salary is to be \$400 by annual increases to \$800, that increase is not a part and parcel of the salary. This is proved by the fact that in order to avoid any mistake, the law introduces a clause giving the only reason why this increase can be taken away from the clerks. Speaking as one who occupied that high position, I can say that no department in Canada or outside of Canada had a better service than was at the disposal of the Postmaster General of that date.

Second-class clerks, \$900, by annual increase of \$50 to \$1,200. Letter carriers, sorters and stampers, messengers, box-collectors and porters, \$360 to \$600, by annual increase of \$30.

Now, I draw attention to the wording regarding the inside service :

The minimum salary of a first-class clerk shall be \$1,400 per annum, with annual increase of \$50, up to a maximum salary of \$1,800.

Now, if the law says that the salaries will be so much with an increase of so much per annum up to a certain amount, I want to know whether it was possible, without breaking the law, to deprive that civil servant of the salary fixed by the statute and which he is entitled to receive.

The minimum salary of a second-class clerk shall be \$1,100 per annum, with an annual increase of \$50, up to a maximum of \$1,400.

Section 26. The increase of salary of any officer, clerk, or employee, authorized under this Act for the then current year may be suspended—

For what reason? It does not say that he is not entitled to it, but section 26 points

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out the only reason why that increase may be suspended :

—may be suspended by the head of the department for neglect of duty or misconduct, and may be subsequently restored by such head but without arrears.

That is the only reason given by the statute for refusing to give the increase to the occupants of the different positions mentioned in that schedule. So convinced am I, Mr. Speaker, that such is the law, that I believe that if the civil servants were to apply to the courts for redress, they would receive redress. Sir, it is out of this reduction of well-earned salaries that the hon. gentleman builds up what he calls a surplus in his department. Now, Sir, speaking of the introduction of 2-cent stamps, the hon. gentleman, on page 11 of his report of this year, makes a remark that I wish to refer to. The report was brought down so late that I could look over it only cursorily, but I find that between the report of last year, when the peddling of stamps could no longer be carried on, and the report of this year, that great surplus has been fast melting away like snows in the spring season.

This change has been accompanied by such a marked and continuous increase in the number of domestic letters being transmitted through the mails as to warrant the conclusion that the loss of revenue consequent on such reduction will soon be overcome.

I want to draw attention to the nature of this extraordinary increase :

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This change has been accompanied by such a marked and continuous increase in the number of domestic letters as to warrant the conclusion that the loss of revenue consequent on such reduction will soon be overcome.

The percentage of increase in letters posted in 1897 over the number mailed in 1896 was very nearly 7 per cent, the increase for 1899 over 1898 is 11½ per cent, so that the marked and continuous increase amounts to 4½ per cent above the normal rate.

To deficit of	\$398,917 79
Should be added	58,503 78

\$457,421 57

the \$58,503.78 excess of expenditure over revenue in the Yukon district, making the real deficit for the year \$457,421.57, and it must be remembered that the reduced rate of postage was only in operation for six months, so that the deficit for the year ended June 30, 1899, was at the rate of \$900,000 a year.

When I was at the head of the department I estimated the loss of revenue consequent on a reduction of the rate of postage to 2 cents at about \$800,000 a year, but then I did not include in that loss of revenue by reducing the ocean postage from 5 cents to 2 cents, which, no doubt, accounts for a good deal of the excess over my estimate.

There is another point to which I would draw the attention of the government. The Postmaster General, in his report of this year, has left out all the statements and

schedules which are published in extenso in all the reports from 1896 down. I do not know a single instance where a Postmaster General has left out any one of these tabular statements. Hon. gentlemen can see how we made up the tabular statements, the absence of which can be found in the last report of the Postmaster General. For instance, we had in our report of 1896 the service between Europe, Japan and China, via the Canadian Pacific Railway route and Vancouver, and I believe that this service has been completely demoralized, and I will state why. It must be remembered that these lines are subsidized by the Imperial and Canadian governments, hence if Canada and England pay their money to have a service between Great Britain and Canada, and China and Japan, one would understand that the lines subsidized would do this service. But, by the policy of the present government, this correspondence all goes by way of San Francisco. Hon. gentlemen overlooked the advice given them by the hon. leader of the opposition to ask his Excellency the Governor General to sign the contract which had been entered into between the previous government and the Allans and which would have given us, this year, four steamers, equal to anything afloat on the Atlantic. Naturally, if we had had such accommodation we would have kept the mails of Great Britain and of Canada for Canadian lines. But, as it is, we pay a subsidy to the lines which are subsidized by the British government and by Canada, and most of the mail matter comes over by American steamers, goes by American lines to San Francisco, and is carried by American bottoms to China and Japan. I am not mentioning this in any spirit of hostility; I am mentioning it as a matter that should immediately call for the most searching investigation on the part of the government of the day, and it will be seen whether I am correct in my statement. I know I am from the information which I have received. When I was in London some of the commercial houses which have relations with China and Japan, gave me the reasons for this state of affairs. Why, I asked, does this mail matter go over American lines? They said: You have a wonderful system of railway across your continent, you make the fastest time possible over the continent owing to the enterprise of the people of Canada in having built this great trans-continental line, you have a magnificent line of steamers crossing the Pacific Ocean as a result of the enterprise and business ability of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, but, what is the use of spending all that money if the time you save in traversing the continent and in navigating the Pacific is lost altogether by the slowness of the steamers on the Atlantic ocean? In view of these facts, the Conservative government felt that it became an absolute

necessity to make our system equal to the requirements, and to have on the Atlantic ocean a line of steamers equal to anything that the Americans have.

Now, there is another point. Hon. gentlemen opposite had some reforms to make, but, they could not reform the fiscal policy because they found that if they touched they would kill the industries of the country. However, they had to do something. It was no use changing seats and continuing the old programme of the Conservative party. The Conservative party, previous to the coming into power of hon. gentlemen opposite, had abolished the postage upon newspapers. We were at that time not as prosperous as are hon. gentlemen through circumstances over which they have had no control up to the present time. But, Canada was growing wealthy and prosperous and we felt that we could not do better than abolish the postage on newspapers, because the press is the great communicating agent of thought all over the country. It appeals to the rich and the poor, and hon. gentlemen know very well that no part of the population enjoyed that privilege more than those who are not gifted with great wealth, in the farming districts and among the poor people in the cities. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), says that this tax, as he calls it, produces only \$50,000 per annum. When hon. gentlemen boast of \$7,000,000 of a surplus I should not imagine that it is absolutely necessary to destroy the happiness of the reading people of Canada who want to educate themselves, because the newspaper is the great element of education among the people by reimposing an odious tax. I believe that the press, communicating through its columns, everything that is useful to the knowledge of the people, does more to educate the people than any possible means of imparting education. But, the fact is that this \$50,000 is paid by the daily newspapers. The weekly newspapers absolutely pay nothing. The press in the city of Montreal, for instance, pays one-half of this tax. That evidently indicates that it is not properly applied. If it is to be retained I think it should be so changed that it would apply equitably, and that it would not bear more heavily on one portion of the press than upon another. But, I say more. I say that the fact of the postage being reimposed upon newspapers is not doing the good that the hon. Postmaster General expected. It is a retrograde measure. In this period of progress, after a concession of that kind has been once given it can never be withdrawn without creating a great deal of trouble among the people interested. But, to come back to the reduction of the postage from three cents to two cents, I say, there, again, it does not apply impartially. Whom does it benefit? The great commercial houses who write to Bombay, to China and to Japan for the purposes of their trade.

The farmer does not write any more letters than he used to, but he has to make up, out of his hard earnings, the difference between the two cents and the three cents and the two cents and the five cents. It is the poor man who has to pay that. The wealthy men and the wealthy houses who have to communicate for their own purposes with the great commercial centres of the world write their letters, whether they pay five cents or one cent, and to make up for the loss of revenue the poor man, who writes one letter a month, or two letters a month, has to put his hand into his pocket and contribute the amount necessary to make up the difference between two cents and three cents, the postage which formerly existed. I have stated that I was in favour of reducing the postage from three cents to two cents, if we could have afforded to do so. I met a gentleman in England, Mr. Henneker Heaton, when I was Postmaster General, and we discussed the whole question. I admitted that it would be a good thing to have one rate of postage for the whole empire, but I said that Canada could not afford it as we would be losing \$800,000 of revenue a year. With this hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House agreed that time; they said it could not be done, but, as soon as they came into power they introduced the change, and now the people are paying for the difference between two cents and three cents, although the great commercial houses would have continued to write the number of letters they have always written for their own commercial purposes. The poor people are making up for the deficiency. Now, I stated that the hon. gentleman had made up his difference between the revenue and expenditure, but I go beyond that. I want to know how he can explain why he goes into the Interior Department and gets the mounted police who are paid to do a certain work to perform postal services. I never knew, in my experience of official life, that mounted policemen were letter carriers. I never heard any man on the other side of the House getting up in parliament and pointing out the injustice of this report of the Postmaster General, and its palpable deficiency in giving the people information as to the manner in which their money is expended by the present government. What does the Postmaster General do? Instead of calling for tenders for carrying the mails to the Yukon, as I believe he is bound to do under the Post Office Act, he puts the mail bag on the back of a mounted policeman, and so the Interior Department pays for doing post office work. I am told forsooth, that there is a favourable financial administration in the post office now as compared with the time I was minister. Sir, that is very easily explained. When I was minister I put down everything that was expended for the carriage of the mails, and if they had been forwarded to the Yukon then, the post office would be charged

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with their carriage to that distant country, but now the Postmaster General (Mr. Mullock) uses the policemen to do post office work, and the cost is not charged against the Post Office Department, but against the Interior Department, and so there is, of course, a favourable financial showing in the post office.

Mr. TAYLOR. And the post office gets the revenue from the Yukon.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes, the post office gets the revenue and they are not charged with the expenditure. These figures which I have given will appear in *Hansard*, and they can be criticised by the Postmaster General when he finds time to occupy his seat in the House. There is another matter which I wish to call attention to. The Liberal party came into power in 1874, by accident, when the people of Canada made a mistake, and they came into power similarly in 1896.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Hear, hear.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I knew the hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies) would agree with me on that point. When the Liberals came into power in 1896, the Conservative government had been for a considerable time endeavouring to establish a fast line of steamers upon the Atlantic. I shall discuss this now as a business proposition, speaking as a Canadian only, and I do not wish any other element to be drawn into the matter. I need not refer to the history of the contracts that were entered into by the administration of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, and afterwards confirmed by the administration of Sir Charles Tupper. Suffice it to say that when the Liberal party came into power it was known that His Excellency had taken the responsibility of refusing to sign the contract made between the Conservative government of Canada and the Allans and so impressed was Sir Charles Tupper with the importance of the subject that he wrote to the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier asking him to press upon His Excellency the importance of signing that contract. However, that was not done, and the Liberal government came before parliament and told us that they had a far better proposition to submit, that they had entered into negotiations with Peterson, Tate & Co., who had reduced the amount of subsidy to such an extent, that it might be an object for Canada to agree to the change. At that time hon. gentlemen on this side of the House ventured the opinion that Peterson, Tate & Co. were not sufficiently strong in the great money market of London to carry out the undertaking. Hon. gentlemen opposite not only refused to confirm the contracts accepted by the Conservative government, but in order to make the change absolutely complete, they proposed even to remodel the kind of ships to be used. The hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell)

who was supposed to be one of the great business men of the country was entrusted with the negotiations. I need not tell you, Mr. Speaker, who have been so long in this House and listened to so many speeches that I am not exaggerating when I say that the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) had a reputation as a great business man, and possibly he might have remained with that reputation, if he had not attempted to change the contract which had been entered into by Sir Charles Tupper, and if he had not endeavoured to secure bottle-necked ships. Well, Sir, the contract entered into by the Liberal government was never carried out, and the bottle-necked ships were never built, and to-day we are without a fast Atlantic service. You, Mr. Speaker, as a business man know that during this year of the Paris Exposition when thousands are flocking from this continent across the Atlantic, you know, Sir, what a great advantage it would be to have thousands of passengers from the western states, from New York, from Philadelphia, from Boston, and elsewhere, travelling on the Canadian line of steamers. But for the culpable and guilty carelessness of the government, and the inefficiency of the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), who has been travelling across the Atlantic almost every month to try and get these bottle-necked steamers, and has never found anything but failure; but for all that folly of the present government in connection with the matter, we would this year of the Paris Exposition have thousands of Americans travelling on the Canadian fast steamers, and advertising the advantages of the St. Lawrence route all over the world. I believe, Sir, that irrespective of party, every gentleman in this House will agree that not only have we lost this opportunity which may not present itself for years to come, but, a further evil effect of the conduct of the government has been that their failure has destroyed to a large extent the usefulness of the expenditure which Canada has made in building the Canadian Pacific Railway, and subsidizing a fast line of steamers on the Pacific. What is the use of being able to make fast time across the continent, and what is the use of having fast steamers on the Pacific if it takes you fourteen or sixteen days to cross the Atlantic? I want to draw the attention of the Postmaster General to the fact that the steamers of the Elder-Dempster Line, to which he gave the contract for carrying the mails between England and Canada, instead of to the Allan or the Dominion Line, takes sixteen days to cross the Atlantic. He might just as well have given the contract to a line of sailing vessels. The result has been that all the mail matter between Great Britain and Canada has been carried by American steamers. That is how the money of Canada has been expended as the result of the guilty negligence of the Postmaster General.

Why did he not allow the contract to remain with the Allan Line? I can show from the records in his department, that the average time of crossing by the Allan Line and the Dominion Line, was ten days. To-day the Allan Line have three steamers of 10,000 tons each, equal to anything on the Atlantic. The *Tunisian*, the *Bavarian* and the *Corinthian*; and the Dominion Line have built the *Canada*, the *Dominion*, and the *New England*, of 10,000 or 12,000 tons each, equal to anything afloat. Did he take away the contract from the Allan Line because it had been given to the old pioneers of the navigation of the St. Lawrence by the Conservative government? I have nothing to say against the line of steamers which at present carry the mails. They are at present improving their fleet, but why not have waited until they had improved it before taking away the contract from a line of steamers in the hands of a company which is recognized in England as the only one that will ever be able to establish a line of fast steamers between England and Canada? The capitalists of London say that if the Allan Line or the Dominion Line do not take a hand in the building of the fast Atlantic fleet, they will not invest their capital in the enterprise. That has been the reason of the failure of Mr. Huddart, Peterson, Tate & Co., and others who have tried to secure English capital for the building of a fast line of steamers. The public of England and the capitalists of England have confidence in the Allan Line and the Dominion Line, because these great concerns have made a success of a great venture; and they will look to these companies for advice, before they invest their capital in any enterprise for the establishment of a fast line between Canada and Great Britain.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Will my hon. friend permit me to say that at the time the contract was made with the Elder-Dempster Line, my recollection is, that neither the Allan Line nor the Dominion Line were willing to make their terminal points in Canada; and that was the vital question.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I for one, believe that any line subsidized by the Canadian government should make its terminus in Canada.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. They were not in a position to do so, owing to the war, which had taken the steamers off.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. On that point I am quite ready to agree with my hon. friend. But the point I make is that if the hon. gentlemen could not come to an agreement with the Allan Line or the Dominion Line, it was of no use giving the contract to a line whose steamers take sixteen days to cross the Atlantic, as I can prove that some of their steamers do. When we have telegraph lines, cables, telephones, typewriters,

and other improvements, to increase the means of communication to an electric rapidity, you might as well go back to the old sailing vessel, as to give the mail contract to a line of steamers that take sixteen days to cross the Atlantic.

Before I sit down, I want to say one word about the militia; and in this connection let me refer to the painful news which we have to-day, that the son of one of the best officers I know in the service, Col. Cotton, has died on the field of honour in South Africa. I have no details, but I merely mention the fact, because I want to make this point, that the militia force of Canada, whether in Canada or abroad, have been the proudest boast of our country. They have done their duty under the most trying circumstances, and they have done it well. I think that Canada could not have done anything less than Canada did, in sending her sons to help to fight the battles of the empire in South Africa. I have already expressed my views in regard to Imperialism. I say that what we do for England, we want to do voluntarily, not under coercion. Being done voluntarily, it will be all the better appreciated by England. I wish to suggest to my hon. friend, the Minister of Militia, that we should multiply our rifle ranges in Canada. The experience of this war has indicated that the success of the Boers has been due in great measure to their wonderful accuracy as sharpshooters. That skill can only be acquired by extraordinary practice, and I believe that the best training that the Minister of Militia could give to the militia force, would be to multiply, as far as possible the rifle ranges all over the country. I am not complaining or criticising: I am suggesting. I believe that every encouragement possible should be given to rifle practice, which could be done without great expense. The present war is likely to change completely the tactics of all the armies of Europe, in regard to heavy ordnance, light ordnance and rifle practice. I think also, that every school receiving a grant of money from a local government, or from the Federal government, should make drill a compulsory part of its exercises, one day or two days in the week. No doubt the objection would be raised that we cannot interfere with the local governments; but the local governments are just as patriotic Canadians as we are, and I think the Minister of Militia could very well come to an understanding with the ministers in those governments, who have charge of public education in the provinces. The Minister of Militia might furnish the arms and instruments free. We do not want an aggressive army, but we want every man to be so well trained that when called upon to defend his country he will understand what he has to do. I have not gone into details, and I must say that the hon. gentleman at the head of the department has done his work very well and under very trying circumstances, and I

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

wish to say to him that in making these suggestions I do so because the subject is one of great moment both from a national and economical standpoint. From his experience in the department, my hon. friend must know that the annual drill is not one that can do very much more than give the rudiments of drill and evolution in company and battalion. But if we were to get our young men trained when they are boys at school, that training would stick to them all through life. They would not forget it any more than does a man forget how to ride who has learnt that art in his youth. He may not have ridden for five or six years, but when he gets astride of a horse, he finds his riding muscles again coming into play, and he knows exactly how to manage his horse and protect himself against accident. So it is with the boy trained from early youth in the practice of drill, that training he never forgets, but it comes back to him whenever he is again called upon to perform military duty. We have splendid material for an army. We have material which has elicited admiration from the military trained nations of Europe, and having that material we ought to give it every possible advantage which we can afford with the means at our disposal.

There is another point to which I wish to refer. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman has made many changes in our rifles and ordnance, but I think it would be true economy to replace all the old ordnance by ordnance of the most improved modern descriptions. Before the Conservative government left office, several batteries were brought out, and if any of the old ordnance still remains on hand, it should be replaced by new material. In my opinion the Lee-Netford is the best rifle, but, in any case, whether it is best or not, our Canadian military force ought to be armed with the same kind of rifle as is used by the Imperial army, if only for this reason, that should we ever be called upon to fight, we shall have to fight side by side with British soldiers, and it is not only inconvenient but very detrimental to efficiency that the same army should use different kinds of arms.

I have given, Mr. Speaker, utterance to these few crude ideas without having gone into the question very closely. I have not had the pleasure of reading the report of the hon. gentleman, but I believe that as we all take a deep interest in the future of our militia force, those suggestions will be taken in good part as coming from one who was for so many years at the head of the Militia Department.

I beg to apologize most sincerely, Mr. Speaker, for having detained the House so long. I did not really mean to go into all these matters at such length, but the ground had to be got over, and I waited until the last moment thinking that possibly there would be no occasion for me to make the remarks I have made, and which I have offered to the House as my views on the Im-

perial question and also a question which I consider of great importance, namely, the position of the department of the Postmaster General, and that other question, the condition of our militia forces.

Mr. J. G. SNETSINGER (Stormont and Cornwall). At this late hour of the debate, Mr. Speaker, I intend occupying the attention of the House only a very few moments. I have no intention of recalling the benefits conferred by the present administration on the country in the last four years they have been in power, because that has already been discussed over and over again, but I merely want to touch on two or three matters concerning which I hope this government will make some changes in the next parliament.

The first subject on which I wish to say a few words is the article of coal oil. I voted for free coal oil last session, and if the question came up again, I would repeat my vote. I think that the oil wells of Canada have been fairly protected, and under that protection they seem to have fallen into the hands of the Standard Oil Company. I believe that it would be to the advantage of consumers in this country that coal oil should be put on the free list, and I hope that next parliament this government, which no doubt will then be in power, will see that that is done.

I desire also to make a reference to the question of sugar as well. Every one will admit that sugar comes next, as an article of consumption, to the article of breadstuffs. In my opinion, it is a food, and should not be taxed any more than we can afford. No doubt raw sugar was on the free list once, but the late government saw fit to make a change and put a small tariff on it. I have no objection to the tariff on raw sugar, but I claim that the protection given our refineries is more than they are entitled to. It amounts to at least about 60 cents per 100 pounds. Not only are the refineries getting more protection than they should, but they do not treat the consumers of sugar fairly in this country. Last summer any purchaser of sugar in Montreal was obliged to have it delivered along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway and paid the Grand Trunk Railway rates. If you go to a wholesale house in Montreal, they will tell you that they will deliver it at a certain price over the Grand Trunk Railway. I wished to have any sugar I purchased taken up by steamer to Montreal, as I could get a better rate from the steamer than from the Grand Trunk Railway, whose rates are about sixteen cents from Montreal to Cornwall, and I suggested to the wholesale house of Hudon & Hébert, one of the best houses in Montreal, that they should ship the sugar by steamer, but they replied that even if they did send it by steamer, they would have to charge me the same rates as if they sent it over the Grand Trunk Railway. They said :

You can purchase your sugar from us and have it delivered in the city of Montreal to some of your friends and have them reship it to you by steamer, and make whatever saving you can in that way. But when the refineries are enjoying the protection we are now giving them, I see no reason why they should treat their customers in that way. They have carried that thing too far and are getting more protection than they deserve, and I hope that next session the government will revise the tariff and see that that protection is lessened. When the duties on sugar were changed, the hon. Minister of Finance will remember that I did all in my power, in a weak way, to induce the government to put a tariff on coffee and tea and take it off sugar, but he saw fit to leave it on sugar and allow coffee and tea in free. I claim that the opposite policy should be followed. In England the government levies a tax of fourpence a pound on tea, a large duty on coffee, while sugar is free. Sugar is a food, and it is one of the articles we should reduce as far as possible, putting the duty on tea and coffee, and things of that kind. I can see no good reason why sugar should be taxed as highly as it is under the tariff we now have in this country.

I have a word or two to say with regard to the manufacturers of spirits. Under our law, they are obliged to keep spirits in bond two years, but liquor can be brought in from other countries fresh from the still. No doubt it will be said on behalf of the late government, which imposed this rule upon the distillers, that it was made for the benefit of the health of the people. But the fact is, it was made for the benefit of the health of the Conservative party. There is no doubt in my mind that that was the object. And I see no good reason why we should keep spirits in bond for two years while allowing foreign liquors to come in fresh from the still. There is a very large amount of liquor from outside, imported into this country at the present time. Still, I think myself, it has given a great advantage to the distillers, because spirits are 100 per cent higher than they were twenty years ago, while grain is much cheaper.

The policy of the Department of Agriculture has been discussed to a certain extent. I find that the Minister of Agriculture is criticised by the consumers of butter in this country, who say that he should have notified the exporters of butter, last fall, of the great increase in population in this country, which would have been a warning to them to retain in this country a larger amount of butter than they formerly did. But the butter was sent to England, and then it had to be brought back again and freight paid on it both ways. I hope the Minister of Agriculture will notify the exporters this year that the increase in population in Canada furnishes them a market for

a much larger portion of their output than formerly.

I was surprised to hear the ex-Postmaster General (Sir Adolphe Caron), discussing the management of the Post Office Department under the present Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock). I would like to give one instance to show how that department was conducted under the late government. They gave a contract to a party in Cornwall to take up the letters from the boxes in that town, and carry them to the post office, paying for that service \$561.60. No tenders were asked for, the contract was simply given to a friend of the government. This party did not take up the letters, but simply farmed out the contract; somebody else did the work, and the contractor pocketed the profit. When this government came into power, the Post Office Department called for tenders. That work to-day is done for \$144 a year. And hon. gentlemen opposite paid \$561.60 for it. I venture to think that there is very little ground for criticising the present management of the Post Office Department. Hon. gentlemen opposite tried to make capital out of the fact that the government have placed corn on the free list. The county that I represent, Stormont, is a corn-growing county; a large quantity is raised there. But in that county they are all in favour of free corn. The dairying industry is carried on to a large extent, and free corn is found a great advantage. The farmers there will never want to go back to the duty on corn.

As the hour is late, and the government is anxious—and so is the House—to close this debate, I shall say no more, except, in closing, to express the hope that the suggestions I have made, will be carried out by the present government in the next parliament.

Mr. THOMAS BEATTIE (London). Mr. Speaker, rising at this late stage in the debate, I do so, Sir, for the purpose of calling the attention of members of this House to some important points that have not been touched upon by any member that has yet spoken.

I consider it is the first duty of this parliament, to legislate for the benefit and well-being of the people of Canada. If we fail to do that, we are not doing what this House of representatives was created for. I consider that giving preference trade to the British manufacturers and workmen, must naturally injure and become detrimental to the Canadian workman and manufacturer.

The first duty of this parliament is to build up this country and create employment for all our people at as remunerative wages as possible. This cannot be done in this protective age, by removing that protection and assistance which all young countries require, and must have, if they intend to take any place amongst the manufacturing countries of the world. Preferential

trade, to my mind, is too absurd to be considered for one moment. Preferential tariff is an entirely different question, but requires very careful consideration, and great care taken in adopting it, so that you do not destroy existing industries without obtaining an equivalent in return. Canada has made rapid strides in the past twenty years, in many respects, but especially in manufacturing. If our duties were raised as high as in the United States, I will venture to say, in ten years, almost every manufactured article that we import from that country, would be made in Canada, and our imports from there would drop 75 per cent.

We send many millions of dollars out of Canada every year to the United States for manufactured goods, when we know that every article could be made in this country, giving employment to our own mechanics and workmen, and many more that would come to settle here.

I call British free trade nothing but preference trade to the foreign workmen and manufacturers of the world, against the British workmen and manufacturers. While the British workmen have to live in Britain, pay all taxes and support their country in every respect, the foreigner has every advantage and privilege of the British market, the same as the British workman, without one cent of charge; but if the British manufacturer wishes to enter the foreign manufacturers' market, he must submit to a tariff of from 25 to 60 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, what are we doing to-day? Simply supporting the workmen of the United States and Europe, while our own good Canadian workmen have considerable difficulty finding permanent employment. I will give this House a sample of how one of the largest agricultural implement factories in the world was kept out of Canada. The firm I refer to had decided to come to Canada, and if they had, we would have had implements 25 per cent cheaper than they are to-day, and all made in Canada. But, Sir, the duty at that time was lowered, and they decided not to come. Why? They said: There is no use going to Canada, and putting in new plant; we can manufacture in Illinois, pay the duty, and sell our implements in Canada. And, what has been the result? Nearly \$2,000,000 worth of the articles that that firm makes, came into Canada last year, yet the farmers paid the same price as formerly for implements which are no better than the Canadian. If this sending millions of dollars of our money out of Canada to the United States, year after year, for what we can manufacture as well as they can, is going to last, Canada will never improve. I say it should not be allowed to continue.

The Reform party contested the election against me on the line of free trade as they have it in England. Now, Mr. Speaker, Great Britain was not always a free trade country, and why did she adopt free trade? Because at that time she was mistress of

the world in manufacturing, and she imagined she could influence all the countries of the world to adopt free trade. But all have gone farther and farther away from it, and to-day she stands alone. Every other country has adopted high protective tariffs, and what has been the result in sixty short years of free trade? Let us see what preference or free trade has done for Great Britain. For the first thirty years of free trade, it did not affect her industries to any marked degree. But, Sir, during the past thirty years most alarming changes have taken place. Many of her manufactures have been entirely wiped out by foreign competition, until to-day her imports exceeds her exports by nearly \$800,000,000. I venture to predict the tendency will become worse and worse every year, unless protection is adopted. To prove my statement all one requires to do is to observe the decrease in Britain's exports of woollen goods. This trade every one imagined Britain could hold for ever; but, Sir, in the past three years it has dropped down several million of dollars. No place complains more than Sheffield. There is more German and Yankee cutlery sold to-day in Britain than British. Mechanics' tools, farm implements, such as spades, shovels, forks, rakes, &c., are all imported from the United States and have been for years.

In case some may doubt my statement regarding the woollen and worsted trade of Great Britain, I will quote the decrease in the past three years, said by the present government to be years of great prosperity. In 1896 she exported nearly \$120,000,000 worth, in 1897 she exported \$105,000,000 worth, in 1898 she only exported \$90,000,000 worth. In three short years her woollen exports have dropped \$20,000,000. To my mind, this is most alarming to all British manufacturers of woollen goods. But, Mr. Speaker, it is only on a par with many other lines of Britain's industries that have gone in the same manner, and which I intend to mention, and that cannot be disputed by any member in this House, nor by any business man outside of this House.

The British merchant as a rule denies he sells anything but English-made goods, and the purchaser or customer is not suspicious, but believes his merchant's statement. Some time ago a cattle dealer from London, Ont., paid a visit to London, Eng., and going out one morning with his sister, who held a very good social position there, they went into a shop to order some meat. The Canadian cattle man remarked: You have very fine beef here. The owner of the shop replied: Yes, sir, all the best English beef. The Canadian replied: he did not know English beef was refrigerator shipped. The shopman, knowing he was caught, called the Canadian to one side and requested him not to say anything about it, for if it was known, it would ruin his trade. In fact many of the general public know

little about where the articles they purchase to-day are manufactured. Another incident just comes to my mind to prove that. Some time ago a mechanic was going to England, and his brother workman in the shop asked him to bring him out a good English hammer, as he could not get a good hammer in the United States. The hammer came out, was examined and pronounced by all, superior to anything made in the United States. But next day, to the astonishment of all, one of the men discovered marked on the end of the handle, 'Made in Massachusetts.' Of course the new trade regulations that all goods must be marked where they are made, only came into operation a few years ago. Were it not for that, half the people of Britain who sell foreign made productions would not know where they were made, because good, shrewd buyers and merchants don't tell as a rule where their goods are bought.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me give you an idea of what is taking place in other lines of trade in Great Britain with which I am more familiar. Take the once great silk trade. It has gone. Switzerland, France and Germany have captured it; and strange to say, Italy is now supplying England largely with silk. Take the once great velvet trade of Spitalfields, Eng. Nothing of it remains except the better grades. Germany has captured all that business, and makes a very slightly article at lower price. Almost every yard of velvet in Canada to-day is German made. Take the lace and embroidery trade that Nottingham once was supreme in. Switzerland has taken the entire trade in muslin embroideries, and much of the lace business. France also has a large share of it.

The imports of silk manufactures into Britain to-day are £17,000,000, or nearly \$90,000,000. Sixty years ago her imports of silk manufactures were almost nil. In fact I challenge any member of this House to name half a dozen of articles of British manufacture the exports of which have not decreased since the introduction of free trade in Great Britain. The same will be the case in Canada if preference is continued.

Nottingham was once the great hosiery centre that supplied the British market. Why, Sir, as a hosiery centre the place is hardly ever mentioned. Germany has captured that entire trade, except a few of the better grades of goods. Seventy-five per cent of the hosiery and underclothing exported from Great Britain to-day is made in Germany. The glove trade, another very large trade, is in about the same condition, all coming from Germany and France. The good old Scotch lamb's-wool underclothing can no longer be had in Canada. The slightly cheap German manufactures have completely driven it out of the market.

The Bradford district was, and is to-day, supposed to be the place where all fine

dress fabrics are made; but Britain cannot any longer boast of being the maker of superior fine fabrics. And where has that class of trade moved away to—same as many others, to Germany. In Gera, Saxony, as fine fabrics as ever were or ever can be produced in Britain, are being made, and have been coming into Canada for many years. And every dollar's worth that comes in through Britain comes in under the preference tariff. Of course, some comes direct from Saxony.

Some may ask why so many continental goods come in to Canada through Britain. The continental merchant will only give three or four months' time, and many will not do direct business, but only through commission merchants. Unless a Canadian merchant is an A 1 credit, there is no use of him going to the continent to buy. On the other hand the British merchant, as a rule, is able to pay cash, buys fairly cheaply, and in large quantities. He gives from seven to eight months' time to merchants from Canada, but never less than six months. Goods can almost be sold before they have to meet their bills. That is why Great Britain has so many foreign goods come through her merchants.

Now, Mr. Speaker, a word about dear old Ireland. Let us take the Irish linen trade. Most people to-day imagine that that important and great industry is still confined to Ireland, but such is far from the case. Belgium and Germany have been large producers of linens for years, and I am told that Austria now is manufacturing linens largely of all kinds. More than half the linen goods sold in Britain to-day are of foreign make. You will find the linen productions of these countries all through Canada, and all coming in through the back door of Britain, under the preference tariff, as British made goods.

I will venture to state here that there is not one customs official in Canada who knows the difference between British and foreign made linens. If any one doubts my assertions about the decrease in the Irish linen trade, let him take the decrease in the acreage formerly growing flax in Ireland. In the year 1874, 106,886 acres were sown with flax. What do we find in the year 1898, only twenty-five short years later? That the acreage used in cultivating flax has decreased to 34,489 acres. One can hardly believe this, but it is nevertheless true, a decrease of 72,397 acres, or about 70 per cent. And what does it prove? It proves two things: First, that the flax is no longer being grown in Ireland. Second, that the manufacture of linen is fast departing from Britain and Ireland, and being manufactured in and imported from foreign countries. Nothing but Britain's free or preferential trade has permitted this change to take place. There is no place more agitated to-day, than the town of Northampton, England, the boot and shoe

town of England. It is well known that leather can be produced cheaper in the United States than in Britain, and has been exported to Britain largely for years. But boots and shoes are now being shipped into Britain in large quantities and causing much uneasiness in that branch of industry. Boots and shoes from the United States come very largely into Canada, but if our tariff was as high as theirs, not one dollar's worth would come in. All would soon be made in Canada. What has become of the immense trade in ribbons—that the town of Coventry once controlled? Why, Sir, at one time Coventry made all the ribbons exported from Britain, but that trade to-day is entirely wiped out and gone to Switzerland and France. It can never be brought back until a duty of 25 per cent is imposed. If that was done I believe it would return. The wholesale merchants of London, Manchester and Glasgow do not care where the goods are made, so long as they can export them and make their profit. But what about the British workman? Where is his living to come from? At one time Britain supplied the United States with every yard of carpet that was used in that country. But, Sir, about thirty years ago the high tariff was adopted in that country, and what is the result to-day? The United States is making more yards of carpet than are made in Britain, and if it was not for the excessive duty on wool coming into the United States, would be exporting carpets to England. Not only that, but the United States are making styles of carpets that British manufacturers are copying. What is the cause of this change? The American high tariff. I will give you another sample of a small article, but one in which an immense trade is done. I refer to spool cotton. Before the adoption of the high tariff in the United States, that article was manufactured in Paisley, Scotland. The Scotch manufacturers of that article were compelled to transfer their business across the Atlantic, and the millionaire firm of J. & P. Coates have larger works in New Jersey than they have in Paisley. And I am told that they are actually shipping thread to Britain instead of enlarging and improving their works in Paisley. If time would permit, I could give many other evidences of what free trade has brought many branches of Britain's industries to. Some may think it strange why she cannot compete with the European countries I have mentioned. But, Sir, British workmen cannot and will not live as workmen in those foreign countries do, and I hope they will never have to do so, working twelve and fourteen long hours per day for about 75 cents per day, and wearing blue jean smocks and wooden shoes. Now, let us take an ordinary transaction of preferential trade. Father and son live on farms opposite each other. The father is worth pounds to the son's pennies—as Britain is to Canada. The son

purchases considerable from the father and pays him the same price as every person else. But, when the father purchases from the son, he expects and gets from the son 10 per cent discount. Is there any member of this House who will say that is not stupid on the part of the son? That is just what the present government is doing with Britain, making Canadian workmen give the British workmen a discount. I am an out and out protectionist, for both the farmer and workman, and when I hear a man stand up and advocate free trade for this country, I cannot look upon him as a true citizen. I always feel he has some personal object in doing so.

I have heard several members of this House advocate the duty being taken off one of our natural products, which, if done, would wipe out its entire production in Canada—I refer to coal oil. Why are they doing so to-day? Because, Sir, they imagine the Standard Oil Company of the United States have entered Canada and have purchased all the oil-producing lands in Canada. A more erroneous impression could not have got abroad. It is true the Standard Oil Company have entered Canada and have purchased the refining interests of Canada to a considerable extent, but not entirely. A large number of prominent Canadians are still interested in it, if the Standard do control it.

But, Sir, the oil production of Canada they do not control, and are not trying to control, from what I know, and I know all about it. The Canadian oil production to-day is all in the hands of Canadians, as much as ever it was, and is likely to remain in the hands of Canadians. But, wipe that small duty out, small and all as it is, and you will do away with all the Canadian oil miners, and no more Canadian oil will be produced. What will be the result? The difference will be that we will have to burn United States coal oil, and pay very likely a much higher price for it. The many different purposes coal oil is used for to-day is the main cause of the advance in price, as well as the great advance in price of all materials used in producing it. The advance in materials used in the production of coal oil is fully from 50 to 150 per cent. A short time since a number of the gas companies of Canada waited on the Finance Minister and asked to have the duty taken off oil. Evidently the gas companies do not care who suffers so long as they obtain what they want. This deputation was headed by the Toronto Gas Company. That company are reported to have a surplus of millions of dollars. If they require oil for making gas, why not go to the oil district and purchase oil lands and produce their own oil? The territory is large, extending from Ridgetown, on Lake Erie, to Sarnia, on the St. Clair River. And one hundred acres can be had at a very reasonable price. Mr. Speaker, they are afraid to risk their own capital, but willing to ruin those who

have invested and risked their capital in producing coal oil. And many of the miners were practically ruined before they succeeded in getting oil. Do not let us forget that the oil refiner is not the oil producer. The oil producers are our own Canadian people, and do not let us destroy them for the sake of a few parties and companies, such as I have just mentioned. The farmer is making no complaint. But why should coal oil not go up and down just the same as iron, wheat or anything else? There is no article that I know of that remains stationary. Besides, coal oil is the cheapest light the farmer ever had or can get.

As I said before, Sir, I am an out-and-out protectionist, a protectionist for the farmer and for the mechanic. I believe protection to be the best policy for Canada, and if I had my way I would raise the tariff wall so high between Canada and the United States, that no Yankee could shoot any of his goods over with a Maxim gun. If that were done, then, in less than ten years all the goods we now import from the United States would be made in Canada, and our money would be kept in Canada, and paid out to our own Canadian workmen. What are the great warehouses of Britain doing to-day—I mean the wholesale houses of London, Manchester, Glasgow, and all the large British centres? Why, Sir, 50 per cent of their business is in foreign-made goods, which, previous to free trade, were all produced in Britain and Ireland. Yes, and these foreign goods are now coming in to Canada through Britain, under the preference tariff, as British-made goods. I have given this House some statements as to the changes in British industries since free trade was adopted that cannot be contradicted, and, Sir, the pre-existing condition of things will never return to Britain without protection.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that no country, no matter how wealthy or how great, can afford to think she can fight the entire world, commercially or otherwise.

Mr. H. J. LOGAN (Cumberland). If we believed all the statements made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Beattie), who has just taken his seat, we would have to come to the conclusion that the old motherland had about gone to the dogs. He sang the old song of free trade not being a success in England. I do not propose to enter in detail into the statement made by the hon. member for London (Mr. Beattie), but I think if I quote from Mr. Mulhall, the well-known English statistician, his opinion of the trade of Great Britain, that will be sufficient to refute the statements made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Beattie). Mr. Mulhall, speaking of the progress of British trade since 1859, writes in the *Contemporary Review* :

In that year (1859) the total imports and exports amounted to £335,000,000 sterling, being about £11 10s. per head of the population. Ten

years afterwards the total was £532,000,000, and the rate per head £17. Twenty years afterwards, total £743,000,000, making £20 per head. In 1899 the total trade was £815,000,000—per head, £20 2s. For the first time in the world's history, the external trade of one nation has reached this great total value. During these forty years, British trade with the United States amounted to the great sum of £4,192,000,000; and the trade with the colonies was still larger, having attained to £6,043,000,000. Trade with all European countries is increasing.

Now, Sir, at this late stage of the debate I shall not take up much of the time of the House. I have listened attentively to the different speeches made, and it seems to me that the most amusing of all was that delivered this afternoon by the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill). For years he has been looked upon as a paragon of British loyalty; loyalty seems to have been bubbling over in him, and he again this afternoon spoke in eloquent terms of his love for the motherland, and what he would like to see done for her. Let me ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) what he has done to prove his love for the motherland during the many years he has occupied a seat in this House. Did he ever propose that a Canadian contingent should help England in her foreign wars? Has he ever offered to England a preference for her goods in our Canadian markets? Not at all. Why, he boasted this afternoon that he regretted that this government has seen fit to increase the preference in favour of Great Britain from 25 to 33½ per cent. That is loyalty without having to pay for it. That is loyalty which I think we must all admit is nothing more nor less than lip loyalty, and it comes with very bad grace from the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill), to refer to a gentleman who unfortunately is not with us to-night, and to state on the basis of a report in the newspapers, that that hon. gentleman had spoken in Paris words of veiled treason. Does he know that the hon. gentleman to whom he refers (Mr. Tarte) was the first French Canadian in the Dominion of Canada to join the Imperial Federation League, of which the hon. member for North Bruce was one of the chief exponents in years gone by? Was it veiled treason when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Tarte) took that step in the province of Quebec? Sir, the term 'veiled treason' is not new to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. I remember, after the election of 1891, when the hon. baronet who leads the opposition came to the conclusion that the Grand Trunk Railway did not favour him in that election, he called a meeting in Nova Scotia at which I had the pleasure of being present. Sir Charles Tupper then quoted Sir John Macdonald, and said that that distinguished statesman had alleged that the Liberal party had gone to the country with veiled treason in their mouths, but he said he would go one better and say: That the Liberal party had gone to the country, not with veiled treason, but

Mr. LOGAN.

with treason with the veil torn aside. These were the sort of declarations that were made by leading Conservatives in years past to try and impress upon the people of other countries that there was one political party in the Dominion of Canada that was not loyal to the British Crown. The hon. gentleman from North Bruce and others of his friends have propounded the policy of preferential trade as they desire it within the empire. Sir, we would all hail with delight if England would impose a duty which would give an advantage to the goods of her colonies in her markets, but what is the good of our running after something that is entirely impracticable. I ask any of these gentlemen opposite to name to me one single leader of thought in Great Britain who has up to date, given his opinion that preferential trade of the kind the Conservatives propose, is practicable, in the near future at any rate. The only distinguished man in Great Britain who has even hinted that a preferential trade could be constructed in the way which they desire, is the Right Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, and he has laid it down that there must first be the condition, (even before the matter can be discussed), that there shall be free trade within the empire. Now, Sir, the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) and other gentlemen opposite have stated that the preferential tariff is hitting very hard the manufactures of this country. This afternoon the hon. gentleman said:

The manufactures of Canada are staggering under the 25 per cent preference and I do not think they can stand 33½ preference.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the manufactures of Canada are staggering under the 25 per cent preference, what are the manufacturers of Canada going to do if there is free trade within the empire, which Mr. Chamberlain has stated was the only condition upon which this question can be discussed at all. Sir, the scheme proposed by the Conservative party is impracticable. The policy of the present government is a policy which shows to the motherland an appreciation of what she has done for us in the past and of what she is doing for us to-day.

Last evening the junior member for Picton (Mr. Bell), in the course of his speech used the following language, speaking of the present prosperity of the country:

We attribute it to the effect that that policy which was inaugurated in 1879 by the Liberal-Conservative party was a policy calculated to set this country firmly upon its feet, and that policy has been continued down to the present. To-day we are reaping the benefits of it.

Further on, he said:

It is due to their decision, wisely taken, not to interfere with the protective policy inaugurated by their predecessors, but to go on administering our affairs after the example set for them by the various Conservative adminis-

trations which held office for many years when these gentlemen were in opposition.

Once before in this House I had to remind the junior member for Pictou (Mr. Bell), that he did not always entertain these opinions, and I feel called upon to-night to remind him once more, as he has sinned again, that he did not entertain them in 1887, when he was a candidate against the then administration of the Liberal-Conservative party. Nor did he entertain them in 1891, when he delivered a lecture in the town of New Glasgow, in Nova Scotia, reported in a paper published there—and I do not know that he has ever denied the correctness of that report—as having made the following statement:—

I consider the argument of the free trader unanswerable. I believe at this moment that if Canada took a liberal step in the direction of free trade, it would go a long way to place her upon the road to the greatest prosperity. The reasons why I consider Canada should turn about and adopt a free trade policy are: (a) that we might free ourselves from the dominating influences of the United States; (b) on account of the failure of the national policy; (c) because of the startling revelations of the census.

Yet this is the gentleman who in the year 1900, comes to us and says that the reason of the present prosperity of this country is because we have had the national policy since 1878, which he condemned in 1891, as an absolute failure. He admits that we have prosperity in this country. We are all thankful that that must be admitted by all parties in this House and out of it.

We had this afternoon a deliverance from the junior member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall), in which he attacked the Liberals for their policy on the coal question. We were taught down in Nova Scotia that the high tariff on coal was absolutely necessary to the life of the coal industry in the province. But, Sir, by the Fielding tariff the duty on coal was reduced from sixty cents per ton to fifty-three cents per ton under the general tariff, while under the British preferential tariff—the bugaboo of English coal was always held up before our eyes in Nova Scotia—the duty is thirty-nine and three-fourths cents per ton. In spite of these reductions in the duty, we find under the operation of the tariff for three years very gratifying results. I will not give you my own statement, but let me quote from the report of Mr. Fergie, the president of the Intercolonial Coal Company, and a strong supporter of the hon. members for Pictou in the last election, and now the chairman of the Miners' Society of Nova Scotia. In the report he presented a few days ago, he said:

It is very gratifying that we notice all branches of industry in this province to be in a most flourishing condition, and particularly those of coal and iron. Every coal mine is working full time, and is taxed to its utmost and finds no difficulty in disposing of all it can produce, and no able-bodied workman need now go idle.

A very important statement coming from such a gentleman.

The output for the year ending September 30, 1899, as shown by the Department of Mines returns, was 2,642,333 tons of 2,240 pounds, and it is safe to predict that the present year will show an increase of close on a million tons over these figures.

But, Sir, the hon. junior member for Cape Breton, in the speech he made this afternoon, and also in the speech he made two years ago, claims that the Fielding legislation, so called, of Nova Scotia was not in the best interest of the coal-mining industry of that province. He referred to it in *Hansard* of 1898, page 1050, as follows:

He (Mr. Fielding) was Prime Minister of a government in Nova Scotia at whose instance legislation was passed only a few years ago, handing over to a large foreign monopoly the management, control and ownership of vast coal-bearing properties in that province.

Afterwards, at page 1051, said:

It is was not until all this came about that the Finance Minister realized the nature of the injury he had inflicted upon the people by this improvident legislation.

Improvident legislation, Mr. Speaker! No legislation has ever been brought down in Nova Scotia since it has been a province that has been of such benefit to that province as the legislation which was brought down prior to the formation of the Whitney Syndicate. It has not only resulted beneficially to the coal industry, but it has brought so much foreign capital into the province that business is prosperous, both the coal and the iron industries are flourishing, and industrial establishments are being established from Cape Sable to Cape North. Mr. Fielding, then the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, realized that the coal trade had reached the high-water mark of development in the home market. The mining population was increasing. There was not work to go round. Wages were at a low ebb. As a matter of fact, men were employed in the mines as labourers at from ninety cents to a dollar a day. In many cases they were not able to get work even at these rates, and in the Island of Cape Breton they were out of work during the winter months. What was to be done? The home market was expanding, but very, very slowly. Gentlemen connected with the Liberal party and leading politicians, studied the question and arrived at the conclusion that the coal deposits were so advantageously situated that it would be possible to secure a market in the New England States. This was vigorously opposed by the Liberal-Conservative party. Mr. McKeen, now a senator, in the Commons, in 1889, in support of his contention that an American market was an impossibility, read a letter from a leading coal merchant of Boston stating that our coal was so sulphurous and otherwise objectionable that even if freights permitted, it could

not obtain a footing in Boston. In 1891, the people of Cape Breton were warned by Mr. McKeen, and by the present member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall), against any attempt to increase our sales by a reduction of the coal duties. Particularly they urged that English coal would supplant that of Nova Scotia in the St. Lawrence market. The Liberal government of Nova Scotia, of which the present Finance Minister was the Prime Minister, persisted in spite of all the opposition given to it—opposition which was carried almost to the foot of the Throne, because, I believe, they approached the Governor General of Canada on the subject.

They indulged in all kinds of hysterical predictions of what would ensue if American capitalists got control of the large collieries in the province of Nova Scotia. Unfair methods were used to induce the electors to reject the local government candidates in 1894; but what are the facts? A few years have passed by, and instead of devastation existing there, we find the condition of affairs described by Mr. Fergie, the president of the Miners' Society. Not only have the prophecies in reference to getting a market in the United States failed, but we find that the Dominion Coal Company, of which Mr. Whitney is the head, is at this very moment filling a contract for about 800,000 tons per annum to be delivered in the New England States to one concern alone. We find that last year \$1,300,000 was paid in wages by this one company, and we find that the excess of wages paid by this company in 1899 over the amount paid by the owners of the mines before the syndicate got control of them, amounts to no less a sum than \$400,000. And yet the junior member for Cape Breton calls this improvident legislation. More than that, if the Island of Cape Breton in days gone by, when these collieries were worked by small proprietors, they were closed down during the winter months. As a matter of fact, it took most of the wages the miners earned during the summer to keep them in the winter, and this year is the first in the history of the coal trade of Nova Scotia, in which the Cape Breton mines have been worked all through the winter months, so that we find that that legislation, far from being improvident, has had the very best results.

Going into the coal trade of Nova Scotia generally, hon. members from the province of Ontario can scarcely realize the extreme importance to Nova Scotia of the development of that trade. It is the mainstay of our provincial revenue. It not only gives employment directly to about 7,000 hands, but our road service, education and transportation, and our agricultural industry, are largely indebted to the coal trade and the income which the province derives from the royalty therefrom. The increase in the coal trade of Nova Scotia, prior to the last year or two, was about 7 per cent per annum. Had any one said, before the Fielding legis-

lation was brought down for the encouragement of the coal industry, that in ten years the royalties would equal the Dominion subsidy to the province of Nova Scotia, he would be laughed at as insane. But the probability is that this will be reached in the year 1900. Yet that legislation was opposed by the Conservative party.

Let me give you, Mr. Speaker, a few statistics of the coal sales in Nova Scotia for the past year, as compared with 1898:

	1899. Tons.	Increase. Tons.
Dominion Coal Co.....	1,553,102	434,861
Cumberland Railway and Coal Co.	350,000	28,000
Canada Coals and Railway Co.	66,451	*1,165

*Decrease.

But this decrease can be explained by unfortunate circumstances which I need not go into at present.

	1899. Tons	Increase. Tons.
Acadia Coal Co.....	233,665	57,530

	1898.	1899.	Increase.
Cumberland Co.	389,616	416,451	26,835
Cape Breton Co.....	1,361,467	1,787,424	425,957
Pictou Co.	386,325	450,919	64,594

	Tons.
Grand total, 1899.....	2,654,794
" " 1898.....	2,137,408

Total increase 517,386

The increase in the shipments in 1899 was twice larger in tons than at any former time. To come down to the present year, we find that the coal trade is jumping even greater than in 1899. In January, 1900, the output of Cape Breton county was 130,289 tons, and the shipments 100,000 tons, and in January, 1899, the shipments were 37,300 tons, showing an increase in shipments in the one month of January, 1899, of 62,819 tons.

The shipments to the United States in January, 1900, amounted to 58,750 tons, and in January, 1899, 8,465 tons, showing an increase in one month of 50,285 tons.

Take the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, in January, 1899, the shipments were 31,790 tons, and in January, 1900, they amounted to 36,781 tons, showing an increase of 4,991 tons, and the increase over December, 1899, was 3,569 tons.

Take the Acadia Coal Company, its shipments in January, 1899, were 19,505 tons, and in January, 1900, 20,940 tons, showing an increase of 1,435 tons.

Then we have the Intercolonial Railway Mining Company which shipped 10,480 tons in January, 1899, and 19,517 tons in January, 1900; or an increase of 9,037 tons in one single month.

In the month of February, 1900, the Dominion Coal Company output was 153,172

tons, and its shipments 95,454 tons, and its shipments to the United States in that month were 69,285 tons.

The Acadia Coal Company in the month of February, 1900, shipped 19,707 tons, being an increase over the month of February, 1899, of 1,526 tons.

The Intercolonial Railway Coal Company's sales in February, 1900, amounted to 17,741 tons, being an increase over February, 1899, of 6,261 tons.

In March, 1900, the Cape Breton output was 155,785 tons, and the shipments 85,000 tons, and the shipments to the United States in that month amounted to 55,827 tons.

The Acadia Coal Company's sales in March, 1900, were 18,551 tons, and in March, 1899, 17,865 tons, or an increase of 686 tons.

The Intercolonial Coal Company, Drummond Colliery, had shipments in March, 1900, of 18,255 tons, as compared with 11,799 tons in March, 1899, or an increase of 6,456 tons.

Then with reference to the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company, situated at Springhill, I find that the shipments in March, 1900, amounted to 36,878 tons, being an increase over March, 1899, of 9,480 tons, and its shipments for the three months, ending March, were 108,145 tons, or an increase over the three months ending March, 1899, of 28,067 tons.

The increase in the Dominion Coal Company's shipments in 1899 equals half the total shipments in 1895, and the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company takes second place in spite of some difficulties. The increase in Springhill between 1898 and 1899 shows an increase over that of the two previous years of over 100,000 tons.

The year 1899 was the first in which our miners of Nova Scotia got employment all the year round, and more coal was shipped to the United States that year than in any year since 1873, or it may be said since 1867, when the reciprocity treaty was abrogated. A year ago, there were too many collieries for the limited market, but to-day the market is too great for the supply. The Port Hood mines, Inverness, which were idle for thirty years, are being reopened, and the Broad Cove mines are receiving orders for a very large quantity to be shipped even across the Atlantic Ocean to ports in England and on the continent of Europe.

The prospects of the coal trade for the year 1900 are of the most promising character, and I am sure it will tax the full capacity of the mines to meet the demand. The Dominion Coal Company alone are prepared to ship more coal than all the Nova Scotia collieries combined, its own colliery included, shipped in any year previous to 1899. The total shipments for 1899 amounted to 2,137,000 tons, and this year it is expected that the Dominion coal shipments will reach at least 2,200,000 tons. The Acadia Com-

pany expects an increased output of 50,000 tons, and the Springhill Colliery should increase its output about 20 per cent. If the demand keeps up, the increase over last year will be three-quarters of a million tons from the province of Nova Scotia. The increase in shipments to the United States, as compared with last year, was between 265,000 and 275,000 tons. Of this the Dominion Coal Company sent 260,000 tons, while the balance came from the collieries of Springhill. And, as I have said, this year the Dominion Coal Company have one contract to supply about 800,000 tons to one company in the United States, and the trade of that company is being diverted to that market. Not only have coal shipments increased, but, still better, the wages of the miners have increased. In the Island of Cape Breton, the wages of miners have increased very materially. There was a 10 per cent increase all around, and, instead of men working for 90 cents and \$1 a day, as they did in the old days described by the junior member for Cape Breton (Mr. McDougall), there is not a labourer about the Dominion Coal Company or the Dominion Steel Company, in the Island of Cape Breton, who is working for less than \$1.25 a day. The wages have been increased all along the line, including the Springhill Colliery, which means that the men are happy and the country is prosperous. Then, the Dominion Steel Company, which is being organized, is also directly due to the organization of the Dominion Coal Company. The present very energetic and distinguished manager, Mr. Moxham, is paying \$1.25 to \$1.35 and \$1.50 per day according to the worth of the labourer. This shows that what we have been looking and working for for years is coming to pass—men's wages are increasing. In the elections of 1896, the miners of Springhill were spoken of as the best-paid workmen in the world. I ventured to say at that time if that were so, I pitied the rest of the workingmen of the world. But the day has come when wages are increased in Springhill, and miners will be more prosperous than in the days gone by, for which we must give a large amount of credit to the Fielding legislation in Nova Scotia, to the legislation of this government and to the great prosperity that exists in Canada to-day.

I have some more statistics, but I will not weary the House with them at this late hour.

We have associated with this great coal trade the great iron industry. It is well known that throughout Canada there is a great development in this industry. Many hon. gentlemen, I believe, do not realize the tremendous development that is taking place in this line. Millions of dollars are being spent in building furnaces, coke ovens, &c., for the production of iron at Sydney. What was, a few months ago, a country village,

is to-day a booming city. Thousands of men are being employed, and, as I said before, at good wages. I believe we have considerable iron deposits in the province of Nova Scotia. As time goes on and our country is better prospected, I believe it will be found that we have a large quantity of iron. At present, the company is bringing iron from Newfoundland. Not only in Cape Breton is there iron ore, but also in Cumberland and in other parts of the province of Nova Scotia.

There is another industry which I wish to refer to for a moment or two—the industry of copper. It is not generally known that copper exists in the province of Nova Scotia to any very large extent. It was known that there were large deposits in British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec, but it is now found that the deposits of copper in Nova Scotia are very large, and that the work of production of this metal is to be one of the great industries of the future in that rich province by the sea. It may not be generally known, but probably one hundred and fifty years ago copper mines were worked in the county of Cumberland by the residents, at that time, of the county. But, since that time, nothing has been done in that industry until about three years ago. In that year some gentleman in Boston became interested in these copper deposits, and so favourable have the reports been, that they have come in and invested their money to a large extent. They have invested at least \$100,000 in smelting works in the town of Pictou, and about \$150,000 in the development of properties throughout the province of Nova Scotia, until they have to-day, I am informed, under their control over 100 square miles of copper property in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Labrador. They have, as I say, built a large smelter in Pictou, for the smelting of copper and all low-grade ores. They propose to further their industry by the erection—if they can get favourable conditions—of a refinery in the town of Pictou, or some other place in the province of Nova Scotia. We are in this condition in Canada—although we produced in 1899, 17,956,421 tons of copper, not a single pound of that copper was refined in the Dominion. It may not be widely known that before the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress, Mr. Thompson, the president of the Orford Copper Company, of New Jersey, testified that while they paid \$25,000 a month in wages in Ontario, they paid \$100,000 a month to American labour in treating Canadian ores, or four times as much for the American as for Canadian labour. My hon. friend from Cornwall (Mr. Snettinger) has made some suggestions to the government. The only suggestion I desire to make at the present time is that as they have taken upon themselves the duty of granting a bonus for the manufacture of

iron—which I believe was right—they should give a small bonus for the production of copper, so that this great industry may be built up in Nova Scotia and throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. The harnessing of electricity has demanded a large supply of copper, as shown by the fact that copper has jumped in price about 50 per cent within the last few months. We have in Nova Scotia, at present, the Copper Crown Company, controlling, as I have said, 100 square miles in Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou and other parts of Nova Scotia and Labrador. They have developed eight properties, and are in a position to mine 200 tons a day from mines at Wentworth, Oxford, New Annan and Lansdowne. At Lansdowne the copper seam is thirty-two feet in width, and at Wentworth development has gone on, the ore showing an average of 10 per cent of copper. The use of brass is very extensive, and brass, as we all know, is composed of about 60 per cent of copper, the balance being zinc, which is also found in Nova Scotia and other parts of Canada. It was very important that an industry of that kind should be encouraged for a few years, at least until it gets on its feet, for the results and development of such an industry will be greatly beneficial to Canada. Besides, the Copper Crown Company, the National Copper Company control five square miles in Cumberland and Colchester counties. The Intercolonial Copper Company have 15,000 tons already mined, and are capable of turning out from 100 to 200 tons a day. Copper enters into the production of many articles in daily use, and is a very important metal. I would urge the government to look into this matter and to grant a bounty on copper, as they have granted a bounty on iron in the past.

All those who have spoken in this debate have admitted the great prosperity in Canada. We do not need to quote elaborate figures to prove it. As the visitor to Westminster Abbey who looks for the monument of Sir Christopher Wren is told to look about him, so we have only to look about us to see that Canada is prosperous. I need not quote many figures, but when I state that the average foreign trade of Canada increased under the Liberal-Conservative rule \$66,000,000 in 18 years, and under Liberal rule in three years over \$88,000,000, and that the average annual increase under the Conservatives was only \$3,700,000, while under Liberal rule it was \$27,000,000, it will be admitted that this country is prospering in a way of which any man who has eyes will be convinced in looking about him. It has been said that the government is not entitled to credit for this prosperity. Well, if they are not entitled to credit, which I do not admit, I think we are entitled to look at what might have been the case had the Conservative party been in power. In 1896 we had higher and yet higher protection

being imposed in this country. Men who had money invested in industries were taught not to depend upon their own energies, but to depend upon the government. We had a record of scandals of which every Canadian must be ashamed. The hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron) tonight has boasted of the unity of the party on the other side of the House. The boast brought a smile to the faces of a large number of men in this House, particularly those who were here in 1896. We have not forgotten yet the episode of the anonymous letters; we have not yet forgotten the episode of the nest of traitors; we have not yet forgotten that seven members of the government, just previous to the election of 1896, deliberately cut the throat of their leader and were consequently called by him a nest of traitors. In 1896 industries were languishing, the farmers were not prosperous. The census returns showed plainly that we were simply marking time in this young country of ours when we should have been going ahead by leaps and bounds. When the Laurier government came into power they found deficits, hard times, the country stirred from end to end by a racial and religious question. They found the great national railway of Canada ending in a field in the province of Quebec, they found a tariff discriminating against Great Britain, they found the rate of postage upon letters to Great Britain twice as high as it was for foreign countries. Yet, Sir, the hon. member for North Bruce, with all his zeal and love for the motherland, does not seem to have suggested a reform in the postal laws by which postal matter could be sent to the mother country at a cheaper rate. To-day we have penny postage in Canada; and whereas it cost in times gone by, under the Liberal-Conservative party, 5 cents an ounce to send letters to England, to-day it only costs the small sum of 2 cents. The Liberal government approached the tariff, not in a way to ruin industries, but in a statesmanlike way, slow but sure. Tariff reform is in the air. We have had tariff reform. I do not need to quote any higher authority on that subject than the leader of the opposition, who said in the House of Commons, in speaking of the Fielding tariff in 1897:

The result is that this tariff goes into operation, and the hon. gentleman knows that the industries of this country are already paralyzed in consequence, while hon. members gloat, vindictively gloat, over the destruction of Canadian industries. I was reading the wall, the sorrowful wall, of those industries in the Montreal 'Gazette' where one manufacturer after another declared that those industries were ruined, that their mills must close, and that they saw facing them a return to the deplorable state of things that existed when the hon. gentleman who last addressed the House was in charge of the fiscal policy of this country. I say that a deeper wrong was never inflicted upon Canada.

I feel that, so far from rejoicing at it from a party standpoint, I deplore from the bottom of my heart the ruin that is going to be inflicted upon the best interests of Canada, and upon the great industries.

Yet we have man after man getting up on the other side of the House and stating that we still have the national policy in force in Canada, that there has been no reduction in the tariff whatever. How can they reconcile that statement with that of the distinguished baronet who leads them? In 1900 the days of scandals are passed; the days of a divided cabinet have gone by. The people of Canada have confidence in the Laurier administration, and that confidence is one of the greatest causes, in my opinion, of Canada's extraordinary prosperity.

Hon. gentlemen opposite still cling to the thought that Manitoba has gone to their side. They forget the fact that the leader of the opposition and his friends went down into the province of Nova Scotia previous to the last local elections, and when he left he put in charge his gallant son. When the election had been fought out it was found they got 3 members out of the 38. They went into the province of New Brunswick on the same mission. The distinguished member for York (Mr. Foster) called a convention at Moncton and gave forth the fiat that they must run the elections on party lines. That hon. gentleman and the Minister of Railways and Canals locked horns, and the result was that the government of Mr. Emmerson was returned by 43 to 5. I have heard it stated here that there was an election in Carleton, N. B., where the Conservatives won a seat. Any one acquainted with the facts knows that they won the seat through local jealousies. But, what was the case in reference to Gloucester, represented in this House by a supporter of the distinguished baronet? In the county of Gloucester, a few months ago, an election was held, and although there were four Liberal candidates in the field supporting the Emmerson government, not a single Tory dared to put up his head to be knocked down. I need not refer to the province of Quebec and to the results that have taken place there.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in Canada confidence in the Laurier administration is so great that if an appeal were made to the country to-morrow we would sweep the field from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Why should the electors of Canada turn to the Conservative party, that party of scandals, that party of divided cabinets, that party of nests of traitors, when they have at the head of affairs a government of business men who are conducting this country on business principles? The result is that we have prosperity, and the trade of the country moving forward by leaps and bounds throughout its whole extent. The electors of Canada do not propose to exchange their leaders at the present time, by any means. When an appeal is made to the country, whether made

this year or next, it will be seen that hon. gentlemen opposite are destined to remain in the cold shades of opposition until they find some better policy than this jug-handled preferential trade policy which is condemned by every statesman in England. They have got to stay there until they find men who are competent to fill the cabinet positions in this country, who will be true to each other, true to the country, and true to their party instead of cutting one another's throats.

When we come down to the present session, one of the great events has been the increase in the preference to Great Britain from 25 to 33½ per cent. This increase is being condemned by the ultra-loyal member for North Bruce and others. They have talked loyalty until they are black in the face, but they have never done anything for loyalty from 1867 down to the present day. I call upon them now to state what their party has done for the motherland in the days gone by. Have they given the motherland a preference in our markets? Now they are so loyal that they are prepared to say to Great Britain: We won't give you one iota of a preference in our markets unless you put a tax on the breadstuffs of your workingmen. Loyalty of that kind is mere lip loyalty, a mere quid pro quo loyalty. I for one am heartily in favour of this preference being increased. I hope it will not remain at 33½ per cent, but that it will be increased to at least 50 per cent in favour of Great Britain. We have, then, Sir, by doing this, given tariff reform, to a very large extent, to this country. Another part of the budget speech refers to the extension of the free list. I will not go into that. But, we have another plank which has not been mentioned in this debate, to any great extent, and it is in reference to a conciliation board, to settle labour disputes in Canada. In this matter I am directly interested. I am the representative here of a large labour element in the province of Nova Scotia and I hail with delight any government that is radical enough, that has strength of conviction enough to come forward and bring down such a measure as this government propose to place before the House for the reference of disputes to a conciliation board. Now, I would like to have had an opportunity to discuss the tariff reductions, but, I do not think it would be fair to the members of the House to detain them while I read the list to them. Sufficient to say that upon a large number of articles that are used in daily life of the artisans and the workingmen of this country the duties, in many cases, have been entirely removed, and in many other cases they have been cut down from the high tariff of the Conservative party to less than a revenue tariff under the Liberal administration. I will not go into these matters except to mention one or two. We find, for instance, in the matter of woollen goods, that, under

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the old tariff, blankets paid 5 cents per pound and 25 per cent. Under the preferential tariff they pay 23½ per cent, or down to a revenue basis. We find that coatings, under the old tariff, were 33 per cent, under the preferential tariff, 23½ per cent. Flannels were 33 per cent, under the old tariff; under the preferential tariff they are 23½ per cent. Shawls were 25 per cent under the old tariff, while under the preferential clause they are 20 per cent. Shirts were 36 per cent under the old tariff, while under the preferential tariff they are 23½ per cent. Socks, stockings, underwear, etc., were reduced from 35 per cent under the old tariff to 23½ under the preferential clause. I do not propose to weary the House with any more of these statistics at the present time.

I only wish, in closing, to say that if an appeal is made to the country we can go to the country with confidence of success because we have the right policy and record to place before the people. I would be ashamed, as a young Canadian, to be a follower of a leader who would promulgate a policy of roaring loyalty in the provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia and who would go to Quebec and preach the doctrine that he is preaching there to-day. I would be ashamed to be the follower of a leader who would make the following statement in Quebec. The words I am quoting are those of the right hon. baronet who leads the opposition, as reported in his own Conservative paper:

A great deal has been said with reference to the federation of the empire. I was a member of the Imperial Federation League, and when I found that a number of active spirits in that league were young men, without a great deal of experience, whose great aim it was to compel the colonies and outlying portions of the empire to make direct contributions to the army and navy of Britain, I opposed that policy on the ground that, in my judgment, it would break up the empire. . . . I showed what had been spent upon our militia system, and I said that under these circumstances the imposition of an Imperial tax upon Canada for the army and navy of Great Britain would, in my judgment, be a great mistake. I said: 'What we have done in the past is a guarantee of what we will do in the future. (Cheers.) You must leave it to the independent judgment of the people of Canada, and to the spirit of the people of Canada, to come to your aid whenever and however they think it is necessary.' They say that I broke up the league by taking that position. If so, I am proud of it.

People in the provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia can scarcely believe that the hon. gentleman could have made use of such a doctrine in Québec, but it is not denied. He condemned the representation, in the Imperial House, of Canadians, and yet we find that his lieutenants are going about the country preaching that as one of their

doctrines. I heard a lecture given, not long ago, by one of his lieutenants in which he expressed the belief that within twenty-five years we would have full representation at Westminster and he adopted the analogy of a man who, living in New England States, goes to California and still has representation at Washington, although he is 3,000 miles away from home, and he asked why should not Canada have representation at Westminster although she is 3,000 or 4,000 miles away, but he is turned down by his leader. The hon. member who spoke before me referred to the condition of England. It has been the song and dance of hon. gentlemen for some years past, to cry down the mother country. What are the words of the hon. senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). They have often been quoted in this House, but they cannot be quoted too often. They come from the son of the hon. leader of the opposition. They are as follows:

What is the whole policy of the motherland to-day? Driven from the civilized markets of the world, steadily and every year finding their output to those markets decreasing, they spend millions on their navy and millions on their army to force their wares and their goods and their merchandise into the uncivilized markets of the world, which they are endeavouring to occupy, to settle and control, &c.

That is the loyalty of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. It is part of their campaign to decry the mother country. I would give preference to the words of that distinguished American, Ralph Waldo Emerson, who visited England in 1847. What does he say? These words were applicable to the motherland then and they are applicable to her now:

I see her not dispirited, not weak, but well remembering that she has seen dark days before; indeed, with a kind of instinct that she sees a little better on a cloudy day, and that in a storm of battle and calamity she has a secret vigour and a pulse like a cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young, and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion. Seeing that, I say, All hail! mother of the heroes, with strength still equal to the time; still wise to entertain and swift to execute the policy which the mind and heart of man require in the present hour, and thus truly hospitable to the foreigner, and truly a home to the thoughtful and generous who are born in the soil.

These are the words of a noble man, and they are as true to-day as when they were written. We say: All hail to the empire of which we form a part. We are willing to give her a preference in our markets; we are willing to give our blood and treasure; we are proud to do this for the motherland which has done so much for us. We are not of those who stand up and talk about their loyalty continually; we believe in acting loyally and not talking it. We do not believe in the policy of preaching one thing in Ontario and another thing in Quebec. We find that

there is incontrovertible evidence of the fact that hon. gentlemen opposite are using distinctly different arguments to the people of these two provinces. This fact has been brought to the attention of the House time and time again during the present session. We believe that we should build up a nation in this country, that we should not make a special appeal to Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen or Frenchmen, but that we should have a united country. We do not believe that we should quarrel with our French friends of the province of Quebec. We admire them for their many very excellent qualities, and I cannot close these remarks, at this late hour, better than by quoting from a poet living in one of the maritime provinces, who says:

Why stand in angry mood upon the plains of Abraham,
Where fell the young heroic Wolfe, the chivalrous Montcalm;
A cycle has allayed the feud of Briton versus Gaul;
Tho' erst opposed in strife, we're now Canadians one and all.

Mr. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, at this late hour, and after this protracted debate, it is not my intention to occupy the time of the House at any great length. But I cannot help expressing my surprise at the little progress made in the business of the House. This debate has now been dragging along for about a month, and it strikes me how little benefit we have derived from it.

However, if there is one thing that strikes me more than another, it is this: that, prior to the elections of 1896, the hon. gentlemen opposite claimed that the country was going to the dogs; that it was certainly on the verge of bankruptcy and that, if they came into power, the country would be blessed with universal prosperity; the fires of content would blaze upon the hearthstones and the light of hope illumine every household. Well, Sir, it is true that the country is prosperous, there is no denying it, and we all rejoice in the fact that fortune smiles on us; but that prosperity, after all, is shared in by other nations as well and there seems to be a conspiracy of events to produce that 'boom' in every country under the sun.

Let us now make a brief review of the Conservative policy. From 1890 to 1895, the dark cloud of a panic settled down over the length and breadth of the land; but, as we all know, crises like this are mysterious and unavoidable incidents in the progress of the human race, and thanks to our fiscal policy, thanks to our national policy, we were enabled to weather the storm.

And if we see to-day business improving in all directions; if signs of prosperity are visible on every side; if our imports and exports are steadily going up at such a rapid pace; if the credit of Canada is continually on the ascending scale, and if all these

causes tend to diminish the burdens of the people, it is not due to the advent of the Liberals to power, but to the fact that they have maintained the national policy and the sound fiscal system built up by the Conservatives. I said, at the outset, that this debate had been dragging wearily along for about a month; but I may here remark that, in spite of that lengthened discussion, the hon. gentlemen have not yet been persuaded into the belief that they have broken their promises and gone back on their ante-election pledges. These pledges may be summed up under the following different heads: they were to reduce taxation, they promised to cut down the controllable expenditure, and keep it down to the lowest possible point consistent with efficiency; they pledged their word that they would put a stop to the piling up of the public debt; they were to do away with the national policy and protection was to be torn up root and branch; they were going to raise the standard of public morality and to uphold the independence of parliament; they held out to the electors the promise that they would do away with the system of railway bonuses and subsidies; and, finally, their watchword, they said, was to be: honesty, economy and efficiency in the administration of public affairs.

Those were, in brief, the promises held out to the people at the Liberal convention of 1893, and at the elections of 1896. They were most loud in their denunciations of the Conservative government for piling up the public debt. Let us now see how their performances square with their statements. Deeds speaks louder than words. The hon. gentlemen boast that they will carry the constituencies not only in the province of Quebec but throughout the whole country, at the next general elections; but I doubt very much whether an outraged public will feel like condoning the violation of so many pledges and such a betrayal of confidence. Let us compare the debt under both administrations.

In 1892, the debt was \$241,131,434, and in 1899, it was \$126,273,446. In 1896, the last year of the Conservative administration it was \$258,497,432, as against \$266,273,446, in 1899, or an increase of \$7,776,014. Now, when the hon. gentleman go to the people and ask them for their votes and their suffrages what excuse shall they give them for such a gross breach of faith and for running up in that way the public debt of the country? I think they will cut a very poor figure before the people, and the outraged public will tell them that they are no longer worthy of their confidence. At this late hour, I do not intend to enter at any great length into the discussion of all those statistics, but let me just quote a few for the information of the hon. gentlemen opposite. When in opposition, year in and year out, they never tired of denouncing the

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extravagance of the Conservatives. When the expenditure was \$38,000,000 a year, they claimed that it was a crying shame to squander in that way the people's money, and they pledged their word that, should they come into power, they would cut down the controllable expenditures, they would, they said, put a stop to all that extravagance, they would put a brake upon the reckless manner in which the Conservative party, as they said, had been running up the public expenditure. The present Minister of Justice stated, upon one occasion, that they were even ready to reduce the expenditure by four and even five millions a year. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and many other gentlemen made similar statements. So did hon. gentlemen who represent the province of Quebec in this House. Now, when they go before the electorate, they will have to tell them, that far from cutting down the public expenditure, and far from putting a stop to that unnecessary drain upon the resources of the country, they have increased the burden of taxation.

Let us now compare the expenditure under the Conservative government and that under the Liberal regime. From 1887 to 1891, the average annual expenditure was \$36,000,000. It was a crying shame, they said, to expend \$36,000,000 a year. And should they come into power, they pledged their word that they would reduce the expenditure by six millions a year. Well, the hon. gentlemen have climbed into power, after having fooled the people into the belief that they were pledged to economy, what did they do? They have increased the expenditure, instead of reducing it; they have gone on piling up the debt, and that increase is wholly unwarrantable.

In 1897, the total expenditure was \$42,972,000; in 1898, it was \$45,000,000, and in 1899, it was \$51,542,000, in round figures. Such is the increase in the total expenditure, both on the consolidated fund expenditure and in the expenditure chargeable to capital. I now come to the expenditure per head of the population. In 1898, the per capita taxation was \$8.14, as against \$9.40 in 1899. That is the way in which the hon. gentlemen opposite have lightened the burden of taxation under which the people were groaning, as they said.

The hon. member for Megantic (Mr. Turcotte) stated on the floor of the House that while in power, the Conservatives had increased the public debt at the rate of \$6,563,533 a year, while, under the Liberal regime, the debt had been increased only by \$2,503,000 a year. I think I might on very good ground dispute the accuracy of that statement. The hon. gentleman does not fairly state the case, as he does not give credit to the Conservative government for the extraordinary expenditure incurred in connection with great public works. I shall

not enter into a review of these works ; but, as the hon. member (Mr. Savard) was formerly a Conservative, he ought to be conversant with the facts of the case, and he cannot plead ignorance of the works carried out by the late government.

Let us now deal with taxation. Taxation was the bugbear they made use of, to frighten the electorate. They never tired, when in opposition, of crying out that the country was being bled white ; that the rate of taxation was exceedingly high, and that if they were returned to power, the load of taxation would be relieved. But, Sir, they forget to tell us that in 1894 the Conservative government considerably reduced the taxes on sugar ; they forget, I say, that the remission of taxation made by the late government exceeded by far all the tariff revisions made by the present government since 1896. The Conservatives also reduced the duties on articles of household necessity such as tea and coffee. We are now being much more heavily taxed for sugar than we were in 1896.

The hon. gentlemen are fond of boasting of their surpluses and they say that the era of deficits has passed. Let me give to the House the figures in that respect. Since confederation, we have had 20 surpluses, and out of that number 17 took place under the Conservative regime and 3 under Liberal rule. During the same period, there were 5 deficits under the Liberal government and 7 under the Conservative regime. The deficits under the Conservative regime are easily explained, if we remember that in 1886, we had to pay out of the revenues of the country \$4,800,000 on the North-west rebellion. If we had a deficit in 1894, it is easily accounted for by the remission of taxation on sugar, to the extent of \$4,821,000. In the face of the record of the Conservative government the hon. gentlemen will cut a very poor figure, when they go to the country, when the people of this country realize to what extent the hon. gentlemen have gone back on their ante-election pledges, they will come to the conclusion that there is no principle of ethics which justifies individuals or governments in breaking their promises. And as to electorate of the province of Quebec as they are public-spirited and jealous of the honour of their public men, I have no doubt that, when the hon. gentlemen seek their suffrages, they will tell them : 'Gentlemen, you have forfeited the respect and confidence of the people.' and the Conservatives will be returned to power by an immense majority.

The hon. gentlemen are fond of talking of the prosperity of the country, and they say : 'See how Canada has gone forth with leaps and bounds, since our advent to power.' But, Sir, what is the cause of that prosperity ? I heard the hon. gentleman who spoke before me, (Mr. Logan), say that, if the country was so prosperous, it was not due

to the fact that the Liberals had maintained undisturbed the national policy. What fiscal changes, I ask, have the hon. gentlemen made since their accession to office ? Have they reduced the tariff ? No, Sir ; or, if they have reduced it, that tariff revision amounts to so little that it is not worth mentioning. The Liberal government dared not to disturb our fiscal system, although, when in opposition, they had boasted that the National policy was to be torn up root and branch, and that they were going to free the people from the slavery of protection. Have they declared war to the knife to protection, as they said they would do ? No, Sir, and when confronted with their past pledges in this respect, the hon. gentlemen indulge in a sarcastic laugh. They know perfectly well that they have fooled the people ; that they have betrayed the trust which the electorate had placed in them. Now, that they enjoy the sweets of power, they are quite willing to maintain that Conservative policy, which has built up our national industries, and which is the cause of the present prosperity of the country.

What are the electors going to say to these gentlemen who had pledged themselves to a policy of economy and retrenchment and who have shamefully betrayed the confidence of the country in that respect ? What are they going to tell those unfaithful servants who had promised that, upon their coming into power, they would relieve the load of taxation, and who instead of redeeming their pledge, have only added to the burdens of the people ? What are the electors going to tell those gentlemen who had so often denounced on the hustings and on the floor of parliament, the national policy, and who had boasted that protection would be torn root and branch and that the country would no longer be bled white by monopolists, and who instead of destroying that policy, have only maintained it, afraid as they were to disturb our fiscal system ? What are they going to say to the people at the next general elections, when confronted with another unfulfilled pledge of theirs, that they would, as soon as they reach power, obtain reciprocity with the United States ? Why, Sir, if there was an atom of self-respect, a scintilla of personal dignity left in their breasts, they would go and hide for very shame, and they would never show their faces before an outraged people.

I now come to another matter which has so largely engrossed the attention of the House, during this debate. I mean the preferential tariff question. That is, no doubt, the most important question which has ever come under our consideration. The government first reduced the duties by 12½ per cent and later on, by 25 per cent.

Mr. SAVARD. (Translation). Would the hon. gentleman say a word about the Manitoba school question ? We are all so anxious

to hear from him whether the question is settled or not.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) The hon. gentleman (Mr. Savard) is very anxious that I should say a word about the Manitoba school question, and to hear from me whether the question is settled or not. Let me refer him to a higher authority in the matter, and I dare say, a man whose word is law in such educational matters; let me refer him, I say, to his lordship the Bishop of Chicoutimi, who will tell him whether the question is settled or not. The Manitoba school question is within the province of our religious authorities, and I do not think he will find fault with me if I refer him to his bishop.

I certainly had no intention of referring to that question now, nor to recall to the hon. gentlemen opposite their past pledges in this respect, and if the hon. gentleman had not interrupted me, I would have remained silent on the matter.

As I said, the preference given to Great Britain under the preferential clause of the tariff was raised from 12½ per 100, to 25 per 100. Now, they are raising it to 33½ per 100. I heard the hon. gentleman who spoke before me state that the mutual trade system, which is being advocated by the leader of the Conservative party, was outside the region of practical politics. Well, Sir, let me tell him this: That, if there is any reliance to be placed on the views given expression to and reiterated by British business men; if, I say, any trust can be reposed in the statements of eminent British statesmen, as Mr. Chamberlain and the Duke of Devonshire and several others who declare that, before long the fiscal policy of Great Britain will undergo a change, I maintain that the proposition of the leader of the opposition is quite practicable. Besides, may we not cherish the hope that, following in the wake of other European motherlands, Great Britain will give a preferential treatment to her colonies in her markets?

Of late, we have made a grand demonstration of sympathy towards the mother country. Never before had the motherland been the object of so much sympathy on the part of her colonies. I trust that Great Britain will follow the example of France, our old mother country, who gives her colonies a preferential treatment in her markets. England would only be following in the wake of Germany and Italy. I do not see why England should not give a preference or an advantage to her colonies, the more so as she knows beyond a doubt, from events that transpired of late, that she may now rely on the aid of her colonies. She knows that her colonies are her best friends and that she may obtain from them her food supplies.

I do not want to detain the House any longer; but before resuming my seat, I may be allowed to recall to the hon. gentlemen

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opposite one of their past pledges in connection with the necessaries of life. When in opposition, they never tired of speaking about the cutting down of duties on coal oil, and they promised that if they were returned to power, they would considerably reduce the duty on that article. But, what do we see, to-day? The farmers are not blind by any means and they see perfectly well that they have to pay more than they did formerly for that article. The price of coal oil has been enhanced by more than 6 cents a gallon. It sells now for 25 cents a gallon. The electorate realize that they have been deceived, when they see that the duties have been raised on the necessaries of life. The hon. gentlemen boast that they enjoy the confidence of the people. The hon. gentleman who spoke before me stated that the country had put all their confidence in the present government and he was sure that they would be returned to power. But, Sir, we see what is going on in the country and we know that there is a great deal of grumbling and dissatisfaction in the rank and file of the Liberal party. The people know that they have repudiated all their promises and betrayed the confidence reposed in them by the electorate. They know that agricultural products do not fetch a higher price than they did formerly; that the price of hay, for example, is not enhanced, and so it is with all the other products of the farm, although farmers have to pay more for what they buy. And yet the hon. gentlemen had told the people that they would reduce the prices of the necessaries of life; but upon their coming into power, they were so intoxicated with their grandeur or so wrapt in wonder and delighted with their good fortune, after having so long done penance in the cold regions of opposition, that they forgot all their promises, dreaming that they were going to have a perpetual lease of power. As I said, there is great deal of discontent in the rank and file of the party. Besides the electorate are dissatisfied with the enhancement of the prices of the necessaries of life. Moreover, they know that the Liberals deserve no credit for the great prosperity of the country; and that, if we can anticipate a continuation of that prosperity, it is due to the fact that the government have decided not to disturb the Conservative fiscal policy to which that prosperity is due. In the face of all these facts, I cannot help coming to the conclusion that at the next general elections, they are going to be defeated by an overwhelming majority of indignant electors of this country.

Mr. P. V. SAVARD (Chicoutimi and Saguenay). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to take part in this debate, had not the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, referred to me personally in the course of his speech. The hon. gen-

tleman was surprised at the merriment created in the House by his really amusing speech. The fact is that there was cause for it. He deemed it fit to go out of his way to attack me personally, and I consider that the charge which he has brought against me is one of the most serious charges that can be levelled at a member of this House. He claimed that I had once been a Conservative. There is not a single man in this House who will not agree with me that this is a purely gratuitous imputation, a charge which is not borne out by facts. The hon. member for Champlain represents here, as well as the hon. gentleman from Three Rivers and St. Maurice (Sir Adolphe Caron), the electoral district of Three Rivers. This hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron), who is the leader of that district, can boast, at least of having one soldier behind him; for the battalion of which he has the command consists of but one soldier: the hon. member for Champlain. Let me state here—in order to obviate, for the future, the damnable reiteration of such an unpleasant charge—that I have never been a Conservative, and should the hon. gentleman (Mr. Marcotte), challenge my statement, I would refer him to his leader the member for Three Rivers and St. Maurice (Sir A. P. Caron), who will tell him how matters stand in that respect. It would be impossible for me to refer him to a more reliable witness, seeing that I defeated the hon. gentleman (Sir A. P. Caron) in the county of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, and if my memory serves me right, he was at that time a minister of the Crown, being a member of the cabinet of which Sir John A. Macdonald was the leader. Under the circumstances, as I said, I simply look upon that statement as an outrage. Why, Sir, in the face of such attacks, one would be apt to doubt whether there are any responsible and serious men left in the ranks of the hon. gentlemen opposite. The hon. leader of the opposition, (Sir Charles Tupper), is not in his seat, as I see; and, upon my faith, I think it would be a great pity if he understood French, because he could not but have felt ashamed at the disheveled harangue delivered by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Marcotte), who is one of his strongest supporters. I do not think that we have been sent here from the province of Quebec or from the other provinces of the Dominion to listen to such buncombe and nonsense as has fallen from the lips of the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman ought to be able to realize that nobody here takes any stock in what he may happen to say about the Liberal party or our illustrious leader. He should have understood that I was only joking when I put him a question on the Manitoba school question.

What does he know about the preferential tariff? As to the school question, it is different; he is supposed at least to know something about that issue, as, in the

district of Three Rivers from which he comes, the Conservatives have no other plank in their political platform, and that issue is their only stock-in-trade. As I said, what does he know about the preferential tariff? In spite of all the trouble involved in the preparation of such an eloquent speech, the saying about the mountain in travail that brought forth a mouse finds here its application; and it was hardly worth while for him to devote two weeks of his precious time to ransacking the parliament library to produce such a sample of his literary ability. I feel really sorry for him, as he is one of my personal friends, but I cannot help telling him that his literary reputation is sadly compromised in this House. I do not think he has anything to lose in that respect in the province of Quebec where he is well known. I am glad that there are only a few English speaking members in their seats now, who are conversant with the French language and who have understood the drift of his speech; but, as for us, members from the province of Quebec, it was a real humiliation to have to listen to such a speech. And how many weak and insignificant speeches like this have we not had to listen to, in the course of this debate which has been dragging along for over a month and a half! That is certainly not the best way to make progress. The speech of the hon. member for Champlain involves a large expenditure of public money, for the printing alone. It would have been better for him to have kept silent. That speech will not help him in his constituency and it will be no credit to the French Canadians, in the eyes of our fellow-countrymen of English descent.

His favourite topic was coal oil. He told us that at the last elections, we pledged our word to the electors that we would reduce the prices of that commodity, should we be returned to power.

The hon. gentleman would be quite puzzled, should he be asked to explain why the price of coal oil has been enhanced. If he was open to conviction, I might perhaps advise him to obtain information before tackling such a question; but, party spirit is so strong in him that he was no doubt fooled into the belief that Sir Wilfrid Laurier is responsible for the increase that has taken place in the price of coal oil, since his advent to power.

He further stated that the Liberal party had repudiated and gone back on all their pledges. Well, Sir, whatever may be said about those broken promises, I think I may safely venture to say that there is, at least, one promise which they will redeem—and I for one, though I am but a private soldier in the party, I here pledge my word to it—and it is this: that in the interest of the Dominion, the Liberal party shall remain in power and the Conservative party in the opposition.

The hon. gentleman told us that, since the Liberals have come into power, agricultural products have depreciated in price. The hon. gentleman should not have approached such a topic and it would have been better for him, had he confined his remarks to coal oil. Fortunately for the country and for the House, nobody takes any stock in his statements. At all events, even supposing that such evils as he has described really existed, what he has said about coal oil will hardly constitute a balm for the wounds and sores of the poor ratepayers of this country over whose fate he has wept so copiously, and shed so many crocodile tears.

The hon. gentleman claims that the price of agricultural products has gone down, while everybody, farmers and traders as well, know that never did the products of the farm fetch a higher price than they do now. As a matter of fact, there is such an activity in the home market, that they find it impossible to fill up all the orders. The member for Champlain did not say anything about cheese and butter, although these are staple articles which prove a source of untold wealth to the farming community. Dairying is one of our most flourishing industries. I know, from my own experience, having visited the county of Champlain, that there are first class cheese and butter factories in that county. Now, I say that if that industry is going up by leaps and bounds, the credit for it must be given to the Liberal government who now rules the province of Quebec, a government who has at heart the welfare of the people and the prosperity of our farming community.

Cheese which sold, a few years ago, from 6½ to 7 or 8 cents a pound sells now for 10, 11 and 12 cents a pound. Butter, which, a few years ago, fetched 14, 15 or 16 cents a pound, now sells for 21, 22 and as high as 25 cents a pound. Those are products which we can export abroad, and which, in fact we do export to England and other countries, and why, Sir? Because we have in the different provinces of the Dominion Liberal governments, patriotic governments, who have at heart the welfare and prosperity of the farming community.

Several other industries have sprung up as if by magic, since the advent of the present government to power. There is the pulp industry which has such a bright future before it, thanks to our magnificent water-powers, which have improved in value and importance in the eyes of foreign capitalists, oats are now finding a ready sale in the spirit of enterprise displayed by the statesmen at the head of affairs in our provinces. Agricultural products, such as hay and oats are now finding a ready sale in the country for the needs of local consummation, and this, owing to the extraordinary development which the wood pulp industry has taken. The credit of all this should be given to the Liberal governments who are

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now ruling here and in Quebec, and who, by their wise and progressive policy, have taken the proper steps for promoting the interests of the country.

The hon. member for Champlain does not realize the progress achieved by the country. He still has to learn that we need no longer export our hay and oats abroad, as those products find a home market in Canada, for the wants of local consumption. Before the next elections come off, he will, no doubt, have succeeded in forming an idea of the progress and development achieved in the part of the country where he lives; and, for his information, I would advise him to visit the pulp-mills at Grand-Mère. He will see there a town which has sprung up as if by enchantment. He will find there shanties of considerable magnitude which have opened under the impetus given to the pulp industry; and the farmers of his constituency, who are benefited by the progress realized in that part of the country, will not fail to give him proper information as to the economical revolution and the progress made, since the Conservatives were turned out.

Farmers can now get for their butter and cheese much more remunerative prices than they used to obtain for them formerly, and they give proper credit to the government for this boom. Therefore, at the next general elections, they will not fail to show their confidence in the government as they have invariably done at each by-election, by returning them to power.

At this late hour, and at this advanced stage of the debate, Sir, I do not wish to detain the House any longer. While I am on my feet, I wish to give expression to an earnest prayer, and I think I am but echoing the views of the great majority of the electorate of this country, when I express the hope that the present government may long remain at the head of affairs, under the able leadership of the Prime Minister, so that they may continue the beneficent policy which has been instrumental in fostering the progress and development of Canada.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Before the vote is taken, Mr. Speaker, I wish to add a few words, not for the purpose of dealing with the general question under discussion, but bearing on a point of difference of a personal character which arose at an earlier stage of the debate, between the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and myself. It may be remembered that in the budget speech I referred with satisfaction to the great enterprise which is being established at Sydney, Cape Breton, for the manufacture of iron and steel. I referred to it, not so much in connection with any part I had in the legislation at Ottawa touching that question, for on that I did not dwell for a moment, but I had

special reference to earlier movements with which I was connected in the provincial legislature, in which the foundation of that great enterprise was laid. I referred to the fact that some years ago, when I had the honour of being Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, my colleagues and I agreed upon a measure which we believed was for the promotion of the coal interests of that province, and under which there was organized the Dominion Coal Company. I pointed out that measure was bitterly opposed by the Conservative party in the legislature of Nova Scotia. I pointed out that that opposition was not confined to the provincial parliament, but that it was carried forward to Ottawa, and that a number of hon. gentlemen formed a procession which marched to the office of the Governor General, and asked him to save the province of Nova Scotia from the disasters which they said were threatened by that proposed measure. I then pointed out that the same men who were brought into Nova Scotia by that legislation, the same men who created the Dominion Coal Company, were the very men who were promoting that great enterprise for the manufacture of iron and steel, and that the new enterprise was the direct outcome of the earlier one I was able to refer with pride and satisfaction to the fact that that enterprise, so bitterly opposed by the Conservative party, had not only been advantageous with regard to the development of the coal industry, but that it was the means of promoting this other great industry with which all are so familiar. Speaking later, the hon. the leader of the opposition did not touch upon the main point of my remarks, which were in relation to the organization of the Dominion Coal Company, but he did refer to legislation which had taken place in Ottawa, and in the course of his speech he made some statements to which I took exception. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), stated that when the promoters of this great enterprise came to the government of Canada for assistance, they were met by me with a point-blank refusal and were sent away discouraged. I asked the hon. gentlemen to give me his authority, and he answered very promptly that he obtained his information from Mr. Graham Fraser, of the New Glasgow Steel Company, and from Mr. Henry M. Whitney, of the Dominion Coal Company. Mr. Graham Fraser is out of the Dominion I understand, but inasmuch as there were no negotiations between the government and Mr. Graham Fraser it is utterly impossible that Mr. Fraser could ever have authorized such a statement. However, I attach more importance to what was said respecting the other gentleman. There were negotiations with Mr. Henry M. Whitney, the president and one of the promoters of this great enterprise. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition stated in this House that Mr. Whit-

ney told him that when he approached me on that question he was met with an absolute refusal. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), gave it to be understood that it was not until a later date, when he himself took up the matter, that this enterprise was aided by the government at all. I addressed to Mr. W. B. Ross, of Halifax, the solicitor for Mr. Whitney, through whom most of the negotiations took place, the following telegram :

Ottawa, March 30, 1900.

W. B. Ross, Q.C.,
Halifax, N.S.

Sir Charles Tupper stated in the House of Commons this afternoon that Mr. Whitney went to him at Sydney, summer before last, and told him that he, Whitney, had applied to the government for an extension of the iron bounties, and had met with an absolute refusal. The negotiations were chiefly with you as Whitney's agent. What have you to say to Sir Charles Tupper's statements?

(Signed) W. S. FIELDING.

To this telegram I received the following reply :

Halifax, N.S., April 2, 1900.

Hon. W. S. Fielding,
Ottawa.

Have just received your telegram of March 30, having been in the country on a holiday. H. M. Whitney's first and only representations and suggestions to the government of Canada, in respect to the iron bounties, were made through me, or by Mr. Whitney after consultation with me. I know that the government never, at any stage, refused to consider the question of extending the bounties, nor did any member of the government, after the matter was first presented to the government. Information was repeatedly asked for, and eventually legislation was enacted. Sir Charles Tupper had no more to do in the matter than any other member of the opposition.

W. B. ROSS.

I also addressed the following letter to Mr. Whitney :

Ottawa, April 4, 1900.

Dear Mr. Whitney,—I desire to call your attention to a statement made on Friday last in the Canadian House of Commons, by Sir Charles Tupper, in the course of some remarks respecting the new iron and steel works at Sydney. After mentioning your own name and that of Mr. Graham Fraser of New Glasgow, as gentlemen interested in the iron and steel industry, Sir Charles proceeded as follows :

'They came to my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding), and they implored him to extend that measure of assistance necessary for the inauguration of a great enterprise of that kind. My hon. friend (Mr. Fielding), gave them an absolute, palpable refusal to do anything, and they went home utterly discouraged.'

Continuing, Sir Charles said :

'Whatever the cause was I was informed by the gentlemen that they had met with an absolute refusal.

'The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding), Who were these gentlemen? Who were the gentlemen who made that statement to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper)?

' Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What statement ?

' The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The statement that he has just made. My hon. friend says they had met with an absolute refusal. I wish to know who 'they' were ?

' Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no hesitation in saying that statement was from Mr. Whitney and Mr. Graham Fraser. It was from the representatives of the Dominion Coal Company and the New Glasgow Steel Company.

' The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What time ?

' Sir CHARLES TUPPER. When I visited my constituents the summer before last, after they had been here and met with an absolute refusal from my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding)'

The quotations I have made are from the notes of the official stenographers of the House of Commons.

Before making any comment on the remarks of Sir Charles Tupper, I think I ought to call your attention to the statement which he has attributed to you in relation to what passed between you and me, with respect to the desired legislation on the subject of the bounties.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. S. FIELDING.

Henry M. Whitney, Esq.,
95 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

To these I have received the following replies :

(Telegram.)

New York, N.Y., April 10, 1900.

Hon. W. S. Fielding,
Ottawa.

Letter 4th, just received. So far as I am concerned, Sir Charles is in error. Have written you and him.

H. M. WHITNEY.

25 East Sixtieth Street,
New York, April 10, 1900.

Dear Mr. Fielding,—I received your letter of the 4th, only last evening, too late to reply to it yesterday. I have written Sir Charles, and herewith inclose a copy of my letter.

Trusting that this will suffice to set the matter right so far as I am concerned, I remain,

Very truly yours,
(Signed) H. M. WHITNEY.

25 East Sixtieth Street,
New York, April 9, 1900.

My dear Sir Charles,—My attention has been called to a statement made by you in the House of Commons, that 'summer before last' at the time you were visiting your constituency in Cape Breton, I had stated to you that in company with Mr. Graham Fraser, I had implored Mr. Fielding for the necessary assistance for the inauguration of a great enterprise—meaning the iron and steel works at Sydney—and that he gave us an 'absolute, palpable refusal to do anything,' and that we went home 'utterly discouraged.'

Now, this is a mistake, so far as I am concerned, and I feel it my duty to you, and to Mr. Fielding, to set the matter right. At the time referred to I had no interest in the iron and steel business. I did not visit Ottawa in company with Mr. Fraser, and do not now remember having spoken to Mr. Fielding about the matter until the following winter or spring. I do remember discussing the subject with you at the time you mention. We talked of the desirability of establishing an iron and steel industry at Sydney, and the probability of re-

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ceiving government aid. But I was not concerned in the application to Mr. Fielding until after that time. And it is but simple justice to Mr. Fielding to say that from the moment of my first presentation of this subject to him it has received his hearty encouragement and unvarying support.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) H. M. WHITNEY.

House divided on amendment of Sir Charles Tupper :

YEAS :

Messieurs

Beattie,	LaRivière,
Bell (Addington),	Macdonald (King's),
Bell (Picou),	MacLaren,
Bergeron,	McAlister,
Broder,	McCleary,
Cargill,	McDougall,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	McInerney,
Carscallen,	McLennan (Glengarry),
Casgrain,	Martin,
Clancy,	Mills,
Clarke,	Moore,
Cochrane,	Morin,
Davin,	Osler,
Dugas,	Pope,
Earle,	Prior,
Foster,	Quinn,
Ganong,	Roche,
Gillies,	Sproule,
Gilmour,	Taylor,
Guillet,	Tupper (Sir Charles
Haggart,	Hibbert),
Henderson,	Tyrwhitt,
Hedgins,	Wallace, and
Ingram,	Wilson.—48.
Kaulbach,	

NAYS :

Messieurs

Archambault,	Lang,
Bazinet,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Beith,	Lavergne,
Bell (Prince),	Lemieux,
Bernier,	Livingston,
Blair,	Logan,
Borden (King's),	Macdonald (Huron),
Bourassa,	Macdonell,
Bourbonnais,	Mackie,
Britton,	McClure,
Brown,	McGugan,
Bruneau,	McHugh,
Burnett,	McIsaac,
Salvert,	McLellan,
Campbell,	McLennan (Inverness),
Carroll,	McMillan,
Casey,	McMullen,
Champagne,	Madore,
Comstock,	Malouin,
Copp,	Marci,
Costigan,	Meigs,
Cowan,	Mignault,
Davies (Sir Louis),	Monet,
Demers,	Morrison,
Desmarais,	Mulock,
Dupré,	Parmalee,
Edwards,	Paterson,
Ellis,	Pettet,
Ethier,	Préfontaine,
Featherston,	Proulx,
Fielding,	Puttee,
Fisher,	Ratz,
Fitzpatrick,	Richardson,
Flint,	Rogers,
Fortier,	Rosa,

Fraser (Lambton), Gauvreau, Geoffrion, Harwood, Heyd, Holmes, Hutchison, Johnston, Joly de Lotbinière (Sir Henri),	Rutherford, Savard, Semple, Somerville, Stenson, Stubbs, Sutherland, Tucker, and Turcot.—88.
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PAIRS :

Ministerial.	Opposition.
Christie,	Roddick,
Gibson,	Corby,
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),	Tupper (Sir Charles),
MacPherson,	Rosamond,
Charlton,	Tisdale,
Snetsinger,	Reid,
Davis,	Hale,
Scriver,	McCormick,
Frost,	Klock,
Fenny,	Bennett,
Wood,	McNeill,
Fraser (Guysborough),	Monk,
Landerkin,	Poupore,
Lewis,	Robertson,
Hurley,	Craig,
Angers,	McIntosh,
Tolmie,	Montague,
Dobell,	Ferguson,
Sifton,	Maclean,
Talbot,	Kleppfer,
Brodeur,	Hughes,
Tarte,	Powell,
Fortin,	Chauvin,
Russell,	Borden (Halifax),
McGregor,	Seagram,
Maxwell,	Robinson,
Domville,	Kendry,
Dechêne.	Marcotte.

Mr. MARCOTTE. I ask that my name be struck off. I have just been reminded that I am paired with the hon. member for L'Islet (Mr. Dechêne).

Amendment negatived, motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into committee.

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). At this late hour, we do not propose to proceed with the resolutions. I, therefore, move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to, committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the First Minister what the order of business will be for this afternoon?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will take up Bills.

Mr. FOSTER. No supply?

The PRIME MINISTER. I think the whole time will be consumed with Bills; but, if not, of course we will take up supply.

Some hon. MEMBERS. What Bills?

The PRIME MINISTER. All the Bills on the Order paper.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 1.20 a.m. Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, May 4, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 148)—from the Senate—respecting the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

Bill (No. 149) respecting inscribed stock of Canada in the United Kingdom.—(Mr. Fielding.)

COLD STORAGE ON STEAMSHIPS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier (for the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Fisher), moved that on Tuesday next the House resolve itself into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to enter into contracts with H. & A. Allan and Robert Redford & Co., to provide cold storage on steamships from Montreal to the United Kingdom, during the seasons of 1900 and 1901, on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council deems expedient, the sum to be paid for such cold storage not to exceed \$28,750 in one year.

Motion agreed to.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are taken up, I want again to raise my voice with reference to these returns. I have not yet got from the Minister of Railways and Canals the emendations of return No. 74, the defects in which I have now three times explained in the House. I got yesterday what purports to be a return showing all regulations passed with respect to the sale of liquor in the military canteens since 1890, denoting those now in force, and all correspondence with the Militia Department, or any of its offices, since 1896, in relation to the carrying out of the existing regulations at the military camps. There is almost absolutely no correspondence except simply the official correspondence, and I know that there are pages and pages and pages of it, and the minister alluded to it in the House last session in part. So that, this return is of no use at all for the purposes for which it was intended.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I will find out if there are any other letters.

Mr. FOSTER. I intended to ask the Prime Minister, and I think I did—I may be mistaken—not only for the petitions with reference to representation in the Yukon Territory, but for the correspondence. Only the petitions have been brought down.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My impression is that I brought down

everything there was in the Privy Council, but I will look into it again.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). What return does the hon. gentleman allude to when he speaks of No. 74?

Mr. **FOSTER**. It was brought down on March 20, 1900. It was about tenders and agreements for the supply of steel rails.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman will find that the return is absolutely complete, and an entire compliance with his motion.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I have already made my reference to it.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I brought the attention of my department to it, and they tell me unhesitatingly that it is a full return.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What I asked for was: 'Detailing quantities and price, dates, places of delivering and quantities delivered from July 1, 1896, to date.'

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. That is all there.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What I cannot find in this return is the dates and several quantities which were delivered. I find the whole quantity delivered.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman did not move for any return of the several quantities or the several dates of their delivery. He asked for the date when delivery was to be made; he has got that. He asked for the quantities delivered; he has got that in the whole. If he wants any more detailed return, let him move for it, and I will furnish it; but, he cannot complain that the return is not complete, for it is.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I do not think that that can be called an answer by the hon. minister, simply bringing down the gross sum delivered, because the delivery of rails took place from time to time, and I want the date of these deliveries and the weight of the rails delivered at each date.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Then the hon. gentleman ought to have asked for it.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I did.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I beg your pardon.

Mr. **FOSTER**. There is not the least doubt about that.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. There is not the least doubt that the hon. gentleman did not.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The hon. minister's appreciation of it may be little more keen than he now gives the House to think it is. Then I asked for a return giving the cor-

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respondence relating to the admission of the United States to coasting privileges on Canadian lakes in 1899. I am certain that all the representations made by the board of trade in Toronto, and the shipping interests and various other bodies, must be in the department, and none of those have been brought down.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I know what my hon. friend means, and they will be brought down.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I want the correspondence as well as the petition. I would like the attention of the hon. Postmaster General for a minute. I asked for correspondence relating to the mail service between Woodhall Cape and Woodhall, but it should have been Hillsborough. The error is mine. If my hon. friend will take that as the order of the House and bring down the correspondence, I would be much obliged.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). Certainly.

Mr. **DAVIN**. I hope the right hon. gentleman will not think me too persistent, but I would like to remind him of a return which is now the last of mine—

The **PRIME MINISTER**. About tea?

Mr. **DAVIN**. Yes.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. It is being looked after.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. **NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN** (West Assiniboia). There is a small matter of privilege, to which I wish to refer. I saw in the *Citizen* this morning, the following report of what took place at the Public Accounts Committee:

Mr. Gordon, formerly connected with the government, explained the circumstances under which an advance was made on account of the printing of laws. Mr. Davin asked for an advance before the work was completed, and it was made.

I am quite sure that this is a mistake in the report, and am perfectly certain that Mr. Borden could not have said it. It is not a matter of any importance to the essence of the question inquired into, but the fact is that Mr. Davin did not ask for any advance.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—CANADIANS DEAD AND WOUNDED.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I desire to read two telegrams received from South Africa:

(Sir Alfred Milner to Lord Minto.)

Cape Town, May 2, 1900.

7165, Pte. H. Barr, Royal Canadian Regiment, died of enteric fever, April 30, Bloemfontein, and 255, Gunner E. Picot, 'D' Battery, Canadian Artillery, died of enteric fever at DeAar to-day.

(Sd.) **MILNER.**

88447.

(From O. C. Militia to Deputy Minister.)

Headquarters, May 4, 1900.

The O. C. the Second (special service) Batt., R.C.R., reports this day from Bloemfontein the death on the 2nd instant of No. 7068, Pte. B. Liston, 90th Winnipeg Rifles.

(Sd.) M. AYLNER, Colonel,
Commanding Militia.

I. C. R.—SYDNEY BOARD OF TRADE REPRESENTATIONS.

Mr. H. F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways, whether he has received, within the last few days, a communication from the Board of Trade of Sydney, on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Yes, within the last two days.

Mr. McDOUGALL. May I ask whether the hon. gentleman has matured any plan for proceeding to carry out the request of the board of trade?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have told the hon. gentleman that plans have been in process of maturing for a long time.

Mr. McDOUGALL. The people are suffering for a long time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not think it would be possible to mature plans on so large a subject at once. We are maturing them from time to time, and are making progress from time to time, and I think that matters are progressing very favourably towards satisfactory arrangements in the interests of the trade and business of that locality.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. A. MARTIN (East Queen's). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to remind the hon. Minister of Railways, that an order of the House was passed on February 7, for copies and specifications, plans and tenders received, and contracts entered into by the government, relating to the construction of ten miles of railway known as the Belfast and Murray Harbour Railway, in the province of Prince Edward Island. Also on February 7, an order of the House was passed, for copies of all correspondence, telegrams, memorandums and all papers in the hands of the government, or any member, or official thereof, relating to the admission of Newfoundland into the confederation of Canada. Also for copies of all correspondence, specifications, plans, tenders received, and contract, or contracts entered into by or on behalf of, the government, relating to the straightening of about two miles of the Prince Edward Island Railway, at Colwell?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The papers the hon. gentleman refers to in his first question, were received yesterday or the day before, and will be ready on Monday, without doubt.

CONDITIONAL LIBERATION OF PENITENTIARY CONVICTS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 89), from the Senate, to amend an Act to provide for the conditional liberation of penitentiary convicts. He said: In moving the third reading of this Bill, I will endeavour to give to the House certain information asked of me when the Bill was last before us. I was asked to give information upon two subjects. The first was as to the particular procedure followed by the Department of Justice in the granting of this ticket of leave. I am informed by the Department of Justice that the procedure adopted by them is as follows: When a petition is received for the pardoning of a convict or the granting of a ticket of leave, the matter is referred at once to the warden of the penitentiary and afterwards to the judge who tried the case. The warden of the penitentiary is asked to report the following particulars as to the prisoner—name of judge who tried the convict, and the date and place of trial; the crime committed; the sentence; the convict's age; a report as to the conduct of the convict and the remission he has earned; report as to illness in cases where illness is given as a reason for pardon; previous conviction, if any. Upon the receipt of this information, all the papers, including the warden's report, are sent to the convicting judge, who gives a full report upon the case, giving the details of the crime and any special reason why the particular sentence passed was imposed. When the minister has received this information from the warden and from the judge, he reaches his own conclusion whether or not the petition should be granted or whether it should be granted in modified form, for instance—if release is asked, whether it should be a release entirely or release upon ticket of leave. The minister having made his report, it is sent to the Governor General for his approbation.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the same procedure followed in provincial institutions?

The PRIME MINISTER. I was about to come to that. The next question I was asked, was whether the pardoning power resided in the provincial or the Dominion authorities. I think my hon. friend from South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) put that question. The information I have from the Department of Justice is that the pardon for all offences against the criminal law undoubtedly lies with the Governor General, that is, with the Dominion authorities; but that the pardon for all offences against provincial statutes rests with the Lieutenant Governor,

that is, with the provincial authorities. In no case do we pretend to interfere with a sentence imposed for offences committed against provincial law; we deal only with offences against Dominion law. Now, there are certain classes of offences which, though they are formally known as felonies, are not always punished by a penitentiary sentence. Some convicts may be sent to prisons, or even to reformatories; but it is only with the classes of offences that come under the Criminal Code that we deal and no others. Now, an account of the manner in which the Act has so far been administered has been furnished me by the Minister of Justice. There have been received altogether 202 applications for ticket of leave, most of them being applications for clemency with a request for ticket of leave as an alternative in case unconditional pardon were refused. Thirty licenses, or tickets of leave, have been granted out of 202 applications, have been issued since the Act went into operation, three of which have been revoked, because the holders failed to observe the conditions as to reporting to the police authorities. No tickets of leave have been issued to persons previously convicted, and only where the convict's conduct in the penitentiary has been reported 'very good.'

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). May I ask the right hon. Premier if there is any time for which a prisoner must be incarcerated before an application for ticket of leave would be considered. Or, would it be proper at any time—say immediately after sentence?

The PRIME MINISTER. I could not give information on this point without referring to the Act, which I have not, at the moment, before me.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.

N. W. REBELLION—LAND GRANTS TO MEMBERS OF MILITIA FORCE.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved the second reading of Bill (No. 107) to make further provision respecting grants of land to members of the militia force on active service in the North-west.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Before this motion is carried, I wish to say a word or two. I am very glad that my hon. friend the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) has brought forward this measure, because there are certain parties in the west who were and are entitled, in respect of their services, to the benefits of the legislation, the benevolent and grateful legislation referred to in this Act, but who have allowed the time within which they could have availed themselves of them to pass; and I think it is quite fitting and right that this parliament should give these people an opportunity, within a reasonable time, to avail themselves of the privileges

provided for in the existing law. I cordially support the measure.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) is quite right. Though the time has been extended, from time to time, within which the parties entitled to land under this Act should apply for it, it is discovered that there are a few warrants which have been located, and it is thought fitting to extend the time for another year, so that parties holding these warrants may take advantage of the Act.

Mr. GEORGE E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). This may be very clear to my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) and to the acting minister, but I must confess it is Greek to me—

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I shall be glad to explain to my hon. friend (Mr. Foster). As no explanation was asked, I thought the matter was generally understood. By chapter 73 of the statutes of 1885, with which every member of the House is probably familiar, grants of land were authorized to members of the militia force who took an active part in the suppression of the North-west rebellion. This land was granted by the Minister of the Interior on a warrant issued by the Militia Department. The time within which the land might be located, I believe, was first fixed at the 31st of December, 1886. From time to time it has been found that parties who were entitled to these warrants, and to whom they had been granted, had not found it convenient to locate the lands to which they were entitled. As I have already stated, it is still found that a few of these warrants are in existence, and the parties intimated that they wished to avail themselves of their right to locate the land. It is thought desirable that this privilege should be granted during the current year.

Mr. FOSTER. How many of these warrants have been issued already, or how many of the holders of them have located land, and what quantity of land have they taken.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am unable to inform my hon. friend as to how many have taken advantage of locating lands to whom warrants have been granted, but I would be pleased to make inquiry from the department.

Mr. FOSTER. How much land was granted to them?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Two sections, I think, originally under the Act.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible now to take this advantage?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The report says a few warrants, it does not give the number. The time has been extended from 1886 to the end of 1899, and this is extending it for the current year, on information from the

department that there are still a few warrants in existence.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time, considered in committee, and reported.

GAS INSPECTION.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 78) to amend the Gas Inspection Act. He said: As the law now stands, every undertaker, that is every man who furnishes gas, is bound to keep the public informed of the purity of the gas supplied by him. It is stated here how many times and at what periods the certificate showing the degree of purity must be posted up, and this is in proportion to the number of meters. It would tend to the security of the public if the analyses were more frequently made, and would tend to secure greater purity in gas. The main object is simply to increase the number of times when these analyses are to be made and the certificates are to be given.

Mr. FOSTER. Has there been an abuse?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No, only we find that it is desirable to keep the public *au fait* of the quality of the gas, and to keep posted up in the office of the company the number of analyses that have been made. As the law stands now a gas factory having 4,000 consumers has to procure a certificate once a week; we leave that to stand as it is. Factories having less than 4,000 and more than 3,000 meters, have to procure certificates once in two weeks; and those having less than three and more than 2,000 meters, once a month, and we propose to change that and make it once in two weeks, with the object of increasing the security of the public by ascertaining more often the degree of purity of the gas. It will not increase in any way the expense.

Mr. FOSTER. I want a little more light on this subject. What do these men who take care of dead bodies use so much gas for.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. They are not members of parliament.

Mr. FOSTER. I know, but what is the difficulty? There is something opened up here that I do not understand.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not like that word 'undertaker,' but I find it in the old law, passed so many years ago that I can scarcely be answerable for it. It refers to the gas company who undertakes to enlighten the public.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to have the definition of 'undertaker.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There are so many different kinds of undertakers, that I do not know how to define them. This one means a gas company.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the interpretation clause, what is the definition of 'undertaker'?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. 'Undertaker' means any company or person undertaking to furnish gas to any other person. I have followed the excellent advice my hon. friend gave some time ago, and that is, as we have so often to amend our different departmental Acts, to recite the whole clause again instead of merely putting in a word here and there. I have taken out the whole of that clause 36 in the old Act, and have replaced it as now amended in this. But there is one slight correction that has to be made in the Bill as we have introduced it. The Bill says that undertakers having less than 4,000 and more than 3,000 meters shall have an inspection once in two weeks. Those words 'less than' ought not to be there, because it does not provide for those who have 4,000. I want to strike out those words 'less than' whenever they occur.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Will the hon. minister please explain what benefit it is to the general public that the quality of the gas shall be published in the gas company's office?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is merely a detail putting it up in the gas company's office. We want to have the analyses more frequent and the result published, that is all.

Mr. HAGGART. If the gas company are supplying a bad quality of gas, if it is sulphuretted, or anything else, does the hon. minister take precautions, on behalf of the general public, to see that the gas company furnish a better quality of gas?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We make an analyses of the quality of the gas for the protection of those who make use of the gas.

Mr. HAGGART. If it is only published in the gas company's office, the users of gas will never know what the result is.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We cannot send around to every one of the shareholders of the gas company a statement of the quality of the gas. If they are willing to take the trouble they can go to the gas company's office and see the statement.

Mr. HAGGART. It is not the shareholders that I am concerned about, but the general public who use gas.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I mean the consumers.

Mr. HAGGART. There should be some way in which the public could have notice

as to the quality of the material that is being supplied to them other than by putting it up in the gas company's office.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I want to ask a question in regard to these certificates. I see that they are to be procured from the inspector according to the number of meters. Is there a fee attached?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It will not increase, in any way the cost, because the present Act allows the Governor General in Council to fix the fees, and of course, they will be reduced so as not to increase the present cost.

Mr. BRITTON. Another question. Are these inspectors paid by fees according to their services or are they paid salaries?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. They are paid salaries.

Mr. McMILLAN. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue what is the law in regard to the inspection of electric light.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We have an inspector of electric light who inspects electric meters, but I am not prepared to say that the same precautions will be taken in regard to electric light as those that were taken so many years ago in regard to gas light. In 1886 the Act that I am amending now was passed. In those days the use of electric light had not become as general as it is now. I am not able to say that the companies furnishing electric light post up such a notice as is to be put up in the gas companies' offices, but, we have inspectors of electric light who inspect in the same manner as gas is inspected.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

GENERAL INSPECTION ACT—GRADE FOR FLAX SEED.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 79) to amend the General Inspection Act, so as to provide a grade for flax seed. He said: The production of flax seed in Manitoba has so considerably increased, and has assumed such proportions that the establishment of standard grades has become a necessity. I have here a report of the Board of Trade of Winnipeg which recommends strongly the establishment of these standard grades, giving, at the same time, details which we have adopted in the Bill. Last year, I may say, over 300,000 bushels of flax seed were purchased in the province of Manitoba. The Bill contains the recommendations that have been made by the Board of Trade of Winnipeg.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time; and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

Mr. HAGGART.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. By looking over the recommendations of the Board of Trade of Winnipeg, I find that we have to add a few words to the Bill as it has been prepared, and, Mr. Chairman, I now hand the Bill to you with these few words added. I would ask that the words 'not less than fifty-three pounds' be inserted in the eleventh line of section one.

Mr. HAGGART. How many pounds to the bushel are necessary for the first quality?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Fifty-three pounds.

Mr. HAGGART. And the second quality?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Fifty pounds.

Section, as amended, agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved second reading of Bill (No. 110) to amend the Weights and Measures Act.

He said: I draw the special attention of hon. gentlemen to this Bill. Previous to the last session of parliament there was some uncertainty as to the exact size of apple barrels, and a Bill was passed here so as to remove doubt and fixing the exact size of the barrel. Since then, the legislature of New York State have passed a law fixing the standard apple barrel at a size much smaller than ours. I have received a number of petitions—some through the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden)—all from Nova Scotia, pointing out the difficulties which the apple-growers of that province labour under, in the circumstances. I conclude that the apple-growers in the other provinces have not been notified, and they, perhaps, may not know the change which is now proposed. In view of that, I propose to proceed no further than the second reading of this Bill until we obtain the opinions of the horticulturists and apple-growers of Quebec and Ontario. One of the numerous petitions which we have received from the apple-growers of Nova Scotia will show the nature of the complaint made. It says:

At a public meeting of farmers and fruit-growers of King's County, N.S., held at Kentville, on March 10, A.D. 1900, called to consider and discuss the question of a standard barrel, it was, upon consideration of the report of a committee appointed to investigate the matter, unanimously resolved as follows:

Whereas, the farmers and fruit-growers of this county are large producers of apples, potatoes

and other like products, which they export in competition with the state of New York and the New England states to the markets of Great Britain and the West Indies, and

Whereas, the National Fruit-Growers Association and the National League of Commission Merchants of the United States have adopted and agreed to use only a standard barrel of a capacity of 100 quarts, United States dry measure, which barrel has been legalized in the state of New York and adopted in the New England states, and

Whereas, the apple barrel legalized during last session of parliament is of a larger capacity by seven quarts than the barrel now in use by our competitors, a circumstance which we look upon with much apprehension and alarm, because it will entail an annual loss of from \$30,000 to \$40,000 on apple products alone to the farmers of this county.

They ask that our standard apple barrel be made similar in size to the legal standard in New York and the northern states. The United States apple barrel contains seven quarts less than our legal standard barrel, and the growers of Nova Scotia have naturally come to the conclusion that when they come into competition with the American apples in England that they will not get a higher price for their larger barrel. The matter is worthy of the consideration of the apple growers in Ontario and Quebec, and I would, therefore, not propose to make a change in the law until we hear from them what their opinions are.

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). Last year I brought before the House a short Bill with respect to the sale of eggs, and I would ask the minister to incorporate it this year in his amendment to the Weights and Measures Act. My Bill is very short and simply proposes:

Between the buyer and the seller eggs shall be sold by weight and the weight equivalent of a dozen shall be one pound and one-half.

The egg industry is growing steadily, and there is often friction between buyers and sellers living at a distance in Canada, and also between sellers in Canada and buyers in the old country in respect to transactions in eggs. In England the standard weight for a dozen of eggs is one and a half pounds to the dozen, but in Canada we have no standard. This Bill is not intended to interfere with local sales, although, perhaps, if it did it would be all the better. I quote the following article from the *Montreal Witness*, which, I believe, expresses the general feeling prevailing throughout the country:

Selling Eggs by Weight.

Mr. John McMillan, M.P., has introduced a Bill into the Dominion parliament to provide that eggs shall be sold by weight and not by count. The object of this measure is to regulate the trade in eggs between Canada and Great Britain. As it is, contracts are frequently made on a large scale at so much per dozen. Under the present plan there is no encouragement to the farmer to keep hens which lay large eggs.

Large eggs are certainly worth more money than small ones, and the man who produces them should get more money for them. The defect in Mr. McMillan's Bill is that it does not apply to the local trade in eggs in Canada. This should be corrected before the Bill passes, which no doubt it will. Nothing would so directly tend to the improvement of poultry as a law of this kind. Mongrel and ill-bred fowls cannot lay eggs of respectable size. So long as it does not matter whether eggs are large or small, indifference will prevail as to the breeding of superior poultry. But once have a law applicable both to the home and foreign trade, and farmers will at once begin to inquire for the breeds of hens that lay large eggs. Poultry men and poultry societies should use all their influence to get a law of this kind passed. It is not only essentially just, but will tend to promote the interests of all.

I was somewhat unwilling that this Bill should apply to local buyers and sellers, and I thought, perhaps the change would be too much to make at once, but I must say that I have found no objections in the country to the Bill being extended so as to include all transactions in eggs. In the interests of the egg trade, it is, in my opinion, well that we should have an egg standard between buyers and sellers living at a distance in Canada, as well as between buyers and sellers in Canada and England. I think we should have a standard in this country to correspond with the English standard, and I ask the minister to incorporate this amendment in Bill No. 110, as it will save the trouble of passing two Bills.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There are three different Bills that have been introduced for the purpose of amending the Weights and Measures Act. This one of them, refers to the weight of eggs; another refers to the size of fish barrels; and the third refers to the packing of fish. When we go into committee on this Bill, the hon. gentlemen who have those Bills in charge, might introduce them as amendments, and they could then be considered in all their details. Therefore, I would ask that the Bill be now allowed to pass its second reading, and I would postpone the committee stage, in order to give time to all parties interested, to study the whole question.

Mr. JAMES GILMOUR (East Middlesex). I would like the hon. minister to explain what is meant by the words, 'all apples packed?' Does the word 'packed' mean that the apples are to be headed and pressed, or does it mean apples laid in a barrel for the purpose of being carried to market? Then, I would like to have it explained whether the dimensions proposed for the new barrel, are the same as those of the apple barrel commonly used in Ontario, or the same as the flour barrel, because there is a variation between the two?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is why I thought it my duty not to

take any one by surprise, but to notify the Ontario and Quebec fruit-growers that the size of the barrel would be smaller than the size of the apple barrel now employed. As to the word 'packed,' I thought it was one of those words that every one understood. The action of packing apples, is putting them in a barrel with such care as every honest man, who wants to give good measure, would exercise.

Mr. GILMOUR. I understood the word 'packed' to mean that the apples are headed and pressed down; but I do not know how a judge might construe it.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We are changing our ground completely. I know what complaints have been made, and justly, as to the mode of packing apples. It threatens the good name and reputation of our fruits abroad; but this is a different branch of the case altogether. The Bill merely deals with the size of the barrels. My hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), has introduced a Bill which goes much further than mine, dealing with the mode in which apples are packed.

Mr. SPEAKER. We are really doing committee work at the present moment. I wish the House to understand that.

Mr. TISDALE. We want to understand what is meant by a packed apple, so as to be able to make inquiries.

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps it would be better for the House to go into committee, and then, instead of reporting the Bill, rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Before the motion is passed, I would like the minister to explain why he is altering the size of the barrel. My object in asking that question is that I may inquire of some of my constituents who are largely interested in this Bill whether that is a desirable change or not.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I suppose I did not express myself very clearly when I explained a moment ago that the Bill was the result of numerous petitions received from the apple-growers of Nova Scotia, one of which I have read to the House. They discovered that last year the New York State legislature passed a law, which has been adopted by the northern states, fixing a certain size for the apple barrel, which is seven quarts smaller than the barrel used in Canada.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the object of making it smaller?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think it is due to the attempt, not only

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

in regard to apples, but to everything else, to give as little as possible for as much money as possible. This did not originate with the people of Nova Scotia, for they were satisfied with the size of the standard barrel which has been in use for so many years; but when they heard that the people with whom they were in competition in England for the sale of apples were packing them in barrels seven quarts smaller than the barrels which they had been using, they naturally felt that they should not be placed at such a disadvantage. I think my hon. friend will admit that I have not in any way attempted to take the House by surprise, and that I have drawn the attention of the apple-growers of the other provinces to the fact that this will be a considerable change, and now it is a question whether they will adopt it or not.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). The hon. gentleman will see that this covers a great deal more ground than he intended. What he intended was to regulate the size and the quality of barrels for export, but by his Bill he is extending the same privileges to barrels of apples intended for home consumption. His Bill applies to all apples, whether for export or not. I would like to ask him if that is his intention?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It states apples for sale, and I think it is in the same terms as the present law.

Mr. J. B. MILLS (Annapolis). I take objection to the wording of section 18. We are dealing more particularly with barrels and not with apples, and therefore the barrel should be given more prominence than the apple. I would suggest that the clause should read this way: 'Barrels for the packing of apples should be strong and of seasoned wood, etc.' The principal thing to be considered by this Bill is the barrel and not the apples.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That is a mere detail.

Mr. D. TISDALE (South Norfolk). I understand that this Bill is intended to regulate the size as well as the quality of the barrel. The barrels are to be of a certain strength or quality of wood, but that is not the most important thing. The really important thing is the size of the barrel or the quantity of apples each barrel contains. That is very important, because from Ontario there are several hundred thousand barrels of apples shipped to England every year, and the number is increasing, and when we export to the same countries as the United States, the price, when we sell by the barrel, will be so much per barrel, and it is important that our barrels be of a uniform size, because we will not get a higher price if they are a little larger than others. I do not see much difficulty about the question whether the apples are for consumption at home or abroad.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, yes, there is.

Mr. TISDALE. I think not, because when apples are purchased for home consumption, the purchasers do not buy by the barrel, but by measure, and they estimate how many pecks or bushels are in the barrel before buying it. Packing is well understood among the packing men, but not by the general public. The packing men usually use a lever to press the apples down tight, and in such a case the size of the barrel might make quite a difference. My view is that we should deal with the question as a whole, because the people do not want to have two classes of barrels.

Mr. CLANCY. I understand that the object of the hon. minister is not to meet a difficulty at home but abroad, and the difficulty abroad is that other countries are exporting smaller barrels than we do. The hon. gentleman is endeavouring to protect Canadian interests in the foreign trade, but I wish to point out that he is also creating a difficulty at home and imposing an unnecessary burden in the case of apples put in barrels for home consumption.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). The Bill is intended to protect the buyers of apples, and is applicable to all apples packed in Canada for sale by the barrel. As I understand the matter, the hon. minister is not going to press the Bill to-day, and is asking for suggestions, and my suggestion is one that properly should be made in the committee stage. All lawyers are anxious not to have too many statutes on the one subject. We have this Bill before the committee to-day, and the hon. Minister of Agriculture has another Bill, No. 127, which deals with the inspection of apples. I can hardly see why those two Bills should not be embodied in one, and thus save a little looking up when we have to go into the subject. I also would call attention to the wording of subsection 3. I have not looked to see whether this is the same wording as in the Act which this pretends to amend, but it seems to me that this must be a wrong wording when it provides that when potatoes are sold by weight, the weight equivalent to a barrel shall be 174 pounds. If potatoes are sold by weight, no difficulty arises. But, if they are sold by the barrel, it is right to provide that the barrel shall be not less than a certain size or measure. This is for the protection of the buyer, and it is only necessary to provide that a barrel shall not be of less than certain dimensions, for, if the packers care to give more that is their business, and the buyer is not injured.

Mr. MILLS. As I understand the matter, the minister does not intend to put this through the committee stage to-day, but will leave it over for future consideration. In view of that, I desire to give notice that when it does come before the committee for

final consideration, I shall move that subsection 2 shall read as follows, instead of as it appears in the Bill :

When pears, quinces or potatoes are sold by the barrel, such barrel shall be of dimensions specified in this Act, and shall be held to represent a quantity equal to ninety-six quarts, or three bushels.

Then, so far as the penalty clause is concerned, I shall move that another subsection, No. 4 be added, as follows :

Every person who makes, offers or exposes for sale, or who packs for exportation apples, pears, quinces or potatoes by the barrel otherwise than in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of 25 cents for each barrel of apples, pears, quinces, or potatoes so made, offered or exposed for sale or packed.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have an amendment that I intend to introduce covering one point referred to by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills). As to the other, I would ask him to let me have a copy of the amendment, that I may consider it.

Mr. MILLS. I only submit this as a notice of my intention to move it when the matter comes up for further consideration.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Time must be allowed for the consideration of this Bill. No doubt, if the matter were pushed forward now, many hon. members would be taken by surprise.

The PRIME MINISTER. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) give us the reasons for the amendments he proposes ?

Mr. MILLS. So far as the penalty clause is concerned, my object is to make the cooper as well as the packer subject to the penalty. As to the other point, with reference to the weight, my object is that there shall be no quibbling with reference to a barrel of potatoes or whatever it may be—that it must be of a certain weight as well as of a certain measurement. This is absolutely necessary, in order to meet the competition that the Canadian farmers are experiencing from the farmers of the New England states.

Mr. CLANCY. But a barrel is not always of the same weight, and, in that case, you cannot decide the weight of the contents without weighing the package.

Mr. QUINN. Not necessarily.

Mr. TISDALE. My hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Mills) should make some inquiries, I think, about the differences in dealing in potatoes and in fruit. Potatoes go by weight, but fruit does not. I happen to live in a district that deals largely in both, and I have bought and sold a great many of them for use, not so largely for family use, though I am Irish enough to want a good potato. Potatoes are valued by weight, but the size often affects the

value of apples more than the weight. I agree with the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue that the weight of a potato is the standard.

Mr. McMILLAN. Do I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) to mean that there are to be three bushels of apples in a barrel?

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mr. McMILLAN. That increases the size of the present barrel, instead of reducing it. I would say, as one who has purchased apples and shipped them to the old country, that I think that whatever standard is made for a barrel, it should be made alike for both home and foreign trade. When buyers purchase apples they purchase on speculation, and can hardly tell whether those apples are to be sent to England, to the North-west, or to the United States. Different sizes of barrels, would, therefore, only cause confusion.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) This clause may affect the province of Prince Edward Island very considerably, and should receive a good deal of consideration on the part of the minister. The potato trade of the province is carried on at present on the basis of a barrel measuring five half-bushels and a gallon, a cylindrical measure. I trust that nothing will be done that will affect that standard barrel which is in general use there. With respect to apples, I think it would be better to have a certain standard barrel, as we have in the case of a flour barrel. Everybody knows what the weight of flour in a flour barrel is supposed to be, and an apple barrel can be made in the same way, so that it can sell for a certain weight.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I am sorry to be obliged to differ from my hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald, King's) as to the weight of a barrel of apples, because different kind of apples weigh very differently. I feel satisfied that a bushel of 'Duchess' apples, for example, would not weigh nearly so heavy as a bushel of 'Northern Spys.' A barrel of early apples would be found, as a rule, to weigh lighter than a barrel of winter apples. The size of the apples also would affect the weight, because the larger, the less closely they would pack. I am afraid my hon. friend's idea would not do for selling apples.

Mr. McMILLAN. That is just what I was going to mention. There is a good deal of difference in the weight of the same bulk of various kinds of apples. In case of the Snows, the Baldwins or the Northern Spys, you will find ten or fifteen pounds difference in the weight of a barrel of apples of the same size. If we were to have all the barrels of the same weight, we would have to have barrels of different dimensions. The

Mr. TISDALE.

size of the barrel is what should regulate the sale of apples.

Mr. WALLACE. Do we understand that a flour barrel contains 100 quarts?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The American barrel, which is the one the Nova Scotia people are asking us to adopt, contains 100 American quarts, and is smaller than our standard barrel by seven quarts.

Mr. WALLACE. The minister says that the proposed barrel is ninety-three quarts, that it is seven quarts smaller than the flour barrel which has been the one in use so far for apples. He says the flour barrel contains 100 quarts.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am not ready to say exactly how much an apple barrel contains; but the American barrel, which the Nova Scotia people are asking us to adopt, contains 100 United States quarts.

Mr. WALLACE. I am simply saying that our Canadian flour barrel does not contain 100 quarts. That would be twelve pecks and one gallon. Now, a Canadian apple barrel has not that capacity. The usual estimate, I think, is eleven pecks.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is larger than the American barrel, at all events.

Mr. HENDERSON. I would like to draw the minister's attention to a matter which I think of some importance. No doubt throughout the country the material for making barrels has already been cut and prepared; in all probability the barrel makers and coopers have their headings cut for the old sized barrel. Now, in the event of this Bill coming into operation at once, there would result a tremendous loss to the men who make barrels, which I think should be guarded against. Besides, it might be impossible for these men to get the material to make barrels of the new capacity. I think, perhaps, the minister should defer putting this Bill into operation for another year.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That is what we did with the Bill we proposed last year. We gave a whole year before putting it into operation. Now that hon. members have understood the different proposals made and the difficulties that may arise, I would ask the committee to think it over, and I move now that the committee rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. MILLS. I hope the hon. minister will give us notice when he brings the Bill up again.

Motion agreed to; committee rose, and reported progress.

REPORT.

List of shareholders of the Chartered Banks of the Dominion of Canada for the year ending December 31, 1899.—(Mr. Fielding.)

INSPECTION OF FOREIGN GRAIN.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 142) respecting the inspection of foreign grain.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the inspection law provides only for the inspection of articles of Canadian produce, and, as is well known, from some of our shipping ports an enormous amount of American Indian corn is shipped, especially from the port of Montreal. This Bill is introduced to authorize the inspection of that grain, and provision is made for the purpose of the issue of a certificate of inspection showing that it is not Canadian grain, but that it is foreign grain. We have thought that it might be wise to take that precaution. For some years past that Indian corn was being inspected, and in many cases the inspector omitted to mention that it was foreign grain, so that there was a certain amount that might have passed as Canadian grain. While the intention of the Bill is not to interfere in any way with shipments of foreign grain from the port of Montreal and other sea ports, and while it is intended to give satisfaction to the people on the other side, who rest contented with our official inspection, we want, at the same time, to make Canadian people and the people on the other side acquainted with the fact that the grain is grown in the United States, that it is not Canadian grain. That is why this exception to the General Inspection Act, which now only deals with the produce of the country, is made.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the inspection apply to all the ports at which grain is shipped?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) if the Bill, in its present form, meets with the approval of the Board of Trade and Corn Exchange Association of Montreal? I do so because I formed one of a deputation that waited on the minister about a month ago, referring to this very subject. The difficulty at that time was that the European merchants refused to accept the inspection of the Canadian inspectors, alleging that these inspectors had no authority to inspect American grain here. Unless that difficulty is covered by the present Bill which the hon. minister is asking the House to pass, I am afraid it will have very little effect. I would simply

like to ask him if this Bill has been submitted to the Corn Exchange Association, and if it is satisfactory to the members of the association?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend (Mr. Quinn) was present at a meeting which took place with the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Since then, I have had repeated interviews with Mr. Hadrill, the secretary of the Montreal Board of Trade and Corn Exchange Association, and we have had correspondence with him, which ultimately resulted in our framing this Bill, which gives such complete satisfaction to the Montreal Board of Trade and Corn Exchange Association. I will take the opportunity of satisfying my hon. friend and the House by reading a letter—

Mr. QUINN. It is quite satisfactory.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is from Mr. Hadrill, the secretary of the Montreal Corn Exchange Association. It is as follows:

Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of yesterday's date communicating form of amendment of General Inspection Act specifically providing for the inspection of United States grain, and am to say that the committee of management of this association approves of the same, and prays that it may become law at the earliest possible date. I am to add an expression of the committee's gratification that the hon. minister—

And then there are a certain amount of compliments which we are not accustomed to receive in cases of this kind, and I do not think I need read what follows to the House. But, my hon. friend sees that this Bill gives complete satisfaction to the Montreal grain trade, and at the same time, as is mentioned in the letter, it is important that it should be passed as soon as possible.

Mr. QUINN. Yes, yes; I understand that.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I understand so well the importance of it that I have taken upon myself to write to the Corn Exchange to tell them that the Bill was now before the House, and that I had every hope that it would be passed unanimously. In the meantime, I took upon myself to instruct the inspector to inspect and to give certificates according to the tenor of the Bill.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Will this Bill apply to grain that is passing in transitu from the United States to a port in Great Britain?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Mr. HAGGART. Well, it seems strange. The certificate of inspection is attached to the security for the money that is advanced as well as the bill of lading and the bill

of insurance. Are you going to alter the certificate of inspection that is attached to it, or does the Bill give you power to change it because it is only passing in transitu through Canada? It surely only applies to grain which is not inspected, or is not in transitu from one foreign port to another.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It only applies to American grain.

Mr. HAGGART. But the American grain is shipped from Chicago.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is shipped to Montreal.

Mr. HAGGART. Suppose it is shipped to Liverpool?

Mr. QUINN. It does not apply to that.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No such shipping is done at our Canadian ports. It is bound to be placed in the elevators and inspected, either at Montreal, or St. John, or Halifax. I will read the Bill to my hon. friend. It is as follows:

1. Inspectors of grain shall, when required, inspect grain of United States produce passing through Canada in transit to Great Britain or to a foreign country, and shall grant certificates therefor based on standard samples of such grain furnished the said inspectors by the Department of Inland Revenue; and the said standards shall be established by the board of examiners of the board of trade for the district wherein such inspection takes place, and shall be known as the standards for United States grain of the said district.

2. Every certificate relating to such grain shall state that it is of United States production, and that the grade mentioned is that of the board of examiners of the board of trade of the district wherein the inspection takes place.

3. The fees for the inspection of such grain shall be the same as provided by the General Inspection Act, chapter 99 of the Revised Statutes, with respect to grain of Canadian produce.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would like to explain to my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) that this legislation is introduced at the special request of the Chicago shippers. They have been in the habit, in the past, of having a voluntary certificate given by our inspector at Montreal, to which it was discovered there was no legal value at all, but, they attached great importance to having their grain inspected and covered by our inspection. So, there was some question whether or not we had power to authorize a compulsory inspection of foreign produce, and in order to obviate that we agreed to introduce this legislation at their request, providing that, upon their own demand, they will have the grain inspected by our inspectors at the port of Montreal, and then they can show that certificate in the European markets, and it will serve the purpose they require. This is the object of the Bill. It is done at their own request.

Mr. HAGGART.

Mr. HAGGART. I can understand it if it is at their own request that it is done, but ninety-nine hundredths of the grain shipped from Chicago is shipped with a certificate of inspection, a bill of lading and an insurance ticket, and that is what is attached to the security for the money which is advanced for the purpose of buying the grain and carrying it to a foreign port. I could not understand the object of another inspection, unless it was at the request of the shipper, or the party who had the security on the grain going over. It may be because our certificate of inspection bears a higher value than the certificate of Chicago.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is really the case.

Mr. SPROULE. This would only apply to grain in transit through Canada?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time; considered in committee, and reported.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. BRITTON. It is perfectly clear that the first section simply empowers us to appoint an inspector who is a government official, and who shall make an inspection when required. But it does not say by whom he is to be required. I assume it is by the owners of the grain. If the words 'when required' do not demand any further qualification then, of course, the Bill is all right.

Mr. TAYLOR. The purchaser of the grain should have just as good a right as the seller to demand an inspection.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It means when it is required by the interested parties. Those who receive it in England attach as much importance to our certificate as the Chicago people; in fact they attach a very high value to our inspection.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 132) to amend the Railway Act.

Mr. HAGGART. Is it intended to send this Bill to the Railway Committee for consideration?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think not.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then explain.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. When the Bill was introduced

I explained its general purport, and if necessary, I will do so again. The first section contains two sub-clauses relating to street railways, and what you might describe as tramways. The object of the section is to withdraw certain street railways and tramways, which otherwise would be subject to the legislative control of the parliament of Canada, from such control, and to make them subject to the legislative control of the particular province in which they are situated.

Mr. WALLACE. Is that confined to street railways alone?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is confined to street railways and tramways. The area in which the particular railways referred to by this subsection are included is: all railways passing through or over Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, or through or over the property of the province of Ontario lying upon or along the Niagara River, and known as the Chain Reserve. This provision has been introduced at the suggestion of the Ontario government, which has been exercising legislative control over this particular area, and it is done in order to remove any question in regard to it, and to give them a free hand, except in regard to the reservations contained in the Bill. It will be observed that the clause, while it withdraws from the operation of the General Railway Act, and the control of the parliament of Canada over the railway, does not make that absolute and complete. It does so with certain exceptions which are mentioned. It specifies that the mere fact that the street railway or tramway crosses a line of railway (as is mentioned in the General Railway Act constitutes it a railway for the general advantage of Canada, and subject to our jurisdiction, because it crosses such line), does not of itself constitute it a railway subject to the control of the parliament of Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. Give us a practical instance of the effect of that?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The effect would be to enable the legislature of any province to legislate in respect to such electric street railways or tramways. Under the existing law all legislative control over them is removed entirely as soon as they cross any of the great trunk lines specified in the Railway Act—at least that is the interpretation which is placed upon the clause in the Railway Act which deals with the subject. It is not found very desirable in practical experience that these street railways should be regarded as works for the general advantage of Canada, and should be withdrawn from the legislative control of the provinces which are familiar with all the local and municipal conditions attending them. In common sense these are not

the works for the general advantage of Canada.

Mr. WALLACE. If the Confederation Act gives that power to the parliament of Canada, how can you change that?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The parliament of Canada has so enacted, but it has equal power to repeal such enactments, and say that such an Act will not constitute a railway for the general advantage of Canada, and will leave it within the legislative authority to which it otherwise belongs.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Will it interfere with the jurisdiction that this parliament has given to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council for regulating the mode or manner of crossing.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. No.

Mr. HAGGART. Then, there is another subject on which I suppose the hon. gentleman has obtained the opinion of the Department of Justice. When a railway is declared to be for the general advantage of Canada, can this parliament afterwards divest itself of that work and reinstate it under provincial jurisdiction?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Where parliament has made that specific declaration with respect to a certain work, there is a doubt whether the step which parliament has taken can be retraced; but I think there is not the same doubt in the minds of the Justice Department where parliament is seized of jurisdiction by virtue of any implication from its own legislation. The next section of the Bill deals with the building of stations by a railway company incorporated by an Act of this parliament or which has received assistance by way of subsidy from parliament. A railway, the company to build which was incorporated by an Act of one of the provincial legislatures, would not be subject to this provision unless it had received a subsidy from parliament. One or the other of those conditions must exist in order that this clause of the Act shall apply; and this clause is framed for the purpose of enabling the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, on being appealed to by the people of any locality in which a railway is being constructed, to require the location of a station at some particular point.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Not merely if the railway is under the jurisdiction of the parliament of Canada, unless, in addition to that, the parliament of Canada grants it a subsidy.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. This clause would give to the Railway Committee the power to require the location of a station at any point by a rail-

way company which got its charter from this parliament, quite irrespective of whether or not any subsidy had been voted to it by parliament.

Mr. WALLACE. Where is that in the clause ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It was meant to be in the clause.

Mr. WALLACE. I would like to call the attention of the Minister of Railways to a case that came before the Railway Committee—that of the Boundary Creek Railway. It was not subsidized by money or land from the parliament of Canada; but the minister said it was intended to legislate for such a case. Does this clause apply to it, or does it not ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. My own impression was that it did. It was intended to do so. I think the word 'and' ought to be 'or.' This may be an oversight.

Mr. HAGGART. Does the hon. minister propose to impose this condition on a railway whether it gets a subsidy of land or money or not ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would like to know if this provision will apply to sections of existing lines, say in the province of Ontario, which have been incorporated into the Grand Trunk or the Canadian Pacific Railway. For instance, the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway was chartered by the Ontario legislature. I am not certain whether or not it ever got a subsidy from this parliament. The question is, would this clause enable the Governor in Council or the Railway Committee of the Privy Council to order that a station on that line should be reopened, if closed, or should be established at a point where there is no station ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. If the company originally incorporated to build that particular line was incorporated by the province, and did not receive any aid from the government of Canada, it would not be subject to this legislation.

Mr. McMULLEN. Although it is now owned by a company which received large subventions ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes, that would be my interpretation.

Mr. TISDALE. Has the hon. minister taken the opinion of the Justice Department as to whether we have any jurisdiction in this matter ? It looks to me a marvellous thing. It says :

2. In the case of a railway not subject to the legislative authority of the parliament of Can-

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ada, but subsidized in money or in land under the authority of an Act of that parliament, the payment and acceptance of such subsidy shall be taken to be subject to the covenant or condition (whether expressed or not in any agreement relating to such subsidy) that the company for the time being owning or operating such railway shall, when thereto directed by order of the Railway Committee, confirmed by the Governor in Council, erect, maintain and operate a station, with such accommodation or facilities in connection therewith as are defined by the committee, at such point or points on the railway as are designated in such order.

Surely, when we have no authority over a railway whatever, the whole jurisdiction being vested in the province, we have no right to pass legislation subjecting that railway to certain conditions.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman will see how inconvenient it is, with the Speaker in the Chair, to discuss the question in this way. I may answer the hon. gentleman by saying that the opinion of the department is just what he thinks it is not. The Bill was drawn by the Department of Justice and reached me with the opinion from that department to the effect that it would be unquestionably ultra vires the parliament of Canada to deal with railways created by a provincial legislature and which did not receive any aid from the Dominion government, but that when such companies had received Dominion aid, it was proper for this parliament to annex that condition to the grant.

Mr. SPROULE. Does this apply to all railways that have been subsidized in the past ? Is it to be retroactive ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The Bill does not profess to be limited in its application to railways that shall be hereafter built. It is very probable that very few cases will arise in which the jurisdiction of the Railway Committee will be invoked in the case of railways that have been in operation for some time.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). When the grants were given, they could have been given subject to conditions, but surely the hon. gentleman cannot make grants already given without conditions subject to the present legislation.

Mr. SPROULE. Would this Bill apply to railways which obtained a grant when no such law, as the one now proposed, was in force ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think that would be the effect of the measure, but we can discuss all these matters much more conveniently in committee.

Mr. WALLACE. Would it not be better to refer the Bill to the Railway Committee where it could be more thoroughly dealt with ?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think not; the conclusion we came to was that we would not refer this Bill to the Railway Committee.

Mr. **A. McNEILL** (North Bruce). The question is, whether we have any right at all to impose conditions upon railway companies which have received public grants in the past, either from the municipalities or from parliament. It seems to me that inasmuch as these companies have received these grants in order that they might be a benefit to the public, the fact that they did receive grants from the public funds of this country ought to make them amenable to reasonable laws passed by this House, and for my part I should be sorry to see a limitation imposed upon this measure which would deprive the Railway Committee of the power to deal with companies that have received public grants, and which the Railway Committee think are not employing the powers conferred upon them by the government in such a way as best to promote the public interest.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I had not completed my explanation of all the clauses, but it seems to me it would be better, unless the principle of the Bill is objected to, to let the measure go to the committee of the House and discuss the various clauses then.

Mr. **HAGGART**. No, we want to contest the general principle of the Bill.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The next clause I will refer to is that which relates to the establishment or the approval of a body of rules and regulations, regulating the operating of railways in this country. The House is aware that under the existing law the railway companies are required to submit their rules and regulations for the approval of the Governor in Council. The little experience I have had in the working of the department has convinced me that it is very desirable that these rules should be uniform and generally applicable to the railway system throughout the country. It is within the recollection of some hon. gentlemen opposite that more or less discussion has already taken place in this parliament with regard to the action of the Governor in Council in approving the rules and regulations which were submitted to them from time to time by different companies, and it has been contended that it is only reasonable that the railway employees have some opportunity of being heard. When these rules, which have already been dealt with by the present government, were submitted to the Railway Committee, I took some pains to obtain the opinion of the associations of employees of the different lines, but through some misconception on the part of the gentlemen who were representing these associations, they did not avail themselves of the opportunity

opened to them, and did not make their views known to the government, in consequence of which the rules were approved. The claim which the associated bodies connected with the railways have made to be heard in respect of these matters appears to me reasonable, and that is one reason why the present clause is found in this Bill. The other reason I have stated, namely, that it is exceedingly important that there should be uniformity with regard to these operating rules. It is important that they should, as far as possible, conform to the rules which govern the operation of railways upon the other side of the line. The trains are so interchangeable, they run between the two countries in such large numbers and so frequently, that it is desirable the same rules should be employed to govern the management of all the systems which make close connection between the two countries. It certainly is calculated to ensure greater safety in the running. When a man who is running an engine from some point in Canada across the border finds after he gets across the border that the same rules apply as applied before he reached the border, there is much less danger, at all events, of accident or mishaps occurring than if he were confronting a different system of rules after he got across the line. So that, all these considerations point, it appears to me, to the desirability of uniformity, to the desirability of being some authority which can, when necessity arises, impose its will definitely upon all the railways in the country and establish uniformity in the system.

Now, there is no ground upon which, it appears to me, any person could fear that this authority would be exercised in a manner likely, in the slightest degree, to be injurious to the railways, or in any way to jeopardize the interests of the public. We know very well, those of us who have any knowledge with regard to what these rules mean and what their working means, how essential it is to the safety of life and property that they should be carefully framed, and should be adopted only after the most mature consideration and reflection. Judgment and experience should govern in establishing them. We all fully recognize that. I cannot conceive that under any circumstances it is at all likely that this power would be exercised otherwise than in the most careful manner and after the most mature and thorough consideration. It is a power, it seems to me, that ought to be vested somewhere, and I know of no person, at all events, I know of no better tribunal upon which to bestow the power than the Railway Committee. It appears also to me that, however much the idea of having the rules and regulations of the railway companies subject to the revision and control of a tribunal which might not be supposed to have much experience in the working of railways, however that might strike any

one, I think that the provision for expert advice and opinion is a very wise and necessary piece of legislation. I think it will be so felt when it is noticed that the Railway Committee will, under this Act, be empowered to avail itself of all possible and proper sources of information, that it will be able to secure expert authority and advice in respect to these matters, and ample provision is made for that purpose in the Bill. The third subclause says :

The Railway Committee may from time to time appoint competent persons to advise or assist the committee in the preparation or revision of such rules or regulations, or of any other matter coming before the committee, and any person so appointed may be paid under an appropriation of parliament.

Mr. HAGGART. Why do you use the word 'appoint' instead of 'employ'? Is it to be permanent?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not know that any particular significance is attached to the word. The word 'employ' might be as well chosen as the other.

Mr. CASEY. The employment is only temporary.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think the service which is referred to here would only be temporary and not permanent. From time to time, as occasion might arise, after looking into the question and before making a revision, expert advice would have to be sought, and that would only be of a temporary character.

Mr. INGRAM. Do you mean an expert on rules and regulations?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes. In framing rules and regulations in questions arising, I am sure no committee that might be constituted, no government, would feel that it could venture to undertake so complicated a duty, and one which requires knowledge and experience, without availing itself to the fullest possible extent of the best knowledge on the subject, and the most expert authority that could be obtained. It appears to me that in constituting such a body, it would be exceedingly proper that so large a body of people as the railway employees of Canada should have a representative upon it who might voice their wishes and their views.

The third clause deals with a question of importance, but not of the general importance of those to which I have referred. It refers to the sequestration of a railway, and is designed to enable the government, by proclamation of the Governor in Council, to avail itself of the provisions which may be in existence in the laws of any of the provinces of Canada, to compel com-

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panies which are not operating railways either to operate them or to surrender them in accordance with the provisions of those local Acts.

Mr. HAGGART. This is, perhaps, one of the most important Bills in reference to amending the Railway Act that ever came before the parliament of Canada. In the first clause, removing the jurisdiction over street railways and tramways from the parliament of Canada and transferring it back again to the local legislatures, the intention may, perhaps, be right. I do not know what legal effect it may have. Suppose the bonds were issued upon a road which was under the jurisdiction of the Dominion, and you transfer the jurisdiction back again to the local legislature. The party who has the bonds may prefer to have the bonds that are issued under a Dominion Act rather than under a provincial Act. It seems reasonable, and I do not see a great deal of objection to it if the clause is carefully guarded, in transferring back to the legislature this jurisdiction. It never was the intention of the parliament of Canada, I think, to assume jurisdiction over electric roads which happened to cross certain lines of railway like the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railway. The minister says that this clause carefully guards the jurisdiction of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council to control the crossing of railroads, that the clause is only for the purpose of re-transferring a jurisdiction which was unintentionally assumed over electric roads which crossed certain roads in Canada.

Another clause of the Bill covers a power which, I think, the government should be careful in assuming—that is, that the Railway Committee may provide that stations shall be built at certain points. And this is to refer not only to roads which have been subsidized by the government either in land or in money, not only over all railways over which this parliament has jurisdiction, but it presumes to take authority over every road.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Which we have subsidized.

Mr. HAGGART. It says :

And in the case of a railway not subject to the legislative authority of Canada, but subsidized in money or in land under the authority of an Act of parliament.

That is, the subsidizing by land or money of a provincial road removes it out of the jurisdiction of a province and gives this parliament the authority to legislate with regard to it. We have no power over it whatever. This clause is ultra vires of this parliament. And why is it that the minister takes power over a provincial road which has been subsidized either by a land grant or money to fix the railway station?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I do not think there are a great many of them.

Mr. HAGGART. Why does the hon. minister take this jurisdiction? Look at what he is subject to. Say that in my riding my supporters think that every three or four miles of railway there ought to be a station. They send down a petition to me. I go to the Minister of Railways and Canals and tell him that it is necessary these stations should be established. And if I am a supporter of the minister, I will say: You must get this for me. The hon. minister knows the difficulty he is in with regard to the Intercolonial Railway on this account. He has complete power over that road, and he knows that ministers have been forced to exercise that power when it was not advantageous to the railway. He ought to be very careful in taking such power over other railways. There is no reason for assuming such jurisdiction. He is taking a power which will be a nuisance to him, and which will put him in antagonism to nearly every railway company in the country. There is no necessity for it. The railway company know perfectly well where stations should be placed for the benefit of the people, and the benefit of the railway themselves. It is a perfectly right and legitimate power to be exercised, if you are going to subsidize a railway or give it a grant of land. In that case, you can make it a provision that before they receive a subsidy or grant of land they shall locate stations where the minister requires them to. I object to that power being given to the government of Canada, for the reason that they will be forced to exercise as directed by political supporters, which, perhaps, is neither in the interest of the public or in the interest of the railway. Then there is this other power provided for:

The Railway Committee may, from time to time, make regulations not inconsistent with this Act for the operation of all or any of the railways now or hereafter to be constructed in Canada.

That the rules and regulations should be uniform, as advocated by the minister, is right. But why not follow in this case the same principle as in classification and rates? We could say to the different railway companies that they should adopt a uniform set of rules and regulations, and the government might be a party to that agreement, as they run a railway themselves—just as in the case of classification and rates. The rules and regulations thus adopted for the railways of Canada should be made subject to the approval of the Governor General.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. How are you going to get it?

Mr. HAGGART. As I say, in the same way as you do in case of classification of

rates. That is arrived at by a system of agreement between the railways and the government. Look at the dangerous power the government are asking. You will be at the mercy of every labour organization in the country if you adopt such a course. Who will urge the revision of the rules and regulations? Will it be the railway company? No, it will be the labour associations that will complain that the rules and regulations in one company or another are not such as they ought to be, and will insist upon their being changed.

Mr. CAMPBELL. And would you not hear them?

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, but the manner of hearing them and the altering of these rules and regulations is a power that no government ought to assume. If the Minister of Railways and Canals had this power tomorrow, he would be very sorry, just as I think he will in the case of the location of the stations. As to the appointment of competent persons to assist in these matters, if he takes these powers, it is quite right to have such persons, because he would require expert testimony to guide the Railway Committee to make these rules and regulations. The only question was as to the word 'appoint.' But the minister explained that these appointments are not to be permanent, that they are to be simply temporary.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. There is no objection to substitute the word 'employ,' because that covers the ground.

Mr. HAGGART. Then, there is another power sought here, the full effect of which, I think, the minister could not have appreciated.

An hon. MEMBER. Six o'clock.

REPORT RE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw the attention of the House to one point. Two days ago, I said, speaking of the small-pox matter, that I had heard of it in Rossland, B.C. I have here a telegram from Mayor Goodeve of that city, which reads:

No small-pox here. Last case developed March 17. Isolation hospital closed three weeks. Kindly correct statements.

I draw the attention of the House to this matter, and trust the press will give it the fullest publicity.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 145) to incorporate the Toronto and Georgian Bay Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 146) to enable the city of Winnipeg to utilize the Assiniboine River water power.—(Mr. Puttee.)

**BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF CATHERINE
CECILIA LYONS.**

Mr. MILLS moved the second reading of Bill (No. 144)—from the Senate—for the relief of Catherine Cecilia Lyons.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). On a division.

RAILWAY ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. HAGGART. Before six o'clock, I was discussing clause 2 of the Bill to amend the Railway Act, and I stated the objections that I had to this particular clause. I would urge strongly on the government the necessity of sending the Bill to the Railway Committee. There are two very radical clauses in the Bill, and they are clauses on which the railway companies ought to be heard whether they have any objections to them or not, or whether they have any suggestions to make. It is impossible to make them before the committee of the House, while the Bill may be fully considered in the Railway Committee, and, I think, the proper course is to send the Bill to that committee. As to clause 3, there was no explanation offered upon the introduction of the Bill by the hon. Minister of Railway and Canals (Mr. Blair).

3. The said Act is further amended by inserting after section 89 the following section:

89a. Whenever a company, constructing or operating a line of railway which is situate wholly within the limits of one province, and with respect to which, or any part of which, the government of such province has previously granted and paid a subsidy to such company or any other company, fails to comply with the requirements of its charter as regards the commencement or completion of its works within the times therein specified, or fails, for a longer period than ten days, to continue in an efficient manner the running, operating or working of its railway, or any part thereof, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council of such province, upon the report of the Railway Committee of the Executive Council thereof may, at any time (even though the company is incorporated by the parliament of Canada, or the railway is otherwise within the legislative authority of such parliament), authorize the commissioner of public works of such province, or other proper officer therein, to cause the railway, the roadbed and all the rolling stock and equipment thereof, to be sequestered or sold.

Mr. PRIOR.

It is left within the legislative authority of the provinces to take the proceedings provided for in this clause. This is a power which, I think, ought not to be given to the provinces. It might interfere seriously with the securities that have been issued under the authority of an Act of the Dominion parliament. It is true that the power is limited to certain railways as provided in subsection 3, as follows:

3. This section shall have force and effect only with respect to such companies as are designated from time to time by proclamation of the Governor General.

That applies to all the railways, whether they have their entity from the province or whether they have their entity from the Dominion parliament. It gives the power to the provinces under any legislation which they may adopt, from time to time, or which may be in force in the different provinces to completely sequester, sell, or convey, the franchise, rolling stock and everything else belonging to these railways. In the province of Quebec, for instance, the sheriff may sell the franchise and absolutely everything that the railway company may possess to the purchaser, except such debts as are due to the Crown. Debts due the Crown are especially excepted, I believe, in the province of Quebec. It is true that there is a limitation to such roads as are designated by the Governor General, but suppose that the parliament of Canada, or any provincial legislature, gives authority to a railway to commence work within two years and require it to be completed within five or six years. The company may have completed half of the road under the authority of the parliament of Canada, and they may have issued bonds on that particular part of the road. It is true that under their charter they are required to complete the rest within five years. Take the Credit Valley road, for instance, where one of the branches of twelve miles is completed, or another road, which strikes me, at the time, has a charter to build from Gananoque to James Bay. Only four miles of the road are completed. Bonds are issued on the road from the Grand Trunk Railway station to the town of Gananoque. They are required by their charter to have the road completed to James Bay in five years. If any province insists upon the completion of the road the Governor General's duty would be, under the Act, to give the power to require the company to complete the road within the time specified. If they could not do it their franchise and property could be sequestered. The province could deprive the bondholders of their lien on that portion of the road unless the charter was carried out by the company. I think this is a power which ought not to be granted to the provinces, I think that the power of sequestration, or of the absolute disposition of the road, to the prejudice, it may be, of the creditors and bondholders of the road is a power that should not be

granted to the provinces. The Bill is of such importance and so far-reaching that I think it is the duty of the government to send it to the Railway Committee. The attention of every railway company in the country has been drawn to the Bill. I consider as a matter of course that the Bill should be sent to the Railway Committee of the House where the objections, if any, of the railway men of the country could be heard and considered. We would have no objection to the second reading, if the minister would consent to send the Bill then to the Railway Committee, rather than a committee of the whole House. Further, I notice that my leader is not here this evening, and I know he takes a great interest in the Bill, and under the circumstances the government should delay pressing this measure until the leader of the opposition is in the House.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). I have listened with a great deal of interest to the argument of the hon. gentleman from Lanark (Mr. Haggart), and I must say, that with the information at present under my command, I am not prepared to express an opinion on the different propositions contained in this measure. Until the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) announced it this afternoon, I had no idea that he would decline to send this Bill to the Railway Committee. While I am always ready to express my opinion and to vote accordingly, whether it affects small or great interests, yet, in a matter of this sort, there are gentlemen in this country who have devoted all their lives to studying the complex problems connected with our Canadian railway system, and I would not like to form any conclusion without hearing what they have to say on this measure. Whether we agree with their arguments or not, yet, it is only fair and just that we should hear their suggestions in regard to the drastic changes which the Minister of Railways here proposes. This Bill contains within it, some of the most far-reaching propositions that have been for many years submitted to parliament, and these propositions are worthy the most serious consideration of members of this House. The Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) has admitted, in reply to the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), that he thinks this should be retroactive, and that in itself is a serious thing. Taking all the complicated questions between electric railways and general railways, and the clauses in our Railway Act which bear upon them, we should have the advantage of hearing from these gentlemen who represent those great institutions which contribute so largely to the commercial development of our country. I was surprised to hear from the minister, that the Department of Justice had decided that under subsection 2 of section 2, it was *intra vires* for us to acquire jurisdiction over a road which the province had jurisdiction over, and that it would be *intra*

vires to deal with the question of stations along that line. Suppose that in the charter of a provincial road the province sees fit to say we will take jurisdiction to compel these railways to place stations wherever we please, what position would our legislation be in? There would be two conflicting powers, and if they did not agree the only way out of it would be that the railway company would have to build two stations. Without being able to carefully consider the Bill or express an opinion upon it at the present moment, that strikes me as one matter which we would have to pay serious attention to. I am quite satisfied that the government, as well as all the members of this House, are not desirous to precipitate any conflict between the Dominion and the provinces. We all know that a good many differences arise which cannot be avoided without creating new differences. I believe if the minister took the course of referring the Bill to the Railway Committee it would tend to facilitate the passage of this legislation. It would be more satisfactory to the hon. minister, to the government, and to the community at large, if we should have an opportunity of hearing expert opinion on the many grave questions involved in this measure. I believe that the public interest would be best served by referring this Bill to the committee. I believe that matters of this importance should be referred to the general committee.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think it will be conceded on all hands that the Bill now under consideration is not the class of Bill which is usually referred to the Railway Committee for its consideration and report. As a public Bill introduced by government, it would be quite in accordance with rule and usage that it should be disposed of by the House without reference to that committee. But last year, when I introduced the Bill, or one similar to this, I recognized that it was one which would provide fair matter for discussion; and, without the suggestion being made to me at all, but of my own motion, I stated to the House that it was my intention to refer it to the Railway Committee for the purpose of having it thoroughly discussed and allowing persons to be heard who desired to be heard in respect to it. The reason why I did not pursue the same course this session, I am free to say, was because the Bill did not receive from influential and important members of that committee last session the treatment which it was entitled to, nor did I receive at the hands of the committee the consideration which I thought was due to me under the circumstances, having myself voluntarily suggested its reference to the committee. I confess that the Bill did stand some little time. I allowed it to stand from day to day at the request of gentlemen who were promoting other Bills, and

for their convenience; and when we got down to within ten days or a fortnight of the close of the session, advantage was taken of the fact, and a system, not of discussion, but of obstruction, pure and simple, was entered upon by those opposed to the Bill, who declared their intention not to allow it to pass under any circumstances. Under these circumstances, I felt that it could hardly be expected that I would voluntarily propose the same course this year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why did you not introduce it three months ago, and have it before the committee then?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think the Bill has been introduced in ample time to afford an opportunity for the very fullest discussion of it. It has been recast, and differs in some respects from the Bill of last year. It has been in the hands of the Department of Justice, and for some time between the law clerk of my department and the officers of that department, and it reached here as soon as it reasonably could, under the circumstances. It was introduced on April 5. I recognize the importance of the Bill thoroughly well. I recognize that it involves some new principles which we are asking parliament to incorporate in our Railway Act; and I am not averse—on the contrary, I am very desirous that all the features of it should be thoroughly discussed. If the Bill will not stand discussion, then do not let it pass. I have myself, confidence in the wisdom and propriety of passing legislation of the character embodied in this Bill. Experience has led me to entertain a very strong opinion in favour of such legislation. I will not say that I regard every feature of it as vital; but there are many features of it that I do regard as vital. At the same time, I am prepared to have the Bill submitted to the most thorough and critical examination, and it is only the duty of gentlemen who do not agree with me, as to the prudence of this legislation, to express their views as strongly as they desire. I have no wish to appear, nor am I, unwilling at any time to accede to any reasonable request that is made courteously and with an honest desire to promote proper legislation; and since hon. gentlemen opposite have requested that the Bill should go to the Railway Committee, I am not going to interpose any objection to the reference. But I will say this, that I shall expect when the Bill goes before the committee that it shall be discussed fairly, and not met in a spirit of obstruction or by a resort to practices which certainly do not proceed from a bona fide desire to treat bills fairly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton). I suppose it is hardly necessary to say it, but under the circumstances, the second reading is taken with the understanding that the House is not committing itself to the principle of the Bill, but that that

Mr. BLAIR.

stage is taken merely pro forma in order that it may go to the committee.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not think any member of the House will be prejudiced in his future action by the second reading of the Bill. It is hardly a Bill to which you would apply the criticism of the hon. gentleman, because it simply amends the existing law, containing four or five separate and distinct propositions, and there are several principles and not only one principle in it.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I move that the Bill be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Does not the House think it a mistake to send such an important Bill as this to the Railway Committee, where you will not have as large an attendance as you have in this House? I know that the minister is a man of excellent sense, but I think he is making a mistake in sending the Bill to the Railway Committee; for the probability is that if it ever gets through that committee, it will not get through here. I would appeal to the minister not to allow it to go to the Railway Committee, but have it discussed here, and if it is accepted by this House, then let it become law. Last year he had a Bill of a similar character, and it did not get through the House, and the same thing will happen this year. It is a great mistake to send it to the committee at all.

Mr. TISDALE. The good faith of the opposition is pledged to help to get the Bill disposed of, and I can assure the hon. minister that nothing of an obstructive spirit will be shown towards it. While the minister is quite correct in his statement of the circumstances of last year, the Bill was brought in late, and an impression got abroad that it was not going to be pressed, but was only introduced pro forma with the intention of bringing it forward again this session. I am frank to say that the minister was not treated fairly, but I am satisfied that this year, as it is introduced early, there will be no obstruction to the Bill.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE.

Bill (No. 137)—from the Senate—to amend the Criminal Code of 1892 (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 8 (third paragraph),

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton). I would like the hon. Solicitor

General to give us some idea of the change. I understand that this clause is taken from the Imperial Draft Bill. Is it based on that draft or is it the law anywhere?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). It was in the proposed Imperial Bill of 1891. Clause 166 of our present Code reads as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to five years' imprisonment (a) who rescues any person or assists any person in escaping, or attempting to escape, from lawful custody, whether in prison or not, under a sentence of imprisonment for any term less than life, or after conviction of and before sentence for, or while in such custody upon a charge of any crime punishable with imprisonment for a term less than life; or (b) being a peace officer of any prison in which such person is lawfully confined, voluntarily and intentionally permits him to escape therefrom.

The proposed clause reads as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to one year's imprisonment, who, by failing to perform any legal duty, permits a person in his lawful custody on a criminal charge to escape therefrom.

This was the original draft of our Code of 1891, and also 1892, and was struck out in the committee of the whole House of Commons, on the ground that the offence was not essentially a criminal one. But, there is a corresponding provision in the old law of this country, as we have it in the Revised Statutes. This clause is taken from the Imperial draft Bill.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). This clause appears to go very far. If, for instance, an officer calls upon persons around him to help him in arresting a criminal, and they do so, and he gets the man in his custody, would it make those persons responsible afterwards, if they did not continue their help?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think it would. But, if a man were arrested and were placed in the hands of some one, who voluntarily assumes to take control of the prisoner and then through neglect allows him to escape, he would come under this provision.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. This seems to me to be a good deal wider than the old law, section 7 of the Revised Statutes. In that law every one having the custody of a prisoner, who allows him, through carelessness, to escape, is guilty of a misdemeanour and liable to fine or imprisonment, in the discretion of the judge. The punishment in the suggested clause is much more severe, and the gravamen of the offence is the failure to perform a legal duty. There need be no intention, which is always the first essential of crime. All that need be proved is simply the failure to perform a legal duty, and for that failure, no matter what may be the nature of the

offence that the prisoner may have committed, the person who allows him to escape is liable to a year's imprisonment. I do not know that I am altogether opposed to this change, but, one can see that it is a departure even from the spirit of the old law. That is not in our code to-day, and it is not in the law of England, but merely finds its place in the draft or code under the consideration of the Imperial authorities. I think it is a question that might well be very carefully considered. Perhaps, if, where one or two members of the committee think that in connection with a section changed, the matter might be considered a little, and we could make good progress if we went on with the clauses to which there was no decided objection, and then come back to these.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think the suggestion made by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is an extremely reasonable one, and one in which I readily acquiesce. But I wish to point out that the departure that he points is not so serious as he seems to think. Under chapter 155 of the Revised Statutes, it speaks of 'any one who carelessly allow any prisoner to escape.' Here it is, 'any one who by failing to perform any legal duty.' I take it that, practically, this section is merely a reproduction of the old law.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The difference is simply in the punishment?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes. Formerly, it was optional whether there should be fine or imprisonment, or fine and imprisonment. Now, it is restricted to imprisonment alone. I would like to call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that there is a provision under the code—I cannot place my finger on the clause at the moment—which gives power to a magistrate to fine or imprison in case of misdemeanour. Here it is imprisonment without a fine. If the Chairman will take a note of it we will consider this clause as read to be taken up again. My hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), who is an authority on criminal law in our province is not present, and I have a tacit understanding with him that he shall be present when this code is discussed.

Mr. HAGGART. Would the violation of a provincial Act, which makes a crime, be punishable under this clause?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am sorry to say that my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) has brought up a very wide question, and one that is much discussed—whether or not the provincial legislatures can legislate with respect to the criminal law. They do impose penalties for the infraction of provincial laws. The question of the meaning of the word 'criminal' under the British North America Act has been recently much

discussed. But I think that we might leave that matter over for the time being, if my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) will agree.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The clause will stand.

On section to amend section 179.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I do not think this clause goes far enough. My hon. and learned friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has made clause 179 with a view to making it perfect; but I think a very useful amendment could be made to subclause *b* of the first subsection. We have recently had exhibited at a theatre at this city plays as corrupting to morals, as degrading to social well-being as any of the things forbidden by subsections *a* or *b* or *c*, either in the clause of the Bill before us or in the clause of the Act; and I would suggest to my hon. friend who has charge of this Bill that as we are legislating in that direction, we had better strike at what is a source of grave danger to Canada at the present time. Unfortunately, the theatrical taste of our friends and cousins below the line, especially in New York and Chicago, has run in gutter lines; and, at the present time, the stage of New York is revolting, from any standpoint of either social or artistic excellence. And, only the other day we had a play put upon the boards of a theatre in this city as degrading—

Mr. INGRAM. What play?

Mr. DAVIN. 'Miss New York Junior.'

An hon. MEMBER. Did you go?

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friends are very curious. I will gratify their curiosity. I did not go.

An hon. MEMBER. How do you know about it?

Mr. DAVIN. I heard from persons who were there the first night, and I was disgusted with what they told me. From what I heard, I have no hesitation in saying—and I can speak with some authority on this subject of artistic theatrical presentation—that nothing more degrading or corrupting to the community could be imagined than that there should be represented before the eyes of men and women young and old—sometimes very young—such a play as this one was described to be. I see it announced that we are to have presented at the Russell Theatre 'Sapho.' Well, I have read of the presentation of 'Sapho' on the stage of New York, and I would not go to see such a play put upon the stage. I have read Daudet's 'Sapho' in the original, and I admire Daudet's genius. But it is genius of the most super-excellent kind, wreaked on filth. To dramatize 'Sapho' and to trace the stages in the vice of this aban-

Mr. FITZPATRICK

doned woman on the boards of the theatre is about the most demoralizing thing that could be done. And it is against the canons of art, it is contrary to the principle of art. Here we have the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) coming forward occasionally with legislation which has no practical bearing in the improving of the morals of society. We have other hon. gentlemen taking an interest in these matters and looking to the amelioration of society, but, doing it in such a way that I confess I do not always feel edified in contemplating their actions. But, those evils that the member for North Norfolk aims at, and which other hon. gentlemen aim at, are trifling compared with the power of a corrupt theatre. I say that it is demoralizing to have in the capital of Canada such a spectacle as was exhibited in a theatre here, a lot of abandoned women exhibiting themselves in such a manner as to be revolting to all decency, and, as I say, contrary to all the canons of art; if they appeared absolutely nude it would not be as revolting to the principles of art as the manner in which I learn they did appear. Now, I suggest to my hon. friend to add to subclause *b* the following words, and it would then read as follows:

Publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show or places on the stage a play or drama, or melodrama, or spectacular entertainment, pandering to sensuality and licentiousness.

I think if we really want to strike at this evil we must make it clear. The words 'publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show' will not suggest to a public prosecutor what I want to suggest to him, that is, to put down such plays as those that I refer to. We already have in the old Act these words, and will any man tell me that if at the present time Sapho, the heroine, utterly abandoned, played by a woman in New York, herself abandoned, demi-mondaine over the whole play—will any man tell me that if that is brought here to-morrow and played, we shall see anybody going to arrest the manager of that play and have him brought before a magistrate and punished for an action more corrupting to the youth of this capital than any other thing that could possibly be done here? I think that he would leave with the money in his pocket, and with the most perfect impunity. Therefore, I move that these words be added to subclause *b* after the word 'show':

Or places on the stage a play, or drama, or melodrama, or spectacular entertainment, pandering to sensuality or licentiousness.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). While I agree with the principles laid down by my hon. and learned friend in regard to the line which parliament should take in matters of this kind, yet, I think we should be very careful in defining the terms in which these offences against art and morals are made criminal offences. I will call

the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that the very play he has denounced so severely, and which met with so much reprobation by the moral and best social element of New York, was actually brought into court, the actress and the proprietor of the drama were indicted, were tried, and were acquitted. I have seen the terms of the New York Act, which is very similar to this one. Notwithstanding the outcry that was made by the press and pulpit, and by the best moral elements in New York in that very case, apparently with a great deal of justice, yet, after all, it became a question for the jury to decide upon the evidence presented, and in that case, one of the most flagrant, probably, that is likely ever to occur, the parties were acquitted, and, I believe, the play went on immediately afterwards, and is still running. I think my hon. friend made another remark, perhaps, without due consideration, applying an opprobrious epithet to the actress in the case. Having read what appeared in the press at the time, I do not think that that phrase applied to that actress was justified. I notice in a New York paper yesterday that an action has been brought by a person alleged to be aggrieved against a clergyman for the use of language of a somewhat similar character. It is true that the play may be very demoralizing, and the great genius exhibited in the words of the writer may attract a great deal of admiration, yet, the artists may be persons of irreproachable character, and they may look at the matter purely from an artistic standpoint. A person's private character and a public exhibition of indecency are two entirely different things.

The amendment proposed by the hon. gentleman opens up a greater question than the clause we have before us. I think the more general this can be made the better, and the larger scope it will give to a judge and jury for reaching a decision. There can be no doubt that an exhibition of indecent pictures upon the show-boards have a demoralizing tendency; and many of our plays of the lower order are of a character very annoying to large portions of the community. But, it is a difficult matter, as I believe every member of the committee will agree, to define the offence in such a way that it can be promptly punished. I do not suppose any member of this committee intends to institute a censorship over the literary portion of plays of this kind, except in that way which will enable an offender to be brought before a magistrate for representing improper things on the stage. That opens up one of the most difficult questions that a legislature has to deal with. I admit that it is very desirable to deal with such questions if it is possible to do so; but, I rather advocate leaving this clause as it is, because I know of no actual concrete case that has been tried in

any particular case in Canada in which this law has been found to be a failure.

Mr. TISDALE. In dealing with these matters I have great admiration for plain English. My hon. friend from Assinibola (Mr. Davin) may think that his words add light, but, I do not think so. I am inclined to think the clause as it at present exists is sufficient to cover the case, but, when my hon. friend comes in with his euphonious language, I confess that I always get a little alarmed. I think it would confuse those who have justice to administer, and that is the reason why we should not change the clause as it is. That is what the law has been. If he speaks correctly, and his views are those of common sense, as to what is decent, or indecent, I think we would have had some cases which would give us an opportunity of deciding whether it is broad enough or not. Somebody has to take the initiative, if people are shocked. I am one of those who, unless the necessity arises, do not want too much law. I trust to the good common sense and decency of the people, and if an indecent exhibition is presented action will be taken and the performers will soon get out of town. The Criminal Code was an admirable work and imposed a great deal of labour on the members of this House. Many of the alterations are technical, and they are very necessary, but we should not, without an absolute case arising to justify it run the risk of confusing those who have to administer justice. Unless there is a positive case shown where a failure of justice has occurred, I think it would be unwise to make a change, because I think of all the undesirable things it is to produce an unsettled state of mind as to what is the intention of the law and what is not. The plainest language that every one can understand should be employed in the law so that there shall be no uncertainty as to what it means, and what it means should be enforced. I think this clause is broad enough, and that it will cover every reasonable proposition such as that which the hon. member for Western Assiniboia has brought up.

Mr. DAVIN. One word in reference to the precision of language. There is no want of precision in the words: 'or places on the stage a play.'

Mr. FLINT. Let me ask my hon. friend a question right here. These words 'places upon the stage a play,' open up a perfect mine of dispute. Does the hon. gentleman mean to apply them to literary performances, stage settings, pictures and so.

Mr. DAVIN. 'Or drama, or melodrama.' I must say, with all deference to my hon. and learned friend opposite (Mr. Flint) and to my hon. friend on my right (Mr. Tisdale), that the schoolmaster in Canada has not done justice to their great natural capacity for education if he has put into their heads

the notion that the words 'play,' or 'drama,' or 'melodrama,' or 'spectacular entertainment' are not definite words.

Mr. TISDALE. They are all covered by the word 'show,' in my opinion.

Mr. DAVIN. If they are all covered by the word 'show,' what harm can there be in enumerating the particulars that are covered by the general term

Mr. TISDALE. You would make it doubtful if you enumerated them whether the clause covered everything but those that you mentioned, whereas, by using general terms you make it evident that it covers everything.

Mr. FLINT. I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) to define the word 'melodrama.' It is not capable of legal definition.

Mr. DAVIN. The contention of these hon. gentlemen is, that if we add to the word 'show,' 'or play, or drama, or melodrama, or spectacular entertainment,' we would make it more difficult to procure evidence of an offence against art and morality, than if we left the clause as it is at the present time. 'Pandering to sensuality or licentiousness.' That definitely points to what is not pointed out in the clause as it stands. 'Publicly exhibits any disgusting object.' A disgusting object is not an object that panders to sensuality. Objects that pander to sensuality are sometimes clothed in the elements that appeal to the æsthetic sense. A discoloured and unwashed hag would be a disgusting object. That hag would not appeal to sensuality. But hon. members can very well understand that the very opposite of a discoloured and unwashed hag through behaving herself improperly would appeal to sensuality. 'Or any indecent show.' Why I object to leaving the phrase as it is, is that it will not cover the point. Any man who knows the meaning of the word 'show,' or the word 'indecent,' knows what the added language is intended to cover. It may be said to me: How are you going to define what panders to sensuality, or licentiousness? I say that is a question for the courts. The morality of the community as embodied in the courts, will interpret these words. The hon. gentlemen are really, I may tell them, not in a position to treat me, on this question, in a *de haut en bas* manner, because I have seen, on the very greatest stages of the world, every kind of play, every kind of melodrama and every kind of spectacular entertainment. I have seen noble results produced by high drama. On the other hand, I have seen bad results produced by depraved drama. In regard to the defence that has been made by my hon. friend for the impersonator of Sapho, it is one of the most extraordinary things I have heard of

Mr. DAVIN.

that an hon. gentleman, who is, himself, not merely a family man, but a moral teacher of the community, should lay down the proposition that a woman can impersonate for two or three hours, before a public audience the heroine of a play, the heroine's whole life being one of abandoned sensuality and yet remain pure. All the incidents of her life are sensual. All the incidents of her life represent an abandonment to sensuality, and yet the hon. gentleman, contrary to the book that he professes to honour and, I believe, teaches, thinks that you can touch pitch and not be defiled. What the actor or actress does is to lend himself or herself to the character that he or she presents. This clause as amended would hit the actress or the actor, who improperly is representing an otherwise fit character for the stage. I do not know whether my hon. friend (Mr. Flint) has even seen *La Grande Duchesse*.

Mr. FLINT. I have.

Mr. DAVIN. I see he bows to it. I hope my hon. friend was as much edified with it as a lady in Toronto, a pillar in the Presbyterian Church, was with another opera that she went to see. I forget the name of the French actress who used to impersonate *La Fille de Madame Angot*; but after seeing the impersonation, this Toronto lady came home and when asked the next day what she thought of it, she said: Oh, it was as edifying as Dr. Topp; and Dr. Topp was the most solemn preacher I ever listened to from the pulpit. However, after seeing *La Fille de Madame Angot* kicking her heels upon the stage, this lady decided that she was as edifying as a sermon from Dr. Topp. I know my hon. friend (Mr. Flint), has a mind hinged on recondite principles and it is possible that if he had seen Schneider play *La Grande Duchesse*, that he might have been edified, but I may tell him that the way I have seen Schneider play *La Grande Duchesse* was immoral; it was suggestive; it was vile, although I grant it is possible to play it in a way that might not be offensive. Here in Canada we have advantages, political and social, that are not enjoyed in the United States. We have a more democratic form of government, and I hold that our politics and our social life have advantages as compared with those of the great cities of the United States. I do not want to see any replica in Canada of the New York stage—not because I am opposed to the theatre, but because I am in favour of the theatre; not because I think theatre-going wrong, but because I take the same view as Mr. Gladstone about the theatre: That the high drama, the drama that will really express the genius of the time, the drama that will really embody before the people their best ideas; is one of the noblest stimulants to high thought and great endeavour. Feeling, that just as the depravation of the best is the worst, I feel that you could not strike

more insidiously a blow at the morality of Canada at the security of our rising sons, and at the security of our rising daughters, too, than to tolerate in our theatres such exhibitions as are to be found every day of the year in New York. As to this very exhibition spoken of, I would not go to it; I have not been to it, although I have recently come from New York. I would not go to see Sapho, I would not go to see any woman so defile my idea of what true womanhood should be as to impersonate the heroine of Daudet's novel and play. It has been found necessary to guard against the bad in the theatre in the history of every community in the past, and in modern times too. Every government that has known what its duty is to its people has sought to guard the theatre as it would guard the wells from which we drink; as it would guard the milk that is taken around to our homes. It would guard the theatre where our youths go and where they can either be ennobled, or be corrupted. The theatre can become as powerful an engine for the improvement of the community as a great pulpit; on the other hand it can become as corrupting, as degrading, as demoralizing and ultimately as weakening, physically and morally, to the community, as any immoral force that ever emanated from darker regions, than we care to think of.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), is not justified in his assumption that I and others were reflecting on his method of remedying these evils. What I said was: That I entirely agreed with him in the main outline of his remarks, but I thought the language of his amendment was not so well calculated to meet the difficulty as the language of the law as it now stands. That was no justification for the hon. gentleman indulging in a certain amount of badinage. Of course I do not myself mind it, but I think it was unnecessary to introduce it in this discussion. The only point here is the definition of a crime, and when we come to punish people for a crime which we are creating by statute, the words to be used in defining that crime are of some importance. Although there is great literary elegance in the wording of the amendment, I fear it will not afford the remedy that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) desires.

Mr. BRITTON. Even though I run the risk of having my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), indulge in satire against me, I must declare that I do not think his amendment should be added to this clause. The moment we attempt to include in words, everything we want to proscribe, we are running the risk that anything not enumerated will be held to be excluded. Whereas, if you leave the general words of the Act as they are, then if there is anything which may be con-

sidered an offence, the public prosecutor can lay a charge without being hampered by definitions. The moment you classify particular crimes, then those who desire to violate the law exercise their ingenuity to discover something that cannot be brought within the particular letter of the offence stated in the statute. Our experience is that it is not very difficult for those of evil intent to evade the letter of any law, and the more particularity you have, the more easy it seems to be to evade. It ought not to be forgotten that this clause appears in section 179 of the Act, and is not altered by the Bill before us. The section is printed in extenso, I think very properly so, to show what was the original law, and what is now proposed as an amendment. This clause comes before the House with the amendment proposed by my hon. friend as an addition, which I think we ought not to accept. The law has been fairly well carried out; prosecutions have been successfully laid under it; and no difficulty has been experienced in stopping indecent shows. The Criminal Act of 1869 was a most valuable piece of legislation. Although the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) says that the Criminal Code was a very great work, and so it was, in respect to involving a great deal of labour and pains on the part of the gentleman who was its father, yet we cannot lose sight of the fact that from 1892 down to to-day, in every session of parliament there has been tinkering at it to make amendments to it which have been found necessary. I think it is not very difficult to see how that is. In the framing of that code there was an attempt to provide for every possible case that could arise, whereas the Act of 1869 and the criminal law before that dealt with offences in more general terms, according to the common sense and the experience of judges and juries. I hope the committee will not accept the amendment which my learned friend offers.

Mr. DAVIN. I should like to ask my hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) what is the wording of the Criminal Code of New York. I understand him to say that it is precisely the same as this.

Mr. FLINT. I said I did not remember the exact wording, but that it is very similar to this. It is very general. I saw it in a journal at the time of the discussion.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend says that it is not necessary to add these words, because in New York, where the words of the code are almost precisely the same as the words in our code, the impersonator of 'Sapho' and the manager were brought before the courts and were acquitted by the jury. That is an extraordinary piece of reasoning.

Does it not suggest that the code in New York is not effective or stringent enough? In regard to the argument which we have had *ad nauseum*. I must confess, from all the learned Thebans who have spoken on this question that you must not define too closely, but that you had better have one or two words, what do you find my hon. friend doing? Subclause *a*, as it stands at present, reads thus:

Sells or exposes for sale or public view any obscene book or other printed or written matter, or any picture, photograph, model or other object tending to corrupt morals.

Is 'tending to corrupt morals' different in character and style from 'pandering to sensuality and licentiousness?' Are they not both phrases that would leave the interpretation to the court? But if you are only to use a few words or one word, and make it as general as possible, my hon. friend should pare down the clause instead of amplifying it as he is doing. According to the reasoning of these gentlemen, 'something printed or written' would cover both 'book and printed or written matter;' 'object' would cover 'picture, photograph, model or other object.' Yet we find that the authors of the Act from which this was taken, who were great English draughtsmen, did not take the view of my hon. and learned friend, but thought it was necessary to define, just as I think it is necessary to define. I am not at all convinced by the arguments to which I have listened; in fact, in the face of the clause as it is before us, and in face of common sense, they are futile. Therefore, I hope the committee will pass the amendment which I suggest, which will greatly improve the Act.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am sure every one in the House agrees fully with all that has been said by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) as to the necessity of keeping the representations on the stage in this country absolutely pure. At the same time we must remember that we have had this law in force since 1869, and the hon. gentleman was obliged to pay a tribute to the morality that exists in this country when he drew a distinction between Canada and the United States in that respect. If the law has been sufficiently effective up to the present time to draw his approbation, it seems to me that we have all the guarantees that we require. While I would not put myself against my hon. friend on a question of phraseology or artistic knowledge, I think I might venture to make the observation that the words of the statute as we have had them since 1867, are quite sufficient to meet the case. The words of paragraph *b* are:

Whoever publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment.

Mr. DAVIN.

My hon. friend has not pointed out in what respect his amendment improves these words in such a way as to make them extend to what the present law does not reach.

Mr. DAVIN. Take the play of Sapho—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would unhesitatingly say that the law as it now stands, would meet the play of Sapho as that play has been described by my hon. friend. I know nothing about it myself. I have not had the advantage that my hon. friend has had of being able to appreciate Sapho as it has been presented in New York and I, consequently, would defer to his judgment.

Mr. DAVIN. You have read Daudet's book?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I know something about Daudet's works, but I would not like to say too much on this subject lest I might be catechised too closely by my hon. friend. I would like him to say, with his knowledge of Sapho, if we could not suppress such a play under the law as we have it at present.

Mr. DAVIN. The only phrase in paragraph *b*, under which those who produce the play Sapho could be prosecuted would be the words 'indecent show.' But I submit that these words would not suggest to the ordinary prosecutor to deal with such a play, but if you would adopt the language that I suggest a provincial prosecutor would see at once the necessity of taking notice of such a play.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). I do not think that anybody can question the necessity of some legislation for protecting the youth of our country, both male and female, against certain exhibitions, unfortunately quite common in Canada, in the form of theatrical performances. I quite recognize the difficulty which the Department of Justice has in dealing with this subject, but it seems to me that, with so many lawyers in this House, we ought to be able to devise some form of language that will prevent these disgraceful theatrical exhibitions which are common in our large cities and which are so largely patronized by the youth of our country. I do not agree with my hon. friend the Solicitor General when he says that a theatrical performance would come under paragraph *b*. I do not think that any magistrate would commit to trial persons who had put upon the boards theatrical performances calculated to injure the morals of our people, because the word 'show' does not cover such performances. A theatrical performance comprises a good deal more than a show. The indecency in such a performance, it is quite true, may be in the exhibition itself, but it also may consist in the language, and you could hard-

ly call the use of indecent language an indecent show. It struck me that the object of my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) would be met by making paragraph b read as follows :

Publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show or indecent theatrical performance.

I think that the term 'indecent theatrical performance' would serve all the purposes which my hon. friend from Assiniboia has in view. There is always a great deal of difficulty in administering the criminal law in any form, and a great deal of danger in making a criminal Act too precise in its wording. We very often defeat the object we have in view by making the language too precise, but I think that the use of the term 'indecent theatrical performance' would prevent the people who give these performances from coming to the country at all, and thus strike at the very root of the evil. I throw this out as a suggestion with the idea of meeting the view of every hon. gentleman, for our desire is to put a stop to these horrible exhibitions which are given daily in our large cities, and which are frequented by the youth of our country. I would like to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) one other question. I understand the reasons for the amendments, except one in subsection 3—'it shall be a question for the court or judge.' I find in the law, it says: 'It shall be a question of law.' How is the Act improved by the change from 'law' to 'court or judge'?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There has been some difference of opinion expressed in the courts as to the meaning of the word 'question of law,' so we changed it to the present form. To my mind, it is the very same thing; but, it seems that it is necessary to make it perfectly clear that the jury has nothing to do with it.

Mr. QUINN. Do you think it makes it clearer?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think it makes it absolutely certain.

Mr. DAVIN. I agree with the Solicitor General as to the advantage of the change he is making. But, if we are to adopt the reasoning we have just heard, why not leave it vague?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The clause will stand.

On clause to amend section 180,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In this case the word 'scurrilous' is added.

Mr. DAVIN. I can see the advantage of the change, but, again, why make the addition?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This paragraph was originally taken from the Post Office Act, and in the adaptation the word

'scurrilous' was left out. It has been found in the application of the law that it was useful to have this word added. My hon. friend from Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has not been able to show that in the application of the law it was found necessary to make the amendment he suggested.

Mr. QUINN. This is to make it conform to the Post Office Act?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, it was found that some language was used on postal cards which should not be permitted, and yet which was not covered by the terms we had under the old section.

On clause to amend section 180,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The amendment here is in the addition of the word 'shop or store.'

Mr. QUINN. I think there is objection to such words as those at the end of subsection b. I think it is opening the door to a great deal of blackmail.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This is suggested as the result of reading the reports of the National Council of Women of Canada. I do not want to discuss details, but, this meets a difficulty that will occur to all of us with reference to people employed in our large departmental stores. Persons, while not directly employed, may be in receipt of a salary, even working in rooms outside. I do not need to be too precise; I am willing to give information if necessary, but the hon. gentleman will see that it is not necessary. The difficulty which my hon. friend from Montreal (Mr. Quinn) suggests is, to a certain extent, met by the provisions added by the Senate, that no such persons shall be convicted under this clause under the evidence of one witness only unless such evidence be corroborated.

Mr. QUINN. As I have said, the difficulty I see in the clause is that it leaves the door open to a great deal of blackmail. I know of a case in Montreal which was certainly a very important factor in the amendment of the Act. I had occasion to interview the Minister of Justice about it at the time it occurred. The law as it originally read provided no punishment for the offence. Any one who will look at section 183 will see that while the offence is described, there is no punishment, and that is the reason it was re-drawn in this form. But, while you are providing for the punishment for what is known to be a great offence, it is right that you should be careful to protect innocent men against designing people. There are, unfortunately, too many of these designing people, and many of them belong to what is often referred to as the weaker sex. Officials in large establishments are more liable to the attacks of these designing women than any others in the community. Take a young man who is a cashier in a large departmental

store. He pays every woman, in fact, every person in the establishment. A charge is made against him under this section. What possible defence has he? It is true that it is provided that he shall not be convicted upon the evidence of one witness unless the evidence is corroborated. But, the most innocent action of that young man would be considered as corroborative testimony. It is not necessary to suggest what would be regarded as corroborative evidence, in addition to the fact that he was seen walking with her or driving with her in a cab—what other conditions would be sufficient to fasten on him irrevocably the offence she charged him with. I do not think we should say that the men who either directly or indirectly pay wages to the women in large departmental stores should be liable to conviction under this section.

Mr. BRITTON. Do I understand there is a provision regarding corroborative evidence?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, a provision made by the Senate:

No person shall be convicted of an offence under this section upon the evidence of one witness only unless that witness be corroborated in some material particular by evidence implicating the accused.

Mr. BRITTON. I do not see that that alters the law as it stands, because section 684 of the Code provides that all offences from 182 to 188 inclusive, require corroborative evidence. Perhaps for greater caution it is just as well, as the Senate has done so, to add it to this section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not entertain any doubt that the hon. member for Pictou is absolutely correct. At the same time, as we have the Bill from the Senate, I do not see any real objection to allowing it to go through in its present form.

Mr. TISDALE. This will make responsible the proprietor of a store who may have a great many women in his employment whom he does not even know, because he furnishes the money to pay them their wages. Before, the law made the foreman responsible because he was supposed to have influence over the female employees; but this enlarges the section and makes responsible any one who directly or indirectly pays the wages. In many large stores there may be hundreds of women whom he does not even know by name, and still the proprietor would be responsible because he furnishes the money.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would remind the member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) that there are two amendments. The first amendment is to extend the law as it now stands to those who are employed in a shop or store in addition to those who are employed in a factory, mill or work-

shop. To that there can be no serious objection. But the objection the hon. member for Norfolk makes is that responsibility attaches to those who directly or indirectly pay the wages to these people. I understand that objection, and I think the section ought to be allowed to stand.

Section 183a,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am willing that anything that is found in the least degree objectionable or even debatable, should stand over. But I would like any hon. gentleman to state his objections so that I may have the advantage of them when I take the matter up again. This is a very serious clause, one of the most serious of all the clauses in the amendments which we are introducing. I have my own views on the subject, but I would like to hear what can be said in opposition to it.

Mr. BRITTON. My objection to that clause is that I think it means a great deal more than was meant. A charge has to be proved with the strictness required in any criminal case. There may be a great deal proved in a case of this kind that will impute to the person looseness, impute to her a character that cannot be strictly proved against her, and yet that ought to be taken into consideration in court. It requires the burden of proof to be so strict that in nine cases out of ten the proof would absolutely fail, and if it did fail of course the statement of the prosecutrix, if corroborated at all, would lead to conviction.

Mr. QUINN. I would ask the Solicitor General to leave this section over also. I ask him to leave it over because I am not prepared to say how much the change here shocks me, because it does shock me. But how far it changes the law as it now exists, it is impossible for me to say offhand.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It changes it very materially.

Mr. QUINN. I recognized that at once. I cannot remember any case at the moment that I could cite as an example showing how far this changes the law. I would like to think over it for a time before consenting to the passage of the section.

Mr. TISDALE. It seems to me this clause makes it absolutely necessary that the person should prove a negative. You cannot bring ordinary inferences to bear, it is an absolute, legal, statement that you must prove, and that would mean positive evidence.

Mr. FLINT. Perhaps the hon. gentleman, when it comes up again, will be in a position to inform the committee why this was inserted. I do not see any particular reason for it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The change is not only a very grave one,

Mr. QUINN.

but it is so radical that we need to go very carefully. This danger of blackmail has always stayed the hand of the legislature in throwing absolute protection around every individual. At the very inception of that legislation, one of the safeguards against blackmailing was putting the burden of proof on the person complaining. That removed somewhat the danger of a designing character making money out of this legislation by perjury. Now, if the law is being extended in the direction that we see in the substantive clause, it seems to me the House should hesitate before making so drastic a change at this 183a. I think by the time we come to consider it again, we will have an opportunity of looking into the exact history of the substantive clause itself. I think the language in the second line of *b* 'previously chaste,' and so on, was purposely and expressly put in originally to guard against the danger that section 183 is now, apparently, opening up again.

Mr. TISDALE. You see the age is 21 years. It is not as if you were dealing with girls of a more tender age. It is mature women, and we are making it a criminal offence what under the law, otherwise, is not an offence in the criminal sense, and extending the protection, to which I do not object, to the store and shop. I remember that this section was discussed at the time the Criminal Code was passed, or, it may not have been at that particular time, but, at the different times that this sort of legislation has come up. We must not, to apply an old adage, because we have walked a long way, get on the run and do things that are very unfair because there are young men as well as young women in the world. Their constitutions are a good deal alike, and we are making a new class of offence that was not an offence before. When we are extending the provisions of the section to the people of such mature age as that we should very seriously consider the matter. I think the danger is very great when dealing with people of such a mature age. At first we went as far as 18. I believe, it once passed through the committee making it applicable to persons of 30 years of age, but the age limit was put back to 21 years by the Senate. I mention this in connection with the provision of 183a; the gravity of the change did not strike me as it appears to me now. We must not allow the desire of preventing what may be a moral evil to lead us to deal with morals in such a manner as to make it a criminal offence. I am not one of those who are inclined to go further than is actually necessary, or to make laws unless they will probably do some good. I hope, with the hon. member for Yarmouth, that the hon. Solicitor General will be able to give us some reason why he wants to pass this clause.

Mr. DAVIN. In regard to 183a I quite approve of the view that has been expressed by the hon. gentleman at my right (Mr. Tisdale). It is enough to read it. It is a perfectly stupendous thing to put the burden of proof on the accused under the circumstances. I think that the hon. Solicitor General, when he considers it, will not press 183a.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I agree with almost everything that has been said by my hon. friends opposite in reference to the objectionable features of 183a, in so far as it casts the question of proof upon the accused. I would like to draw the attention of my legal friends, on the other side of the House, to the law as it now is. By section 181 of the Criminal Code, you will find that:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces or has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of eighteen years.

Section 183 of the Bill extends the age to 21 years, but it also provides that it must be a person of previously chaste character. I am not aware that the case has ever arisen in this country to the best of my knowledge, but in the United States, the question of the burden of proof has been discussed. Under the law, as we have it here, upon whose shoulders does the burden of proof rest as to previously chaste character? Is it for the woman, or for the prosecution to prove, or would it be for the man to prove that the woman was of unchaste character? I am not aware that the question as to the shoulders upon which the burden of proof must rest has ever been settled in this country. It has been discussed and settled in the United States, and the object of 183a is to permanently fix, by legislation, the burden of proof on the accused. To my judgment it seems that it is a somewhat unfair responsibility to put upon the accused, who, according to the law, when he pleads not guilty is presumed to be not guilty. This would be practically setting at defiance that principle of law which is that every person is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty. It is for us to say whether we can accept that or not. I do not think, if the clause is to be allowed to stand, that I can give the committee much better information at a subsequent period than I have given upon this subject. It is for us to consider and take the responsibility.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Chairman, as the clause is to be allowed to stand, I would like, while we are discussing the subject to invite the attention of the committee to the words:

The burden of proof of previous unchastity on the part of the girl or woman under the three next preceding sections shall be upon the accused.

One of the clauses preceding applies to seduction under promise of marriage. Section 182 reads as follows :

Every one, above the age of twenty-one years, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment, who, under promise of marriage, seduces and has illicit connection with any unmarried female of previously chaste character, and under twenty-one years of age.

So that a young man of 21 years and a month may be indicted for seducing, under promise of marriage, a previously chaste girl of 21 years less a month on whose testimony alone he could be convicted of that offence, and it would rest upon the young man of 21 years and one month to prove that she was unchaste before. Nobody who knows anything about the world will pretend that a young man of twenty-one years is in any way equal to a woman of 21 years.

On section 210,

Mr. QUINN. The intention here is to make the word 'guardian' have the same meaning under section 186a as it has in sections 183 and 186, which is :

The word 'guardian' includes any person who has in law or in fact the custody of a child.

Now I think that is rather drastic when applied to this section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is no reason why a tutor in our province, who has guardianship in law, should not be responsible. As to guardianship, in fact, there are a certain number of institutions that are charged with the support of waifs who are put under their control, and although they may have no legal guardianship, why should they not be made responsible for their support.

Mr. QUINN. But this is made a criminal offence.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If a man assumes a guardianship, in fact, I can see no reason why his responsibility should not be the same as a guardianship in law.

Mr. QUINN. There is a vast difference between one who assumes guardianship and one who accidentally may become a guardian in fact. A person, who by charity, would take a waif off the street for a day or two, would, under this law, be compelled to support that waif for all time, until he got some one to relieve him of the responsibility.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Oh no.

Mr. TISDALE. But the question is whether he would not. If we pass this, we will endanger the responsibility of any one who feels inclined to be charitable. You have to be very careful about these things in the interest of the child itself, as well as in the interests of the charitably disposed. We should make this very plain, and I think we had better let the section stand.

Mr. QUINN. This amendment appears to be in direct contravention of section 210 as it stands.

Mr. QUINN.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am quite willing to let the clause stand.

On section 331a,

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is the explanation of this ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This has reference to the stealing of cattle on the ranches in the North-west Territories. It is designed to meet a point not met by section 331.

Mr. TISDALE. Was this clause submitted to the cattle associations of the west ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not prepared to answer that ; but the suggestion of it came from the west.

Mr. TISDALE. I have had some experience in that country, and this is a pretty broad clause, and might be a very unjust one, unless it has been considered by those who understand it. To make a criminal offence of having in one's possession stray cattle is a pretty drastic measure. The general law provides, in the eastern provinces, at all events, plenty of punishment for offences of this kind ; I have known people to be convicted of stealing cattle under it. This amendment will affect the general law all over the country, and it is a new class of legislation relating to dealings with tens of thousands of cattle, which we are considering, without any knowledge of the state of affairs that exists already, or any knowledge of the opinions of those, many in number, who will be affected by it, except, I presume, somebody who has made representations.

Mr. DAVIN. We have an ordinance which deals with these Acts, that goes as near as it possibly can to make them a criminal offence. I am not sure that this goes one whit too far in punishing the offence aimed at, because there is no reason whatever why a man should mistake another's cattle for his own, but there is great temptation to dishonest men to do it. In the case of calves that are not branded, the temptation is great to a dishonest man to brand them as his own if they become mixed with his herd. If the person on whom the wrong has been committed does not observe this in time, it is almost impossible to bring the offence home to its perpetrator. Happily in many cases, the time that elapses before discovery is not sufficient to deprive the owner of the means of proving his property. For instance, in the case of a calf which has been improperly branded and has got mixed up with the calves of another rancher, when the round-up takes place, the calves will remain with their mothers, and the proper owner is in the position to apply the great test. If the mother bears his brand, all he has to do is to put the calf by the side of the mother, and the court can at once determine whether the calf has been improperly branded or not. But the crime is such a serious one, when you take into consider-

ation the class of people who commit it—for it can only be committed by men in whom criminality is greater than it would be in the case of ordinary criminals—that I am inclined to favour legislation that will prove a strong deterrent.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I would suggest that at this hour the committee should rise and ask leave to sit again, because the measure is altogether too important to be properly considered at this late hour.

Mr. TISDALE. The question, to my mind, is whether we should make this a criminal offence or leave it solely to be dealt with by the civil courts. It is quite possible that mistakes may occur and calves be wrongly branded without any dishonest intention, and we must not forget that the ranchmen have district associations of their own, and are subject to the regulations of this association framed to meet the difficulty we are now attempting to deal with, and in carrying out these regulations they have to give and take a little. I find in this measure that the proposed clause 707a provides :

In any prosecution, proceeding or trial for any offence under section 331a, a brand or mark, duly recorded or registered under the provisions of any Act, ordinance or law on any cattle, shall be prima facie evidence that such cattle are the property of the registered owner of such brand or mark.

The word 'Act' would no doubt mean an Act of parliament, but I do not know whether the word 'ordinance' would mean an ordinance of the territory.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A territory.

Mr. TISDALE. I do not know how the registration in the Territories is regulated, but in most of the cattle countries there is no law or ordinance or Act to cover this. I think it is covered by the regulations of the cattle associations of the districts, and under these regulations the difficulties are settled in the general round up. The point is whether we should make a criminal offence of a matter which, so far as any evidence before us shows, the ranchmen have so far managed under their own regulations. That is a point which we should consider, but as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) suggests, I think, it is about time that we should adjourn. I think it is about time that the committee should rise that we may consider these matters more fully, because it is pretty hard to follow these changes. There is a brand ordinance, and a very good one, dealing with the brands in the North-west Territories. Its provision as regards the punishment of any infringement is as follows :

Any person who brands or directs—

It goes on to mention three or four cases which are practically the three cases mentioned here—

—shall be guilty of an offence, and upon summary conviction thereof before a justice of the peace, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200.

After all, that makes a criminal offence, and is an assumption of the right on the part of the Territorial legislature to infringe upon our domain of Dominion legislation. I think in most cases this will be effectual enough, but there are cases of wanton designed and carefully planned offences. I have heard on pretty good authority of cases of men who are supposed to have made themselves pretty well off by a systematic stealing of other men's cattle. It is a very easy thing to do, and I have stated to the committee the only possible protection. Suppose, that the mother gets killed, or if a man were to get the mother away from the calf, there is no means whatever of proving ownership. I consider this is a case where we should step in with criminal legislation. Though there is a chance, it is the slightest possible chance, of injuring innocent men. But I join in the suggestion of my hon. friend (Mr. Britton) that we should rise.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I agree with that view. I may say that I am obliged to my hon. friends for the assistance they have given in the discussion of the code. I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, May 7, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 150) respecting the Salisbury and Harvey Railway Company.—(Mr. Lewis.)

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton). I wish to ask a question with regard to a supplementary return in connection with the steamship *John C. Barr*. In

the papers brought down, there is a letter addressed to the collector of customs at Boston by the Deputy Minister of Marine, dated February 27, 1899, the last paragraph of which is as follows :

I have not received any reply to my letters of November 10 and 15 last relative to the evidence on which you gave certain vessels British registers.

The correspondence is complete, with the exception of the letter of November 15, 1898. The letter of the 10th is brought down but not the letter of the 15th, and I would be very much obliged if that letter could be made the subject of a further supplementary return, in compliance of the order of the House, dated February 12, 1900, and for convenience the reference is No. 26, sessional papers No. 63. The first part of the correspondence was between the Department of Marine and the collector of Dawson, and subsequently transferred to the collector of customs, and these documents, of course, will not possibly be in the Department of Customs, but I would ask the Minister of Customs to kindly make a note of it and bring it to the attention of his colleague, who is not in his place.

Although the hon. Minister of Agriculture is not in his place, I would like to call attention to a return, perhaps connected with his department, but possibly connected with the Department of the Interior. I refer to the report of Mr. W. H. Lynch. On April 19, 1899, a question was asked by Mr. Powell, and the Minister of the Interior replied that the report would be laid on the Table when ordered by the House. On May 29, 1899, an order was obtained for a copy of the report referred to, but so far as I have been able to discover, the main report has been omitted, and the only part brought down is a draft Bill from Mr. Lynch with regard to mining regulations, and a letter from Mr. Lynch, of March 20, 1899, in which he says that he incloses a draft of the new code of mining regulations, such as called for by his main report. It is that main report I would like to see.

LOBSTER FISHERIES.

Mr. G. V. McINERNEY (Kent, N.B.) I wish to bring to the attention, particularly of the hon. Minister of Marine, a matter of considerable importance, affecting a large number of fishermen along the Atlantic seaboard. Some time ago, in answer to a question asked by the hon. member for King's, P.E.I., (Mr. Macdonald) the hon. minister said that fishermen engaged in the lobster fisheries would not be allowed to set out their traps before the beginning of the season for lobster fishing along the coast, and I understand that since then a regulation has been published to that effect. I would like to press on the attention of the minister the great damage that may ensue to a number of the fishermen if this

Mr CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

regulation should be put in force. The hon. gentleman understands perfectly well what it means to set a line of lobster traps. By the report of the department for 1899, I see that the average number of traps to each fishing establishment is at least 2,000. The setting out of 2,000 traps means a line fully five miles in length. These traps are set at a distance of from two to five miles from the shore out on the Atlantic Ocean. A large line, called the 'set line,' is put out anchored and buoyed so as to set the traps, and then hauling-up lines are attached to each buoy, and these traps are set in eight, nine and ten fathoms of water.

ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows :

Mr. Speaker,—

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of your honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, with the House, went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned,

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that His Excellency the Governor General had been pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name the Royal Assent to the following Bills :

An Act respecting the Kaslo and Lardo-Duncan Railway Company.

An Act respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company.

An Act to amend the Dominion Lands Act.

An Act respecting the Canada and Michigan Bridge and Tunnel Company.

An Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Hereford Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Niagara Grand Island Bridge Company.

An Act respecting the River St. Clair Railway Bridge and Tunnel Company.

An Act respecting the Canada Southern Bridge Company.

An Act respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.

An Act to incorporate the Port Dover, Brantford, Berlin and Goderich Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories.

An Act to incorporate the Canadian Steel Company.

An Act respecting the members of the North-west Mounted Police Force on Active Service in South Africa.

An Act respecting La Banque Jacques Cartier and to change its name to La Banque Provinciale du Canada.

An Act respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.

An Act respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company.

An Act to amend the Act to provide for the Conditional Liberation of Penitentiary Convicts.

LOBSTER FISHERIES.

Mr. McINERNEY. The setting out of such a large number of traps is quite a serious matter for the fishermen. In fair weather, and with open boats, which they generally use, this takes up a week of time, and, in stormy weather, from ten days to a fortnight. When it is understood that the lobster fishing season lasts only ten weeks, it will be seen how important it is that the fishermen should not lose the first couple of weeks, the most valuable time of the fishery. I do not say that the regulation will affect all districts alike. To illustrate, I may give a case in point. In Northumberland Straits, there are two districts. In the northern district, the season begins early in the year, and fishermen would not set out traps before the season begins, but in the lower district, which starts at a point in the middle of the Kent County coast, and where the season begins on May 25, the fishermen can, long before May 25, get out traps and be ready for fishing when the season begins. Now, this is an important matter, because the lobster fishing is one of the most important branches of the fishing industry in this country. By the return last year, I see that millions of dollars are invested in plant, and that 16,000 people are engaged in this industry. As this is a matter of such great importance, I hope the Minister will reconsider his decision and will rescind the regulation if it has been issued and published, and will not take away from these people the right they have always enjoyed. I cannot understand why the regulation should have been passed at all. It may be said that the fishermen may illegally fish before the season begins. But, that is no argument. There is no reason why they should. Officers are scattered along the shore to see that the fishermen do not fish before the season begins, and, to punish the people by taking away two weeks of the season, because they might break the law by fishing before hand is illogical and will not strike the fishermen as reasonable—nor, when fairly presented, I believe, will it strike the minister as reasonable. I hope that the minister will see to it at once. The time is short. This is May 7, and the season begins on the 25th of this month. I hope this regulation will be rescinded.

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I would ask my hon. friend (Mr. Prior), to allow me. I did not rise at once, because I thought

somebody else might desire to speak on this subject. I appreciate the importance of the lobster fishing as much as the hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) does. I know that the facts are as he states them, that this fishing industry is a most important one for the maritime provinces generally; and it is because I realize the importance of the industry and am desirous of protecting it, that I am so anxious to see reasonable and prudent regulations carried out. Everybody knows that unless we adopt reasonable and prudent regulations and carry them out, nothing will save it from absolute extinction—as it is now extinct on the sea coast of the United States—this industry, which brings in three and a half millions of dollars to our people, will be utterly wiped out. Therefore, while it may make one popular for the time being, to extend the season, or to give a number of days before the season begins, and a number of days after it is over—in other words, to do everything possible to nullify the regulations—I submit to my hon. friend (Mr. McInerney) that that does not tend to preserve and conserve this industry. We took a great deal of pains to ascertain the time during which the close season should last, and the time during which fishing should be permitted. We appointed a commission that went all over the coast, heard the opinions of the fishermen themselves, and gave its report, which report has been adopted by the department, and has been practically put in the form of regulations. The fishermen are allowed to fish between certain specific days, between certain specific points on the coast. The idea of my hon. friend from Kent is that they should not only have that time, but should be allowed to have out their nets and traps, for as long as they please before that. The result of that will be illegal fishing, and the hon. gentleman knows that as well as he knows that he is sitting in that seat. It was to obviate that, and to put all on the same footing, that the regulation was adopted. If a specific day is fixed when they can begin fishing, they can go out with nets and gear, and take possession of the ground. If they can go out when they like, they will go out months before the law permits them to fish, pre-empt the ground, put out their traps, and do as much fishing as they like, and nobody can stop them. It would be utterly impossible for the guardians to watch the tens of thousands of traps, to see that fish are not being caught out of season. I will consider very carefully the matter that the hon. gentleman has brought up, and will go over it with the officers of the department. I have gone over it a number of times, and have a great quantity of correspondence on the subject, and I have come to the conclusion that it is in the interest of the industry itself, that these regulations should be enforced, and that there should be a time within which there should not be fishing; but if the fishermen are allowed

to put out their traps during that time, it will be impossible to prevent illegal fishing.

Mr. PRIOR. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. J. H. BELL (P.E.I.) Mr. Speaker, before we pass from this subject—

Mr. SPEAKER. I may remind my hon. friend from Prince, P.E.I., (Mr. Bell) that there is nothing before the Chair.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) I will then make the usual motion and put myself in order. I desire to say a word on this subject, because it is of importance to the people I have the honour to represent. The time for setting back-lines and unbaited traps was not brought up before the Fishery Commission; it comes up, now, for the first time. The season allowed for lobster fishing is limited. The fishermen along the Northumberland Straits have a right to begin operations on the 25th of this month. The effect of this regulation is to take away from them one or two weeks of the time allowed for fishing, and that is why these men have thought it a great hardship. The reason assigned for the regulation by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is, that to allow unbaited traps to be set before the 25th May would lead to illegal fishing. That reason may apply to a few cases, but, in the large majority of instances, the people do not propose to carry on illegal fishing, and will not do so. It is no argument to them to say that certain persons may be tempted to fish illegally. One fisherman will have about 300 traps. It will take him, in fine weather, about ten or twelve days to put out these traps, because he has long distances to traverse. In the very nature of things he cannot begin to fish before he has half his baited traps out. I can hardly see the reason for or the justice of this regulation. Here is a man who has his traps on the bank and his back lines all ready to set out. He takes those empty traps and lines and puts them in the water. I cannot see that the law will justify the department in declaring by regulation that that man should not put his traps or his back lines in the water if he does not actually commence his fishing before the time fixed by law. To my mind it seems an arbitrary, and I was going to say, an illegal, act to prevent a poor fisherman from putting his back lines into the water, not for the purpose of beginning fishing, but for the purpose of enabling him, as soon as fishing time begins, to prosecute his proper calling. It is a great hardship to fix and limit the lobster fishing season and then deliberately pass an order in council—with the best possible intention, I admit—which has the effect of shortening that man's season from one to two weeks.

I may refer to another reason, and that is, that the time allotted for fishing along

this particular coast is less than that along other portions of the Prince Edward Island shore by four or five days. It was a hardship in the first instance to fix the time and give a less number of days for fishing. For these reasons I would impress upon the Minister of Marine and Fisheries the necessity of taking this matter into consideration, more particularly as regards that section of the coast where the fishing begins on the 25th of May. There may be other localities where it is advisable to limit the time for setting out traps; but in this particular instance it works a hardship and an injustice, and it cannot be excused except upon the untenable ground that these men deliberately intend to violate the law. No such intention should be presumed. As a general rule, subject to such exceptions as are found in every locality, these fishermen intend honestly to pursue their calling, and they only ask from the government to be left alone so that they may have the full time allowed them by law for prosecuting their industry. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. A. C. MACDONALD (King's, P.E.I.) Before that motion is put I would like to say a word to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. While I am prepared to back him up in all his regulations for the purpose of conserving the lobster fishery, in this instance I have to find some fault with him. Now, a convention of the fishermen, who are the real parties interested in this important industry, was held, as I understand, in Charlottetown not very long since, and the opinion of those people was found to be in favour of the 1st of May as the opening season for lobster fisheries. I think the hon. minister has made a mistake in opening the season on the 20th of April instead of the 1st of May, as formerly. In the first place he jeopardizes the fishing gear of the fishermen, or rather the fishermen have to take the earliest opportunity of securing the limits on which they are to fish, for fear they will be appropriated by their neighbours, and each one is anxious to commence the first moment the law will allow. If the opening season is made too early, the fishermen are almost sure, as has been the case the present season, to lose a large quantity of their fishing gear. I understand there are now many hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars of fishing gear lost by reason of the ice not having left the coast and having drifted in on the fishermen after they had set out their traps. I think the minister has made a mistake in not continuing the season as formerly, and in opening it on the 1st of May instead of on the 20th April, especially so when the fishermen themselves were in favour of continuing it at the latter date. With respect to the question that has been brought forward by the gentlemen who have preceded me, it is rather a difficult one to decide. There is no

doubt that all the fishermen should be placed exactly on the same basis, and that the opening should be made at a certain given time. With respect to that I would also suggest to the minister that instead of opening it at 12 o'clock, midnight, it should be opened at 12 o'clock midday. It would be much better if all the fishermen were placed exactly on the same footing, so that no one should have an advantage over another. I think in respect to both of these matters the minister would do well to make a note of them for another season.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John City). While there can be no objection to this question being brought up by the hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) it seems to me a great pity it should be brought up on a motion to adjourn the House, when many gentlemen who are interested in questions of this kind are not present. My hon. colleague for the city and county of St. John (Mr. Tucker), a portion of whose constituency is engaged in lobster fishing, is not here this afternoon, but no doubt he would have been here if he had known that this matter was going to be discussed. I think there ought to be a rule of the House to prevent discussions of a general character being sprung up on motions to adjourn the House. It is most regrettable. I would say this, however, not knowing as much about the question as some of my hon. friends, that it is highly desirable in the interests of this country that rigid regulations should be made with regard to the lobster industry. That industry is constantly decreasing in volume, the size of the fish is decreasing, and the time is not distant when this industry will entirely disappear unless rigid rules are made for its control. The fishermen, of course, are interested in gaining a livelihood, they have no interest but to catch the fish at the earliest moment they are allowed to engage in fishing. The Department of Marine and Fisheries having control of this great industry and looking to its future, must make regulations, and those regulations, of whatever character they may be, will not be satisfactory to the fishermen. It seems to me that in view of the importance of maintaining this industry all of us should be willing to support the department in making reasonable regulations, and this appears to be one of them. I do not quite agree with the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Bell), that a man has to have ever so many traps out before he can commence to catch fish. That can be easily evaded. The moment a man gets his traps down he can commence taking them in if he chooses to do so. I do not think there is much in that argument. I trust the House will sustain the regulations which the department has made, and while they limit to some extent, the rights of individuals, I think they are on the whole for the public good.

Mr. McINERNEY. Nobody will endorse the action of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in any regulations he may make for the protection of the lobster industries or of the fisheries generally, more strongly than I would; but I claim that these restrictions or regulations should be reasonable, and this is neither reasonable nor fair. It is not fair because it does not treat all alike. I have pointed out to the hon. minister that in the northern district of the Northumberland Straits men can get out their traps just as soon as they can fish, but in the southern districts they are not permitted, by the law, to get out their traps until after they are able to fish. They cannot get out their traps until after the season begins, while in the northern district they can get them out very much sooner; therefore, in the southern district they lose two weeks of the fishing season while in the northern district they do not lose this time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. A man in the southern district has until the 15th of August to fish—the contention which was made, which was conceded by the commissioners and reluctantly yielded to by me. Now, after he has got that length of time, away on into August, to fish, he is kicking up his heels because he does not get a fortnight of time before the law allows him to begin.

Mr. McINERNEY. I am not arguing against the dates fixed for the beginning and the ending of the fishery. He has ten weeks. But, in the north the fisherman has four days longer than he has in the south, and therefore the argument of the hon. minister does not apply. A man in the northern district can get his traps out before the season begins, while a man in the southern district loses two weeks. The answer is made that the man in the southern district will go on fishing illegally. That is an imputation that is not to be cast on the fishermen of the south by the minister because I say they will not fish illegally. There is nobody who has a greater regard for the law governing the lobster fishery than have these fishermen. Some of the most valuable suggestions against illegal fishing were made by these men who are directly interested in the preservation of this fishery. They know that it is not wise to kill the goose that lays the golden egg, and I, for one, say that in regard to any regulation he has made I have not attempted to raise my voice against the reasonableness of it when I thought it was reasonable. I have brought this case to the attention of the minister because I believe a wrong is being done to the fishermen in certain sections, and the only answer that is made is, that if they did differently they might fish illegally. The minister is provided with officers to see that they will not fish illegally, and it is no

answer to say that they will do wrong and that in order to stop them from doing wrong the minister will do them an injustice.

Mr. ANGUS McLENNAN (Inverness). Mr. Speaker, while I agree with the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis) that the department should be backed up in restricting the time during which this very important industry can be prosecuted with the view to preserve this valuable branch of our fisheries, I submit that it is for us to consider whether some attention should be paid to the question of the uniformity of the length of time within which people in various localities may prosecute this industry. Around the Island of Cape Breton, the ice, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, when moving out to the north, is often very apt to close in against the western coast. Under the old regulations the same length of time was permitted to the fishermen around the whole coast of Cape Breton notwithstanding that it is against the western coast of the island that the ice first wedged in. The contention was always set up that on the eastern side of the island ice was blown in and rounded the coast later in the spring. Under the old regulations, then, it was conceded that somewhat similar conditions prevailed and that the same time should be allowed to the fishermen along the coast of the island to prosecute this industry. Upon reading the report of the Lobster Commission, I saw nothing in the evidence that would justify any deviation whatsoever in the time as to the prosecution of that industry along the coast of that island. The island is about 100 miles in diameter and about 300 miles in circumference. The amount of fish which is caught around that length of coast is of very great value and, therefore, the industry of great importance, and hence the interest naturally taken in the time for its prosecution. It would appear, then, that notwithstanding the fact that the evidence given before the commission would seem to point to the fact that the conditions prevailing around the coast of the island are somewhat the same. An order in council was issued declaring that the people along the western portion of the island should cease to catch their fish three weeks before the people on the eastern side of the island. In other words, the season available for prosecuting that valuable industry was to be shortened by three weeks on the western side and, of course, lengthened to a similar extent on the eastern side. While I again say that I agree with the hon. member for St. John in the desire to back up the Department of Marine and Fisheries in restricting the prosecution of this fishery in order to save the people from themselves, as it were, yet, I submit, whether it is fair to permit the people along a certain line of coast to prosecute

that industry for three weeks longer than their neighbours along the same coast, living under similar conditions, the conditions prevailing along the coast in regard to the ice and other conditions being precisely the same. It is against this discrepancy that I raise my protest, and I say again that in regard to the curtailing of the season for prosecuting the fisheries I have not one word to say provided it be considered wise to do so, but I have a most decided protest to enter against this wide discrepancy involving a discrimination against the western portion of the Island of Cape Breton which constitutes the whole of the coast along the Gulf of St. Lawrence of the county which I have the honour to represent. The hon. member for King's, P.E.I., (Mr. Macdonald) has said that it was a mistake to limit the time when the fishermen could not prosecute that industry too closely. I think hon. gentlemen will remember that I made a protest similar to the one I now make, last year, and I do not think the hon. gentleman showed me so much sympathy as he claims to have now after experience, but, all the same, it is correct to say that it was a mistake, on some parts of the coast of the Island of Cape Breton and on some parts of the coast of Prince Edward Island, to name the 20th of April as the opening of the season in view of the fact that lobster traps cannot be set out at least with safety at that time. I declare now, that there is not a trap set on the western coast of the Island of Cape Breton, in view of the fact that the ice is still on that coast, and yet these men are told, by regulation, that they can forsooth fish from the 20th of April. It is now past the first week in May and ten days of April, after the 20th, have passed without one trap having been laid along a very great portion of that coast. Therefore, permission being given to these people nominally to fish lobster on the 20th of April, being required to cease fishing on the 10th of July, is simply depriving them of the right which is conceded to their neighbours on the eastern side of the island, making three weeks of a difference. I venture to say that if inquiry were made by the Department of Marine and Fisheries it would be found that all around the eastern side of the Island of Cape Breton the lobster industry is now vigorously prosecuted, while on the western side not a trap is out north of a certain point. I, therefore, say that while restrictions should be placed on this industry in order to preserve it, yet, the same measure should be meted out to all who are engaged in it. In other words, the same limit of time should be allowed to all. For instance, in Prince Edward Island, and on a portion of the coast of New Brunswick, they are not permitted to commence fishing until late in May—I think May 20—but they are allowed to continue until August 15.

Mr. McINERNEY.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is only in a limited locality.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). I know, but it demonstrates the very point that I claim should be conceded to the western coast of Cape Breton. On the western coast of Cape Breton Island, the time allowed these parties to prosecute this important industry is only a little over six weeks, whereas, on the eastern side and along the coast of Nova Scotia proper, the time is in many instances three months. Along the eastern coast of Cape Breton particularly, the time is exactly three months, while, I am sure I am correct in saying, that the fishermen on the western side are limited to six or seven weeks. I make these observations so that a readjustment of the time limit for lobster fishing shall be made by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and this particular injustice rectified.

Motion (Mr. Bell, P.E.I.), to adjourn, negatived.

Mr. SPEAKER. I wish to draw the attention of hon. members to the point raised by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Ellis). In ordinary cases, two days' notice is required before a question can be put across the House; but, latterly, we have drifted into a habit which is a violation of that rule. If there is a case of urgency a member is entitled to ask a question across the floor without notice, but he is not entitled to make a prolonged statement on the subject. The House will agree with me, that we have seen to-day an example of a very marked contravention of the rule of the House in that respect. The case brought before us was one that could very well be discussed on the items in supply, and the hon. gentleman from St. John (Mr. Ellis) very properly pointed out that when such a question is raised without notice a number of members interested in it were precluded from discussing it, should they be absent at the moment. A motion to adjourn the House under such circumstances dissipates the time of the House and reaches no satisfactory results. I would, therefore, ask hon. members to remember the rules of the House in this respect, and if hon. members are obliged to ask a question on a matter of urgency, I would ask them to put that question as precisely and as pointedly as possible. Of course, if a case requires urgent investigation, a motion to adjourn would be in order so that the matter might be discussed at once. I would ask hon. members to economize the time of the House as far as possible, and this can be best done by adhering to the rules.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) I have been unable to find, from the Votes and

Proceedings, that a return has been brought down to an order of the House passed on February 14, in regard to claims on the White Horse Rapids in the Yukon country. I would ask the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) to bring it down as soon as possible. There was also an order of the House passed on March 28, for all correspondence in reference to the new steamer required on the Pacific coast for the Marine Department and the Customs Department. That order is not yet down. There was also an order passed on April 23, for the report made by Mr. Stumbles, a portion of which the hon. gentleman promised to bring down, but it is not down yet.

YUKON TERRITORY—ORDINANCES.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) laid on the Table of the House the ordinances for the Yukon Territory for the year 1899.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 148)—from the Senate—respecting the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

At what dates was the MSS. of the following departmental reports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, sent to the Queen's Printer, namely :

Postmaster General,
Public Works.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). The preparation of the copy of the report of the Minister of Public Works was delayed in consequence of the illness and ultimate death of the clerk in charge of the work, and of the illness of the clerk to whom the work was thereafter entrusted. and, finally, said report was placed in the hands of the Queen's Printer on the 24th ultimo. As to the Postmaster General's report, an answer will be given next question day.

THE DOUKHOBORS—EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

Has any action been taken by the government, or any of its officials, to prevent certain Doukhobor settlers in the Canadian North-west from emigrating to the United States? If so, what action was taken, and by whom?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Yes. 2. The action taken by the department, the deputy minister and the commissioner of immigration was as follows : As soon as the report reached Ottawa that an agitation was being promoted amongst the Doukhobors to induce them to move to California, communication was had with the following gentle-

men who had interested themselves in their removal from Russia: John Bellows, London, Eng.; V. Tchertkoff, of Essex, Eng., and Joseph S. Elkinton, of Pennsylvania. The department was advised that these gentlemen and Count Tolstoi, with whom they communicated, wrote very strong letters to the Doukhobors, urging them on no consideration to leave the North-west, as they felt certain they would achieve greater success there than in the United States. Certain officials of the department interviewed the persons who were reported as likely to move, urging them to remain in Canada. The commissioner of immigration also wrote to the United States government agent at Pembina on the boundary line, to the effect that certain persons representing corporations or otherwise, in the state of California, were working amongst the Doukhobors with object of inducing them to emigrate to California, under an agreement to provide with employment.

YUKON—SALARY OF MR. OGILVIE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Did the hon. the Minister of the Interior, on April 4, 1899, when referring to the Commissioner of the Yukon District, state in this House: 'I think the salaries are good; Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner, gets \$5,000. When he was employed by the late government he got \$1,800 . . . now be it known that the government furnishes for their men both quarters and provisions'?

2. What does Mr. Ogilvie now get?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Yes. 2. Salary, \$6,000 per annum; living allowance, \$2,000 per annum; rent, \$250 per month; house-keeper, \$60 per month.

YUKON—PAYMENTS TO MR. W. H. P. CLEMENT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What is the date of the appointment of Mr. W. H. P. Clement as legal adviser in the Yukon District?

2. What salary has been paid to him since that date?

3. Has Mr. Clement been paid by the government anything beyond his salary since his appointment as legal adviser, and if so, how much, and for what service?

4. Was he paid \$900, in addition to his regular salary, for acting as legal adviser to the commissioner, under Royal Commission issued to Mr. Ogilvie, at the rate of \$75 per day from February 6, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28; March 6, 7, 8, 11; May 9, 17, or 12 days in all, in 1899?

5. Was he paid \$375 for a five days' trip to Dominion Creek in above matter at \$75, March 31 and April 4, 1899, and if so, what was the object of this trip and what was the result?

6. If Mr. Clement acted as legal adviser as above, did he act under instructions from the hon. the Minister of the Interior, or at the request of Mr. Ogilvie?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

7. Did the hon. the Minister of the Interior by letter of October 10, 1898, instruct Mr. Ogilvie as follows: 'Your legal adviser, Mr. Clement, will give you any professional assistance that may be required in the investigation.' And if so, did the hon. minister intend that extra pay was to be given to the legal adviser for these services?

8. Did Mr. Clement render an account for \$1,275, being at the rate of \$75 per day, for acting as counsel for Mr. Ogilvie, commissioner, under letters patent, and did Mr. Ogilvie certify that these services were performed by Mr. Clement at 'his request,' and if so, were these services contemplated by the hon. the minister, referred to in question 7 above?

9. If the above amount was paid to Mr. Clement, what was the proportionate amount of ordinary salary paid to him for the days in question?

10. What officer or officers of the government received pay for services under the said commission, and how much, if anything, did each receive proportionately?

11. Did the hon. the Minister of the Interior inform this House on April 4, 1899, that he thought Mr. Clement's salary as legal adviser—\$2,500—good?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. October 7, 1898. 2. He was paid at the rate of \$2,500 per annum from October 7, 1898, to June 30, 1899; and he has been paid at the rate of \$5,000 per annum from July 1, 1899, to the present date. 3. Nothing beyond expenses. Since February 14, 1899, he has received a fixed amount for living expenses, viz.: \$100 a month. 4. No. 5. No. He visited Dominion Creek in the matter of the charges made by one Kelly against Thos. Fawcett, as gold commissioner, but the only payment made in connection therewith, was \$30.50, for expenses. 6. At the request of Mr. Ogilvie. 7. (a) Yes. (b) There is nothing on record further to show what the minister's intention was; but no payment has been authorized by him. 8. (a) Yes. (b) Yes. (c) Yes. 9. The amount has not been paid Mr. Clement. 10. Messrs. J. N. E. Brown and F. M. Shephard, stenographers, were paid respectively, the sums of \$582.57 and \$582.58. 11. I have not had time to examine *Hansard* carefully enough to answer this question, but if the hon. gentleman says that the minister is so reported in *Hansard*, he is doubtless correct. I may say, however, that what might have been a good salary when Mr. Clement was allowed to practice his profession, would not necessarily be an adequate salary when called upon to discontinue private practice, and to give his whole time to the public service.

YUKON—THE OGILVIE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Touching the payment of witnesses before the Ogilvie Commission of Inquiry and the following report of proceedings before the commissioner on February 22, 1899:—

'Mr. Ogilvie.—The court is now open for the hearing of charges under the Royal Commission.

'Mr. Percy McDougal.—The representatives of the miners' committee want to bring evidence to show that money was paid to gain access to the gold commissioner's office. We are anxious to see where the blame is attached and find out to whom that blame is due.

'Mr. Armstrong.—I wish to define our position somewhat. We don't wish to be understood as prosecutors alone in this hearing of charges. We understand that you are holding a commission to inquire into matters of public interest in this territory, and we wish to give our time and help in this investigation without any fee or recompense of any sort.

'There is a matter which I wish to call your attention to, that is the matter of expenses. You have told us there is no arrangement in regard to expenses; but I would call your attention to the fact that many of the miners, especially those residing outside of Dawson on distant creeks, have no money whatever, and very little food, and that they have no cabins in Dawson, and no friends to whom they can have recourse; and that to call such men into Dawson is an absolute piece of cruelty, and we are put in a position to ask these men to come and help the government to make an inquiry into matters of government interest. This seems to us an act of cruelty. I would ask you to make an order that witnesses might apply for such expenses as might be necessary for their maintenance during the times they are before the court.

'The Commissioner.—There is no authority in the commission, as I told you before—nothing about paying expenses, and if I did what you suggest I might be held responsible myself. That I cannot afford.

'Mr. McDougal.—Could not the council make some provision for this?

'The Commissioner.—No, this matter the council cannot deal with. It has only to deal with local matters. What I suggested was, that these men keep track of their expenses and put in the accounts which will be submitted to Ottawa.

'Mr. Armstrong.—But these men have no money now; how can a satisfactory commission of inquiry be held without paying the men their expenses?

'The Commissioner.—If I trespass beyond the point of this commission I may be held personally responsible.

'Mr. Armstrong.—Then the only thing to do is to recognize the commission as limited and work within the limitation as best we can.

'The Commissioner.—I will help in every way I can.

'Mr. McDougal.—Is it not understood that under a Royal Commission the witnesses' fees are paid?

'The Commissioner.—That question I cannot decide at present. We are considering that. There is no mention made in connection with expenses at all; it is not referred to in the remotest way.

* * * * *

'As to the matter of witnesses coming in, as I told you, I will take that into consideration and suggest that they keep track of their expenses and submit the account to me, which I will forward to Ottawa. This is all I can do.

'Mr. McDougal.—The need for relief in such cases is immediate, as I would call to your attention, a number of the men called in have no shelter.'

And referring to the following papers brought down to this House:—

'Ottawa, November 20, 1899.

'To Hon. Clifford Sifton, British Columbia.

'Mr. Ogilvie telegraphs stating witnesses Royal Commission anxious for their fees. Thinks should be settled at once as some of them hard up. Shall I authorize him to pay.

'JAS. A. SMART.'

'West Prince Albert, N.W.T., Nov. 21.

'To James A. Smart, Ottawa.

'Authorize him to pay the witnesses.

'CLIFFORD SIFTON.'

'Department of Interior,

'Ottawa, November 22, 1899.

'To Wm. Ogilvie, Commissioner,

'Dawson, Yukon.

'You are authorized to pay witnesses in connection with Royal Commission.

'JAMES A. SMART,
Deputy Minister.'

(a.) When did Mr. Ogilvie conclude his inquiry under the Royal Commission aforesaid?

(b.) When did he first communicate with the department on the subject of the payment of witnesses?

(c.) Out of what fund or appropriation were their expenses paid?

2. Touching Mr. Clement's account, June 1, 1899, for \$1,275 for services rendered to Mr. Ogilvie on said inquiry:

(a.) When did the department receive a communication on the subject of the payment of said account?

(b.) When was payment of this account directed, if at all?

(c.) Out of what fund or appropriation was this amount paid?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. The answer to the first question is: (a) May 17, 1899. (b) On November 18, 1899. (c) The appropriation for administration of Yukon Territory. 2. The answer to the second question is: (a) August 2, 1899. (b) Payment was never directed. (c) The amount was not paid.

YUKON—COMMUNICATIONS WITH MR. OGILVIE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. When was the communication of February 28, 1899, signed by William Ogilvie, Esq., and included in Return Sessional Paper No. 69, Ref. No. 6, Return to Address of the House of Commons February 7, 1900, received at Ottawa?

2. When was the communication of April 14, 1899, referred to in said return, received at Ottawa?

3. How many, if any, communications passed between the hon. the Minister of the Interior or his department and Mr. Ogilvie, upon the subject referred to in these communications between the above dates or afterwards?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. April 3, 1899. 2. May 19, 1899. 3. There does not appear to be any other correspondence in regard to the extension of the commission issued to Mr. Ogilvie.

HARDWARE SUPPLIES FOR THE N. W. MOUNTED POLICE.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

1. When were tenders last called for supplying hardware to the mounted police of the North-west Territories?
2. What firm or firms have supplied the North-west Mounted Police with hardware for each year ended June 30, 1897, 1898 and 1899, and for the first six months of the financial year 1899-1900?
3. Did they obtain the contracts on public tender?
4. If so, when and where were the tenders advertised?
5. If tenders were not called for, why not?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. December, 1895, not by public tender. Lists of articles required were sent to responsible firms. The prices of J. H. Ashdown, Winnipeg, were the most favourable. 2. Various firms throughout Manitoba and the North-west Territories, principally J. H. Ashdown and the Gurney Stove and Range Company, Winnipeg. 3 and 4. Answered by No. 1. 5. It has been considered more satisfactory to purchase from time to time as required, the articles being of a varied character, and prices regulated by patterns and sizes.

REFERENCE RE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.

Mr. FLINT asked :

1. Was a reference made to the Supreme Court of Canada by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under authority of the Supreme and Exchequer Courts Act, as amended by the Act 54-55 Victoria, chapter 25, on the 1st day of February, A.D. 1900, for the hearing and consideration of certain questions touching the validity of section 6 of the Act 51 Victoria, chapter 34?
2. Has the said reference been heard and considered?
3. If not, for what reason has it not been heard?
4. Does the government propose to take any steps to secure hearing and consideration of the said questions by the said court?
5. If so, what steps are proposed to be taken?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). A reference was made to the Supreme Court of Canada on February 1, last, for the hearing and consideration of certain questions touching the validity of section 6 of the Act 51 Vic., chapter 34. The matter is still before the Supreme Court, and will take its turn.

Mr. FOSTER. What Act is that?

The PRIME MINISTER. The Canada Temperance Act.

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Ellis) asked :

1. Why was the official sample of 'thomas' phosphate powder drawn by John C. Ferguson, of the Inland Revenue Department, and sent to

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

Ottawa under the seal of the department for analysis, under section 7, subsection 2, chapter 24, 53 Vic. (Fertilizers Act), official number of sample 17,640, sent from Ottawa to Quebec, and analysed by Dr. M. Fiset, public analyst, Quebec?

2. Was it from lack of proper facilities to do it at Ottawa by the chief analyst of the Dominion, or for what reason?

3. It is stated that the system used for the analysis of the sample referred to was what is known as the method adopted by the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists of the United States, heretofore been in use and given satisfaction.

4. What is this system and what are the particulars of the methods used in analysis under it?

5. What year and month was the method of analysis adopted by the Association of the Official Agricultural Chemists of the United States?

6. At the date it was adopted had the production of basic slag, or Thomas' phosphate powder, been discovered and become an article of commerce?

7. If not, then it would in no way have any bearing on the question of analysis of this slag, and why it was applied by the department?

8. Was not the method as named above adopted solely for the analysis of bone phosphate, coprolite and other phosphates and manufactured fertilizers?

9. Did the chief Dominion analyst, whilst analysing the Thomas' phosphate powder, in using the citrate ammonia solution to determine the available phosphoric acid in superphosphates which have been made by mixing raw material, phosphates with sulphuric acid, take into consideration the basic nature of Thomas' phosphate powder, and first neutralized the free lime?

10. If not, what reason is assignable for not doing so?

11. If he had done so, would it not have given a different analysis and much higher percentage of available phosphoric acid? If so, the analysis is misleading.

12. If the chief analyst under the system he has imported from the United States, had neutralized the free lime, would it not under careful analysis, have given far different results than in his analysis Nos. 17,661, 17,662, 17,663, and bring up the average of available phosphoric acid considerably in excess of 8 per cent?

13. Under these circumstances, would it not be better to amend and correct the system of analysis rather than to reduce the standard of value to the farmer of 8 per cent available phosphoric acid to 5 per cent, thus making values and farming conform to a particular method of analysis, insisted upon by the chief analyst, ignoring later and more scientific methods?

14. Is the government aware that under the direction of the chief analyst of the Dominion, a fine was imposed on the Thomas' phosphate powder for not coming up to his standard of percentage, although duly analysed in England and certified to as having full value?

15. Was such fine collected? If not, why not?

16. If the chief analyst had adopted a certain method of analysis, will the government so amend the laws that in case of difference of opinion of analysis, the public may have some independent means of other analysis or an appeal to the Minister of Justice?

17. Does the government hold itself responsible for any loss sustained by the manufacturers or importers consequent on reports published by the Department of Inland Revenue placing the Thomas phosphate powder under the category

of being adulterated by an analysis which may have had the same effect?

18. Will the government permit the matter to be tested before the Exchequer Court to determine the rights of all parties?

19. How long has the chief analyst been in the employ of the Department of Inland Revenue?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). 1. The sample in question was one of three parts, or duplicates collected under the provisions of the Adulteration Act, section 9, and was sent by Mr. Ferguson direct to Dr. Fiset, at Quebec, there being at the time no district analyst at St. John, N.B. 2. It was not for want of proper facilities at Ottawa. It is only in the case of an appeal from the decision of the local analyst, that analysis is made at Ottawa, and there was no such appeal. 3. Yes. 4. It is explained in Bulletin No. 46, Revised Edition of the United States Department of Agriculture, published in 1899, of which a copy was sent to Messrs. Wallace and Fraser, at their request. 5. The 11th, 12th and 14th November, 1898. 6. Yes. 7. See answer to question 6. 8. The methods in question are stated to be for the analysis of fertilizers. 9. No. 10. Because no such method has been practised elsewhere. 11. It might, but the chief analyst does not know from his own experience. 12. Preceding answer applies to this question. 13. Not expedient for reasons given in answer to question No. 17, on April 4, last. 14. No. 15. No fine imposed, because department did not recommend prosecution. 16. See previous answer given to question 20, on April 4, last. As for an appeal to the Minister of Justice, it is a question whether the law ought to be amended in that direction or not. 17. No. 18. I am not ready to answer that question. 19. Fourteen years.

ST. PASCAL AND KAMOURASKA MAIL CONTRACT.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Is the hon. Postmaster General aware that the contractor for carrying the mail between St. Pascal and Kamouraska, on several occasions between June 1 and December 26, 1899, failed to perform his undertaking to exchange mails with the mail clerks on the maritime express, and by so doing deprived the parishes of St. Pascal and Kamouraska of their mail for whole days?

2. If so, is it the intention of the Postmaster General to compel the said contractor to comply with the terms of his contract in that behalf?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). 1. No. 2. Answered by No. 1.

MAIL DELIVERY ON I.C.R.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Davin) asked :

1. Whether it is true that the sacks containing the mails for stations on the Intercolonial Railway between Ste. Flavie and Campbellton are received on the mail car and delivered there-

from by means of a system of hooks or brackets while the train is running at full speed?

2. If so, when was the said system inaugurated?

3. Is the Postmaster General aware that, since the inauguration of the said system, a considerable number of the said sacks have been torn and the contents scattered on the roadway, thus causing the loss of registered letters and other mail matter?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). In reply, I beg to say: On the section of the Intercolonial Railway referred to, mails for a portion of the train service, are received and delivered by means of the catching service system, a system which has been in operation on railways for over a quarter of a century, and which was established last year on the section of the Intercolonial Railway referred to. Owing to a defective construction of the catching posts, bags were injured on two or three occasions, but as soon as the defective construction was discovered it was remedied, since which time the department has not heard of any further trouble.

TENDERS FOR INDIAN SUPPLIES IN MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

1. Will the hon. the acting Minister of the Interior lay on the Table copies of the schedules calling for tenders for Indian supplies in Manitoba and the North-west Territories for the fiscal years 1898-9 and 1900?

2. Copies of the tenders accepted?

3. Copies of the contracts awarded, if any, where no tenders were called for?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply to the hon. gentleman, I cannot do better than place on the Table of the House for the information of the hon. gentleman a printed copy of the form of tender and schedule used by the Department of Indian Affairs in calling for tenders for supplies, and a list of the tenders accepted; and I would add that no contract was made without tender, and that the lowest tenderer was in every instance awarded the contract.

ROWAN MILLS POST OFFICE.

Mr. TISDALE (by Mr. McDougall) asked :

1. Is there any officially appointed postmaster at Rowan Mills post office, south riding of Norfolk?

2. Is Daniel Biddle still postmaster there?

3. If not, when did he resign?

4. Who is acting postmaster?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). In reply, I beg to say: 1. The Rowan Mills post office is at present vacant, and there is, therefore, no officially appointed postmaster in charge of the office. 2. Daniel Biddle is not, and has not been, postmaster of Rowan Mills. 3. He did not resign. 4. Inquiry is being made.

WINNIPEG POST OFFICE.

Mr. PUTTEE asked :

What is the number of letters shown by the recent enumeration in Winnipeg to be annually handled by the Winnipeg post office?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The last enumeration shows that 87,170 letters were posted at Winnipeg during the week ended 7th April, 1900, aggregating at this rate for the year 4,545,292 letters.

TIMBER PERMITS IN MANITOBA AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

What was the object of passing the order in council of July 1, 1898, enabling the Minister of the Interior, in his discretion, to grant, in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, permits to cut timber?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I beg to reply : Under the authority of an order in council of the 1st of July, 1898, a number of amendments were made to the regulations governing the disposal of licenses and permits to cut timber in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and in the railway belt of the province of British Columbia. The new regulations made the same provision as the old regulations with reference to the acquisition of timber limits ; namely, that they should be acquired at public competition, but in view of a recommendation made by the Crown timber agent at Winnipeg, a provision was inserted that in the discretion of the Minister of the Interior, permits might be granted in Manitoba and the North-west Territories, to saw-mill owners to cut over a definite described tract of land, not exceeding fifty square miles in extent, on payment of Crown dues at the rate of 50 cents per thousand feet on sawn lumber, and a further sum of 50 cents per thousand feet in lieu of a bonus and ground rent, other products of manufacture to be paid for at the rate set forth in section 11 of the regulations. The intention was that saw-mill owners might obtain timber to be manufactured at their saw-mills without competing with the public. Prior to 1885, timber berths could be acquired without public competition. The law was changed so that any person who desired to acquire a timber berth was compelled to compete for the same, and the consequence was that in the case of mill-owners it proved a hardship when an expenditure had been made by them in exploring a timber limit, it was granted to an outsider who offered a larger bonus therefor, thus depriving the mill-owner of the timber he required for his saw-mill and compelling him in many cases to pay the holder of the berth a considerable sum in advance of the amount which he had paid for the berth.

When was it repealed?

Mr. MULOCK.

This regulation was repealed by order in council dated the 13th of January, 1899.

Why was it repealed?

It was felt that while it could be fairly claimed as reasonable that saw-mill owners holding limits should, in order to provide timber for their mills, have the privilege of acquiring other timber by paying practically double dues under the suggested arrangement contained in section 17, yet demands might be made upon the department with regard to it which would have the effect of practically annulling the general policy of the department, which is that no limits should be disposed of except by public competition. For this reason the clause affording this privilege to mill-owners was repealed.

How much timber did Theo. A. Burrows cut under his permit?

1,523 fence posts ; 1,730 cords of wood ; 2,318 telegraph poles ; 4,786 feet of piling ; 98,372 railways ties. The dues paid by Mr. Burrows for this timber amounted to \$3,632.29.

How much did H. B. Mitchell cut?

578,122 feet b.m. of timber, for which he paid dues amounting to \$578.12.

How much Hooker & Co.?

No permit under section 17 of the regulations was issued in favour of Messrs. Hooker & Co.

How much William Robinson?

2,031,500 feet b.m. for which he paid dues amounting to \$2,031.50.

SCRIP TO HALF-BREED SCOUTS.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved :

That during the rebellion of 1885 half-breeds at Wood Mountain and Maple Creek and at other points in the Territories were employed as scouts. That a number of persons who were employed as scouts during the rebellion aforesaid received scrip. That as a fact, the half-breeds at Wood Mountain, Maple Creek, Swift Current and Moosejaw, with one or two exceptions have not received scrip. That, in the opinion of this House, scrip should be given to those who are found to be entitled to it.

He said : I would solicit the attention of the House while I call attention to this motion. By chapter 29 of the statutes of 49 Victoria, clause 1, subsection 4 reads as follows :

1. In the Act hereinbefore cited the expression 'member of the enrolled militia force actively engaged and bearing arms in the suppression of the Indian and half-breed outbreak,' shall be deemed to include, in addition to the members of the said force mentioned in the said Act:

* * * * *

(b.) Every scout actively engaged during the said outbreak, whose services have been certified to by competent authority.

This legislation enlarged the scope of the legislation of 1885, which was confined en-

tirely to the members of the militia force serving in the rebellion. This included both the volunteers and scouts. I wish to call attention to the language 'actively engaged during said outbreak,' because on the interpretation of that clause hinges the claim that I am now bringing before the House. I may say, as hon. gentlemen are aware, this is not the first time I have brought this claim before the House. I originally brought all the claims before the House in 1887, the first year that I had the honour of a seat in this House. At that time, I presented the claims of all the volunteer corps in the North-west Territories as well as the claim of the scouts, both at Moosejaw, Maple Creek—and for that matter wherever scouts were whose claims had not been adjudicated upon. The contention I made at the time was not agreed to by the Minister of Militia of the government of Sir John Macdonald. I brought it up again in 1888, and again in 1889. In that year Sir John Macdonald decided to give me a commission to inquire into the claims that I pressed upon the attention of parliament, the commission consisting of Mr. Sedgewick, Hon. Mr. Justice Sedgewick, of the Supreme Court. He sat in the Department of Justice, and we brought before him the claims of the Regina volunteers and of volunteers from other points and also the claims of half-breeds and others who had acted as scouts at Maple Creek, Moosejaw and Wood Mountain. Mr. Sedgewick at once decided in favour of my contention in regard to the volunteers. In regard to the scouts, he laid it down that the scout had no claim under this Act, unless he was employed from the beginning and unless he was actively employed, and I think he interpreted, 'actively employed' very strictly—that the scout must be in some way exposed to danger. Now, in regard to these scouts, for whom, at the present moment, I interest myself, I wish to call attention to the fact that on the 12th of May, 1885, Mr. Dewdney, then Lieutenant-Governor, wrote to Mr. Légaré the following letter :

Government House,
Regina, May 12, 1885.

Dear Sir,—With regard to our conversation of to-day, I think it advisable that you should engage a few more half-breeds in the Wood Mountain district, if you find that you can make good use of them, as I understand that they are in very poor circumstances and I am anxious to give them work where I find it possible to do so. Consequently, you are authorized to increase the number of your scouts up to forty.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) E. DEWDNEY,
Lieut.-Governor.

Mr. Jean Légaré,
City.

Probably I ought to have told the House that earlier than that, there seems to have been an employment of Mr. Légaré in connection with these scouts, because I find the following communication from Mr.

Deane, superintendent of the North-west Mounted Police :

(Memorandum.)
North-west Mounted Police,
Regina, April 8, 1885.

To all whom it may concern,—

Mr. J. L. Légaré is employed by the government of Canada in connection with the North-west Mounted Police in supervising the international boundary between Canada and the United States of America, with a view to the maintenance of the public peace and suppression of breaches of the law.

(Sgd.) J. BURTON DEANE,
Supt. N. W. M. Police.

Then, this document :

(Memorandum.)
N. W. M. P. Force.

I, J. L. Légaré, having been appointed constable for the North-west Territories, do solemnly swear that I will truly, faithfully and impartially perform the duties appertaining to the said office according to the best of my skill and ability.

So help me God.

(Sgd.) J. L. LEGARE.

Sworn before me at Regina, this 8th day of April, 1885.

(Sgd.) R. BURTON DEANE, J.P.

Certified, true copy.

(Sgd.) R. BURTON DEANE,
Supt. N. W. M. P. Force.

And these are the instructions that were given :

Orders for Scouts in the Southern District.

No. 1. To detain and closely examine all persons coming from the American frontier.

Arms, ammunition and explosives to be special objects of search in all baggage. All conveyances to be thoroughly searched.

No. 2. Any person, other than a known settler on Canadian soil, found carrying or found in possession of arms and ammunition or explosives to be charged under 31 Vic., chap. 15, the information being sworn 'on just grounds of suspicion that the same are dangerous to the public peace.'

No. 3. Suspicious characters from across the border to be charged with evasion of the customs duties, provided they have any property with them to sustain the charge.

All persons who fail to give a satisfactory account of themselves are to be charged under the Vagrant Act.

No. 4. All half-breeds carrying arms and ammunition to be arrested and charged under 31 Vic., chap. 15.

No. 5. The utmost vigilance must be exercised to prevent any crossing the border within the scouts' limits without being subjected to inquiry.

No. 6. No such person having come into Canada is to be allowed to recross the border if it can be prevented.

April 2, 1885.

I have here a memorandum in Mr. Légaré's handwriting, as follows :

The following names are scouts employed in Her Majesty's service in the southern district during the late rebellion, 1885, under my charge:

By authority of Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories.

Appointed and sworn before Capt. Deane, as an officer of the North-west Mounted Police, to take charge of the said district.

J. L. LEGARE, J.P.

Napoléon Lafournaise, Bernard Hamelin, Abraham Beauchamp, Pierre Brière, Zacharie Chartrand, François Boxer, Johnny Chartrand, Jérôme Champagne, William Houle, Louis Lacroque, W. John McGillis, Hylaise Rainville, Antoine Gosselin, Joseph Gosselin.

There were others, as for instance :

Alphonse Langer, François Lafournaise, William Berston, Louis Hamelin, Joseph Hamelin, Joseph Alaire, Alexander Houle, Théophile McGillis, Alexandre Gosselin, sr., André Beaudry, Jonas Hamelin, sr., Napoléon McGillis, J.-Bte. Lafournaise, Baptiste Adams, Jérémie Adams, Narcisse Lacertes, jr., Jonas Hamelin, jr., Louis Descoteau, Joseph Lapointe, Andrée Gariépy, Joseph Ouelette, Elzéar Bottineau, Pierre Alary, J.-Bte. Amyot, Joseph Short, François Bottineau, Alexandre Gosselin, sr., Jean Louis Légaré.

On June 10 I referred to the decision to which the present Mr. Justice Sedgewick came ; and in 1891 I again brought the matter up. On June 10, 1895, I made a motion similar to the present one, that the government should consider the matter. We had obtained the certificate of the commanding officer, Captain Macdonald, of the mounted police, and we sent that certificate to the Department of Militia. On September 21, I brought the matter up in the House, and the Minister of Militia and Defence promised that he would inquire into it. I again brought the matter up in 1897, drawing attention, not only to the general claims of the half-breeds and these special claims of the scouts, but the general claims of the half-breeds for extinguishing the Indian title. On that question the right hon. gentleman spoke as follows :

My hon. friend is aware that the half-breeds have petitioned for the extinguishment of the Indian title and to be treated as the Manitoba half-breeds were treated. The Manitoba half-breeds were treated in this way: In 1870, when we took possession of the country, the law which was then passed was to the effect that all those half-breeds at that time, that is, all the heads of families and all the children born before 1870, were entitled to scrip. The head of a family received 120 acres of land, and the child born before 1870 received 240 acres. A commission was issued in 1885 to settle the half-breed claims. Shortly after the opening of the rebellion they were settled with under that law, that is to say, the half-breeds of the North-west were treated in the same manner as the half-breeds in Manitoba had been treated, and arrangements would go back to 1870, and not before that year; whereas, the claim now put forward by the half-breeds of the North-west is that the date of their claim should go back to 1885—that fathers of families and children born since 1885 should receive scrip. I am not prepared to say whether it would be fair or unfair, just or unjust, to accept these claims made by the half-breeds. But one point I want to press on the attention of my hon. friend is this: It is the intention of the government during the recess to investigate all these claims, those of the Wood Mountain scouts, those of the half-breeds for additional scrip in order to extinguish Indian claims arising out of rebellion losses, and, in so far as possible, to acknowledge all those claims for scrip. I would, there-

Mr. DAVIN.

fore, ask my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) not to press his motion further at the present time.

Nor did I. The result was that the government took into consideration those questions during the recess, and as the House is aware, legislation was passed in consequence of my action. Last year we had a half-breed commission in the north, and in still further pursuance of that legislation. I believe—the hon. gentleman who is acting as Minister of the Interior would know—I believe at the present moment, in Macleod and at Wood Mountain, that part of the promise to me of the Prime Minister has been carried out. But the right hon. gentleman will see that at the time he made that speech in 1897 he referred to the extinguishment of the Indian title, and he also said that the claims of the Wood Mountain scouts would be taken up, that is to say, that their claim as Indian people would be taken up and also their claim as scouts. Now, in 1896 I received a letter from Mr. Légaré in which he said that he hoped the question would be taken up ; and in accordance with his suggestion, and also with the letter that he wrote me in 1895, in French, as I have recounted to the House, I brought the matter before the attention of parliament. I think there can be no doubt that these men acted as scouts. The certificate is in the Department of Militia. I may say further that with reference to some parties I was not able to get scrip. For instance, Mr. Aspdin, of Moosejaw, was one of the persons for whom I was contending for scrip up to the time this government came into power, and I never succeeded in getting it for him. But the Minister of Trade and Commerce, who was acting as Minister of Militia and Defence, did yield to my contention in regard to that gentleman. Of course I would not wish to leave a false impression on the minds of the government, or put them to any trouble ; but I do not think it can be affirmed that the scouts at Wood Mountain were employed at the beginning of the rebellion ; the documents speak for themselves. At the time we had this long conference with the commissioner, now Mr. Justice Sedgewick, I doubted the justice of his decision that the claim of the men was not to be heard because it happened that they had not been employed from the beginning. A man might render first-rate service and come within the spirit and letter of that Act, who was not employed from the beginning, at least I think that is a fair contention, and I place that contention before the judgment and consideration of the right hon. gentleman. These men, it is admitted, were not employed from the beginning, but they were employed to act as scouts. Inducements were held out to certain parties below the line from people who were actively engaged in rebelling against Her Majesty on the Saskatchewan, and if these inducements had been listened to, Wood Mountain would have been a very dangerous part of the country and these scouts would have been called

upon, perhaps, to have done dangerous as well as active work. Although they are principally half-breeds who are interested in this claim they are not all half-breeds. For instance, there is Mr. Cheeseman, of Maple Creek, employed on April 1, and Mr. Fouque, employed on the 4th of May. These are Englishmen. Seconded by Mr. Kaulbach, I beg to move this motion, and I commend it to the attention of the government. I think, that, now, finally, we may hope to have this matter considered and settled.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has certainly been very persistent in bringing to the attention of the government and the House this question which he has again called their attention to. The whole question which he has brought before the House is contained in the last sentence of his motion :

That, in the opinion of this House, scrip should be given to those who are found to be entitled to it.

It is not desirable, I am sure, in any way, to deal unfairly, or to deal even, not generously, with these parties who are entitled to scrip. The question is whether or not these parties, in whom my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has taken a deep interest, are entitled to scrip or not. I am sorry to say that when we came into office we found that the government which preceded us had come to the conclusion that these parties were not entitled to scrip. The matter is not one which involves a very serious loss to the country, or a very serious price to be paid. There are only some forty persons interested in the claim. For my part I have always thought, that, in this matter, it would be better to err on the side of generosity than otherwise, and that all questions that have arisen, in so far as the settlement of half-breed claims is concerned, or losses arising out of the rebellion, should have been settled with a generous hand. Canada is quite able to pay the price if these claims have been incurred in regard to services rendered to the country. But, whilst this is surely the intention, not only of the government, but was the intention of former governments. I am sure, also, all parties who have had to deal with this question have come to the conclusion that these Wood Mountain scouts were not entitled to any compensation for their services. In the rebellion which took place in 1885 there were several parties who had rendered services in subduing that rebellion. The North-west Mounted Police, I am sure, rendered valuable services. They were not given any extra compensation, but parliament thought the militia who had left their occupations in the east and had rendered valuable service to their country, should be entitled to special treatment, and that they should be given scrip. Then the question rose whether or not those persons who did

not belong to the militia, but who had been engaged as scouts and who had performed services in the suppression of the rebellion, who had done patrol work along the frontier and had prevented all possible aid coming from the southern part of the frontier to those engaged in the rebellion, were entitled to such compensation. They had performed valuable services, and a special statute was passed in 1886, to which the hon. member for Western Assiniboia alluded a moment ago. Under that statute the question arose whether or not these scouts, who had been engaged to do patrol work and to aid in the suppression of the rebellion, were entitled to scrip or not. Personally I am sorry to say that the Department of Justice came to the conclusion that they were not entitled to scrip. They could not be placed on the same footing as the militia. My hon. friend alluded, a moment ago, to the report of Mr. Justice Sedgewick, then the Deputy Minister of Justice, who was authorized by the late Sir John Macdonald to look specially into the case. The conclusion arrived at by Mr. Sedgewick was as follows :

Claims of the Regina, Wood Mountain, Moosejaw and Maple Creek Scouts.

These men were not, I venture to say, 'scouts' within the meaning of the statute. No doubt, their services were valuable, as valuable, perhaps, as those of many who come within the intendment of the statute, but I think that the persons there designated as scouts were persons employed in connection with the military force as distinct from the mounted police force. These claimants were, it seems to me, employed, not as military scouts, but as temporary police or constables in connection with the mounted police service only, and not in connection with the purely military service. They were engaged by the mounted police, they were paid, as I am informed, out of mounted police appropriations, and they performed police service only, dangerous though it might have been. The certificates are those of the officers of the police only, and are not those of any officer of the military force.

I do not think that the 'competent authority' referred to in the statute by whom scouting service is to be certified, is any officer of the mounted police, unless such officer is for the time being a recognized officer of the military force. I am, therefore, of opinion that it was not the intention of parliament that claimants such as these should receive other than ordinary remuneration.

We found this when we came into office, and after giving the question the best possible consideration we came to the conclusion, that, under the statute of 1886, as interpreted by the Department of Justice, it was not possible for us to give scrip to the scouts whom the hon. gentleman now represents, and in whose behalf he interests himself. Such being the case, the question arose: Should we take this as final or, if the statute was not broad enough to cover the claim of these men, should the question be reopened. The question arose whether it would be good policy to compensate these men and to give them that gratification

which we have given to the militia. I looked into the case myself; I made somewhat of an effort to familiarize myself with it, and this is what I found. As the hon. gentleman alluded to it, I can go back, to some extent, to what he has said, and complete what he has omitted. In 1885, at the time of the rebellion, Mr. Dewdney, who was Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories, came to the conclusion, evidently, that it would be the part of prudence to scour the frontier, to have it patrolled so that there should be no possibility of aid coming from the south to the half-breeds engaged in the rebellion. He authorized a certain number of men amongst the half-breeds of Wood Mountain to be engaged. I have a certificate of A. R. Macdonald, ex-sergeant of the mounted police, who certifies as follows:

I hereby certify that the following persons served under me as chief officer of the North-west Mounted Police, then stationed at Wood Mountain post, in the North-west Territories, as scouts during April and May of the rebellion of the year 1885, by authorization of the Hon. Edgar Dewdney, then Lieutenant-Governor of the said Territories, that is to say:

1. Bernard Hamelin.
2. François Boxer.
3. Abraham Beauchamp.
4. Pierre Briese.
5. W. John McGillis.
6. Louis Larocque.
7. John Chartrand.
8. Zacharie Chartrand.
9. Alphonse Langer.
10. François Lafournaise.
11. Napoléon Lafournaise.
12. William Houle.
13. Antoine Gosselin.
14. Hylaise Rainville.
15. William Berston.
16. Louis Hamelin.
17. Joseph Hamelin.
18. Joseph Alarie.
19. Alexander Houle.
20. Théophile McGillis.
21. Jérôme Champagne.
22. Alexandre Gosselin, sr.
23. Andrée Beaudry.
24. Jonas Hamelin, sr.
25. Napoléon McGillis.
26. J.-Bte. Lafournaise.
27. Baptiste Adams.
28. Jérémie Adams.
29. Narcisse Lacertes, jr.
30. Jonas Hamelin, jr.
31. Louis Descoteau.
32. Joseph Lapointe.
33. Andrée Gariépy.
34. Joseph Ouellette.
35. Elzéar Bottineau.
36. Pierre Alary.
37. J.-Bte. Amyot.
38. Joseph Short.
39. Joseph Gosselin.
40. François Bottineau.
41. Alexandre Gosselin, sr.
42. Jean Louis Lègaré.

The Wood Mountain scouts, which include those of Willow Bunch and Moosejaw, were men employed between the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the United States frontier, principally in the vicinity of Willow Bunch and Wood Mountain, for the purpose of watch-

ing the boundary, as it was feared that half-breeds from Dakota might attempt to send men, arms and ammunition to the assistance of the rebels.

There were in all fifty-four men employed in this manner, and they were paid at rates varying from 75 cents to \$3 per day, with the exception of one man, J. L. Lègaré, who received \$6 per diem.

In the Maple Creek district thirteen men were employed specially as scouts at rates of pay varying from \$50 to \$99 per month.

The pay, where it exceeded 75 cents per day, was for man and horse. The duties performed were simply those of scouting and keeping the police officers at Maple Creek and Regina informed of what was going on south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The claims of these scouts were reported upon adversely by the Deputy Minister of Justice on December 17, 1889.

It appears that these men were paid liberally at the time, but, nevertheless, from that day up to this, for fifteen years, they have steadily represented that they were entitled to every favour and consideration which had been given to the members of the militia force. They have contended that they contributed their share to the suppression of the rebellion, and that it would be only fair and right that they should be entitled to the same compensation. They can claim nothing legally; they can only put themselves upon the bounty of parliament. They ask that they should be given the same treatment as was given to the other parties. As I have said, if we are to interpret the law of 1886, under which the militia force received their scrip; if we are to interpret that law as it has been interpreted up to the present time by the Department of Justice, they have no legal claim upon us, and we could not confer on them what they ask under that law. But, the question arises: Whether it would not be best, after all, to settle these claims as we have settled the claims of the other parties. We have gone, perhaps, a little beyond the law. We passed new legislation last year in order to meet the claims of the half-breeds of the North-west, and under that legislation the children of some of the half-breeds who received scrip on the Red River in 1870 are going to receive scrip also as claimants amongst the North-west Indians in the Saskatchewan River. I have discussed this matter more than once with the comptroller of the mounted police, and we have come to this conclusion. As my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has said, a commission has been issued to settle the claims of the half-breeds of the Saskatchewan River district, and I have come to the conclusion that it would be well to send further instructions to that commission to look into the claims of these half-breeds and to report to us whether or not, in their judgment, these men would be fairly entitled to the same bounty which is extended to the militia. I have given orders to Mr. White, comptroller of the North-west Mounted Police, to have this carried

into effect, and to have these claims investigated. There are not many; only forty-two in all, and I believe I meet the views of the House when I say that parliament has no intention of dealing with these claimants in any other than a generous manner, so that every subject of Her Majesty there may feel that the laws of the country are not only ample to protect them, but to afford them all the justice to which they are entitled. I believe my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) ought to be satisfied with this, and that he should not press the motion any further.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think I could wish for anything more satisfactory than has fallen from the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and I would be very hard to please indeed if I were not satisfied with his remarks. Now, after a struggle of about fourteen years, I am about to succeed. I most gladly act on his suggestion and withdraw my motion.

Motion withdrawn.

RICHELIEU RIVER BRIDGE.

On the motion being called for:

Copies of reports, papers and correspondence with the government, or any member thereof, of all orders in council and statements of all moneys paid in respect of the bridge over the Richelieu River and the \$35,000 voted therefor by parliament.—(Mr. Foster.)

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) asked me to move this for him. He does not wish to discuss it, but he would like very much to get the papers.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In the absence of the Minister of Railways, I cannot agree to the motion passing. I will give my hon. friend another opportunity of moving it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As the time is practically out, it might be passed on the understanding that it could be withheld if there is any trouble about it.

The PRIME MINISTER. There would be trouble, because I do not think the correspondence is complete; I think it is still pending. I will give my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) an opportunity of moving his motion.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is all he wants. All he wants is the information, as soon as possible.

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not say that I will agree. I say that I will give an opportunity of discussing it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand; if there is no objection.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS.

Return showing the total amounts of the freight charges mutually accounted for between the Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway for the year ending June 30, 1897, and with respect to freight interchanged (1) at St. John, N.B., (2) at Montreal; (b) with respect to through freight bonded over (1) at St. John, N.B., (2) at Montreal; the said amounts for the year ending June 30, 1899.

The total amounts, respectively allotted to the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific Railways in the division of passenger fares in connection with through passengers (a) via Montreal, (b) via St. John, N.B., for the year ending the 30th day of June, 1897.

The said amounts for the year ending the 30th day of June, 1899.—(Mr. Powell.)

Return showing the total amounts of freight and charges and passenger fares collected by the Canadian Pacific Railway and accounted for by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Intercolonial Railway for the year ending the 30th day of June, A.D. 1897, and the amounts of said charges and fares for the year ending the 30th day of June, 1899.—(Mr. Foster.)

Copies of all papers, reports and recommendations relating to Lake Winnipeg fisheries since the fall of 1892, including all correspondence between the Inspector of Fisheries and the department, and report of royal commission held some time between 1894 and 1896.—(Mr. Roche.)

THE DUTIES ON TOBACCO.

On the order.

That, in the opinion of the House, the present high duties upon tobacco should be reduced.—(Mr. Gillies.)

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). I have something to say on this question; but I see that my hon. friend for Richmond (Mr. Gillies) is not present. I am willing to let it stand, if the hon. leader of the opposition so desires.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Stand.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). As this may be perhaps the last opportunity there may be of speaking on this question, my hon. friend might make his remarks, and we can adjourn the debate afterwards. We will not press the question to a conclusion until the hon. member for Richmond is here.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not care to go into this question in the absence of the hon. member who made the motion; but all I have to do at present is to lay before the House certain statistics and calculations, which the hon. member for Richmond will have an opportunity of reading in *Hansard*. I am glad to say that I cannot agree with my hon. friend, and when I explain the reason why I cannot agree with him, I think the House will be satisfied. I will go back a few years and show the enormous progress that the cultivation of Canadian tobacco has made since the amendment of the law, and the imposition of 10 cents a pound on imported tobacco.

In 1894-5, 523,000 pounds of Canadian tobacco went through our Inland Revenue factories. In 1895-6, only 474,000 pounds went through. In 1896-7, 690,000 pounds went through. In 1897-8, the year in which the duty of 10 cents a pound on imported tobacco was imposed, the amount that went through our excise factories sprang up to 1,949,000 pounds. That is to say, it trebled in the first year. In the year ending June 30, 1898-9, 2,500,000 pounds went through, and the increase still continues, and with great rapidity. In the six months, ending December 31, 1899, 1,900,000 pounds went through; and in the month of January, 1900, 250,000 pounds went through; that is, in one month. This increase in the use of home-grown tobacco is most remarkable. It shows two things: First, what a wonderful improvement must have taken place in the cultivation of our home-grown tobacco, under the influence of that small addition to the customs duties, and, secondly, the great improvement in the curing of the tobacco, which presents much greater difficulty than the cultivation. I must now consider the complaint that has been made that the imposition of the duty of 10 cents a pound on imported tobacco is a hardship to the fishermen and other labouring classes, to whom the use of tobacco is a solace which they cannot well dispense with. It will be seen how little that complaint applies in this case, when I remind the House that the tobacco manufactured out of imported tobacco, however poor its quality was, paid a duty of 35 cents a pound—10 cents of import duty, and 25 cents of excise—while the Canadian tobacco which goes through our factories only pays 5 cents a pound. Therefore, the displacement of so many millions of pounds of imported tobacco by Canadian-grown tobacco, is a great benefit to the consumer, and ought to be a source of great satisfaction to them, especially the poor. I have samples of tobacco to show the difference in size. The plug of tobacco sold at 10 cents is now about double the size it was before the law was changed. Some of the chewing tobacco is a mixture of Canadian and foreign. It may be said that it is not very satisfactory. The best test of the pudding is in the eating thereof, and when we find that 3,000,000 pounds of Canadian tobacco are now produced, it is evident that it finds consumers, and that the people are satisfied with it. If our factories are increasing with such rapidity that in three years they have nearly quadrupled the amount of Canadian tobacco they use, that shows that the Canadian tobacco must be satisfactory to the public. A decrease in the duties would not be at all in favour of the poor consumers, but quite the reverse, because, owing to the encouragement given the growers of Canadian tobacco, they have found out not only the best way of cultivating the plant, but also of curing it. Not only in the provinces

of Quebec and Ontario, but in British Columbia our farmers are growing excellent tobacco and curing it with great success, and it would be difficult to find in the Canadian tobacco to-day any of that rank taste which at one time made it so objectionable to consumers. We ought to hail with satisfaction these proofs that our climate and soil are favourable to the cultivation of this plant. In view of such satisfactory results obtained within such a short time, I do not think that we should unduly hasten to take away that encouragement we have given and which promises so much for the future of our farmers and manufacturers.

Mr. H. F. McDUGALL (Cape Breton). I was not in the House when the last debate took place in this House on this subject, but have read the discussion and was surprised to find an hon. member from the province of Nova Scotia, the hon. member for Antigonish (Mr. McIsaac), making the statement that the consumers of tobacco in that part of the country and the neighbouring counties in the province of Nova Scotia were to-day buying tobacco at a lower price than before the last increase in the tariff. That statement is not correct. It may be true that the consumers can buy a certain quality for the same price and possibly for less, but the tobacco preferred by the fishermen, farmers and coal miners and labourers in the lower provinces, is that manufactured by McDonald of Montreal and McKenna of Pictou, known as McDonald twist and McKenna twist, and other smoking brands. I have in my hand the invoices of wholesale merchants and manufactures, giving the price charged before and since the change in the duties, and the difference between the two is between 14 cents and 15 cents per pound, and as much as 18 cents. The people engaged in the sale and manufacture of these classes of tobacco find that they lose a great deal of their business by reason of the increase, and through the forcing in consequence of the increased duty on the market of other tobaccos which the people are unwilling to buy because of inferior quality. I am a dealer in tobacco myself, and I know that the price has gone up from one to two cents a plug on this particular class of tobacco. In charging an increase of one cent per plug, we find that our profit is less, and if we increase the price by anything we must increase it a cent and make the increase two cents when we sell by the plug. Of course when we sell by the pound or the half pound, the tobacco can be sold at a fairer rate of increase, according to the advance, but in selling by the plug we cannot do justice to our customers or ourselves. Tobacco used by the people in my part of the province is the products of the two factories I have mentioned very largely. Very little other tobacco is sold to the people, so that they are driven to pay the extra price or take a cheaper kind that they cannot enjoy.

That is the foundation of the complaint we make, that unnecessary advance has been made in the price. I do not object protecting those who raise the plant, but I think their ought to be a way by which protection could be afforded them without having the price of tobacco increased to such an unreasonable extent as it has been to the people who use this tobacco, which is the tobacco of their choice.

The statement made by the hon. member for Antigonish is not correct nor in accordance with the facts. There is scarcely a pound of the cheaper tobacco he spoke of sold in his county. Our fishermen and farmers consume the best kind they can get, and on that kind a great advance has been made. These tobaccos which they use are manufactured from the imported leaf, which is superior to the Canadian leaf in the judgment of those who consume them.

Mr. COWAN. It is not.

Mr. McDOUGALL. That is, in the judgment of those who consume it. We cannot force upon the consumers what they do not want to have; they must be allowed to purchase what they can enjoy.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I do not want to go deeply into this question, but I wish to express the opinion of my own constituents as regards this policy of the government concerning tobacco. There is the strongest feeling that a gross injustice has been done to the poor people of Canada, and that the legislation of this government in regard to those things that are the necessities of life to the poor leans severely on the very class that the Liberal party from year to year and from decade to decade professed to be the friends of. When you analyse the operation of their legislation, you find that there is relief for the rich, while the burden upon the poor is increased. The fine lady with her silks and satins gets relief, though she did not ask for it. I never heard of any petition coming here from any fine lady, saying that she had to pay too high for silk. But, they increase the price of the poor man's plug of tobacco, or, if the tobacco is sold for the same price, they lower the weight.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The plug is double the size.

Mr. DAVIN. No, no; the hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken. I do not myself use tobacco, but a large number of my friends do, and they have expressed to me the utmost disgust with the policy of the government in regard to this matter. A course is easily open to the government even at this stage, a course that would place the poor man in the same position as he was in before, and they might even go further and give relief in regard to this matter which to these men, is a necessary of life. Look at what has been done in regard to those burned out in Hull and Ottawa. Persons

subscribing with charitable intent not only send money, not only send clothes, but send large quantities of tobacco, so convinced are the people of this country that for a man who is accustomed to smoke, tobacco is a necessary of life. I entirely agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Gillies), whose motion is on the Order paper, that something should be done by the House and by the government to give us cheaper tobacco.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I am sure we are glad to congratulate the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue upon his desire to afford greater protection to the industry of growing tobacco in this country. But I realize, at the same time, that in the course he has pursued he has rather overshot the mark. It seems to me he might have pursued another course by which he would have obtained the result aimed at without increasing the burdens of the people to the extent he has done. Why not, as suggested by the resolution that we are now discussing, reduce the excise duty on the home-grown tobacco, and at the same time, lower the duty on the manufactured article? I understand that the excise duty is five cents. If that excise duty were lowered, a protection would be given to the grower of tobacco in Canada just as well as by increasing the import duty. Of course, tobacco is not grown in the immediate vicinity of where I reside; but, in the interest of the tobacco growers of this country, and of the consumers of tobacco—because, no matter how desirous we are of protecting the interests of the grower, we must consider the large number of people who use tobacco and are directly interested in the question of the price of the article—why not remove at least a part, if not the whole, of the excise duty? The production this year, as given by the hon. minister, is 3,000,000 pounds. This, at five cents a pound, would give \$150,000. By the removal of this excise duty, we would be aiding the grower of tobacco in Canada, for this would enable him to realize just that much more on his crop, and at the same time we would be protecting the interests of the consumer by giving him an article at a lower price. Then, in order to retain the proper equilibrium between the duty on the home-grown tobacco and the duty on the imported tobacco, I would be quite willing that the duty on the imported tobacco should be reduced by the same amount. That would be following the course suggested in the resolution, and, to my mind, would be in the interest of a great number of people in this country who consume tobacco. Only about one-fifth of the people in Canada consume tobacco, for we must exclude women and children and men who are non-users of tobacco. From an answer given by the Minister of Inland Revenue and the Minister of Customs the other day, we find that the increased duty upon tobacco paid in 1899 by reason of the change made in 1897 amounted to the large

sum of \$1,151,345. That tax is paid by one-fifth of the people, the remainder contributing nothing toward it, although they get the same advantage from money going into the public treasury as do those who use tobacco. It does seem to me that that is not fair. Consideration should be given to the consumer as well as to the producer, and the price of this article should not be unduly enhanced as it has been, by the legislation which was put upon the statute-book two years ago. The Minister of Inland Revenue exhibits to the House sample plugs of tobacco, and tells us how much cheaper the plug is now than it was formerly. But we all know that the plug that he exhibits, certainly the larger plug he exhibits, is not of the quality of the smaller one that we obtained before. They are of entirely different qualities. Even the plug which is generally sold throughout western Ontario, known as McDonald's Briar, is a smaller plug than it was formerly; a person who buys a ten-cent plug to-day does not get as much tobacco as he formerly did for ten cents. And I may add a statement that, I think, will be borne out, if not by every hon. gentleman in this House, at any rate by the people of the country—that the quality of that tobacco is not equal to what it was formerly. It has deteriorated in quality, and I think that is one of the things to which the hon. minister should call the attention of the manufacturers of tobacco. Whilst they are being protected in this industry, the people, at any rate, ought to get the quality which they are entitled to. Whilst I have no desire to interfere with the product of any firm that may be doing business in this country, I say without hesitation that the quality of McDonald's Briar is not equal to what it was two or three years ago. I think nearly every man who smokes tobacco will agree with me. There is no question about it we are compelled to say, desirous as we are to promote home industry, that tobacco made from the Canadian leaf will not take the place of the other. You cannot by any possible means force Canadian tobacco upon all those who have been accustomed to using imported tobacco. Whilst a very considerable amount of it is being sold in the country, sold largely because imported tobacco has been made so excessively dear, people are really using an inferior article, which is not at all equal in quality to what they desire to use, simply because it is cheaper, and because, in many instances, they cannot afford to use an article which would meet their taste, and which is of the proper quality. I feel strongly on this point, I believe an injustice is done to the people of this country through this legislation. Since we are to have \$7,500,000 of a surplus this year, I see no reason in the world why one-fifth of the people should be compelled to contribute such a large amount to the treasury on

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an article which is used really by only a fraction of the people. I trust the government will take some action in this matter, and that they will grant the relief to the consumers of tobacco, which I believe they are entitled to. They are largely the toilers of this country, men who compose the farming community, the mechanics and the workmen throughout the country, and I think it only fair that some relief should be granted in the way I have indicated. I fail to see that any harm can come to the industry if we reduce the excise duty two, three or four cents, or even strike it off altogether, and proportionately reduce the duty on imported tobacco.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I wish to say what I have said in this House before, that in my opinion the added duty on tobacco of fourteen cents per pound is utterly unjustifiable. It is an exorbitant tax upon a portion of the community, it raises more than a million of taxation from a class of people that you have no right to single out to bear this imposition. It is said that it encourages consumption of home-grown tobacco. Well, home-grown tobacco was protected already by a duty of several hundred per cent. which, in my opinion, was more than sufficient. There was five cents a pound of excise duty upon the home-grown tobacco, and twenty-five cents on the foreign tobacco, which, I think, was quite sufficient for the foreign tobacco, the average price being fifteen cents per pound. The price of home-grown tobacco is, perhaps, eight or nine cents per pound, and a protective duty of twenty-six cents a pound on an article that costs eight or nine cents I think is quite sufficient to protect any industry of that kind. The customs revenue from imported tobacco is \$1,150,000 more than it was under the old order of things; the people are consuming that tobacco and are paying that \$1,150,000, which, I say, is an utterly unjustifiable tax imposed on the people of Canada by a government who claim that they are going to have a surplus of \$7,500,000 wrung out of the people, and in this case wrung out of them unnecessarily and unfairly. I move that the debate be now adjourned.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

MOUNTED POLICE PENSION ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assinibola) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 6) to amend the Mounted Police Pension Act. He said: I have so frequently explained this Bill, that probably it would not be necessary for me now to go into it at any length. We might take the second reading, go into committee

and when in committee, we might discuss it, if that would meet with the approval of the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). No. I am sorry to say to my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), that I could not agree to his motion to take the second reading, I have discussed the Bill with the officers of my department, and they represent to me that the Bill involves a serious charge upon the revenue, and if my hon. friend presses it, I will have to take the point, that the Bill is out of order, because it involves a charge upon the revenue by increasing the rate of the pension. If the hon. gentleman looks at clause c of section 2. of the Bill, he will see that it reads as follows :

(c.) If he has completed twenty years' service, an annual sum equal to thirty-fiftieths of his annual pay, with an addition of one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service above twenty years, so, however, that the pension shall not exceed two-thirds of his annual pay at his retirement.

I have had a table made by the officers of the department, and they say that this involves a serious addition to the charges on the revenue at the present time. If my hon. friend will accept a suggestion from me, it would be that he should not press this Bill at this session. I have asked the officers of my department to look into it very carefully, to see if it is not possible to recast the Bill. My opinion is that it might be recast to some advantage. I could not adopt the suggestion of the hon. gentleman to take the second reading of the Bill. These pensions would have to be looked over and if the hon. gentleman will leave it in the hands of the officers of the department, and I would suggest that the hon. gentleman leave it in the hands of the officers of the department and not press it at present.

Mr. DAVIN. Let me point out to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and to the House, that the fourth clause of the Bill provides for the repeal of chapter 33, of the statutes of 1898. That Act, which was passed with the sanction of the right hon. gentleman, provides that wherever the words '25' occur in the Act of 1889, with the exception of section 4 which is the section which fixes the money, the word '20' shall be substituted for them. Either that Act of 1898 is a dead letter, or, if it does anything, what it does is this, it actually provides that a man may leave the service after twenty years' service as he, prior to the statute of 1898, was able to do after twenty-five years. But, as the hon. gentleman, who had charge of that Bill, did not alter clause 4, the result will be that instead of being of any use to a man, instead of being a favour to him, he would be only allowed to receive one-fiftieth, of his pay instead of thirty-fiftieths, which, after twenty-five year's service up to 1898, he

would be entitled to receive. Of course, I was quite aware, if the point of order was raised, I could not go on. But, the right hon. gentleman will see that I have put the amounts in italics, and, I believe, under these circumstances, that the point of order is not necessarily taken. I do not believe, for instance, that any one on the other side of the House, other than the leader of the House, could take the point of order.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The Speaker would have to take it in committee.

Mr. DAVIN. When we got into committee.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You would not be any further on.

Mr. DAVIN. If we got into committee, the moment we came to a vote on a clause, the government would either agree to the amounts that are here, or disagree, and I have no doubt the thing would be at an end. Of course I am perfectly aware that any Bill in the hands of a private member, is completely at the mercy of the government. No private member can pass a Bill unless he has the sanction of the government; still less can he pass a Bill if it, as the right hon. gentleman says, would probably lay some little burden on the country. Of course, I am quite aware of that, but what I wish to point out is, that certainly the legislation of 1898 should not be allowed to remain on the statute-book, because it is discreditable to the House and to the government, and it is even offensive to the mounted police. If it is operative, and surely it must be operative, being on the statute-book, I hold that it is actually a disfranchising measure, or a measure that imposes disabilities, whereas it was intended to be a gift. I have the statute here, and I will ask the right hon. gentleman's attention to it. It is as follows :

The Mounted Police Pension Act, 1889, is hereby amended by striking out the words 'twenty-five' wherever they occur in sections 3, 7 and 8 thereof, and inserting instead the words 'twenty.'

No change whatever is made in the most important clause of all—the clause that apportioned the pensions to the service of a man leaving the police. The section governing that point reads as follows now :

If he has completed not less than twenty years' service shall be entitled to retire and receive a pension for life; and

If he has completed not less than fifteen years' service, and is incapacitated for the performance of his duty by infirmity of mind or body, shall be entitled to retire and receive a pension for life.

I ask the right hon. gentleman's attention to this, because, he as a lawyer will see how very ridiculous the legislation is at present. Section 4 of the statutes of 1889, reads :

If he has completed fifteen, but not less than twenty-one years' service, an annual sum equal to one-fiftieth of his annual pay for every completed year of service. If he has completed twenty-one but less than twenty-five years' service, an annual sum equal to twenty-fiftieths of his annual pay. If he has completed twenty-five years' service, an annual sum equal to thirty-fiftieths of his annual pay.

That section is unrepealed. The right hon. gentleman will see that there is a perfect jumble by reading the amending Act of 1889 into the statute of 1898. This amendment is intended to enable a man after twenty years to have the same advantage which he has now after twenty-five years' service, and wherever 'twenty-five years' service, and wherever 'twenty-five' is now in the statute, except in section four, 'twenty' is enacted, but there is no change made in section four, so that in the really operative clause of the statute the very most the man would get would be one-fiftieths instead of thirty-fiftieths. I do not want to go through the farce of going on with the Bill if the Prime Minister objects to it, but he will see that the law does not give to the mounted policeman what was intended, and if it does not then the statute of 1898 should be repealed, because it sounds as if it were doing something for the North-west Mounted Police, whereas, in fact, it does not place them in a better position, and it probably places them in a worse. If the right hon. gentleman raises the point of order there is no use in my going on.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

DRAINAGE ACROSS RAILWAY LANDS.

Mr. GEORGE E. CASEY (West Elgin) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 9) respecting drainage on and across the property of railway companies. He said: Mr. Speaker, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity which I feared would scarcely arise, to move the second reading of this important Bill. The delay that has taken place in getting legislation in the hands of private members before this House, has been such that I feared there would be no opportunity of going on with this Bill. If you pass your eye down through the list of the orders we are considering, you will find that some of these orders were set for February 5 last; the second reading of this particular Bill was set for February 7, and yet from that day to this it has been found impossible to move the House to give it its second reading. I think, Sir, we have the right to urge that the time placed at the disposal of private members who wish to bring public measures before the House, is not generally sufficient. In this particular session, moreover, such time as is, habitually, normally at the disposal of private members has been used for other purposes by gentlemen on

the other side of the House. Whenever it was a public Bills' day we had a motion to adjourn the House by gentlemen opposite for the purpose of discussing some far-away question, which had the effect of shutting out the business that should have come before the House. Up until now, not a single public measure in the hands of a private member has had a second reading—there is not an item on the Order paper for the third reading of any such measure. I felt it my duty, Sir, to say these few words before entering upon the merits of the particular Bill before us.

I almost fear that I have discussed the question so often that it has become an old story, and one not apt to excite the attention of other members than those whose constituencies are interested. And yet, I must call upon the members of this House to give some attention to this Bill and to recollect that this is a measure that interests every constituency through which a railway runs. Primarily, the agitation in favour of this measure has come from the farmers. They have, perhaps, been the first to feel the injuries caused to their farms on account of the blocking of their drainage by railway companies. But it is not the farmers alone who have suffered. In cities and towns which wished to complete a system of municipal drainage, equal difficulties have arisen. Let me instance the case of the city of St. Thomas, in my own county of Elgin. It was proposed there to carry a sewer, not across the line, exactly, of a railway, but under a bridge on the line of a railway company, and they encountered difficulties, and were obliged to make payments to the railway company for the privilege of digging a deep trench between the abutments of this bridge in order to lay down the sewer. When powerful municipalities meet with difficulties of this kind, it can be understood how comparatively weak township municipalities suffer, and how greatly the individual farmer is troubled by the monopoly claimed by the railway companies over the road-bed and all that is beneath it. It would be out of place now to go into all the details of the grievances known to myself or to other members of the House suffered by individuals in our own or other counties. That would be more in place before the committee which will have charge of the Bill. But, I may say in general terms, that these grievances have been of two classes: Firstly, those caused by the original construction of railroads; secondly, those that have arisen from the development of drainage in adjacent lands after a railway has been constructed. In the first instance, there has been on the whole a very fair provision for the passage of existing drains and watercourses across railway lands. It is easier to secure that when a railway is being first constructed. Besides, a railway is somewhat at the mercy

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of the public until it is constructed. Therefore, pretty fair drainage facilities are generally furnished in the first instance. But as the farmers open up their lands, drain one field after another, or one line of farms after another, into township or private drains, and the volume of water carried across the railway by means of culverts increases, it is then that the facilities first furnished by the railway companies begin to prove extremely inadequate. It is then, too, that the rural municipality or the individual farmer, finds the great difficulty of compelling the railway companies to give them the same rights of drainage that they can compel any other landowner to afford.

In general terms, I may say that the whole railway system of Canada, with few exceptions, has been taken under the protecting wing of this parliament, and outsiders have been unable to compel the railway companies to obey the laws of the different provinces in regard to drainage. The actual statute in Ontario was passed a considerable number of years ago, on which the present Bill is based as to principle and as to many of its details. But, the railways to which that statute ought to be applicable have been taken under our jurisdiction, and it cannot be enforced. We are told that no such statute is necessary. The late Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) has been very urgent on that point. Every Minister of Railways, I think, is apt to take that view of the case. They say that no special statute is needed because there is a remedy before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. On the other hand, I contend, and I think anybody who looks into the matter will admit, that the Railway Committee of the Privy Council is not a proper tribunal for the settlement of cases of this kind. In the first place, it is out of the question to expect distant and small municipalities, and still more so individuals, to come to Ottawa and bring counsel with them, to lay their case before this tribunal. They cannot go into a court to get it settled as they would any other grievance against a railway company. They must come to the capital of the country, whether the grievance arises in Ontario, in New Brunswick, or in Prince Edward Island. It is absurd to say that there is any remedy in the existence of a tribunal of that kind. In the next place, that tribunal is not a judicial tribunal. It is composed of gentlemen many of whom are lawyers, but at the same time they are ministers of the Crown in charge of important departments which require their whole time and attention. Such little time and effort as they can give to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council are works of supererogation. They merely take this as an extra piece of work imposed upon them by the present state of the constitution, which they would gladly escape, and which they get through with as quickly as possible. I have been at some meetings of that committee. I am bound to say that

they did give to the cases before them more attention than you could have expected under the circumstances; but, as a matter of fact, even the more important cases, involving the rights of railway companies and other large corporations to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars of money, are greatly delayed by the fact that ministers can only give their spare time to the meetings of the committee. Now, Sir, I ask you and the House and the country if it is reasonable or decent to have such a state of things that the only possible remedy for an aggrieved farmer or an aggrieved rural municipality is to come before a committee of this kind, constituted at the capital, meeting only when other business allows ministers to give a little time to it, necessarily hurried and incomplete in its dealings with such cases. Fancy the Minister of Railways, the Minister of Public Works, the Minister of Justice, and the ministers of two or three other departments, meeting in solemn conclave to consider whether John Jones has a right to drain a twelve-acre field in the north-west corner of his farm across a railway line. It is absurd; the machinery is out of all proportion to the work required to be done. What the farmer and the local municipality require to afford them something like justice is a cheap, local, somewhat primitive means of obtaining a remedy. This view of the case commended itself to the Ontario government, a government which, whatever failures in judgment it may have been guilty of at one time or another, has shown a vast deal of ordinary common sense in its dealings with matters of this kind. The Act passed by the Ontario legislature when Sir Oliver Mowat was Premier provided a simple method of arbitration between the railway companies and those who claimed that they sustained injuries in respect of drainage at the hands of the railway companies. Without going into all the details of the Act, I may say that the earlier clauses establish the general principle; and the clauses of my Bill are, with the necessary alterations required by the fact that we do not control municipal machinery, practically those of the Ontario Act. Let me give a quotation or two. Clause 4 provides:

4. Every railway company shall permit the opening and construction of all necessary drains and outlets for drains, and the opening, widening and deepening of outlets for natural water-courses, which are required for the drainage of lands adjacent to the property of such railway company, or which are constructed or opened under the authority of any municipality.

Clause No. 5 provides:

5. Every existing ditch, drain, creek or water-course, situate on the property of a railway company, and running along or under its railway, may be deepened, widened or extended, and any existing bridge or culvert in the roadbed of such railway may be deepened or widened, or a new bridge or culvert may be constructed, when it is found and reported upon by the engineer

of any municipality adjacent to the railway, as required by this Act, or agreed and reported upon as hereinafter provided, that such works are necessary as an outlet for any creek or watercourse, or of any ditch or drain that has been or is to be constructed under the authority of such municipality, and that such works can be done without detriment to the safety of the railway: Provided, that such works shall be done in such a manner as not to injure the bridges, culverts or roadbed of the railway, or in any way interfere with the traffic thereof.

These two clauses establish the general principle that a railway company must not play the dog in the manger, but must allow the same privilege of drainage across its land as are furnished by other landowners. The end of the last clause removes the objection sometimes frivolously urged against legislation of this kind, namely, that it would not do to put the road-bed and the traffic of a railway company at the mercy of every local municipality or every township land surveyor.

The Bill then goes on to provide how the local municipality or landowner may proceed to obtain a remedy for their grievances. In every case, the services of a qualified land surveyor shall be engaged—the township engineer or village engineer or city engineer, in the one case, and in the other the engineer representing the individual who claims to have a grievance. The railway company must then be notified of the claim made, and after a certain lapse of time a meeting should be held between the engineer representing the railway company and the engineer representing the parties claiming to be aggrieved. If these two can agree as to what should be done, the matter is at an end. They report, and their report, being filed in the office of the clerk of the municipality has the effect of law.

If they do not agree, these two are to select a third as umpire, and the three will form a board of arbitration to go on the ground and examine and decide everything, under the terms of this Act, which prevent damage or obstruction to the road-bed or traffic of the company, and their report, on being registered, becomes law and compulsory as regards what should be done. To quote the wording of the Act:

8. The clerk of the municipality, or the engineer of the landowner desiring to have such drainage works constructed, shall send to the manager of the railway company, by registered letter, a copy of the report, plans, profiles and estimates made by the engineer in accordance with the next preceding section.

2. The manager of the company, or some one acting on his behalf, shall, within fifteen days after receiving such report, forward to the clerk of the municipality interested, or to the landowner, by registered letter, a notice stating whether he approves or disapproves of the said report. If he approves of it, his letter of approval, together with the said report, and the plans, profiles and estimates, shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the said drainage work is situated, or, if it extends into two or more municipalities, with the clerk of each municipality; and the

said letter and report shall constitute a bargain binding on all parties concerned and liable for the performance of the work, or the cost thereof, upon the lands of the railway company, and shall not be subject to appeal.

3. If the manager of the railway company objects to the said report, in whole or in part, he shall, in such notice, state his objections, and shall also fix a day, not later than twenty, nor earlier than fifteen days from the mailing of such notice, upon which the engineer of the railway, or some one acting on his behalf, will meet the engineer of the municipality, or of the landowner, at the place where the work is proposed to be done, for the purpose of arriving at an amicable agreement as to the work objected to by the manager of the railway, or as to the cost thereof.

4. If the engineer of the railway company and the engineer of the municipality or of the landowner, agree upon any portion of, or the whole of, the said work objected to by the manager of the company, then such report, amended, if need be, as agreed upon, shall be made out in duplicate and signed by both engineers, one copy to be retained by the engineer of the railway company and one by the engineer of the municipality or landowner; and the said report shall be binding upon all parties concerned, as set forth in subsection 2 of this section, and shall be filed as provided in the said subsection.

If the engineers disagree, the dispute is to be referred to an engineer appointed by the Minister of Railways, whose decision shall be final and binding upon all parties interested.

Clause 6 provides:

6. When the said disagreement takes place, the engineer of either of the parties represented may, within four days thereafter, by registered letter, request the Minister of Railways and Canals to appoint an engineer as provided in the next preceding subsection, and shall in such letter give the name and post office address of the engineer representing the other party, and also his own post office address, and state the locality where the proposed work is to be done.

The Minister of Railways and Canals shall, within six days after receiving the said request, appoint a competent engineer to settle the matter in dispute. The engineer so appointed shall go down with the other two and act as umpire. But if the two engineers or the two parties agree on an umpire, the Minister of Railways need not be called upon to supply an engineer.

I do not think there is anything else I need refer to in detail in the Act except the last paragraph, which provides that:

12. If the railway company neglects or refuses to enlarge or construct a bridge or culvert within the time specified in the award or the report for the completion thereof, the railway company shall be held liable to pay to the parties interested the sum of \$10, as fixed and liquidated damages, for each day from the date mentioned for the commencement of the work, during which the company so neglects or refuses to proceed with the work.

On the whole, this Bill provides a complete system on settling the differences referred to and a cheap method—one not requiring journeys to Ottawa or any distant place to attend either a court or a meeting of the Rail-

way Committee. It supplies a quick method, for all the proceedings can be got through within a comparatively short space of time. Arbitration is a principle familiar to every one, and on the whole the fairest that could be applied for settling disputes of this kind. And above all this Bill provides a general statement of the rights of landowners adjacent to railways, which is an absolutely essential part of any legislation of this kind.

We all know that matters in which farmers are chiefly interested do not get the attention that is given to legislation on other matters. It is harder, therefore, to get a Bill through this House in their interest than one in the interest of almost anybody else. A few years ago, I was asked to introduce and put through a Bill for the benefit of the wheelmen of this country. There was no trouble with that Bill at all. As soon as it came before the House every wheelmen's association all over the country began to write and telegraph to the members representing them, and brought such tremendous pressure to bear on the members of this House that a vote was not even taken on that Bill, although it had been strongly contested in the Railway Committee and opposed by the railway companies. It is impossible to secure such united action and quickness of response on the part of the farming community. Therefore, it is all the more necessary that members representing farmers or representing municipalities that have drainage works to carry out should spontaneously take action in regard to this measure. I had hoped, I confess, that before now, we should have a government Act dealing with this matter. We have a Bill now before the House, which I do not propose to discuss, of course, introduced by the Minister of Railways and Canals, amending the Railway Act. I do not know why legislation providing for what is wanted in this particular case should not be attached to that Bill when it comes up again for discussion. If it proves impossible to get the present Bill further considered on account of the lateness of the session, I may have to propose what this Bill contains in the form of an amendment to the government Act amending the Railway Act. It will be much more convenient, I confess, to see it dealt with in a separate Bill. But, failing legislation by the government on the matter, we private members must put our heads together and see if we cannot perfect a Bill that will give satisfaction, and one that will afford relief to the hundreds and thousands of farmers throughout the country who are injured by the present state of things. I have been spoken to by many members of this House about grievances arising in their constituencies. I hope that now that this Bill is up for discussion, a number of these will state their position in regard to it, and will say a word or two to show the importance of the legis-

lation asked for. And I hope the expression of opinion will come from both sides of the House. This is a thing that cannot be a party question, no matter whether it is brought up as a government Bill or as a private member's Bill. It is a thing which a strong feeling exists in the country, though, as I pointed out, it does not make itself so clearly felt as does feeling with regard to other measures. I hope that the Bill will pass the second reading, and, not only that, but there will be a good, solid discussion of the principles of it as it is going through.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). I do not intend to discuss the provisions of the Bill, but I desire to call the attention of my hon. friend (Mr. Casey), who has introduced it, and who has introduced a similar measure for many years, to the want of progress in the case of this important measure. I am not sure that this is the same Bill in detail as was introduced by the hon. member (Mr. Casey) last year, but I suppose it is substantially the same Bill. Last year, when the committee was selected, I did suspect that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) had selected a committee that would be perfectly sure not to report its deliberations. But the right hon. gentleman disclaimed—and I am quite sure he was frank in his disclaimer—any idea of that kind. Nevertheless, so far as I know, no report has been made. Though I am not going to discuss the provisions of the Bill, I desire to point out in a very few words the great necessity that exists for the Bill. In the western portion of this province large drains are constructed by means of dredges. Railways take possession of these drains putting up expensive bridges. When the drain has to be repaired and a dredge has to be brought in for that purpose, a difficulty at once arises. You cannot proceed with the dredge; you have to make arrangements with the railway company or abandon the work. That is a serious thing, because it is impossible to repair these drains except with a dredge. Whether the Bill makes provisions for cases of that kind I do not know; but I would like to call attention to the need of some means of overcoming a difficulty of that kind. I know a case myself where a large drain had been constructed, involving, probably, \$20,000 or \$30,000. The railway company surveyed a line, constructed a railway and put up a bridge. The drain had to be repaired and a dredge was brought in. The railway company at once said: You cannot disturb our bridges; there is no law that will authorize you to do so or that will compel us to tear them down or disturb the traffic of the line. Of course, I understand, that to interfere with railway traffic is a serious matter, because life and very valuable property are at stake. But I would like the right hon. gentleman to see to it that a Bill is pre-

pared and reported, by which the public interest will be protected in this matter, the railway interest being conserved at the same time, of course. There are two sides to the question, but that which concerns the people is that there shall be some reasonable means to find an outlet to a drain, with the least possible disturbance to the railway. I would impress upon the government the necessity of having men take hold of this question who understand something of it. I think that I suggested last year that one of the members of the committee appointed should be the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), who was official drainage referee for many years. The hon. gentleman gave great satisfaction, being, probably, one of the most thorough men in Canada. The right hon. gentleman should appoint such men as these. It is not necessary to take men from the eastern part of Canada or even from the extreme west, because they have no such cases to deal with, as I have pointed out. There may be some cases, but not such aggravated cases as that I have pointed out. I do not intend to detain the House further except to say that the Bill of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) is an absolute and pressing necessity, and I hope that the session will not pass without the government taking action.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). I have received letters from no less than three of the farmers who are suffering because railways will not give them proper accommodation across their tracks to drain their land. One case I may state briefly: When the railway was built, the water was turned out of its natural channel, and a small surface drain, fourteen inches deep, was run along the track a distance of about sixty rods, whereas the original course of the water was across the railway. The gentleman who wrote to me farms fifty acres, and half of it is fit for nothing but pasture, because he cannot get drainage. He has applied to the railway company and has offered to be at the whole expense if they will allow him to do the work either under their own engineer or under an engineer that he will employ. But he can get no satisfaction. I hold that in western Canada and eastern Canada also, where the farmers find it of the utmost importance to drain their lands, a Bill such as that we are now discussing is an absolute necessity. The farmers in western Ontario are familiar with such machinery as that here proposed for securing drainage across their neighbour's land or across corporation's lands of any description, and that is by calling in a township engineer or some other engineer to go and examine the work and make a careful estimate of its cost, and to notify the railway company. I say that a farmer may just as well suffer or lose a good part of his land as to employ an engineer and a lawyer, without whom it

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would be nonsense for him to go before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, and to employ whom would cost more, in many instances, than the value of the land to be drained. Therefore some simple means, such as provided for if this Bill should be adopted, and that at an early date. I know many farmers are suffering severely on account of the lack of such a Bill. The hon. gentleman who just spoke on the other side spoke of draining out large ditches with dredges, but that is something which would be impracticable in some localities. There are many municipalities through which a railway runs where 10 or 12, and I know in one town, 15 or 16, farmers who are suffering severely at the present time, and they feel it would be utterly useless for them to go before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. I hold it is the duty of the government to do everything they possibly can to give the farmers this relief, because a farmer at the present day requires all the assistance that he can possibly get. I say from practical experience, that there are many farms that are of comparatively little value without the under drainage that they require, and without which the owners cannot make farming pay at the present time. I hold that the extra value of crops on a farm with good soil, where there is underdrainage, will pay for the cost of it in five years. But at the present time many farmers who are willing to improve their land cannot do so for the want of such a Bill as this, and it is too bad to prevent them from making that improvement. In fact in the case of many farms on level land the prosperity of the farmers depends upon underdrainage at the present time. I hope the government will do all in their power to give us a Bill of this description, and to give the farmers that relief that they require in order to underdrain their land.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). I desire to say a word in connection with this matter and a word to the government. Knowing as I do the western section of Ontario, and as it is known by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) and others who live in that section, it seems to me that one of the greatest grievances existing there arises from the damming up of the natural watercourses by railway corporations, watercourses which the farmers had before the railways were constructed. Take, for example, the county of Essex, which has three great lines of railway running along its northern border, where there is a gentle fall in the land towards the north and down towards Lake St. Clair. The land is very low and very flat, and at the time the railways were first constructed through that country the streams and channels through which the water found an outlet into the lake were sufficient, and would be sufficient to-day to carry the water off the lands were it not for the fact that

the railway companies in the construction of their roads, dammed up the natural channels through which the water flowed. It did not matter in the earlier days whether the channels were dammed up or not, because these lands next the railway were not settled at that time, and no person made any complaint if the water was dammed back on them for six months in the year. But as these lands became settled and farmers commenced to cultivate them, they found that the natural creeks and the natural channels which carried that water off the land in a state of nature, had been closed up, or nearly so by these railway corporations. Even within the past ten or fifteen years there are instances in the county of Essex where immense culverts formerly existed through which you could drive a horse and wagon, where to-day there is nothing but a three-foot pipe to show where the water formerly went.

It does seem to me there is a little misapprehension on the part of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) and the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) concerning access to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. I have here the Railway Act, and I defy any man to show where any private individual can come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. A railway corporation can run through a man's farm and dam the water up, and I care not how great the grievance he may suffer, there is no machinery in the Railway Act by which he can come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. Again, in the province of Ontario we have a law that is called the Ditches and Watercourses Act, according to which, before you can make a municipal drain, you must have a requisition signed by a certain number of owners showing that they are damaged or injured in some way, and these must petition to the municipal corporation, but there is no machinery in the local law by which an individual can take it up, only the municipality. The result is that if two, or three, or four farmers have a line ditch drain between them which drains their land down to that railway, there is no machinery in the Railway Act that will permit these private individuals, no matter how great the wrong that needs redress, to go before the Committee of the Privy Council, this can only be done by a municipality when they are as a municipality interested.

Now, what I desire more particularly to draw to the attention of this government is the fact that in a state of nature there is a gentle flow to the north in that flat country, and in some instances there were channels which, perhaps, could not be called natural streams within the meaning of the law, but they carried the water from off the surface of the land. That water must be got rid of. The railway corporations come along and construct immense embankments for miles. The result is that when that water which naturally flowed gently down

to the railway cannot find an outlet, and when it finds no outlet there the water is dammed back for miles and the consequence is that the most fertile sections in Canada are simply held up by the railway corporations. I say here, and I use the term advisedly, that the farmers in those sections are deliberately held by the throat by the railway companies. I did not exactly catch the words that fell from the member for Bothwell, but if he referred to the case that I think he referred to, it certainly is an atrocious one. I want to state here, that Big Creek, running through the township of Tilbury North, near Lake St. Clair, bifurcates and reaches an outlet at Lake St. Clair through two channels. They passed a by-law to raise money for the purpose of cleaning those out under the Municipal Drainage Act, and the railway company, although they had a simple culvert with two iron girders along which the track ran, refused to allow the corporation of Tilbury North and the contractor, Mr. Lockerby, to pass under that culvert with a dredge until he would first, under guise of a contract, put up sufficient money to cover the expense of raising those girders. Less than 12 men in four hours raised those girders at a time on a Sunday when no traffic was moving, and when they came to raise them the company refused to let Mr. Lockerby pass under until he deposited \$1,500 in cash. They then refused to let him go back with the dredge until he deposited \$1,500 more, and they got him to enter into a contract on the assumption, he states, that the railway company, were only taking that money as an indemnity. But they hold that \$3,000 to-day and have had it for years, and they refuse to give it up. And when the matter was brought to the attention of the Department of Railways and Canals, the great Canadian Pacific Railway sheltered themselves behind that deliberate steal by saying that that was a contract and they did not think that the government had any right to interfere in contracts between individuals. Now I want to be thoroughly understood. I say that in that country there are miles of territory in which there is no living stream, and the water in a natural state flowed over the land to its natural outlet, Lake St. Clair, and when these railway corporations came along and constructed embankments for miles they dammed that water back for miles into the country. The railway corporations now come forward and say that there was no watercourse here. True, there was no drain necessary then for the drainage of that land because it flowed naturally over the surface through swales and shallow depressions. But down to the present time, under the Railway Act, no matter how great the grievance, a private individual is absolutely unable to come before the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. And railway corporations, sheltering them-

selves behind the railway law and behind the jurisdiction of this parliament, have never to the knowledge of any man, permitted a farmer to drain across their property if they could avoid it. I support the principle of the Bill; I desire to support it most strongly, and I want to tell this government and the hon. members of this House, that there is no legislation of such vital importance as this, that all the legislation about the tariff and anything else is infinitesimal compared with the importance of legislation in drainage matters to three or four western counties. When you find municipal corporations that are taxed \$1, \$1.50, \$2, and all the way up to \$3 per acre for the purposes of drainage, when it has to be renewed in about ten years, when the drain runs down to the railway track to be turned aside to an outlet miles away, when they are put to great expense to construct a monster outlet for miles along the side of a railway until they strike the natural stream by which they can pass under a bridge of the railway, when the railway companies take them by the throat and charge them \$3,000 damages on the top of that, and when a heavy tax is placed upon the farmer's land to pay for this, you can understand what an injustice it is and how it is that the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), and the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) were so heated in their arguments over the matter. As I explained before, the general principle of this Bill is alright. Neither the government, nor any man, wants to do an injustice to any individual or company, but, for fear of doing an injustice to the railway companies, let us not do a greater injustice to the farmers and the landowners who were there long before these railway corporations came into existence. Clause 5 concludes with these words:

Provided that such works shall be done in such a manner as not to injure the bridges, culverts or road-bed of the railway, or in any way interfere with the traffic thereof.

That is a clause more favourable to the railway corporations than I am prepared to support, because, in the modern method of constructing a drain where you have to get a dredge under, you will either have to take the dredge to pieces or build the dredge up stream from the railway and abandon it afterwards. Send it to the committee, where we can get it down to a just and fair principle. The farmer was there first, and his rights should be considered. Through that section of the country there are some depressions and swales that cannot legally be called natural watercourses, through which the water naturally flowed into Lake St. Clair. These have all been closed. It should be provided that the landowner should be allowed to drain his land under the railway, and that this work should not be done at the expense of the landowner. I tell this House that they are

Mr. COWAN.

making one of the greatest errors that, as a legislature, they ever made if they do not consider that matter, and consider it seriously. The hon. member for West Elgin has had this Bill up time and again. Refer it to a committee of men who will consider the Bill with a constructive rather than a destructive animus, and place it in such a position that it may be worked out well, and that it shall be provided that a railway corporation, because it is acting under a Dominion charter, has no greater rights and no higher privileges to trample under foot the rights and interests of the landowner, the municipality and the citizens than any other corporation has in this country.

Mr. CHRISTIAN KLOEPFER (South Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words in connection with this Bill. I think the Railway Act should be amended so as to afford relief to the farmers of this country. There are several farmers in my county who are unable to drain their land owing to the fact that sufficient culverts were not built when the railways were constructed to provide an outlet for the water. These farmers desired the right to drain their property across the property of the railway companies, but they were not allowed to do so. The result is that some farms have been rendered almost useless. In view of these circumstances, I think the Railway Act should be amended so that the farmers may be allowed to drain their property and that the water may flow off in the natural courses. I shall support the Bill.

Mr. ANDREW SEMPLE (Centre Wellington). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) deserves great credit for the manner in which he has brought forward this measure, and for his persistency in doing so. As a matter of fact, the farmers in western Ontario are at the mercy of the large railway corporations. These corporations pursue a dog-in-the-manger policy, and a large portion of the land of the farmers in many instances is rendered useless on account of the action of the railway authorities. I know a case in point. There is a farm which is divided by a railway into two parts, and many acres of land on the upper side are covered by water. The individual who owns the farm has simply asked the railway company to put a ditch through beneath their tracks. He undertakes to pay the whole of the expense that is incurred in putting a ditch through so that he will have an outlet from one portion of his farm to another. The railway company will not allow the work to be done. I think it is full time that some action should be taken. Railways, I am aware, are all powerful. They have so much money; they employ the best legal talent they can get in the Dominion, and the country is simply

at their mercy. As has been stated, the farmers were there before the railway companies, but, the railway companies have the privileges that they have gained under the Railway Act from year to year, and the farming community seem to have no privileges whatever. It is to be hoped that something will be done to remedy this evil, because it is a great evil, and the sooner something is done the better to alleviate the conditions under which the farmers are placed who, with railways running through their property, require outlets for the purposes of drainage. It is to be hoped that the government will take such means as will give relief to the long-suffering farmers.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the statements made by the hon. gentlemen who have addressed you on this subject are true. They have only told a portion of the truth, that is, the truth in regard to those cases that have come under their own notice and observation in their own localities. It looks to me, Sir, on the great general principle that it is a preposterous thing that all the railway companies in Canada should be able to prevent drainage under their railways when every other individual and every other corporation, every other landowner and every other land occupier in the country has to obey the law in the interest of the community. Why should the railway companies not obey the law? Why should they be able, by simply saying: You shall not put drainage under our railway track, to prevent the drainage of large areas of valuable lands? My experience and observation are not so large as that of hon. gentlemen who have spoken and who reside in the portions of the country where this is a live question, and one affecting large portions of the community, in fact, affecting the whole community. But, there are cases that have come under my observation. I know of a case where a railway company have refused to permit the owners of land to drain their property. One case occurs to me at this moment near the city of Montreal, where some owners of land required to lower a drain. There is a drain in now under the railway. They required to lower the drain, perhaps two feet—not more than two feet, I think—in order to drain an area of land eighty or one hundred acres in extent. The railway company refused to permit them to lower that drain two feet or two feet six inches—I do not think it is more than two feet six inches anyway—in order to give value to that property. The property to-day is a swamp which cannot be utilized for building purposes, for farm lands or for anything else, and the railway company is permitted to act as the dog in the manger, and to prevent the owners of these lands, even at their own cost, from making that drain, in order to make their pro-

perty of value. These railway companies are given the most valuable franchises; they are permitted to go through men's farms and men's houses, to go through the streets and roads of cities and towns wherever they choose, and yet, they have the power to prevent a man contiguous to their railway lines draining his own land, to make it productive. It is intolerable that such a law should be permitted to remain on our statute-books. It is only fair that the railway companies shall be asked by this Bill to assume the expense across their own property; but under the law as it now exists, they will not permit the owner of contiguous land, to make a drain underneath their line of railway even at their own expense. We should pass a law giving full power to the landowners in this regard. The member for Central Wellington (Mr. Semple), said that the member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), deserved great credit for having brought this matter before the House. I am unwilling to concede so much credit to the hon. member (Mr. Casey), for I and other gentlemen, remember last year's farce in connection with this Bill. The Bill was ripe for discussion last year, and the First Minister, and the Minister of Railways and Canals apparently found it expedient to come to no conclusion about it. There were the interests of the people on the one side, and the interests of the railway companies on the other, and the government did not want to provoke the enmity of either, and so what did they do? They proposed to send the Bill to a sub-committee of five members of this House, instead of referring it, as the hon. member for Elgin desired, I believe, to the Committee on Railways and Canals.

Mr. CASEY. Oh, no, it was the other way. I wanted a separate committee and the government wanted to send it to the Committee on Railways and Canals.

Mr. WALLACE. My memory was a little defective on that, and I am very glad to be set right. The government conceded his demand to send it to a private committee, and the Minister of Railways and Canals came across to this side of the House and he asked two gentlemen if they would serve on the committee, and these gentlemen said 'Yes.' But, Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen had already committed themselves by their speeches in this House, to oppose that Bill, and yet the minister (Mr. Blair) in my presence, asked them if they would become members of that committee.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace), say that I asked them to serve on the committee, with knowledge of the fact that they had opposed the Bill?

Mr. WALLACE. No, I do not mean to say anything of the kind. I do not know what knowledge the Minister of Railways

(Mr. Blair), had, but I know the knowledge I had, because I heard these gentlemen get up in the House and speak against the Bill. I do not know what the Minister of Railways knew about it. The fact is that ministers are so seldom in the House that they do not know what is going on here, but I am here and I know what is going on. That is the difference. I remember that the First Minister, who usually is a man of amiable temperament, and smiling, as he is to-night; I remember that he did not smile then. The committee was objected to by the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and the Speaker ruled that these two gentlemen had already declared themselves opposed to the Bill, and, therefore, could not serve on the committee. Then the First Minister got up and said: Very well; if you do not agree to these gentlemen, we will not appoint any one; and they did not appoint any one, and the thing went to the dogs, and the member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) was the consenting party, because he did not raise his voice and protest against it, and exercise his right to push that Bill through to a decision in this House. We all know that, and when there is any talk of the member for West Elgin deserving credit for pushing this matter before parliament, year after year, we know that he pushed it in a way that shows that he is the subservient agent of the members on the Treasury benches, who do not desire a conclusion to be reached on the question. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Casey), is playing their game, and he is not looking after the interests of the people of Canada, as he professes to do. These are the facts, and it is well that they should be known. I have my doubts that it is going to be pushed to a conclusion this session of parliament. I shall look with great interest to see the further progress of this Bill, and, Mr. Speaker, I shall look, too, with astonishment, if the parliament of Canada is permitted by the government, to give that proper consideration to this Bill, which its very great importance deserves. It is a measure of very great importance to the farmers, to owners of land, and to the great public right that railroad companies that bear their share in the general opening up and improvement of lands, which has to be borne by the farmers, and by the municipalities through which railways run. It should be no longer permitted in this country, that the railways should gobble up all these rights for their own selfish convenience. I hope that a fair and just law, making the railway companies do their share in this matter, will pass this session of parliament.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) has got very fierce and heated over what he conceives to be the treachery of the government in handling this question. During all the years I have sat in this parliament, I think the question of drainage has been brought up every session.

Mr. WALLACE.

The hon. member for West York, though not a member of the cabinet, was a controller for many years, and I never before knew him to be so fierce and active in urging the consideration of this measure as he has been to-night. I am entirely in accord with the Bill, and I say to the government and the Minister of Railways that they should unquestionably take this question up and deal with it in some way. I think the Railway Act should be amended so as to provide for an umpire, who might be an engineer, and who would be beyond the influence of the railway companies or any one else, to go on the ground, view the conditions, and make an order upon the railway company as to what should be done within a certain time to provide the necessary conveniences to drain the land of the party who had complained. At present, if a man has a piece of land that is flooded, and it is necessary to drain it across his neighbour's land, his neighbour, if benefited thereby, has to contribute his proportional share of the cost, if he is not benefited, the man who wishes to have his land drained may on application to the council obtain the right to drain across his neighbour's land in a way to be defined by the municipal engineer. I do not see why some arrangement of that kind cannot be made applicable to the railway companies. I cannot understand the railway companies standing in the way so determinedly as has been described by the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan). This parliament must pass a law to relieve men who are trampled upon in this way. I do not myself wish to do any railway company any harm, or to deprive them of any right; but I do say that when land requires drainage across a railway track, and the railway company persists in refusing to conduct the water in the best and most convenient way, there should be a law to compel it to provide the necessary relief; and I think the government should not permit this session to pass without placing a law of that kind upon the statute-book. I may say that it has fallen to my lot in two or three instances to appeal to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for relief for men who were suffering, and I am glad to say that they have complied with such applications fairly well. I do not know what railway company the hon. member for South Essex refers to, but I think something should be done to secure to those people relief. Our country is getting better cleared, land in Ontario is being more valuable, and I hope the government will take action on this matter and provide the necessary machinery. The party opposite are just as much to blame in this matter, for they held office for many years without doing anything. I do think, however, that the government should this session give this matter careful and special consideration, and either adopt this Bill or bring in another Bill to provide means of

relief for our farmers. I do not think it is at all becoming of the hon. member for West York to attempt to cast a reflection upon the hon. member for West Elgin for not succeeding with his Bill last year or bringing it forward before this time this year. I think I know the hon. member for West Elgin as well as anybody else in this House, and I believe he has made an honest and earnest effort on several occasions to secure legislation of this kind, and he did not deserve the reproof of the hon. member for West York. I do not think he has connived in any way at the defeat of his Bill, but I am sure that he is earnest and anxious to get it passed.

Mr. WILLIAM MCGREGOR (North Essex). I heartily endorse the remarks of the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan), and those of the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey). I am pleased to know that the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) and other friends on the other side of the House are going with us this time. In 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894, petitions were presented to this House asking for relief. In 1896 a committee was appointed for the purpose of examining into this question. In our part of the country, where we have three trunk lines—the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canada Southern—running to the north of the farming district, the farmers have a great grievance owing to the water being dammed back upon their lands. I hope the government will see their way clear either to appoint a special committee for the purpose of examining into this question, or referring it to the Railway Committee. I feel satisfied that on this occasion we have the House with us, and I am glad to see that even the hon. member for West York is coming round. But he does not come round gracefully; he wants to put party into a little ditch. I do not think that is becoming of him; I think he should rise above that. We only want relief for a few farmers, and if this Bill passes we feel that relief will be given to the parties who deserve it. I know the case mentioned by the hon. member for South Essex. It cost the man \$1,500 to cross the railway, and \$1,500 to return; and that is a very large amount to have to pay for taking out a small ditch. I feel sure that the government will this time deal with this measure, knowing that the House is with them. We have all the evidence on the matter necessary. I suppose we have the evidence of thirty or forty witnesses which was given in the year 1895, and that can be used at any time.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), in speaking upon this question, has given us a very conspicuous illustration of the large-mindedness and breadth of view with which he discusses all these questions.

There is nothing petty about the hon. gentleman. He is inspired by no small motives; he is only influenced by public considerations. But he sees in this question an opportunity of striking a blow at the prestige of the Liberal government, and is unwilling that any member of this House should accord the smallest measure of praise to the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey) for his active intervention on behalf of his constituents and the people resident in the counties named, for the purpose of removing this particular grievance.

The hon. gentleman, not content with endeavouring to withhold from the hon. member from West Elgin, the credit which some gentlemen of this House were disposed to give him, undertook to say that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways had placed obstruction in the way of passing this Bill, and were opposed to its becoming law. I wish to say that the hon. gentleman's charge is wholly unfounded in fact. Neither the Prime Minister nor myself were influenced by any hostility to this Bill on the occasion he referred to. I had no reason to oppose the Bill, and was not opposed to its full consideration; and when my hon. friend from West Elgin asked that it be referred to a special committee, I stated that it was not a measure which should be referred to any special committee, but which should go before the general Railway Committee. The Bill had already been referred to a special committee, before which all the evidence had been taken necessary to throw light upon the facts, and that evidence is still available for the consideration of the Railway Committee and this House. Therefore, instead of sending this Bill to a special committee, whose report would not carry that weight which a report of the Railway Committee would carry—because the special committee which my hon. friend desires, would be composed of men friendly to the Bill—it would be better to refer it to the general Railway Committee where it would be impartially discussed, both pro and con, and reported upon. That is the view I entertained and that is the view that I press upon my hon. friend to-day. If he wishes to have this Bill become law, this session, he ought to refer it to the Railway Committee, which has been appointed to deal with such questions. I am disposed and ready to give to his Bill every assistance which its merits demand. I think that my hon. friend has made out a strong case for his measure, and, while not committing myself to its details, I must say that the people interested, have strong ground upon which to appeal to this parliament for relief, under the existing circumstances, and I would be sorry to think that the Railway Committee would not be prepared to give this Bill every proper consideration. If my hon. friend will accept my suggestion the House, I believe, will be disposed to at once agree to a second reading, and, I can promise him, that the Railway Commit-

tee will be summoned, and afforded every opportunity to deal with the measure, and come to a conclusion with respect to its provisions which will cover the ground and meet the case before this session of parliament closes, and my hon. friend will have my assistance in bringing about that result.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I am glad to hear the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair), give his consent to assist in getting this Bill through, but I do not think that his strictures on my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), were deserved, because other members of this House were led to the same conclusion. When this Bill was before the Railway Committee, both the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart), and the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), expressed themselves very strongly against it in the presence of the Minister of Railways.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not remember that.

Mr. SPROULE. I was present and remember it distinctly. After it was proposed to send the Bill to a select committee, the hon. minister put those two gentlemen on that committee, although they had expressed themselves as opposed to the principle of the Bill. I objected to their being put on the committee on that ground, because the rule has always been that no one should be appointed to a select committee on a Bill who is opposed to its principles. Then seeing the way the Bill was put off from time to time, some hon. members naturally came to the conclusion that there was no honest desire on the part of the Minister of Railways to assist in putting the Bill through.

Antecedent to this measure, there was another Bill introduced by the hon. member for East Assinibola (Mr. Douglas), which was also referred to a special committee, and on that committee certain members of the opposition were appointed, who had expressed themselves against the principle of the measure. The hon. member for East Assinibola, when he went back to his own constituency, informed his people that the two Conservative members of the special committee had done their utmost to defeat the Bill, and that its defeat was consequently due to the conduct of the opposition. It was because we feared that something of the kind would follow with regard to this measure that we objected to a similar course being followed.

The hon. Minister of Railways has now kindly consented to give us every assistance in carrying the Bill through, and has asked the hon. member for West Elgin to allow it to go to the Railway Committee. And, if it cannot stand the arguments that may be advanced in that committee, it is unlikely that it will pass this House. But, if it is sent to a select committee, I should say, at least, it should go to a committee composed of

Mr. BLAIR.

members who are not opposed to the principle of the Bill, otherwise they will endeavour to kill it, and it will not come back to this House.

Mr. JOHN FRASER (Lambton). I heartily endorse the principle of this Bill. I have listened with a good deal of interest and profit too, I am sure, to the discussion that has taken place upon it. The condition of affairs so graphically described by two or three members of this House renders it, in my opinion, absolutely necessary that something should be done before this session of parliament comes to a close. Of my own personal knowledge I know many farmers in the constituency I have the honour to represent who are suffering because the natural outlets for water are dammed up in the manner described by the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Casey), and the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan). I believe that is true of the province of Ontario generally. I have heard complaints of this kind for many years, and to me it is a matter of great surprise to learn from a lawyer, and so able a lawyer as my hon. friend from South Essex is known to be, that there is no machinery by which a man suffering such gross injustice as has been described can reach the courts. It is said that even the humblest British subject has a right to go to the foot of the throne, if necessary, to get justice. But, it appears, there are corporations in this country at whose hands justice cannot be obtained even in the courts. If that be true, or whether it is true or not, it is the bounden duty of this parliament to see to it that a measure is passed providing simple, efficient machinery for the remedy of grievances of this kind. It is utterly intolerable that a man's land should be traversed by a railway and, under what is called the right of eminent domain, a couple of acres taken off a farm of say 100 acres and a few paltry dollars paid for it, the net result of the transaction being that the other ninety-eight acres are rendered almost valueless. If other classes of the community instead of farmers suffering from such an injustice, I am sure, as my hon. friend from West Elgin has well stated, parliament would have been besieged by deputations of sufficient power and influence to have secured a remedy long before this. The farmers, unfortunately, though numerically very strong are not particularly strong in the matter of concentrating their energies so as to bring influence to bear upon the government and upon parliament. The only time they are supposed to bring their influence to bear at all to any purpose is on election day. And then, unfortunately, there are so many silver-tongued orators, like my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace)—who, I am sorry to say, is not above impugning the motives of members of this parliament—there are so many gentlemen of his type

going around telling the farmer that Codlin's his friend, not Short, and that it is the farmer's duty to support the party to which the orator owes allegiance. I am very glad that my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), who, in looking after matters of this kind is, in my opinion, thoroughly up-to-date, has taken such a warm interest in the matter, and has suggested what I believe to be the best way of dealing with it—referring it to the Railway Committee rather than any other smaller committee of the House. The Railway Committee is composed of gentlemen on both sides of politics and every shade of opinion upon railways and other questions, and is undoubtedly the best body to which a measure of this kind can be referred. I unhesitatingly endorse the view that this Bill, or, at all events, some Bill having for its object, aim and end, the redress of grievances of this character should be referred at the earliest possible moment to the Railway Committee to be threshed out there on its merits. If there are arguments against the principle of the Bill, if there is any good argument in favour of a railway or other corporation being empowered to destroy a man's farm, we, I am sure, would much like to hear that advanced in the Railway Committee, and, perhaps, at a later stage in this House. But I venture the opinion that no such argument will be attempted to be brought forward either in the Railway Committee or here. I can only say that I trust this session of parliament will not be permitted to close before a measure of this character has been placed on the statute-books.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). As I occupied a position some years ago in the province of Ontario having to do to some extent, with the larger drains constructed by municipalities, I have been brought into contact with railways in some cases, and I am bound to say that in a majority of cases, and particularly in those of the three leading railways, the Grand Trunk Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canada Southern Railway, there is little tendency to be obstructive or to prevent an appropriate system of drainage going through their property. They are willing, as a rule, to concede what the engineer found necessary in order to drain land. While I say that, yet I say that there is undoubtedly a grievance, and that the principle of this Bill is right. The principle of this Bill is simply this—that the railways whether under Dominion charter or provincial charter ought to be subject to provincial legislation in connection with drainage. I do not think that any one can quarrel with that principle. That being right, it becomes the duty of parliament to find out how that principle can be carried out in such a way as not to interfere with the real interests of the railways, and at the same

time allow landowners—not farmers alone, though more farmers are interested than any other class—to secure drainage of their lands under the law of the particular province in which the lands lie. I have no hesitation in saying—and I hope my hon. friend from West Elgin will not think it an assumption on my part to say it—I think the Bill as it stands is wholly unworkable, and I think it only requires reading and an understanding of the matter to see that it is so. At the same time, there ought not to be any difficulty in preparing a Bill that would be practicable and in the interests of those requiring drainage. I must confess that there never seemed to be any such difficulty as some connected with the railways have suggested in the matter. When the engineer reports a scheme of drainage, there ought to be some way to compel railways, if not to submit to the particular scheme presented by the engineer having the matter in charge, then to such scheme unchanged by the railway engineer and approved by competent authority, the drainage referee or some such officer in each province or the Railway Committee of the Privy Council. In some way power should be given the tribunal to compel the railway to submit to a drainage scheme maturely considered by the engineer who has it in charge in the particular province where the land is. If this Bill goes to the Railway Committee and the Railway Committee should be too large to deal with it, there would be no difficulty in having it submitted to a sub-committee to report upon it to the general committee. At all events, the matter can be considered in some way this session and presented in some shape to the House. I am in favour of the principle of the Bill, and would be glad if it could be read a second time.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

Mr. CASEY. I move that this Bill be referred to the Select Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines. In making this departure from the policy I have hitherto followed, in sending the Bill to a committee, I have not changed my opinion that the Railway Committee would be best qualified maturely to consider and develop a scheme for the purposes intended. The Railway Committee seems to be gorged with its legitimate business of attending to private Bills; but, as a matter of fact, I have found it was more inconvenient to secure the attendance of members of a small select committee appointed on this particular Bill than it is to get the attendance before the Railway Committee of a sub-committee thereof. Moreover, as the general opinion of members on both sides seems to be that they would rather have it sent to the Railway Committee, I am willing to have it go there. Of course, this House has accepted the principle of this Bill, and whether it goes

to the Railway Committee or any other committee, it must be remembered that the principle has been passed upon by this House, and that the duty of the committee to which it is sent will not be, as some one has suggested, to consider the principle of the Bill at all, but, to consider how the principle of the Bill may be best carried out in an effective measure. So far as that principle is concerned, not a voice has been raised in the House to-night against it. The pronouncement in favour of its principle has been unanimous; the duty of the committee will be to produce a workable Bill. My hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) gives his legal opinion that this Bill as it stands is unworkable. It may be so, for all I know. I did not trust my own legal powers in drafting a Bill of this kind. I simply took the Bill drafted by the Ontario government, and enacted there a good many years ago under Sir Oliver Mowat, and made that Bill almost word for word my Bill, except where the use of the municipal machinery came in, which we are unable to control in the same manner that the legislature of Ontario controls it. I do not consider myself responsible for the details of the Bill at all. The principle of arbitration I consider a fair one, and I hope that whatever sub-committee of the Railway Committee it goes to, that committee will be able to elaborate a workable Bill. I am glad to see that the hon. the Minister of Railways and Canals takes such a warm interest in it. I am assured by him that when the committee has elaborated a Bill embodying the principle now passed on, he will, if necessary, put it on the Government Orders, so that it may secure further consideration for a third reading before the end of this session. I had feared that, coming up at this late period, a reference to a committee might kill it for the session, but having that assurance, I have concluded to make the motion you have just heard. I may be permitted to say a word in regard to the personal reference of the member for West York (Mr. Wallace), that I was a very subservient follower of the government. I am afraid if he were to ask the members of the government, they would hardly endorse that flattering opinion. There have been times when I had to differ rather markedly from the government, and have not hesitated to do so. I am very glad that on this occasion there is no reason why I should differ from the government, for I believe that they are heartily with me in desiring to secure the best interests of the public in this matter.

Motion agreed to.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 19) to amend the Mounted Police Act, 1894.

Mr. CASEY.

He said: I do not think that this Bill will meet with the sad fate at the hands of the right hon. gentleman as the previous one; because, if the right hon. gentleman remembers what he said at the close of 1898, he will remember that he committed himself to the principle of this Bill:

The position of superintendent shall be filled by promotion from among the non-commissioned officers, or, in special cases only, by the appointment of graduates of the Royal Military College, or of commissioned officers in the Canadian militia.

The leader of the House will remember that in the session of 1897, I brought forward a measure of this sort, and I pointed out the reasons why I wished the measure to pass, namely, for the sake of efficiency of the mounted police, and on the grounds of justice. And I pointed out the past history of the police. I dwelt on the fact that the principle should obtain in regard to appointments to the position of officer, that is embodied in this Bill. The mounted police is different from, perhaps, any corps in the world in this respect—at all events, it stands pre-eminent; I will not venture to say that it is unique, but it stands pre-eminent in that, up to the present time, the rank and file of the mounted police have been drawn from the better class of men, a better social class, than is to be found. I think, in any other corps in the world. We have had men of the very highest rank in the lowest ranks of the mounted police. We have had men belonging to the best families in England, Ireland and Scotland in the force as constables. We have had cabinet ministers' sons, the sons of Lieutenant-Governors, and the sons of a number of the foremost people in Canada, in the force. The consequence has been that we have a force, the members of which pretty generally may be, with accuracy, described as gentlemen. Therefore, to apply a principle such as is embodied in this Bill to that corps, would not suggest objections such as might occur in regard to a differently organized body. Now, what is the fact? As I say, those who have any influence in this matter, sought to bring it about that a man who became an inspector in that force, should be a man who had originally entered it as a constable. As a matter of fact the best men to-day in the force, are men who have risen from the ranks. Lieut.-Col. Steele, if my memory serves me, who is now commanding Strathcona's Horse, rose from the ranks. Major Belcher, one of his lieutenants, rose from the ranks. Major Howe rose from the ranks. Assistant Commander McIllree, is one of the best men in the mounted police. The Adjutant General of the second contingent, Mr. Baker rose from the ranks. Take Superintendent Perry, the right hon. gentleman said that he was such an excellent officer that he could not even be allowed to go to South Africa, and he rose from the ranks. When I proposed a measure like

this in 1897, the right hon. gentleman met me with this argument. He said: It is unnecessary, and he read out to me a number of officers who had been appointed to commissions, and these had risen from the ranks. He said that what I wanted to bring about, by legislation, really existed. What is the fact, however? Under the regime of the right hon. gentleman's predecessor, we were actually coming to that state of things that I believe is so essential to the well-being of the force—that the officers should be recruited from the non-commissioned officers, who had risen from the ranks, and the right hon. gentleman was able to make a strong argument against me. But, what has been the practice for the last three years? Appointment after appointment has been made, and I cannot recall a single instance where an individual has been taken from amongst the non-commissioned officers and raised to the position of an officer. From the east men have come in, and been appointed over the heads of men—I will not say better men, but men, who, at all events, had given more service and were of more service to the North-west. I may tell the right hon. gentleman that a sense of disappointment has sprung up, and that one of the greatest things which in the past had given heart to the force, and has raised its morale is the fact that every one felt that he had, so to speak, in his knapsack the position of an inspector or superintendent. It has become necessary, that we shall pass this Bill. If we pass it, what will be the position? Let me point out to the right hon. gentleman the advantage that will be to him as Superintendent General. I know what trouble he has at the present time. If political friends want to have a promising youth of military instincts, and some military training appointed to a position in the North-west Territories as an inspector, an appeal is made to my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The young gentleman is sent up to us in the North-west Territories. If he has an Act like this to point to on the statute-book, he is fenced around. He can say: How can I do it? I would like to do it, but, you see, this legislation prevents me. There is that Bill that Mr. Davin got me to pass. It prevents me; I cannot do it. I will point out that this is not a cast iron Bill. It leaves the door open to graduates of the Royal Military College, or commissioned officers of the Canadian militia. But, I hold that if the principle that I propose, be embodied in the statute-book, the chances are very great indeed, that the practice that has obtained for the last three years, of shunting men into the rank of officers of the mounted police, will be abandoned and that henceforth we will revert to the system that obtained prior to 1896, without any legislation, when we were going towards, what I hoped would become the almost absolute rule that officers in the mounted police would be recruited from those who had entered as

constables. I hope that the right hon. gentleman will allow the second reading of this Bill to take place, and when we go into committee, we can either make the clause less stringent, or more stringent, as may commend itself to the House. I move the second reading of the Bill, seconded by Mr. Clancy.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that I cannot give way to the blandishments of my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), even after the way he has appealed to me, and even though he has introduced into the measure he has brought before the House the tender motive towards me of saving me from the trouble that I must have being at the head of the mounted police. He would surround me and protect me from the seductions of my friends, and place me in a position to resist the appeals that may be forced upon me. But, my hon. friend knows that this is a world of trouble; no one is exempt from it. We all have to accept it, and that being the case, I must accept my share of the troubles that are incident to the position I hold. I am very much in favour of the system of promotion, but I am not prepared to say I am sure that all the officers of the force should be exclusively recruited as the Bill implies, from the force itself. I think, Sir, we should continue to take our officers, as in the past, from the non-commissioned officers of the force, from the Royal Military College, and from the militia. If my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) reflects a moment I am sure he will not be in favour of the Bill, even though he is the father of it; because if it became law the government would be deprived to a great extent, of the valuable services of graduates of the military college and of members of the militia force. Our three great sources for the supply of officers to the North-west Mounted Police now is, first, the force itself which qualifies a man of long experience to rise from constable to officer; second, the Royal Military College, which turns out a valuable class of men for that work, and last but not least, the militia. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has named some good officers who were obtained from the force itself, but he might also have named very valuable officers who have come from the Royal Military College and from the militia. Of the 26 inspectors which we have at present, nine have been promoted from the ranks; two are graduates of the Royal Military College; thirteen are officers of the militia; one is an ex-Imperial officer; and one had civil occupation when appointed. I think it will be admitted that the force itself is fairly well represented by nine officers, and on the whole each of the institutions or bodies named have had a fair distribution of the favours to which they are entitled. The force at the present time is officered by three classes; the commissioner, the superintendent, and the inspector. Clause 4 of

the Bill of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) reads as follows :

4. The position of superintendent shall be filled by promotion from among the non-commissioned officers, or, in special cases only, by the appointment of graduates of the Royal Military College or of commissioned officers in the Canadian militia.

Now, the hon. gentleman is aware that between superintendent and the non-commissioned officers there is the intervening class of inspector, and he will agree that it would be proper that the rank of superintendent should be filled by promotion, not from the non-commissioned officers, but from the inspectors. However, I suppose that is an oversight.

Mr. DAVIN. It is a mere verbal error.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is a very serious one.

Mr. DAVIN. We could easily amend it in committee.

The PRIME MINISTER. If that were the only obstacle to the Bill I would not be inclined to urge it very strongly. But I take this position, and I think it will commend itself to the judgment of the House, that we should not be excluded from selecting the North-west Mounted Police officers from graduates of the Royal Military College and from the militia. If this Bill were passed, there would be an obstacle placed in the face of members of both these branches of our militia service. Is there a member of the House who will say that the officers who command the mounted police are only to be recruited from the ranks of that force except in very special cases? I appeal to members on the other side, if it is not better that we should continue the system at present existing. For these reasons I cannot agree to the Bill. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has stated that the government has not given to the lower ranks of the North-west Mounted Police the recognition to which they are entitled.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not know a single instance for three years, of promotion from the ranks.

The PRIME MINISTER. That may be, but the hon. gentleman cannot say that the appointments which have been made to the force have not been of the most satisfactory character. All the appointments have been made from the Royal Military College or from the militia, and I can claim for the government that all the appointments have been exceptionally good. I know we have in contemplation to take from the non-commissioned officers of the force a certain number of commissioned officers, and I know these men are well qualified and ought to be promoted, and should be promoted at the earliest possible opportunity. I speak under correction when I say that we appointed one officer

from among the non-commissioned officers. However, that may be, the argument of the hon. gentleman is, that for three years we have taken men from the Royal Military College and the militia, and that we have not appointed an officer from the ranks. And, going from one extreme to another, he suggests that the officers should be limited entirely to the members of the force. The remedy is not adequate to the evil, if there is an evil. I believe we ought to leave the matter as it is. We have followed the practice which has obtained from the commencement of the force, and I think I shall be supported by the House in asking that it shall not be deviated from. I therefore move :

That the Bill be not now read a second time, but that it be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. DAVIN. Before the amendment is put, I wish to say a word. As regards the verbal error in the Bill, that of course is a *lapsus pennae* and could easily be remedied in committee. As to the main objection of the Prime Minister, he dwelt on the fact that we should not exclude gentlemen from the Royal Military College, but he told us that of the twenty-six inspectors, only two came from the Royal Military College; there being thirteen officers from the militia, nine promoted from the ranks, one an ex-Imperial officer, and one promoted from a civil position. I consider that in no case should a man be made an officer of the mounted police from a civil position. I think that is vicious, because it is a military force. As regards the militia, you may say to me, is not an officer of the militia as likely to prove a good officer of the mounted police as a non-commissioned officer of the mounted police? I say no, and I will tell you why. The mounted police have to do with the Territories, and its members are riders on the plains. They have to travel long distances, going to the boundary, finding out whether there is any danger to our cattlemen, our farmers, or our ranchmen, and doing a hundred things that only plainsmen can do well. An officer from the eastern militia made an officer of the mounted police would be for some time as helpless as a child. He would be put over men, who, in nine cases out of ten, are as well educated as he is, who have been as well brought up, who are from as good a household, and who have had the training of two or three years on the plains, and know all about them. It will be observed that the door is not slammed in the face of the militia nor of the graduates of the Royal Military College. All that would be done by this Bill would be henceforth to adopt the principle that the bulk of the officers shall be taken from the non-commissioned officers of the mounted police; that is to say, that the promotion shall be from the ranks. And how are you to get over this

crucial fact, that notwithstanding the disproportionate numbers, the men who have won distinction are the men who have risen from the ranks? However, I am sorry my right hon. friend will not accept the Bill, and we must only submit to have it voted down; but I would press upon him that in the exercise of his functions as superintendent general he will revert to the system that obtained under the Conservative government of promoting men from the ranks.

Amendment (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) agreed to.

DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston) moved second reading of Bill (No. 29) to amend the Dominion Elections Act. He said: I do not know whether the government have in any way considered this Bill, but I am convinced that the adoption of the machine described in it would be of the greatest possible benefit to the whole Dominion. It will be seen that the Bill is only permissive. It provides that the Governor in Council may at any time decide to have the voting done by such a machine. The model of this machine was in the different rooms of the House of Commons, and I suppose it has been seen by most of the members; and every one who has seen it, has been, I am sure, struck by its simplicity, the absence of any liability to get out of order, and its superiority to the present system of voting by ballot. The machine consists simply of a box about the size of the ordinary ballot-box, but with apertures corresponding to the number of candidates—two, three or four, as the case may be. In a cylinder that rests on the top there is a slot to receive the ball opposite the name of each candidate, and this cylinder revolves sufficiently to allow the ball, which takes the place of the ballot, to pass down a tube through the registering machine until it reaches a tube at the bottom of the box by means of which it returns to the deputy returning officer. The crank which turns the cylinder is under the control of the deputy returning officer, as is also the ball. When an elector enters a polling booth, and his name is found to be on the list of voters, the deputy returning officer hands him the ball and he goes into the compartment where the ballot-box is and deposits it for the candidate for whom he wishes to vote. The deputy returning officer then turns the cylinder half around, and the ball immediately returns to the deputy returning officer. He sees that the voting has been done and the registration is complete. Now, what is saved by this device? First, the printing of the ballots.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Would the hon. gentleman allow me to ask him a question here? How does the voter

know what has become of his vote? The returning officer knows that the vote has been recorded. Has the voter any certainty that a proper record is made of his vote?

Mr. BRITTON. He has an absolute certainty unless the machine gets out of order; and if the machine gets out of order so that the ball does not come back to the deputy returning officer, then there is a provision in this Bill for the deputy returning officer to go into the compartment with the scrutineers and unlock the box so as to see what has detained the ball from passing into the registration machine and returning to him. There is nothing about the machine that renders it at all liable to get out of order. The registering part of it is very much like the registering of a turnstile, such as is used at the gates of an exhibition ground. The pellet, as it goes down a tube, registers, and the number of the vote is marked double. First is registered the number for the particular candidate, and then on the side of the box is registered the total number of votes.

Mr. WALLACE. What about the cost of this machine?

Mr. BRITTON. It would not exceed \$20, and one would be required for each polling place. The cost of the present ballot boxes and the printing would very nearly come to the figure of the cost of this machine. There would be no possibility of forging or spoiling ballots. At the close of the poll all the deputy returning officer would have to do is to open the box, and there before him he will find the registered number of votes for each candidate, and the number on the side of the box gives the total vote polled. That must agree with the number of voters entered on the deputy returning officer's book as those to whom this ball was furnished.

Since this Bill has been introduced, I have received numerous letters from different persons who pretend to have invented something as good as this machine, which is called the Macdonald voting machine. The inventor is Anderson Macdonald, who holds the position of registrar in the court at Winnipeg, and the machine has been used in Manitoba at several local elections and given satisfaction in every case. It has been used under a law of the Manitoba legislature, which allows the municipalities to adopt and use this machine.

Other persons from different parts of the country, including a gentleman of British Columbia, have written stating that they have inventions as good and superior to this one. This Bill could be so drafted that any machine on the principle of this one, having a pellet instead of a written printed ballot, and a registering machine such as is in use in the United States, could be adopted, instead of this, if the government thought proper.

Mr. SPROULE. How would you do in the case of a tendered ballot?

Mr. BRITTON. If a person tendered a vote, that fact would be entered in the book of the deputy returning officer; and if his application were accepted, he would be furnished with a pellet. If it were rejected, there would be a record in the book that he had offered to vote but was refused.

Mr. SPROULE. But, supposing his vote were wrongly accepted, how could you tell for whom the vote was given?

Mr. BRITTON. If accepted, there is no provision to show for whom he passed his pellet, unless he were to say for whom he voted.

Mr. SPROULE. What would happen if the machine got out of order?

Mr. BRITTON. There is a clause of the Bill which allows the deputy returning officer and a scrutineer for each candidate to go in and have the machine put in order.

Mr. SPROULE. But, supposing it could not be put in order?

Mr. BRITTON. That is an eventuality that is not contemplated, and is not likely to happen, as the machine is very simple.

Mr. JAS. McMULLEN (North Wellington). Hon. members will, no doubt, recollect that some years ago a number of inventions, among them the one my hon. friend refers to, were brought to Ottawa, and a committee was appointed to investigate the whole question. The matter was referred to Mr. Arnoldi, then chief engineer of public works. He reported upon one ballot box, which he pronounced the most complete piece of mechanism he had inspected for many years. The owner of the box happened to be in my riding. He brought the ballot box here and showed it to a number of members. If we could make any improvement so as to secure a perfect system of voting and prevent irregularities, that would be very desirable. I would not oppose a permissive Bill which would allow the government to select any ballot box it thought the most perfect, but would oppose a Bill that would limit the choice to the one box. I think it would be better to have a permissive measure first passed in each province, that would enable any municipality, by by-law, to adopt whatever contrivance they thought most perfect, and then the one that gave the most satisfaction could be adopted for the purposes of a general election, but to adopt a contrivance here before the municipalities had tested it would be dangerous. We have adopted a ballot system which is now being used for some years, and to which the people are getting accustomed, although it is marvellous that in most of the constituencies there should be enough spoiled ballots to elect or defeat a candidate, and in many constituencies more than enough.

I am not disposed to offer any opposition

Mr. BRITTON.

to a Bill throwing the responsibility upon the government of adopting any particular device they consider most perfect, but, should oppose a Bill limiting the choice of the government to one particular device. But, I do not know that the House is in the mood to adopt a measure of this kind. I question it very much. We had an extended discussion of this question some years ago, and, though it was strongly recommended by some, it was considered, after all, that it would be dangerous to introduce such a revolutionary measure as this, and adopt the system of voting through one of these inventions rather than by ballot.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). If any machine could be devised which would secure an honest expression of the opinion of the electors of the country, it would be very desirable to have that machine. The experience of the last few years in politics has demonstrated that beyond any question. But, it seems to me that the machine must be possessed of a good many qualities that we have no guarantee this machine is possessed of to accomplish it. In the first place, it would need to be fireproof, because the burning of ballots is one of the ways in which elections have been interfered with in the past. In the next place, it would need to be such a machine that the deputy returning officers could not manipulate it, for I think it must be admitted that they have manipulated the ballots in the past to the injury of the honest electorate. But, there is one objection, in my judgment, to this machine, if there is no other, and that is the cost of it. I take it that the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) has given the correct cost, about \$20 each. The ordinary constituency has about fifty or fifty-two polling subdivisions, each of which would require a machine. At any rate, it would cost about \$200,000 or \$216,000 to supply enough machines to carry on the general elections. That is a very large cost to begin with, and a particularly large cost for something that is untried and unproved as this must be. Therefore, in my judgment, it would be unwise for the government to pass any Bill that would make it compulsory to adopt such a machine. There is a good deal of force in what the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) says, that if a Bill providing for the use of a machine is passed at all, it should be a permissive Bill. I think it would have to be much cheaper than the machine proposed by the hon. member for Kingston, before it would be adopted. There is a general election coming on, and I suppose that the hope would be to have this in that election. If any means would secure a fair election, the opposition would welcome it. The fear is that the election will not be a fair one, and we are justified in that suspicion by what has taken place in the past.

At any rate, the government must take the responsibility of the matter, and if it turns out correct, it will be in their favour, and, if otherwise, the electorate will hold them responsible. Therefore, I think it would be well to hear the members of the cabinet on this question. They appear to be reticent, but this is a most important matter, and it surely will not be allowed to pass without our having the benefit of the opinion of the Premier or some other member of the cabinet.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I was just waiting to hear the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) and others before I gave my opinion. I may say my views are not at all favourable to the Bill. I have no great confidence in any of these fancy machines, of which we have had I do not know how many. I have looked at this one in particular, and it seems to be meritorious, and I think it would work, on the whole, well. But, I think it will not work better than our system when the people are accustomed to it. The simplest form of a ballot is the best. Some years ago, a disc on the ballot was introduced, and the result has been that more ballots were set aside under the new system than under the old. When we come to take up the Bill which we have introduced to amend the election law, we shall be able to give statistics to establish that there were fewer errors under the old ballot than under the new. So, we propose to return to the old form of ballot. Our object is to make it as plain as possible, simply dividing the names by a broad line. Thus, the illiterate elector may be quite able to see how he is recording his vote. If we adopted the machine proposed by my hon. friend (Mr. Britton), I do not see how we could provide for the chapter of accidents. It might happen that on the morning of polling day, either by accident or design, the machine might be altogether disabled, and disabled beyond the possibility of repair. If this were to happen at a distant place, in any one of the back townships, how is the voting to take place? At the present time, it is always possible to get ballot boxes, even though they were to become disarranged in some way. If we adopt a simple system of voting—and the one we shall propose is a very simple one indeed—and if we persist in it, election after election, the people will learn to know it, even the children can be taught to understand it, it will become part of the institutions of the country. In that case, I believe, the mistakes will become fewer and fewer. As to the innuendo, the fear expressed by my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule), I think that fear is altogether groundless. If my hon. friend is as wide-awake as I suppose he would be at election, and if his scrutineers look sharply after their business, I do not see how there can possibly be fraud on polling day. And if, at the end of polling day, the

scrutineers are particular to see that the returning officers give a certificate, as they are bound by law to do, of the state of the polls, I do not see how fraud can be committed with any chance of success. If both parties are wide-awake and look after their own business and see to it that the scrutineers do their duty well, my hon. friend has no reason to fear anything. I may reassure him also, and he may be quite sure—and if he does not know, I am glad to tell him—the returning officers will be good, honest true men, who will discharge their duties with impartiality, with fear of none and favour for none, determined to have a fair expression of the will of the people and nothing else. My hon. friend may think I am boasting in so saying, but I will give my reasons for it at once. In the present condition and temper of the country, the returning officers appointed by the government will have nothing in view by recording the views of the people. That will be sufficient assurance for my hon. friend. I move that the Bill be not now read a second time, but that it be read a second time this day six months.

Mr. BRITTON. I am, of course, sorry that the amendment is moved. I should have been glad if the Bill could have stood until after the discussion which will take place on the Bill introduced by the government to amend the Elections Act, because when the discussion takes place on the form of ballot, I think it will be seen that it is not so simple a thing to provide a ballot that is not open to any objections, as experience has proven. Of course, I must submit. But, I will call attention to one or two points that have been brought up in the course of the discussion, because the time must come, I believe, when a machine will be used instead of the ballot system. One objection is the cost. It is compensated for by the fact that by the use of such a machine as this many more voters can vote at one polling place than can vote at the present time. That may not apply to rural constituencies because there distance has to be regarded, but in cities, at all events, the use of this machine will enable many more votes to be cast at one place. So that even if it costs as much as I suggest, a fewer number will be required for Dominion elections, and expense will be saved in printing as well as fewer polling places being required. Then the objection has been made by the hon. member for Wellington that the provincial governments ought to take action in this direction. I have already said that one provincial government has provided for the use of this machine. On the whole the objections do not seem to me to be strong. The machine itself has merits which, I think, the House fails to appreciate. The more I think of it the more I am confirmed in the conviction that some such machine as this ought to take the place of our pres-

ent system of voting by ballot. It is well known that in the state of New York they have a very complicated and very expensive machine. I saw one of them work in Buffalo in their last state elections. It is so complicated that you can vote for either a whole ticket, or you can strike out certain names and vote for others as you please. Of course, I can only acquiesce in the motion that has been made, unless the Premier will allow the matter to stand until after the discussion of the Bill that is now before the House for the amendment to the Dominion Elections Act.

Amendment (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) agreed to.

LAND TITLES ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 31) to amend the Land Titles Act, 1894. He said: This Bill is merely to get rid of a blemish that must have been allowed accidentally to creep into it by the draughtsman. The closing part of section 89 reads as follows:

For the purpose of this Act letters of administration drafted by the proper court of any province of the Dominion of Canada shall be sufficient.

The consequence of having it so worded is this: That where the exemplification is an exemplification from the English courts from any part of the United Kingdom, they would have to bring it in the ordinary way under the operation of this Act.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I do not remember whether in the Interpretation Act the words 'United Kingdom' are held to mean the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Unless that be the case, I would suggest that the words 'and Ireland' be added to 'United Kingdom.'

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think even if those words are not understood in the Interpretation Act, there is no need of adding them. There is only one United Kingdom. But I have no objection.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

COMPANIES CLAUSES ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. JAMES GILMOUR (East Middlesex) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 32)

Mr. BRITTON.

to amend the Companies Clauses Act. He said: This Bill refers only to manufacturing and mercantile companies that have been incorporated by special Act and are subject to the Companies Clauses Act. Under that Act companies have no power to remove their head office without coming here and getting a special Act for that purpose. This Bill is for the purpose of enabling them by by-law to do this. Of course the by-law has to be duly published and notice given to the stockholders, and published again in the *Gazette*. Furthermore, in order that all interests may be safeguarded, a certified copy of the Bill must be sent to the Secretary of State, and any objections that may be made to the removal of the head office have to be made to him. The Bill does not become valid nor come into effect until his sanction is given. The present mode of coming to this parliament for special Acts for that purpose is found cumbersome and expensive. I may state that the Ontario Act does not give such company power to change its head office. I may repeat that this Bill refers only to manufacturing and mercantile companies, and does not refer to companies that have been incorporated under Dominion letters patent.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). If there are any objections to the Bill they can most conveniently be brought before a committee, so that we might pass the motion and refer the Bill to the usual committee.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend (Mr. Gilmour) had better move that the Bill be referred to the Private Bills Committee, where it will be dealt with.

Mr. GILMOUR moved:

That Bill (No. 32) to amend the Companies' Clauses Act be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT.

Mr. A. F. MacLAREN (North Perth) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 62), to amend the Criminal Code, 1892. He said: Mr. Speaker, I have already explained the provisions of this Bill and I do not think I need say anything further about them at the present time.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry that I cannot agree to this Bill of my hon. friend. The hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is in charge of

a Bill to amend the criminal law, and if he will offer his suggestion to him perhaps he may incorporate it in his own Bill, if he sees fit. I could not take the responsibility of saying yea, or nay, to the legislation proposed by the hon. gentleman. I would rather have the Solicitor General deal with this. I would suggest that the Bill stand, and my hon. friend, when we come to the consideration of the criminal Bill, can make a suggestion to the hon. Solicitor General. I beg to move in amendment the adjournment of the debate.

Amendment (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I ask the right hon. leader of the government what the course of business will be to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will proceed with the Bills on the Order paper. We will take up most of the Bills and the resolutions on the paper.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.20 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 8, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

DESTRUCTION OF PAPER MILLS— PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF DUTIES.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, Mr. Speaker, I wish, very briefly, to call the attention of my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the government, to a matter that, I think, is deserving of their consideration. Since the budget was brought down and the policy of the government announced, very serious fires have occurred, which have had a most important effect upon a number of great industries in this country. I would ask whether the government might not consider it well to look at the question I am about to present to

them in the light of the peculiar circumstances which exist in consequence of these disastrous fires. I refer to the postage on newspapers. The House and the government are quite aware that one of the largest manufactories of paper, that of the Eddy Company in this neighbourhood, has been destroyed by fire. This circumstance alone would be sufficient, I think, to make it necessary for the government to give special attention to this question. But, in addition to that, as we are all aware, the very large manufactory of the Laurentide Pulp Company, singularly enough, immediately following the great disaster to which I have referred, has been consumed by fire. The effect of this has been to enormously increase the difficulty of obtaining paper in Canada for the supply of the newspapers and for other purposes. But, this especially affects the publication of newspapers, and I wish to ask the reconsideration by the government, under the circumstances, of the propriety—without touching the question of general public policy, or taking into consideration the views we may hold on either side in connection with this matter under ordinary circumstances—of removing that postage. In a year or two, these industries will have resumed their normal condition, and then the question may come up upon its merits as to what policy should be pursued. I am quite sure that, in view of the fact that, if no change is made, those engaged in the publication of newspapers will have to pay enormous additional sums for paper, the government will give a sympathetic hearing to the suggestion I make.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York). If the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will pardon me for a moment, I desire to say that I have just come from a meeting of newspaper men, which meeting unanimously passed a resolution requesting the government to take the very step the leader of the opposition has suggested, namely, that the government be asked to request parliament to empower the Governor in Council to suspend the duty on news print in view of the recent fires at Hull and Grande Mère. This we ask on the ground in which everybody can join us, namely, that the Canadian mills to-day cannot supply the Canadian newspapers. I received a telegram last night from the Laurentide mill to the effect that they can carry out their contract with us and other Toronto papers by buying in the United States for us. That would bring the price up nearly four cents a pound; and, that being the case, I think parliament would be justified in empowering the government to temporarily suspend the duty on news print. The Laurentide mill, I believe, had a capacity of from fifty to one hundred tons a day, and the Eddy mill fifty tons. These mills being destroyed, the paper needed cannot be produced. Twenty tons of paper

are used in Toronto daily, and sometimes thirty tons, and the demand is growing all the time. Some papers will have to go without a supply, unless they buy in the United States. I would like to take this opportunity of saying that the newspaper industry in Canada has deep sympathy with Mr. Eddy in the loss of his mill. He is one of the most progressive men we have in Canada. He built up the town of Hull and established a great industry there. He has seen everything swept away. But, even though over seventy years of age, he is prepared to rebuild his mills in Hull. It would help Mr. Eddy and those dealing with him if this temporary suspension of duty took place.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Representations have been received by the government from various sections of the country that the disastrous fire that visited this city and the neighbouring city of Hull and which destroyed one of the largest paper establishments in the country, and the almost as disastrous fire which has reduced to ashes another very important industry in the same line, have created such a condition that it might be expedient for the government to reconsider the whole question and bring in some measure of at least temporary relief. It has been suggested to us that we might remit for this year, or permanently, the customs duty which now weighs on paper; and it has been represented to us that we might suspend or abolish the postal duty, as my hon. friend the leader of the opposition recommended a moment ago. The condition of things which has been created by these fires, and the representations which have been made to us, are at this moment engaging the attention of the government. Whether these new circumstances are sufficient to justify us in making a new departure, is a question which we shall have carefully to examine. I will only say to the House that the government has come to no conclusion yet upon the representations thus made. The question is one which requires a good deal of consideration; but I can inform the House that the matter has not escaped our attention, and we are dealing with it at the present time.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). I would like to say one word with regard to this question. The publishers and printers of Ottawa, along with those who are members of the House of Commons and the Senate, have just held a meeting and have passed the following resolution:

Moved by G. W. T. Maclean, M.P., seconded by Robert Jeffrey, Esq., that in view of the recent destruction of the pulp and paper mills at Hull and at Grande Mère, the government be asked to request parliament to pass an Act empowering the Governor in Council to temporarily

Mr. MACLEAN.

suspend the duty on newspapers under such conditions as the Governor in Council may deem advisable.

The question having been so opportunely brought up, I think this is a good time to impress these views upon the government. There is no doubt whatever that the destruction of these paper mills is going to be a serious matter to the newspapers throughout the Dominion. I am in a position to say that so far as we are concerned in the west we have been held up to the extent of nearly 60 per cent advance in the price of paper; it is apparently going to cost us at least that much more. The House will understand that when so large an amount of paper is consumed by the newspapers that they are brought face to face with a very serious question, and more especially so by reason of the imposition of a postage on newspapers. That of itself is a very considerable tax on the newspapers of Canada. Although a newspaper man myself, I want to say that there is no branch of commerce in the Dominion where less profits are made on the paper itself, because the paper is sold practically to the consumer for almost the actual cost of the paper itself. I may take this opportunity of saying that I think the government should institute a thorough inquiry into the charge that a combination has been formed by the manufacturers of paper in the Dominion. The last issue of the *Printer and Publisher* makes the editorial statement that such a combination has been formed, and calls upon the government to institute an inquiry. When the Fielding Act of 1897 was passed it contained a provision that wherever evidence could be produced to show that a combination existed, a reference of the case should be made to a judge and evidence taken; and if it were shown that a combination did exist, then the duty should be suspended. I would be very glad to see the government remove the postage from the papers in the meantime. While speaking on this question I want to enter a strong protest against one feature of the postage on newspapers. I do not think any publisher has made objection to the general proposition of a postage on newspapers, but many do object to the exception made in favour of weekly newspapers as regards their circulation within the forty mile zone from the place of publication. I do not think that is a fair proposition. If the law were made to apply to all newspapers daily and weekly alike, I do not think any objection would be raised. From time to time I see protests published in the newspapers with regard to this subject. I would like very much if the Postmaster General would take the matter into his serious consideration, and if the postage is to be imposed, let it be imposed upon all papers alike.

Mr. WM. McCLEARY (Welland). Whatever the government may do in the way of removing the postage on newspapers, I think it would be a very serious matter to remove the duty on paper. There are very large paper mills in my section of the country, and I am personally aware that they have ample facilities to meet all the requirements, and to fill any contracts that may come to them. I think it would be a mistake on the part of the government to take the duty off paper coming into this country. Any company that is under contract with a newspaper can furnish the paper, and although it may cost a little more, it will only be for a short time.

Mr. WM. GIBSON (Lincoln). I think there are two sides to this question that has been brought up by the leader of the opposition. While I will go as far as any one in this House to assist the newspapers, if it can be shown that they cannot get paper except by importing it from the United States, I think before the government takes a step of that kind—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will my hon. friend allow me to interrupt him to say that I have not raised that question at all. I have simply suggested to the government the removal for the time being, at all events, of the postage duty now imposed by the government on newspapers, not on the materials used by them.

Mr. GIBSON. I stand corrected so far as the leader of the opposition is concerned. But the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) suggested the propriety of allowing paper from the United States to be imported free of duty in order to assist the newspaper publishers in the present stringency of the market. I may say that I am in possession of a telegram from the owners of an important paper mill in the section of the country which I have the honour to represent, urging me to oppose anything of the kind until they have been heard from in regard to the matter. I think it would be only fair to all interests concerned for the government, before proceeding to reduce the duty on paper or to abolish it for the time being, to consult the manufacturers of paper who now have paper mills in operation in Canada, and give them an opportunity of saying whether they are in a position to supply the wants of Canada today. Therefore, I ask the government to stay their hand before they take such an important step. I concur in the remarks of the leader of the opposition in suggesting the abolition of the postage so as to assist the newspapers in the present juncture; but to abolish the duty on paper would be, I think, a dangerous thing to do. Hon. gentlemen can easily understand what a dangerous thing it is to do, because the

wealthy newspapermen could import a very large stock, and our millmen—

Mr. MILLS. It will be a step in the direction of free trade.

Mr. GIBSON. Yes, exactly; it is a step in the direction of free trade, but I want no one-sided free trade and no one-sided protection. I want both parties to be alike, fairly dealt with. I would be recreant to my duty as representing the county I come from, where large paper works are established, if I did not at least, bring this matter to the attention of the government, and ask that these gentlemen may be heard along with the newspaper men.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Like the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson), who has taken his seat, I am strongly in favour of protecting the paper industry. He has spoken very strongly on that line, and I, personally, feel that very great consideration should be given to the question by the government before making the change. It is possible, that, within a few months, these industries may be restored to the country, and it seems to me that it would not be well to disturb the existing state of affairs. If there is only to be a temporary trouble of, say, a few months, it would be unwise to interfere with the industry. The paper industry, in the past, has had its difficulties; it has been struggling against considerable odds, and if it has chanced that fortune has brought in its way a little benefit, I do not know that we are justified in saying that it should be entirely taken away from it. I think the government should consider this question very carefully and fully, before they take the step which has been suggested by some hon. gentlemen, in the way of removing the duty. A partial reduction, even, I think, would be a somewhat dangerous step. As to the reduction of postage on newspapers, for my part, I think it is a troublesome matter, and it does not amount to anything. I would have no hesitation in expressing my approval of the proposal to wipe out the postage.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a few words on this question. I think the difficulty can be got over very nicely, if the paper manufacturers of Canada will agree with the publishers, that they will supply them at a schedule price no higher than they have been charged for the last six months. If the paper manufacturers urge that no duty shall be taken off the paper industry they should enter into a contract with the publishers that they will supply them at the schedule price at which the latter have been buying paper for the last six months, or a year. If they will agree to that, I say, certainly give the Canadian manufacturers the

advantage, but if they will not make contracts of that kind, if they will take advantage of the conditions to raise the price charged to publishers, above what it was during the last six months, it is the duty of the government to step in and protect the publishers, by seeing that they are supplied with paper at the schedule price charged for the last six months. I am perfectly willing that the Canadian manufacturers shall get the price that they have been charging during the last six months, but the moment that they begin to raise the price to the publishers, then, it is the duty of the government to step in and see that they are not taken advantage of.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). As I understand the question raised by the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), it was in regard to taking the postage off newspapers. I think that if any great calamity which has affected Canada can warrant such a measure, it is at the present time. Of course, the question as to the duty, is a matter in regard to which the government will have to consult the various interests in this great industry, but the question, as I understand it, at present, is merely the removal of the postage imposed on newspapers. We all know that the newspaper industry, if I may so call it, has been very much affected by the calamity which has affected so many other industries in Canada, but the point is whether 'now' with the large surplus which the government are continually boasting about, it is not a proper measure to take, under the circumstances, to remove the postage from newspapers. That is, as I understand the proposition of the hon. leader of the opposition and the only one that he submitted for the consideration of parliament and of the government.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I wish to refer, for a moment, to the newspaper matter, which was brought to the attention of the House, by the leader of the opposition, and by my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Maclean). The statement made by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), is one of which the government should take cognizance at once. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson), stated from his place in the House, that since the fire had caused a scarcity of news paper, the newspaper proprietors had been held up to the tune of 60 per cent. That statement is either true or not true. If it is not true, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson), has of course been labouring under a mistake, and it is very unfair to the paper manufacturers of Canada. If it is true, it is a statement which the government cannot allow, for a moment, to pass, it appears to me without taking action. In the Customs Act of 1897, there is a clause which deals with this very question, and which is as follows:

Mr. McMULLEN.

Whenever the Governor in Council has reason to believe that with regard to any article of commerce there exists any trust, combination, association or agreement of any kind among manufacturers of such article or dealers therein, to unduly enhance the price of such article or in any other way to unduly promote the advantage of the manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the consumers, the Governor in Council may commission or empower any judge of the Supreme Court or Exchequer Court of Canada, or of any superior court in any province of Canada, to inquire in a summary way into and report to the Governor in Council whether such trust, combination, association or agreement exists.

2. The judge may compel the attendance of witnesses and examine them under oath and require the production of books and papers, and shall have such other necessary powers as are conferred upon him by the Governor in Council for the purposes of such inquiry.

3. If the judge reports that such trust, combination, association or agreement exists, and if it appears to the Governor in Council that such disadvantage to the consumers is facilitated by the duties of customs imposed on a like article when imported, then the Governor in Council shall place such articles on the free list, or so reduce the duty on it as to give to the public the benefit of reasonable competition in such article.

I did not rise for the purpose of asking that the protection given to the paper industry in this country, be at all interfered with. On the contrary, I believe that protection should be maintained, except perhaps under very exceptional circumstances, and even then the very greatest care should be exercised. But here we have a law on the statute-books placed there amid a great deal of applause from gentlemen opposite; a law for the purpose of preventing the undue enhancement of prices to the consumer by means of combinations. We, on this side, have always said that that action was a farce. It has been a farce from the time it was passed until the present. I believe it was intended to be a farce, but we have always been told by the government: Well, give us a case and we will deal with it. Here we have a case given to the House and to the government by one of their own supporters. We have the statement made by the member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), that owing to the misfortune which befell Hull and the Laurentide Paper and Pulp Company, that the publishers of Canada have been held up to the tune of 60 per cent on the price of their paper. That statement is either true or false. If it is false it should not go to the country, and if it is true, it is the duty of this government to act, and to act without a moment's delay, so as to see that this law should be put in force, and justice done to the consumers of this particular article.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The Act which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague), has read, refers to a judicial

proceeding. While parliament itself may judge as to the circumstances under which it shall do any given thing, it has been deemed wise that where the government is called upon to deal with such matters, we shall surround the procedure with some restriction. I think, perhaps, in the main, that will be found a wise provision, that parliament should not delegate all its functions to the executive, but that the executive before it should do any one of these things, would take certain steps to see that the conditions exist under which it should act. In this case there has to be a judicial proceeding. With all due deference to the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), and the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), I venture to state that any remark which they make in this House, is not in itself a sufficient ground for procedure under that Act.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I made no remark. I only called attention to the statement of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson).

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Well, if the hon. gentleman had made a remark, my statement remains, that any statement made by the hon. member for Lisgar, or the hon. member for Haldimand, or by any other hon. member, cannot be regarded as a sufficient basis of proceeding under that Act. We must have certain facts established. If the hon. gentleman from Lisgar, or any other gentleman in this House has a personal knowledge of facts which will bring the paper manufacturers under the provision of that clause; then if these facts are set forth in writing to the government, they will be referred to the proper quarter for inquiry, and whatever power the law gives to the government will be called into operation. I call attention to the House to the fact that a mere statement made by any hon. gentleman, on one side or the other, is not a sufficient basis to proceed upon.

Mr. MACLEAN. If the House will pardon me, I will state that I have just received a telegram from the Laurentide people, who say that they hope to have their plant running within a week, so that the damage is not so extensive as was thought.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The paper plant?

Mr. MACLEAN. Their pulp mills are destroyed, but the large paper plant which was delayed by reason of the damage to the pulp mill, will be running within a week.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). And all this time has been wasted for nothing.

YUKON INQUIRY FOR RETURNS—THE JOHN C. BARR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, I called attention yesterday to a report in connection with the

John C. Barr, and I find that the order mentioned in another document does not appear to have been brought down, and which would have been a very important contribution to that record. The hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) will perhaps recollect that on May 16, 1899, he caused a communication to be addressed to Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner of the Yukon district, instructing him to investigate and report on the question that had been raised in the House on May 12. There seems to be no report from Mr. Ogilvie, except the communication of the 8th of June, which, obviously, could not have been written after the receipt of this letter of May 16. The only reference to the *John C. Barr* is three or four lines at the end, and it shows, on its face, that it had nothing to do with the instruction sent of May 16. I would be very much obliged if the hon. Minister of Customs would ascertain whether there ever was a report made in compliance with these instructions of May 16, and if there was, that it should be included by way of a supplementary return and laid on the Table of the House in compliance with the order for the return.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I will inquire, certainly if it is there. Of course, if it be of a confidential nature, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will not consider me bound to lay it on the Table. I think, if it is what I refer to, all the papers have been brought down. I may be mistaken, but, I will look into the matter.

I.C.R. INQUIRY FOR RETURN—DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), whether a return of the evidence respecting investigations concerning persons who had been dismissed from the service of the Intercolonial Railway has been brought down. I moved for it in the session of 1898, and during the latter part of last session I made a careful inquiry, extending over two or three days, of every official that could have anything to do with it. In order to refresh the hon. gentleman's memory I may mention that early in the session of 1898 he made a speech in which he referred to evidence stating that the late chief engineer had been in the habit of referring to passes as shingles, and of sending out telegrams respecting the supplying of shingles. Subsequently I moved for a return asking that these papers should be brought down that hon. gentleman had quoted from, and I could not find, up to the end of last session, that these papers, had been laid on the Table of the House. When I moved for the return the hon. gentleman stated that some of the papers had been

brought down. After making very careful inquiry, I could not find that evidence.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). My impression is that these papers have been on the Table for some weeks.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Brought down this session?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. That is my impression.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). That may be the case very likely. I wish to inquire from the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) in regard to the papers in connection with the application for a petition of right by John W. Broderick and others.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). They were laid on the Table a week ago last Thursday.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. The returns which the hon. gentleman from Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior) asked about yesterday were brought down on the 15th of March last.

N.W. REBELLION—LAND GRANTS TO MEMBERS OF MILITIA FORCE.

Mr. **JAMES SUTHERLAND** (North Oxford) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 107), to make further provision respecting grants of land to members of militia force, on active service in the North-west.

He said: At the request of some gentlemen opposite, I promised to bring down information on the third reading of this Bill, and I shall furnish the information now. The number of warrants issued altogether since the Act was passed in 1885 was 1,368. The number of warrants located on 320 acres was 724, and there were 246 warrants located on 160 acres, making 970 warrants in all, and the total acreage of land located 271,040 acres. The difference between 1,368 and 970, namely, 398, have been in many cases exchanged for \$80 scrip, so that at this date there are only fifty warrants remaining outstanding. The House will see that there are only fifty warrants which may take advantage of this extension of time for the current years.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time, and passed.

CHINA AND JAPAN STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

House resolved itself into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Act 52 Victoria, chap. 2, intituled: 'An Act relating to Ocean Steamship Subsidies,' so as to provide for a continuance of the authority given under the

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax).

said Act to the Governor in Council to grant a subsidy for steamship service between British Columbia and China and Japan for such period or periods of time as may be deemed expedient, not however to exceed in the aggregate ten years, and to pay therefor a subsidy or subsidies, as the case may be, of not exceeding the sum of fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000) sterling per annum for a monthly service, or not exceeding the sum of twenty-five thousand pounds (£25,000) sterling per annum for a fortnightly service.—(Mr. Fisher.)

Resolution reported, read the second time, and concurred in.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 151) to amend the Act relating to Ocean Steamship Subsidies.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 110), to amend the Weights and Measures Act.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). This is merely to repeal the Act passed last session, to remove doubt as to the exact capacity of the apple barrel.

Mr. **N. CLARKE WALLACE** (West York). When we had this matter under consideration some days ago, I asked the minister what was the capacity of the present barrel and what was the capacity of the proposed barrel. The minister had not the information then. Can he give it now?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I can give it now. The apple barrel legalized last session holds 103 imperial quarts, or 106.34 United States quarts, dry measure. The apple barrel provided for by this Bill will hold 96.51 imperial quarts or 99.55 United States quarts.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. How did the department come to recommend the minister to legalize such a barrel as that last year?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. The barrel we legalized last year was the barrel which had been legal for many years, only some measures were so uncertain that we thought it right to make such provision that they would be uniform. From 1886 up to last year the barrel had been described in this way:

The stave of such barrel shall be twenty-seven inches in length from croe to croe.

The croe is the little indentation made in the staves to hold the head. Representations were made by the apple-growers that that description was not correct, as it was possible to make the heads of the barrel of such a thickness as considerably to diminish its contents. My hon. friend can understand that if the head of a barrel is made one inch thicker, that would mean a loss of two inches on the whole length, or one barrel out of fourteen. In order to settle that question, we provided that the apple barrel will be twenty-seven inches head to head, inside measure. The changes made in the law last year were made for the purpose of removing all doubt that might exist as to the capacity of the barrel. But we were not aware then that our American competitors had adopted another barrel, which is $6\frac{1}{2}$ quarts smaller than the one we have now. This was noticed by the Nova Scotia people, who are perhaps keener than the people of Ontario and Quebec, and they sent us a number of petitions asking us to reduce the size of the barrel so as to give them a fair field with their competitors in England. It is rather curious that the legislation passed in the United States provides for 100 quarts dry measure, but we find on careful calculation that the United States barrel holds only 99.55 United States quarts.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). The government is tinkering with those laws a little too much. Because one state of the American union makes a change in the size of its apple barrel, the minister rushes in to change the whole legislation of last year. We have different weights and measures in Canada to-day, as compared with the United States. A bushel of oats in Canada weighs thirty-four pounds, and in the United States it weighs thirty-two pounds, and we have not found it necessary to make a change. The apple barrel of last year and former years was the size of a flour barrel. That is a convenient size for the purposes of business. When you take the flour out, you utilize the empty barrel for apples. These empty flour barrels are all over the country, and will continue to be utilized as apple barrels, and you will have two sizes of apple barrels, which will be quite unsatisfactory.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). The primary object of the Bill, I understand, is to protect Canadian exporters in the British market, but the hon. gentleman's Bill goes much further and interferes with domestic trade. The hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) has pointed out that empty flour barrels are used for packing apples. So are empty sugar barrels. If the hon. gentleman's Bill becomes law, every one selling apples in those barrels will be liable to punishment. I would suggest that the hon. gentleman add the words 'for export' so as not to interfere with our domestic trade.

Mr. E. G. PENNY (St. Lawrence, Montreal). I would like to point out that there are purchasers in Canada who want standard measures in fruit as well as in other commodities. Great inconvenience is experienced in Montreal because the shippers of Ontario ship their fruit in packages of all sizes.

Mr. CLANCY. Let my hon. friend remember that a bag of potatoes is eighty pounds in his own city and ninety pounds in the province of Ontario, and if we commence to try and make all these things uniform, we will be met with no end of difficulties.

Mr. PENNY. That only applies to potatoes.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is really no difficulty in this Bill at all. This Bill has been brought in largely at the request of the growers of apples in the Annapolis valley. The apple-growers of the Annapolis valley, which is now famous for its apples, have to meet in England the competition of the American producers. The American standard barrel is seven quarts smaller than the Canadian barrel, and the Nova Scotian producer of apples, when he sells his fruit in competition with the American fruit in the English market, is compelled now by the law of the land to give seven quarts more than his American competitor. Therefore, it is all right to make it uniform and to place the Canadian producer on the same footing as the American producer in the English market. Now, it is very true, as is also pointed out, that, so far as the domestic trade is concerned, the farmers growing apples use the flour barrels. But, if they continue, for their own convenience to use the flour barrels for apples, no one will complain. The law only requires that a barrel shall contain not less than a certain quantity, but, if a man chooses to give more, the purchaser will not kick about that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But, if the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will pardon me, that is not the idea.

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, what is it?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The argument is, that by this law the farmers of Ontario will be deprived of the convenience of using barrels that now cost practically nothing and to buy barrels specially made.

The PRIME MINISTER. Not at all. He uses the flour barrel because it is more convenient. But, if he goes to market his apples in Montreal or elsewhere, and gives more than the law requires, he will not be prosecuted for that, or, if he is, the prosecution will come to nothing.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the right hon. gentleman answer me a question? If his argument is a good one in favour of reduc-

ing the barrel by six and one-half quarts, why not reduce it six and one-half quarts more, and so get ahead of the American producer?

The PRIME MINISTER. I think I will listen to my hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Mills) before answering that question.

Mr. J. B. MILLS (Annapolis). I am thoroughly in accord with the proposal to have a standard barrel for Canada. I believe that this parliament should legislate for Canada and not for sections of Canada, as in the case of the weight of a bushel of potatoes being one thing in the province of Quebec and another thing in the province of Ontario. Still, if we are driven to that kind of thing, I say we should have a standard barrel for the maritime provinces. But, as I say, I believe in a standard barrel for the whole of Canada, and, if that is established, I think that the farmers all over the country will approve the change. I take it that this legislation is for the benefit of the farmers and the speculators together, and should not be for the benefit of the speculators alone. If that is the case, the adoption of a standard barrel will be of great benefit to the growers of apples. But, there is another element that is not touched in this Bill, and that is with reference to establishing specifically how much a barrel of the dimensions set forth in the Bill shall contain. And the farmers of the Annapolis valley and the boards of trade of the Cornwallis valley—and when I speak of the Annapolis valley I take in the Cornwallis valley, which runs over Annapolis and King's—the boards of trade of Kentville and King's county, and the municipality of King's county, which is represented by the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden), are all in accord that it should be stated that the standard barrel shall contain so many bushels.

Mr. TAYLOR. So many pounds?

Mr. MILLS. No, bushels, that it shall contain, say, three bushels, and it does, by actual measurement, contain ninety-six imperial quarts, or three bushels. If this is done, it will benefit the farmers as well as the speculators. But, if this is left out, what will be the result? As regards potatoes particularly—and potatoes are merely a secondary crop in the Annapolis and Cornwallis valleys—speculators will, as they do now, furnish barrels to the farmers to pack potatoes in. These barrels will be large, but, however large they are, the farmer will be paid on the basis of a barrel of two and a half bushels. That has been the custom, and what has been the result? The farmers for years have been losing money, because they have been giving over three bushels of potatoes for the price of only two and a half bushels. The speculators repack the potatoes, and sell upon the basis of the actual contents of the barrels

sold to them by the farmers. But, if the contents of the barrel are stated, the speculators cannot work their little racket, so to speak, and make money out of the farmers as they have been doing in the King's and Cornwallis valleys. One of the amendments that I laid before the minister, and that I gave notice I would ask the House to insert in this Bill, was to cover this point. But, I agree that there should be a standard barrel. And, of course, when I say 'I agree,' I do not pretend that I am an expert in this matter, but I get my information from men who understand this matter most thoroughly and who are all in accord upon it. I think that the members of the government have had communications from these people asking that this be done. I would respectfully ask that the hon. minister insert that in his Bill. As regards the matter of weight, that is specified in the Bill. We do not sell apples by weight, although I do not suppose we would have any objection to that. But, it would be rather difficult to sell apples by weight for the reason that the same bulk of different kinds of apples varies in weight. But, with respect to potatoes, they vary very little in regard to weight. This Bill provides for the weight of potatoes, for it says:

When potatoes are sold by weight, the weight equivalent to a barrel shall be 174 pounds.

That is exactly what the people most interested in this matter desire. But there is a little difference in regard to the weight of a bushel. The Weights and Measures Act distinctly specifies that a bushel of potatoes shall weigh 60 pounds. Now, if you put in this Bill that 3 bushels of potatoes, when sold by weight, shall weigh 174 pounds, as you will do if you specify that a barrel shall contain three bushels, then there will be a discrepancy with the law as it stands now. The law now makes 3 bushels of potatoes weigh 180 pounds, because it says that a bushel of potatoes shall weigh 60 pounds. But I think that law is wrong and should be amended. It is not a fact that a bushel of potatoes weighs 60 pounds, and in order to make the weight of three bushels conform with the weight of a barrel, which it is provided in this Bill shall weigh 174 pounds, it is necessary to specify that a bushel of potatoes shall weigh 58 pounds, and then 3 bushels will weigh 174 pounds. In order that the standard barrel shall contain 3 bushels, you will have to amend the Weights and Measures Act by making a bushel of potatoes weigh 58 pounds instead of 60. That weight was put in the Act a long time ago, and it was re-endorsed, so to speak, in 1898; still, if I remember right, there was a good deal of contention with regard to that re-endorsation of the weight of a bushel of potatoes; quite a number were unwilling to endorse the statement that a bushel of potatoes

weighed 60 pounds. I think that in order to accommodate the people and do the greatest good to the greatest number, it would be well to make the barrel contain 3 bushels, whether of apples or of potatoes, and then alter that Weights and Measures Act so as to make a bushel of potatoes weigh 58 pounds instead of 60.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to ask the Minister of Inland Revenue if he is prepared to give the capacity of a sugar barrel and a flour barrel respectively. I ask this on account of the argument adduced by the First Minister. If they are larger than the barrel which is now proposed, then I do not see any objection. I think the position taken by the First Minister is quite tenable; but the Minister of Inland Revenue ought to give us the capacity of a sugar barrel and a flour barrel before we go further.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I wish to make a remark with reference to a statement made by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), in reference to the use of flour barrels. Speaking of the district around Hamilton, which is one of the largest apple-growing districts in this country. I may say it is a rare thing to see a flour barrel used for shipping apples. Nearly all the barrels used for that purpose are made new in the factory for that purpose. I do not believe there is one flour barrel in a hundred used for shipping apples, although such barrels may be used occasionally for local shipments. I think the minister, in making a standard barrel for shipping purposes, is going in the right direction. If we can save our farmers seven or eight quarts of apples on the English market, and get the same price for them, we are doing the farmers a great service. It is absurd for the hon. gentleman to say that farmers would lose their flour barrels if not allowed to ship apples in them, because they can use them for any other purpose.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Certainly, the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) is right, no man would be crazy enough to ship apples in a barrel which had contained flour, and no one on this side of the House has suggested such a thing. I do not rise either to support or oppose this measure at the present time, but I rise to protest against proceeding with the Bill today. We were assured last Friday by the minister who has charge of the Bill, that sufficient time would be given us to hear from our constituents in respect to this Bill, which came suddenly upon us, and since last Friday we have had no opportunity to do so. I think the minister, in view of his promise, will have no hesitation in again asking the committee to rise, and allowing this matter to stand for a few weeks longer until we have had some opportunity of consulting our constituents.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not desire to press this Bill against the wish of any hon. members. I would like to give one explanation with reference to barrels that are either larger or smaller than the barrel proposed in this Bill. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) gave notice of a motion that he was going to introduce. He mentioned a difficulty that might arise in case barrels were either larger or smaller than the one proposed. This is the motion of which he gave me notice:

That barrels holding a larger or lesser quantity than therein specified shall not be used for the sale of apples, unless such barrels are plainly marked on the outside thereof with the words 'small barrel' or 'large barrel,' as the case may be, in letters not less than one inch in height.

I think this will prevent any trouble, and when the Bill again gets into committee, I shall be glad to adopt the amendment.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the hon. gentleman prepared to answer the question I asked, namely, the capacity of a flour and a sugar barrel respectively?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The capacity of a flour barrel is 103 imperial quarts. I cannot give the capacity of a sugar barrel.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Before the committee rises I would ask the minister if any representations were made from the apple-growers or apple-shippers of Ontario in favor of such legislation?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No; this is what I stated the other day. I did not hear either from Ontario or Quebec, but all the representations came from the province of Nova Scotia first. I do not wonder so much that they came from Nova Scotia because their communications, established by sea with the northern states, are much more frequent for the shipping of barrels to the other side of the Atlantic. Therefore, inter-communication and interchange must be more frequent between the maritime provinces and those states, and that is why I think the petitions should have come first from Nova Scotia. I move that the committee rise and report progress.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). Mr. Chairman, before you put the question, I wish to say a few words in regard to this Bill. I am perfectly favourable to the present Bill, but I am unfavourable to any Bill providing for a barrel that would contain a larger quantity of apples than the barrel that the Americans send in competition against us into the English market, and where their barrels and our barrels are taken on the same platform and sold by the same auctioneer. I think it is in the interest of the province of Ontario to reduce our

barrels to the size of theirs. I am in favour of one size of barrel being used, because, when apples are sold at auction in the old country there is no time for the purchaser to make an examination of the kind of barrel he is getting to ascertain whether he is getting a small barrel or a standard barrel. I hold that all the barrels should be of the same size. They should be of the same size also for the home trade, because, as I said a few days ago, a great many people in the apple trade purchase apples when they cannot say whether they are for export to the old country, or to the United States, or whether they are to be sent to the North-west Territories, or sold locally. Therefore, I hold that all the barrels should be the same size. There is just one thing that I would mention, and it is this. The Bill says :

All apples packed in Canada for sale by the barrel, &c.

If that were passed the farmer could not use a sugar barrel or a flour barrel, to take apples to the local market, and I want it to be left so that he may do that, because a great many of our farmers sell large quantities of apples in that way in the towns and villages. If the clause is made to apply to all apples packed in Canada they will not be enabled to use flour or sugar barrels. Farmers take a great many of their cull apples to vinegar factories and to factories where they are peeled and dried, and the peelings are exported to Germany. We ought to make it just as easy as possible for the farmer to market his apples in all conditions. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) mentions three bushels in a barrel. I would remind him that there are two kinds of bushels ; there is the street bushel and the heaped bushel.

Mr. MILLS. Excuse me ; the Dominion bushel is clearly defined by the Weights and Measures Act.

Mr. McMILLAN. If I sell wheat, or oats, or grain of any kind, I sell by the street bushel, but, if I sell potatoes, apples, or turnips, I have to sell by the heaped bushel.

Mr. MILLS. No, that is against the law.

Mr. McMILLAN. That is the rule all over with us. We sell by the heaped measure if we sell apples, potatoes, turnips, or roots of any description. We sell by the street measure if we sell grain. I think I can speak for all portions of the farmers of Ontario when I say that they are perfectly willing to adopt a barrel as described by the present Bill.

Mr. MILLS. I will just, by way of explanation, read section 19 of the Weights and Measures Act, which is as follows :

In using a Dominion measure of capacity the same shall not be heaped, but either shall be stricken with a round stick or roller straight and of the same diameter from end to end, or

Mr. McMILLAN.

if the article sold cannot, from its size or shape, be conveniently stricken, shall be filled in all parts as nearly to the level of the brim as the size and shape of the article admits of.

That applies to wheat, Indian corn, rye, pease, barley, malt, oats, beans, clover seed, timothy seed, buckwheat, flaxseed, hempseed, potatoes, turnips, carrots, parsnips, beets and onions.

Mr. THOMAS SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Chairman, I do not see any force whatever in the argument of the hon. member for South Huron. His contention is that the farmer should be allowed to put apples in any barrels he likes for sale in the local market. He can do that at the present time, under this Bill, provided the barrel he uses is at least the size of the barrel stipulated here, and it may be as much larger as he likes. You very often see the smaller or crab apples placed in a sugar or flour barrel and covered over with canvas and sent to market that way. A sugar barrel will hold about half a bushel more than the ordinary apple barrel. This Bill does not prevent the farmer using such a barrel. Any barrel that he uses, whether it is an ordinary sugar barrel or flour barrel, will be larger than a standard apple barrel, and therefore he is at perfect liberty to trade in that class of barrel in the local market or sell such a barrel in the foreign market if he likes, but, it must not be of less dimensions than are here specified. I see no objection in the world to this Bill. It provides that there should be a standard barrel, and the parties who make barrels will make them up to the standard. Then, we will know what the usual contents of a barrel of apples will be. But, there is nothing in the Bill to prevent a farmer selling his apples in any kind of a barrel he likes so long as his barrel is not less in its dimensions than the standard barrel.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Chairman, I do not rise for the purpose of continuing this discussion, but, in view of the statement made by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) that, in compliance with the pledge he gave to the House that this Bill would not be proceeded with until time had been given to hear from the country, I think we are wasting the time of the House in discussing it further. It will come up in a few days with all the information from the country before us, and we can then deal with it.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). There are barrels made in Ontario specially for the sale of apples. How does the size of the barrel used there compare with the size of barrel used in the maritime provinces ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Under the present law it is the same size in the maritime provinces as in the pro-

vince of Ontario, only the maritime provinces have followed more closely the doings of their competitors in the United States. They found that their competitors were sending to England a smaller barrel, one of nearly seven quarts less capacity, and very naturally, they say it is not fair that they should enter into competition with barrels of nearly seven quarts more capacity than are sent by their United States competitors. Therefore, they asked me to introduce this Bill. Some of our friends on the other side of the House have found fault with me for introducing legislation every session in connection with the Weights and Measures Act. I consider that it is my duty to follow, as much as possible, the changes taking place in trade. I do not think that I ought to adhere to red tape and have no change such as becomes more or less indispensable in a case like this, when the people are threatened with competition, with barrels holding seven quarts less than theirs do, I think I am justified in bringing a matter of this kind before the House. The House has got to decide, and I do not think we should say that this is unchangeable like the laws of the Medes and Persians; but, we should try to meet the convenience of the public as becomes necessary.

Mr. McNEILL. I wish to say to the hon. minister (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), that nothing was further from my thought or intention than to suggest that his object in introducing this Bill was not a good one. I am quite satisfied that the Bill is in the right direction, but I would like to call the attention of the hon. minister to the suggestion made by my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan), with regard to the word 'packing.' It all depends upon the meaning of the word, as to whether the farmers of Ontario can use the ordinary barrel for dealing in Ontario itself. If they are obliged to pack the barrel, it will interfere very much with the local trade.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). I wish to say to the minister that, inasmuch as these changes are considered necessary in the manner of the exportation of apples, I think it would be well for him to put himself in communication with the large exporters of apples in this country to ascertain what their views on this subject are. I understand, that so far, the representations on the matter have only come from the Annapolis valley. The largest exporters of fruit in the Dominion, are in the city of Montreal, and I think it would be well for the minister to get an expression of opinion from them, as to what they think about the size of the apple barrel, before legislation is passed.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

COLD STORAGE ON STEAMSHIPS.

House resolved itself into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to authorize the Governor in Council to enter into contracts with H. & A. Allan and Robert Reford & Co., to provide cold storage on steamships from Montreal to the United Kingdom during the seasons of 1900 and 1901, on such terms and conditions as the Governor in Council deems expedient, the sum to be paid for such cold storage not to exceed \$28,750 in one year.—(Mr. Fisher.)

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In explaining this resolution, I would say that the contracts which had been entered into three years ago by my department, with various steamship companies, to provide cold storage, have expired during last season. When these contracts were entered into, it was expected that the results would be sufficient proof of the value of cold storage, that the steamship companies would be quite willing to continue this business and make the provisions necessary for the cold storage carriage of our food products without any further contracts. The unfortunate occurrence of the South African war, has, this year, disturbed our shipping trade to such an extent that the demands upon it have been very great, and a large number of the ships which had been devoted to our cold storage trade have been drawn into the carriage of troops, horses and materials to South Africa. In addition to this, I found this deplorable condition of affairs: That the ship-owners being relieved from the contract conditions imposed upon them three years ago, had offers from American shippers of these perishable products, by which the whole cold storage accommodation leaving the Canadian ports this coming season, were bid for, and had I not been able to make further arrangements, the result would have been that the cold storage accommodation from Montreal, St. John, Halifax, and Quebec, would have been monopolized by the Americans. I, therefore, felt that in the interests of our Canadian producers, those who have benefited by cold storage during the three years past, would be secured in the enjoyment of that benefit. The proposals which I now have to lay before the House, are for the continuation and the extension of the cold storage service, and in the arrangements which I have been making with the Messrs. Allan and Messrs. Reford, for enlarged cold storage facilities, I have been able to secure the continued control for another two years of the vessels which have been under contract for the last three years. To do this, I have had to make some slight modifications in the new contracts, as compared with the old. The new contracts are only for two years, instead of three years; a total of five years from the commencement. I have been obliged to pay the same sum for the two years, as I then was able to secure the three

years' service for. In addition to that, I have been obliged to modify somewhat the prices which the shipping companies are permitted to charge for cold storage accommodation. I found that it was impossible now to get the same terms that I got three years ago. The fact of the matter is that these terms were so favourable to the shippers, that the shipping companies were not prepared to renew the compact on the same terms. I shall be very glad to answer any questions that may be asked.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The hon. minister should give us information as to the number of cold storage steamers, the amount of produce carried, and whether the scheme was successful.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I would like the minister to explain on what terms he had secured this cold storage in these various ships, which has now broken down, because of the reasons he has mentioned.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), hardly used the correct words when he described the system as 'having broken down.'

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I said, in consequence of the war.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Four years ago now, my department was able to enter into contracts with various ship-owners for cold storage, and these contracts expired last season.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What did the contracts provide?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Varying with the different ships, the contracts provided: That they should supply a certain quantity of insulated chambers to be cooled by mechanical refrigerating plant; that they should be available to Canadian shippers, and could only be availed of by others when there was no demand for cold storage space by Canadians; that the government could reserve at any time, a certain portion of that space for government experimental shipping; that the ship-owners would only be allowed to charge ten shillings per ton, over and above the usual freight charges, for such freight as went in the cold storage, and that a ton calculated for that purpose should be equal to a ton of butter, which occupies seventy cubic feet, and that it should not be the ordinary ship ton, which is only forty cubic feet. In addition to that, these vessels were to provide a certain service. The vessels to London were to provide a weekly service, divided between the Allans and the Refords, each of them providing three vessels. The Allan Line and the Dominion Line were to provide a weekly service to Liverpool; the Allan Line and the Thomson Line, of which the Refords are the representatives

Mr. FISHER.

in Canada, a fortnightly service to Glasgow; and the Elder-Dempster Line a weekly service to Bristol. In addition to that, we had some services from the maritime provinces. Furness, Withy & Co. were to provide, if I remember rightly, a fortnightly service from St. John and Halifax to London; and the Pickford & Black Co., I think, were to provide a steamship service to the West Indies on the same terms and conditions. The first contracts entered into, amongst which are those with the Allans and the Refords, expired last fall. The result was that for the coming season we had these contracts, and the owners of these ships were at liberty to turn them to another trade, or to do what they liked with them.

Mr. TAYLOR. I understood the minister to say that these contracts were entered into four years ago.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They were entered into four years ago this spring; but, the term of the contracts was really for the three seasons just passed.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). That is, they served for 1897, 1898 and 1899?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, the summers of 1897, 1898 and 1899. I felt, and I feel still, that it was very important indeed that our producers in Canada should have the advantage of this continuous cold storage accommodation, and that it would be a most deplorable misfortune if they should not have it for the coming season.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is the point on which I want information. Why did the Minister of Agriculture, when he knew the great importance of this accommodation, let the arrangement lapse, and leave the Canadian producers in the lurch, to be crowded out by people in Chicago and elsewhere?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is exactly what I am providing against by the resolution before the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Exactly, but a year too late.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not at all. The condition of affairs that has arisen in consequence of the war in South Africa was not foreseen last year—the condition that required this additional contract.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Has the hon. gentleman forgotten the resolution which this House passed last year with regard to the war? He had all the evidence before him as to the danger, which was likely to occur which has occurred, and which he is now obliged to regret as a disaster; and yet, he did not provide for it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman surely is not serious when he states that the resolution passed by this House last year, which hoped that there would not be any war, was an indication of the necessity of doing last session what I am doing now?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I thought the hon. gentleman just explained to the House that the cold storage accommodation had been completely interrupted in consequence of the lapsing of this contract, which left our producers in a position to be crowded out by foreigners?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I regret that the hon. gentleman did not understand me; and I shall have to explain it again, I suppose. There would be danger that that would have occurred this season if this resolution were not adopted by the House, and the contracts which I have made were not ratified. But, if the House supports me in the course I have taken, the dangers which I have foreseen, and which, as I explained, were in the future, will be completely obviated.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When did the minister begin the negotiations for the renewal of the contracts?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. About January 1 last.

Mr. MONTAGUE. After the contracts had run out?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. When the contracts were running out. The hon. gentleman must understand that this accommodation is practically used only during the summer months. During the rest of the year there is practically no necessity for cold storage. When I began to discuss the question with the ship-owners early last winter, they refused absolutely to make any contracts.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear; because you negotiated a year too late.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that at the time parliament was sitting last year there was no information or knowledge as to what might occur; and furthermore, when we found, as a matter of fact, that these very ship-owners last winter would not undertake to say what they would do in the future, it is not at all likely that they would have undertaken to say it during the term of their contracts. Having negotiated with these gentlemen, I believe I have been able to make, by the contracts for which I am asking ratification to-day, most successful and satisfactory arrangements; for, not only am I securing new ships, but the same control over the service of the ships which were engaged under the older contracts.

Mr. SPROULE. At the same price?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At the same price, except with the change of condition as to fifteen shillings; that is to say, ten shillings was paid under the old contract, and hereafter fifteen shillings will have to be paid.

Mr. MONTAGUE. For what?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. For the capacity per ton.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is, 50 per cent advance.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly; and when we take into consideration the advance in freights all over—

Mr. MONTAGUE. But that does not include the advance in freights.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly not; but the hon. gentleman must understand that the space in the cold storage is of greater value than the space in the rest of the ship; and this is an additional charge for the cold storage.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The arrangement we made was that the cold storage should cost so much in addition to the freight. The company now get the increased price of freight, and also the 50 per cent increase for the cold storage. Yet, the minister says it makes no difference.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman certainly misunderstands me. I did not intend to say, and I think I did not say, that it made no difference. It is very evident that fifteen shillings instead of ten shillings makes a difference. But, what I did say was, that just as other freights have risen, because we have to pay a higher rate for everything sent abroad, so we have to pay more for the cold storage.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That does not make any difference. You pay it on the freight.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We pay on the freight and on the cold storage. Moreover, the shipping companies have been complaining that they have only got ten shillings, while the steamers from New York, Boston and other American ports, have never got less than twenty shillings, and to-day they are paid twenty-five, and even thirty, shillings for cold storage accommodation. Notwithstanding that, I have succeeded in keeping the price of cold storage from Canadian ports down to fifteen shillings in the new contracts, and to ten shillings in the old contracts. I think the hon. gentleman will not deny that this is a favourable showing.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think there was a great deal in the point taken by the hon. leader of the opposition. It is shown that this cold storage arrangement was no doubt advantageous, and the hon. gentleman

should have taken the greatest possible care to have negotiated at a very early period, when freight rates were cheap, a renewal of the contract. I have no hesitation in saying that that contract could have been renewed, from what I know of the circumstances, at the old figures. But the hon. gentleman has placed the cold storage service just where these hon. gentlemen have placed the fast line service. We have the minister without portfolio (Mr. Dobell) pointing out that the fast line service could not be put on without enormous expense because of the increased price of iron.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). It is a good thing for the country that there is no fast service.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend has at last let the cat out of the bag. He usually does once a day expose, to the dismay of his friends, the policy they have been trying to hide.

Mr. WOOD. The hon. gentleman is quite aware that, from the very first inception of this fast line service, I have been opposed to it as utterly unnecessary for Canada.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman says that he has been opposed to it from the first. He, however, is a very consistent supporter of the government. He is willing to vote for any sort of resolution commending these hon. gentlemen for the wisdom of their policy, but that same policy he opposes piecemeal. Their fast line policy, he says, is a very foolish one, yet the government say that it is a wise one and that they have been trying to carry it out, and the hon. minister without portfolio tells us that he has expended a vast amount of energy in the endeavour to carry it through. The government are, I believe, playing a game, notwithstanding their professions. The member for Hamilton has given the game away.

Another specific policy, on which the hon. member for Hamilton opposes this government, is the removal of the restrictions with regard to the coasting trade. This government have allowed the Americans to come in and do the coasting trade of Canada, and, if I am correctly informed, the hon. member for Hamilton came down here with blood in his eye and told the Prime Minister that if he did not go back on that policy he would see that he went out of office.

Mr. WOOD. I never said so.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But the hon. gentleman felt that way.

Mr. WOOD. You are not my father confessor.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am not, but the electors of Hamilton are, and this is the place for him to announce his policy.

Mr. WOOD. The electors will take care of you, too.

Mr. MONTAGUE.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am prepared to meet them, and am not ashamed to say in this House, or in the constituency I represent, what my policy is. Nor am I afraid to say whether I have supported or opposed this particular line of policy or not. However, we have the announcement of the hon. member for Hamilton that he is opposed to the fast line service, and we have the government, by its conduct and actions, announcing that they also are opposed to it, though they profess to be in favour of it. The announcement of the hon. member for Hamilton is in accord with the action of the government on that question. The government have dilly-dallied and humbugged the people with it until at last we have the minister without portfolio declaring that while they were shuffling and quibbling, the price of iron had gone up so high that it would be impossible now, at anything like a fair rate, to secure such an advantage at present.

Coming back to the cold storage matter, there can be no question that the hon. Minister of Agriculture ought to have negotiated for the renewal of the contract long ago. He has said to the House: We have got it at the same prices, except that we pay fifteen shillings instead of ten shillings. That is only an advance of 50 per cent, and yet the hon. gentleman says that freights have gone up all round, and so consequently has cold storage. But I want the farmers to understand that the freight increase has been paid; that the steamship companies get their advance in the freight increase and also get 50 per cent more from the government, for the cold storage apartments supplied under arrangements with the government. How many steamships does the hon. gentleman propose to have fitted up?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Before replying, I would like to point out one or two things which may tend to modify the opinion of the hon. gentleman. In the first place, before the contracts had expired, a number of the steamship companies were putting on cold storage vessels without any contract at all, and there was a fair expectation that, had not the unfortunate condition arisen which did arise on account of the South African war, there would have been abundant cold storage accommodation from Canada without any contract or subsidies at all. That was my anticipation, and it was justified by the fact that the Dominion Line and the Elder Dempster Line and one or two steamers of other lines—I think the Reford and the Allan Lines—had put cold storage into new vessels without any subsidy or contract, and I anticipated that when the three years' contract had expired, the same steamers would be continued on our service, equipped with that accommodation, without any further contracts. Unfortunately, the condition of affairs arose which I have described.

When that condition arose, I had to face the difficulty and make new arrangements, and those arrangements were made on the basis of a certain number of steamers, new ones, which had not been under contract before, being equipped and a continuation of our control of the old steamers. When the proposition was first made to the steamship people, they refused to consider any proposition. They said that the condition of affairs as to freights and the future of their steamers was such that they could not undertake to make contracts at all, and would not discuss the matter. It was not until quite recently that I was able, through Professor Robertson's exertions, to bring those people to a frame of mind in which they would undertake to make contracts. Even up to the present, the Elder-Dempster people are not willing to make any contract for the future. The contracts made are for three new steamers of the Refords to London—I am speaking from memory—

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many altogether ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think ten new steamers.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many did you make arrangements with in 1895 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think seventeen, and then there were others put on so that last year there were twenty-three. In addition to these new steamers, I am continuing the contracts with and the control over, twelve others, contracts of which have expired but are renewed by this contract.

Mr. MONTAGUE. All trans-Atlantic ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, so that if this contract is ratified by the House, I will have control over 22 steamers in addition to those of the lines whose contracts are not yet expired—the Manchester liners and the Furness Withy people. We will have, if this contract goes through, for this season, some 27 or 28 steamers instead of the 23 which we had last year. The contract with the Furness-Withy, Manchester liners were not made the same year as that with the Refords and Allans. The consequence is that they are still operating under the original contract.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I wish to say that it appears to me that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) has very seriously given away his whole case. It has been the boast of the hon. gentleman throughout the Dominion, wherever he went, that he had been a great boon to the farmers of Canada, that, as a practical farmer he had been watching their interests very carefully, and that while those interests were in his charge they would never be lost sight of. In fact, when the hon. gentleman was addressing the electors down in Sherbrooke, I am told, he claimed a great deal of the credit for the

prosperity of that section of country, because of the prosperity of the dairying industry, as a result of his own labours. But he has shown by his explanation how well and how carefully he guarded the interests of the farmers, and how valuable his foresight was to the agriculturists of this country. He says that while he was making the speeches, declaring that he had done so much for the farmers, he had come to the conclusion that they would not need any further governmental aid as regards cold storage, and that when the contracts which have been made and which expired last winter were ended, the conditions would be such that it would not be necessary for the government, who were so anxious to help the farmers, to do anything in the way of cold storage further. I want to examine the hon. gentleman's statements for a moment, and see just how correct they are. The hon. gentleman himself shows how correct they are when he discusses it further, because he says he found out, when the contracts ran out, that hardly for love or money could the government continue the cold storage contracts or get renewed contracts with these steamship companies. In other words, the hon. gentleman neglected the interests of the Canadian farmers. He allowed himself and his department to get into a hole ; he allowed the interests of the farmers to be sacrificed for the want of foresight in making these arrangements at the proper time and at proper prices. What is his own expression—he sought 'to get these people in a proper frame of mind.' It was a lovely time to get them into a 'proper frame of mind' when freight rates were increased, and the vessels had twice as much work as they could do. It was at this time that the powerful Minister of Agriculture started out to get these people into a 'proper frame of mind.' And he did it by allowing them to charge such rates that the exporters of dairy produce from this country to England will pay 50 per cent more than they were paying under the old contract that he had allowed to lapse, and which he had not, previous to that time, attempted to get renewed. The hon. gentleman is welcome to his position before the Canadian farmers. They are paying 50 per cent more, as I have said, and they are paying it by reason of the hon. gentleman's neglect to negotiate at a time when he might have negotiated with great advantage, because he was at that time considering the dropping of the question altogether. That is a most important admission, this admission that the government contemplated dropping cold storage altogether. Instead of contemplating dropping cold storage, they should have been planning to extend it very greatly. Certainly, sir, because of this neglect, a contract is to be made by which the steamships get 50 per cent more than under the old contract.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) has presented the matter, no doubt, in a very favourable light from his own standpoint. At the same time he has ignored two or three very important elements in the argument which knock his argument into a cocked hat. The first is that I never said and never suggested that I was going to drop cold storage altogether. The second is that I believed, and was justified in believing at that time and up to the end of last session, that when the cold storage contract with certain steamers, not with all, were expiring, the owners of those steamers were putting on other vessels equipped with cold storage accommodations without contracts, and that when these contracts did come to a conclusion these owners of vessels would continue the same steamers in the same trade coming to the same ports as for years past, and continue the same service to the people of Canada with other vessels not under contract at all. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) ignores the fact that when the time came to discuss the cold storage contract the unfortunate war in South Africa came and completely changed the condition of our foreign trade and shipping trade.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When did that come ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have forgotten the exact date of the declaration of war, but I think it was in October.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But before the war came, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) heard that war was likely ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have heard a good deal, but I did not hear from anybody, even from the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) himself, that there was any certainty of war. The hon. gentleman assisted last session in passing a certain resolution, which was passed towards the end of last session in this House; and he knows perfectly well that the House and the whole of Canada, and the whole of the empire, prayed most earnestly and sincerely that there would not be any war, and believed that the Imperial government and the governments of the South African republics would be able to come to terms without an appeal to arms. At the time the session closed, and after that time, the same feeling prevailed; and it was only after parliament closed that any further contracts could have been made. But, as soon as there appeared to be a probability that these steamships would not continue in the trade in which they had been engaged, measures were taken, and I may say, in explanation, that the majority of these steamships have been, since the beginning of the war, engaged in carrying troops and supplies to South Africa. It happened, unfortunately for us, that a large number of the ships engaged in the Canadian trade seemed

Mr. MONTAGUE.

especially adapted for this service, and owners of these ships have been able to make contracts with the Imperial government to a greater extent than almost any other ship-owners in the empire. As soon as there appeared a likelihood that these vessels would not be retained in our trade, I proceeded to negotiate with these people to see what we could do in future arrangements. I insisted upon it as a condition that we should not only have control of the steamships engaged under future contracts, but should also retain control of the steamers which had been under control for three years past. The result is that during the coming season there will be a larger number of vessels in the trade between Canada and Great Britain with cold storage facilities than there were last season or have been since mechanical cold storage was inaugurated. I am not going to enter into a discussion of what I may have said at Sherbrooke or elsewhere. It is on record, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) is welcome to it, and I am ready to go before the people in regard to that as I did then. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman, in the statement he had made, has so entirely ignored the important points—

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have not ignored anything. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) has admitted my contention. He has admitted that many months before a blow of war was struck, the whole empire was ablaze with the anticipation that war might come.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not admitted that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Everybody anticipated that there was about to be trouble.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Everybody prayed that there would not be.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Everybody prayed, but everybody kept his powder dry, except the Minister of Agriculture. Paul Kruger kept his powder dry, the authorities of the empire kept their powder dry. But the Minister of Agriculture entertained the beautiful hope that the farmers would not need assistance. He allowed month after month to go by, and when the hon. gentleman wakened the war had commenced. He slept to the fact that in the ordinary course shipment across the ocean would be interfered with, and he awakened too late to the fact that there was likely to be war in South Africa, and the result is that the dairymen of Canada are paying 50 per cent more.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister stated a few moments ago that in 1895, contracts were entered into with seventeen steamers for a certain term. Could he tell us for what length of time the contracts were made in 1895, and the price ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not the details of those contracts here, and could not give them off-hand. But the hon. gentleman is mistaken in saying 1895, because I was not in office in 1895, and could not have entered into any contracts. There were no contracts for mechanical cold storage in 1895.

Mr. CLARKE. What was the additional price paid for sending produce in cold storage during the whole season of 1896?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There was no mechanical cold storage in the season of 1896. There was some ice cold storage, two or three boats. I do not know the amount extra that was paid at the time.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman says two or three boats. He knows that an arrangement had been made with a large number of boats, but that it fell through. The hon. gentleman knows there were boats on in 1895.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. For ice cold storage.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yet the hon. gentleman has repeatedly said throughout the country that he was the originator of the cold storage.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is misquoting me.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood the hon. minister to say there were seventeen vessels with which arrangements are now in existence for cold storage.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think not those figures. Speaking from memory only, most of the contracts were made to commence in the spring of 1897, and they expired this last year.

Mr. SPROULE. How many?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They expired at different periods, according to the time the contracts were made. Some were made in one year and some in another. The commencement was made in the spring of 1897. Speaking from memory, I think there were seventeen first contracted for, and afterwards others were added. I cannot say exactly the year each contract commenced.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that last year there were at least twenty-three boats under contract for cold storage, and that a number of those had run out, and he is now proposing to make an arrangement with ten.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. For ten new ones.

Mr. SPROULE. And when these ten new ones are added you will have twenty-seven.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think the hon. gentleman quite un-

derstood me. In addition to the ten new ones, I am extending contracts with, I think, twelve of the old ones, so there will be twenty-two which will be practically renewed or new under this arrangement. It may be twenty-one, instead of twenty-two. In addition to that, there are some six or seven contracts made some time ago which have not yet expired. Adding these figures together, we have twenty-seven or twenty-eight boats that will be under contract to supply cold storage accommodation during the season of 1900.

Mr. SPROULE. In other words, the minister is making a contract now with twenty-two boats.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Practically.

Mr. SPROULE. I presume the renewed contracts will be at a higher figure, 50 per cent higher than before.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Then do the old boats continue to carry produce under the original contracts, at the prices agreed upon when the contracts were first made?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Those whose contracts are not expired, do certainly, some six or seven.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman said the cold storage was supplied on the mechanical refrigerator plan. Could he tell the House what is the difference between that and the original refrigerator system that was in existence under the first contract, and how far the first was a failure, while the second is successful?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. So far as the first is concerned, I would be disposed to refer the hon. gentleman to the member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), who made these contracts for the ice cold storage—either that hon. gentleman or his predecessor, for, I think, the hon. gentleman himself was not in the Agriculture Department, at the time the first arrangements for cold storage were made. Those arrangements were for putting ice into insulated chambers on the vessel, they had no mechanical apparatus by which the chambers could be cooled. All the contracts that I have given for cold storage, since I have been in office, have been for mechanical cold storage, by a system known as the Linde. I think all the apparatus is on the Linde system, and that system works by the compression of ammonia, creating a cold in pipes which pass through the chamber and cool the chamber.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman means chemical and mechanical, because it is by the use of ammonia that the cold is generated. Could he say what the arrange-

ments were in this contract with regard to Canadians being compelled to pay for a certain amount of space whether they used it or not?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. So far as I remember the contracts, there is no difference between those now being entered into, and the old contracts, except the points I have named, that 15 shillings will have to be paid instead of 10 shillings. There is no obligation on the part of anybody to pay for space which they do not use. I am speaking from memory, as I have not the contracts under my hand.

Mr. SPROULE. I was told they were obliged to pay for certain space whether they used it or not. They had an opportunity of filling that space, but in the event of their not filling it, they had to pay for it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Of course if anybody, whether a Canadian or anybody else, contracts for space for cold storage and does not fill it, he will have to pay for it, as he would under any contract system.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood the contract with the government provided for certain cold storage space for the exporters. There was some provision made that Canadians would pay a certain consideration, that they were to have the first chance of filling that space, and in the event of its not being filled, then the Americans could take advantage of it. I understood the minister to say that the Americans would have taken up all the cold storage, if he had allowed them to do so.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. After the contracts were expired.

Mr. SPROULE. Then several shipments were made of different kinds of fruit, tomatoes, pears, peaches, apples and dairy products under the new system. Can the minister give us any information as to the success attending that effort?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not got the details of those reports before me. I had prepared them so as to be able to submit them to the House when the estimates came up. If the hon. gentleman wishes me to do so, I will give him a short resume now from memory; but perhaps it would be better to wait, either until this Bill is in committee, or until the estimates come up, when I will give full details.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What are the reports of his officers and of his experts with regard to the success of the present cold storage system?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The present cold storage system, so far as cooling the chambers is concerned, seems to be absolutely successful; I do not know that there can be any improvement made in it. There have been one or two com-

Mr. SPROULE.

plaints in regard to certain of the vessels that the products were not received on the other side in the condition that was expected, and accusations have been levelled in general terms against the management of the ships, that the mechanism was not kept going on the whole voyage across the Atlantic. In that case, of course, the chamber would not be kept cool and the products in the chamber would be seriously damaged.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Have you an officer in your department named Grindley?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has the hon. minister a report from that gentleman?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Grindley has made several reports. Mr. Grindley was the gentleman I had in England during the last two seasons to examine as much as he could of our products when they arrived there.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the nature of his report?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. His reports are very varied. His report on the fruits that went over is sometimes satisfactory; that is to say, the character of the fruit was sometimes satisfactory and sometimes it was not. I could not give the hon. gentleman the details.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman, perhaps, knows that Mr. Grindley made a speech in Cowansville, Que., and I am told that that speech was anything but complimentary to the cold storage system.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I was present when Mr. Grindley made that speech. He made some statements that were rather sweeping, and which, perhaps, went beyond the facts.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is one of the hon. gentleman's own officers. What were the sweeping statements?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot recollect them now. I do not carry them in my mind.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Did the hon. gentleman have them investigated? I am told that Mr. Grindley, at Cowansville, the other day, said the whole cold storage system, as operated at present, is a farce. This is one of the hon. gentleman's own officers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I was present when the speech was made, but I do not remember that statement.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But, you would not be surprised to know that this statement was made.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, I would be.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman tell us what were the statements made?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot quote Mr. Grindley's speech. The hon. gentleman should not be unreasonable enough to think that I am going to undertake to quote, or even to give the substance of a speech made a number of weeks, or months ago. The hon. gentleman, however, I think, will see a report of that speech in the newspapers published the next day after it was made. I am perfectly willing to give him the reports of Mr. Grindley in regard to the fruit shipments which he has presented to my department.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Grindley is still an officer of the department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes; he is still in the employ of the department.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) mean to say that he was present and heard an officer of his department make sweeping statements contrary to the facts, and that he does not know any of the particulars about them? An officer of his department has made sweeping statements, the hon. gentleman himself says, in reference to the management of his own department, and yet, he professes to say he is not sufficiently interested to remember what they were. One would suppose that it would be his duty, as the minister in charge of that department, to arraign that gentleman and ask him to give his reason and account for the sweeping statements which the hon. gentleman says he made in reference to the department over which he presides. But, it appears that this is so small a matter in the estimation of the hon. gentleman that it has passed from his memory. He says that these statements were sweeping, that they were very great misstatements, but he cannot remember what they were. I think this is the most extraordinary exhibition that could possibly be made, after the credit the hon. gentleman has attempted to take at the expense of others to whom it is more due, that he now admits that, in his own presence, cold storage, under his management, has been represented as having utterly broken down, as having completely failed, and as having resulted in the loss and destruction of the property sent by parties who attempted to use that cold storage. Yet, this has all passed from his mind. He has kept the same expert in his department, he has kept him under his control, but, he has not discussed this with him, he has not called him to account for making these misstatements, or called on him to prove that they were true, in order that he might remedy the defects. I think it is a most deplorable exhibition, but, it is an exhibition that we are too much accustomed to in this House. It is an exhibition of the deplorable incapacity of the whole of this government. What was the first fatal mistake that these hon. gentlemen made

in reference to cold storage? When they came into power they found a contract arranged; all that it required was the signature of the Governor General to authorize that contract to be closed to provide for four fast steamers running between Great Britain and Canada, and a part of that contract was that the contractors were bound to furnish all the cold storage that the government could demand. These were to be weekly fast steamers, provided with the latest and best form of cold storage, which should be as ample in its extent as the government demanded. Here was the whole thing done, and ready to their hands. But, owing to their incapacity, or something worse, no result has been achieved. What we have heard here to-day almost leads me to believe that the House and the country have been deluded by these hon. gentlemen. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) rose in his place and said that from the first he had been bitterly opposed to the whole scheme of a fast Atlantic service. He made this declaration despite the fact that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell), to whom this matter was committed, stated in the House on April 6 last:

I believe there is nothing in this country that will bring us such great credit, or will do us more good and establish us as a great commercial nation more readily than having the very finest possible steamers we can put on the route from Great Britain up the St. Lawrence to Quebec and Montreal.

There is the statement of a member of the government, but the statement we have just heard here, to-day, by one of the supporters of the government, leads me to believe that the government have never been sincere. That the hon. member for Hamilton put a pistol to the breast of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and told him that they must not go on with that fast service and cold storage scheme as he was opposed to it, and as upon other occasions, he, no doubt, told the hon. gentleman and his colleagues that they might find that they would want his support. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, in obedience to this threat, I suppose, from the hon. member for Hamilton, said: We will put it into the hands of one of our colleagues who has declared in public, in the city of Quebec, that he was totally opposed to the whole thing, and you will find that it will not advance very fast. Is that the way that this House is being played with by this government, or is it that total incapacity for public business which has marked their career from the first hour they took the reins of office? It is one or the other. The hon. member for Hamilton, I suppose, reposing confidence in the pledge he had got from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, that he would hand this fast Atlantic service over to a colleague who had declared that he was opposed to the whole thing, and that he need not be afraid it would ever

come to anything, has voted twice, in this House, in support of a fast Atlantic service that he has denounced as being something that would be most injurious to the interests of Canada.

Mr. WOOD. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I have no recollection of ever having voted for a fast Atlantic service.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman finds it convenient to go to sleep when the government are making large charges on the revenues of the country, contrary to his opinions, it will not excuse him. Every man that does not vote against a measure of that kind votes for it, and the hon. gentleman stands accountable before his constituents. I am giving the hon. gentleman an excuse, and that is, that he had the same pledge as was given in the prohibition business when the hon. First Minister obtained a pledge from the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That he need not be alarmed about prohibition. Just in the same way the hon. member for Hamilton relied on the pledge given, I suppose, by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce that he would fix that in his own way, and that there never would be any fast Atlantic service between Canada and Great Britain. That, Sir, is what I suppose did take place. Sir, the fact is that if that did not take place two years ago, Canada would have had running across the Atlantic ships that would compare with the finest afloat on the ocean, and we would have had a cold storage system capable of placing all our farm products on the English markets in the finest possible condition. But, that scheme was killed, and killed by handing it over to be dealt with by a gentleman who had pronounced himself as against the principle of it, and who may be against it to-day, although he admits now that the fast Atlantic service is of vital importance to Canada. Cold storage is of absolute necessity to the agriculturists of Canada, but owing to the utter incapacity of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fraser), the system has now been allowed to fall into a most deplorable condition. We have the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) compelled to admit to the House that if his government had not the folly to interfere with the fast Atlantic service, provided for by the Conservative government, it would have been in existence since the 1st of May, 1898. We have him compelled to admit to-day that the foolish attempt of this government to obtain the service at a lower price than their predecessors, has ended in utter disaster—as has every effort this government has made to depart from the policy laid down by the Conservatives. The Minister of Agriculture, by his admission to-day, has

shown his utter incapacity to administer any department. He may be a success in the fattening of chickens by some new and novel process, but as Minister of Agriculture his confession made to-day on the floor of this House has shown the people of Canada his utter incapacity. He did not foresee what every man with an eye in his head, or a particle of brain in his cranium saw, viz.: that there was going to be war and a demand for steamship accommodation. And the reason he did not see that, he tells us, was that the people were praying that there should be no war. It would seem as if he had more confidence in prayer than his colleague the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), who told us that the Liberals did not make their elections with prayers. The Minister of Agriculture closed his eyes to the events which were about to take place, and consequently the agriculturists of Canada are called on to suffer for his neglect. He was utterly devoid of that far-sighted prescience which a statesman is bound to have when looking at the condition of the country, and considering the conditions that surround him. Why did he not look ahead as he should have done, and secure the extension of his cold storage contracts at a cost 50 per cent less to the people of Canada, as he could have done, before this great demand for steamers took place. His confession on the floor of this House has stamped him as utterly incompetent for discharging the important duties of his office, and never had the people of Canada greater reason to deplore that a gentleman of so little qualifications for statesmanship ventured to undertake the duties of a department for which he has shown himself so completely disqualified. There is nothing that this government has undertaken that they have succeeded in. When they assumed office they had the cold storage system ready-made at their hands, and they had there Professor Robertson who was appointed by their predecessors, and who was thoroughly qualified to deal with this subject. Professor Robertson is a man who has satisfied the people of this country by his ability in the discharge of his duties, and the minister has no excuse for his dereliction of duty. The government went asleep on the subject. They neglected to avail themselves of the able expert assistance provided for them by the Conservatives, and so they have miserably failed. All that was necessary for the Minister of Agriculture was to study the first lesson of a public man, that is, to learn what other people could teach him. But he did not do that. If he had placed himself unreservedly in the hands of Mr. Robertson, I have no hesitation in saying that we would not have had to listen to-day to his deplorable confession on the floor of this House; that 50 per cent has to be paid by the agriculturists of Canada more than they should pay for the privilege of sending their pro-

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

ducts to Great Britain in cold storage. The minister could have sought the approval of parliament eighteen months ago to renew these contracts for five years, and if he had done that the farmers of this country would not have to pay to-day out of their toil and labour this extra 50 per cent tax for cold storage. That is all due to the folly and incapacity of the government. If they had carried out the policy of their predecessors—provided the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) could be induced to let them do it—we would have had a fast Atlantic service to-day. The first great blunder of the government was that they did not arrange for the fast Atlantic service, and the next blunder was that the Minister of Agriculture allowed all his opportunities to lapse to secure cold storage at reasonable rates. Why, he could have anticipated the action of parliament—as his government have done in other things—and then come to this House for the approval of the contracts which he made with the steamship companies. He could have done that before the demand for steamers came for the South African war, and had he done so, he would have saved thousands and thousands of dollars to the farming community. Were it not for his incapacity, he would have been able to see ahead what every intelligent man in the country except himself saw, and he would have arranged for the renewal of those cold storage contracts long ago.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). Mr. Chairman, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, the hon. leader of the opposition had been making a somewhat violent attack upon myself. I regret to see that he is not here just now, and as this Bill will come up for other stages, I think I shall postpone my reply until I have an opportunity of making it in the hon. gentleman's presence.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Before the motion is adopted, I would like the hon. minister to promise to inform us, before the Bill goes through, as to the number of vessels for cold storage that were contracted for in 1895 by the late government, and the price that was agreed upon per steamer in excess of the freight. I would also like to inquire now if arrangements for cold storage were not begun under the guidance of Professor Robertson, and if any improvements that have been made in the system since have not been suggested by Professor Robertson?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I understand that the hon. gentleman wants the number of steamers running in 1895 and 1896 under the ice-cold storage system, the price that was paid for the accommodation

above the freight, and the number of vessels that have been running each year since, and the arrangements made for them. Is that it?

Mr. **TAYLOR**. And I want the hon. gentleman to state now whether it was not Professor Robertson who inaugurated the system, and who has suggested any of the so-called improvements made since.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. With regard to the hon. gentleman's allusion to the improvements as so-called improvements, I regret that the hon. gentleman does not know enough about the cold storage systems employed in the world to fully understand that it is well agreed upon that mechanical cold storage is far superior to any system of ice-cold storage. As a matter of fact, ice-cold storage has been discontinued everywhere. At the time the ice-cold storage was inaugurated between Canada and the United Kingdom, mechanical cold storage was in existence, and the butter which competed with our butter in the English market came from Australia in vessels fitted up with mechanical cold storage. At the time my predecessors fitted up the vessels with ice-cold storage, mechanical cold storage was well understood. I have no means of knowing what communications passed between my predecessors and Professor Robertson, but I do know that Professor Robertson at that time knew about mechanical cold storage, as did every one at that date who had studied dairy questions, and he appreciated the great superiority of mechanical cold storage to ice-cold storage. I am glad to tell the hon. gentleman that in connection with all the improvements in cold storage I availed myself to the utmost of the experience and the technical knowledge which Professor Robertson, one of the greatest dairy experts in the world, had to place at my disposal, that I discussed with him every improvement that was made, that some were suggested by him and some were possibly suggested by myself, and that the result was the system inaugurated after I came into office. That system has been an eminently successful one. I think I am safe in saying that the improvement has been very great, and that the system established in the steamships which have been sailing between Canada and Great Britain for the last three years or more is as good as any cold storage equipment known in the world. I am satisfied it is the best obtainable. I have the endorsement of the Butter and Cheese Association of the city of Montreal, announced in a resolution which was passed by that organization last fall, to the effect that they appreciated the equipment, that it was an excellent one, and that it had accomplished great results. I think perhaps I have answered the hon. gentleman's question. If there is anything more he wants, I shall be glad to give it to him as well as I can.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). The hon. gentleman's statement is rather an interesting one as regards the part which he himself has played and the part which Professor Robertson, the expert, has played in this matter. Boiled down, his statement is this, that he availed himself of the best advice of the best expert he knew of. That was the expert of the department, who was appointed by the Conservative administration; and I may say that that administration, in establishing a cold storage system made use of Professor Robertson's opinions and experience and followed his advice. There can be no doubt that the government at that time did their very best as regards the cold storage system which was established, which the hon. gentleman in his highness and mightiness has referred to as a one-horse system. Just before the recess, however, we had a very interesting discussion about a gentleman named Grindley, who had made an address, I believe, at Cowansville. I thought that perhaps that address would be published in the Cowansville papers, but I notice that the Cowansville *Observer* for February and March has been torn out of the file, so that I have been unable to get a report of the address. But the hon. minister admitted this afternoon that Professor Grindley had very seriously criticised his cold storage system at that meeting—that he had made sweeping statements which the minister said were not true. I would like to ask the minister whether he has investigated Mr. Grindley's statements, and if so, whether he found them true or untrue; and if he found them untrue, how he has dealt with Mr. Grindley as an officer of the department for making statements at a public meeting which were absolutely untrue, and which were given a wide circulation.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am glad the hon. gentleman has asked me this question, and I think I can reply correctly from memory. I do not know whether the meeting referred to was reported, or whether Mr. Grindley's remarks were reported in the Cowansville *Observer*, but they were reported in the *Montreal Gazette*.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What date?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot tell off-hand.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What month?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot even tell that. The meeting took place, I think, either in the month of February, or the early part of March. It was after the session began and before it had been very long opened. Mr. Grindley was an officer of my department, and invited to attend that meeting—a meeting of the dairy convention at Cowansville. At the close of the afternoon meeting, at which Governor Hoard and Mr. James Fletcher and myself

Mr. FISHER.

had spoken, Mr. Grindley was called on to make a few remarks. He made a few hurried remarks, lasting about ten minutes, in which he alluded to several things in connection with the shipments of fruits and other perishable products in cold storage, and gave instances in which some fruit had arrived in bad condition on the other side. He said something in the nature of condemning the system of cold storage, I presumed, as applied to that class of goods. His statement was of a sweeping nature, and I stated then that it was altogether too sweeping and not justified by what he had instanced, or the actual facts. After the meeting was over, I pointed out to him that he had made statements far too sweeping in their character. He told me that he did not think he had conveyed to the meeting what I thought he had. I told him that I so understood his words, and presumed the meeting did likewise, and he said that he was very sorry, and that he had evidently done what he did not intend doing.

At that time he was engaged upon his report on the shipments of fruits and other things in cold storage to England. That report has since come in, but I have not had time to go over it with Prof. Robertson. I propose to do so as soon as I have an opportunity, and give to the House whatever information it gives. I must confess that I did not think these details would be asked for on this resolution, and if the hon. gentleman wishes to have this resolution held over until the information is brought down, he is within his rights.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. minister has put as pleasant a complexion upon the matter as possible. But here is an officer of his department, who makes a very severe statement at a public meeting with regard to a system for which the hon. gentleman now asked us to vote money. I cannot conceive of that gentleman having been retained in his position in the department, if he made statements condemnatory of the policy which the hon. minister still adheres to, and is attempting to carry out. That kind of harmony existing in the department, I cannot understand, though the hon. minister may.

There is one subject to which I wish to call the attention of the hon. gentleman, and that is the sale of Canadian products, once they are in the market of Great Britain. Does he propose to take any steps to place Canadian dairy fruits, meat and other products upon the British market as distinctly Canadian products?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is perhaps aware that all food products going into Great Britain must, under the British law, be marked with the name of the country from which they come, and all Canadian food products entering Great Britain, are marked Canadian. In addition, under our own law, our dairy

products must be marked with the name Canadian. There has been no attempt to follow those products after they reach the English market, beyond the observation of our officers there, who have tried to find out the disabilities under which they may labour in that market, and report to us. I have found by the experience of last year, that one officer in England is not sufficient to watch the great volume of our food products arriving in that country. I had a deputation wait on me a little while ago, of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, most of whom came from the Niagara district, and I told them the conclusion I had come to with regard to that particular point. I told them it was necessary this coming season to provide more officers in England, who would, at each of the greater ports, meet our cold storage vessels on arrival, and try to trace and watch over the products as they arrive.

As far as our dairy trade is concerned, the men engaged in it, have over and over again told me, and have said so publicly that they could manage that trade very well without any government interference, that all they required was transportation facilities afforded by cold storage, and these they say, they have received very effectively in the last three years, through the contracts my department was enabled to make.

As regards our fruit trade in England, I believe that something more should be done. There is on the Order paper, a Bill which I have introduced, with regard to the marking of our packages of fruit going to England, and there are other things in connection with this cold storage, which, when the vote comes up, I propose to suggest, as probable steps to be taken in this coming year. I have not, however, taken any steps that I might call of a commercial nature in the government side, of dealing with our products in England. I have believed that that was best left to the commercial channels, which are well known and well established, and that our commercial men were, perhaps, better able to deal with that than any government officials could be.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, Mr. Chairman, the hon. minister has stated that he does not intend to take any steps directly under the control of the government—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Of a commercial nature.

Mr. MONTAGUE—Of a commercial nature—for the purpose of having our products sold in the old country as distinctively Canadian products. He definitely states his policy in that matter. I am very sorry that he has come to that conclusion. The hon. gentleman intimates, though he does not exactly say it, that our products are all sold as Canadian products at the present time. This, I regret to say, is a great mistake. It is quite true that everything has to be marked with the

name of the country from which it comes, but the hon. gentleman knows as well as I know and as well as other gentlemen who have looked into the subject know, that that only refers to the first sale, and, sometimes, not even to the first sale itself. The hon. gentleman can appoint all the inspectors he likes and he will fail in advertising Canada and Canadian products unless he devises some means by which the consumer will be able to know, when he purchases these products, that they are Canadian products. Now, I am bound to say that our meat products, our dairy products, our fruit are of a sufficiently high standard, are of a sufficiently excellent quality, to be an advertisement for Canada, for all time, if the consumer knows that he is purchasing Canadian products. But, if the hon. gentleman has gone through the shops of London or Glasgow, he must have found cheese, which, if he knows the distinctive marks of Canadian cheese, he has found to be Canadian, being sold by the retail dealers as first-class British cheese. It is true, there is no fraud on the purchases, but there is a fraud on Canada, because we miss the advertisement that the excellence of these products should give us among the people of Great Britain. I tested that many times myself. I am not an expert, but I was instructed by Professor Robertson how to distinguish Canadian cheese, and, time after time, I found it in London shops, being offered as British cheese, and a high price charged for it, while some of the toughest-looking product you could find would be put up as Canadian cheese.

Now, when the late government were in office, they intended to establish a system by which depots would be opened for the sale of Canadian products, and we brought down a vote to this House for that purpose. Our idea was to establish shops in London, Glasgow and two or three other large cities in the United Kingdom. We did not intend to interfere with the regular course of trade, but to take advantage of the regular course of trade.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. May I interrupt the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) to ask him a question?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, certainly.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What vote was that, and when was it brought down?

Mr. MONTAGUE. It was in 1896; and the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) objected to it, and would not allow a dollar to go through. The hon. gentleman will find the debate in *Hansard*. As I was saying, we did not intend to interfere with the regular course of trade, for I recognize that if you do that you raise prejudice against us and thus injure us with the people who have the handling of these products, and

they may pass them by. Our idea was to get dealers in these large cities, to ask them to establish shops or use the shops which they have already established, and have on exhibition and on sale in these shops nothing but Canadian products; to have butter, cheese, meat, fruit, and every other product of which Canada is capable of shipping to the mother country, and have them labelled as Canadian, and thus not only open a market for our products, but, at the same time, to advertise Canada as a great agricultural, fruit-growing and dairy country. Now, apropos of that very subject, here is an article in the *Farmers' Advocate* of March 15 last. It deals with this subject by correspondence from the old country. If the House will permit me, I would like to read a few paragraphs from this article. It clinches what I have said, and shows our weakness in the market of Great Britain at the present time. The correspondent says:

Amongst matters likely to interest your readers, I know of none more so than the question of imported Canadian produce; I mean those commodities which you produce in larger quantities than you consume, shipping the balance to our markets. It is needless going through a long list of articles, for the principle at stake in one is pretty much the same in respect to others; for instance, there is bacon, known to be sent us in large quantities from your country, and, according to reports of its purchasers, as judged by the value it realizes here, of excellent quality; yet, strange though it may appear to your readers, though I am constantly in London and at many of the leading towns of England, I do not know that I have ever seen any shop or store, as you call them, where Canadian bacon is sold. Then, again, in respect to cheese, American is the general tune; then, in respect to butter, the tune is colonial, which includes a lot of different colonies, but no individual one; and thus one after another of your exports might be enumerated, and few, if any, would be found to be sold as Canadian. This surely is not as it should be. I prefer, as an Englishman, to spend my money for English produce, and hence, would naturally prefer to buy that produce within the limits of the empire rather than from other sources. Then, again, every tub should stand upon its own bottom, or, in other words, the country producing any commodity should either have the credit or discredit, as the case may be. This matter is one that needs the attention of your authorities, it being, of course, impossible for purchasers to discriminate between the produce of one country and another; hence, it appears to me that it would be a grand thing, and a great benefit to your country, to have a central depot in London or Liverpool, or both, and small branches in other centres, whereat Canadian products only should be sold, and depend upon it, if those products were of that high merit and quality those were that I had the privilege of sampling when on my trip in Canada, the demand would soon be found to repay the cost incurred. What I want to bring home to your readers, who are practically the producers of most, if not all, the commodities which would be affected, is the bare, startling fact that a far larger proportion of the Canadian produce sent us is sold under some other name than Canadian, possibly a good deal goes for English produce; but whatever may be the description

Mr. MONTAGUE.

under which it is sold matters not, for it does not alter that fact, namely, that Canadian farmers and producers are not receiving nearly all the benefits the high merit and quality of their products merit.

Mr. WOOD. Who is the writer of that?

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is not signed. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) can see it.

Mr. WOOD. I will give the hon. gentleman an instance—

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) will allow me another word—he is looking up the vote to which I referred, and he will see that the present Minister of Trade and Commerce objected to the vote we brought down. We proposed to establish the depots to which the correspondent refers; and I think it was greatly against the interest of the Canadian producer that the hon. Minister of Agriculture did not follow that plan and place our products as distinctively Canadian products upon the markets of Great Britain, by which means our products would have a wider sale and Canada would have the advertisement as well.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I do not know when the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), was in England last, but I have been in the habit of going there for many years, and frequently living there during the winter, and I can tell the hon. gentleman that I have seen Canadian goods advertised in the leading produce houses in London. Take, for instance, Hudson Bros., of Ludgate Hill, one of the largest dealers, almost, in butter, cheese and beacon to be found in England. These people have warehouses throughout the large towns of England, and in Bournemouth where I lived for several winters—

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is not wholesale.

Mr. WOOD. They wholesale in London, and have warehouses in the various large towns where they retail goods just as people want them, five pounds of beacon, or ten pounds of butter, or cheese, or whatever quantity you want.

Mr. TAYLOR. They deal exclusively in butter and cheese.

Mr. WOOD. Butter, cheese, eggs, beacon, hams and all that class of goods. I am aware that instead of selling Canadian goods for English goods or goods of any other country, these retailers take pride in saying to their customers that they were the products of Canada. I am sure that if the hon. gentleman has visited England within the last three or four years he has found that Canadian produce for sale was plainly advertised as Canadian produce, the country from which it comes is not hidden. I think the hon. gentleman should give the Minister of Agriculture a little more credit for the efforts he is making in securing to the Can-

adian farmers all the advantages that can be obtained by the cold storage that he has really been the author of.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. WOOD. Yes, I am speaking of the real cold storage business, not the ice storage that was a failure in every respect. I say he is the author of the mechanical cold storage that is now provided on the leading ships, and which he is going to continue for the advantage of Canadian farmers. I merely rose to correct the hon. gentleman's statement that Canadian dairy produce as a rule was sold as coming from some other country. The dealers in Canadian products in England are so satisfied of the good quality of the products of Canada that they are proud to be able to say to the people that they come from Canada.

Mr. J. FEATHERSTON (Peel). The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), says that the retailers in England do not know what produce comes from Canada. I say that there is no man in business in England selling fruit or other produce of Canada, but what knows the kind of articles he is handling. I say the retailer knows very well where the article comes from that he is handling, but the great trouble is that the consumer does not know. The retailer is in the business to make money and the consumer is the man that has to pay the money.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is what I meant to say, that we ought to have a system by which the purchaser should know what he was purchasing.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. That is what I say. I may mention that Mr. Flatt of Milgrove, Ont., told me the other day that when he was over in England for over two months this winter, having a good deal of time at his disposal, he went into some of the shops for the sale of Canadian bacon and ham. In one of the shops, after examining the bacon, he said to the dealer: What do you call this? Why, that is Canadian pea-fed. Mr. Flatt said: You cannot fool me, that is American fat pork, for we do not produce any such pork in Canada. Then the dealer said that it was Canadian pea-fed. That is one argument why we should have the produce of Canada branded. I am satisfied that until that is done the consumer in England is defrauded nine times out of ten. I believe, as Mr. Flatt says, that these men will pass this American bacon off on the consumers of England as Canadian bacon, and if there is not some move made our trade is going to be damaged with the consumers of England. He also told me that every one of the Wiltshire sides of bacon was branded with a red hot iron, so there can be no deception as to the Wiltshire bacon. I think the system proposed by the late Minister of Agricultural for handling our products would

have been a good thing, as it was outlined by Professor Robertson, it would have been an experiment which might have been a success. I am afraid that unless we adopt this system of branding bacon so that no deception can be practised on the English market, Canadian interests will suffer. We have already established a good trade there, but we need to take steps to maintain it, otherwise we should lose it shortly. I think the minister should take hold of this thing in a practical way, and not leave it to the commissioner. All our produce should be put on the English market in such a shape that there can be no mistake in the minds of the English consumers about its being of Canadian origin; and the sooner that is done the better for Canada.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like the minister to tell us what success has been reached with regard to the shipment of fruit under the new system which he calls mechanical cold storage. I would remark also that the hon. gentleman is fond of pluming himself on having been the parent, almost, the inventor, of this system, although he does admit that before the Conservatives went out of power Professor Robertson knew, and everybody else knew, there was a system of mechanical cold storage, and the hon. gentleman has adopted that. Let me show when he adopted it. Professor Robertson was examined on the 9th of May, 1899, before the Committee on Agriculture, and this is what he said in the presence of the hon. gentleman himself:

The department has also been in correspondence with the owners of steamships, and they have promised to provide ventilated chambers.

That seems to be the first time the hon. gentleman adopted that system. I may be wrong, but it would appear that it is only since the 9th of May last, that this system of mechanical cold storage has been adopted by the hon. gentleman. Now he has left the impression that the moment he came in the whole thing blossomed out, he abandoned the old method, and he set aside what he called the one-horse system of cold storage. I do not know what made the hon. gentleman change his mind. I would like him to tell the House what he was doing all these years between the time he made the discovery that this was a one-horse system and the 9th of May last. I tell the hon. gentleman it is not much to his credit, if he knew three years ago there was a better system, that the old system was a one-horse system, and it is only since the 9th of May last that the new system has been put on foot.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Chairman, before the motion is put I would like to reply to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy). Perhaps he will send me over that report.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. The hon. gentleman, evidently, has misunderstood the whole question. The hon. gentleman must know, if he has thought about it at all, that what is known as mechanical cold storage was arranged for and supplied by, I think, seventeen vessels sailing from the ports of Montreal, Quebec and St. John as long ago as 1897, or immediately after I came into office. The hon. gentleman might have heard the explanation given this afternoon that all the contracts then made for three years expired last winter. The hon. gentleman takes a report dealing with an entirely different subject containing some words of Professor Robertson and appeals to it to show that only last May I undertook to introduce mechanical cold storage.

Mr. **CLANCY**. I am sure the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) does not wish to mislead the House. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman what Professor Robertson meant by that. It was to be applied to cheese, butter, fruits and to all classes of goods.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. The hon. gentleman is interrupting me, and I am just going to tell him and to show the House how utterly ignorant the hon. gentleman is as to this very thing which he has been quoting. This was a reference by Professor Robertson to a request made by us to the steamship companies to improve the ordinary cargo capacity of their vessels by introducing electrical fans and ventilating chambers into them to carry fruit or cheese. Professor Robertson was discussing the question of cheese and apples being carried over under about the same conditions. For years our fruit and cheese had been carried in the ordinary holds of the vessels. Complaint having been made as to the ventilation of these holds, Professor Robertson and myself, when in England two years ago, went to the head offices of the shipping firms which trade with Canada asking them, in addition to cold storage accommodation which is an entirely different thing, to introduce electrical fans in their ventilating shafts so as to ventilate and secure a current of air through the ordinary holds of their vessels where cheese and apples are so largely stored. That was the reference which Professor Robertson made in this report which the hon. gentleman has quoted from. He undertakes to show from that report, dealing with an entirely different subject, that I did not introduce cold storage until last May. If the hon. gentleman has ever known anything about cold storage, or if he has ever dealt with the cold storage question, or listened to a discussion of the question in this House, he ought to know that mechanical cold storage was introduced in 1897 for the first time in Canadian vessels by contracts made by myself.

Mr. **FISHER**.

An hon. gentleman asked me a few minutes ago to explain the difference between mechanical cold storage and ice refrigeration, or cold storage. Ice cold storage is simply an insulated chamber in the ship into which a certain quantity of ice is put to keep the chamber cold. When the ice melts the chamber warms and the ice may have to be replaced during the voyage. Under any circumstances the placing of ice in a cold storage chamber is comparatively an ineffective method of cooling the chamber. It was the old method used for a long time before mechanical cold storage was invented.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. Were any of the products spoiled in transit?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. They were deteriorated in value.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. What?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Butter, for instance. There was very little of anything but butter sent.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. Yes, cheese and fruit were sent.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Fruit was not sent to any extent.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. Only about to the same extent as the hon. gentleman sent it. A trial shipment was sent, which failed, and the hon. gentleman's trial shipment failed too.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. I will show him the records.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. No, I am not mistaken.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. The cold storage in use then was found not to be satisfactory and Professor Robertson recommended that it be changed. I understand Professor Robertson to say that he wished to have mechanical cold storage introduced earlier. The hon. gentleman voted a certain sum for providing cold storage in these years. I must give the hon. gentleman credit by saying that he was only a short time at the head of the department, and that during a large portion of that time he was in England ill.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. What I mean is this: I think the hon. gentleman will not say that Canadian products deteriorated to any great extent under that system.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Yes. I most emphatically say, that, under that system, the butter which arrived in England was not found to be in a much superior condition to the butter which had been carried before that cold storage was inaugurated. Since mechanical cold storage has been established the reputation of our butter has been increasing in the English

market to such an extent that to-day it stands in the highest rank, a position which it did not attain before the introduction of mechanical refrigeration. I must say a word in reply to the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), having answered the question of the hon. member for Bothwell. The hon. member for Haldimand spoke about his experience in England. I do not know what the hon. gentleman's movements have been; I do not know if he has been in England since 1896. I may tell the hon. gentleman and the committee that the condition of things in England has changed very much since 1896. It is quite true, that before 1896, and perhaps for that season, Canadian products were frequently sold under different names on the English market. It was quite common for these Canadian products to be marked 'British,' but, since 1897, since the Jubilee year, when Canada came so much to the front and when Canada inaugurated her preferential trade arrangement in favour of the mother country, from that day, and increasingly so, every day, every month, and every year, Canadian products have been at such a premium in the English market that not only do dealers in the English market have to mark them Canadian products and nothing else, but, to-day, they are prompted to mark things that are not Canadian products as Canadian products, because they find they can get a better market and a better price for the products of Canada.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is an extraordinary thing that that correspondent writes in such a tone.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That gentleman must have had a different experience from mine, but, having been in England since the hon. member for Haldimand was I may tell him that I saw Canadian products marked Canadian products in the shop windows of London, Liverpool and Manchester, which were flaming with cards calling attention to these products.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That was not the experience of Mr. Flatt, quoted by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston).

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Excuse me, the hon. gentleman is going a little too far. The hon. gentleman says that Mr. Flatt had seen Canadian products not marked Canadian products, but that he had seen American products marked Canadian, which confirms what I said that the people in Great Britain are tempted to mark American products as Canadian products for the sake of the better price which Canadian products bring on the English market. The hon. gentleman is convicted by what he said himself and by what was said by the hon. member for Peel.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Then why the exhortation of the hon. member for Peel to the minister to do something at once?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) is arguing that the government should do something.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is what the hon. member for Peel is arguing.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, and the hon. gentleman himself wants us to do something. Does the hon. gentleman want us to go to England and pass laws in England prescribing what shall be done there? Does the hon. gentleman undertake to say that the parliament of Canada should control the retailer in England and say how he shall market his goods? As a matter of fact, we have done a great deal, and as much as we are able to do. We have gone to this extent, that we have required that all our products, exported from Canada, shall be marked 'Canadian.' When they get to England that mark may be wiped out, but, from what I said a few moments ago, it may be gathered that it is not in the interest of the dealers handling these products to erase these marks, thereby depreciating their value, but rather, to make them more conspicuous. As a matter of fact, the best exporters of Canadian bacon brand their names on the sides, and it is sold as Canadian bacon in the English market where it has a high reputation. There is no doubt that the Englishman has a strong prejudice in favour of the home product as against anything that comes from abroad, and Canadian bacon may not be fancied quite as highly in England as is the English bacon.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Would the minister compare 1896 with 1899, and take up the question of our shipments of agricultural products to England. The hon. gentleman says that under the preferential tariff our trade immediately extended wonderfully. Does the minister know that the percentage of what England imports, sold by Canada in 1899, is much less than the percentage sold to England by Canada in 1896?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The percentage of what?

Mr. MONTAGUE. All agricultural products, meats and dairy products generally.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What do you mean?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I mean the percentage of England's total imports.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I quite believe that, but as a matter of fact Canada has exported all that she produced for export.

Mr. MONTAGUE. So she did in the other years.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, not by a long way. Canada could not then export because she had not the facil-

ities and she had not the reputation in the English market. Since 1896 the English market has extended marvellously. The English people are richer since then, and they are importing a great deal more and eating more. They have asked for and obtained every pound of butter and cheese and beef and other products which Canadians could send them. While that has been going on, the hon. gentleman is aware that Canada has been extending in another direction, and that under the beneficent rule of the present government Canadian markets have also been much better for the products of the farm.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Owing to the beneficent policy of the late government.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Well, it did not eventuate under the late government, and the hon. gentleman can try to salve over his chagrin by thinking that the influence of his work has continued to the present. As a matter of fact Canadian exports have increased enormously in all these articles mentioned by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague). They have increased to the extent that the people of Canada could produce, and for the last two years England would have taken more butter and more cheese from Canada if she could get it. Last year Canadian cheese and Canadian butter could have been exported much more largely, but they were not made in Canada to be exported.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Quite so.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The reason of that has nothing to do with cold storage or transportation, or the English market, but was two-fold in its character—

Mr. MONTAGUE. And nothing to do with the preferential tariff?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, it had. The demand for these articles was created in England, in consequence of the preference tariff. The reputation of our goods depends solely on their being tried and tasted.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman need not continue his argument—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have been pretty patient in allowing interruptions, and I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) might permit me to finish my sentence. The quality of Canadian goods is such that when the Englishman once tastes them he wants more of them. Until the preference tariff the Englishman did not taste the Canadian article under the Canadian name. But, when he appreciated what the parliament of Canada had done by giving that preference, he was anxious to taste Canadian products, and once having tasted them he found them so good that he asked for more. He got just all the

Mr. FISHER.

farmers of Canada could send him last year, and they did not send so much as they otherwise might, because they found a good and ready market at home, in a prosperous country, where the population is increasing, and where the people are able to pay for better things. These exports cannot be increased in a day or in a month. It takes time to grow more cows, to produce more milk to make butter and cheese; and the increase has to be regular and steady and gradual. The increase has been regular and steady and gradual to an enormous degree, and it has been just as great as the development of the country could possibly admit of. These are the reasons why, in comparing the percentages of English imports, it may appear that Canada has not done so well in proportion to others, but that is no reflection in any way on the Canadian producer, or on the quality of the Canadian products, or on the transportation facilities to England.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister would have us believe that he inaugurated this mechanical cold storage in 1897, and from that day to the present it has been a success. In 1898, he tried the experiment with fruit, and the Auditor General's Report for 1899 (B-47), shows that he invested \$3,088.58 in a trial shipment. If his system was perfect in 1897, why was he experimenting in 1898, and why are the returns from that fruit 'nil'? According to the Auditor General's Report, there is not one cent returned for this \$3,088 worth of fruit sent to England under his magnificent mechanical cold storage system. Does he not know that under the old system these trial shipments brought back a revenue. Let the minister explain what became of the \$3,088.58 that he paid to some of his friends around Niagara for peaches, pears and apples.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The explanation is very simple, and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) had attended the meetings of the Agriculture Committee last year he would know it. The government did not purchase any fruit to send to England. That fruit was sent by certain exporters who wished to create a market in England for their grapes and peaches. Some of the fruit did not seem to be suitable to the English market, or did not bear the transportation, not because the cold storage did not work, but because the fruit was bruised in the handling.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Was it not inspected?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It was inspected when it left here, and when it arrived in England it was put upon the market. The fruit was not the property of the government, but of private individuals.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, but the reputation of Canada was at stake, and a most careful inspection should have taken place.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** I grant you. The experiment was carried on by the representatives of the Fruit Growers' Association. All we did was to guarantee them the value of their fruit at the point of shipment, and the reason no counter receipts appear is, that the expenditure indicated there represents the loss on that fruit, and was not the cost of the original purchase. Several times the Fruit Growers' Association sent this fruit, and although Prof. Robertson thought the experiment was not likely to be successful, yet they were so eager to have their fruit placed on the English market that we yielded. The loss was largely on grapes, which arrived in England in good order, but which did not seem to suit the palate of the English people. The fruit-growers have said over and over again that our grapes are not the same as the English public are accustomed to, and we shall very likely require a considerable time to experiment before our grapes can be placed on the English market. The losses to which the hon. gentleman has alluded were in connection with these shipments.

Mr. TAYLOR. I alluded to the sums paid by the government for these articles, and the names and the prices are given here.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** The government paid the difference between what was received and the value of the articles at the point of shipment.

Mr. TAYLOR. Under your successful mechanical cold storage, this is what you paid: W. J. Andrews, Grimsby, 118 cases of pears at 46 cents a case; 162 cases of tomatoes at 33 cents a case. That is the full price for tomatoes at Niagara; and surely the tomatoes grown in Ontario are the same as the tomatoes grown all over the world. Apples, 24 cases at 43 cents; grapes, 28 cases at 43 cents, amounting to \$130. The Grand Trunk Railway freight charges were \$72. John H. Grout of Grimsby, veneer baskets for grapes, \$100. D. J. McKinnon, Grimsby, 364 cases of pears at 46 cents; 89 cases of peaches at \$1.23—the full price; 45 cases of tomatoes at 33 cents; apples, 35 large cases at \$1; one small case at 43 cents; grapes, 150 cases at 53 cents; amounting to \$392.35. The Ontario Box Company, Limited, of Hamilton, fruit boxes, 10,141 at 5½ cents, 2,507 at 6 cents; teamage, \$80.83; making, \$789. A. H. Pettit & Son, Grimsby, pears, 607 cases at 46 cents; peaches, 10 cases at \$1.23; tomatoes, 37 cases at 33 cents; apples, 38 cases at 43 cents; grapes, 38 cases at 43 cents. R. W. Sheppard, of Montreal, fruit shipped to Great Britain, 11 cases. Geo. H. Smith & Son, Grimsby, 167 cases of peaches at \$1.23. And so it goes on until \$3,088.58 were paid out by this government for this fruit sent to England in this beautiful mechanical cold storage, and not one

cent of return got for it. That is the beautiful system which this hon. gentleman claims the credit of having inaugurated, while the fact is that Prof. Robertson inaugurated the first system, which proved successful for the shipment of butter and cheese.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** That was not the only system then in existence. The mechanical cold storage was in use in all parts of the world.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was the system which Professor Robertson suggested to the government, and which they adopted. Then Professor Robertson suggested improvements to the hon. gentleman, which he adopted, but which have not worked so well, because the whole of the fruit sent to the old country under it was lost. The Minister of Agriculture claims to be the party who inaugurated this mechanical system, overriding Professor Robertson altogether; but I am quite satisfied that Professor Robertson recommended it to this government, as he recommended the other system to the late government. He did not get the information from the Minister of Agriculture. If he did, and adopted the system to please the minister, perhaps this is the reason this fruit was spoiled.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** He managed this fruit shipment.

Mr. TAYLOR. Perhaps he had to manage it under the system the hon. gentleman forced upon him, and that may be the reason the fruit was spoiled. The minister acknowledged that the fruit sent in 1897 was a failure as well. There was a little credit given then.

Mr. WOOD. What was the loss in the butter sent by the late government?

Mr. TAYLOR. When the late government was in power I recommended them to appoint a man at Montreal to brand every article of Canadian produce that was sent out of the country. Mr. Berney was appointed for that purpose, and every case of butter and cheese that went to England was branded as Canadian. But the moment this government came in, they had no use for that officer and dismissed him.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.** There has been a man there ever since.

Mr. TAYLOR. That was an excuse to dismiss Mr. Berney, and to put one of their friends in his place—not for the purpose of branding, because goods are not being branded to-day, and butter and cheese is going out of Canada not branded.

The **MINISTER OF ARGICULTURE.** Might I ask the hon. gentleman whether he makes that statement advisedly, that the goods are not being branded to-day, and

that butter and cheese are going out of Canada not branded ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I make the statement that the government dismissed Mr. Berney.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is not the question. The hon. gentleman makes the statement that goods are not being branded to-day, and I ask him whether he makes that statement advisedly or recklessly, like too many other statements made on that side of the House ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I accept it from the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston), who made that statement a few moments ago.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. member for Peel did not say anything of that kind.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for Peel did say that Canadian goods were sold in England under another name.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is a very different thing.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know that the hon. gentleman dismissed Mr. Berney, saying that there was no necessity for him, and put another officer in his place. That is only what this government are doing all along the line. As the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals said the other day, they appointed a newspaper man to inspect the Rideau Canal.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order. The hon. gentleman has no right to refer to a former debate.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am only illustrating what this government are doing. The hon. minister says now that they have a man there doing that work, as they always follow the footsteps of the late government in anything that is right. The hon. member for Peel fairly lectured the Minister of Agriculture and the government for their negligence in this business ; but when the Minister of Agriculture says that he inaugurated this cold storage system, and that nothing was done until this government came into power, he makes a statement that is not in accordance with the fact. He had to admit that the late government established a cold storage system in 1895.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have always said that.

Mr. TAYLOR. The ice plant did not involve the loss of \$3,000 of the people's money in experimenting on fruit. Under that system the fruit was sold and the country got a return from it ; but under the hon. gentleman's mechanical system, the fruit was lost.

Mr. WOOD. Will the hon. gentleman tell me how much return was made from the

butter that was bought for 20 cents a pound and sold in England for 16 cents a pound by the late government ?

Mr. TAYLOR. I will refer the hon. gentleman to Prof. Robertson, who was managing the dairy department then, as he is now. Prof. Robertson experimented on butter, and if he made a loss, I am not aware of it, but he will be able to supply the exact data. The late government had nothing to do with it ; they simply allowed him to try the experiment of having the butter sent over and sold as a Canadian product. He proposed doing that in every town and village in the old country. He proposed having an agent appointed in every town and village, who would sell Canadian goods as such, and educate the people of Great Britain into using these products. But this government would not allow Prof. Robertson to carry out that scheme, which the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston), says the Minister of Agriculture ought to carry out, even at this late hour. Prof. Robertson tried the experiment of having these goods sold on their merits, as Canadian products, and if a little money was lost, the advertisement was well worth it.

There was not a loss of \$3,888 in 1898, or any other year, by the late government experimenting on the shipping of fruit by cold storage, which the hon. Minister of Agriculture says was a success from the time he encouraged it.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. What I said was that the experiment proposed by Prof. Robertson might have been a good one, and that unless our products were branded Canadian people would not get the benefit. The retail dealers, in England, are selling to-day, and have been all along, American products as Canadian products, and getting better prices on that account.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Taylor), has made some particularly strong statements, which are absolutely lacking in accuracy. I did not care to take the trouble of making him withdraw most of them, but there was one statement concerning which I asked him, whether he made it advisedly or not, and immediately he dropped it and declined to go on with it, and took up other things. I regret to say that other statements he made are equally unreliable.

He said that I made the claim to have inaugurated cold storage. That was an absolute misconception.

Mr. TAYLOR. You said that in your speech at Sherbrooke.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is not a speech I made, either at Sherbrooke or anywhere else, in which I said anything of the kind. I defy the hon. gentleman to show any speech of mine in

Mr. FISHER.

which I claim to have inaugurated cold storage. But I said, over and over again, that I started mechanical cold storage in this country, and so I did. I also said in Sherbrooke that the late government had experimented with cold storage, but it was only a one-horse storage.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That was in the House.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If so, I repeated it elsewhere.

Mr. MONTAGUE. You would not repeat yourself?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, hon. gentlemen opposite, repeat themselves so often, that if I did not repeat myself sometimes in reply, the public might think I accepted their reckless statements.

As far as Prof. Robertson is concerned, it is to be regretted that his name should be so frequently used in debate. My own conception of ministerial responsibility is that the ministers should assume the responsibility for their officials, and that I am quite ready to do. Prof. Robertson was no doubt a faithful and good servant, before I came to the office, just as he has been since. He has done a lot of very good work for the Dominion. I was glad when he was appointed years ago, and endorsed his appointment, and was glad to find him an officer of my department. I found him a useful and faithful officer, with whom I have been glad to consult in all that I have done in connection with this work, and whose technical knowledge has been of great advantage to me. It is unfortunate, I repeat, that his name should be bandied about in the way it has been, by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). I do not wish to object to any expenditure in this way. In fact, I rather think the government are remiss entirely in not spending enough. So far from the government being entitled to credit for their cold storage business, they are to blame entirely. That system has not made one-tenth the advance since this government came to power, that it should have made, if properly carried on. It is rather amusing to hear the arguments used by the hon. minister and his supporters. If they will turn to the *Hansard* of last year, they will find that the hon. Minister of Agriculture then gave as a reason why he reduced the grant for cold storage from \$100,000 to \$85,000—the only piece of economy which his government ever attempted to perpetrate—that the government cold storage experiment had been entirely successful, and there was no further need of spending money. That was repeated over and over again, in the debate of July 27, 1899. The position taken by the hon. minister was objected to very strongly by members on this side, and by many on his own. However, he persisted in reducing the expenditure from \$100,000 to \$85,000. Of all

the foolish things this government has done—and it has done many—that is one of the most foolish.

The statement made by the Minister of Agriculture that because of the preferential tariff, the whole of the population practically of Great Britain and Ireland, were rushing about, from shop to shop, to find out something that came from Canada, is perfectly absurd. Why, there is not one man in ten thousand in the country towns in England, outside the men who take an interest in politics, who knows that there is a preferential trade between Canada and Great Britain to-day. There is not one in a hundred who knows what a preferential tariff means, and to say that our fruit and butter and cheese are being consumed to a greater extent because of this magnificent piece of statesmanship, the preferential tariff, caps the climax of all the absurdities to which those hon. gentlemen have given utterance.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. Where have they a better system of cold storage than we have in Canada?

Mr. OSLER. Go to the Niagara district, go to almost any district in Ontario, and you will find that there has been no attempt to instruct the people how to pack their fruit. Their apples are packed badly and their plums and other fruits. We have only touched the fringe of instructing the people in the proper preservation of their fruits. And I contend that it would pay this country, for the government to spend \$200,000 a year, for ten years, for the purpose alone of thoroughly instructing our producers how to grow and how to pack their fruit, and then you should have no difficulty of finding a market for it in Great Britain.

Mr. F. T. FROST (Leeds and Grenville). My hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Osler), has just said that very few people in England know anything about the preferential tariff. I have under my hand, clippings from over fifty newspapers in England and Scotland, referring to this preferential tariff. If the newspapers are exponents of public opinion, the public must be pretty well informed as to what the preference is that this country is giving to Great Britain. We have heard to-day considerable discussion of this question of cold storage. It is plainly evident that the Minister of Agriculture has made a complete success of it, or it would not have been denounced by the opposition in such unmeasured terms as we have heard this afternoon and evening. We have heard about the fast Atlantic service. Mr. Chairman, I never was a very strong advocate of the project, and, since the Minister of Agriculture has been able to secure from twenty to twenty-five steamships for an expenditure in the neighbourhood of \$80,000 or \$85,000 to transport our fruit, dairy products, poultry and other perishable

articles to Great Britain, I say it would have been madness on the part of this government to have paid \$750,000 a year for four steamers which could not possibly have transported the products that have been transported within the last year or two. These four steamers would not have been able to cope with the extension of trade that we have witnessed under the present government and the present Minister of Agriculture. I am very glad for my part, that the fast Atlantic service was a failure—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FROST. Yes, I am glad that it was a failure. I believe it would have been madness on the part of this country to spend \$750,000 for such a service, for you could not have got over two thousand tons of cold storage in these steamers, while we have nearly twenty steamers subsidized with nearly double that amount each, and it will not cost more than about \$80,000 a year. That, I think, is evidence that the course pursued by the government in regard to cold storage and the transportation of our products has been a wise one under the circumstances. Further than this, considerable has been said to-day in regard to their not having these contracts ratified before the war broke out. That is as much as to say that the Minister of Agriculture should have foresight and forethought beyond almost human power, that he should have been better informed than even the government in England with all their great ability and statesmanship. It is a well known fact that the government in England never supposed for one moment that the war would take place, otherwise they would have been better prepared for it when it broke out. They expected that diplomacy would have settled the question. But hon. gentlemen opposite condemn the Minister of Agriculture, because he did not possess that prescience, that forethought that could not have been found in any other statesman either on this side of the water or on the other side. I think that manifestly unfair. Here are contracts with a number of vessels running for three years, some of them running out last January. We find that vessels are hurriedly pressed into the service of conveying troops and supplies to South Africa, and, as a consequence, there is scarcity of transportation. Under these circumstances, the Minister of Agriculture has simply to go into the market and make the best arrangements he can. It has been the same thing with every business interest upon the continent during the last year. Go into any business establishment and you could not make a contract. I do not know a man who could have made a contract for iron or steel or many other things during the last few months, simply because the people in these industries were so crowded with work

that it was not possible for them to make a contract. It was the same with our ship-owners. They could not enter into a contract with the Minister of Agriculture, because they were not able to say positively that they would have ships for that purpose. Then, again, they could not make contracts at the old prices. There has been a general increase in freights all round. But it has been shown this afternoon that the contracts made by the Minister of Agriculture, notwithstanding that they are 50 per cent in advance of the old prices, are from 25 per cent to 40 and 50 per cent less than those made for cold storage running out of any American port. That is evidence, I think, that the Minister of Agriculture has carefully guarded the interests of the agricultural class of Canada, and that he is doing all that is possible for any man to do under the present circumstances, which are abnormal as we all know.

Now, we were told by the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), that the Minister of Agriculture had left the agricultural population to drop, that there would be no cold storage. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has stated plainly that he will have twenty-eight steamers with cold storage facilities running out of Montreal and Quebec during this season. I think that is evidence that he has not allowed the agricultural population to drop. In any case, we have from fifteen to twenty lines of steamers running between Canada and Great Britain, and the proprietors of these lines of steamers themselves are anxious to have freight go in cold storage, and there is competition amongst them. We must not forget that there is the interest of the ship-owners as well as the interest of the people of Canada themselves. This competition certainly creates a demand and there always will be, under the present circumstances, ships carrying our produce. I rose more to correct my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Osler) than for anything else. I received these clippings from British papers only a few days ago. The shipments of products from Canada to the United Kingdom have grown so enormously, have increased so rapidly, that if there is any one in Canada to-day who is discontented with the administration of the Department of Agriculture, I am sure it cannot be the people who are directly interested—the farmers themselves. There never was a time in the history of Canada when the products of this country brought better prices, and when farming was paying better than at the present time. The price of land is going up all the time, and the farmers themselves are more contented than at any previous time in the history of this country. I think therefore we are justified in coming to the conclusion that the Department of Agriculture, under the present administration, has been more ably conducted and

Mr. FROST.

given more satisfactory results to the farming community as a whole than at any other time in the history of Canada.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers) The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Frost) has said that really there is no necessity for this fast line. I leave it to the hon. members here whether I am not correctly stating the words which fell from the hon. member. He even went beyond that, and he said it was a great advantage that there was no fast line, since the present Minister of Agriculture had provided all the needed facilities for the carrying of perishable goods to England. But will the hon. member tell me that he is so ignorant of the conditions of the contract entered into between the late government and the Allan Line as not to know that ample provision was made in that contract for cold storage on the fast line? It is evident that the fast line, in the opinion of the present government, is of very little consequence to this country. It is looked upon as a project that the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) can change every month when he goes from this side of the water to the other, and come back with new plans, new forms of steamers, bottle-necked or otherwise. The hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) has given us the secret of all this delay. He says that it never was looked upon by his party as an important question, that it is unnecessary, he does not see the use of it.

Mr. FROST. The hon. gentleman misunderstands me. I simply spoke for myself, not for the government or for the party.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I know the influence which the hon. gentleman exercises within his own party, and I cannot think he would have voluntarily assumed the responsibility of declaring that the fast line was not necessary unless he was in accord with the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. It cannot be in his case as it is in the case of the member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), who differs from his party on almost every question. I would ask the hon. gentleman to consider the conditions upon which the contract for a fast line was entered into between the late government and the Allan Line and the Dominion Line. If the hon. gentleman, instead of quoting those innumerable extracts from newspapers, were to look into the projected contract as it was submitted to parliament, he would find that ample provision was made for cold storage. I want to call the hon. gentleman's attention to this fact, that cold storage, important as it is, is not the only consideration in the establishment of a fast line between Canada and Great Britain. Canada has expended large amounts of money to build up a transcontinental railway, and to subsidize a line on the Pacific Ocean, and unless

you have a fast line on the Atlantic it is impossible that the money which we have expended on the Canadian Pacific Railway and in subsidizing lines of steamers, can give any return to Canada. A policy which will combine a fast line service of steamers that will bring passengers and mails more quickly to Canada than at present, with ample cold storage for perishable goods which we send to Great Britain, is a policy which should appeal to the common sense of the business men of Canada.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), speaking of the action of the government in connection with the fast Atlantic service, said that events had proved that the course they took was a wise one. Well, I think the hon. gentleman will agree with me that a government cannot be complimented for taking a wise course if the result was not intended by them. Therefore, when he states that the course which the government took was a wise course, he is in so many words saying that the government, by the course which they did take with regard to this fast Atlantic service, have been in effect of humbugging the country; in other words, they foresaw the result of the action which they saw fit to take.

Mr. FROST. The wise course I referred to was the non-ratification of the first contract, and if the other contract has been allowed to lapse it is because of other circumstances that were practically beyond their control.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman made no such qualification in his remarks, but he makes it now. I think that hon. gentleman either voted for a motion authorizing that fast Atlantic service, or else he did not rise up and object to it. It has been well observed by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Sir Adolphe Caron), that while cold storage may be one of the objects which was to be attained by this fast Atlantic service, it was not the only object, and, perhaps, it was not the main object. The main objects, possibly, were the quicker conveyance of passengers and mails by a Canadian line from the old country to this country, connecting with our transatlantic line, the Canadian Pacific Railway and with the line of steamers which we are subsidizing between the western part of this continent and Asia. Even if the hon. gentleman had made good his proposition in regard to cold storage, which I do not think he has done, there still would remain very many considerations which would make it desirable and necessary that a government, acting in the best interests of the country, should subsidize this fast Atlantic service.

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (Quebec West). Mr. Chairman, I was somewhat astonished by the quiet assurance with which the hon.

member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron) got up this evening and reviewed the fast line and condemned me in my absence, because, I generally regard it—

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I apologized for your absence.

Mr. DOBELL—as an act of courtesy, that, when an hon. gentleman is going to attack an hon. member who is not in the House he shall give him a little intimation before the time that he is going to speak. When it was my part to say a few words about this fast line, and when the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) was not in the House, I took occasion to find him and to intimate to him that I was going to speak upon the subject. I am exceedingly happy that I have the opportunity of saying a few words again on this fast line, and I hope to speak so distinctly and clearly that there may be no further misunderstanding of this matter. I would like to ask the hon. member for Three Rivers if he ever read that contract that he seems to be so much taken with.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes.

Mr. DOBELL. You really did?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I really did.

Mr. DOBELL. Because my impression is that you have not the slightest knowledge of that contract. I would like to ask, first, how many steamers was that service to be performed by. I pause for a reply. The Allans never signed a contract. They made a submission, and I have stated it so often that I think it ought to have impressed itself on the mind of that hon. gentleman who took me to task and reflected so much on my business career. I will let it speak for itself, because I am not afraid of the estimation in which my business career may be held, and I think it will stand when many careers will have been closed. The Allan contract was merely a submission, and a very extravagant submission when they asked this government to be bound for four months while they went around to see whether it could be carried out or not.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him?

Mr. DOBELL. Yes.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The hon. gentleman must recollect, as he has read the contract, probably oftener than I have, that the four months was given up completely by the Allans when the hon. leader of the opposition wrote to the present leader of the government and asked him to appeal to the Governor General to sanction the contract which had been entered into.

Mr. DOBELL. That engagement never was completed. It was suggested that if—that little word came in—the Allans were

agreeable to strike out the four months' clause what would we then do. But that obligation was never entered into.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The hon. gentleman gave me leave to interrupt him, but I am afraid I should not have interrupted him, because I have had no chance of telling him the position I have taken in the matter. The four months were put in as a condition by the Allans for the purpose of making some arrangements which they required to make, but when Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner, cabled out to the leader of the government at the moment he told him that they were perfectly prepared to sign the contract without any reference to the four months. Now, this is in the printed book which the hon. gentleman's leader has placed on the Table of parliament.

Mr. DOBELL. Every one understands the nature of a contract, and no contract is considered complete until the matter is distinctly agreed to and signed. The proposal was made, I know, that, if under certain conditions the Allans were willing to complete it would we then agree. Lord Strathcona told me, himself, that they never came under the obligation to sign the contract without the four months' condition. He certainly told me that he thought they were prepared to do it, but they never came forward with a distinct and clear obligation to fulfil that contract. Therefore, it never was a contract.

Mr. OSLER. Was the Petersen contract fulfilled?

Mr. DOBELL. Most distinctly, and unfortunately—I say it because I do not believe any one in this House entered into it and devoted so much time and trouble to seeing that contract completed as I did myself, and I felt it to be a grievous disappointment to myself when it did not go through. When I extended the time, in England, for another six months, I would not do it without Charles Russell, our attorney in England, giving me a written document that he believed that if we would extend the time the matter would go through with Lord Tweedmouth as chairman and a directorate composed of men whose superiors in the operation of steamship lines you would have great difficulty in finding. Unfortunately the Spanish war broke out, and in this, as in all large contracts there was a distinct provision that in case of war between two nations the underwriters were not obligated to find the money to carry it out. But I am not going to dwell further upon this because the House must be weary of it. I will say this, that I still hope to have a fast line contract carried out in such a way as to provide a service that will be a credit to this country. I claim that if we had this fast line today we have no means whatever, up to the

Mr. DOBELL.

present time, of loading these steamers in the harbour of Quebec, and they could not have gone up to the port of Montreal. But, we are not idling and we are not giving ourselves up in despair. We are building a million bushel elevator in Quebec to-day, and if I can manage it we will have another 500,000 bushel elevator at Point Lévis on the other side of the river, so that these fast line steamers can get away without delay. This is a necessity. I would like to ask how many steamers were provided for in this fast line contract.

An hon. MEMBER. Four.

Mr. DOBELL. I take issue with the hon. gentleman. There was a distinct provision that they could do it with three steamers.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Four.

Mr. DOBELL. I point that out because that would not have satisfied the country. It would never have been as advantageous to this country as the facilities that are being provided in regard to cold storage. The hon. Minister of Agriculture last year provided cold storage in twenty-three steamers, and this year in twenty-seven steamers. Hon. gentlemen will realize that you want steamers for perishable goods sailing twice, or thrice, a week, and the question of a few days on a vessel does not amount to anything. The real advantage of a fast line of steamers is to carry our mails and passengers, and to have something for Canada faster and better than any steamers on the Atlantic. Such a service I will do my best to carry out, and I could hope that no better tribute should be pronounced to my memory than that I had carried out this fast Atlantic line. I will state that the firm of Hawthorne, Leslie & Co., kept their yard empty for six months to allow for the keels of the steamers that we contracted for, believing that Mr. Petersen was going to carry out his contract.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Very few people in England did.

Mr. DOBELL. I beg pardon. At one time every one believed in Peterson, and I am only sorry that his course was such that that confidence was withdrawn from him. I have given the best authority that that submission—I will not call it a contract—was never considered by the Colonial Office, and I may say further that it never was read. That is a fair statement in answer to the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron), who said that the contract was only waiting to be signed by us. Is there any one in this House who cannot appreciate the difference between a submission going into the Colonial Office, and lying there and never submitted to the Treasury authorities, and I say more, never read; cannot any member of the House appreciate the difference between that and what the hon.

gentlemen opposite state, viz.: That it was a contract agreed to by the British government and only awaiting our signature. Why, the British government never knew that the Allans had the privilege of doing the service with three steamers until I pointed it out. I hope that the next time the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) wants to bring up in the House any little scheme that I have made such a pet of as the fast line, he will give me notice.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I did not bring it up.

Mr. DOBELL. Pardon me, you brought it up the other day, and I trust that if you bring it up again, I will have an opportunity of being present, because I am not in the least ashamed of what has been done, and I believe we are going to benefit by not having the fast line accomplished before this. I have perfect faith in this style of steamer. The model is in Montreal now, and is admired by every one. Let me point out that the first steamer of that type was built in 1893, and there are now over forty of these steamers. The Glen Line, sailing from Glasgow, and the Johnston Line, from Liverpool, have adopted it, and you will see that it will be the type of the future.

Mr. CLARKE. Are the Glen Line and the Johnston Line noted as being fast lines? Are they not freight lines?

Mr. DOBELL. The Johnston Line and the Glen Line, sailing to Calcutta, carry passengers and freight.

Mr. SPROULE. It is interesting to note that one gentleman after another on the opposite side have proclaimed that there is no need of a fast line, and that there never was any need for it, while the minister in charge of promoting it, says that he expected to secure it, and that it would be valuable to the country. When the proposal was made in the House, did the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) say there was no need of a fast line?

Mr. WOOD. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. He did not declare that until the negotiations were a failure, and it was necessary to crawl out of it in some way. The hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) says there is no need for a fast line to-day, but the members of the government he supports have told the people over and over again that there is urgent need for it. When they allowed the contract to fall through, they boasted that they had provided a substitute for \$500,000 a year, while their predecessors required \$750,000 a year for the service. Their supporters all over the country proclaimed to the people the good that had been accomplished by this business and far-sighted government in this respect—

Mr. WOOD. When the resolution was first introduced, I spoke from my place in the House against the fast line.

Mr. COCHRANE. You voted for it.

Mr. WOOD. I did not. I was always against it, because I was satisfied there was no necessity for it.

Mr. SPROULE. I must have been out of the House when the hon. member (Mr. Wood) made that declaration, because I never heard him make it. But, I did hear several gentlemen opposite applaud the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) when he declared that he had almost completed the contract with Petersen & Tate for a fast Atlantic service for \$500,000 a year, for which their predecessors proposed to pay \$750,000. They proclaimed the wisdom of the government all through the country for doing that, but now when the whole scheme has failed through, they make a virtue of necessity, and they tell us there is no need for a fast line. The hon. member (Mr. Frost) made a statement that requires a little attention. He told us that the cold storage system inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) was a complete success.

Mr. FROST. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. If it was a complete success, how was it that the fruit sent to England was spoiled in transit?

Mr. FROST. We have never heard that the cold storage system has been in any way a detriment to the products that have been exported from this country. These products have been exported in greater quantity than ever before, and that is self-evident proof that cold storage is a perfect success.

Mr. SPROULE. It is self-evident to every one who has a grain of common sense, that if the cold storage was a complete success this fruit would have been landed in England in as good condition as when it left Canada. That fruit having been spoiled in transit, either the vessel owners failed to carry out their contract or the cold storage was a failure, and for either the minister (Mr. Fisher) is responsible. If the steamship companies failed he should have prosecuted them and made them adhere to their contract, and if they did not fail, then the kind of cold storage provided was not a success. The hon. member (Mr. Frost) had better learn more about it before he again tells this House that the cold storage system of the minister (Mr. Fisher) was a complete success. Every one in Canada who has taken any interest in the matter knows that his statement is not founded on fact. For months and months we have heard it heralded over the country by the government and their supporters, that the cold storage system of the late government was a failure, and that when they came into

power they adopted another system which was a grand success in every way. Well, our experience in that fruit shipment proves that it was not a success. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) made the strange statement this afternoon that Mr. Grindley had made statements that were not in accordance with facts about this cold storage. How does the minister know that? His own official stated that the system was comparatively a failure, and yet, the minister who appointed Mr. Grindley to supervise that work says that Mr. Grindley exaggerated the defects in the system. We have a right to know how the minister came to that conclusion. It is a matter of importance for us to know whether what Mr. Grindley said was fact or fiction, and whether what the minister has stated is correct or incorrect. If the minister knows of his own personal knowledge that the system was a success, then he is justified in criticising his officer; but, if the minister got that information in some roundabout way, from an authority that could not be expected to be as reliable as his own expert under whose supervision the system was carried out, then the minister is not justified in making that statement. I think the Minister of Agriculture should give us some information about that. The hon. member for North Leeds and Grenville told us to-night that this system was a complete success. If it is, the hon. gentleman should give us a better demonstration of its success. Every person knows that fruit will keep in a proper degree of cold storage; and as this fruit did not keep, but was entirely destroyed before it reached the market in England, this, to my mind, is the best evidence that the system which the Minister of Agriculture introduced is as much a failure as that introduced by his predecessor.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I want to say just one word in regard to the question of my supporting the fast Atlantic service. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, questioned the statement I made, that I had spoken against the resolution when it was first introduced, because, he said, he did not hear me.

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. gentleman will excuse me, I did not question the statement he made. I said I must have been absent from the House when it was made. I do not question the correctness of the hon. gentleman's denial.

Mr. WOOD. I have to state now, as I did then, that I do not believe that Canada requires a fast Atlantic service. I do not think the farmers and the mechanics of this country are willing to be taxed \$750,000 a year, for the purpose of giving certain parties an opportunity of travelling a little faster to the other side of the Atlantic than they can travel on the ordinary steamers. I

Mr. SPROULE.

stated, when I spoke on the subject before, that the Canadian route is not adapted to a fast line service. I have crossed the Atlantic, perhaps, as often as any gentleman in this House, except one, and it has been a rare thing for me to make the passage between Montreal and Liverpool, without having been detained hours, and sometimes days, by the ice. A vessel of seventeen or eighteen knots an hour, with a larger carrying capacity, is better for this country, than a faster steamer, with only a couple of thousand tons carrying capacity; because you cannot have a fast service and a good freight service combined. None of the fast steamers sailing from New York, carry any great amount of freight. It is impossible to combine the two to any advantage. The route by the Gulf of St. Lawrence is not suitable for a fast service. If the vessels started from St. John or Halifax, and got outside the ice belt, they might make fast time, even in a fog; but within the ice belt, no government would be justified in allowing vessels under their control, to run at the rate of 20 or 22 knots an hour. How do we expect to compete with a route, where the same state of affairs does not exist? It may do very well for some gentlemen around Quebec and Montreal to have the prestige of having a fast service; but it is not in the interest of the country, the country does not require it, and I tell the government that if they go to the country with a fast Atlantic service, as one of their planks, it will be of no advantage to them. I, for one, so long as I have a seat in this House, will raise my voice against the expenditure of \$750,000 a year for a fast Atlantic service. It is not required, and I think the country would not support it.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. My hon. friend from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), stated that what he calls a submission, and what any ordinary member of parliament looked upon as a contract, was not a contract, and he gave as one of his reasons that it was subject to a delay of four months. I ventured to express the opinion that the four months clause had been withdrawn under the government, at the head of which was Sir Charles Tupper, and I said the withdrawal was contained in a blue-book which had been laid on the Table of parliament. To save the hon. gentleman the trouble of reading from these blue-books, I shall just quote from it, 'The Atlantic Steamship Line, between Great Britain and Canada,' brought down in 1896, a letter from Sir Donald A. Smith, now Lord Strathcona, to Sir Charles Tupper. It is dated 'Victoria Chambers, 17 Victoria Street, July 10, 1896.' In that letter Sir Donald A. Smith says:

I may add that Mr. Dunlop—

Who was acting for the Allans—

—informed me before my interview with Mr. Chamberlain—

The hon. gentleman said that the contract had never been referred to the Imperial authorities.

Mr. DOBELL. Pardon me; I did not say that. I most distinctly said that it had never been considered by the Colonial Office, and I added, nor even read. That is true.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Chamberlain, I presume, generally reads important matters on which a despatch from a High Commissioner would be sent to the Premier of Canada. At all events, Sir Donald A. Smith said:

I may add that Mr. Dunlop informed me before my interview with Mr. Chamberlain that his firm were prepared to withdraw from the stipulation, to be given in the form of a letter, that the contract should be given to them subject (without penalty) to their succeeding in floating a company in four months. I communicated this statement to the Secretary of State, although Mr. Dunlop has not yet placed it before me in writing.

The hon. gentleman knows that when the contract was entered into between the Allan Company and the late government, the company reserved to themselves four months—not, as the hon. gentleman knows quite well, to enable them to make financial arrangements in London, because the Allan Company is financially strong enough to undertake a fast line between Great Britain and Canada, without any trouble in making the necessary financial arrangements. But the four months were simply inserted because they required that time to make arrangements with the different railway lines in Canada, and the hon. gentleman knows well, that that was not at all a condition that could interfere with the carrying out of the contract. So much was that the case, that when the question of the four months' delay was mentioned at the time, when Lord Strathcona referred the matter to Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Dunlop, on behalf of his principals, immediately said: We are going to set aside the four months clause without any further consideration.

Let me draw attention to this one fact. The question of the fast line was looked upon as one of the most important questions which had to be submitted to parliament. The hon. the present leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), received that information before the right hon. gentleman succeeded to office, and what did the leader of the opposition then do? Did he try to make of it a party question? Not at all. He wrote a letter to the right hon. the First Minister, in which he said that if the right hon. gentleman would induce His Excellency the Governor General to sign that contract, within two years, Canada would have a fast line equal to anything floating on the Atlantic Ocean.

But my hon. friend from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), has told the House that the Imperial government did not even take the

trouble to read the contract submitted by the Allans. Well, we have a further despatch, dated 4th July 1896, signed by Lord Strathcona, then Sir Donald Smith, stating:

As stated by Sir Charles Tupper, the Act authorizing the contract was concurred in by both parties in the Dominion parliament.

Does it not seem strange that at that period of time, when my hon. friend from Quebec West was put to the great trouble of crossing the Atlantic so often to secure this fast line, both parties in the House, according to Lord Strathcona, concurred in the necessity of having this fast line. And Lord Strathcona went on to say:

As stated by Sir Charles Tupper, the Act authorizing the contract was concurred in by both parties in the Dominion parliament, and the contract will in any case be subjected to the approval of parliament. I venture to hope, therefore, that the Secretary of State will reconsider the matter, which, by the direction of the government of the Dominion, I have the honour to submit to him.

Is it credible that the matter was not submitted to the Imperial government by Mr. Chamberlain, or that the Imperial government did not take the trouble to read it, as my hon. friend from Quebec West has stated. I have too much confidence in the good faith and intelligence of British statesmen to believe that in a question of such vital importance to Canada, submitted to the Imperial government by our High Commissioner, the documents should have been laid on the Table without being read. If that be the cause of the long delay and the unsuccessful efforts of my hon. friend from Quebec West to secure a fast line service, it is no credit to those who, since the last effort of the leader of the opposition, have undertaken the task of obtaining for Canada such a service, which is not only indispensable because we require to make fast time on the Atlantic Ocean, but because it provides the cold storage facilities, which my hon. friend from Leeds and Grenville has been telling us is the one thing necessary for this country.

Mr. DOBELL. I would again recommend to my hon. friend from Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron), that he had better take that submission and read it through, because he has missed a very important point, and that is that it never was a contract. He says that Mr. Dunlop told Lord Strathcona that the Allans would, by letter, withdraw the four months clause. Well, when a statement of that kind is made on behalf of a principal, the latter, as a business man, is bound to take the first opportunity to follow that promise up by giving the letter. But that letter was never given, and Lord Strathcona cabled across that that letter had never been forthcoming. The hon. gentleman shakes his head, but let him read the whole thing.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I have read it all.

Mr. DOBELL. There are plenty other things I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, but I am afraid his memory is getting very short, and it would be a waste of time. Let me ask him, however, how many knots an hour those boats had to go. My hon. friend claims that they had to go twenty knots. Is he sure of that?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Twenty-two knots.

Mr. DOBELL. If he will read the submission again, he will take that back.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Twenty knots. Here it is in black and white:

That steamers are to be provided capable of performing the voyage at an average speed of twenty knots an hour.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is the advertisement calling for tenders.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I beg my hon. friend's pardon. I am reading from the blue-book, page 9, a letter addressed to the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, and signed by the Allans:

Steamers are to be provided capable of performing the voyage at an average speed of twenty knots an hour.

That is not an advertisement.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. When we resumed business this evening, I remarked that the hon. the leader of the opposition was not in his seat, and therefore did not take up some matters which he dealt with in his remarks just before recess. I shall not undertake to reply to the torrent of adjectives which the hon. gentleman then indulged in with such vehemence. But since the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron), has taken up this question of the fast line, and since the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) has dealt with another matter to which the hon. leader of the opposition referred before dinner, I wish to say a few words on these subjects.

This is the second occasion on which this fast line has been brought up and we have been told of all that the late government were going to do in the matter of cold storage, and it is only in that connection that this fast line service has anything to do with the subject before the House. I would just say that under that submission, as my hon. friend from Quebec West rightly describes it, the Allans did offer to provide a service on certain conditions and under certain restrictions, which service was to be fitted up with cold storage. Three, or at the most four, vessels were to be supplied with cold storage, to sail between Quebec and Liverpool, and that was to be the whole cold storage system at that time.

There was no condition that the cold storage should be mechanical. It might have been the same cold storage that had been supplied in the previous year by my predecessors in the Department of Agriculture. This, I need not say again, I considered inadequate, and I hold yet that it was inadequate. But the submission of this contract by the Allans to the then government of Canada was so hampered with conditions, so guarded by the Allans in the letter which accompanied that submission that, I venture to say, anybody without prejudice examining that letter and the contract must acknowledge that there was absolutely nothing binding upon the Allans at all, that while the government of Canada would be bound, the other side of the contract would not be bound in any way. Now, I wish to put before the House a few clauses of this letter, a very few of which the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has read. The Allans submitted a tender in accordance with the advertisement of Mr. Parmalee, the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, and they accompanied it with this letter, the first part of which is of no consequence, and I will not read it:

We have reason to believe that we shall have no insuperable difficulty in completing the financial and all other necessary arrangements within four months of the acceptance of this offer; but should we, from any unforeseen cause, fail in doing so, we reserve the liberty to resign the contract at or before the end of that period.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the date of that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is dated the 9th of June, 1896.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Chairman.—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am going to deal with what the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron) said in a few minutes. But I want to lead up to it. It went on to say:

1. That steamers are to be provided capable of performing the voyages at an average speed of twenty knots per hour, and that the voyages of each vessel are to be completed within the shortest possible time consistent with prudent navigation; but that penalties will not be exacted for reduction of speed during fog, snowstorms or heavy gales, or when slowed to avoid danger in the vicinity of ice or land.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is all right.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It may be all right, but it completely and absolutely nullifies the condition that the vessels are to go at any average rate of 20 knots an hour.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Except on given condition.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, but I will let the hon. gentleman know a little more about the conditions before I am done. They say further:

There are other details necessary to the successful working of the proposed service which are not mentioned in the published terms and conditions. Our tender is made on the understanding that a detailed contract will be drawn up containing such necessary provisions, and in accordance with the interpretation above stated.

It may prove to be impossible to obtain delivery of the four mail steamers in time to commence the service on May 1, 1898, as their construction may be delayed by strikes of shipworkers or engineers, or other causes beyond the control of the contractor.

They were not bound in any way to provide for steamers.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Why?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have just read the conditions from their letter which nullifies that. Then they went on to take the time that the hon. gentleman alludes to. I find, on the 30th of June, a telegram addressed to Hon. W. B. Ives and signed Andrew Allan:

We agree to your decision on clause 18, as expressed in your telegram of 27th instant, and as confirmed at our interview yesterday, on the understanding that you interpret it so as to cover the forfeiture under both clauses 16 and 17, and will give us binding letter, as agreed yesterday.

But the telegram I wish to read was one dated 7th of July, signed Smith—that is Sir Donald Smith—and addressed to Tupper, Ottawa, being Sir Charles Tupper, who was then Premier:

Saw Dunlop to-day. Informs me your government agrees substitute 'shall' for 'may,' clause 18, conditions contract; also that you will give letter making contract subject withdraw penalty to Allans. Succeeding float company in four months. That government accept following addition clause 19—

Showing that still at that date they wanted to have that four months:

It is understood, however, that speed may be reduced during fog, snowstorms or tempest, or to avert danger in the vicinity of land, and delays arising therefrom shall not involve the contractor in penalty, nor be deemed breach of contract. Also that under clause 9, date of commencement of service to be extended if required by them for completion of steamers.

The leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) said this afternoon in his vigorous remarks, that if the government had not changed in 1896 we should have had this fast line, and yet here is a specific cable addressed to him by Sir Donald Smith in July, 1896, stating that the date of commencing the service is to be extended if required. I come now to a telegram from Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, addressed to the Governor General, and dated 10th of July, 1896:

No decision will be given by me in regard to the tenders until Her Majesty's government have received copies of all tenders and all communications made to your government in regard to them, and until your new ministry is formed, and until also full information is forthcoming as

to the proposed modification of the tenders of Messrs. Allan, which may possibly make a fresh call for tenders necessary.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Chamberlain had read the contract when he sent that.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He does not say so. He wants all the information in regard to the tender and all communications made to the Canadian government in regard to it, communications such as I have read, which modified and changed the character of the submission. Having heard of it, but not having seen it, he required to have full information before his government could come to any conclusion in regard to the matter. Then, Sir, we have here a letter from Andrew and Henry Allan, addressed to Mr. Laurier, the president of the council, dated the 13th of July, the very day, I believe when the Prime Minister formed his government :

Our tender was accepted subject to the following conditions :

1. We are to have four months from date of completion of contract in which to float a company with necessary capital, and to carry through certain necessary arrangements. Should we from any unforeseen cause fail in doing so, we are at liberty to resign the contract without penalty.

2. With reference to the penalties provided in the government conditions clauses 16-19 inclusive, the contract shall provide that speed may be reduced during fog, snowstorms or heavy gales, or to avoid danger in the vicinity of ice or land, and that reduction of speed or delay in sailings due to such causes or to serious marine disaster, shall not involve the contractor in penalties, nor be deemed to be a breach of contract.

Then it goes on to say that the contractors are not to be liable for penalties for any unavoidable delay, showing that after the government had changed, the contractors still insisted upon the conditions contained in their letter accompanying the tenders and dated 9th of June, therefore showing that the submission was in no sense or way a contract, as the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) said it was not, but simply a submission which was modified and changed by the letter that accompanied that submission. The hon. gentleman alluded to the letter signed by Donald A. Smith, and from which he quoted, but there is this point which nullifies what he quoted. Sir Donald A. Smith says :

I communicated this statement to the Secretary of State, although Mr. Dunlop has not placed it before him in writing.

Now, Mr. Dunlop did not place it before the Secretary of State in writing, he never has since that time done so, he never did up to the time of the rejection of the contract by us.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The hon. gentleman knows that the contract could not be

Mr. FISHER.

submitted as a contract until it was signed, and the Governor General refused to pass the order in council.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, this is not the contract that I am talking about, it is a letter which Mr. Dunlop promised to write, but which was not written by him.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Just read on and you will find it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is no letter here signed by Mr. Dunlop in which he gives up the four months' delay.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Does not Lord Strathcona refer to it ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No. Lord Strathcona refers to it as not having been done. The last reference in this book is the reference the hon. gentleman himself quoted, and it winds up by saying :

I communicated this statement to the Secretary of State, although Mr. Dunlop has not yet placed it before him in writing.

There is no letter in existence which Mr. Dunlop did write, and therefore his verbal statement was never implemented, and the original terms of the contract, with the rider contained in the letter which the Messrs. Allan wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he became Premier, are the only things we have on record, and the only statements to show what was their offer and their conditions. That offer was an offer in which the government gave them the privilege of withdrawing during four months, and contained these restrictions and these changes in the conditions from the original specifications as asked for by Mr. Parmalee, and was, as a matter of fact, no contract in any sense of the word. Moreover these conditions completely nullified it as the boasted fast line of a 20-knot service, because practically it enabled them to make the service just what they choose to make it.

Now, my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Osler) alluded to what the leader of the opposition had stated just before the House rose at six o'clock, namely, that I ought to have foreseen the difficulties of making contracts in the fall and winter, that I ought to have asked for more money than I did, and that I was very much to blame for not having done so.

Mr. OSLER. I did not say that.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that when last session I was condemned and criticised by the leader of the opposition for not asking for more money, and that I ought to have foreseen that more money would be required—

Mr. OSLER. No, I said nothing about more money having been required.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Then I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. But I may give my explanation of it. Last year when this motion was up there was no expectation that the conditions would arise that have arisen in consequence of the war in South Africa. The conditions are entirely different from what they were at that time, and it is only in consequence of the change that this money is needed. When I asked for money last session the steamship owners were themselves putting in additional cold storage, without any bonus or subsidy from the government; and there was then a full assurance that there would be an abundant supply of cold storage for our Canadian products. The present difficulty is almost entirely due to the fact that the steamers have been called away to the South African transport service, and that is what has forced me to make these further contracts. The leader of the opposition this afternoon undertook to say that I ought to have foreseen the war, that anybody with any sense knew that there was going to be a war, and that at least a year and a half ago we ought to have made arrangements which would have obviated the difficulties which have arisen in the course of the last six months in consequence of the war. Now, I do not think that the hon. gentleman realized, as I said to him this afternoon, fully what he was saying. Just before six o'clock he launched a very vigorous diatribe against me, and used a great multitude of vigorous adjectives, which he has become so much in the habit of using, that I do not think he realizes why he uses them. Neither the hon. gentleman nor anybody else, at the end of last session, believed there was going to be a war. When we passed the resolution last session we did not do it in the expectation of a war, we did it to uphold the hands of the mother country in the hope that by diplomacy she would succeed in averting war. That was the opinion not only of this House and of the people of Canada, but it was the opinion of the people and government of Great Britain. It was the opinion frequently expressed by Lord Salisbury, by Mr. Chamberlain and by Lord Lansdowne. They publicly expressed the belief up to within, I think, one month of the actual outbreak of hostilities, that diplomacy would secure the end that they had in view without a resort to war. So general was that belief that the Imperial authorities, even up to the very outbreak of the war, made no provision in South Africa for carrying on a war. So sure were they that diplomacy was going to succeed that they did not send out supplies of troops, and took no steps to protect their frontier. Moreover since that time Lord Lansdowne has been criticised in England

because he did not take those precautions, and his defence was that there was no expectation on the part of the government that war would occur until hostilities actually broke out. Still, under these circumstances the leader of the opposition undertook to read me a long lecture, and applied to me epithets which were unworthy of a man occupying the position he occupies, as applied to another member of this House, blaming me because I could not foresee and provide against, what the Imperial authorities themselves were not able to foresee and provide against. Under these circumstances I think the accusations which have been levelled against me in regard to this matter must fall to the ground. I have only to ask the House to allow the resolutions to pass, and I shall be very glad to give all further details of information when the Bill comes up, but which I have not under my hand at this moment.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. Minister of Agriculture challenged me to produce any statement he had made, either in this House or out of it, claiming that he was the originator of cold storage. I am satisfied that I have read speeches made both by himself and by his supporters that leave that impression on the hearer. I hold in my hand a document entitled 'Laurier and the Conservatives,' and there is a chapter devoted wholly to the Minister of Agriculture. Every person who has read this book must be satisfied that this chapter was written by the Minister of Agriculture himself. Any person who has read this book must be satisfied that this has been written by the hon. gentleman himself.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I deny that statement. I did not write it, or have anything to do with it.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman denies having written it, or having read it, or having anything to do with it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I did not say that I did not read it.

Mr. TAYLOR. He had this to do with it, that he fathered it, by franking it, and sending it to the electors in Sherbrooke.

Mr. GIBSON. The same as you did.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), says the same as I did. Every elector in Lincoln received an envelope, franked by the hon. gentleman, containing a copy of the *Montreal Herald*, with the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and the speech of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), made at Massey Hall. These two documents were sent all over the country.

Mr. GIBSON. So they ought to be.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am glad the hon. gentleman is sending out the information. What I rose particularly to refer to, was this statement made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture in this document distributed by him through Sherbrooke :

At the present time, owing to the system of cold storage which Mr. Fisher has established on the railways and on the ocean steamers, Canadian farmers can export all their perishable products with the certitude that these will reach their destination in perfect condition, and that the carriage will not depreciate their value.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Hear, hear.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will leave it to any unprejudiced man in this House, if that statement, which is contained there, does not convey to the people the idea that the hon. Minister of Agriculture established cold storage.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It says the present system of cold storage.

Mr. TAYLOR. It does not say anything about the present system.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will read it again.

At the present time, owing to the system of cold storage—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. Not the present system. There is only one system.

Mr. WALLACE. Who is the Mr. Fisher who is referred to there ?

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. Minister of Agriculture who has written this about himself.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), must withdraw his statement about the Minister of Agriculture having written this about himself. I have just denied that I wrote it. I did not write it.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher), was willing to have his party puffed by the statement which he franked and distributed. Whether the hon. gentleman wrote it or not, he franked it, and sent it broadcast through the country. It is as follows :

At the present time, owing to the system of cold storage which Mr. Fisher has established on the railways and on the ocean steamers, Canadian farmers can export all their perishable products with the certitude that these will reach their destination in perfect condition and that the carriage will not depreciate their value.

I want to put against that the Auditor General's Report, the document which has just been brought down and placed in our hands.

Mr. TAYLOR.

At page B-45, I find that the heading is as follows :

Cold storage on steamships, &c., and trial shipments of products.

When the hon. gentleman makes the statement in that book that the farmers have a certitude in sending their products to the old country, that they will reach there in the same perfect condition as when they left, why is this account headed in this way ?

Trial shipments of products.

I find that \$3,088.50 has been expended in making trial shipments of fruits. I want to point to another steal, because it must be a steal. At page B-45 of the Auditor General's Report, there is a charge of \$1,328 for a quantity of cheese. On the next page there is an amount of \$1,257, which the hon. gentleman has paid to Mr. St. Amand Clement, Montreal, for cheese, June make, 14,583 pounds. I want the hon. gentleman to give me an answer to my question when I sit down. All this money has been paid out by the government to purchase cheese to make trial shipments. Then, there is a charge of \$236 at Ottawa to make trial shipments of beef. A portion of the money paid out by the hon. gentleman went into the cramming and stuffing of chickens for the English market. The hon. gentleman paid out \$234 to various parties and Mr. Joseph Yuill—I know Mr. Yuill, who lives in Carleton Place, and who is a gentleman who goes around lecturing for the Farmers' institutes—received \$215.18. These chickens were crammed and stuffed for the market. This makes altogether \$3,271 that the hon. gentleman paid out for cheese, beef and chickens, to make trial shipments under the fancy cold storage system of the hon. minister. What has become of the money ? Not one cent has been returned for it, and it has been either misappropriated or the produce has spoiled on the way. Not a cent of revenue is credited as having been received from the sale of any of these articles. This matter requires investigation. If the money of the people is going to be paid for products which spoil in transit so that they will not pay the freight when they get to the British market, it is a subject that requires looking into.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Mr. Chairman, when we consider that the fast line service has fallen through, and in view of what we have heard here tonight, we must come to the conclusion that it was not the intention of the government ever to carry out the contract which was entered into with the Allans.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There never was a contract entered into.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think I will show the hon. gentleman that there was a contract. When this question was brought to the at-

tention of the House for the first time in 1895, the present right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), got up and pressed all kinds of objections against it. One of these objections was that the St. Lawrence River was not fit for such navigation as this service would involve, and he pointed out the dangers of navigation in the St. Lawrence. But, public sentiment, notwithstanding what the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) has said, was so much in favour of the project, that when the government proposed a vote of \$750,000 a year, no one in this House dared oppose that vote. The vote was carried unanimously, and a statute was passed providing that the government was to give \$750,000 a year. Tenders were advertised for. The Messrs. Allan tendered, and one of the conditions was that their steamers were to run twenty knots an hour. As the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), has pointed out, this was barring fogs, icebergs, &c. My hon. friend surely does not think that if a twenty-knot boat was running up near an iceberg, it would not slacken speed. This is a condition which would be put into any contract, and any set of men making a contract of this kind who would not insist on such a stipulation, would be considered to be people who did not know anything about their business. But it is a fact well known, that the service was to be a twenty-knot service. The sentiment of the country was so great that nobody in the House dared to raise a voice of dissent when the vote was taken. But, when hon. gentlemen came into power, they found, if not a complete contract made between the government and the Allans, negotiations at such an advanced stage, that the final step only was to be taken to make it a complete contract between the government and the Allans. The only thing which was to be done, the final step which was to be taken, was that this contract was to be approved by the Governor General in Council. The hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), whose constituents are so much interested in this project, says that the Colonial Office never had this contract before them, that they never had these tenders before them, that they never read them, and that they never gave them any consideration at all. I cannot find that in the book which has been produced before the House. I find exactly the contrary, because in the despatch, read by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, dated July 10, 1896, Mr. Chamberlain says:

Have received your telegram of the 7th of July. No decision will be given by me in regard to the tenders until Her Majesty's government have received copies of all tenders and all communications made to your government in regard to them, and until your new ministry is formed, and until also full information is forthcoming as to the proposed modification of the

tenders of Messrs. Allan, which may possibly make a fresh call for tenders necessary in justice to other tenderers.

I have informed the High Commissioner to the above effect.

(Sgd.) CHAMBERLAIN.

This implies that the Colonial Secretary not only had received the tender made by the Messrs. Allan, but that he had considered it fully. I cannot understand how the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) now says that this contract was never considered by Mr. Chamberlain. It appears to me from the correspondence that there was only the final step to be taken, namely, that when the tender was accepted by the government the order in council would be passed, and then the contract would be completed between the parties. I go further and say, that judging from the correspondence, the Colonial Office was prepared to recommend that a subsidy of 75,000 pounds would be given towards the establishment of this fast line. We have further in the history of this transaction the fact that when the Liberals came into power the objection was made in the House that \$750,000 was too great a sum, and members on the Treasury benches told us that the facilities for cold storage were not sufficient for us to give such a large sum for the establishment of the fast line. I believe, Sir, that from the very day this government came into power, they decided that no fast line should be established between Canada and the United Kingdom, and in that, they were carrying out the policy of the Prime Minister when in opposition. From what I have read and from what I know of what passed in this House, it seems to me that it was the signed policy of the Liberals that this fast service should not be accomplished. In proof of this, let us look at the action the Liberal government took. They confided the carrying out of this great scheme to the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), who it was well known at the time, was opposed to the fast Atlantic service, and was adverse to the employment of twenty-knot steamers.

Mr. DOBELL. I stated distinctly that \$750,000 a year was too extravagant to pay for that service.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I have laid a trap for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) into which he has fallen. In 1896, I brought this matter up in the House, and I will read from *Hansard* what the hon. gentleman then said. I know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) will not contradict the report from *Hansard*. I read a report in 1896, of a meeting held in Quebec at the time, and I was alarmed at the language used by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell), there. Not only the hon. gentleman's constituents, but every one in the district of Quebec were highly interested in the establishment of this fast line for they

felt that a great service would be done to Quebec, if they had these great twenty-knot ships making it their terminal port. I was consequently surprised when I read the remarks made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell), at a meeting of the board of trade of which he was then president. I read to the House the report of *La Semaine Commerciale* with reference to this meeting, and which was as follows :

This meeting was of more than ordinary importance. The presence of a member of the government gave rise to observations made on the question of the fast line of steamers, the bridge and other topics. Mr. Dobell stated that Quebec would not receive any advantage from the establishment of a fast line of steamers, as the line running seventeen or eighteen knots was sufficient for the needs of the country, and the fast line could only be useful to Quebec when other great enterprises shall have been accomplished, such as the Great Northern Railway, the bridge, and the deepening of the canals.

I questioned the government as to the accuracy of that report.

Mr. DOBELL. That is strictly correct.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I was surprised indeed that a gentleman representing a constituency in the city of Quebec should advocate a seventeen or eighteen-knot service, which was inferior to the lines running from New York to Europe, when every one knew that it was absolutely necessary that Canada should have steamers capable of competing with the best steamers sailing from New York. My hon. friend (Mr. Dobell) was in the House at the time I refer to, and the only thing he corrected in the statement was, that he advocated eighteen-knot steamers and not steamers of 'seventeen or eighteen knots.' It was to this gentleman that the government entrusted the carrying out of the fast line of twenty-knot steamers, for which this parliament had voted a subsidy. My hon. friend (Mr. Dobell) crossed the ocean several times, and he went to Messrs. Petersen, Tate & Company to contract for this service, for \$500,000 a year. I had the pleasure of crossing with my hon. friend on one of his numerous trips to England, and I remember going with him to the Metropole Hotel to see the model of these boats. The gentlemen interested in shipping business there, said that Petersen & Tate would never carry out that scheme, because they were too weak financially. It was well known to every one in London and in England that Petersen & Tate had not sufficient standing on the money market to enable them to carry out the contract. Mr. Petersen took a great deal of trouble; he was an energetic man and spent a good deal of money in connection with the matter, but he was not sufficiently strong financially to perfect the undertaking, and the result was as had been predicted, that both he and the government failed and failed signally. The fact that the government confided the carrying out of the

Mr. CASGRAIN.

scheme to the hon. gentleman from Quebec (Mr. Dobell) is evidence to me that they never bona fide intended to accomplish the transaction. They knew that the agent they were employing was hostile to the project, and that if he could possibly do so he would carry out his own scheme to have a seventeen or eighteen-knot service, and not the twenty-knot service which the people of the country desired and which the Messrs. Allan undertook to supply. I am sorry that my hon. friend (Mr. Dobell), has failed. I was told by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) the other day, in reply to a question, that the failure was in consequence of the trouble which had arisen on account of the war, but the hon. minister (Sir Richard Cartwright) did not hold out any hope that the government would ever be able to perfect that scheme. With all due respect to the hon. gentleman from Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), I do not think he will ever succeed with his unsinkable bottle-necked ships. I am not an expert, but from what I have heard I do not think the scheme will ever become a reality, because these new fashioned ships are an experiment, and in a project of this magnitude those who have money to invest will not risk it on a new idea like that. I tender to the hon. member for Quebec West my sympathies on his failure. He knows, as I know, that his electors in Quebec West, and the electors of the whole district of Quebec, had the fond hope that in a very few years from 1896 these great steamers would come to Quebec would bring trade and business to the port, and it was also hoped, that probably they would not go as far as Montreal. It has fallen through because the government of the day thought they could do better than the government which preceded them, and instead of voting \$750,000, which was the lowest sum for which they could establish this line, they voted a paltry \$500,000, which, it was well known to the business community, was absolutely inadequate for the fulfilment of that which had been held out to the country. I am sorry for my hon. friend, because, as I stated in 1896, if my hon. friend had succeeded in carrying out this great scheme, I have no doubt that he would have attained the great object of all his desires, and that we would now have had another Sir Richard in the House.

Mr. CLANCY. I desire to say a word with regard to a statement made by the Minister of Agriculture a few moments ago. I asked him to give a statement to the House of what success had been achieved in the shipment of fruit last season. The hon. gentleman sat down without giving any answer at all, so that, I presume, he has no very definite answer to give. What I want to call particular attention to is this. The hon. gentleman is

nothing if he is not somewhat offensive, I might say insolent. The hon. gentleman complained that the leader of the opposition had used harsh terms towards himself. Does the hon. gentleman remember that he used harsh terms himself? All that this intellectual gladiator wanted was that every one should stand out of his light, and if they did not, he would get even by insolent retorts. The hon. gentleman said that I was ignorant of the cold storage system when I said that they had adopted electric fans. I challenged the hon. gentleman to show that up to this hour our eggs, butter or cheese had been received in England in good condition. I tell the hon. gentleman that his own officers declared in evidence that they were abandoning cold storage and adopting the very system to which I had made reference, that is, the electric fans. Let us see what the report says. We have a Minister of Agriculture at war with his own officials. We have them making one statement, and him coming here and asking for a grant of money on the very opposite statement. This House should hesitate before giving the hon. gentleman a single cent on the evidence that he has placed before it, when we have his officers, in printed reports circulated from one end of Canada to the other, declaring the very opposite. We had the hon. gentleman this evening making a very humiliating exhibition by telling us that he had taken Mr. Grindley aside, after he had stated a few months ago that the cold storage had been an absolute failure up to the present time. The hon. gentleman said that Mr. Grindley had made a sweeping statement, and he called him aside and imposed the penalty upon him that he was to make a report, and I venture to say that Mr. Grindley will be asked to place a falsehood in that report, and withdraw the statement he made. Mr. Grindley either made a true or a false statement. If he made a statement contrary to facts, the hon. gentleman was bound to have dismissed him. But, what does Prof. Robertson say:

The department has also been in correspondence and consultation with the owners of the steamships, and they promise this year to provide ventilated chambers on the ships for the carriage of cheese—not cold storage, but simply ventilated chambers.

What does that mean? It means that cold storage, so far as cheese was concerned, was a failure, and that the other plan had to be adopted. I am going to bring other evidence to prove that that is not simply a sentence dropped there by accident, but that it runs through the whole report. Later on Prof. Robertson said, in answer to a question by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan):

Q. Does not the same hold for apples and eggs? A. For eggs and all except early varieties of apples, cool, ventilated storage is better than cold storage on steamships.

What does that mean? It means that the hon. gentleman was abandoning cold storage in itself, or rather was adding to it something to perfect it—that he had to put in ventilating fans, or the fruit and other articles could not be landed in good condition. Yet, the hon. gentleman asserted that those who called his attention to this, when he was parading his great achievements, were ignorant, and did not know what they were talking about. But I will go further. What I have quoted was stated by Prof. Robertson on May 9. On May 16, he practically repeats the same thing:

It does not seem possible to carry apples safely across the Atlantic unless the holds in which the apples are placed are provided with a sufficient ventilating apparatus.

That statement was made not more than a year ago. The hon. gentleman must know that mechanical cold storage unassisted by fans has proved to be a failure.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The fans do not belong to the cold storage department at all.

Mr. CLANCY. They are a separate thing, but they are an adjunct to the cold storage system. He has abandoned his cold storage system for fans. Not more than a year ago Prof. Robertson said that was the case.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, he did not.

Mr. CLANCY. Here is what Mr. Grindley says:

Now, as Prof. Robertson says, the steamers are going to have ventilated holds. I think it will be the most satisfactory system we have adopted yet, that is, to have a system of fans working during the day.

So we have the statement that it is not to be cold storage at all, but a system of fans for the purpose of ventilating and giving dry air. That was discussed very fully last year. Up to this hour the hon. gentleman has been unprepared to say that his cold storage system has been a success. Yet the hon. gentleman declares, from one end of the country to the other, that he has established a system of cold storage that has been a success. Why his own officers contradict him. And I might point out that neither Mr. Grindley nor Professor Robertson has appeared before the committee this year, and it would be interesting to have their evidence on this matter. It may appear very smart for the hon. gentleman to say to the people that they are ignorant of the general question, because they discuss one portion of the system, but he cuts a very sorry figure before the country, as Minister of Agriculture, when he asks us to approve a system which stands to-day where it did practically five years ago. We have had changes from time to time, but up to this hour there has been no improvement in the system, and no reli-

ance can be placed on the hon. gentleman's statement that it is an absolute success.

Mr. SPROULE. It is really regrettable that we should be asked to consider such a resolution as this without having the proper information before us. We have now been three months in session, and we have not yet received the report of the hon. gentleman's department, which gives the details of the experiments made last year. So far as the information that has been disclosed to us goes, it shows that the present system has been an absolute failure. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) has shown, by the evidence of the hon. minister's own official, that the system has not been a success, and that is shown still further by the fact that the hon. gentleman is proposing a change. Why should he propose any change if the present system is successful, as he claims it is.

Take the Auditor General's Report, and we find that last year fruits were sent over by the present system in order to find out whether they could be successfully placed on the market or not in proper condition, and so far we have had no return from the sales of these fruits. We must come to the conclusion, either that they were destroyed or given away, and the information we have through the press is to the effect that the fruit reached the old country in a very imperfect condition and was either unsaleable or only saleable at a very small figure.

I protest against being called upon to vote this money blindly; I protest against being called on to vote it without having the report of the department before us, giving the results of the experiments last year, and without having more information than we are at present possessed of.

Mr. TAYLOR. I see by the Auditor General's Report that the hon. gentleman has been experimenting on feeding chickens, and I have been credibly informed that the food he experimented with was a mixture of sawdust and grain. I am further informed that some of the fowl fed on this mixture laid eggs, and that when the eggs were hatched there came out eleven chickens with wooden legs.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is so incredulous that I do not think it necessary to answer him.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am just as credulous as the hon. minister is, and I do not make any statement here in this House or out of it that I do not believe to be true.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Do you believe that statement about the wooden-legged chickens?

Mr. TAYLOR. No.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yet you said you were credibly informed.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend beside me says that the twelfth chicken was a woodcock. But when the hon. minister said that he never declared to the country that he had inaugurated a system of cold storage, I quoted from a pamphlet that he was sending out by the thousand to the electors of Sherbrooke, in which he claimed the whole credit for that system, and he had not a word to say in reply. Who was making the false statement there?

Mr. CLARKE. I do not blame the hon. member for Quebec (Mr. Dobell) as much as some hon. gentlemen on this side do, for his failure to accomplish what he thought he could accomplish by making a contract with Mr. Petersen in 1897. But when this government undertook to set aside the agreement which had been made by the late government with the Allan Company, they must assume the responsibility. If that contract had been carried out—and I do not think there is any hon. gentleman on the opposite side who will say that it would not have been carried out in the time named if the arrangements had been concluded—it would have been of inestimable advantage to the people of Canada. That, I think, is recognized on both sides. The hon. gentlemen who now occupy the Treasury benches urged that they could accomplish a great deal for Canada by declining to enter into the contract with the Allans and making a contract with Mr. Petersen. We have heard very severe criticisms to-night on the conditions which the Allans proposed to the government. Well, these conditions embodied certain common sense restrictions that will no doubt be found in every proposition made by a shipping firm to furnish an adequate service to a company or the government for a number of years. Fault was found by the Minister of Agriculture with the condition that the vessels which it was proposed that the Allans should construct for the fast Atlantic Line for the late Canadian government were not to be compelled, during rough weather, fog or untoward conditions to maintain a speed of twenty knots an hour, and ridicule was attempted to be heaped on that condition in the contract. Upon examination of the contract entered into by the present government with the Petersen firm, and which failed of accomplishment, I find practically the same conditions. Not one word was said by hon. gentlemen opposite to draw the attention of the committee to that fact. It seems to me that they would have acted a little more frankly if, having pointed out the difficulties, disabilities and untoward conditions in the contract with the Allan Company, they had also stated that in the conditions imposed upon them by the Petersens in their new contract, the same conditions existed. I find in the memorandum of agreement brought down on the 14th of June, 1897, by the hon. gentleman then leading the House,

the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), section 2a contains the condition :

And the said vessels are to make and maintain on each and every trip a speed of 500 knots in every twenty-four hours from port to port in ordinary weather.

If the weather was not what might fairly be termed ordinary weather, if they encountered fog or ice, the vessels were not bound to go twenty-one knots an hour. If it was an improper condition to be incorporated in the contract with the Allan Company that its vessels should not be compelled to maintain a speed of twenty knots an hour in all weathers, hon. gentlemen opposite, wiser in their generation should have made it a condition that in all weathers the Petersen vessels should maintain a speed of twenty-one knots an hour. In clause 14, subsection f. it is provided :

(f) Provided always that should any failure or default for which the payment of damages are herein stipulated or provided for, happen or be occasioned, or occur from any circumstance or accident beyond the control of the contractors, and not due in any way to the default or neglect on their part or on the part of any officer, agent or servant of theirs (the burden of proof of which shall be on the contractors), then and in that event the damages stipulated for, or the sum or amount forfeited shall not be payable or be forfeited notwithstanding the apparent default.

I claim that these conditions which I have read to the committee are precisely similar conditions to those which hon. gentlemen opposite have been objecting to and finding fault with. They thought they could make a better arrangement with the Petersen Company than their predecessors had made with the Allan Company, but notwithstanding the warning given them by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), who leads the opposition, notwithstanding that it was pointed out that it was impossible for them to get reputable steamship companies to give this service for a sum so much less than that provided in the Allan contract, they proceeded, with the result that to-day the people of Canada are deprived of the substantial advantages which would have accrued to this country if the fast Atlantic Steamship Line had been established. And we are in the humiliating position that if we desire to make rapid transit between this country and the old country, if we desire our letters to reach the old country rapidly we must mark them 'Via New York' and have them conveyed hundreds of miles to a foreign port and thence to the old land. I say that is a humiliating position, it is a position that has been brought upon us and in which we have been kept by hon. gentlemen opposite because they thought they could make a better bargain with the Petersen Company than their predecessors had made with the Allans, and because they have miserably failed in

doing so. They should assume the responsibility for that failure and not attempt to throw responsibility for failure on hon. members on this side of the House, because of alleged unfavourable conditions in the contract made with the Allans. In looking over the debate in this House in 1897, I find that the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) had so much faith in the ability of the Allan Company to carry out any contract that they might enter into with the government, that he was most anxious to have them associated with the Petersens in the enterprise. Any person who knows the standing of the Allans in the commercial world cannot have the slightest doubt that if the contract they proposed to enter into with the government of Canada had been completed by the hon. gentlemen opposite, when they assumed office, we should long ago have had the advantages, which are many and inestimable, of having a line of vessels that would be equal to any plying from New York.

I may, perhaps, be permitted to say a word about cold storage. The Minister of Agriculture will surely not find fault with the criticism offered to his proposition of last year and reported in *Hansard* of July 27, 1899. Objection was made by every hon. gentleman who then spoke on this side to the reduction in the estimate for this service then made by the Minister of Agriculture. There was no suggestion from this side that the amount was excessive, but gentleman after gentleman rose in his place and objected to the diminution of the amount. And the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler), who shares with me the honour of representing West Toronto said that if the sum had been doubled he would be ready to support it. If the hon. minister had been guided by the advice of gentlemen in opposition—advice tendered in the most respectful way—he would have made more extended arrangements for this service than he did. The hon. gentleman said that the sum was smaller.

This item is smaller than it was last year, because we have found that we could get off with less in the ensuing year. A number of the steamship companies have received their third payment, and, therefore, the account with them is closed.

I think it is not too much to suggest that it would have been wiser on the part of the Minister of Agriculture, if he thought he had made a favourable arrangement for the supply of cold storage in the vessels of these steamship companies, to have renewed the agreement with them and to make that agreement for a period of three or four years. In making further explanations, he declared :

I might tell the hon. gentleman, what he does not seem to be aware of, that while at first we were obliged to subsidize vessels to get them to put in cold storage equipments, and while

three years ago some of these companies required a bonus to induce them to put in that accommodation into their vessels, they are to-day putting into their new vessels cold storage accommodation without any bonus at all.

Now, I take it that if that means anything, it means that the Minister of Agriculture was satisfied that, with the expenditure he had made in inducing steamship companies to provide cold storage, they themselves had become alive to the importance and advantage of that accommodation and, in future, would supply cold storage without cost to the people of Canada. I say that was an evidence of short sightedness, and I say with the greatest respect to the Minister of Agriculture, that if the shippers of Canada for the next three years at least, have to pay 50 per cent more for cold storage accommodation in vessels crossing the Atlantic than they have paid hitherto, the responsibility for the increased burden must undoubtedly be placed on the shoulders of the Minister of Agriculture, and he alone must bear that responsibility.

The hon. member for North Leeds (Mr. Frost) referred in addition to the fast Atlantic service, to the splendid position which the farmers of this country occupied at the present time, and he tried to leave the impression upon the House that that prosperity was due to some action of the Minister of Agriculture and of the hon. gentlemen who are associated with him. He said that our farmers were prosperous, that the value of farm lands was rising, and that a condition of things existed now among the farming community more favourable than had existed for many years previously. Well, we are delighted to know that our farming community is prosperous, and we on this side of the House desire just as earnestly as hon. gentlemen opposite that that prosperity may continue. But we would be placed under a deep obligation to hon. gentlemen opposite if they would deign, during the course of the debates in this House to tell us—something which they have kept secret hitherto—what has brought about this prosperity. We have not been able so far to extract from them any evidence that this prosperity is attributable to any act of theirs. The hon. member for Leeds spoke of the increase in the value of farming lands. Well, I have no statistical report later than that issued by the Ontario Bureau of Industries, dated November, 1899. I find that in 1896 the value of farm lands in the province of Ontario was \$557,468,270, and that in 1898 the value was \$556,246,569. Now, if these statistics are correct, and they have been quoted time and again by hon. gentlemen opposite during the last twelve or fifteen years, they do not show that the value of farm lands in this province is increasing very rapidly. The same story is told if we turn to the table that gives information as to the wages of farm oper-

atives. It seems to me that if the farmers' position is so much improved as hon. gentlemen opposite declare it to be, if their life is better, if they are more progressive, if they are becoming wealthier, they ought to divide a portion of their additional wealth with those who helped to create it. What do the statistics show with regard to farm wages and farm labour? For yearly engagements for 1898, with board, the average wages was \$148; for 1897, \$144; for 1896, \$144. The average for the sixteen years, from 1882 to 1898, was \$157. Without board, the average wages in 1898 was \$246; in 1897, \$236; in 1896, \$243, and the average from 1882 to 1898, was \$251. If the hon. member for North Leeds and Grenville were present he might explain to us, if such redundant prosperity obtains amongst the farming community, how it is that the value of farm lands is not increasing as rapidly as we would like, and why the wages of farm labourers has remained practically the same for the past five years. But if there is any greater degree of prosperity existing in this country than was formerly the case, it is due to a condition of things over which hon. gentlemen opposite have had no particular influence. The value of farm crops in the province of Ontario—and these are the only statistics available—has been immensely greater during the past two years than it was during the three years preceding. In 1894, the value of farm crops in the province of Ontario, as estimated by the compiler of the Bureau of Statistics, was—giving round figures—\$94,000,000; in 1895, \$99,000,000; in 1896, \$88,000,000; in 1897, \$106,000,000; in 1898, \$110,000,000. The increased value of farm crops raised in Ontario during the past three years, as well as the increased value of animals, of beef and pork, these have been the causes of the increased prosperity which has prevailed in this province, but these conditions have also existed in other provinces of the Dominion. These have been the causes of the additional prosperity which has prevailed amongst the farming community. What do these figures that I have just quoted show? They show that the market value of the crop in 1897 was greater by \$18,000,000 than the value of the crop of 1896; the market value of the crop of 1898 was greater by \$21,000,000 than the crop of 1896. The market value of the crops of 1897 and 1898 was \$217,000,000, or an average value for each year of \$108,000,000. The market value of the crops of 1894, 1895 and 1896 was \$282,000,000, or an average of \$94,000,000. That is the reason why the farmers in this province, at any rate, are in a better position than they were previously.

Reference has been made to the advantage which is obtained by the farming community because of the introduction of the policy of preferential trade; and the member for North Leeds and Grenville stated that he had over fifty clippings from news-

papers to show that the people of Great Britain were alive to the fact that this preference had been actually given to the artisans and manufacturers of England by the policy of the hon. gentlemen opposite. I think the Minister of Agriculture, and those who are associated with him, would like the House and the country to believe that the increased export of the products of the farm which has taken place during the last two or three years has been due mainly, if not entirely, to the adoption of that preferential policy. Nothing can be further from the fact, because, as has been pointed out again and again, unusual conditions prevailed. We had the advantage of abundant crops here and on the other side, and the exports of our products to the old land largely increased. The Minister of Agriculture has referred to the enormous expansion in the butter and cheese trade, and also in the bacon and ham trade. If time permitted, and a reference to the *Hansard* was permissible, it could be pointed out that up to the time the late administration placed a duty on American beef and American pork coming into Canada, the exports of these commodities to Great Britain were practically nil; and the hon. gentlemen opposite, one and all, denounced the proposition which their predecessors in office made to place a duty upon American pork and beef coming into Canada, because they said that such a duty would be of no advantage to the Canadian farmers but rather a detriment. The hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce, in referring to the proposition made by the ex-Minister of Finance to put that duty on, said:

What earthly good will it do our farmers to increase the revenue in this manner. . . . He knows, and they know, that no greater sham and delusion was ever put on the statute-book than this duty on pork, in so far as it is declared to be a duty which will benefit our farmers. I tell the hon. gentleman again that so far from his duty helping the farmers, he and his friends are doing all they can to strengthen the hands of those parties in the United States who are clamouring for an increase of duty.

That statement was made as reported in the *Hansard* of 1890, at page 3418. But, a reference to the exports of pork, ham and bacon, from that time up to the present, will show whether the imposition of that duty upon American beef and pork was injurious or advantageous to the farmers of this country. In 1889, the year previous to the additional duty being put on imports of pork from the United States, we imported 15,000,000 pounds of pork, and 8,283,000 pounds of lard. In 1896, the last year of Conservative administration, these imports had decreased to 8,726,174 pounds of pork and 392,602 pounds of lard, while the exports of Canadian hams and bacons had increased from 7,150,756 pounds in 1891 to 87,526,058 pounds in 1896. The adoption

and maintenance of that policy from 1891 to the present time has been responsible and to it is due the enormous and gratifying increase in the exports of natural products from this country to the old country, and if hon. gentlemen opposite had not maintained the policy which their predecessors had laid down and enacted, the condition of the farming community would not have been as prosperous and as satisfactory as it is to-day. I repeat, that so far as the responsibility for the increased cost of cold storage between Canada and the old country is concerned, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, and the hon. Minister of Agriculture alone, must assume the responsibility, and if he had acted with the prudence and sagacity which his hon. friends give him credit for having possession of, I am sure that when the contracts for cold storage, that he spoke of as having terminated last year, expired, he would have taken the opportunity of making provision for a continuation of the contracts, and if that had been done they could have been renewed for a term of years to much greater advantage than at the present time to the exporters of the Dominion of Canada.

Resolution reported, read the second time, and concurred in.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 152) to authorize contracts with certain Steamship Companies for Cold Storage accommodation.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

Mr. SPROULE. I think we may reasonably expect the hon. Minister of Agriculture to distribute his report before we are asked to consider the second reading of the Bill, because we cannot do it intelligently without that information.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It is now about twelve o'clock, and there are twelve government Bills on the Order paper which we proposed to put through. We have made no progress to-day, but I do not see any reason why we should sit later than twelve o'clock.

Mr. TAYLOR. Put them through now.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is twelve o'clock now: we cannot stand it. I move the adjournment of the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. What will the government take up to-morrow?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We will go right on with these Bills.

Mr. CLARKE. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture if he will bring down the conditions under which this cold storage, or ice storage, was provided for in 1895 and 1896?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, I suppose I can find them in the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. SPROULE. And those relating to the new contracts as well?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12 o'clock a.m. (Wednesday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 9, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

PRINTING OF RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I would like to move that some papers which happen to be referred to in the Votes and Proceedings by the Joint Committee of both Houses on the printing of parliament, and relating to two subjects there mentioned, should be printed for distribution. The report in the Votes and Proceedings recommends that these papers be printed as sessional papers, as to which I have no wish or opinion. But, I desire for the convenience of the House, and I think the Treasury benches will agree with me, that these papers should be printed in connection with the motion that I propose later on to move. I refer to the papers relating to the *John C. Barr*, concerning which I shall have a motion to make, and the papers relating to applications for dredging leases, mentioned on page 433 of this report:

Return to an order of the House of the 7th of February, 1900, for copies of all correspondence, applications, grants and other papers relating to the area of, and any part thereof, covered by the following applications.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

Those were the subjects of a prior return not covered by this return, and in regard to which there was some discussion last session. In referring to these papers, as I propose to do, it would be a matter of great convenience to the House if they were printed, instead of hon. gentlemen who wish to take part in the debate being confined to the one set of unprinted papers. So, I have two motions on that subject. One is:

That the papers relating to the steamship 'John C. Barr' referred to on page 431 of the Vote and Proceedings, being Nos. 63 and 63a, be printed forthwith for distribution.

The other is:

That the papers referred to in No. 105, page 433 of the Votes and Proceedings, be printed forthwith for distribution.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would suggest that the hon. gentleman allow these motions to stand until to-morrow, so that I can take communication of them.

Mr. WM. GIBSON (Lincoln). The rule of the Printing Committee is, that unless some special request is made by an hon. member, in order to save expenditure for the printing of the documents all the returns asked for, every hon. member who desires it is provided with a copy. The members of the committee have no desire to omit the printing of any documents particularly asked for by members of parliament, and it would simplify matters very much if such members would send a request to the clerk of the Printing Committee, so that it may come intelligently before the committee, and that the committee may recommend the printing to the House in the usual way. There was no exception made in the case of the papers referred to by the hon. gentleman. The information was given to the committee last Friday that a copy of these papers was in the hands of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and the committee then deemed it a local matter, and considered that it should not be printed, since serious objections have been taken by some members of the committee to doing any unnecessary printing, because the sum set apart by parliament had been overrun already by some \$25,000. The committee are trying to cut down the expense as much as possible. I would suggest that in future, if any member has any special reason why a paper should be printed, he should give his reason to the committee, and the committee will be only too glad to meet his wishes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have no doubt that had I attended that meeting of the committee and made a suggestion on that line, it would have been carried out. My motion is not in conflict

with the report of the committee, as I do not ask that these papers be printed to be included in the sessional papers. My motion simply relates to the distribution. It is quite true I have a copy of the papers, but, they are quite extensive, and in the debate it would not be satisfactory to the House that the only copy should be in my hands.

THE WINDING-UP ACT.

On the Order being called for introducing a Bill, further to amend the Winding-up Act (Mr. Britton).

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). The Bill which I proposed to introduce was to amend chapter 129 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, which is called 'The Winding-up Act.' This general Act was amended in 1889 by somewhat extensive amendments; also amended in 1890, in 1892, in 1895, and again, twice in 1899. I may mention to the House that sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, of chap. 129, R.S.C., and sections 4, 5, 6 and 7, of the amending Act of 1889, are, if not in conflict, certainly very confusing, and it is difficult to arrive at a proper interpretation. There ought to be an amendment which will bring these latter sections into harmony with the sections of chap. 129, R.S.C. I submit that there should be a complete revision of these sections, both in the Revised Statutes and also in the amending Act. But, I wish particularly to call the attention of the House to the fact that in the province of Ontario, with which I am most concerned, the Revised Statutes and the amending Act of 1889 do not give a county judge, or any official referee of the court, power to make a winding-up order. As soon as the winding-up order is made, power may be given by order of reference to any officer of the court to do everything else from start to finish in connection with proceedings under the Act. The amendment I desire is to confer power to make a winding-up order in the province of Ontario upon the county judge. I have presented the matter to the Minister of Justice, and also have spoken to the Solicitor General; and in view of the near revision and consolidation of the statutes, I have decided, with the permission of the House, after making this statement, to drop the Bill.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED TO POSITIONS.

Mr. McMULLEN asked :

What are the names of all members of the House of Commons of Canada appointed to positions each year since January 1, 1879, up to July 1, 1896? What were such positions, and what were the salaries?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The list which I have to read is a pretty long one, and it has taken some time

to prepare it. I have divided it into two parts, one giving appointments during the existence of a parliament, and the other giving appointments after the dissolution of parliament :

Members of Parliament Appointed to Positions from January 1, 1879, to June 30, 1896.

	1879.	Salary.
Hon. C. J. Gill, Judge, Superior Court, Quebec		\$ 4,000
Hon. T. Robitaille, Lieutenant-Governor, Quebec		10,000
Hon. E. Dewdney, Commissioner Indian Affairs		3,200
Hon. Jos. Dubuc, Judge, Queen's Bench, Manitoba		4,000
	1880.	
Hon. J. B. Robinson, Lieutenant-Governor, Ontario		10,000
Hon. L. F. G. Baby, Judge, Superior Court, Quebec		5,000
Hon. A. R. Angers, Judge, Superior Court, Quebec		5,000
	1881.	
James Cockburn, Commissioner for consolidation of statutes		4,000
Hon. James McDonald, Chief Justice, Nova Scotia		5,000
Hon. T. McKay, Senator, Nova Scotia....		1,000
Hon. T. R. McInnis, Senator, British Columbia		1,000
	1883.	
J. G. Blanchet, Collector of Customs, Quebec		3,200
M. H. Richey, Lieutenant-Governor, Nova Scotia		9,000
	1884.	
Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner..		10,000
F. de St. C. Brecken, Postmaster, Charlottetown		2,200
Hon. Wm. McDonald, Senator, Nova Scotia		1,000
Hon. Jos. Bolduc, Senator, Quebec.....		1,000
	1885.	
A. McIsaac, County Court Judge, Nova Scotia		2,400
Sir S. L. Tilley, Lieutenant-Governor, New Brunswick		9,000
	1886.	
P. B. Benoit, Supt. Chambly Canal.....		1,800
	1888.	
Hon. A. W. McLellan, Lieutenant-Governor, Nova Scotia		\$9,000
Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner.		10,000
Hon. James Reid, Senator, British Columbia		1,000
Hon. W. D. Perley, Senator, North-west Territories		1,000
	1889.	
Hon. J. Royal, Lieutenant-Governor, North-west Territories		7,000
	1890.	
P. A. Landry, County Court Judge, New Brunswick		2,000
Noah Shakespeare, Postmaster, Victoria.		2,000

	Salary.
1891.	
Joseph Jamieson, Junior Judge, Wellington	\$ 2,000
1892.	
G. A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor, Ontario	10,000
Hon. E. Dewdney, Lieutenant-Governor, British Columbia	9,000
Hon. M. Bowell, Senator, Ontario	1,000
Hon. A. Desjardins, Senator, Quebec	1,000
1893.	
C. H. Mackintosh, Lieutenant-Governor, North-west Territories	7,000
Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Lieutenant-Governor, Quebec	10,000
1894.	
Hon. K. F. Burns, Senator, New Brunswick	1,000
1895.	
D. Girouard, Judge, Supreme Court	7,000
J. J. Curran, Judge, Superior Court, Quebec	5,000
Hon. J. C. Patterson, Lieutenant-Governor, Manitoba	10,000
Hon. G. T. Baird, Senator, New Brunswick	1,000
Hon. Josiah Wood, Senator, New Brunswick	1,000
1896.	
J. W. Bain, Post Office Inspector, Montreal	2,000
James Masson, Judge, County Court, Huron	2,400
R. S. White, Collector of Customs, Montreal	4,000
Hon. D. McKeen, Senator, Nova Scotia	1,000
Hon. M. Adams, Senator, New Brunswick	1,000
Hon. John Carling, Senator, Ontario	1,000
Hon. T. Temple, Senator, New Brunswick	1,000
Hon. G. B. Baker, Senator, Quebec	1,000

E. T. Brooks, member fourth parliament, which expired May 18, 1882, appointed judge November 2, 1882.

G. A. Drew, member fourth parliament, which expired May 18, 1882, appointed judge, May 23, 1882.

L. A. de Billy, member fifth parliament, which expired May 18, 1882, appointed judge, July 22, 1882.

Mr. Ernest Cimon, member fourth parliament, which expired May 18, 1882, appointed judge, July 22, 1882.

M. Dodd, member fifth parliament, which expired January 15, 1887, appointed judge, June 21, 1888.

R. N. Hall, member sixth parliament, which expired February 2, 1891, appointed judge, January 11, 1892.

C. E. Hickey, member sixth parliament, which expired February 2, 1891, appointed superintendent Williamsburg Canal, May 11, 1891.

F. E. Kilvert, member fifth parliament, which expired January 15, 1887, appointed collector of customs, Hamilton. (O. C., January 27, 1887.)

John McDougald, member seventh parliament, which expired April 24, 1896, appointed commissioner of customs, May 1, 1896. (O. C., April 25, 1896.)

H. Montplaisir, member sixth parliament, which expired February 2, 1891, called to Senate, February 9, 1891.

J. A. Ouimet, member seventh parliament, which expired April 24, 1896, appointed judge, May 19, 1896.

Thomas Robertson, member fifth parliament, which expired January 15, 1887, appointed judge, February 11, 1887.

Thomas Scott, member fifth parliament, which expired January 15, 1887, appointed collector of customs, Winnipeg, March 1, 1887.

John Small, member sixth parliament, which expired February 2, 1891, appointed collector of customs, Toronto, March 10, 1891.

C. J. Townshend, member fifth parliament, which expired January 15, 1887, appointed judge, Nova Scotia, March 4, 1887.

L. F. R. Masson, member fourth parliament, which expired May 18, 1882, appointed senator, September 23, 1882.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton).
 Mr. Speaker, before you go any further, I would like to draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to what I think is a very great inaccuracy in the paper which he has just read. Of course, it is very difficult, hearing a paper in that way, to be certain, but, the question asked by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), is :

What are the names of all members of the House of Commons of Canada appointed to positions each year since January 1, 1879, up to July 1, 1896? What were such positions, and what were the salaries?

If I heard correctly the list, as read by the right hon. gentleman, it included a large number of persons who are not included in this question at all. This question asks the names of members of parliament who were appointed, but the names of a number of gentlemen were read who had ceased to be members of parliament, and, therefore, were

not referred to in the question. I call the attention of the Prime Minister to that, because it is calculated to mislead the House and the country. I have no objection to a statement of all the appointments made by the Conservatives, whether of members of parliament or any one else, but if there is intended to be any point in the answer, I would remind the Prime Minister that no member of the Canadian House of Commons of the Liberal-Conservative party, ever introduced a Bill, making it a crime to appoint a member of parliament to office, or to appoint him for a considerable period after he had ceased to be a member.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. McMULLEN. I just desire, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

The PRIME MINISTER. In my preliminary remarks I said that I divided the names into two groups. First, those appointed during the parliament, and second, those appointed after dissolution.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. On the question of procedure, it is not competent to give information in an answer that is not pertinent to the question.

Mr. McMULLEN. I requested the information.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The PRIME MINISTER. If my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) raises the question of procedure, I shall be happy to discuss it with him at any time.

I.C.R.—SALE OF ROLLING STOCK, &c.

Mr. HAGGART asked :

What rails, rolling stock or other material, if any, have been sold or otherwise parted with by the Intercolonial Railway each year since the 1st day of July, 1896?

To whom were the same sold or otherwise parted with?

Were the sales made by public contract or tender?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I am informed that this information will be very voluminous, and if the hon. gentleman puts a motion for a return, I will have it brought down immediately.

Mr. HAGGART. I would consent to that if the minister had made the statement when the question was first put on the Order paper, but it has been met constantly with the observation from the government: 'Stand, stand.'

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I did not know to what extent

this question would require to be dealt with, and until I got the information I could not give it to the House, and I am giving it to the House at the first moment.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What the minister means to say is: That he is refusing to give the information to the House at the first moment.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am giving the information at the first moment, that what is asked for is too bulky to be given in reply to a question.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I can put myself in order at any time.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I move that the House adjourn.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was put down, and no other member has a right to speak if I am not allowed.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have put myself in order. I do not desire to interrupt the proceedings of the House for more than a moment. If hon. gentlemen will repress themselves, I shall not be long. We are now coming to the estimates, and we do not desire to delay the government, nor do they, I presume, desire to withhold information. It is impossible to get this information at the present time by a motion for returns; and I suggest that it would be sufficient for us to give notice that we shall ask certain questions when the estimates are being discussed.

Mr. McMULLEN. I rise to a point of order. I claim the floor.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I suppose the minister will see that the information will be forthcoming.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. If the hon. member (Mr. Haggart) says he would like the return brought down, I will bring it down without a motion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Very well, I withdraw my motion to adjourn.

Mr. McMULLEN. I object to the hon. member withdrawing his motion. I was prevented from speaking on a question in which I was directly interested. I was called down by gentlemen opposite, and it was unfair that another member should be

allowed to speak. I want the protection of the Chair and the protection of the House. I want my rights and nothing more. If I am going to be called down, I want other members called down too.

Mr. SPEAKER. I wish to say that the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) put himself in order by moving the adjournment of the House. The subsequent debate, however, did not remain in order because nobody seconded the motion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think it was seconded by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen.)

Motion (Mr. Montague) to adjourn, withdrawn.

CANADIAN REGIMENT AT HALIFAX—SUPPLIES.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. What are the names of the contractors furnished by the Imperial authorities from whom any supplies of provisions have been obtained for the Canadian regiment now garrisoning Halifax?

2. What amount of supplies or provisions has been obtained from each such contractor?

3. What amount of supplies and provisions has been obtained from each contractor not so furnished by the Imperial authorities, and what is the name of each such contractor?

4. Were J. A. Leaman & Co. and Moir, Son & Co., contractors for the furnishing of supplies or provisions to the Imperial authorities for the garrison at Halifax?

5. Have any supplies or provisions been procured from either of these firms for the Canadian regiment now garrisoning Halifax?

6. What supplies of meat have been obtained for such regiment from W. A. Maling & Co.?

7. Were they contractors for the supply of meat to the garrison for the Imperial authorities at the time when the Leinster Regiment left Halifax, or during what other period?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I ask that this question should stand, in the absence of the Minister of Militia.

Mr. CLARKE. It has been standing for two weeks.

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, the minister is absent on public business.

Mr. TAYLOR. It is always the same way.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question stands.

REPORT OF POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

At what date was the MSS. of the following departmental report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, sent to the Queen's Printer, namely:

Postmaster General.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The manuscript of the whole of the departmental report of the Postmaster Gen-

Mr. McMULLEN.

eral, making in all 465 printed pages, was sent to the Queen's Printer on or before the 24th November, 1899, and on the 2nd March, 1900, the department received for the first time any portion of the proofs for revision. Thereafter, from time to time, further portions of the proofs were sent to the department for revision until the 23rd April, on which day for the first time the department received the proof of the last portion of the manuscript.

The prefatory part, embracing about eleven pages, was sent to the Bureau on the 14th April, and the proof thereof received at the department on the 18th April. It has been the invariable practice of the Post Office Department since confederation not to send the prefatory part to the printer until the printing of the departmental portion was approaching completion.

A difference of opinion exists between the head of the Stores Branch of the Post Office Department (the officer in charge of this part of the work) and the Queen's Printer as to occurrences since the 28th March, the Queen's Printer stating to the effect that the Bureau was out of copy on the 28th March and so remained until the 18th April, the head of the Stores Branch alleging that after the 28th March and down to the 23rd April he continued to receive portions of the proof of the report, in all seventeen different portions of the proof, that had not until that time been sent to the Post Office Department, and that it was not until the 23rd of April that the Post Office Department received for the first time the first proof of the whole report.

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) asked :

1. Has the Agricultural Department any knowledge or experience of an English fertilizer known as Basis Slag or Thomas' phosphate powder?

2. If so, has any of it been experimented with on the government Experimental Farm at Ottawa?

3. What fertilizers have been experimented with from time to time on the Experimental Farm at Ottawa?

4. In experimenting with various fertilizers does the officer having charge of such experiments take cognizance of analysis, with a view to ascertain the commercial value of such fertilizer to the various crops?

5. If so, what steps does he take to verify the analysis of the manufacturer or seller? Does he keep a record of such analysis?

6. Has he analysed the Thomas' phosphate powder; if so, what result did he get? What percentage did he find of moisture? Of phosphoric acid citric soluble? Total phosphoric acid? Average citric soluble phosphoric acid? Average of phosphoric acid?

7. What method did he adopt in his analysis, and for what reason did he adopt such method, and what result?

8. Did he use the process used by the scientific chemical analysers of London, Paris and

Germany, known as the Wagner method, and what were the results? If not, why not?

9. Is he aware there has been in use in the United States a process for determining the available phosphoric acid in bone and mineral superphosphates and mixed manures?

10. What has been the results of such tests as compared with the Wagner method?

11. What method do you consider would be in the best interests of the producer, the manufacturer, the consumer and the farmer, and for what reason?

12. Has the departmental officer above referred to any knowledge of the Wagner method? Has he any knowledge of Dr. Bernafd Dyer, district agricultural analyst for the counties of Bedford, Cornwall, Essex, Hants, Herts, Leicester, Rutland, West Suffolk and East Essex, Analytical Laboratory, 17 Great Tower Street, London?

Professor Wagner, Ph. D., Privy Councillor of the Imperial Research Station, Darmstadt, Germany?

A. Maret and Ch. Delattre, Paris?

Dr. Augustus Voelcker & Sons, London, Consulting Chemists of Royal Agricultural Society of England?

13. Is he aware that these chemists sent direct analyses to the Department of the Interior at Ottawa from samples drawn by an officer of the Department of Inland Revenue for the purpose, with the following results:

Analysis of Dr. Bernard Dyer—

Percentage of total phosphoric acid.....	16.77
Including phosphoric acid dissolved by a 2 per cent solution of citric acid, employed precisely according to the method of Prof. Wagner of 1899.....	14.60

Analysis of A. Maret and Ch. Delattre—

Phosphoric acid soluble in citric acid (Wagner's method).....	14.71
Phosphoric acid, total.....	16.63

Analysis of Dr. Augustus Voelcker—

Percentage of phosphoric acid dissolved by a 2 per cent solution citric acid (Wagner's method).....	14.44
Total phosphoric acid.....	16.47

Analysis of P. Herlwig—

Percentage total phosphoric acid.....	16.83
Percentage citric acid soluble phosphoric acid.....	14.53

14. Are these professional chemists well and favourably known in the scientific world and would their analyses be accepted by the depart-

ment in this case or on an arbitration of analysis generally? And is their professional services in such respect accepted in Europe?

15. Why have they adopted the Wagner method or methods in preference to the method or methods now in use in the United States, or said to be in use?

16. Are the methods said to be in use in the United States, applicable to the analysis of the Thomas' phosphate powder to get most perfect results, or has it only been applied to it for reasons that this powder not being produced in the United States, no special analysis was considered necessary? If not, why not?

17. Who are the largest producers of this fertilizer?

18. Is it produced in the United States?

19. With such samples of the Thomas' phosphate powder as you may have had access to, would it be possible for analysis to give—

Nitrogen—total including that of nitric acid or ammonia, if present.....	16
Total calculated as ammonia.....	20
Potash.....	1.88

Or take another analysis—

Nitrogen, including that of nitric acid or ammonia, if present.....	1.81
Total calculated as ammonia.....	2.19
Potash.....	14

20. If so, where did the nitrogen and potash arise?

21. If not, how do you account for such analysis?

22. Are you aware that under the Adulteration Act all articles not containing certain percentages are classed as adulterated, whether actually adulterated or not?

23. Are you aware that the Adulteration Act and Fertilizers Act must be read together on percentages to be contained in certain fertilizers?

24. Are you aware that clause 7, subsection 2, chap. 24, 53 Victoria reads: 'No fertilizer shall be sold or offered or exposed for sale unless it contains 8 per cent of available phosphoric acid'?

25. Are you aware the chief analyst of the Inland Revenue made the following report:

Laboratory of Inland Revenue Department,
Ottawa, September 15, 1899.

Sir,—I return herewith file No. 80772 and have to report that the samples referred to in Messrs. Wallace & Fraser's letter of the 1st instant, have been analysed in this laboratory with the following results:

	Moisture.	PHOSPHORIC ACID.		Total.
		Reverted.	nsoluble.	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
No. 17,661.....	0.14	7.16	5.44	12.60
No. 17,662.....	0.18	4.75	7.85	12.60
No. 17,663.....	0.14	6.72	6.40	13.12

26. Under such an analysis would it be possible to offer or expose for sale Thomas' phosphate powder in the face of section of Fertilizers Act quoted, which calls for 8 per cent ?

27. Why was 8 per cent available made the standard ?

28. If it was to protect the farmers, is there any good and sufficient reason why the standard should now be reduced to 5 per cent, except to meet the government prohibitive analysis which brings it under 8 per cent ?

29. Is it not detrimental to the farmer and manufacturer that this fertilizer should be branded adulterated in consequence of a difference of opinion as to what system of analysis should be adopted, the Wagner or an obsolete method in use for many years in the United States and Canada before Thomas' phosphate powder was discovered and manufactured, and in no way applicable to the correct analysis of the Thomas' phosphate powder ?

30. Is it not in the interests of the farmer that a high grade Thomas' phosphate powder should be imported and sold, rather than reduce the standard of available phosphoric acid and open the door to low grade fertilizers ?

31. To meet the difficulty between the producers of the Thomas' phosphate powder and the farmer who consumes, what system of analysis should be employed that would be in the interests and fair to both and thoroughly in the public interests ?

32. Do you see any good reason why this fertilizer should be prohibited from importation and sale, or is it in the interests of the farmer that it should enjoy a portion of the field with other fertilizers ?

33. Would the adoption of the Wagner method or any other similar method lead to confusion ? If so, in what way ?

34. Have the experimental farms the proper facilities at the experimental farms to carry out such methods ?

35. Would it not be in the interests of the agricultural community that the actual analysis be given irrespective of any particular view of any particular analyst, so that it might be known exactly what the buyer was buying and paying for irrespective of any personal views on the utilization of antique and obsolete methods of analysis ?

36. Did the Minister of Inland Revenue make the following statement :—' The department cannot alter its system at the instance of any special manufacture, but it is ready to adopt the latest and best scientific methods approved by the Society of Public Analysts in England, or recommended by any such body as the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It is also prepared to adopt that system which the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm recognize as giving results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice.'

37. Has there been any protest to the method of analysis adopted by the chief analyst for the determining the availability and total phosphoric acid in Thomas' phosphate powder ? If so, when and by whom ?

38. When such protest was made, were any steps taken to obtain the opinion of the Society of Public Analysts in England, the Royal Agricultural Society in England, or the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm, as to what method of analysis gave results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice ?

39. Will the government submit an explanation of the methods of analysis adopted by the

Department of Inland Revenue, viz., 'the citrate of ammonia solution,' and forward a copy of the explanation of the method used in England and Europe, viz., 'a 2 per cent solution of citric acid,' to the chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the director of the Agricultural Research Station, Darmstadt, Germany ?

40. Will the government submit the following question to such authorities : 'Which method of analysis for determining the availability of the phosphoric acid in basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder, would, in your opinion, give results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice ?'

41. Will the government adopt the system recommended by those authorities as giving 'results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice' ?

42. Has the Department of Inland Revenue received samples of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder during the month of April, 1900 ?

43. If any samples were received, have they been analysed by the chemist of the department, and what was the result of such analysis ?

44. Who is the consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England ?

45. Were certificates of analysis of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder received by the department ? If so, by whom were the certificates signed ?

46. What was the result of the analysis of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder, as expressed in such certificates ?

47. Upon what basis or analysis will the 'relative value per ton of 2,000 pounds,' as given in the bulletin of the Inland Revenue Department, be calculated or determined ?

48. Does such relative value so calculated or determined give a fair and correct result of the agricultural value of Thomas' phosphate powder as a fertilizer ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). The answer to this question is so voluminous that I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) to make a motion for a return, or I will bring it down without notice at the earliest possible date.

Mr. SPEAKER. Question dropped.

P.E.I. RAILWAY—NEWS AGENT.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

1. Who is the news agent for the Prince Edward Island Railway ?
2. Has he the contract by tender ?
3. When were tenders called, and when were they opened ?
4. Who were the tenderers, and the amount specified in each ?
5. Was there any delay in awarding the contract ; if so, for what reason ?
6. What period of time does the contract cover ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. Mr. Sydney Gray is the news agent for the Prince Edward Island Railway, and has been so for many years past. 2. Tenders were called for as hereinafter stated and after receiving the same, the department concluded that it would be in the interest of the service to continue the contract to Mr. Gray, who had

given great satisfaction for many years in preference to other tenderers, provided, he would engage to pay \$360 per year. 3. Tenders were called for by advertisement in public press, and were opened on the 25th of February, 1899. 4. The tenderers' names were: R. B. Norton, R. H. Jenkins, and Sydney Gray; and the amounts specified in each tender was respectively: \$420, \$284, and \$240 per year. 5. There was some delay in awarding the contract and it was finally given to Mr. Sydney Gray (who has had the contract for some years) at \$360. 6. The contract covers one year from the 1st of September, 1899.

BELFAST AND MURRAY HARBOUR RAILWAY, P.E.I.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

1. Is the work of survey and location of the Belfast and Murray Harbour Railway in Prince Edward Island being proceeded with? If not, for what reason? Is the work to be proceeded with this summer? If not, why not?

2. Is work begun on construction of 11½ miles under contract? If not, what is the cause of delay? Have any changes been made in plan, profile or specification since the contract has been entered into? If so, what are they?

3. Is the contractor to receive additional compensation on account of those changes? If so, what amount?

4. Are tenders to be called for the construction of the rest of the line, and when? If not at once, why?

5. Is the work to be proceeded with piecemeal, or are tenders to be called for the whole of the line not now under contract?

6. When will the line be completed and open for traffic?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. A preliminary survey has been made of the whole line, but 11½ miles only have been located, the location of the balance of line will be proceeded with during the summer season. 2. The work has been commenced by the providing of materials, the grading will be proceeded with as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry. No changes have been made in plan, profile, or specification, since contract has been entered into. 3. The contractor is not allowed additional compensation on account of changes in grade, as no change of grade has been decided upon. 4. When the proper time arrives tenders will be invited for further sections of the road. 5. The road will be divided into sections and tenders will be invited. 6. The date named in the contract for the completion of the 11½ miles is 1st of August, 1900. At present I cannot say when the line will be completed and opened for traffic.

I.C.R.—PASSES TO CLERGYMEN.

Mr. TAYLOR asked:

To what clergymen, indicated by ecclesiastical position, have permanent or annual free passes now in operation on the Intercolonial Railway, been granted? What are the numbers of

such passes given to representatives respectively of different religious denominations?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The following are the annual passes granted to the heads of the churches who personally applied for them. For many years passes have been granted to the same heads of churches by the Intercolonial Railway, with no change in rules in their issue: Most Rev. J. T. Lewis, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Ontario; Most Rev. C. O'Brien, D.D., Archbishop of Halifax; Most Rev. Paul Bruchesi, D.D., Archbishop of Montreal; Right Rev. W. B. Bond, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Montreal; Right Rev. C. Hamilton, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Ottawa; Right Rev. A. H. Dunn, D.D., Bishop of Quebec; Right Rev. H. T. Kingdon, D.D., D.C.L., Bishop of Fredericton; Right Rev. F. Courtney, D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Nova Scotia; Right Rev. J. P. Dumoulin, M.A., D.C.L.; Bishop of Niagara; Right Rev. J. C. McDonald, D.D., Bishop of Charlottetown; Right Rev. John Cameron, D.D., Bishop of Antigonish; Right Rev. John Sweeney, D.D., Bishop of St. John; Right Rev. James Rogers, D.D., Bishop of Chatham; Right Rev. E. Gravel, D.D., Bishop of Nicolet; Right Rev. C. Guay (retired); Rev. J. M. Campbell, President, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Methodist Conference; Rev. A. Carman, D. General Superintendent, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Methodist Conference; Rev. Robert Campbell, Sc.D., Moderator of General Assembly, Presbyterian Church.

The number of annual passes given to Episcopal clergymen is 7; to Roman Catholic clergymen, 8; to Methodist Conference, 2; to Presbyterian Church, 1.

DOMINION VOTERS' LISTS—PAY TO SHERIFFS.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) asked:

Has the government made any provision to pay the sheriffs of New Brunswick for services performed by them in respect to the Dominion voters' lists?

If so, what scale of fees or remuneration has been laid down?

If not, why not?

Will the government this session make provision to pay the sheriffs of New Brunswick for their services in respect to the Dominion lists?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is not the intention of the government to make any provision for the services of sheriffs in respect to the Dominion voters' lists. The government is not aware of any services to be rendered by sheriffs in that respect.

I.C.R.—TENDERS FOR FENCING.

Mr. FOSTER (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

Were tenders invited last year for either the wire, the posts, or the erection of fencing along the Intercolonial Railway?

Who were the successful tenderers, and was the lowest tender in each case accepted?

Have tenders been called for, for the like purpose for the present year?

If so, who are the successful tenderers?

Is any fencing being done by agreement other than contract after tender, and if so, how much, by whom and at what rate?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. Yes, tenders were invited last year for the wire, the posts and the erection of fencing along the Intercolonial Railway. 2. The following are the names of the successful tenderers: Enoch Steeves, John Kelly, Raymond Rand, James Cooper, Strathy & Co. They were the lowest tenderers, taking into consideration the quality of the fencing and points of delivery. 3. Yes, tenders have been called for, for the like purpose for the present year. 4. The following are the names of the successful tenderers: The New Brunswick Company, the Maritime Company, the St. Lawrence Company, T. McAvity & Sons. 5. I am not aware of any fencing done by agreement other than contract.

I.C.R.—CLAIM OF G.T.R.

Mr. **FOSTER** (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

Has the Grand Trunk Railway Company any claim against the Intercolonial Railway in connection with freight divisions, which they are pressing; if so, what amount, and what is the nature of the claim?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). I am not aware of the Grand Trunk Railway Company having any claim against the Intercolonial Railway, in connection with freight divisions; unless it be an unadjusted division of freight rates to New England points by way of St. Lambert, which has been under discussion with the Grand Trunk and is about settled. The question has been whether the Grand Trunk Railway should have one dollar or seventy-five cents for the haul of twenty-one miles from St. Lambert to St. Johns, P.Q.

THE MANITOBA SCHOOLS.

Mr. **DUGAS** asked:

1. Is the Prime Minister aware that the Board of Public School Commissioners of Manitoba does not permit the Catholics to set up religious pictures, statues or other pious emblems in view of the children in their school-houses; and

2. That the said board refuses to allow religious women engaged in teaching to wear their religious costume and insignia in teaching the children in schools subsidized by the state, as it was stated by the chairman of the said board to the delegates of the Catholic laity of Winnipeg, at an interview during the month of April last?

3. Under these circumstances, does the Prime Minister consider that the settlement of November, 1896, and the subsequent provincial legislation of 1897, in relation to the schools, render full and complete justice to the Catholics of Manitoba?

Mr. **FOSTER**.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The Premier is not aware of any such regulation ever having been passed by the Board of Public School Commissioners of Manitoba. If such regulation exists, his attention was not called to it. 2. The Premier has read with care the report of the meeting which took place between the Roman Catholic ratepayers of the city of Winnipeg and the chairman and members of the Public School Board of that city and he affirms positively that the chairman never expressed the opinion attributed to him by the hon. member. 3. He has no reason to change the opinion which he has always held and expressed of the settlement of November, 1896, and of the subsequent legislation of 1897.

GOVERNMENT LOAN TO G.T.R.

Mr. **MORIN** asked:

1. When was the loan mentioned on page xx of Public Accounts made to the Grand Trunk Railway, what was the rate of interest thereon, and has any portion of either the principal or interest been paid to the government?

2. Is the interest due, as shown in Public Accounts, compounded?

3. What is included in the special account \$7,302.18 on same page?

4. Has the government any intention of applying to this debt the money it has agreed to pay for the rental of track and terminal privileges from the Grand Trunk Railway under the arrangement made in 1897 and 1898?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). 1. The loan mentioned on page xx. of the Public Accounts, made to the Grand Trunk Railway, \$15,142,633.34, represents that amount of debentures issued for Grand Trunk Railway before confederation and has stood unchanged at these figures since 1861. The rate of interest was 6 per cent per annum. No portion of either principal or interest has been paid to the government. 2. The interest due as shown in the Public Accounts, is not compounded. No interest has been charged against the company since confederation. 3. One half year's interest to 30th of June, 1866, on \$243,406.33 balance found to be due by Grand Trunk Railway Company on settlement of old differences. 4. By the Grand Trunk Railway Act, passed in 1884, the claims of the Dominion were made to rank after the common stock and securities of the company. The present government are, therefore, precluded from enforcing these claims until after the holders of the company's common stock have received a dividend. In the meantime the company are entitled to receive any money that may become due to it for any service rendered to the government.

I.C.R.—MR. EVARISTE TALBOT.

Mr. **CASGRAIN** asked:

1. Is Mr. Evariste Talbot still freight agent at Rivière du Loup, as stated in the minister's

answer, page 2038 of the unrevised edition of 'Hansard,' March 15, 1900?

2. Is it not a fact that he has been appointed to another position in the service of the Inter-colonial Railway?

3. If so, what position does he now occupy?

4. What is his salary?

5. When was he appointed to said last position?

6. Who was his predecessor in said position?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. Mr. Evariste Talbot is still freight agent at Rivière du Loup. 2 and 3. He is temporarily engaged on additional duties not inconsistent with those of freight agent. 4. His salary as freight agent is \$65 a month; but he may possibly be allowed extra for the additional work he is now engaged at. 5. He has no special appointment other than freight agent at Rivière du Loup. 6. Such being the case, he had no predecessor in any such employment, as there was and is no office. He had a predecessor as freight agent, but not in the extra employment.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HAY PURCHASES BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Mr. POWELL asked:

Was any hay purchased in the counties of Westmoreland or Albert by the agents of the British government for shipment to South Africa, since the commencement of the war with the Transvaal? If not, why not?

Were there any prejudices against hay grown in the said counties or either of them which prevented it being purchased by said agent?

If so, did the Canadian government take any, and what, steps to remove such prejudices?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In reply, I beg to say: 1. No hay was purchased by the Department of Agriculture direct from dealers in Westmoreland county; some was obtained from dealers in Albert county. 2. All hay purchased was to be in accordance with the requirements of the War Office, as to quality, and as to size and weight of bales. 3. Not to the knowledge of the department. 4. Answer implied in above. The War Office required that the hay sent, should be only timothy, with no other grass, and not more than 25 per cent clover. Some hay was offered from Westmoreland county which contained other grasses, and consequently could not be accepted.

GAS INSPECTOR AT CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

1. Has the hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue any report of work done by the inspector of gas for Charlottetown, P.E.I., during the months of February, March and April last? If so, what is the nature of the work performed?

2. How often is that officer required to report? When was the last report received?

3. Was the late inspector fully paid up? If not, why not?

4. Has the department any information complaining that little or no attention is paid to the work of inspection?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). In reply, I beg to say: 1. Yes, for February and March. Inspection of gas and gas meters. 2. Monthly for stamps issued, and for test of illuminating power, and quarterly for meter inspection. On April 5, report for the month of March. 3. The late inspector was paid up to the date of his removal from the service, viz.: February 1, 1900. 4. No, no complaint has been received.

GOVERNMENT STEAMER BRANT.

Mr. MARTIN asked:

1. For what service was the government steamer 'Brant' built? at what cost; by whom built; were any extras paid and to whom?

2. Are any bills for construction still unpaid; if so, what is the amount? Have all the labourers been paid?

3. If not, will the Minister of Marine and Fisheries Department, make inquiries as to the reason?

4. Does the steamer pay dock dues while lying at private dock; if so, how much, and why does she not lie at the government wharf?

5. Do the steamers 'Stanley' and 'Minto' lie at a private wharf; if so, why and what is the wharfage charged?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I beg to reply: 1. The steamer *Brant* was built as a lighthouse and buoy tender, and for similar work, at a cost for hull, boilers, machinery, &c., of \$18,579. Hull by John White, and machinery and boilers by Bruce Stewart & Co., \$916.78 for extras, were paid to Bruce Stewart & Co., for heating apparatus, castings for stern post (brass), and engine room supplies. 2. Yes; \$749.72, being the amount awarded made by the arbitrator between department and Contractor White. The department has received no information that any labourers have not been paid. 3. Answered by previous reply. 4. The arrangements for docking were made by the agent. No account has been received for wharfage. 5. The steamers *Stanley* and *Minto* lie at private wharf; it has been found more convenient when the steamers are on the route in fall and spring at Charlottetown for the delivery of freight. The wharfage charged is \$1 per day when the steamers are at the wharf.

SUBSIDY TO MUSGRAVE & CO.'S STEAMERS.

Mr. MILLS asked:

1. Has the government received a resolution from the King's County Board of Trade in Nova Scotia respecting a subsidy for Messrs. Musgrave & Co. line of steamers to London, G.B.?

Is the following a true copy of said resolution :

Whereas the policy of subsidizing steamship lines without government control has led to the serious loss and inconvenience of growers and shippers of apples from the Cornwallis and Annapolis valleys to the markets of Great Britain, by creating a transportation monopoly with insufficient service and excessive rates of freight ;

And whereas Messrs. Musgrave & Co., of Halifax, as agents for a responsible firm of London shippers, now offer to furnish a regular fortnightly service during the apple shipping season between Annapolis and London, G.B., on condition that the line be put on a similar footing in respect of subsidy as the Furness Line ;

And whereas the establishment of such a service would introduce competition and would help to do away with the monopoly, insufficient service and high rates of freight on apples of which the fruit-growers and shippers of the aforesaid valleys complain.

Therefore resolved, that the board recommends the application for a subsidy by the proposed line which will place it on a relatively even footing with the Furness Line to the favourable consideration of the government, and further recommends that as regards both lines, and all subsidized steamers that the government reserve and exercise the right to inspect vessels and supervise and control the rates charged.

RALPH S. EATON.

Secretary B. of T.

Board of Trade,
King's County, N.S.,
April 25, 1900.

2. Has application for said subsidy been made, and by whom ?
3. What other petitions, resolutions or communications have been received by the government asking for such a subsidy ?
4. Is the government aware that such a line of steamers as in the said petition referred to is of great importance to the fruit-growing districts of western Nova Scotia ?
5. Does the government intend to favourably consider the application for a subsidy to such a line ?
6. If not, why not ?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I beg to reply: 1. The foregoing is the same as what purports to be a copy of the resolution in question transmitted to the Department of Trade and Commerce. 2. Application has been made for a subsidy by Messrs. Musgrave & Co. 3. What purports to be a petition addressed to the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce, has been received from the inhabitants of the town of Annapolis Royal and the vicinity. It is typewritten, as are also the signatures. What purports also to be a copy of a resolution passed by the Middleton Board of Trade, of date April 6, 1900, has been received. *Inter alia* it is set forth that in the opinion of the board, if subsidy be granted, the government should retain a supervision of rates and ventilation on steamers. A copy also has been received of what purports to be a resolution passed by the 'Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association,' held at Wolfville, on April 9, ultimo, favouring the subsidizing of a line, of which Messrs. Musgrave & Co. are said to be agents, to run between Annapolis and

Mr. MILLS.

London, 4, 5, and 6. As the applications, resolutions, &c., only came to hand on the 4th, 5th and 7th instants, the government has had no opportunity of considering the same, and cannot, therefore, state what may be its intentions in regard thereto.

BINDER TWINE—KINGSTON PENITENTIARY.

Mr. CLANCY asked :

How many pounds of hemp or other fibre was purchased for the manufacture of binder twine at the Kingston Penitentiary between the 30th of June, 1899, and the 1st day of January ?

What was the quality and price of each class of hemp or other fibre so purchased ?

How much binder twine was shipped from the Kingston Penitentiary between the 30th of June, 1899, and the 1st day of January, 1900 ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Pending the sale of the output, it never has been the policy of the department to make public the price either of the raw material or the manufactured product. It would be against the public interest to do so. But, as regards quantity, between June 30, 1899, and January 1, 1900: October, 1899, 53,049 pounds of sisal was received; October, 1899, 55,178 pounds of New Zealand was received.

CLAIMS IN YUKON TERRITORY.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Will the government lay on the Table, copies of the order in council passed in 1898 and 1899 empowering the Minister of the Interior to dispose of any claims and portions of claims in the Yukon Territory reserved for the Crown in such manner as he may decide ? Also, will the government lay on the Table copy of an order in council authorizing him to issue leases ? Also, will the leases for hydraulic mining locations without competition to those applicants who can satisfy the commissioner of Yukon Territory that the applicant himself, or a person acting for him was upon, and actually prospected prior to December 3, 1898, the location applied for and upon compliance otherwise with the provisions of the said regulations.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply to the hon. gentleman, I beg to say: I will lay on the Table the orders in council referred to by Mr. Davin, on page 425 of 'Votes and Proceedings of the House of Commons,' No. 61, of May 7, 1900, were presented to parliament on February 23, 1900. Order in council of October 24, 1899, respecting issue of leases for hydraulic mining in locations prospected prior to December 3, 1898; and, order in council of October 27, 1899, respecting the disposal of fractional reserved claims in the Yukon Territory, as the minister may decide. Hereto attached, will also be found the following orders in council, bearing upon the mining regulations: 1. Order in council dated June 13, 1899, in relation to the granting of free miner's certificates, and amending the regulations by leaving out the words

'in person.' 2. Order in council of January 18, 1898, amending the regulations governing placer mining along the Yukon River, and its tributaries. 3. Order in council dated January 30, 1900, amending the said order in council of January 18, 1898. 4. Order in council, dated February 20, 1900, further amending the said order of January 18, 1898.

PRINTING PAPER.

Mr. PUTTEE asked :

Has the government given any attention to the matter of the scarcity and extremely high price of printing paper ?

Will the government take into consideration the wisdom and necessity of transferring printing paper from the dutiable to the free list ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). This matter has been under consideration of the government; but we are not in a position to make a statement concerning it to-day.

YUKON—CLEARANCE OF STEAMSHIP YUKONER.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou) asked :

1. Did the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman), on July 10, 1899, request D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, to refuse clearance of the ss. 'Yukoner' until the wages of the crew were paid ?

2. Did the collector of customs clear the ss. 'Yukoner' and afterwards, at the request of Mr. F. C. Wade, detain the said vessel ? If yes, what are the respective dates of clearance and detention ?

3. If yes, in what capacity did Mr. Davis act in clearing the said vessel, and in what capacity did he act in detaining her after clearance ?

4. If Mr. Davis detained the said vessel after clearance granted, under what statute and section thereof or under what authority did he act ?

5. Did Mr. Davis, in connection with the claim against said vessel, allow the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman) the sum of \$750 for legal services rendered to the master in the prosecution of the crew of the 'Yukoner,' notwithstanding the solicitors or the owners of the vessel had declined to prosecute under the facts alleged ?

6. Did the collector of customs at Dawson receive in his official capacity a cheque for \$5,099.45 from the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' after tying up the ship subsequent to her first clearance ?

7. Did the owners of the 'Yukoner' request an accounting and return of the said sum, or at all events that it be paid into the court of the district pending the determination by the proper court of the question in dispute between the vessel-owners and the master and mate of the said vessel ?

8. Did the Department of Customs obtain any opinion or advice on the subject from the Department of Justice ?

9. Did the Department of Customs on the 16th December, 1899, request Mr. Davis, 'in view of the opinion from the Department of Justice,' to arrange a settlement with the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' ?

10. Did the opinion from the Department of Justice, if any, refer to Mr. Davis' conduct as 'unwarranted and improper' ?

11. In reporting to the Department of Customs, did Mr. Davis say he was 'submitting to all these details 'without prejudice,' and did he comply with the advice of the Department of Justice as above in question 9 ?

12. After communicating the report of this public officer to the solicitors of the ss. 'Yukoner,' did the Customs Department of Canada write to the solicitors on April 21, 1900, and say : 'This information as received from Mr. Davis, together with a copy of further statements submitted by him in relation to this matter, has been furnished to you (without prejudice) ?

13. Does the Department of Customs, or the Crown represented by the Canadian government, admit that it is accountable to the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' for disposal of the proceeds of a cheque made payable to the collector of customs at Dawson for the sum of \$5,099.45 in connection with the ss. 'Yukoner' ?

14. Has the Department of Customs declined to account for the money in question ?

15. Has the Department of Customs left the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' to its remedy against the collector of customs personally in connection with the receipt of the said \$5,099.45 and repudiated all responsibility for his conduct in regard thereto ?

16. Has the hon. the Minister of Customs declined to produce for the information of parliament the opinion of the Department of Justice referred to in question 9 ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that it would be better for him to ask for a return, and copies of such documents in connection with this matter as it may be proper to call for, and to bring down, can be laid on the Table in a short time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have no objection to that, but the hon. gentleman will remember that some correspondence has passed between us, and some of these questions relate to documents which he has distinctly refused to bring down under any circumstances. The questions are based on documents in my possession, and I am entitled to have the hon. gentleman tell me which of those questions he will answer, and which he refuses to answer. The remedy he has suggested is absolutely useless, because by dropping these questions, and by the hon. gentleman refusing to bring down, for instance, the report of the Department of Justice, referred to, the question will never be answered. I would be perfectly willing that the hon. gentleman should answer such parts of this question as relate to documents that he does not intend to bring down.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I judge from what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) says now, that he is in possession of such papers—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Some of them—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS—such papers as I felt it would be proper to bring

down. I do not understand why, if I am not bringing down the papers, he should ask the question.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will explain. I have the bulk of these papers. The Marine Department has very kindly given me access to certain public documents. But, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson), having the same request made to him as was made to the Department of Marine, has seen fit to refuse to give access to such papers I desire. Therefore, I am driven to ask the hon. gentleman questions based on the papers in my possession, which, obviously, refers to papers that he withholds. I think I am entitled to a definite answer. After that, I can discuss his answer. I am entitled to know how much information he will give in regard to questions, the papers concerning which he refuses to bring down. I think that if the question stands, understanding my object as I have explained it, he will see that he can give some answers to the different subsections of that question without much trouble. I would suggest that the question stand that the hon. gentleman may consider his answer.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not wish to enter into a discussion of the question, for that would be improper at this time. The questions asked would necessarily entail a lot of explanation, and to give answers without the qualification that the papers in the case would disclose, I think the hon. gentleman will admit, would not be fair. As the hon. gentleman is aware, as I judge from what he says, the matter is still in controversy and may be referred to the courts; and I must really express a little surprise, if he knows this, that he should seek, from his position in the House, to draw out information that should not be given at this time. Though I declined the request that he made personally to see the papers, I did so in as courteous a way as I could. I thought that as a former minister of the Crown, and especially as an ex-Minister of Justice, he would know that it was not proper that I should yield to his request. Bourinot, in his work on 'Parliamentary Procedure and Practice,' at page 338, says:

As a rule the opinions of the law officers of the Crown are held to be private communications when given for the guidance of ministers, and may be properly refused by the government.

The hon. gentleman will see that as the matter is not concluded and may go to the courts, he should not ask for information that may be used to the prejudice of any one, possibly to the prejudice of the Crown, if an action should be taken against the Crown. I have no desire to withhold any papers that would explain the question, but, as one who has administered a department, and who has been a Minister of Justice, he will know that I have not sought

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to withhold any questions that he might properly ask.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I can only say, in regard to the hon. gentleman's reference to this case as one still unsettled, that I have no knowledge of the matter that leads me to believe that it is in the hands of the courts, or is to go before the courts. If it has anything to do with litigation, I have nothing to do with that litigation. The only interest I have is that papers have been presented to me as a member of parliament; and as I proposed to call the attention of parliament to the extraordinary conduct of the hon. gentleman's department and his own position, before doing so, it seemed proper that I should seek to obtain from him answers to the questions that are suggested by official papers placed in my possession. I have received papers from the department of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, where there was not the slightest desire to withhold a single document. So far as the Department of Justice is concerned, and the hon. gentleman's reference to my own experience, I can tell him that when I was a member of the government—and I was a member of the government for some time and a Minister of Justice for some time—I cannot recollect having withheld, or the government withholding, the opinion of the Department of Justice to another department, except in the case of the exercise of the prerogative of mercy and matters of that kind which were considered confidential. I can give him many instances where the present leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), when leader of the opposition, and where, I think, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson), himself in opposition, have asked of the government of which I was a member, reports including the reports of the Department of Justice, and these requests have been invariably complied with. But, I would press the suggestion I made, which I made in all candour. Here are questions which I ask for the purpose of discussion; I wish the hon. gentleman to take the responsibility of saying: I decline to give this information. I am not pressing it for any other purpose. Having the Department of Justice report, which he has refused me, he can see how far he will answer these questions.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) had better take the course I suggest and make a motion for a return. There will be no delay—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I decline to do that. I have the papers—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If a return is moved for, the papers will be brought down, so far as the department feel they are justified in bringing them

down. The hon. gentleman will then be able to say whether he has received all the information he wishes or not. I am told the Department of Marine and Fisheries has not given the hon. gentleman all the papers in the matter. That information does not come from the minister, but from another source. I have no desire to withhold anything except what I think should not be made public at the present time; and, so far as I am individually concerned, I have nothing to hide.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I say a word in order to save time?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think it in the interest of the House that I should say a word. By declining to answer these questions, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) drives me to a position I do not want to take—he makes it necessary to have two discussions, one as to withholding the papers, and the other as to the facts disclosed in the papers I have received from the Department of Marine and Fisheries. At this period of the session, this will not be desirable. I should be driven to read a vast number of documents, and to comment on the refusal of the Minister of Customs. A great deal of time will be saved to the hon. gentleman and myself and the House if these questions are answered. They are capable of being answered, Yes or No, every one of them. If the hon. gentleman is not ready to answer the questions, I ask that they be allowed to stand.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) has already answered the question, declining—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But, Mr. Speaker, he—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am answering Mr. Speaker. Surely that will not disturb any hon. gentleman. The hon. minister asks that the question be dropped. I decline to agree to that. He has not answered the question, and until it is answered some way or other, I have a right to press it.

Mr. SPEAKER. But, if he declines to answer the question, I do not know—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But, he has not declined; he has suggested that I should make a motion for a return. I will read the question. I claim the right to ask my question, and we will see what the answer of the Minister of Customs is. I claim the right to ask my question and receive an answer from the Minister of Customs.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman has already received an answer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I asked question 33 in that form and the hon. gentleman said he would suggest to me that I should make a motion, but I received no answer.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is out of order in discussing it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If I am out of order I will conclude with a motion in order that I may discuss this question. I do not propose to be snubbed out. The different paragraphs will give us some reason for this extraordinary action on the part of the Minister of Customs.

The PRIME MINISTER. Order. The hon. gentleman has made his question and has received his answer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have received no answer.

The PRIME MINISTER. I raised the point of order. The hon. gentleman put his question in the usual form, which is: 'I asked question number so and so, which stands in my name.' He might have read it, but he selected to put it in the form which has lately become usual, and he has received his answer. The Minister of Customs says: I cannot answer this, let him move for the papers. The hon. gentleman declines to do that. But he has received his answer.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would ask my right hon. friend if he thinks the statement that he has made, assuming the question to be exactly as he states it, precludes any hon. member from moving the adjournment of the House and discussing this question on the motion?

The PRIME MINISTER. I do decidedly think so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I claim that it is strictly in order for an hon. member to move the adjournment of the House and to discuss this question, which is one of the greatest possible importance.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Understanding that the hon. gentleman took the extraordinary position that after having suggested to me a course that I did not adopt, my mouth should be closed from reading the question, I propose to put myself in order by moving the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing the action of the Minister of Customs, supported as he is by the government, in attempting to withhold information in regard to his own department, information which would enable this House to judge as to the manner in which he discharges the responsibilities which devolve upon him. When the House understands the nature of these questions which would be disclosed by reading them, I think there will be a

suspicion not creditable to the Minister of Customs in consequence of his disinclination to give a full answer. These questions largely refer to matters that will not be explained by any papers laid on the Table of the House, they relate to very important facts which, if answered by the Minister of Customs, would be most material in the consideration of his conduct. By sheltering himself behind a return, the House will see that he will escape from having those important facts laid before the House at all. I grant that they are largely matters that can be inferred, but not explicitly brought out within the papers within reach. But we do not want mere inferences, it would be more satisfactory to have the facts, and I was willing to take them from the official head of the Customs Department. Those questions on their face, suggest an unparalleled state of things. The hon. gentleman knows that is one reason why he is so delicate in regard to answering these questions. He has practically two departments of the government against him. He knows that the Justice Department never approved of his course or of the course his officials adopted in this matter. He knows that the papers within reach and outside of the Department of Customs altogether, refer to a document, opinion or letter of the Department of Justice which characterizes the conduct of his officer, whom he is attempting to shield, as 'high-handed and improper.'

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. How does the hon. gentleman know that?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. By the statement of this officer, D. W. Davis, collector of customs, who refers to Mr. Newcombe's reference to his conduct as being high-handed and improper. That is the document I wanted in full. I did not wish to have the mere reference of the hon. gentleman's officer to this document, and this is the document the hon. gentleman positively declines to give. It is in regard to that he has been searching for precedents; it is in regard to that he has Sir John Bourinot's book on his desk; it is in regard to that he has endeavoured to shelter himself by these technical rules that have been honoured more in the breach than in the observance in this House; it is in regard to that the hon. gentleman wants to keep back information; it is in regard to that he has declined to give a full and frank statement of the facts which an answer to these questions in No. 33 would bring out. But the facts of the case are extraordinary. I could not understand any other opinion coming from the Department of Justice than the one that was put before Mr. D. W. Davis, when the Minister of Customs was not altogether influenced by the considerations that now apparently influence him. He was asked, in compliance with the advice of the De-

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partment of Justice, to account for his conduct, to disgorge the money that he had taken out of the hands of a company doing business in the Yukon, instead of which he handed it over to Mr. F. C. Wade, of exceptional notoriety, the gentleman who holds so many government offices, and in connection with those offices is able to obtain extraordinary treatment for his clients every time he has to deal with the government. A public company, owning the steamer *Yukoner*, an English company, incorporated in London, sends that ship into Canadian waters. The law is violated time and again, according to the information that I have. The owners of the ship are wronged by Mr. D. W. Davis, and Mr. F. C. Wade is benefited by \$750 of hard cash actually wrung out of that company and put into the pockets of Mr. F. C. Wade. All that is disclosed by the papers within reach. When these London capitalists seek the protection of the Canadian government against an officer of the Canadian government, whose action has been reported upon by the Department of Justice as high-handed and improper, and that department is at first induced to call on Mr. Davis to account for his conduct and to act according to the advice of the Department of Justice and settle with the parties who are complaining of this wrong and extortion, the hon. gentleman's officer practically writes back to him and tells him that he will do nothing of the kind, he sets at defiance both the Department of Justice and the Department of Customs. It is an unheard-of thing. He writes this report in answer to the instructions of the department and it is written without prejudice—without prejudice, Mr. Speaker. He is deigning to do this, he is really not bound to do it, but he is writing back to the department without prejudice because I, D. W. Davis, propose to accept all this responsibility; let this company go into court and sue me. I acted personally; I did not act as collector of customs. Why are you sending me letters from the Department of Justice, and why are you sending me letters as the head of my department in regard to these thousands of dollars I have in my hands and which went into the hands of F. C. Wade? Let these people come here and engage in litigation in this Yukon territory; let them hale me before the courts, personally, and I will answer them. I write you this as a matter of favour; I write it without prejudice. Down comes the hon. Minister of Customs, after this rough handling from the collector, and actually sends these papers to the parties interested, who have been wronged, and asks them to remember that these papers are being communicated to them without prejudice. The hon. gentleman thinks it enough to say that they may have their remedy in the court.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tup-

per) will lay the papers he is quoting from on the Table after he is through?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I intend to deal with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) at arm's length.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Certainly, when he is quoting from documents, he will lay them on the Table?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If I can get my hands on them; probably, I will be able before I get through, to send for them and I will read them. But, as I said, I am dealing with the hon. gentleman at arm's length. I am doing this without prejudice, to use the hon. gentleman's words. I am speaking from recollection; I am not speaking of all this in a positive way after the hon. gentleman has refused to give me any official information. After he has driven me to the information I have and driven me to the information I have so far as I can recollect it, I have to give it as far as I can, and I am giving it tolerably well. I was mentioning something of the history of this extraordinary case and the more extraordinary conduct of the hon. Minister of Customs. I believe there is a sense of shame in the hon. gentleman in regard to this. I believe it is an excuse for his conduct to-day, that, instead of answering frankly and fairly these questions, or, when he reached one of them, saying that he did not consider it in the public interest that he should answer it, he has attempted to shirk his responsibility. I think, perhaps, after all, that it does him credit that he can see the extraordinary position in which he is placed. Shortly put, these are the extraordinary facts: An officer of his department at Dawson City, who is the collector of customs, is clothed there, also, with the authority and powers of shipping officer. Claims were made against a ship that was then in port of a large amount of money by the crew and the master of the ship against the owners and against the ship. There is no Admiralty Court at that place, and the claims were presented to the collector of customs, who is an officer of this government, whether a customs collector, or a shipping officer, is wholly immaterial. After a discussion with the solicitors representing the owners of the ship, Messrs. White & McCaul, the collector came to the conclusion that it was right to clear the ship, and she was cleared from the port of Dawson. After that occurred, Mr. F. C. Wade appeared on the scene—either before or after—and invoked the good offices of the collector of customs. He could do nothing as to the claim, whether it was good or bad, against that ship so far as arresting or detaining the ship was concerned by an admiralty warrant as there was no Admiralty Court in the district. His only remedy against the owners of the ship was to proceed in a court of law. The condition

of the law was not a matter of his responsibility, but, the remedy for these parties was, as I have stated, wholly outside of the admiralty jurisdiction and the admiralty process. But, Mr. Wade and Mr. Davis have appeared together in several capacities on occasions other than this, and Mr. Wade was able to induce that officer to violate his duty and to adopt a course of conduct that the Department of Justice characterized in a communication sent by it to the Department of Customs, and transmitted by the Department of Customs to the collector at Dawson, as high-handed and improper. He was induced to violate his duty, and without authority or warrant, to arrest or detain that ship again after having cleared the ship as collector of customs, to put officers on board of the ship to detain her, to proceed to act as an arbitrator between the parties to decide upon the merits of these claims, and finally to pay over a large sum of money, some \$5,000 odd, I think, which had been put into his hands as collector of customs, which he had been forbidden to pay by the parties who had put it into his hands, saying that they had put it in under coercion and by force of the necessity of the case in order to get their ship out of the port, and who asked him to keep the money in his hands as collector until they could put the facts before the head of the department at Ottawa, or until they could get justice in the regular way in a court of law. But, having succeeded in furthering Mr. Wade's wishes, the collector arbitrarily proceeded, in the face of the protest and behind the backs of the owners of the ship, to hear Mr. Wade, to hear his clients, and to award this money for wages in settlement of their claim, and then, on the top of it, he took the balance of \$750 over the wages, for Mr. Wade's fees, that would not have been allowed in any court of law if the matter had ever gone through, as any lawyer in this House will know, and handed that over to Mr. Wade. When these people complained of this state of affairs, and this state of facts, which is practically admitted, as these papers will show, then they appealed to the responsible head, to the man who should either vindicate his officer or suffer with him, when he stands by him in committing a wrong, the hon. Minister of Customs, with the advice of the Department of Justice, and with practically the same advice, as I shall show, from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, is content to take this gentleman's answer, away back from Dawson, that, as he assumes personal responsibility in this matter, these parties must look, not to the Department of Customs for their remedy, but that they must look to him personally for their remedy. And he tells them to go to Dawson, and in that region settle the question of right or wrong. It is the most extraordinary case as between an officer of a department and the head of a department that I have ever

heard of. It is, I think, without precedent, even since 1896, and I am certain it is without precedent anterior to that date. The hon. gentleman was afraid to answer this question :

Did the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman), on July 10, 1899, request D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, to refuse clearance of the ss. 'Yukoner' until the wages of the crew were paid ?

In the first place, so far as that goes, the papers disclose that that was the fact, and the question could have been answered 'yes.' It was necessary to put the question in order that the House might understand what a succinct statement of the facts would imply. In connection with that request, which was most improper, it put the collector to work, and the collector went at Mr. Wade's bidding to bring the influence and weight of his office to bear in a matter in which he had no concern whatever. After listening to the solicitors of the owners for a while, and being clearly advised that he was improperly interfering in this matter, he did clear the ship.

2. Did the collector of customs clear the ss. 'Yukoner' and afterwards, at the request of Mr. F. C. Wade, detain the said vessel? If yes, what are the respective dates of clearance and detention?

Mark you, Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember in connection with the consideration of this case, that while to-day the Minister of Customs is satisfied with Mr. Davis's statement, that he acted in this matter personally, I have no doubt whatever, that the correct answer to that question would be that it was as collector of customs that Mr. Davis, after the clearance, did detain that vessel. The minister surely would not pretend that his officers would dare use their authority as collectors of customs in that manner, and afterwards that he should be permitted to say to the parties aggrieved: Although our officer, as collector, did detain your vessel, he now tells us he did it in a personal capacity, and you are referred to him; you can obtain no redress at the hands of his employers, nor will we meddle in the matter. That, surely would not be the attitude of any well advised department of government. It is only but reasonable that the Minister of Customs would take the responsibility with the official information before him of saying in what capacity this officer acted, after he had once cleared the vessel, and again put officers of the law on board to benefit Mr. F. C. Wade personally, to put \$750 into his pocket, that he could have got in no other form, and to pay the claims that Mr. Wade's clients were pressing against that vessel.

3. If yes, in what capacity did Mr. Davis act in clearing the said vessel, and in what capacity did he act in detaining her after clearance?

That is a matter that should be cleared up, wholly regardless of what the company may

be advised it shall do. Speaking personally, I do not know whether this company intend to go to law, whether they intend to file a petition of right, or whether they intend to accept the invitation, and sue Mr. Davis, away up in the Yukon. That cannot contribute anything to the discussion in this parliament. The question that concerns the House, is the administration of the Customs Department, and whether the House approves of the ratification by the minister of this extraordinary conduct on the part of a subordinate, who is already condemned by the Department of Justice, as we shall see.

4. If Mr. Davis detained the said vessel after clearance granted, under what statute and section thereof or under what authority did he act ?

There is the pinch. There is the reason why the opinion of the Department of Justice is withheld. The Department of Justice referred to this officer's conduct as high-handed and improper, and the reason it did so is, that there is no statute, and no authority for the conduct of that officer in holding that vessel under the circumstances. The Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), was ashamed to stand up here and admit, after the letters he sent to that company, that his officer, though he acted without authority, was still personally responsible.

5. Did Mr. Davis, in connection with the claim against said vessel, allow the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman) the sum of \$750 for legal services rendered to the master in the prosecution of the crew of the 'Yukoner,' notwithstanding the solicitors or the owners of the vessel had declined to prosecute under the facts alleged?

I was entitled in every sense, and this parliament was entitled to an answer to that question.

6. Did the collector of customs at Dawson receive in his official capacity a cheque for \$5,099.45 from the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' after tying up the ship subsequent to her first clearance?

That was brought about in this way, and it indicates the extraordinary powers that are exercised by the officers of the government in the Yukon to their own advantage, and for their own purposes. For instance, by reason of Mr. Wade's influence with the collector of customs, the owners were put in the hands of this officer, who paid no regard to the law whatever, and they were compelled to give the collector a cheque for that large sum of money, rather than have their vessel detained in consequence of which they might possibly lose a great deal more. The owners were coerced by this Mr. Davis, backed as he was and aided and abetted by the other official of the government, Mr. Wade, acting also personally, and for his own benefit; and the owners for their own protection, made that cheque, as I am informed, payable to this man as collector of customs. I have not got the cheque, and

that is the reason of the question. This English company thought they would be safe in doing that. They thought that although this man was at a long distance from the central authority, yet he was an officer of the Canadian government, and if they paid \$5,000 over to him as collector, they thought they could enforce the good offices of his superiors, and that this man could do them no wrong, unless the Minister of Customs thought there was no justice in their case, and that the officer was right. Now, the papers would not show how that cheque was payable in the ordinary course, but whether the minister brought down the cheque or not, there is an important question put, and I am entitled to a distinct answer to it.

7. Did the owners of the 'Yukoner' request an accounting and return of the said sum, or at all events that it be paid into the court of the district, pending the determination by the proper court of the question in dispute between the vessel owners and the master and mate of the said vessel?

If the answer would be, as I suppose, that this was paid by cheque to the collector of customs, the House will see at once how important the next question becomes, because surely no member on either side of any experience in government matters, will say, that money paid under such circumstances to a government officer does not entitle the person paying, to an accounting by that government officer. No one will deny that his superiors should see that he does render an account, and not drive the company to a personal remedy against the government officer, as an individual.

8. Did the Department of Customs obtain any opinion or advice on the subject from the Department of Justice?

It is quite clear that they did. The papers in my possession show it. My correspondence with the Minister of Customs shows that he will not produce that report. Well, that should be brought in some proper way before this House. It should not be left to me to make these statements in debate. I have the right, at any rate it has been the usual practice, to have all these preliminary facts settled officially; and the official way to settle them is by putting a question across the floor of the House in this manner, and getting the official and formal answer, instead of reading correspondence that may have passed between the minister and any member of the House. The next question is:

9. Did the Department of Customs on December 16, 1899, request Mr. Davis, 'in view of the opinion from the Department of Justice,' to arrange a settlement with the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner.'

Instead of being told to wait for papers to come down some day, and to look over them at my leisure, I was entitled to the only answer that could have been given to that question, an answer in the affirmative.

And yet, mark you, Mr. Speaker, this is the position from which the hon. gentleman shrinks, after having ordered his officer to follow the opinion of the Department of Justice in regard to this large sum of money, \$5,000 odd, which he obtained, in his official capacity, from one of the public, whether an Englishman or a Canadian. Having told his officer to follow the advice of the Department of Justice, the department is now backing up this man in leaving these parties, who come with their grievance and with an admitted state of facts, to take their remedy against Mr. Davis personally, saying: 'We have been only asking these questions of him and sending the answers to your solicitors without prejudice.' The next question is:

10. Did the opinion from the Department of Justice, if any, refer to Mr. Davis's conduct as 'high-handed and improper'?

The hon. gentleman jumped when I referred to that, and said: 'Where did you get that?' My answer is, from Mr. Davis's declaration as to that part of the opinion of the Department of Justice. Perhaps that is the most important part. It is the most important part from the point of view of these people who claim that they have been wronged by an officer of the Department of Justice, and cannot obtain the good offices of that department to right their wrong.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). What is Mr. Davis's reply to that?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Davis's reply I will give shortly, and I will venture to say that any one who hears it read will understand that it was not Mr. Davis's reply, but the reply of Mr. F. C. Wade, who was using the collector from start to finish, and who made \$750 in the transaction. But, it is in a reply signed by Mr. Davis, in which he impertinently and most offensively deals with the opinion of the Department of Justice. The next question is:

11. In reporting to the Department of Customs, did Mr. Davis say he was 'submitting to all these details without prejudice,' and did he comply with the advice of the Department of Justice as above in question 9?

I am entitled to a definite statement in reply to these questions. There are occasions, hon. gentlemen will remember, where this procedure is not followed, when a member is chided because he did not obtain the correct and official statement before coming to any conclusion; and now, when I attempt to obtain official information, which could have been given in a very short time, and which would have employed the clerks of the department but a short time to prepare it, the hon. gentleman endeavours to withhold the information, and to drive me to a course that would not secure the answers to the question. The next question is:

12. After communicating the report of this public officer to the solicitors of the ss. 'Yu-

kcner,' did the Customs Department of Canada write to the solicitors, on April 21, 1900, and say: 'This information as received from Mr. Davis, together with a copy of further statements submitted by him in relation to this matter, has been furnished to you (without prejudice)?'

A technical position, to say the least of it—a most extraordinary and disgraceful position from the point of view of a government. Just fancy any department of government in England communicating with a party claiming to have a grievance, and handing out information in regard to the manner in which a public officer got \$5,000 odd, and saying to the party who is asking to have his grievance adjusted: 'There are the facts we give in regard to our public officer, but do not use them against us or against him, but go to law with him. We give you the information *sub rosa*, or relying on your honour not to take advantage of it either by petition or right against the Crown or by seeking your remedy against the officer.' I venture to say that there is not such a letter from any other department of the government to private parties seeking to have a grievance of that character redressed. Why, every bit of that information we are entitled to in this House. Every bit of that information the Minister of Customs has said to-day he would lay before parliament. Then, why did the department endeavour to protect this officer or to protect themselves in this manner? The Minister of Customs thought that by doing all this he could avoid this question being considered, or his conduct or that of his department being considered: he thought he could avoid the censure of another department, the Department of Justice—could avoid the contrast between the Department of Marine and the Department of Customs. I will say for the Department of Marine, that as far as the correspondence has gone, that department, as is usually the case in connection with its part of the administration of the fishing laws, has acted as a department should. It had nothing to conceal. There was one document as to which I did not quarrel with the minister when he said that instead of it being a report, as I supposed it was, it was a memorandum from an officer to the head of the department, and he declined to bring it down, for I had no order of the House directing him to lay it on the Table. But, the importance of that is a matter of no concern to the hon. minister. The fact is, that from the documents that do emanate from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, there is not, perhaps, equal condemnation, but there is condemnation of the conclusion at which the Department of Customs arrived.

13. Does the Department of Customs, or the Crown, represented by the Canadian government, admit that it is accountable to the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' for disposal of the proceeds of a cheque made payable to the collector

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of customs at Dawson for the sum of \$5,099.45 in connection with the ss. 'Yukoner'?

And we have lived in Canada to see the day when a member of parliament, asking a question of that kind, is told that the Minister of Customs declines to answer. All I ask is for the Crown to let the claimant know what he has to meet in case he should file a petition of right and the fact be granted and should proceed in law against the Crown. Is the Crown going to gainsay his liability? The Minister of Customs wants to preserve his recourse without prejudice and shelters himself by saying that he declines to answer. The papers he will bring down will not answer that question definitely, and the only way to obtain the information, as he suggests, is to try a suit with him or his officer. By question 14. I ask:

Has the Department of Customs declined to account for the money in question?

And by question 15:

15. Has the Department of Customs left the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' to its remedy against the collector of customs personally in connection with the receipt of the said \$5,099.45 and repudiated all responsibility for his conduct in regard thereto?

Surely it was only right that the issue should be defined in connection with this matter. Then I asked:

16. Has the hon. the Minister of Customs declined to produce for the information of parliament the opinion of the Department of Justice referred to in question 9?

Before this debate concludes on the motion for adjournment, it will be quite evident to every one, whether the Minister of Customs takes part in it or not, whether any one follows me or not, that these questions should have been answered without any loss of time, that they are reasonable questions from any point of view, whether this man has a good or a bad claim, and that when a member of the House, as I have done, intimates to the minister that he deems it his duty to bring the subject up in the House, so as to put himself properly before the House, by asking officially for the information which had been refused to him privately, the only proper course for the Minister of Customs to take was to stand up manfully in his place and answer the questions one way or the other.

I can refer to several cases in which all the papers were brought down in connection with claims against the government, whether the government admitted or denied its liability. I have revised a great many such cases which came up in the session of 1891, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in opposition, and also in 1893, and could not find one in which, with regard to a claim on the part of an individual against the Crown, correspondence had taken place,

the Crown refused to disclose the fullest information. So that this case seems to stand alone.

In order that the hon. minister may see that I am not unreasonable in my desire to have these questions answered, I make this proposition to him, that I will disclose to him what he is so anxious to ascertain, namely, the papers I have in my possession. If the hon. gentleman still persists in his extraordinary attitude, I will, by way of heaping coals of fire on his head, let him know how much information I have on this subject. Then, on another occasion, we will discuss the conduct of the government as indicated by such papers as they could not prevent falling into the hands of a member of this House. On the 19th August, 1899, the following letter was written to Major F. Gourdeau, Deputy Minister of Marine, Ottawa :

Re ss. 'Yukoner.'

Dear Sir,—On behalf of our clients, the Trading and Exploring Company, the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner,' we beg to present the following facts to your department, by way of complaint against Mr. D. W. Davis, the collector and shipping master at Dawson, in the Yukon.

The matter is fairly urgent, and the facts plain and, we think, undisputed.

In the third week of July last, the Trading and Exploring Company engaged a crew and advertised the 'Yukoner' to sail from Dawson for St. Michael's, Alaska, on Saturday, July 22. Previously the owners had interviewed Collector and Shipping Master D. W. Davis in order to make the necessary outward entry and procure the necessary clearance. Mr. Davis informed our clients that the ex-captain of the steamer, E. S. Morine, had lodged a claim against the vessel for \$3,400, and that the ex-mate, D. H. Volkner, had similarly claimed \$1,444—making a total of \$4,844. The owners disputed these claims, admitting only \$1,400 as being due to the ex-captain, and somewhat less than \$500 as being due to the ex-mate. The owners called Mr. Davis's attention to the fact that he had no authority to prevent the vessel from clearing on account of any such claims filed with him; for that, if the ex-captain and ex-mate had any lien on the vessel for their wages, their proper course was to commence an action in rem, in which case the owners would be entitled to give security and obtain the release of the 'Yukoner'; or the claimants might proceed in an action in the court of the territory in the ordinary way. However, rather than have any difficulty about the matter, the owners deposited \$3,500 in cash with Mr. Davis (being more than double the amount the owners admitted to be due), and also gave Mr. Davis the company's bond for \$5,000 to indemnify him against any claims which might be made against him by reason of his clearing the vessel. The owners then told Mr. Davis that the claimants might proceed to sue in the usual way. Mr. Davis then gave the owners a receipt to the effect that the \$3,500 was held by him to answer any judgment which might be recovered by Morine and Volkner against the company in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Mr. Davis appeared quite satisfied; and, since everything else was regular, granted and issued a clearance for the 'Yukoner.'

On the 22nd ult., however, as the vessel was about to sail, Mr. Davis boarded the 'Yukoner' with a constable of the North-west Mounted Police, and stated to the company's manager, Mr. Wood, that he could not let the vessel sail, notwithstanding the clearance given. Asked for his reason, Mr. Davis replied that the ex-captain and mate claimed that they had a lien on the vessel, and that the \$3,500 was not sufficient to cover their claims; adding that he had given the clearance in mistake. Mr. Davis then required the owners to give up the clearance which he had already issued; or, failing their so doing, he would place a constable in charge of the 'Yukoner.' The owners declined to give up the clearance, denying that there was any mistake in the matter, and urging that the money already deposited with him was there to answer any judgment that might be recovered. Mr. Davis accordingly placed a constable in charge, and the vessel was tied up.

Later in the day, Mr. McCaul, Q.C., representing the vessel-owners, attended with Mr. Davis at the office of Mr. Wade (Crown prosecutor), who was acting for the claimants, Morine & Volkner, when the matter was again further discussed.

That is, they all had to proceed not to the office of the officer of the government, but to the office of the Crown prosecutor who was representing private parties, who ultimately were benefited by the illegal, the 'high-handed and improper conduct,' to use the language of the Department of Justice, of the collector of customs.

Mr. BRITTON. Was there any libel or seizure?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There was no process of law whatever. And when I asked the Minister of Customs to-day under authority of what statute this was being done, he claimed that he had the right—and stands to it to refuse the information. There is no return that he can bring down that would support him. The only return that he could give that would throw light upon it, is the opinion of the Department of Justice, which he declines to bring down. Fortunately, a little of that happens to be included in the letter of Mr. Davis :

Mr. McCaul, on behalf of the company, then offered to deposit with Mr. Davis the full amount claimed, together with an additional \$1,000 to cover any costs which the claimants might incur, the money to be held by Mr. Davis as security for any judgment that the claimants might obtain in a court of competent jurisdiction.

That was a pretty fair offer, as, I think, the hon. gentleman will see.

Mr. Wade claimed that they had a lien upon the ship and intended to enforce it, and that they had a right to detain the ship until they were paid.

The Minister of Customs will be unable to produce the report of the Department of Justice to that effect, or even to obtain the assistance of the Solicitor General in this House as a responsible law officer of the Crown to maintain any such position :

The company, on the other hand, submitted that the remedy the ex-captain and mate had, in respect to their alleged claims, was to proceed to an action 'in rem,' a right which is usually enforced by the arrest of the ship, in which case the company could procure the release of the vessel by giving security in the usual way and leaving the questions in dispute between the parties to be settled by the courts in due course. Mr. Wade desired that Mr. Davis should decide the matter; but the solicitors for the company pointed out that Mr. Davis had no jurisdiction, that at most he could only act as arbitrator, by consent, and that the company declined to submit the important questions of law and fact involved in the dispute between the parties to Mr. Davis for settlement. The matter thus stood over, the vessel being meanwhile tied up over Sunday, the 23rd ult., in charge of a constable.

Those who have followed the history of that locality will understand how important every day was to the company. The season is a limited one, and besides, there has been keen competition, unfair and illegal competition, against British bottoms by reason of the fraudulent transfers of American vessels to British registry in that district:

On Monday, the 24th ult., there was another futile discussion before Mr. Davis, who refused to do anything unless the owners would submit the dispute to his determination. Commissioner Ogilvie was then applied to, and asked to interfere; but Mr. Ogilvie could find no authority to enable him to interpose in the matter; Mr. Wade, as counsel for Collector Davis taking the position that Mr. Davis's powers were statutory, and could not be interfered with by Commissioner Ogilvie—

This was the conduct of this convenient gentleman, to whom I have the right to refer as the Pooch-Bah of that district, holding all these various offices. He appeared on this occasion, as the House will see, and as the papers show, as counsel for Mr. Davis, this self-constituted arbiter, in the capacity of their Crown officer. At the same time, Mr. F. C. Wade acts for private parties who are going to submit to the arbitration on decision of the collector of customs, a brother official. Mr. Wade, as counsel for Collector Davis, after having finished all he had to say as solicitor and counsel for these parties claiming against the ship—

—taking the position that Mr. Davis's powers were statutory and could not be interfered with by Commissioner Ogilvie, by virtue of any order in council, or as inspector of customs.

Because Mr. Ogilvie, the House will remember, was appointed inspector of customs, and I think the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) will agree with me—though on that point I am not at all sure—that Mr. Ogilvie had authority over Mr. Davis as inspector of customs, and that all his inspectors of customs exercise at different times very great authority over the customs officers in the various ports to which they go to inquire into or adjust matters:

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The vessel consequently remained tied up until Tuesday, the 25th ult.

As matters were now getting desperate, Mr. Wood, the manager of the owners, the Trading and Exploring Company, pressed Mr. Davis for a release of the vessel, informing him that the detention of the 'Yukoner' was costing the company about \$650 a day, and that he was most anxious to get down the river to bring up a barge with three or four hundred tons of the company's goods aboard, of the value of about \$60,000, and that the company could not get the same up the river by another steamer at a less expense than \$19,000. Mr. Davis remained obdurate; but, under stress of circumstances and in order to secure the release of the vessel, being unable to communicate with Ottawa, the company's solicitor ultimately deposited with Mr. Davis, on the 26th ult., the sum of \$5,099.45, as required, signing at the same time the following letter to Mr. Davis:

Copy.

Dawson, July 26, 1899.

To the Collector of Customs,
Dawson, Y.T.

Re 'Yukoner.'

Dear Sir,—As our clients, the Trading and Exploring Company, are very anxious to get their steamer out (her detention costs \$650 per diem), we hereby agree—on condition that you at once withdraw the officer you have placed in charge of the vessel and permit her to sail—to deposit with you the full amount of the respective claims of E. S. Morine and D. H. Volkner; and agree to submit the amount of their claims against the ship to your determination—the money in your hands to be applied in payment of the amounts found due by you.

Yours truly,

WHITE & McCAUL.

Mr. Davis accordingly, on receipt by him of the \$5,099.45, withdrew the constable on the 26th ultimo, and the vessel sailed for St. Michaels.

The company claimed that they had been simply coerced into complying with the demand, by which Mr. Davis forced himself upon the company as a court to determine very important questions both of law and fact. The company's solicitors accordingly, the same day, wrote and delivered to Mr. Davis the following letter, having previously ascertained from Mr. Davis that he had not parted with any of the money deposited with him. The following is a copy of the company's letter of protest against Mr. Davis assuming jurisdiction to determine the question in dispute, and against his paying over any of the money deposited with him:

Copy.

Dawson, Y.T., July 26, 1899.

D. W. Davis, Esq.,

Collector of Customs, Dawson, Y.T.

Sir,—Owing to your forcible detention of the steamship 'Yukoner' after you had given the vessel her clearance papers, we were coerced into submitting to your demand that the dispute between E. S. Morine and D. H. Volkner on the one part, and the owners of the vessel, The Trading and Exploring Company, Limited, on the other, should be left to you to determine, and were forced to deposit with you in your capacity as collector of customs the sum of \$5,099.45.

We wish to point out to you that there is no authority by which you can force yourself upon the parties as a court to determine the many difficult and important questions of law involved

in the disputes between the parties. The law has provided the methods by which the master and seamen can enforce their liens, if any, and obtain payment of their wages—and we decline to recognize that you have any jurisdiction in the matter.

We consider your action in this matter has been illegal from the first, and must respectfully request that you should communicate with the authorities at Ottawa before attempting to deal with or dispose of the very considerable sum of money that our clients have been coerced into depositing in your hands.

We beg to notify you that until the question of the legal liability of our clients to pay the exorbitant demands of Capt. Morine and Volkner, is settled by a court of competent jurisdiction, and our clients are given the opportunity of establishing any defence, at law or equity, as well as any set-off or counter claim that they may have against the claimants, we forbid you to pay over any of the money extorted from our clients, and we shall hold you and the Department of Customs responsible to our clients for these moneys.

We again call your attention to the fact that these moneys were deposited with you only in your capacity of collector of customs, and again request that you report the facts (giving us an opportunity of stating our side of the case) to your superior officers at Ottawa, before assuming to deal with this very important and serious matter. This report to Ottawa is particularly desirable in view of the fact that you declined to recognize the commissioner of Yukon Territory as your superior officer or as having any jurisdiction to interfere in this matter.

We have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servants,

WHITE & McCAUL.

On the 28th ultimo, notwithstanding the foregoing letter of protest, Messrs. White and McCaul, the solicitors for the vessel owners, received a letter from Mr. E. F. Wade's firm, inclosing an appointment made by Mr. Davis for the hearing and settlement of the claims of the ex-master and mate, of which the following is a copy :

Copy.

In the matter of the dispute between the late captain and mate of the steamer 'Yukoner' and the owners of the said steamer.

I hereby appoint Friday, the 28th day of July, 1899, at the hour of 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon at my office for the hearing of the above disputes.

Dated at Dawson this 27th day of July, 1899.

(Signed) D. W. DAVIS,

Collector.

And it has the official stamp of that department. Mark you, Mr. Speaker, I say I am informed by the firm of Lewis and Smellie that the cheque for that amount of money was made payable to D. W. Davis, collector of customs at the port of Dawson, and not to D. W. Davis.

The solicitors for the owners of the vessel, did not, of course, attend on the above appointment—having already fully protested—but it is not likely Mr. Davis proceeded further in the matter or paid over the money.

The owners of the vessel submit that Mr. Davis, having given the 'Yukoner' a clearance with a full knowledge of all the facts, was functus officio, and that the whole of his action in afterwards seizing the vessel was a trespass.

Moreover, the proposition of the owners to deposit the full amount of the claims of the ex-captain and mate—exorbitant as they were—with an additional \$1,000, to answer any judgment that might be obtained in a court of competent jurisdiction, was most reasonable; and we submit that Mr. Davis was not justified in further detaining the vessel for the purpose of forcing the owners to submit the matters in dispute to his final determination.

The owners, The Trading and Exploring Company, now ask that Mr. Davis be at once instructed to refund the company the amount thus deposited with him (\$5,089.45); or, in any event, that Mr. Davis be at once instructed to hold the money subject to the determination of the questions in dispute by the court of the territories or to pay the amount into court. They further ask that Mr. Davis be prohibited from proceeding with any inquiry, or from paying over any of the money to Morine or Volkner.

Your immediate and kind attention to this matter, in the absence of the hon. the minister from Ottawa, will greatly oblige your obedient servants.

LEWIS & SMELLIE,

Agents for White & McCaul,

Solicitors for the Trading and Exploring Company, Limited.

That is their appeal to the Department of Marine on the supposition that this officer, as a shipping officer, was subject to that department. That letter was sent on the 19th of August. On the 22nd of August this firm of Lewis and Smellie wrote again to that department as follows :

Further to our letter to you of the 19th inst., and with reference to the writer's interview with you this morning, we beg to now point out that the alleged agreement to submit the claims of the ex-master and ex-mate of the 'Yukoner' to the arbitrament of Shipping-Master Davis—as contained in Messrs. White & McCaul's letter to the collector of customs of Dawson of the 26th ultimo,—is not in terms a complete agreement or submission under section 42 of the Seamen's Act, if so be that it is to be construed with reference to that section of the Act. It is not, on its face, an agreement in writing signed by both parties. It is not signed by or on behalf of the ex-master and ex-mate. Section 42 of the Act requires that both parties should agree in writing to submit the matter to the shipping master.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, however, will corroborate me in saying that the substance of this point is that the department did agree, and there is no dispute about it, that Mr. Davis was not acting as shipping officer, but was acting wholly as collector of customs.

The letter in question—subsequently protested and repudiated—does not purport to be such a submission. It does not comply with the conditions of section 42, and is incomplete. Moreover, it is alleged by the owners that it was obtained under coercion and duress. Nor does the Act provide for the deposit of money with the shipping master for the purpose of implementing any award made by him under section 42. There is no provision in the Act that the shipping master shall distribute any such fund, or insist upon a deposit for the purpose, as was done in this case. On the contrary, the vessel had been granted a clearance some days

previously; but, alleging that he had acted under a mistake, the shipping master, notwithstanding put the police in charge and tied up the vessel for several days.

As the case now stands, the shipping master justifies his action with respect to the clearance by alleging that he acted under a mistake. The owners, on the other hand, promptly protested and repudiated the so-called agreement to arbitrate, on the ground that they had thus acted under coercion and duress. Both sides have, therefore, alleged grievances.

Under these circumstances, the department should accord the owners at least the same consideration that a court would do under similar allegations of fact, and should instruct Shipping-master Davis, we think, to report the facts fully to the department and meanwhile hold over both the determination of the matter under the alleged submission and the distribution of the fund pending instructions from your department. If Shipping-master Davis be directed to stay his hand and report fully, no one can thus be prejudiced.

Now, on August 22, the Department of Marine and Fisheries, sent to D. W. Davis, Esquire, collector of customs and shipping master, at Dawson, this letter:

August 22, 1899.

Sir,—I send you herewith two letters received by this department from Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, dated August 19 and 22, 1899, re ss. 'Yukoner.'

A faithful report is requested from you without delay in respect of the matters referred to in the inclosed letters, giving the reasons and authority for your course of action, and the facts relating to the matters in question as clearly and plainly as you can.

The foregoing request for a full and early report is concurred in by the Customs Department.

(Sgd.) JOHN McDOUGALD,
Commissioner of Customs.

Both departments request from this officer, a full report in a letter of August 22, 1899. Mr. Davis reports on September 26, to the Deputy Minister of Marine, as follows:

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd of August last, inclosing copies of letters, received by you from Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, dated August 19 and 22, re the ss. 'Yukoner,' and in reply thereto, I beg to make the following report, namely:

That in or about the third week of June last the captain and mate of the ss 'Yukoner' arrived at this port and reported to me that the crew of the steamer had mutinied and had forced the captain to give up command, after which the captain and mate left the steamer and reached Dawson a few days before the steamer. That some time after the arrival of the steamer the owners took the side of the crew as against the captain and applied to me for a clearance; but, owing to the fact that the captain and mate had put in their claims for wages, I refused to clear the vessel until a settlement had been arrived at with reference to the claim so put in by the captain and mate. After several meetings between Messrs. White & McCaul, advocates, acting on behalf of the owners of the steamer, and Messrs. Wade & Aikman, acting on behalf of the captain and mate, and myself—

And myself, Mr. Speaker. This is the statement of Mr. Davis, in explanation of his course addressed to the Marine Department, and ordered by the two Departments of Customs and Marine.

After several meetings between Messrs. White & McCaul, advocates, acting on behalf of the owners of the steamers, and Messrs. Wade & Aikman, acting on behalf of the captain and mate and myself, and it being pointed out to me that there was no admiralty court established in the Yukon district, and all parties agreeing in writing, copies of which agreements or submissions are herewith inclosed, to refer the whole matter to me for settlement, I appointed a day for the hearing of both sides herein.

Nothing about the fact that the same day he had been told that this whole submission which took place, in consequence of the force, coercion and advice of the solicitor for himself, and of these parties claiming against the ship, was illegal and void. There was not a word as to that, one way or the other.

But instead of Messrs. White & McCaul or the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' appearing, they then sent me in a written protest, a copy of which you have, and I adjourned the day of hearing of the dispute herein and gave notice again to Messrs. White & McCaul, calling upon them to appear under the terms of their submission aforesaid, and fixed another day for the hearing of the matter. Nobody appeared on behalf of the owners, so I proceeded to hear the respective claims of the captain and mate ex parte, and after all their evidence had been given—

These gentlemen were represented by the representative of Mr. D. W. Davis, and of the government.

I decided that they were both entitled to the moneys, which I gave judgment for, and accordingly paid them the moneys so paid to me for that purpose by Messrs. White & McCaul.

The facts contained in the letter to you by Messrs. Lewis & Smellie are not quite in accordance with the true state of affairs. I did clear the vessel upon the representations made to me by Messrs. White & McCaul that, upon their depositing with me sufficient moneys to cover the amount of the said claims, that all parties herein would be satisfied.

I have no doubt that this report that the hon. Minister of Customs will not produce, the report of the Department of Justice, which he wishes to hide, will state that this was the inception of the illegal conduct of this officer, pretending, or representing to any parties, that he had any jurisdiction, or right to interfere with the vessel after the clearance.

But immediately after the clearance had been given, I received a protest from Messrs. Wade & Aikman to the effect that their clients would not consent to a clearance being given, and that they would hold the vessel by virtue of the respective liens, so therefore I refused to allow the vessel to clear from Dawson, after which Messrs. White & McCaul wrote me the letter in which they agreed to submit the whole matter to me for settlement; a copy of this letter is inclosed, and Messrs. Wade & Aikman also wrote to me a similar consent, a copy of which

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is also inclosed. After the vessel had cleared and left the port of Dawson. Messrs. White & McCaul sent in to me their letter of July 26.

The date is the same as the date of the submission.

But seeing that the condition of affairs had been changed to such an extent as to hold the captain and mate here until midwinter, owing to the fact that the steamer had obtained her clearance and left Dawson, and owing to the fact that the parties had agreed to submit the matter to me for settlement, I paid no attention to their said protest, and proceeded with the inquiry which both parties had consented to my hearing.

So far as Messrs. Lewis & Smellie's letter of August 22 is concerned, I did not go according to the Seaman's Act, but considered that, as both parties had consented to my hearing the matter and giving judgment as to me seemed fair, that I was then in the position of an arbitrator appointed by both sides for the purposes of hearing and deciding any dispute that may have arisen between them and which they had consented to my disposing of.

This officer passes over entirely, all the illegal steps with which he is charged, and which he was called upon to answer—all this coercion, all these illegal acts, the result of which was to force these parties into this submission. He keeps harking, in this report, only upon this pretended submission. He passes over the protest of the parties who are willing that the money shall remain in his hands until the responsible heads know of it, and give directions, and who only ask him to stay his hand until they can get into communication with the head of the department. He passes over all of that, and simply dwells upon what happened after the coercion.

Mr. McMichael, chief inspector of customs, when here, went into the whole matter with me, and will no doubt give you a full report on his arrival in Ottawa.

I have the honour, &c.,
(Sgd.) D. W. DAVIS,
Collector of Customs.

Then, there are copies of these papers that I have referred—the submission of both parties.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, if he says anything about the taxation of Mr. Wade's fee of \$750?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Nothing whatever, Mr. Wade, who was advising him, and also representing these claimants before him, advised him to pay \$750 over into Mr. Wade's private pocket, and he paid it. With these disgraceful facts put before the department, two of them are ashamed of it, and two suggest that the man should be dealt with properly, but this department that did not wish these facts to be brought out to-day, the Department of Customs, not only shelters this man, and retains him in that position, away from the government, in the Yukon district, to discharge these responsible duties, having these

great powers, but actually tells the parties who have a grievance, that for what Mr. Davis has done, he is personally responsible and that there the matter is to end.

Mr. PRIOR. Is there a report from Mr. McMichael?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have no report from Mr. McMichael, but, perhaps, the minister will tell me if he has a report from that gentleman on the subject.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will that report be produced?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman moves for the papers, I will bring down all the papers that I think proper to bring down.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The minister has already told me that the report of the Department of Justice will not be brought down, and I am, therefore, reasonable in asking whether this report will be.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I would ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) upon what he bases his statement, that Mr. Wade was acting for Mr. Davis in this matter?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Well, it is very poor authority, I admit. It is Mr. Davis' own written statement. I think the authority is poor, but Mr. Davis states it himself; and the minister will see how disgraceful the statement is in what it involves.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That shows that the hon. gentleman would do better if he had consented to the suggestion I made in the interests of justice, namely, that the papers should be brought down.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I prefer that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Because from some of the documents before me, I think that what the hon. gentleman has now stated with reference to Mr. Davis was denied.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I speak, of course, subject to correction. I am reading from what, I have no doubt, is a correct transcript of most of the documents. The hon. minister will see that everything pertinent to this matter should be before the House in official form, and I do not wish to discuss it on information supplied outside of official sources.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why not ask for the papers?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am willing to do so, but I tell the minister that these questions of mine would not be

answered by the papers. They are pertinent questions, and he could answer them 'yes' or 'no,' or state which he did not feel warranted in replying to. But, when the minister tells me that the whole of these questions are to go by the board, and that I am to be swept off the deck by a brush of his hand, I claim my right to protest.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Which would not be answered by the papers.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I say that a great deal of them have been answered to-day. Since the minister attempted to throw aside my questions, he has, by his interruptions while I have been speaking, answered several of these questions that I sought a reply to. He cannot deal with this subject fully and satisfactorily without answering every one of them. I have a long story ahead of me. Forced to this position by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson), I say that if these questions, which are necessary for a fair discussion of the matter, are allowed to stand, and the hon. minister gives me the usual answers that are given in this House, I will postpone the discussion that has to be dealt with in a more formal fashion than this.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I would like the hon. gentleman to go on with his statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am perfectly ready to do so, and I was only modest enough to suppose that the hon. minister would prefer me to stop. I may tell the hon. gentleman that this now is only by way of meeting his request to tell him what information I had. He seems to think this is a game in which cards are played, and he has made the unfair request that I should show my hand.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think you are acting for Lewis & Smellie, the lawyers in Ottawa who have the case.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am acting in the interest of the public of Canada, who are interested in stopping these scandals in the Yukon. I am bringing to light information which I will put before the House, which is something unequalled even in the Yukon Territory, and which is directly connected with the Yukon maladministration. It shows a corrupt alliance between two officials of this government; it shows such a scandalous condition of things that the Minister of Customs is amazed when I call his attention to the language of a document which has been before him for a month. If the original document of Mr. Davis contains the statement I have read—from what I believe to be a copy—that Mr. Wade in this matter was acting both for him and for the parties claiming that money before him in that contest, the minister will agree with me that it is a gross scandal on the part of Mr. Davis.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is denied.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. minister will understand that I have read it from what purports to be, and what is, I have every reason to believe, a copy of a letter in his department. The hon. gentleman says it is denied, and to be exact, I will read it. It is from D. W. Davis, collector of customs, and is his report in answer to the joint demand of the Customs and Marine Departments. It says:

Dawson, September 26, 1899.

The Deputy Minister of Marine.

After several meetings between Messrs. White & McCaul, advocates, acting on behalf of the owners of the steamer, and Messrs. Wade & Aikman, acting on behalf of the captain and mate, and myself, and it being pointed out to me that there was no admiralty court

Does the minister mean to say that that language is not in the original document?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not know whether I have that. That is in the Department of Justice, I fancy.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is addressed to the Deputy Minister of Marine. I suppose the matter is not fresh in the memory of the minister (Sir Louis Davies), but is he positive there is anything wrong in that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not recollect it at all.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am not going to force the point. It may be the bad English of Mr. Davis, and that it means Mr. Wade acting on behalf of these people, and he (Davis) being present when this conference took place between them.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I thought it only fair to say that it is denied.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not think the minister has any letter denying that statement. Of course, this question was brought up in very prominent form. It is possible, of course, so far as that is concerned, that Mr. Davis has not expressed himself properly. It does not matter, so far as the scandal in this case is involved, whether Mr. Wade was acting for him or not. That he was acting as Mr. Wade's tool from beginning to end, the papers that I have indicate only too plainly, and this conduct which the Department of Justice calls 'high-handed and improper,' I call, scandalous in the extreme. I have here a letter from W. L. Magee, for the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to Lewis & Smellie, as follows:

Ottawa, October 31, 1899.

In further reference to your correspondence respecting the ss. 'Yukoner,' I now inclose a copy of statement—

That is where the copy I read from came, the accuracy of which was challenged.

I now inclose you a copy of statement made by Mr. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson City, giving his version of the matter. You will notice by the latter part of Mr. Davis's statement that he in no sense acted in his capacity as shipping master or under the authority conferred on shipping masters under certain circumstances by the Seaman's Act.

I ask the attention of the House to what follows :

You will also notice by the first part of his letter that he acted in his capacity as collector of customs when he refused to clear the ship, and that he also acted in the same capacity when he subsequently cleared her, and afterwards detained her, apparently ignoring his former action in clearing the vessel.

There is the opinion of the Department of Marine, that it was as collector of customs that he did all these things, and he would be a bold man who would contend that a man holding the position of collector of customs could hold up a ship that had been cleared, and claim that he was acting only as D. W. Davis, and had no authority in any sense to do such a thing.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is it a matter of liability of the government for the money ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not at all. The hon. Minister of Customs has several times attempted to throw me off the track. He has almost expressly stated that I was acting for the owners—acting in some professional manner, practically holding a brief. My position is not as representing any one in a professional capacity. It is as a member of the House of Commons endeavouring to obtain the fullest information I can for parliament, in order that we may consider whether a frightful scandal has not been perpetrated by an officer of the government, whether the conduct of that officer has not been condemned by the Department of Justice, and practically condemned by the Department of Marine, and whether, notwithstanding all that, the man is being shielded by the Department of Customs and allowed to remain in a most responsible position in the service of the country. Then, when we get the full facts, it will be a matter for consideration what this parliament ought to be asked to do in the premises. That is my position. This discussion is for the purpose of seeing whether or not I was justified in putting these questions on the paper, and whether under the circumstances, the Minister of Customs was justified in taking the extraordinary course he did, of telling me that such information as I could get out of the papers he might bring down I was welcome to, but that any question not covered by those papers would remain unanswered. I claim that that was so extraordinary an act on

his part, and would be such an intolerable and improper practice if pursued in this House, that it was my duty to show what course this hon. gentleman has endeavoured for the first time in parliament to take. I have nothing to do with the question whether these gentlemen got a cent or not, except as a coincidence. I think it is a disgraceful thing that these men who were trying to do business in the Yukon were handled in this manner. To continue this communication from the Department of Marine :

I also send you a copy of the submission on the part of Messrs. Wade & Aikman and Messrs. White & McCaul.

You will notice that Mr. Davis claims that he acted in his private capacity as arbitrator—

That is, as to the disposition of the money. There are two questions : First, his trespass in regard to the ship ; and, second, paying money to Mr. Wade's clients. But here is the Department of Marine speaking, and every line seems to show that department to be in the right path :

—but I notice that the submission on the part of Messrs. White & McCaul is addressed to the collector of customs, Dawson City.

Under these circumstances, I think you will agree with me any future reference to the matter had better be made to the commissioner of customs at Ottawa—

Not, mark you, the ridiculous if not disgraceful answer which he finally got from the Customs Department, that it was not an official matter ; but the very proper and very regular suggestion that it was a matter for the Customs Department and not for the Marine Department, as the papers everywhere showed that he acted as collector of customs, and got the money for the Department of Customs.

—as the matter does not appear to be one within the province of this department. I have furnished the commissioner of customs with a copy of Mr. Davis's statement. I retain copies of the papers which you furnished this department for record of the facts, and have not sent them along with Mr. Davis's statement to the commissioner of customs. I presume you will furnish the commissioner with copies of them.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 113) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Frost and Wood Company (Limited).—(Mr. Cowan.)

Bill (No. 131)—from the Senate—for the relief of Edwin James Cox.—(Mr. Montague.)

Bill (No. 102) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of James Milne.—(Mr. Clarke.)

THE TORONTO HOTEL COMPANY.

The House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 114) respecting the Toronto Hotel Company.—(Mr. Osler.)

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). This Bill had already been before the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills, and that committee has recommended it to the House, and hon. members will be disposed to endorse the recommendation of the company. Nevertheless, I do not think the Bill should pass without the attention of the House being called to it, because, in my judgment, although not in the judgment of others, it contains an unsound policy. It is a Bill to practically amend the charter of a great many Dominion companies with regard to the investment of moneys in a hotel in Toronto. There are some gentlemen, some of whom are members of parliament, who think that we throw needless restrictions around the operations of joint stock companies. We are familiar with the argument that a company is only a combination of men, and that whatever a man may do individually, there can be no great wrong in permitting him to do when associated with others in a joint stock company. But parliament has not yet accepted that argument as sound reasoning, but it has accepted as sound the principle that there should be restrictions thrown around joint stock companies, particularly those which have anything to do with trust funds. If, in a Bill relating to banks or insurance companies, the proposal were made to allow these companies to invest their moneys—trust moneys largely—in hotel stock, such proposal, I am sure, would not commend itself to the judgment of the House. Yet that is exactly what we are proposing to do in this case. The only excuse is that it is only one case and that it only refers to one city. We do not propose to do this generally, but propose that, as respects one hotel in one city, we will violate the general rule governing the administration of such companies. I know that the gentlemen connected with the enterprise are men of the highest character and standing, and no one doubts that whatever they undertake will be wisely done. But that does not alter the principle. Gentlemen connected with banking corporations and insurance companies are in all cases men of high standing, but notwithstanding their high position and reputation, parliament would not, as a general principle, permit them to invest their trust moneys in hotel stock. We are, therefore, proposing a departure from the general rule as respects the Toronto Hotel Company. The Bill, as proposed originally, provided that any company chartered by the Dominion of Canada should have this power, but I believe

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

the company have amended the Bill so as to restrict the exercise of this power in some respects. It is only companies doing business in the city of Toronto or within a radius of one mile of the proposed hotel to which we give this power, but any company chartered by the Dominion for business throughout Canada may have an agency in the city of Toronto, and practically, therefore, the Bill is still a very wide-reaching one. In view of the strong desire of leading men to build a great hotel in Toronto, it may seem somewhat ungracious to question a move of this character, but there is a principle involved, and I am afraid that we are establishing a precedent which will be found very inconvenient. I do not see how we can justify a departure from the principle in the general law as respects one city and one hotel, without opening a door to an application for the same departure with regard to other cities and other hotels. I do not see how we can say that the general law is good, but that we will depart from it as respects the city of Toronto and refuse to depart from it in the case of Montreal or some other city. I am speaking only on the general principle, and I humbly submit that we are taking a grave departure from what is recognized as a sound principle respecting legislation on the investment of trust moneys.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). It is rather amusing to me to hear the hon. Finance Minister talking about a departure from sound principle, and objecting to certain corporations investing to a limited extent in this concern. You will remember that in the Banking and Commerce Committee last year, or the year before, a very prominent loan company applied for powers, enabling them to invest in any company chartered by any parliament of Canada, or by the Dominion, even to own the whole of their stock; so that they would be empowered to buy up any wildcat mine that might be chartered anywhere in the Dominion, to invest in street railways, railways, mines and telegraphs. A great deal of objection was raised, but the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding), supported it in its entirety. He carried out his principle so far, that he brought in a Bill for loan companies generally, authorizing the loan companies, as a rule, to invest in any of these concerns. There is no loan company in Canada to-day that is controlled by Dominion legislation, that is not empowered to invest in these stocks. In view of that, it is rather interesting to hear this great protest from the departure from sound banking principles which is enunciated by the Finance Minister—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler), say what Act he refers to?

Mr. OSLER. The Central Canada Loan Company Bill. The minister and the government forced through that Act, under which the company has power to invest in the stock or bonds of any company chartered by any provincial legislature, or by the Dominion parliament, and that Bill was passed in spite of considerable opposition. I myself, pointed out in the committee, that the charter enabled the company to buy a loan company, to buy an insurance company, through that to buy a bank. But, in the other Act, there was a restriction made, I think, that, in connection with banks, there is only a limited amount of their capital to be invested, or a limited amount of bank stock is to be bought by one company. The ministers have very short memories, or they must have had a very poor understanding of the legislation they put through.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The ministers did not bring in such legislation.

Mr. OSLER. But the ministers approved it, and forced it through the committee.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, they did not.

Mr. OSLER. They supported it strongly. The Minister of Finance was there, and, I think, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), was there also, and I am very much mistaken, if he was not a strong supporter of the measure. I am not speaking of any uncertainty. I know what I say is true. Now, it may be quite true, as the Finance Minister says, that such a power as is here proposed, might be abused, if given generally. Yet, the banks, if not with the formal approval of parliament, yet with general approval, have contributed to the patriotic fund. I am a director of a bank of high standing in this country, and, as a rule, we are strongly against giving away our shareholders' money. But occasions arise, such as the making up of this patriotic fund for our soldiers in South Africa, and I do not think that any shareholder of any bank will object to contribution by that bank, in fact, I think the shareholders of a bank would object, if it did not take part in the general movement, and give its contribution towards this fund. The banks have also contributed to the fund for the relief of the Ottawa and Hull fire sufferers. It is a thing well recognized in this country and in London, in every banking institution in Great Britain. I think the Bank of British North America cabled a thousand pounds to be contributed to the patriotic fund. They had no right to do that by their charter; and if their shareholders called them to account, they must suffer for it. But they felt that they will be justified by the subsequent action of the shareholders. I have represented, for many years, a company having its head office in Aberdeen, and it is supposed

that Aberdonians are not usually anxious to give away their shareholders' money. But, when our volunteers were sent to South Africa, the chairman cabled to give any subscription in reason, one or two thousand dollars, if a patriotic fund was being raised, and said the board would sanction it. Again, in Montreal and Toronto, in the building of the board of trade building, all the banks contributed. I think you will find it is a recognized principle, if there is any strong movement for the benefit of commerce in the large cities, the banks and financial institutions contribute toward it directly, according to their capital, or according as they think commerce will be benefited. Almost invariably they submit such contributions to their shareholders at their first annual meeting, and I have yet to hear one instance in this country, or in Great Britain, where such an act of generosity on the part of the directors was not confirmed by the shareholders. All, or nearly all, the banks contribute to the Dominion Rifle Association. In this particular case it has been felt, for many years, that Toronto is suffering materially, suffering financially through the want of a modern hotel. It is a very expensive matter to provide such a hotel, and many of the richest men in Toronto are rather imbued with the idea that hotel-keeping or contributing to a hotel, is a rather bad thing. Many of them, who would otherwise contribute, refrained from contributing because in a hotel, you usually have a bar. Now institutions have contributed very moderately, and, I venture to say, with great judgment, in connection with this hotel project, and, if they can secure the building of a hotel there, the contributions which they have voluntarily offered to make, will yield great service to the people of Toronto. I do not think there can be any reason of principle or any other reason against the proposal that is now made.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I confess I am very much surprised at the extraordinary arguments the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler), who is supposed to be a financial authority in this House, has used in support of the Bill. The measure may be a good one, or it may be a bad one, but more irretrievably bad arguments than those of the hon. gentleman, I could not conceive of being used by any sane man. What does he say? He says that banks, trust corporations and loan companies, or the directors of these, from time to time, contribute certain moneys without authority, to patriotic and charitable subscriptions; and that he never knew a case where the shareholders did not afterwards endorse the action of the directors—

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler), went further than that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But I am talking about this

particular argument. What did he intend the House to infer from that argument? Does not he know that directors, in such cases, act illegally and rely upon the fact that the shareholders will approve, and if they do not get the approval of their shareholders, they have to pay the money themselves? What has that got to do with parliament passing a law authorizing the directors to divert moneys from the purposes for which parliament has said the moneys should be devoted? I cannot conceive what the hon gentleman meant. Why, this particular Bill, which refers to a scheme passed through the local legislature of Ontario and no doubt a very good scheme for the establishment of a hotel in Toronto, provides that the moneys of the stockholders which were subscribed for certain specific purposes under the Bank Act and under the Loan Act, may be diverted from those purposes by the directors without the consent of the shareholders at all. That is what this Bill provides. If the directors of any one of these banks choose to devote certain moneys of the bank from the bank purposes towards the construction of a hotel in the same way that they devote money from the bank for the patriotic and charitable purposes to which he referred, and if the shareholders endorsed that action, who would complain? No one, no one would have a right to complain. The directors would do an act which in itself might be illegal, but would be made legal by the assent and consent of the shareholders. But that has nothing to do with the question now before the House, which is a very simple one. I regret that my hon. friend did not confine himself to an argument that this purpose was so good that the House ought not to refuse it, instead of arguing that the House ought to consent to all diversions of trust moneys—for that is what his argument amounts to—that may be applied for. Now, this construction of a Toronto hotel, is, as I said before, a very estimable object. The very names of those associated with the enterprise, and the arguments which have been advanced in committee and otherwise, convince me that it is a good thing to build a hotel in Toronto. It was a good thing to build a hotel in Montreal, it would be a good thing to build a hotel in Ottawa, a hotel where hon. gentlemen could get the best accommodation. But does that justify us in passing an omnibus Bill that every bank doing business in Ottawa should devote the moneys of its shareholders to the construction of that hotel, in whole or in part? The parties who subscribe or buy stock in a bank know that the funds of that bank are strictly limited for use towards certain purposes, are guarded and protected, and these parties know exactly what stock they are buying, and know that it is safe because it cannot be used for speculative purposes or other purposes than provided for by the Bank Act. Now this parliament

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

comes in and says: Notwithstanding that you bought that stock and invested your money, whether it is \$100 or a million dollars, with the statutory guarantee that the money should only be used for legitimate bank purposes and should not be used for speculative purposes, we say: We will sweep that away and allow the moneys to be used for any purposes they like. Does not the hon. gentleman think there is a gross violation of proper principle in that? It seems to me that there cannot be anything more vicious than the principle of the Bill. I concede that the object which the hon. gentleman has in view is a good one, I dare say it is, I have nothing whatever to say against it; but I say that to pass an Act declaring that the banks doing business within the radius of one mile from the location of this hotel can devote the money of the shareholders towards the construction of a hotel, is a violation of the trust under which the shareholders bought or subscribed stock in that bank. It does seem to me, and I say it with great respect to the House, that when you once adopt that principle you break down all the guarantees which shareholders have in the banks that their money should be appropriated and devoted strictly for the trust purposes with which bank moneys have been ear-marked by this parliament for the last 30 or 40 years. Our banking system has been a marked success in this country because of the conservative principles which have been applied to it; and the thin end of the wedge is now being introduced—not for a bad purpose in itself, but for a purpose altogether foreign to the purposes for which bank moneys ought to be used. I cannot conceive of a more vicious principle than that which is embodied in this Bill. Shortly it amounts to this: There is a local charter incorporating a local hotel, and that local hotel company comes here and asks that all banking and loan companies, and other companies chartered by the Dominion of Canada, if they do business within a radius of one mile of the location where this hotel is to be built, shall have the privilege of subscribing stock in it to an amount equal to \$2,500 a year, tantamount to a capital of \$50,000. That appears to me to be a violation of the ordinary principles which we have hitherto applied to banks, loan companies and other companies of that kind.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I agree with what the Minister of Marine and Fisheries has said that we would be adopting a very bad principle—not saying anything about the quality of the securities in which these incorporated companies may invest, because they might be considered good by some and not by others—I say the principle of introducing in an Act that has no connection with other corporations, a clause giving power to other corporations to invest their money in something that its charter

does not provide for, is, to my mind, a vicious principle. Suppose any one wished to put money in one of these institutions and took the trouble to ascertain in what lines its money could be invested; he looks up the charter and there is nothing in that charter which enables them to invest a dollar of their funds in this class of securities he would feel safe. But he afterwards finds that in an Act which has no connection with these corporations, there is power given them to invest in such securities, what would he think of it? We are asked practically to amend the corporate powers of these institutions themselves. I say when we amend an Act of any incorporated company it should be confined to that corporation itself, so that any person looking it up might know the extent of the amendments whatever they may be. I think this should be done. But to amend, practically, the corporate powers of every corporation doing business within a radius of one mile of where this hotel may be located—we do not know what corporation it may reach or may not reach—and give them power to make an investment of this character. I think is a very unsound principle and one that the House should not accept.

Mr. E. G. PENNY (St. Lawrence, Montreal). I am very glad to hear the ministers so strongly oppose this Bill, because I think with the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Sproule), that it is a very vicious principle. No doubt Toronto wants a hotel very badly, probably wants it from a business point of view more than any other city in the Dominion of Canada; at the same time I do not see why parliament should be called upon to aid the city of Toronto in building a hotel by diminishing the security of the shareholders in the banks. In the city of Montreal, for instance, we have had a very disastrous experience in the case of the Banque Ville Marie; and if the thin end of the wedge is introduced into our banking system, as proposed by this Bill, you will have all banks, loan and investment companies coming here and asking permission to invest not only in hotel schemes but in other schemes. I think it is the duty of this parliament to protect the investors as much as possible. Who are the bulk of the shareholders in a great many instances, not only in the larger banks, but in some of the smaller ones? A great many widows and orphans are induced to invest their money in these institutions. They do so believing that they have a certain amount of security and that that security is backed by the parliament of Canada. If you do away with this security you will find similar practices, perhaps, by unscrupulous bank managers and directors to those we have had in the case of the Bank Ville Marie, in the city of Montreal, and widows and orphans will be left, as they have been in this case, almost destitute. I cannot agree with the

hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler), who has tried to make out a parallel case between this and the Patriotic Fund and the subscriptions to the Ottawa fire. I think these cases are totally different. When the banks contributed towards these funds it was a present they were making, pure and simple. The money was given by the directors for the shareholders, and it was a present which, I am sure, no shareholder, however large or small, in any bank, would question for one moment. But, when it comes to investing money, it is a different thing. It is true that we are asked here to consent to the banks only investing a small amount, but if it begins with a small amount, how are we to tell that it will not soon increase to a larger amount?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Fifty thousand dollars is the limit in this case.

Mr. PENNY. Yes. While \$50,000 for the Bank of Montreal, or the Merchants' Bank or Bank of Toronto, is a small amount, when you come to the smaller institutions, it is a large amount, and it is an amount that no institution should jeopardize. Therefore, I think this Bill should be voted down and not passed.

Mr. CHRISTIAN KLOEPFER (South Wellington). Mr. Chairman, I do not think that hon. members quite understand the situation of the banks in Toronto in desiring to make subscriptions towards that hotel. The banks are all located within a quarter of a mile of the district where it is proposed to erect this hotel. In this proposal the directors know what they are doing. They will not lose any of the stockholders' money by subscribing to this hotel. The reason that they propose to subscribe is that they can get a street cut through between Yonge Street and Leader Lane that will improve the bank property and the business property in that neighbourhood. The banks will stand to gain more by this improvement than the subscription that they make. There is another consideration which weighs strongly with them, and it is that the city of Toronto needs a hotel very badly, and the erection of one will benefit the city.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). Mr. Chairman, I was at the committee when this question was discussed, and I think it is rather unfair to bring it up in the House when it was so fully discussed in the committee, and not only was it discussed in committee, but the Bill was passed by a large majority and with very little opposition.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. There was no division at all.

Mr. CRAIG. I was there, and there was a large majority in favour of passing this Bill.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How do you know?

Mr. CRAIG. I know by what was said. After the matter was discussed it was allowed to go without the least opposition. I say that in the committee is the place to discuss this matter. There are members who take an interest in this Bill, and who are in favour of it, who are not here tonight. They had no idea that hon. gentlemen were going to discuss it again after it had been fully discussed in the committee. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was not there, unfortunately for himself, but that was his lookout, not the lookout of those who were there to take part in the discussion and urge their views upon the Bill. I quite admit that any one has a right to bring it up in the House, but it is hardly fair in view of the fact that members are absent who are in favour of passing this Bill, and who did not anticipate that opposition would be offered here. We are all agreed as to the principles of the Banking Act. We all believe that it should be maintained, and that people should be secured as much as possible in depositing and investing their money in the banks. But, we say that this is a special case. The hon. member for St. Lawrence division of Montreal (Mr. Penny) spoke about the Bank Ville Marie. But, I beg to point out that his argument in this particular was not at all applicable to this case. If the directors of the Bank Ville Marie had asked that they might have power to do what they did do, they never would have got it from this parliament. If that bank was ruined it was by actions which were not covered by the Banking Act, and which were done illegally by the president and the directors of that bank. This is not a case of that kind at all. These men come here openly and ask leave to do what they propose. They are not doing it under cover. They are not getting some one to discount a note who is known to be worth nothing and advancing money on that note to be invested in the stock of this hotel. They come here asking for this power, and the shareholders know well what they are doing. It is all done openly, and if everything was done as openly as this in connection with banking affairs, I do not think there would be much danger. Then, I wish to state that the amount is limited. Besides that, the contribution is voluntary. No bank is compelled to give this amount. Every bank is limited to \$2,500 a year.

Mr. SPROULE. For twenty years.

Mr. CRAIG. Yes, for twenty years, but. I do not know that any bank is compelled to give \$2,500 every year. No bank is permitted to give more than \$2,500 a year. The banks are not doing this in a philanthropic spirit at all, as they made their contributions to the Patriotic Fund, but they are doing it on purely business principles.

Mr. CRAIG.

Another circumstance in this case is that the locality in which this hotel is proposed to be built is a part of the city that business is and has been leaving. If this hotel is built, as the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Kleopfer) said, a road will be cut through from King to Wellington Streets, running on a line with Victoria Street, and it will greatly increase the value of property in that part of the city. The erection of a palace hotel there will keep business in that part of the city, it will bring business to that part of the city, and the banks expect that it will increase the value of their property in that locality.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig) advocate the principle, that if the construction of a hotel in any part of Canada will bring business to a particular part of a city, it will justify this parliament in authorizing banks to give money towards the construction of such hotels?

Mr. CRAIG. I am just going to advocate what I want to advocate. I do not admit anything that is put into my mouth. This is a special case, and we have not to consider a case that may arise when we are dead. We have to consider a case that arises when we are alive. I am not as much concerned as the present government are about establishing a precedent. We have heard a good deal about a certain matter not being a precedent before. I do not care about the precedent. If a matter commends itself to my judgment I am going to vote for it, precedent or no precedent. I am tired of hearing so much about precedents. The point is: Is this justified in the present instance? I think it is justified. The bank presidents and directors are business men. They are not doing this from philanthropic motives, but, they feel that they are acting in the interest of their shareholders, and the reason why this clause is put into the Bill was because it was felt that they could not do this legally and openly and above-board unless it was done in this way. They wanted to do it openly and they did not want to go behind the bush. I think parliament is quite justified in granting this request of these parties. It is a power which the parties applying for this Bill desire to have, and they believe that the building of this hotel will be a benefit to that part of the city where these banks and their customers are situated.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Chairman, the first argument of the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), namely, that there should be no discussion on the Bill because it was carried by a large majority in the committee, is an argument that is utterly unsound.

Mr. CRAIG. I did not say that.

Mr. SPROULE. That is in effect what the hon. gentleman said. That committee

is composed of but a few members of the House, and every hon. member here will admit the wisdom of every Bill when it is reported from committee, being open for discussion as much as the House desires. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig) says that this is a special case. Well, it must be a special case, or I would not expect to find a temperance man advocating it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This will be a temperance hotel.

Mr. CRAIG. I always stay at a good hotel, where there is one.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman told us this was a special case, and the special features which exist in his imagination are, that property is depreciating in value in that locality, and this is needed to do something to enhance the value of that property. Well, that is no reason why this House should depart from the well understood principle we have always followed in connection with a matter such as this. The hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Osler) said that the Central Canada Loan Company got these extensive powers. If my memory serves me right, we gave that company power to invest in the stock of other companies, but we did not give any other company power to invest in its stock. This Bill gives the corporation we are creating not only power to get money from any source it can, but it gives every corporation in the locality power to invest in its stock.

Mr. CRAIG. They have it now.

Mr. SPROULE. Not by any means. No banking or trust corporation has power to invest money in a hotel, except by mortgage on the real estate. A vicious principle underlies the whole of this measure. Suppose I am about to invest in a bank or in a life insurance company, and I look at their charter and I find they can only invest in certain securities, all of which I regard as good; but suppose, as in this case, they have power to invest in something else under some outside charter that has no connection with these institutions, then I am led to a false impression as to the security afforded me by these companies. That is where the vicious principle comes in. It is true, as the hon. gentleman said, that the amount is limited, but that limited amount is \$50,000, and the intention evidently is to invest to the limit. We find that loaning companies, trust companies, banks, and insurance companies occasionally go down, and upon inquiry after the disaster, it is ascertained that either the managers of these concerns have been dishonest and practically stolen the money, or else that they have invested unwisely. This is one of the ways in which corporations might invest their money unwisely. You will find in the city of Toronto that the same man

will be president of a bank, and be connected with loan companies and life insurance companies and other companies, and that he has power to go from one to the other and to advise as to the investment of the funds. I believe, Sir, that the principle of this Bill is a vicious principle, and the House has not been apprised of any special reason why we should pass it.

Mr. FIRMAN McCLURE (Colchester). I was one of those who at first was inclined to oppose this Bill because of the reasons given, that it was setting a bad precedent in violating the principle of bank charters which are intended for the protection of stockholders. But, Sir, the Bill as it is now presented to the House, is much changed from that which was first presented to the committee. I believe that the principle is wrong, that this parliament should undertake by general legislation to give special powers to banks to invest their moneys in a particular way, but there is no harm in passing special legislation, if upon the face of that legislation it is made plain that it is special legislation, and if the particulars of the case are defined in such a way that they cannot go beyond the specifications set forth. In this particular case, as I understand it, an Act similar to this was presented to the Ontario legislature and was adopted, authorizing these loan companies and banks and other institutions to subscribe to this agreement and to take stock in this company.

Mr. SPROULE. The Ontario legislature could not do that.

Mr. McCLURE. Wait a moment. But it was found afterwards that that Act did not authorize the banks to take stock, because the Ontario legislature had no jurisdiction over the banks.

Mr. SPROULE. Of course.

Mr. McCLURE. Certain institutions that the Ontario legislature had control over, subscribed to the agreement, and as regards those companies the provincial Act was good. The object of the Bill before us is simply to supplement the Ontario Act and to give these companies power which the Ontario legislature wanted to give them, and in words did give them, but in effect was not able to give them. The specifications here are set out very clearly, and it seems to me that the only question this House has to consider is, whether or not under the special circumstances of this case it would be justifiable for these banks to invest their funds in this particular enterprise. As to this law being a precedent, let it be understood that the preamble of the Bill distinctly states, that it is because the Ontario legislature has passed a similar Bill and it is desirable to supplement it by legislation here, that we desire to pass this Act.

Therefore, if any other scheme comes before this House, no matter what merits it may possess, unless it also can be supplemented by the statement it has received the endorsement of the local legislature, this would be no precedent for similar legislation.

Mr. SPROULE. If the Ontario legislature does an unwise thing are we to follow it up by doing another unwise thing?

Mr. McCLURE. I do not say anything of the kind, but I do say that the Ontario legislature is in as good a position to judge of the merits of this scheme as this House is.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). The Bill now before the committee is one that should receive the hearty assent of the whole House. The parties to this Bill are acting in the interest of the shareholders and the stockholders they represent. Not only personally, but through the institutions over which they preside, and the confidence of whose shareholders they have, they are largely interested in this enterprise. It would be a very strange thing if this House were to step in and say that it knows better what are the best interests of the parties than they themselves know. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. McClure) says, this Bill cannot in any way be taken as a precedent. It is so hedged and circumscribed that a similar case can scarcely arise. I do think that in the interest of the property holders, in the interest of those who are largely concerned in these various institutions, this Bill should pass, and I would point out that these gentlemen are subscribing more largely in their individual capacity than almost anybody else. Therefore, if this legislation is prevented, it simply means a very large loss, not only to the banks, but to various property owners in that vicinity. If the gentlemen understood the situation, they would see that the radius in which the subscription will take place is only a mile, and only a very few institutions can be affected. So far as the loan companies are concerned, they have a perfect right to do what is proposed, without asking the consent of this House. It is only the banks that come under the jurisdiction of this parliament, and my impression is that every stockholder of every bank that will subscribe to this hotel company, would gladly endorse the action of the directors. In fact, if they did not make some effort to secure the present value of the property, and keep it from going down some 30 or 40 per cent, as it will do, unless this scheme is carried out, they would deserve the censure of the stockholders.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). An examination of the names of those seeking for this privilege is the best possible guarantee that can be given to the parliament of Canada, that their request is a reasonable and just one. For example, I find

Mr. McCLURE.

among the names, that of Byron E. Walker, the general manager of the Bank of Commerce; that of Daniel R. Wilkie, the general manager of the Imperial Bank; that of Duncan Coulson, the general manager of the Bank of Toronto; that of John Herbert Mason, the president of the Canada Permanent Loan Company, the largest mortgage company, I think, in the Dominion of Canada; that of George Gooderham, president of the Bank of Toronto; that of W. H. Beatty, vice-president of the Bank of Toronto; and that of the Hon. Mr. Forget of Montreal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is the hon. gentleman not reading the names of the incorporators of the Toronto Hotel Company?

Mr. CLARKE. Yes, and these are the gentlemen who are to be the first directors of this company, and whose monetary institutions will be affected by the passage of this Bill. If the local circumstances were known to the members of this House, I am perfectly satisfied that there would not be the slightest opposition offered to this Bill. These gentlemen pointed out through their solicitor, to the Banking and Commerce Committee, that if they desired, they might have accomplished their object in another way—in an underhanded way, so to speak.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How?

Mr. CLARKE. The solicitor of the company, made the argument before the committee, and pointed out how it could be done; but he said that they preferred to come frankly before parliament, and ask for these privileges, feeling sure that no reasonable objection could be urged against their request.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). While we all, I think, would agree that exceptional legislation of this kind is not desirable, still, it seems to me that, in view of the limitations imposed, a great many of the arguments used against this Bill are more imaginary than real. It has been suggested that for a bank to invest any portion of its capital stock or funds in enterprises of this kind, is taking a risk not contemplated by its shareholders. I might point out to the House, that banks are every day lending money on the shares of companies, which are in no better position than this company. For example, suppose this company were incorporated, and had a capital stock of one million dollars, it would be perfectly within the power of a bank to lend a million dollars on the security of the stock of that company. How do you guard against that? By putting in charge of your banks, men of sound business capacity, and making them subject to the will of the shareholders. So far as any danger of that kind is concerned, the interests of the shareholders of any

bank in Canada, are probably well safeguarded by its directors; but if any question should be present in the minds of the majority of the House, with respect to that point, the Bill could be amended, by providing that the funds of a bank should not be invested, except by a vote of the shareholders at the annual meeting. For my own part, however, I would be inclined to support the Bill without any such provision, for the reason that every day of the week, moneys of the banks of Canada are loaned on the security of shares, debentures and bonds of companies, and the shareholders in all such matters must be allowed to depend on the judgment of the directors whom they have appointed to manage the banks.

Mr. SPROULE. I want to say a few words with reference to the argument addressed to the House by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), in parading before us the names of a number of prominent men of financial standing. We are accustomed, when Bills are submitted to us, to having such names paraded before us, as those of provisional directors; and, I believe, these names are often put in for that very purpose, although the men may have nothing to do with the company after it is floated.

Mr. WOOD. The gentlemen whose names are paraded are the very men who have instituted and have promoted this thing from its very foundation. Mr. Gooderham, one of the largest capitalists, the president of the Bank of Toronto, and Mr. Beatty, the vice-president, are really the men who originally promoted this scheme.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), although he interrupted me, has not given us any information; for what he states was already stated by the hon. member for West Toronto. The fact that these names are paraded is no guarantee that the men will have anything to do with the company after it is formed.

Mr. CLARKE. The financial institutions over which they preside are the institutions which are asking for this right.

Mr. SPROULE. Why do they not come with their charters and ask for it?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I would like to ask whether, as a matter of fact, these gentlemen, whose names are mentioned—Mr. Gooderham and that class of men—are actually investing their own money in the enterprise.

Mr. WOOD. Certainly.

Mr. SPROULE. They are simply on paper as provisional directors. What they may do in the future is another thing. After the company becomes a corporate organization, they need not of necessity be in it. If some such provision as that suggested by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), were inserted, that before the money of any cor-

poration were invested in this way, the question should be brought before the shareholders at an annual meeting, and a fair majority gave their assent, it would be less objectionable. But I still hold that the pernicious part of it is this, that we are amending the charter of every moneyed corporation, if they have an office within one mile of this hotel. If these corporations would invest in this enterprise, and have not an office within that radius, all they have to do is to establish an office there and they will be enabled to do so, although no such power is given to them in their charters originally.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Do I understand my hon. friend to say that in this Bill we are going to take the capital without consent of any of these companies in which they are directors? It appears to me that we may safely leave in the hands of such gentlemen as are in control of all these large institutions in Toronto, the investment of their funds in this enterprise if they see proper to make such investment. They have shown themselves eminently qualified to protect the interests of the parties they represent, and I hope my hon. friend will not feel it necessary to raise any question on a matter of this kind.

Mr. SPROULE. If the integrity and the ability of these men are sufficient guarantee, why do we limit by law their right to make investments? Why do we exclude them from investing outside of certain institutions?

Mr. HENRY CARGILL (East Bruce). I think that the monetary institutions of this country are ably presided over by men quite competent to guard and protect the interests of the shareholders. As a matter of fact, we have been giving charters to companies, which contain unlimited powers as regards the investment in securities and stocks. Take, for instance, the gold mining companies. They are permitted to issue prospectuses, headed by the names of leading citizens as guarantee of their integrity, even by the names of ministers, and on the strength of these, poor innocent people are induced to buy up shares in bogus mining corporations. I, for one, think that there should be an Act passed by this paternal government to protect these innocent investors from being swindled into purchasing such mining stocks. Why, Sir, we remember that one of these mining companies was boomed in London, England, by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries because it was being promoted by one of the hon. gentleman's supporters. But as far as the present Bill is concerned, I think there is a great deal of merit in it. Not only the leading citizens of Toronto, but the leading citizens of the country surrounding, are willing to back up this enterprise, and I am quite satisfied it is a good undertaking. If I had any surplus money to invest, I would

very much prefer taking a block of stock in this proposed hotel to investing in a great many stocks of companies given charters by the government of this country.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hour for private Bills has expired.

YUKON—CLEARANCE OF STEAMSHIP "YUKONER."

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Before recess, I was performing a duty that was somewhat suddenly cast upon me by the action of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), in declining to answer the very reasonable questions I put to him concerning a matter of considerable importance. I was referring at some length to the correspondence that is within my control, and which brings out very clearly the extraordinary facts connected with the administration of the Department of Customs, and had come to that action on the part of the Department of Marine and Fisheries which reflects very seriously on the subsequent action on the part of the Department of Customs.

From the statements of Collector Davis, the Department of Marine and Fisheries reached the very proper conclusion that all that he had done in the premises he had done by virtue of his office, and that consequently the matter was one for the Minister of Customs to deal with. In so far as I refer to the collector of customs or any of the other officers concerned, I do so only for the purpose of drawing attention to the conduct of the minister who is responsible, and who so far as supported or protected Collector Davis in taking gross liberties in his position, by which the rights of other parties have been very seriously affected.

A letter from Lewis & Smellie, the solicitors for the Trading and Exporting Company, the owners of the steamship *Yukoner*, gives the facts very distinctly up to this time. That is a letter to the Minister of Customs at Ottawa, dated 4th of November 1899, which reads as follows:

In accordance with the request contained in the letter to us herein of the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries of 31st ult., informing us that this matter had been transferred by that department to you, we beg herewith to inclose you copies of the following documents herein:

Letter from Lewis & Smellie to the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, August 19, 1899, containing a resume of the facts, embodying certain correspondence herein lodging the complaint of our clients, the Trading and Exploring Company (Limited), of London, England, the owners of the vessel '*Yukoner*.'

Letter from Lewis & Smellie to the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, August 22, 1899.

Letter from the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries to Collector D. W. Davis, of Dawson, August 22, 1899, countersigned by Commissioner of Customs, requesting a faithful report, without delay, in respect of the matters referred to in the foregoing correspondence, and asking Collector Davis his reason and authority for his course of action and the facts relating

Mr. CARGILL.

to the matter as clearly and plainly as possible. A report of the collector, D. W. Davis, to Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, dated September 26, 1899. A letter from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to Lewis & Smellie of the 31st ult., covering copy of Collector Davis's report.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries points out, in a letter to us, of the 31st ult., that Mr. Davis states that he did not act—

I ask the attention of the House particularly to this statement:

—that Collector Davis states that he did not act herein in his capacity as shipping master, under the Seamen's Act, but, as appears from his report of September 26 last, that he did, however, act in his capacity as collector of customs when he at first refused to clear the '*Yukoner*,' and that he also acted in the same capacity when he subsequently issued a clearance to the vessel (on or about July 31 last), though afterwards, apparently ignoring his former action in clearing the vessel, he appears as collector of customs to have detained her. (It is worthy of remark that Collector Davis, in his report of September 26 last, makes no reference to his original clearance of the vessel.) As is also pointed out by the Acting Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries in the same letter, Collector Davis claims that he subsequently acted in his private capacity as arbitrator, and not under the provisions of the Seamen's Act; although the letter of alleged submission to arbitration by Messrs. White & McCaul (acting for the owners of the vessel), of July 26 last, was addressed to him as collector of customs at Dawson.

As you will see, Mr. Speaker, every opening that the collector attempts to take advantage of to escape from responsibility as an official is blocked by his own report that I have already read, and that is now being commented upon. That is to say, it is as clear as possible—it is so clear that it was admitted by the Department of Marine and Fisheries—that in all these matters he had acted, as he alone could act in that connection, as collector of customs. It is possible, had he attempted to act as shipping master, that there were certain things he could have done. But he himself has lost the advantage of such position by saying that he did not so act.

We regard the report therein of Collector Davis as wholly insufficient, considering the nature of our complaints (copies of which were forwarded to him), and considering the form and contents of the request of the two departments, contained in the letter of the Deputy Minister of Marine to Collector Davis of August 22 last.

Mr. D. W. Davis's statement, however, that he acted in his private capacity as an arbitrator between the parties, and as such dealt with the owners' deposit, exacted from them by him as collector of customs, simplifies the issue to some extent.

Although the owners deny Mr. Davis's right to proceed and act as he apparently has done, we think that both the department and the owners are entitled to know all the subsequent facts of this case. Collector Davis has refused Messrs. White & McCaul, representing the vessel's owners, further information, and in his report to the department tacitly refuses your department the necessary detailed information,

sheltering himself behind the allegation that he acted in his private capacity as an arbitrator with respect to the disposition of moneys received by him as collector of customs.

Now, I call particular attention to the next few lines, because it will be seen that the contention or submission of the solicitors for the company commended itself to the judgment of the Department of Customs, and at this time the department saw no reason to assist Mr. Davis in his attempt to shelter himself. They saw no reason to conceal from the parties affected the fullest disclosures of all these papers and proceedings. Messrs. Lewis & Smellie continue:

We think that the department, in justice to all concerned, should obtain from Collector Davis the minutes of the evidence taken by him under the alleged submission to arbitration, the detailed claim filed with him of the master and mate, and all other exhibits in question, the award he purported to make as arbitrator, an itemized account of his disposal of the \$5,099.45, paid by the Trading and Exploring Company, and details of the date, manner and method of his payments and vouchers therefor—the whole without prejudice to the rights of the owners of the vessel.

We are instructed that these moneys were distributed and paid by or through Mr. F. C. Wade's firm, the solicitors for the master and mate, and not by Arbitrator Davis. We are also instructed that the claims of the master and mate, thus paid, comprised not only claims for wages, but also a solicitor's fee of \$700 and upwards, payable to Mr. F. C. Wade, and claimed as a disbursement by the master in connection with the prosecution of the crew of the 'Yukoner,' notwithstanding that the solicitors for the company, the owners of the vessel, had declined to prosecute the crew under the facts alleged.

The facts in this case, thus far disclosed, speak sufficiently for themselves; but we would fail in our duty to our clients if we did not now take occasion to point out that Collector Davis, having granted the 'Yukoner' a clearance, was subsequently guilty, on his own showing, of using his official position as collector, by tying up the vessel, for the purpose of obliging the vessel-owners to pay him, as collector of customs, the large sum of \$5,099.45, in respect of a claim of third parties with which he had no concern. If the claims of the master and mate were valid, the ordinary legal procedure was open to the claimants.

We charge also, although Collector Davis now purports to have acted in his private capacity as an arbitrator with respect to the determination of the dispute and the distribution of the moneys deposited with him as an officer of the Crown, that there was no sufficient submission to his arbitration, and that the alleged submission was revoked by the solicitors for the vessel-owners on the ground of coercion, the same day it was made and before any pretended evidence was taken thereunder, and that Mr. Davis has acted without authority either by statute or agreement in proceeding after protest to disburse the money he has done.

The money of the Trading and Exploring Company (Limited), having been received by the solicitor of customs at Dawson, in his official capacity, to the amount of \$5,099.45, the company ask the Crown to account for the same, and renews its request of August 19 last for a refund of the amount; or, at all events, that

the \$5,099.45 be paid into the court of the Territories pending the determination by the proper court of the questions in dispute between the vessel-owners and the master and mate of the 'Yukoner.'

Mr. Davis seems to have acted herein largely at the instance of Mr. F. C. Wade (who represented the master and mate of the 'Yukoner'). Considering Mr. Wade's official position as the chief law officer of the Crown in the Yukon Territory, from whom the public is entitled to expect protection, his conduct in this matter leaves much to be explained.

Now, that summary of the history of the case did not, at that date, November, 1899, strike the Minister of Customs as at all unreasonable, because I find that on November 18, the Minister of Customs instructed the following letter to be sent to Messrs. Lewis & Smellie:

Customs Department, Canada,
Ottawa, Nov. 18, 1899.

Messrs. Lewis & Smellie,
Barristers, Solicitors, &c.,
7 Ontario Chambers, Ottawa, Ont.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant re ss. 'Yukoner.'

The subject of your complaint is under consideration, and will be dealt with by the minister on his return to the city.

There was a reference this afternoon to Mr. McMichael, and I was unable to remember at the time whether any report of his was in my possession or under my control. I find a reference here:

S. W. McMichael, chief inspector of customs, reports that Mr. D. W. Davis informed him that 'he proceeded with the arbitration, made his award therein, and paid the amount thereof, namely, \$4,899.45 over to Messrs. Wade & Aikman, solicitors for the captain and mate. In this award was included a sum of \$700, covering an account of Messrs. Wade & Aikman against the master of the steamer 'Yukoner,' for services to said master in connection with certain legal proceedings growing out of the mutiny, which account was included in the captain's claim against the vessel. Mr. Davis stated he considered this a reasonable and proper fee for the services rendered.'

Please state where the steamer 'Yukoner' is registered and the ship's registered number.

Another letter to the same firm from the Department of Customs:

Customs Department, Canada,
Ottawa, Dec. 21, 1899.

Messrs. Lewis & Smellie,
Barristers, Solicitors, &c., Ottawa, Ont.
Re ss. 'Yukoner.'

Gentlemen,—Referring to your letter of the 4th ultimo, in the above matter, I beg to advise you that D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, has been instructed to furnish the information requested in your letter and to arrange for a settlement of the matter between himself and the owners of the 'Yukoner,' or their representatives.

Referring to your letter of 4th ultimo in the above matter, I beg to advise you that D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, has been instructed to furnish the information requested in your letter, and to arrange for a settlement of the matter between himself and the owners of the 'Yukoner' or their representatives.

Notwithstanding that, it would appear from the information before me that this officer has never complied with these instructions that he had stood the department off, so to speak, and that now the department is assuming full responsibility for his extraordinary conduct in this whole business, and adopting his ridiculous statement that in this matter he is entitled to assume full personal responsibility. Those instructions to this officer from his head office are dated the 21st of December, 1899; and on the 10th of April, 1900, the department sends, not the information that was requested, not even the full report of Mr. Davis, in regard to the disposition of that money, but a garbled report, a report with a large portion of the whole struck out, with none of the information that this firm had asked on behalf of the owners, this record of proceedings, these vouchers in connection with the disbursement of their money, this information which the department saw fit to inform Lewis & Smellie supported their reasonable request that it should be furnished. This information that Mr. Davis was instructed to furnish has never been supplied; but instead of that comes a document never written by Mr. Davis, not of his composition. Any one who has had anything to do with Mr. Davis will understand, when I refer to the statements in his letter, that it is nothing but a repetition of the argument of Mr. Wade, who represented these claimants before him. In this letter of the 10th of April to Lewis & Smellie, the Department of Customs say:

We send you herewith the extracts from a report forwarded to this department from D. W. Davis, collector of customs, dated at Dawson, January 23, 1899, without prejudice, together with copies of inclosures therein referred to.

So that the minister and Mr. Davis have got into the same boat, and he is actually asking that this official document, this garbled document, should be read by the solicitors for the claimants here whose money had been so ruthlessly taken from them, 'without prejudice.' I do not know whether it was without prejudice to the Minister of Customs or without prejudice to Mr. Davis, but at any rate there it is. You will observe that Mr. Davis concludes his letter with the following observations, namely:

I would respectfully submit that—

Mark you, Mr. Speaker, after having absolutely declined, or to be precise, neglected, to obey the instructions of this department, after having defied the Department of Justice, after practically telling the Minister of Customs to attend to affairs here and he, Mr. Davis, would attend to his affairs out there, though he was acting as collector of customs, the conclusion of Mr. Davis' letter is this:

I would respectfully submit that if the owners of the 'Yukoner' think that I have acted out-

side of my jurisdiction, the courts of the country are open to them, and they should be left to the courts for the proper relief which they no doubt could get if they are entitled to it. I have acted throughout this matter with nothing but the strictest regard to the performance of my duty as an official, and to the proper and honourable performance of my duties as an arbitrator, and I would submit that under the circumstances I am entitled to the fullest protection possible.

In that same letter, where this officer is asking the department to allow him to assume personal responsibility regarding his duties, so frightened is he with even the few facts that he lets out in that report, that he asks the Minister of Customs, and the minister endorses his request, to treat all his statements in regard to that matter 'without prejudice.' Don't allow him to be prejudiced by any reports that he may make, don't allow the report to be used to his detriment. The Minister of Customs is not able to state to these parties what substance Mr. Davis had to respond to a judgment, what a judgment would be worth against him after all the costs, and expenses of suing this officer away up in the Yukon.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think the hon. gentleman now should read the inclosures that he has mentioned, let it all go on record.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I shall not read them all.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But the hon. gentleman says that the officer did not furnish the information that was asked for. Now, I want him, if he has those inclosures, to read them so that the House may see whether he had set the department at defiance.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I propose that the Minister of Customs shall read that, I propose that the Minister of Customs, if he dares, shall read that report from beginning to end without leaving out a single paragraph. I propose that he shall read to this House what he has denied to Messrs. Lewis & Smellie. But he is afraid to refer to this document, knowing the responsibility resting on him as a minister of the Crown, that by referring to it he is bound to put the whole document on the Table. But I make bold to say, and I will refer to parts of this letter in support of my statement, that Mr. Davis did not comply with the instructions to which I have referred and upon which I dwelt. The last instructions of the department were based on the reasonable request of Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, that he should give the detailed information, that he should supply the vouchers, that he should give the proof. I deny positively, that the Minister of Customs, from this correspondence, ever attempted to show that his instructions were obeyed by Mr. Davis after they were ignored. From these papers it appears clearly that Mr. Davis practically set the depart-

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ment at defiance after having absolutely ignored the advice of the Department of Justice to settle with the owners of the *Yukoner*. The position of that officer in the service of this government is such that he has been permitted to set at naught the instructions I have last referred to, has not supplied a copy of the proceedings before him in connection with his arbitration, he has not supplied the vouchers for the money paid out by him in regard to the \$4,000 or \$5,000. I make that statement based on papers that are in my hands, subject to being corrected by the minister when he is ready to divulge the whole record from the Department of Justice and the Department of Customs.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What inclosures are there that the hon. gentleman has before him which he has read?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have no inclosure except the report of Mr. Davis—the garbled report. I use the phrase not offensively, but the report that, on its face, shows that it is not a full report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Did Lewis & Smellie not give all these documents and the vouchers to the hon. gentleman?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. So far as the papers before me are concerned, not a single line, not one of them.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Did they not get any of them?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. So far as the papers before me are concerned, not one of them.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What did they tell the hon. gentleman?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I want to meet fairly the suggestion made in the hon. minister's interruptions. What have I to do with Messrs. Lewis & Smellie? My point is that we, who are here as the people's representatives, in parliament assembled, are entitled to the whole record in connection with this case, whether Lewis & Smellie want it or got it, or whether Lewis & Smellie do not want or did not get it, that so far as this question of administration is concerned, so far as the action of the hon. Minister of Customs is concerned, we are entitled to the full record.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has not moved for it yet.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will show that the hon. Minister of Customs has refused my request.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That he has refused in writing my request

for the opinion of the Department of Justice. That, he may have had the right to do, but, he must also take the responsibility for doing it. He must lie under the suspicion that the surrounding circumstances would indicate that there was no reasonable ground for his action. I claim no more at the hands of this House than any other hon. member. So far as the report of Mr. Davis is concerned, if there is in the possession of the hon. minister a report other than the document I hold in my hand, that is a longer document, a fuller document, and these vouchers and details he is under every obligation to produce them, and, as far as I know, and so far as I am concerned, they do not purport to be produced by any of the passages in the report of Mr. Davis, to which I will refer.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That shows the necessity of having the papers before you.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Exactly, it shows the necessity of having the papers before the House before one enters into a full consideration of the question before the House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I grant it, and I proposed by the series of questions which I put on the paper to-day, as my right was, to elicit from the hon. Minister of Customs all additional information to that which I hold in my hand, in order that, on a proper occasion, I might ask the House to consider a resolution, which I will put in your hand, Mr. Speaker, to suggest what my idea of the conduct of the hon. Minister of Customs is. The hon. minister, instead of assisting me to the end which now seems to commend itself to him, took the most extraordinary course of refusing absolutely to answer one of these questions on the Order paper. Was I to submit tamely to it? Was I to sit down without a protest, and a vigorous one? It was impossible for any man who respected himself in this House to do it. My only course was to put myself right before the House, to show why it was that I considered the action of the hon. minister unreasonable in the extreme, and to disclose the substance of the information upon which I felt warranted in putting this question before the House and the country, that they might say whether the hon. minister was warranted in saying, that if the hon. gentleman will make a motion I will bring down such papers as I see fit. Notwithstanding that, it is apparent to any one who reads this correspondence, that the papers he would bring down, keeping back the documents that he said to me he would keep back, the opinion of the Department of Justice, this question would not be all answered by

the return he would make. Consequently, I have gone through a large portion of it, which was available whether the hon. minister willed it or not. Coming now to this second case of contumacy on the part of Mr. Davis, it becomes more important, since this man is allowed to remain in his position, since the hon. Minister of Customs stands there equally responsible with Mr. Davis, for every act he has committed in this matter, and since Mr. Davis is sheltering himself now behind the official back of his minister, the minister is the man with whom we must deal. It is not Mr. Davis. Under our well known system, it is the duty of the minister to deal fully with Mr. Davis, or to share the responsibility with him, or be wholly responsible for him.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. How?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. By turning him out of the service, if these facts are right.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. 'If.' Now I see what you are after.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. After Davis's dismissal?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, Sir, I am not after the dismissal of Davis. I am after the dismissal of the hon. Minister of Customs for assuming responsibility for his conduct. It seems to me atrocious in the extreme. Mr. Davis was appointed, I think, by the government of which I was a member. Mr. Davis was a Conservative in this House; he may be a Conservative now, but that has nothing to do with the question of his responsibility as an officer. The hon. Minister of Customs will not impute to me any personal motives in so far as I have referred to these facts. I have said nothing against Mr. Davis except as being information in the official documents.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman said that I should have dismissed him.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I say so from these documents, certainly.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. From those documents?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Unless the hon. minister wishes to assume the responsibility for the conduct of Davis, Davis should have been turned out of office the moment he received a statement from an officer under him, which, having been submitted to the Department of Justice, to his own colleague, to the legal adviser of the government, elicited an expression of opinion from that department that his officer's conduct in dealing with money and in dealing with a private ship, was high-handed and improper. Have I said any-

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thing more against Mr. Davis than Mr. Newcombe has said, or the Department of Justice has said, in regard to this conduct? And should an officer be retained in his position whose conduct in dealing with private property that comes to him by virtue of his official position is high-handed and improper? Is the hon. Minister of Customs not in this position, so far as these facts now appear, as shielding and protecting an officer who has been described by the Department of Justice as having been guilty of an action which was high-handed and improper? If he says now that these are not all the facts, why would he postpone for a day a full statement in regard to this series of questions I put to him in order that he might bring out such facts as are not known to me? I did not rush pell-mell into this matter. Having these papers before me, indicating serious maladministration on the part of the Department of Customs, I deemed it my duty to ask questions of the character that I put on the Notice paper. The hon. Minister of Customs knows that he was not confined to the strict line of these questions, but that, under the rules of the House, a minister may answer a question fully and particularly, or if it be considered that it might be indiscreet to give the full answer which might be elicited, he may answer it not unfairly in that way. So that, having the fullest scope to answer this question, it was his duty to answer that which he saw fit, but, he saw fit, at this period of the session, to refer me to such remedies as I might have, and he followed that up with the suggestion that if I would put a notice of motion on the paper he would bring down what papers he saw fit. He never undertook to answer these questions, but, on the contrary, he declined. I know enough of the papers to know that the return which the minister was willing to bring down would not give the full information that these questions would have elicited had they been answered fairly. On January 23, 1900, this officer of the Customs Department says:

I am in receipt of your letter of December 16, ultimo, inclosing copy of a communication from Messrs. Lewis & Smellie dated 4th ultimo, respecting the detention of the steamer 'Yukoner' and also a copy of the opinion received from the Department of Justice in the same connection, and directing my attention particularly to certain requests made on behalf of the owners of the 'Yukoner.'

That opinion is undoubtedly based on a previous report as to the facts from Mr. Davis himself, and it is clearly in line with the conclusion of the Department of Marine which washed their hands out of the case. It is plainly shown that this officer in all he had done acted as an officer of customs, or at all events, under colour of that. Mr. Davis continues:

I am further requested in view of the opinion of the Department of Justice—

We are gathering a little light notwithstanding the refusal of the Minister of Customs to state what that opinion was.

I am further requested in view of the opinion of the Department of Justice to furnish the department with the information required by the owners without delay, and to arrange a settlement of the matter with the owners of the 'Yukoner' and to report my action in this regard to the department.

I say that this officer having been guilty of contumacy in refusing or neglecting to carry out his instructions to settle with the owners of the *Yukoner*, he is now protected by the Minister of Customs alone. The Department of Marine and Department of Justice have decided against him, and so we find him sheltering himself behind the Minister of Customs upon whose shoulders the whole responsibility now falls. This is the gentleman above all others who seems anxious that the full facts should not be disclosed. After having endorsed the request of the company to get full information, the minister declined to give the full answer of Mr. D. W. Davis, and the part that dribbled out is 'without prejudice to Mr. D. W. Davis.' I am not here to say that if Mr. Davis were not collector of customs, and were simply a private citizen who had not by virtue of any office obtained other people's property, that many of his reasons for disposing of this money are wrong. I will not enter into that at all, although it is all that Mr. Davis entered into. Mr. Davis pushes aside the department, and he says: I will tell you on what grounds I acted, but as an officer of customs I will not comply with your request: all that I do is without prejudice, and all that I do in regard to this official communication is as a private individual, and if these gentlemen want any redress let them sue me. Mr. Davis might not be worth a sixpence, but the company would have to spend thousands of dollars following him up on the chance of recovering something or nothing. I will read a part of the report of this gentleman who forced himself into a position as arbiter between these parties to show that he used his powers as an officer of the government to compel an arbitration which was not official. I will read the report to show how he accounts for what he did with the money that he forced out of private pockets. Here it is:

The next item which was not admitted by the company was the fee of \$750 paid Messrs. Wade & Aikman for prosecuting the mutineers. These prosecutions lasted a long time and they were undertaken by the master for the purpose of regaining possession of his ship. At the time there appeared to be a good deal of question as to who represented the owners of the ship in this country as is often the case here.

So much as to the \$750. The next reference in this extraordinary document which

the minister did not see fit to put in the hands of the owners in full, contains this statement:

On the representation of Mr. White, Q.C., that the master and mate had concluded to submit their claims to a court, and that their case was then laid in court and pending, and that they were not relying on their lien, I granted the first clearance. I, however, withdrew my clearance and gave as my reasons that it had been obtained by misrepresentation.

This matter of lien is largely of Mr. Davis's imagination. In another part of his report he shows that one of his reasons was that a lien could not be enforced in legal proceedings up there, and consequently (as one would infer) he had acted in this high-handed and improper manner because he wanted to deal out his ideas of justice as between the parties. The legislature of his country, according to him, had not seen fit to provide the remedy that sailors have in other parts where there is a court of Vice-Admiralty, and therefore he, Mr. D. W. Davis, decided to supply this deficiency and to put his ideas of his own law into force with the assistance of the North-west Mounted Police. At page 3, he says:

It is alleged that Mr. Wade acted as counsel for me before Mr. Ogilvie.

I read this in justice to Mr. Davis, because of a remark that I made this afternoon founded on a letter of his which was ambiguous, and which, as I read it, seemed to state that Mr. Wade was his counsel. Mr. Davis gives it another meaning, because he denies that Mr. Wade acted as counsel for him before Mr. Ogilvie.

This statement is absolutely untrue. At no time during the entire proceedings did Mr. Wade act as counsel for me or in any way whatever. Mr. Wade appeared both before me and before Mr. Ogilvie as counsel for the master and mate.

But I do not withdraw the argument I have made, that all the papers I have had access to from beginning to end justify the inference that these two gentlemen acted together. They are both connected with the government of the country, they both hold official positions, and while Mr. Wade acted nominally for the master and mate, he was able to induce this brother officer to do that which the Department of Justice has denounced as high-handed and improper. This gentleman induced Mr. Davis, the collector of customs, to act in regard to that ship in such a manner that none of these reasons commended themselves either to the Department of Marine or the Department of Justice, nor can they commend themselves to any legal mind in this House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Would the hon. gentleman say that if it were reported that Mr. Wade was acting as counsel for Mr. Davis, and that were accepted by the Department of Justice as correct, they would not be apt to take a stronger view

of the conduct of Mr. Davis than they would if they knew that that were not the fact?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It would be an additional serious fact, but it would be, as I submit, only one of many serious and extraordinary facts. Supposing it were Mr. John Smith, wholly dissociated from the government service altogether, I cannot believe that the Department of Justice, with these papers before them which were before the Department of Marine would have used any other language than the language which Mr. Davis intimates they did use, that his conduct was high-handed and improper. Again he says:

Acting entirely on their letter of submission, I had changed the whole complexion of affairs by allowing the vessel to clear for ports in the United States, a foreign country, and had thereby to all intents and purposes deprived the captain and mate of their liens, or at any rate of all means of enforcing the same.

There is his justification. He is called in as arbitrator. He is seized of what he thinks to be the merits of the case; and for the sake of the argument, let them be overwhelmingly strong, let him consider that the greatest injustice was to be inflicted on this master and mate, it would be a perilous thing to go forth that this officer or any officer of the government would be warranted in taking the law into his own hands, and calling upon the police in any part of Canada to carry out his ideas of what ought to be done. Then, coming to the very awkward point which was referred to by the Department of Marine, that that submission was not to him personally, but to him as collector of customs. They did not care a fig for this man personally. It was because by virtue of his office he was able to imperil their property and cause an enormous deal of loss, that when this proposition of submission was made to them, they acceded to it. The facts indicate, and nothing in Mr. Davis report is to the contrary, that it was Hobson's choice. They had to submit, and they took care, as they were wisely advised, to submit to him, not as Mr. Davis personally, but as collector of customs, and to appeal that submission and protest against it. They made a most reasonable request which on its face showed evidence of good faith, not that their money should be paid back to them or that it should be put beyond the reach of the law, but that it should be held until they could communicate with this gentleman's superior officer. Mr. Wade, the Crown prosecutor up there, advised that Mr. Ogilvie, forsooth, although clothed with the power of inspector of customs, had not to do with him in reference to the matter, that he was not his superior officer, and was not entitled to give his idea of what was right between the parties. Therefore, their protest bore on its face every indication of good faith; for all they asked was that

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the money should be held for that purpose, or deposited in a court of law of this government's own constitution in the Yukon, there to await the decision of a proper legal tribunal on the merits. What better could have been accomplished? The reason of the thing itself suggests the most horrible suspicion of Mr. Davis, and Mr. Wade, and their relations with each other in this matter. Why would not Mr. Davis obtain the advice, regardless of technicalities, of Mr. Ogilvie as inspector of customs or as commissioner of the Yukon; or, if he was only wanting to see right and justice done to the master and mate of that vessel, why was he not willing, under the circumstances, to accept the offer to have that money paid into court to abide the decision of the court? But no; with the most extraordinary haste, with a celerity which is remarkable when we consider other things that have been done under that same officer in the Yukon, the hearing, the *ex parte* hearing, is pressed forward. After the protest he knew that these parties would not attend, the owners would not be represented, but would rely on the government of Canada; and this officer hastened forthwith to a conclusion, assisted by Mr. Wade, and then distributed the money before the department here could get its hands upon it or hold it for further consideration, as they might be advised by the Department of Justice. Then, referring to this submission to Mr. Davis as collector of customs at Dawson, this is the best defence he can make:

Although this is the case, I took it simply to be a matter of description.

And he took the check also, I suppose, simply as a matter of description, because it was made payable at Dawson—

I understood the arbitration was referred to me without regard to my official position.

That is the kind of arbitrator he was. First of all, he could not have reached that point unless he had been an officer of customs. These people dealt with him as an officer of customs; they paid him the money as an officer of customs; they addressed an appeal to him as an officer of customs; and his only defence is, 'I never took it that I was dealing with this matter as an officer of customs.'

And I ask you to compel them now to deal with me as a private individual and do not hold me accountable as an officer of customs.

Again in this report:

I acquainted Messrs. White & McCaul with the result of the arbitration and returned to them \$200, the balance left over out of the amount deposited, and I have repeatedly informed them that I was reporting the matter fully to Ottawa. The allegation that I 'tacitly refused to make a full statement to the department' is of course absurd.

There is no full statement before this except the one—if it be a full statement—that

I read to-day. That was the statement which evoked from the Department of Justice the opinion that the conduct of the officer who made the report was high-handed and improper, and that he was to settle at once between the parties, and it evoked the order for another and a full account—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The subsequent report you have not got, apparently.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think that the Department of Customs is responsible for a great deal, if there is another report than the one I have referred to, for the correspondence I have read of Lewis & Smellie intimates exactly what reports there were, and I am referring to them one by one. I read this afternoon the opinion of the Department of Justice, and it was after that opinion was given that a peremptory order was sent to Mr. Davis; and so far as the intimation furnished Lewis & Smellie goes, I do not find that the Minister of Customs gave them any report that complied with that peremptory order.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that no report was received from Mr. Davis in reply to the letter we sent asking him for one?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am reading from that now.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the only report he had was that received by the Department of Justice before they wrote that letter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, I say that the report on which the Department of Justice have given their opinion, and upon which the Department of Customs made a peremptory order, was the report that I read this afternoon, and that when this officer says in this letter that he had informed Messrs. White & McCaul that he had fully reported to Ottawa, that full report evoked the opinion of the Department of Justice to which I have referred.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That would not be the last report.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, in the last report he says: I informed White & McCaul that I reported the matter fully to Ottawa. I see what the hon. Minister of Customs means. He may be right. He has referred to that in this report. In this report, beyond his statement or argument, there was nothing left for him except to say that he was acting in this matter personally. Evidently it was by virtue of his office that he held the ship and collected the money, but in the eleventh hour he is left stranded with his only defence, that in all that he did he was only acting personally.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He forwarded the vouchers asked for.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He does not appear to have done so by this report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But I am telling the hon. gentleman that he did.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will not dispute what the hon. Minister of Customs says, but there is evidently much left out. It is quite clear that this is the extraordinary position of the Minister of Customs in regard to this matter, that after the solicitors for the owners of the ship induced the department to send for vouchers and papers and all the particulars, this officer sends his report, but the department did not give Lewis & Smellie that part of the report referring to the vouchers and those particulars. They furnished a report from which portions had been eliminated, as shown by the stars marked on it. And doubtless when the Minister of Customs says that Mr. Davis did send the vouchers, his statement is based on that paragraph in the report which was eliminated from the copy sent to Lewis & Smellie. But Lewis & Smellie were entitled in all fairness to obtain from the Department of Justice this order for full particulars in regard to their clients' money. Why is it then that these gentlemen are denied any access to these papers? Why is any part of the proceedings withheld from them? Why are paragraphs eliminated from the report furnished by the Department of Justice? It cannot be for the purpose of justice; it cannot be for the purposes of having a full disclosure of their clients' affairs put before the solicitors, and yet when the Minister of Customs sent that letter of instructions to which I have referred, it was clear that it seemed to him fair and right that all that information should be obtained and, when obtained, should be put before Lewis & Smellie.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Do they say that they did not get it?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am reading the correspondence from which it is clear they did not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. My impression is that they did, but I do not say that positively. I ask the hon. gentleman do Lewis & Smellie say that they have not received copies of the vouchers for this money paid out, and other particulars?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have not examined Lewis & Smellie on that subject.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. When the hon. gentleman is censuring the department on statements made Lewis & Smellie, for whom he is acting—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, he is censuring the department on papers furnished by Lewis & Smellie, who claim to have a claim against this government for thousands of dollars. Did Lewis & Smellie withhold from him the statement that they had got, what he now says they did not?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am much freer to answer the hon. gentleman than he is to answer me, because I have nothing to conceal, but I deny his right to persist in a statement absolutely without foundation, that in this matter I am acting for Lewis & Smellie. I have told him twice already that I am no more acting for Lewis & Smellie or this trading corporation, than he is. I have no connection with them outside of this House. My only connection with them, is that, as a member of parliament, they put into my hands what they represented to be a full statement of the information that the department was willing to give them. I followed that up by a private request to the Ministers of Marine and Fisheries, and Customs, for my own purposes, as a member of parliament only. I got the information voluntarily from the Department of Marine, which in this matter has conducted itself according to law, but I have been refused information by the Minister of Customs, who now seeks to obtain from me the sources of my information, and the whole contents of my information.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, I do not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Time and time again, the hon. gentleman has asked me what I have, and where I got it, and how did I know about the report of the Department of Justice, and where did I obtain the information? I have answered frankly, and have nothing to conceal. I obtained these papers from the source I have mentioned, and then went to the only true source, where I expected to get a full report, which I said I wanted for a full discussion. Being denied my request, I took the only remedy left me, as a member of parliament, of putting on the paper the questions to which I wanted a reply. The Minister of Customs saw fit to tell me that he would not answer.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I said to move for a return.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It would be absurd to be satisfied with that after the hon. gentleman had told me that some of the papers he would not produce.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Would that have been covered by answers to questions?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, some of these questions relate to that, and there would have been no impropriety, though the document was not produced, in

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giving an answer as to the facts. On the contrary, there would be great impropriety in a member of the government attempting to shelter himself under any rule in order to refuse to answer. That is my contention. But, so far as this insinuation—or rather this bold statement made a moment ago, that I was acting for Lewis & Smellie, that I was acting for any individual, I utterly deny the statement as without foundation. This is submitted to me as a member of parliament for my own opinion, and I preferred to withhold any action in the matter until I could exhaust all sources of information.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Do not you think you should have waited a little longer till the matter was closed?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am perfectly free to deal with that point. The Minister of Customs intimated to me—though why I do not know, for Lewis & Smellie never told me that they proposed to file a petition of right, and it does not matter to me a tip of the finger whether they take one course or the other—the Minister of Customs has suggested in his letter in reply to my request for this full information, that there is a possibility that some one may be sued, and that therefore, this information should be withheld.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If there is an outrage, as the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) suggests, if these parties have been robbed—I think that was one of the expressions he used—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think so.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, that being so, and the courts being open to them, it is scarcely an unnatural supposition that they might look to the courts for their remedy. I am only a layman, but it does seem to me that that is not a very violent assumption.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does not the hon. minister understand that the question of whether they care to go into courts has nothing to do with it? They may be well or ill-advised, they may be the wisest fools in a case of that kind, but what have we to do with that?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. All I have to say is, I think the hon. gentleman should not use his position as a member of parliament to try to draw out in parliament something that will strengthen the case of men threatening a suit against the government.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I venture to say that the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), though he is much my senior in parliament, and though he is much my senior in years, never heard that

miserable defence put forward by any responsible minister of the Crown in this House before. I challenge him to find, from 1867 down to this time, a minister so helpless, so fearful, so abject, as to put forward the excuse that it does not become a member of parliament to discuss a matter that may form the subject of a petition of right. This is the place for the airing of grievances, and when justice is denied by the government, the more imperative is the duty of the representatives of the people to ventilate these grievances on the floor of the House. The courts are the last resort. If you cannot by the good sense of parliament, and by the force of the facts, obtain justice, if the departments or the government cannot be purged either of understrappers or of responsible ministers who will not do their duty, your resort and your only resort, is the courts of law. There you can make your case on oath, and perhaps make it so strong that the minister will have to bow, if not the public opinion, to the authority of the court, and the judgment there obtained. But I am not to be precluded, no member of this House should be precluded from bringing forward a case of injustice, by the mere fact that there is a suit to be brought or a possibility of a suit being brought. But I am not going to deal with suits or with litigation, I merely wish to press on the attention of parliament the responsibility of the minister; I want to show the maladministration of the minister. I want to do full justice to the minister before proposing a resolution. But I will be frank with him and say that if I can get no more information than I am giving to the House from these papers, obtaining through the representation of this company, I will formulate a resolution and ask for the opinion of parliament upon it. I intimated to him that it was my aim, before discussing the matter, to be in possession of the fullest information. But, having failed, as he knows, I was driven to put that notice on the Order paper. Then the hon. Minister of Customs tried to brush the whole matter away, to postpone it, to keep back the information or to have me confined to such information as he saw fit to bring down. I was not content with that, and I am not content with it. What I wish to impress upon the minds of hon. members, as well as of the public, is the character of the case in which for the first time, at any rate for years, I have heard a minister of the Crown suggest that the report of the legal officer of the government should be suppressed and kept back from parliament. And, on the ground that there is a possibility of litigation, it is suggested that a member of the House should keep quiet. No matter what wrong had been done the wrong should remain unredressed and unconsidered, because the Minister of Customs himself had deemed it wise not to grant redress. I take full re-

sponsibility, however, in adopting this course I have, and I think I have made my object clear. In this report, this garbled report which does not pretend to be full, this statement is made by the officer who was pretending that there was a lien and it would have been lost if the ship got away. He says:

This 'ordinary legal procedure' was certainly not open to the master and mate, as there was no admiralty court here at the time. As the master and mate were driven from the steamer penniless, to deprive them of their lien—

Deprived them of their lien! If there was a lien, there was the ship in the jurisdiction of the court, in the jurisdiction of this officer who detained her and with the assistance of the mounted police, tied her up.

As the master and mate were driven from the steamer penniless, to deprive them of their lien and relegate them to a suit in Victoria, where the owner of the vessel resides and which is the port where the vessel is registered, would simply deprive them of every cent to which they were entitled.

The owner of the vessel does not reside in Victoria, the owner, as the hon. Minister of Customs is aware, from the correspondence, and as I am told, although I do not know, is a company composed of leading English capitalists. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) knows who they are—because I am told they waited on him—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no idea who they are; they waited on me—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And they were courteously received. Little they thought that they would be told that their remedy would be, against some irresponsible officer in the Yukon district. Finally, in this laboured article, every line of which indicates that it was written for Mr. Davis, not by him, he says:

I have always understood that under the Merchants Shipping Act and the various Canadian Shipping Acts regulating the shipping of seamen as well in inland waters as elsewhere, the collector has the right to detain a vessel and withhold clearance until the wages are paid and the officers of the vessel are properly discharged before a shipping master.

That is the last stage on which he attempts to stand. After having explained that all he did in this matter he did on his personal responsibility, he makes this general reference to the laws relating to merchant shipping. Now, this is the significant sentence in this report: He has been furnished with that information that has been denied me, it was given to him, though it was not given to a member of this House. Referring to that, Mr. Newcombe, being Deputy Minister of Justice, he winds up that portion of his report before there is an elimination of it at the hands of the Department of Customs:

Perhaps Mr. Newcombe will be good enough to point out just where my conduct was high-handed and improper in this connection.

That is the position of this government towards the shipping interests. Having disclosed to them all they had ordered this man to do, having shown their inability to induce him to obey orders, they send that much of a letter with reference to a clash between the Department of Justice and a gentleman who is advised out in the Yukon by the Crown prosecutor, Mr. F. C. Wade, and the gentleman out in the Yukon, advised by Mr. Wade, wins the day as against the opinion of the Department of Justice, and the clearly-expressed views of the Department of Marine. On the 12th of April, 1900, the following letter is written to the Hon. William Paterson, Minister of Customs :

(File 44383.)

Re ss. 'Yukoner.'

Sir,—Herein we have the honour to acknowledge receipt to-day of a letter to the commissioner of customs of the 10th inst., (originally dated March 2), inclosing us copy of extracts from the reply of Collector D. W. Davis, of January 23 last (received by your department in February), in response to your department's letter of December 16, 1899, requiring Collector Davis, among other things, to arrange a settlement of this matter with the owners or representatives of the vessel at Dawson, in accordance with the opinion of the Department of Justice.

While regretting the long delay since the receipt by the department of Collector Davis' letter of January 23, we none the less desire to express our thanks for the courtesy hitherto extended to us in this matter by the commissioner and your department.

We take this occasion to point out that we have now been furnished with what seems to be an expurgated copy of the collector's latest letter, and we have the honour to request that a complete copy of his reply be furnished us.

In August last, on behalf of the English owners of the 'Yukoner,' we made specific charges against Mr. Davis and asked for redress. Mr. Davis in answer reported his version of the facts under date September 26 last. We then wrote the commissioner fully on November 4 last, asking for a refund of the \$5,099.45 improperly exacted by Collector Davis from the owners of the vessel. On December 16 last, after due consideration of the facts as presented by both the vessel-owners and the collector (respecting which there was practically no dispute), your department took the opinion of the Department of Justice, which was adverse to the collector's contention, and you required Mr. Davis to settle. In reply to this letter of the commissioner to Mr. Davis, December 16 last, informing him of the decision of your department, Collector Davis has, it seems, now written to the department which employs him refusing to do so—

They infer, as I did, that there was contumacy on the part of Mr. Davis.

—notwithstanding the opinion of the Department of Justice, a copy of which was furnished to him for his information. Collector Davis further boldly suggests that the vessel-owners be left

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to their somewhat dubious recourse against him personally.

The future course of the department is plain ; and we accordingly look for such immediate action on your part as the gravity of the situation invites. The contumacy of Collector Davis—an officer of your department—if persisted in, suggests its obvious remedy.

We have now the honour to repeat our request that we be furnished with a complete copy of Mr. Davis' reply of January 23 last, and that you will take such immediate action in this serious matter as the occasion warrants.

We await the favour of your early reply, and remain your obedient servants,

LEWIS & SMELLIE,
For the Export Trading and Exploring
Company.

Answering that, this is the concluding letter from the Department of Customs, dated April 21, 1900 :

Re ss. 'Yukoner.'

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. to the hon. Minister of Customs in the above matter. In reply, I am directed to point out that in your letter of November 4, 1899, you requested 'that the department, in justice to all concerned, should obtain from Collector Davis the minutes of the evidence taken by him under the alleged submission to arbitration, the detailed claims filed with him of the master and mate, and all other exhibits in question, the award he purported to make as an arbitrator, an itemized account of his disposal of the \$5,099.45 paid by the Trading and Exploring Company, and details of the dates, manner and method of his payments and vouchers therefor—the whole without prejudice to the rights of the owners of the vessel.'

This information, as received from Mr. Davis, together with a copy of further statements submitted by him in relation to the matter, has been furnished to you (without prejudice).

I have shown that on the face of the letter paragraph after paragraph had absolutely been taken out of the letter of the collector.

Your request for a complete copy of the letter forwarded by Mr. Davis to this department, dated January 23, 1900, is not entertained. In reply to the suggestion as to arranging for a settlement between Mr. Davis and the owners of the 'Yukoner' or their representatives, Mr. Davis avers that he acted throughout with strict regard to his duties, and submits that a settlement of the dispute can be arranged through the courts if necessary. The liability of Mr. Davis in this matter appears to be a controverted question. This department does not admit its liability in any way for the payment or refund of any money in respect to this matter.

Now, let us suppose an example in order to bring out what the position of the Minister of Customs is. Supposing an officer in the Post Office Department, charged with the sale of stamps, exacts and obtains for a quantity of stamps \$200 or \$300 more than he had any right to do, and the purchaser complains of this injustice to the Postmaster General. Is it to be urged for a moment as a reasonable position that the Postmaster General should state that this officer took

this money in his personal capacity, though he was clothed with authority to sell stamps? Is it pretended that the purchaser is to be told that he has his recourse against this individual to recover the money wrongfully taken from him? Yet, that is, shortly put, the position in which the hon. Minister of Customs leaves this matter. It is significant that the hon. minister, having obtained the opinion of the Department of Justice and having advised Lewis & Smellie of the effect of that opinion, being clearly in favour of the clients of Lewis & Smellie, does not pretend that the opinion of the Department of Justice was in favour of Davis, or in favour of the attitude of the government. It would have been exceedingly cruel in the case of an ordinary individual, although possibly not cruel in the case of a strong corporation, such as this, able to enforce its rights in a court of law, to tell him that such rights as he had against the department, or Mr. Davis, he could exercise, notwithstanding the fact that the conduct of that officer had been pronounced by the Department of Justice as high-handed and improper. To make good my statement, I will mention to the House that on the 27th of April, these papers that I have referred to, being in my hands, I wrote to the hon. Minister of Customs, as follows:

Ottawa, April 27, 1900.

Hon. W. Paterson,
Minister of Customs,
Re ss. 'Yukoner.'

Dear Sir,—May I have copies of the following:

1. Report of opinion of Department of Justice referred to in 2nd paragraph of Collector Davis's letter to commissioner of customs, January 23, 1900, made by Justice Department, in December, 1898?

2. Also a complete copy of Collector Davis's letter to commissioner of customs, January 23, 1900.

I desire to discuss this subject in the House and these papers would complete the series of documents now in my possession. If I am put to a motion the delay will throw the subject over to too late a date for consideration this session; and you will see that from all points of view the question can be more satisfactorily dealt with if I am placed in possession of these papers before I bring the question up.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Then, the hon. Minister of Customs replies on the 4th of May:

Ottawa, May 4, 1900.

Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, re the 'Yukoner' matter.

While I would be pleased to meet your wishes, I think that, as the question is a controverted one and inasmuch as it may be the subject of a law suit against this department, Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, the solicitors for the owners of the 'Yukoner' having in effect asked the

Crown to account for the moneys in question,—production of the papers you refer to should not in the public interest be pressed for, at any rate at present.

Messrs. Lewis & Smellie were furnished with copies of all the papers and evidence in the case which it was deemed advisable to produce at this stage. I infer from a statement made in your letter that such papers are now in your possession.

Mr. Davis, the officer of this department whose action in respect to the 'Yukoner' is challenged—

I just stop to say that it is the conduct of the minister is challenged.

—has intimated that he is prepared to have his action tested in the courts, if necessary.

That he could not prevent.

In the circumstances, I trust you will agree with the view I have expressed that the production of the papers you refer to should not be pressed for now.

Yours truly,

(Signed) WM. PATERSON.

That was a letter of the 4th of May. To that I replied on May 5:

Ottawa, May 5, 1900.

Hon. W. Paterson,
Minister of Customs.

My dear Sir,—I have yours of the 4th instant for which I am obliged. Your letter compels me to take advantage of the motion for supply and to read to the House the papers I have in the ss. 'Yukoner' and discuss your refusal to let the House have the complete record for the purpose of considering your action in this case.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Then came the action of the hon. Minister of Customs, endorsed by his colleagues, apparently, to-day, in attempting to refuse the information that I desire in this case. I have referred to the hon. gentleman's attempt to-day, to invoke some rule of the House, a rule that has been honoured far more in its breach than in its observance, and that is in regard to the papers that a minister may withhold. In England, undoubtedly, the rule is very rigidly adhered to in regard to the withholding of the opinions of law officers of the Crown. In this country the reverse is practiced. Time and again ministers avail themselves of it for their own protection. When Sir Oliver Mowat was Minister of Justice we remember that one of the great arguments hon. gentlemen had was that there was the opinion of the Minister of Justice, that they had a right to do what they had done, and the opinion of the Minister of Justice was produced and read. Time and again these opinions are brought down and laid on the Table of the House. In a matter of this kind it does seem to me a most unreasonable, as well as an extraordinary thing, that a document should not be laid on the Table of the House. In Todd's Parliamentary Government in England, page 441, volume 1, the hon. minister will find on this

subject the general principle under which government has acted here, regardless of any particular or technical reading, laid down :

But it must always be remembered that all public transactions of state are necessarily official ; and that no public officer would be justified in withholding from official record and access, any document, emanating from himself in his official capacity, in relation to public affairs.

That relates, of course, to the withholding of documents from the record in the departments, it is true. This is clearly in the records of the Department of Customs. It has been transmitted and referred to by the department in these despatches which I have mentioned. But, in regard to the practice, I want to show the hon. gentleman what practice obtained when he sat upon the opposition benches and when the Conservatives were in power. There was no such disinclination to grant these papers even though, under the rules, they might have been withheld, even in cases of litigation, and in cases involving claims against the Crown. I shall take a case from these volumes, although the number of cases is legion. Here is a motion made by Mr. Préfontaine which was carried on the 13th of July, 1891 :

Copies of all claims presented to the government since 1880 by Mr. Joseph Antoine Maurice, and Dame Julie Fournier for losses suffered by them in reference to lands purchased by them from the government in 1875.

And it enumerates the documents that are asked for. I am endeavouring to give the hon. Minister of Customs these references. The motion also calls for :

Copies of the opinions given on the subject by the hon. Minister of Public Works and of the opinion of the hon. Minister of Justice.

I have other references, but I do not think it is necessary to mention any more of them. The practice is well known, and I am sure it must have struck hon. members on both sides of this House as a matter of surprise that a minister of the Crown, for the first time, in years, should rise in his place to quote British authority and to say that he had a right to withhold and was going to exercise that right, the opinion of the Department of Justice. Now, I rose to move that this House do adjourn for the purpose, not merely of protesting against the unreasonable conduct of a minister of the Crown in attempting to keep back information in regard to the record concerning what appears to be the maladministration of his department and the maladministration of himself, but to protest against the answer that has been sent to the people who appeal to him to protect them against the high-handed and improper conduct of his officer. If I can obtain on this occasion or later on, in the way the minister has suggested, no better explanation of these facts, no other information from the public records, I will,

on going into supply, put in your hands, Mr. Speaker, a motion such as will express the opinion that I think should be entertained of a government that is responsible for what seems to have been the admitted conduct of their officer in the Yukon Territory.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Mr. Speaker, this is another of the many cases we have had during this session, of the adjournment of the House being moved in order to discuss a question, the discussion of which has occupied what may be considered as a whole sitting of the House. Under the strict rules, the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), is within his right, still he ought to admit that when a member takes up a whole day of parliament, which consists of 213 members, the question which he raises ought to be of considerable importance. What is the question that the hon. gentleman has been attempting to discuss with information in his possession that he himself says is not complete; information that he received from parties who acted as counsel on behalf of a company who allege that an officer of Her Majesty's Customs exceeded his duty. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), read to the House a letter that he himself addressed to me privately. I am not about to complain of that. He will, I think, bear me the testimony that in my relations with the members of this House, I have always recognized the fact that every member of parliament has the right to the utmost courtesy at the hands of a minister of the Crown. The hon. gentleman will, I hope, say, that my answer to his letter asking for certain papers was couched in courteous terms, while it conveyed my opinion to him as to what I thought was proper under the circumstances.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not mean the House to infer that there was anything discourteous in the correspondence between the minister and myself. I read it to show the decision of the minister as to what papers he would not allow me to have.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Very well. The House will observe that I pointed out that this was a case that was not yet settled by the Customs Department, and that the department was acting in this matter on the advice of the Department of Justice. It may be that there will be a further investigation made by a commissioner in reference to the matter, if the Department of Justice will advise it. It may be that the complainants will take steps in a court of justice to secure what they think are their rights and to redress what they consider are their wrongs. It seems to me as a layman, strange that a legal gentleman with the attainments of my hon. friend, an ex-Minister of Justice, should advocate the course he does in this matter. He blames

me because I have not dismissed the collector of customs in Dawson, but it must be remembered that the collector alleges that he acted within his rights and that it was at the request of both parties to this contention that he consented to act as arbitrator, and to receive a certain sum of money and to disburse it. That officer contends that his position is right and legal, and that he is ready to leave it to the courts of the country to decide whether or not he has done these people injury. The hon. gentleman must see that if we had the decision of the courts and the whole facts brought out, the department would then be in a position to know whether this officer had exceeded his duty or not, and upon what grounds he had proceeded. It might be inferred from what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has said, that I, as head of the Customs Department, had some object in screening this gentleman, or in hiding something about him. Those who are conversant with the matter know that the collector of customs whose character is arraigned sat for years in this House an unvarying supporter of the Conservative party. Mr. Davis was appointed to his present position by the Conservative government just at the close of the session of 1896. He had occupied the honourable position of a member of this House and was appointed to that position which he has since filled, by his Conservative friends. The department has not had any other than official communications with him. I have not seen him nor has he seen me, nor has he seen the commissioner of customs. We have been blamed by gentlemen on the other side of the House, because they thought that we had not sufficient warrant for removing from office certain persons who differed from us politically. But, now, the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), tells me that it was my bounden duty to have dismissed this man, and that because of not dismissing him, I should be dismissed myself. Although this gentleman differed from the government politically, I do not regard the matter in that light at all. He has a right to his political views. It will be admitted that there is nothing in his politics, however, to draw me more to his side than I should be drawn, but is it not my duty as head of the department to see that this officer should have what is ordinarily considered to be fair-play. This gentleman says that he has done right, that he is willing to leave it to the courts of his country as to whether he has done wrong or not and to abide by their decision. We should at least do this officer the justice of carefully considering his side of the case.

Now, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) asked a number of questions to-day. He takes from Lewis & Smellie, of Ottawa, who are the counsel for the gentlemen who say, that this collector of customs acted in an improper manner

towards them; he takes from Lewis & Smellie all the papers they see fit to give him, and then he puts a number of questions on the Order paper. I answered the hon. gentleman to-day with the usual courtesy, and I did not suppose that he would have objected to my answer. He put sixteen questions in all, as the House will see. I said:

In reply to these questions I would say that I think it would be better if the hon. gentleman would ask for a return copies of such of the documents in connection with this matter as may be properly called for and brought down, can be laid upon the Table in a short time.

That is, I did not ask, and the hon. gentleman knew I could not ask him, to move for this return. That would only be to mock hon. members of this House at this time, because on Mondays there would probably be no opportunity of reaching notices of motion; but, if he would ask for the return, I would then bring all the papers I could. The hon. gentleman was already aware that there were one or two papers which the department did not think it would be well for the present to bring down, and, therefore, I suggested such as might properly be brought down, so that he would not by and by complain that some were withheld which should be brought down. In answering questions of this kind, hon. gentlemen opposite will realize that it might be impossible to give the whole case fairly to both parties unless I were to read large portions of the papers. Hon. gentlemen know how important the context is in many statements that are made in order to bring out facts in all their fairness and truth; and I suggested to the hon. gentleman that if he would simply make that motion or ask for the return, I would gladly bring down all that the department thought that it would be in the public interest at the present time to bring down. There is no ulterior motive in the mind of the department or the head of the department in connection with this matter. The consideration has simply been the public interest and fairness to a public servant, who was and is, I believe, still opposed to us politically; and we are acting, and have all along been acting, under the advice of the Department of Justice.

SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman allow me one question? Was the last letter that was sent to Lewis & Smellie sent under the advice of the Department of Justice—the letter leaving them to their remedy in court?

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It shows that the question is still going on—still a matter under consideration. In the Department of Customs there are hundreds of cases of all kinds coming up; and in the forenoon, when one has to accord interviews to gentlemen who seek them, and who have a right to be treated courteously,

there is sometimes so little time that I have not been able to look at a letter before one o'clock; and, therefore, some little time must elapse before these cases can be reached. Here is a letter of April 5, addressed to E. L. Newcombe:

I send you above noted file together with copy of letters suggested to be sent to Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, acting for the owners in this matter.

Please advise if you see any objection to the proposed method to Messrs. Lewis & Smellie (with inclosures).

Please return inclosures with your reply.

This is signed by the Commissioner of Customs. I ask the hon. gentleman if he did not get these inclosures. My impression is that they were all the vouchers in detail. To this, on April 10, Mr. Newcombe replied:

Referring to your letter of the 5th instant, I have perused the draft letter which you propose to send to Messrs. Lewis & Smellie with the proposed inclosures, to which I see no objection.

The question as to how the claim of Messrs. Lewis & Smellie ought to be disposed of is, I think, for your decision rather than mine.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. L. NEWCOMBE,

Deputy Minister of Justice.

That shows that the question is going on and is being considered.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not want to interrupt the hon. gentleman factiously, or if he disapproves of it; but, the hon. gentleman says that the matter is going on, and is still under consideration. I read a letter from the Department of Customs, which he has, perhaps, overlooked, stating that the department does not admit its liability, and leaving the owners of the *Yukoner* for their remedy against the collector of customs at Dawson, Mr. Davis. Is not that final?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not at all. Would the hon. gentleman ask me to compromise the case—to give up the case for the Crown before it is understood?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not to give up the case, but when he ordered that letter to be sent to the solicitors for the owners, did he not mean it to convey to them that the Department of Customs declined to entertain their claim, but left them for their recourse against Mr. Davis personally?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That letter was conveying to them the collector's reply to the charges, which we asked for. The hon. gentleman this afternoon complained that the department used the term 'without prejudice' in writing to these gentlemen who threatened to hold the department responsible for this claim. Was it an unusual thing—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. PATERSON.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS—when you are giving out papers, that you should guard yourself by saying 'without prejudice'?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Absolutely without precedent from a government department.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, I can only call the hon. gentleman's attention to the fact that when these people asked for certain things, they asked for them without prejudice; and the hon. gentleman says we are not at liberty to do the same. I want to ask the hon. gentleman if he will answer me a question as a lawyer and an ex-Minister of Justice. If I discharge Mr. Davis as collector now, in what position will these people stand with reference to the recovery of the money?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the Minister of Customs discharges Mr. Davis, it will not affect one single point of law involved in the case. I have several times said to the hon. gentleman that I am not pressing, or zealously pressing, for Mr. Davis's head or the head of any one else. I was endeavouring to point out to the hon. gentleman that by not dismissing him, but standing by him, he was assuming the responsibility that devolved upon him as the head of that department, and he was the man who should be dismissed.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman said distinctly that I should dismiss him. It is alleged by the hon. gentleman that the reason he should be dismissed is because he has taken some \$5,000 of money from a certain company and paid out some of it to men who established their claims to a share of that money.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not say so.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, and the hon. gentleman says that the collector should be dismissed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If there has been a wrong done, that money should be paid back, but who is responsible for paying it back?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I told the hon. gentleman that from the correspondence before me, and the facts I have mentioned, Mr. Davis was guilty of conduct characterized by the Department of Justice as improper and high-handed, and of having declined to carry out the instructions which, under the advice of the Department of Justice, were sent to him, and that he ought to be dismissed. I then said that not having dismissed him, the hon. minister stood practically in Mr. Davis's shoes, so far as parliament is concerned,

that the conduct of Davis was his conduct, so long as he retained confidence in that officer, and did not relieve himself of responsibility by dismissing him.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Who is to pay the money ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman wants my opinion, I certainly think that the Crown is liable for every dollar.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is the opinion of the hon. gentleman, and holding that view he has set up a series of questions to make the Crown's case, if possible, weaker than it might otherwise be, should a suit be entered against the Crown. That is what the hon. gentleman has been at all this afternoon, and I do not think that that is a position which ought to be taken by an ex-Minister of Justice.

Mr. QUINN. Why not ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Is he bound to make the case against the Crown stronger than it is naturally ?

Mr. QUINN. Why should not any member of parliament do all he can to make the government pay a just claim ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No court has determined that it is a just claim.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that he only pays such claims as are awarded by courts of law ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not at all, but does the hon. gentleman assume the responsibility of saying that this is a claim the Crown ought to pay, although the Department of Justice has not said so to me. Will he not wait until the Department of Justice decides ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have nothing to do with the Department of Justice at present, I have not even been allowed to see its opinion.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has been talking from three o'clock until nearly eleven o'clock to-night trying to have something to do with it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Standing on the opinion of the department.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, the hon. gentleman has not got an opinion from that department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman's officers say that the department was of opinion that the conduct of Mr. Davis was improper and high-handed in connection with the handling of private money.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But the Department of Justice has not said that the

Crown is liable for that money. If it would assume the responsibility of saying that we are responsible, the hon. gentleman would have something to go upon, but it has declined to say so and that is a question that will have to be considered, and on which its opinion will have to be obtained. The hon. gentleman takes his view from ex parte statements, but we have not yet the opinion of the Department of Justice, so far as I know, as to whether the Crown is liable or not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. So far as the hon. gentleman knows, but he says he will not bring down to this House the opinion which the Department of Justice has given.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I believe that when that opinion was given by the Department of Justice, whatever it might be, it was given before that department had cognizance of all the facts which are in the possession of the Department of Customs now. I do not say whether the opinion of the department will be changed by the further information which the Department of Customs has received since the matter was submitted to the Department of Justice, but I have reason to believe that the Department of Justice was under one misconception to which the hon. gentleman himself has alluded, and that was that, as stated in the brief which Lewis & Smellie sent in to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, Mr. Wade was acting as counsel for the collector of customs, and that the collector himself had admitted it. But as the hon. gentleman himself showed by a letter he read, both Mr. Wade and Mr. Davis denied that statement, so that the Department of Justice was acting on information which was subsequently denied, and which, if true, the hon. gentleman himself admitted would have placed the matter in a more serious light. Therefore, I think it would be better to get a decision from the Department of Justice with all the facts before it ; and if the Department of Justice should recommend any particular course to the Department of Customs, we will in all probability, as we have done in the past, follow its direction. But that opinion has not yet been given, and the hon. gentleman hurries forward with this motion based on incomplete papers. If he wants to act fairly between these parties and the Crown and the collector, why does he refuse to ask that the papers be brought down ? It is contrary to all experience I have had in this House that a gentleman should spring upon the House a discussion on an ex parte statement, and occupy the attention of the House for hours, and refuse positively to ask for all the documents. The papers could be brought down in a couple of days, but he refuses to move for them, and says that instead he will

take the facts that Lewis & Smellie, the paid counsel for the men who are trying to get this money back, have given to him, and he refuses to ask the House to let all the papers come down. I suppose the hon. gentleman cannot object if I see fit to bring down the papers and make a motion for their presentation myself. If the hon. gentleman will not assume the responsibility, if he thinks it fairer and manlier to condemn an officer of Her Majesty's service, whom he himself was a party to appointing to office upon ex parte statements, he will not deny that it would be proper for me to bring down the documents.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Particularly will he not deny it, as he wrote a letter in April last, asking for the papers.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. But when he was asked this afternoon to move for a return, he positively refused to do it. I suppose he will not prevent the papers being brought down, so far as they can be brought down in the case of a question that is not settled. Final action has not been taken on this case. Whether the House will consider it wise or prudent, whether it will lend its countenance to its time being taken up—I will not say wasted—by the discussion of such a case, I will not say. I will just read to the hon. gentleman one paper that might be brought down. He referred to the report from the chief inspector of customs. Mr. S. W. McMichael has been chief inspector of customs for many years. He was in office under Sir Mackenzie Bowell, under Hon. Clarke Wallace, under Hon. J. F. Wood, and occupies a very high position. I may explain that last year the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) called our attention to the statements that certain steamboats had been entered at valuation of values much below what they should have been entered at, for customs purposes. After we had written and got such information as we could, I thought it was in the interests of the Customs Department and the public service generally, that Mr. McMichael should proceed to the Yukon and investigate. It is a long distance, and, up to last year, before the construction of the White Horse Pass Railway, it was a very difficult place to reach. Mr. McMichael was instructed to proceed to the Yukon, and investigate the conduct of affairs in the passes and on the Yukon, and was given power to suspend any officer if he deemed it in the interest of the public service that it should be done. Mr. McMichael went to the Yukon, and inquired into affairs there. When he came back, after some of this correspondence had taken place and replies had been sent in to the Department of Customs, the commissioner of customs sent the file to Mr. McMichael and asked him if he had any knowledge of the case or any statements to make with regard to it. Mr. McMichael made a report to the department, which would probably be

Mr. PATERSON.

one of the papers to be brought down had the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), accepted my suggestion and moved for a return.

Mr. WALLACE. Was the file given to Mr. McMichael before he went up?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, after he came back.

Mr. WALLACE. Why was it not given to him before he went up, that he might investigate the matter?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That would have been better. It may be necessary to do that yet, perhaps not with Mr. McMichael, he having expressed an opinion, but some other gentleman. However, that is a matter for consideration. He had the case before him. He says:

Customs, Canada,
Toronto, Nov. 10, 1899.

John McDougald, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs,
Ottawa.

Sir,—I have the honour to return departmental file 45,383, re steamer 'Yukoner,' and to state that when in Dawson, in August last, Mr. McCaul, Q.C., of Messrs. White & McCaul, barristers, called at the custom-house, and, in course of conversation with me, mentioned a difficulty which had arisen between certain clients of his, the Trading and Exploring Company, owners of the steamer 'Yukoner,' and Mr. Davis, the collector of customs. Mr. McCaul stated that the matter was one which his clients purposed laying before the department, and that he thought it would be well to explain to me. Mr. McCaul stated in general terms the nature of the matter in dispute, which arose out of a claim on the part of the captain and mate of the 'Yukoner' for wages alleged to be due to them and for moneys disbursed by them on the vessel's account. He said that the steamer had been detained by Mr. Davis, acting as collector of customs, because he claimed that the steamer's officers had not been satisfied and that the Trading and Exploring Company had consented under duress to accept Mr. Davis as arbitrator in the matter, depositing with him the full amount claimed; but that they had immediately afterwards withdrawn their consent to have the matter arbitrated by Mr. Davis. Mr. McCaul further said that notwithstanding this action on their part, Mr. Davis had gone on with his arbitration and made an award, which arbitration and award they, as solicitors of the owners of the vessel claimed to be unauthorized and illegal.

After having heard Mr. McCaul's statement, I requested him to put all the facts in writing and lay them before me. This he promised to do, but up to the time of my leaving Dawson, I heard nothing further from him on the subject.

Messrs. White & McCaul were the solicitors who had the case in hand. We asked them to put the case in writing. I cannot say how long he remained there, but I suppose a considerable time. That is the impression that would be left on my mind by the reading of the report, and yet he heard nothing from him. He heard their side of the question, and now he goes on to say:

Before I left Dawson, Mr. Davis, collector of customs, stated to me that he wished to explain the action taken by him in the matter. He said that in the early part of the present season, the steamer 'Yukoner' came to Dawson after there had been a mutiny on the part of her crew, as a result of which the captain and mate had been forcibly put off the vessel; that these officers claimed that wages due them by the owners had not been paid; that they each had contracts with the company, the captain for one year from September 30, 1898, at the rate of \$3,000 per year, and the mate for one year from September 14, 1898, at the rate of \$1,200 per year; and that as they had been removed without cause they were each entitled to a year's full wages.

I understood from Mr. Davis that he had advised the owners of the steamer 'Yukoner' of this claim, and notified them that he would not grant a clearance to the vessel until the matter was adjusted; that subsequently, understanding that the matter had been adjusted, he had granted a clearance, but on finding that he had been misinformed, he withdrew the clearance, and placed a police officer, acting in the capacity of a customs officer, in charge of the vessel; that thereupon the owners of the 'Yukoner,' finding that the vessel would not be allowed to leave port until the matters of the claims of the captain and mate were arranged, had deposited with Mr. Davis the full amount paid by the captain and mate, namely, \$5,099.45, and had assented to an arbitration to be made by Mr. Davis acting in his individual capacity. Formal assent to this arbitration was given by Messrs. Wade & Aikman, solicitors for the captain and mate, by letter addressed to Mr. Davis, dated July 25, 1899, copy of which is attached to the file; and by Messrs. White & McCaul, solicitors for the owners of the steamer 'Yukoner,' in a letter addressed to the collector of customs, dated July 26, 1899, copy of which is also attached to the file.

Mr. Davis stated in explanation of his course in the matter, that in view of the fact that there was no admiralty court at Dawson, and therefore no means by which the rights of master and mate could be legally enforced, he felt it his duty to interfere in the matter to the extent of refusing to permit the vessel to depart until the parties had come to some satisfactory arrangement. He further said that in consenting to act as an arbitrator he considered that he was acting as a private individual, and not in his capacity as collector of customs. Mr. Davis further said that after the joint submission to arbitration had been made by the parties, he, as arbitrator, fixed a day for the hearing herein; and afterwards, acting in his capacity as collector of customs, permitted the vessel to depart. He further said that after the departure of the vessel he received from Messrs. White & McCaul, a letter dated July 26, in which they undertook to forbid him to proceed with the arbitration, which letter he disregarded, and after having once adjourned the hearing in the matter, and Messrs. Wade & Aikman appearing on both occasions for the master and mate, and no appearance being made on either occasions by the owners or their solicitors, he proceeded with the arbitration, made his award therein, and paid the amount thereof, namely \$4,899.45 over to Messrs. Wade & Aikman, solicitors for the captain and mate. In this award was included a sum of \$700, covering an account of Messrs. Wade & Aikman against the master of the steamer 'Yukoner' for services to said master in connection with certain

legal proceedings growing out of the mutiny, which account was included in the captain's claim against the vessel. Mr. Davis stated he considered this a reasonable and proper fee for the services rendered.

I may state that it appeared by the papers shown me by Mr. Davis that the claims of the master and mate against the vessel were for wages and disbursements, and that the matters disputed by the owners of the 'Yukoner' were wages from May 27, 1899, the date of the mutiny, to September 13, 1899, the date of the termination of the period for which the officers were employed, and the legal expenses of the captain in the mutiny case. As I regarded the matter of the arbitration as in no wise within the scope of the official duties of the collector, I did not undertake to hold any formal inquiry in respect to Mr. Davis's action therein.

I would respectfully submit that the department has nothing to do with Mr. Davis's action in connection with this arbitration; and that if the parties have any claim against Mr. Davis in respect thereof, or desire to contest the legality of his action therein, they should do so by a legal procedure against him.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. W. McMICHAEL,

Chief Inspector.

The House will see that this chief inspector of the customs did not make a formal inquiry, but he heard the statements of both parties, and the conclusion he arrived at was that Mr. Davis was acting as arbitrator, for which purpose he had been chosen by both parties over their signature, to determine this matter. The collector says himself that under the laws of the Northwest Territories, which were made applicable to the Yukon, a person once appointed as an arbitrator cannot be set aside, except by order of the court—if I remember right, that is the position he takes. At any rate, they both consented to it. Then he released the vessel, and as soon as the vessel was released White & McCaul send a notice to him that they won't be bound by what they did before; though they had given over their own signature an engagement that they would leave the whole matter to be settled by him as arbitrator, when all had been done and the vessel had cleared, then they immediately notify him that they won't be bound by his award. The collector states that they had been given notice to appear and argue the case, but they did not appear; then he held another meeting, and they still not appearing, he went on and made the award. I speak subject to correction in these matters, because this matter came up when I was not expecting it, and some of the communications, I suppose, passed without coming under my own eye, though I accept all responsibility for the department in reference to that matter. But I am only speaking now from recollection; when the papers are brought down the matter will be fully known. But my impression is that the information asked him as to what he did with this money, as to how it was used, I think that is given—I speak.

now subject to correction—in the inclosures that are referred to as having been given to Lewis & Smellie in town here. If so, then I think the member for Pictou was hardly fair.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman, I hope, accepts my word, which I gave without any qualification whatever. But from the papers furnished to me it would appear these papers have never reached Lewis & Smellie, and I had no conversation with them on the subject.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I may be wrong, but I think these inclosures that were asked for in reference to that matter were furnished to them. Now, perhaps there is no good end to be served by going further into this matter at the present time. The hon. gentleman says he will feel it incumbent upon him to bring it up in a more formal manner at a later date. I will endeavour by that time to make myself conversant with the case, and, perhaps, the hon. gentleman also will be able to discuss it with fuller information and more satisfaction to himself than he seems to be able to do at the present time. All I can say is, again, that while the hon. gentleman seems to be severe on the head of the department for not summarily dismissing this officer, the head of the department can have no earthly object in maintaining a gentleman who was appointed by his political opponents, and who is a political opponent to-day, so far as I know. But whether an officer was appointed by the present government or by the previous government, what he has to say ought to receive fair consideration. I want the House to remember also that in that distant territory officers have to act under very difficult circumstances. It may be that mistakes are made, I do not say that he has made one, or that he has not. The hon. member for Pictou is a lawyer and he is able to give a positive opinion. I am not a lawyer, I have not the means of knowing, and therefore, as it is my bounden duty to do in controverted cases, we seek the advice of the Department of Justice, as we have done, and we should seek it further, and we act upon that.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think it is my duty to take prompt advantage of this last remark of the hon. gentleman. He says that he has had an opinion of the Department of Justice in this matter, and has acted upon it. He is coming within the well known rule of this House that when a minister refers to a report of any character whatever and bases an argument upon it, he is bound, forthwith, to produce that report, and lay it on the table of the House. I rise now to claim my right. The most important part of his speech is contained in that one sentence that he had the opinion of the Department of Justice, and that he acted accordingly.

Mr. PATERSON.

I ask that the papers be laid on the table of the House. I call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to page 409 of Sir John Bourinot's works :

It has been laid down by the highest authorities that 'when a minister of the Crown quotes a public document in the House, and founds upon it an argument or assertion, that document, if called for, ought to be produced.'

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What quotation did I make ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will explain that. Let me read the passage :

But it is allowable to repeat to the House information which is contained in a private communication when such private papers are quoted in the House there is no rule requiring them to be laid on the Table. The rule respecting the production of public papers, quoted by a minister of the Crown, is necessary to give the House the same information he possesses, and enable it to come to a correct conclusion on a question.

The only suggestion as to the hon. gentleman not coming within the rule that he did not quote—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Exactly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.—Will, I think, not be held to be good. The reason for that rule is that no responsible minister of the Crown ought to be permitted to base an argument on a public document that he will not produce to the House. Therefore, the reason applies whether he quotes, or says that opinion contained such and such a statement, or whether he says : I obtained that opinion from the department, I acted upon it, it is my justification. It would be a most unfair thing and an obvious violation of the spirit of that rule if a minister of the Crown—and this is the point which is raised in connection with this matter—could establish his position by referring to reports in the possession of the government and decline to produce these reports so that the House might understand whether his conclusion from that report is reasonable or justifiable.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) does not raise that question seriously.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not think that is very respectful to the Chair or to myself. I raised the question seriously, and I gave my reason for it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It was meant to be respectful to the hon. gentleman because embodied in that remark was the idea, in my own mind, that he had too much knowledge to think that it was a point that was well taken, or that it could possibly be well taken. I did not quote from any document, but, am I to be precluded, in the House, from making the simple statement

of fact that, in controverted matters, in the department over which I preside for the time being, we seek advice from the Department of Justice, and, receiving advice, that we act upon it? Am I not to be at liberty to mention that without bringing down the advice that may have been given by the Department of Justice?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is the rule.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not so understand the rule, and I do not think it has ever been so applied. I do not think the words that the hon. gentleman read bear upon the question. However, if the hon. gentleman wants to bring up that question, I would suggest that he bring up his point of order not now, but by and by.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It was my duty to call attention to it at the time, because, if the hon. gentleman had passed from it, it might be answered by Mr. Speaker, that, not having asked for the production of this document at the time, the right of an hon. gentleman to obtain it was lost.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I asked for the hon. gentleman's papers.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There is no rule applicable in this House to a private member.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have just made the statement that if a minister cannot state to the House, that, in a controverted question he has had recourse to the advice of the Department of Justice in order that he might follow it, without being bound to bring down all the advice and statements given, I think it is pressing the rule beyond what Sir John Bourinot or any one else ever meant. It does not seem to me that this is a point which is worthy to be taken by the hon. gentleman. As I said I do not see—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have stated my point of order, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask your ruling upon it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What hon. gentleman is acting in this disorderly manner? What hon. gentleman is howling? I rise in my place, Mr. Speaker, and ask for your ruling on that point of order. I see that the hon. Minister of Customs has concluded his observations dealing with the point of order and is about to proceed with his speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) could have raised his point of order at the close of the speech of the hon. Minister of Customs instead of interrupting him. I submit that there is a total

distinction between quoting from a public document and referring to one. No doubt, if the hon. Minister of Customs quoted from a public document he would be obliged to lay it on the table, but, surely, he may state that he is acting under the advice of the Minister of Justice, and it does not follow that he is bound to bring down the communication of the Minister of Justice.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) did not say that he is acting under the advice of the Minister of Justice. He said that he had the opinion of the Department of Justice, and was acting accordingly.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Even so.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There is no opportunity to test any statement in this document until it is produced.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, might I be allowed to offer a suggestion in answer to what the hon. Minister of Finance has said? Of course, there are different ways of quoting. If the hon. Minister of Customs had said: I was advised so and so by the Department of Justice, and in consequence of that I did so and so, no one would deny that he quoted. But, instead of that when he says: I did so and so, and I did it on the advice of the Department of Justice, he is equally quoting, but he is doing it in a different way. He said exactly the same thing in one case as in the other. He would be quoting in one case and he would be fairly held to be quoting in the other.

Mr. SPEAKER. The statement to which the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has referred at page 409 of Sir John Bourinot's work reads exactly in this way:

When a minister of the Crown quotes a public document in the House, and founds upon it an argument or assertion, that document, if called for, ought to be produced.

I did not hear the minister quote from a document nor did I hear him base an argument on it in so far as my observation goes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The combined watchfulness of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and the hon. member for Pictou, to have me come within the rule that would compel me to lay the paper on the table now, that I have already informed the hon. member for Pictou, it was not desirable that he should press for at the present time, has come to naught, Mr. Speaker, ruling, as I think, the whole House will agree was correct. I do not think anything further can be gained in reference to this matter. The hon. gentleman says that he proposes to bring it up in a more formal way. I think it will be my duty now, the hon. member for Pictou not being willing to have all the information that can be properly given on that subject before the House,

before he discusses it, but, wishing to discuss it from an *ex parte* statement, comprising copies of official documents, which it has been thought well by the solicitors between the parties to be placed in his hands with the view of strengthening their case, in the event of its getting into the courts, to bring down all the information in reference to it. I do not know whether, in my whole experience I ever remember a member of parliament rising to discuss a question and to censure any member of a ministry in reference to a matter that was properly the subject of a motion for a return of the papers, but he preceded it with a motion for the papers that he might know the facts and that he might discuss it intelligently.

The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was not here in time to make that motion, but he had my word for it that if he made it to-morrow the papers would be laid on the Table before he could possibly move in the matter. He refused to do that, and a similar line of action by an hon. member I do not remember in my parliamentary experience. This is a case in which the Crown is threatened with damages, and it is very strange that a member of the House should be found refusing information that would bear in favour of the Crown, but seeking to get all possible information that would injure the Crown and favour the men who are acting for those who make this claim. I have not seen such a course followed in this House in my long parliamentary experience. I submit that the House is not in a position to pronounce a judgment upon this question at the present moment. I am sure hon. gentlemen will not be prepared to accept as conclusive what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has told us is the information that has been placed in his hands by the Ottawa solicitor for the Yukon solicitor who has the case in hands for the owner of this steamer. The hon. gentleman characterized this transaction of the collector of customs at Dawson as scandalous, and, as if the collector had almost taken money by force from these men. Is it not strange that these same gentlemen who have been treated in this infamous way as described by him, are not willing to take the case into court and have it determined? The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) knows that they can go into court.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He knows the collector is a responsible man.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) goes so far as to say, in effect, that

the collector at Dawson has gone to the extent of blackmailing money out of these men, and yet, these men will not go to the courts that are open to them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Who said they would not go there?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not know exactly the position the hon. gentleman took on that, but he said something to that effect.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not say anything of the kind. I do not know what they are going to do. That is none of my business, but this is.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. With the courts open to these men, are they afraid to appeal to the courts, or do they prefer that the hon. gentleman should come here with these *ex parte* statements.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will answer.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There is no answer required.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Very well.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman knows that there is nothing to prevent them going into court. The government will not put any obstacle in their way. If they want to sue the government in order to test the matter, then, if they ask for a petition of right, so far as I am concerned, they will have my consent to it at once. If they want to take action against the collector of customs, there is no power to prevent them doing so, and then all the facts will come out, and if this collector of customs has done that which warrants his dismissal, the hon. member for Pictou can depend upon it that there will be that regard paid to the duty of the government that is expected from every department of government. If, on the other hand, the courts should decide that this collector did not do what is wrong then the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should not ask that the collector should be dismissed, but should permit him to have British fair-play. At any rate, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) should have waited until all the information which we can give in reference to this matter was before us, so that we might decide in the full light of the facts in reference to it. At any rate, he could wait for a few days, and if his clients, or the clients of the gentlemen who placed these papers in his hands, are willing to go into court, it can be done by them to-morrow. At any rate, another discussion is promised by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and I suppose, as he would not ask for the papers himself, he will not bring that discussion on until there is an opportunity to lay on the Table

of the House all the papers that may at this stage be brought down in connection with this matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I propose to bring up the question again.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I quoted from the inspector's report, and if the hon. gentleman wishes, I will lay it on the Table, but, it will be among the papers to be brought down.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). If the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) has no clearer idea of the position of affairs with respect to this collector than he has with regard to what the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was asking for this afternoon, then, I do not wonder that he has not dismissed him. The Minister of Customs seems to think that the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has taken this course because he did not want information, but, as a matter of fact, a letter has been read in this House—and the Minister of Customs has not denied receiving it—in which the hon. member for Pictou asked the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) to bring down every paper in connection with this matter and lay it on the Table of the House, or furnish him a copy of it. Therefore, one fails to see the point of the minister in standing up for ten minutes and telling the House that the hon. member for Pictou did not want information, in face of the fact that he asked the minister in writing, something like a month ago, to lay all the papers on the Table of the House—

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Certain papers.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He asked for all the papers in connection with this matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. All I had not already.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). All the papers which he had not been furnished with by Lewis & Smellie, and by the Department of Marine and Fisheries; all these papers he asked the Minister of Customs to hand to him.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. When?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). By a letter which has been read in the hon. gentleman's hearing and in my hearing in this House.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No. I think he specifically mentioned two or three items.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I read the letter and I read the hon. gentleman's answer. I informed him that I had the whole series, except three letters, and for the information of this House, I wanted the three letters to make it complete, but the hon. gentleman would not give them to me.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There were three documents which the hon. gentleman wanted, but there were some he did not want. He did not ask for the inspector's report.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Lest the hon. gentleman should be under any misapprehension, we desire that every document should be presented, and presented at once, so that we may get ready for the discussion that is to take place in this House on this matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Can you get the hon. member for Pictou to agree to that?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He has agreed to it by calling out 'Hear, hear.' I do not understand the position of the Minister of Customs in regard to this question.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Are you going to debate the question now?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I want to direct the attention of the Minister of Customs to one or two points, in view of the discussion that is going to take place. In the first place, he has taunted the hon. member for Pictou for asking for information in this House respecting a matter that may result in a claim against the government. I think I also correctly understood him to say that the government had nothing at all to do with it, that it was a private matter of the collector of customs at the port of Dawson. I would like to know which statement of the hon. gentleman we are to rely on? Are we to take the statement at one time in his speech, based on the report of the inspector, that this is entirely a private matter, in which the collector was acting as Mr. Davis, and not as the collector of customs at Dawson; or are we to take the statement in another part of his speech, in which he says that it is not a claim against Mr. Davis, but a claim against the government, by reason of the default of the collector of customs? We would like some information on that point when the hon. gentleman is prepared again to discuss this question before the House. There is another point that is significant, and on which the hon. gentleman might arm himself when he comes here again. I understand him to say that he regards it as a perfectly regular thing for the collector of customs at Dawson, to have refused a clearance to this vessel, because some person who had been its captain and another who had been its mate said they had a claim against this vessel.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I did not say that.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Did the hon. gentleman not say that the collector of cus-

toms acted within the bounds of his duty in taking that position? Has he taken advice on that point?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. What is your opinion?

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I am not going to tender my advice, because the hon. gentleman rather taunts us when we offer advice. I want to know whether he has been advised on that point by the Department of Justice, or by any one else?

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). Then you would call for the report?

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Yes. I want to know what the position of this government is with regard to that. I want to know whether the government of this country is prepared to back up a collector of customs, who undertakes to stop a vessel, because some seaman or other person tells him that he has a claim against that vessel. I am entitled to know what the position of the department is with respect to a collector who takes that position. When I asked the hon. minister if he had taken any steps to inform himself on that point, the Minister of Marine asks me what is my opinion?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I wanted to see if you would commit yourself.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I am asking for information, to see how the Department of Customs conducts the business of this country. There is another suggestion I would like to make to the hon. gentleman, it is this: He is very much concerned with respect to the sanctity of the opinions he receives from the Department of Justice. Are all opinions of the Department of Justice equally sacred, or will the government produce them only when it is convenient? It is not very many weeks since the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair), in this House, sheltered himself, with regard to a payment to a certain Mr. Snettinger, by reading an opinion of the Department of Justice with regard to it, although the question did not call for such an opinion. It was convenient then to produce the opinion of the Department of Justice. It is not convenient now; and the hon. gentleman displayed considerable wariness all through his speech, lest he might quote that opinion of the Department of Justice, which he is afraid to bring down. The hon. gentleman taunts my hon. friend from Pictou for using strong language with regard to the conduct of the collector of customs at Dawson. Did not the hon. gentleman remember that it was not the hon. member for Pictou, but the Department of Justice which used the harshest language with regard to this collector of customs? The Department of Justice said that his conduct was high-handed and improper. How long does the hon. gentleman propose to retain in the service of his de-

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax).

partment, officials whose conduct is so described by the Department of Justice? In order to avoid the force of that, he tells us that the Department of Justice did not have all the facts before them at that time. Will the hon. gentleman venture to say that since he has got new light on the subject, he has asked for any further opinion from the Department of Justice? If he has not taken that step, how dare he stand up in his place as a minister of the Crown and present any such argument as that before this House? These are some of the matters on which we should like to have information from the hon. gentleman, when he undertakes again to give the House information on this subject. There is just one more suggestion I would like to make. He says that Mr. Davis has denied that Mr. F. C. Wade was advising him at the same time that the latter gentleman was advising the master and mate of this vessel. I heard a letter read in this House in which Mr. Davis explicitly stated that Mr. F. C. Wade was doing that very thing. It is true that afterwards he undertook to deny it, apparently not having regard to what he himself had stated in his previous letter. But I would like to ask the minister whether he has taken any steps to find out whether that was the case or not? If Mr. F. C. Wade, the Crown prosecutor in the Yukon, was not advising the collector of customs at Dawson, who was? Because no one could pay any attention to the facts which were disclosed by the correspondence and fail to come to the conclusion that some one was advising this gentleman. I would like to know where Mr. Davis got his ideas about the law with regard to stopping the vessel. Some one must have advised him, and he has said, if I understand the English language, that Mr. Wade was his adviser. If not, who was? Then there is another little incident we would like to have some light thrown upon, and it is this. The hon. gentleman has told us that Mr. Davis's theory of the situation now is, that although he admittedly received this money as collector of customs, nevertheless it was in his private capacity that he undertook to carry on this arbitration and pay out the award. Does the hon. gentleman mean that this is the position of affairs? That Mr. Davis, first, not in his private capacity, but as collector of customs, undertakes to stop the vessel and hold up the owners until they deposit with him \$5,099; that then he departs from his position as collector of customs and proceeds to arbitrate this matter, and that while acting in his private capacity as arbitrator he awards a fee of \$750 to Mr. F. C. Wade, the Crown prosecutor, for services which the owners of the vessel say they never authorized at all. Then, having done that, he resumes his role as collector of customs, and, acting as Mr. Davis in his private capacity, instructs himself in his capacity as collector of cus-

toms to pay over to Wade & Aikman, acting also as the solicitors of the captain and mate, the sum of \$5,099, or whatever it was. Is that the tangle by means of which the Minister of Customs undertakes to justify to the House the conduct of this officer? Did any one ever listen to a justification of that kind put forward by any gentleman in the position of Minister of Customs, for the conduct of one of his officers. I certainly would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he had better look over the files. We acknowledge his ability as a business man. He says himself he is not a lawyer, and I would suggest that he should get some advice from the Department of Justice or some one else and ascertain whether or not conduct of that kind on the part of one of his officers can be regarded, by any stretch of imagination, as legal or justifiable, and whether an officer guilty of such conduct should be continued in the public service.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). If anything were wanted to show the inopportuneness of this debate, it is the speech of the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat. He has undertaken, with very slight knowledge of the facts, and with very few papers before him, to pronounce judgment on a very complicated case. But the hon. gentleman was careful not to give an opinion on the legal aspect of the case. He undertook to cross-examine my hon. friend who is a layman, and ask his opinion on this or the other legal point, and I was very anxious to see whether he would commit himself to a legal opinion one way or the other. But I found that he ingeniously avoided expressing an opinion as to the legality of the position taken by the Minister of Customs.

The Minister of Customs did not appear here to-night to defend or to condemn the conduct of the collector. He stated distinctly in the hearing of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), who did not have the courtesy to acknowledge it, that he was perfectly willing to give every facility to the owners of the ship to sue the Crown if they thought they had a claim, or if they thought they had a claim against Mr. Davis personally, they could go on and sue him. And if the suits were brought, and it appeared from the evidence that the conduct of the collector was reprehensible, he would be the first man to recommend his dismissal. But on the facts before him at present, I do not see that the Minister of Customs would have been justified in dismissing the collector. From the facts, so far as we have them, and we have not got many, the whole day has been taken up on one ground. The hon. member for Pictou determined not to have all the papers placed before the House which would enable all the members to understand the

case, but chose instead to put certain specific interrogations to the Minister of Customs, and when he got the answers he was going to debate the case. The Minister of Customs refused to place this case before the House in the shape of certain answers to certain questions, but offered to put the whole papers themselves on the Table.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Not all the papers.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. So that all the members might have the opportunity of reading them before committing themselves to any opinion. That course is the more reasonable of the two, and the new practice of not asking for papers, but of asking specific questions as to whether the papers contain this fact or the other, or whether the minister thinks this or that, is not as fair and efficient a practice for enabling members to form a conclusion as the old customary practice of laying the papers themselves before the House.

The facts themselves are somewhat complicated. It appears that a mutiny broke out on board the vessel, and the captain and mate were discharged by the owner. They claimed a year's wages, and the collector of customs, righty or wrongly, acting under the statute, as he thought, detained the vessel. There was no admiralty court in which to get out an attachment in rem. and he detained the vessel and refused to give a clearance. But afterwards, on false representations, as claimed by the collector, the owners obtained clearance. When he learned that these representations were false, the collector withdrew the clearance. Whether he was right or wrong we are not in a position to judge; and having withdrawn the clearance, he put an officer on board to prevent the vessel being taken out. He said that unless the owners deposited the money which the two seamen were claiming he would not let the vessel go, as the seamen had a lien on the vessel under the statute. The owners deposited the money in the hands of the collector in his own name, under an agreement signed by themselves, by which they agreed that he should arbitrate between the parties. That agreement was signed, and they then obtained a clearance, and the vessel left. After they had got their ship away, the owners repudiated the agreement they had signed.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The hon. gentleman is wrong in saying that the agreement was signed by both parties.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It was signed by the solicitors acting for the owners, so it is said. I am only debating the question on the imperfect statement before the House, and this shows how utterly impossible it is for us to come to any conclusion without hav-

ing all the facts. But the statement was made that the solicitors for the owners had signed this agreement. After they had signed an agreement to refer it to arbitration and had obtained a clearance of the vessel as a consequence of so signing and placing the money in the hands of the collector, they attempted to revoke their agreement. Whether they had not or had a right to revoke it is a question of law which the courts alone can decide. I am not going to pass an opinion upon it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The Department of Justice seemed to be able to do so.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have not seen the opinion of the Department of Justice. But I did not hear it stated by anybody that their opinion was that such a submission could be revoked, and certainly no such opinion was read here. I have not heard the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), or the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), or any other hon. gentleman give the opinion that under the law of the Yukon, a man, having agreed to refer a case to arbitration and certain things having been done in consequence of that, can revoke—

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It is entirely a question of statute. Under the common law a man can.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I know the common law; but I do not know whether there is a statute or not. The collector of customs went on to ignore their revocation and to act upon the arbitration. He divided the money and paid it out—and this is the point I wish the House to understand—before my hon. friend (Mr. Paterson) had any cognizance or communication of the fact. Before anything had been received at Ottawa by the Minister, the money had been received, dealt with and paid out, and the Minister of Customs had no more to do with receiving or paying out that money than any other hon. gentleman in this House.

Mr. WALLACE. But if a wrong had been done—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know whether a wrong was done or not. I am not expressing an opinion. But, I say that if a wrong has been done by this officer for which the government is responsible, the minister (Mr. Paterson) says: Bring your suit and I will facilitate it, if you have a claim against the government; and if you have a claim against D. W. Davis personally, sue him; but what are you coming to this House for? There is nothing we can do at present. You are not in a position to say whether Mr. Davis is right or wrong. But I want to place the fact before the House, that, having referred the matter to Mr. Davis for

arbitration, having paid the money, having got their clearance in consequence of it, they attempted to revoke that submission, but he acted upon it, paid out the money, rightly or wrongly, and this was done before the department was aware how the matter stood. It becomes a question of law whether Mr. Davis or the department is responsible, or whether either of them is responsible. The courts must determine that, and a political discussion here cannot aid the courts or further the ends of justice in the matter.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (Montreal, Ste. Anne's). Whatever may be the opinion of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, or the members of the opposition on this question, there will certainly be but one opinion in the country and that is that the way in which the Crown prosecutor assumes the position of solicitor for private parties and adviser of the collector of customs at the same moment and can use his power as counsel for the collector to further the interests of a client, cannot conduce to the proper conduct of affairs in the Yukon. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has laid the case as he understands it before the House, but what are the real facts; what is the beginning of this case? The statement made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) and agreed to by the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) is that the trouble arose about the dismissal of the captain and mate of the steamship *Yukoner*. Mr. Wade, the government Crown prosecutor, appointed by this government to represent them in legal matters in the Yukon, we find is the representative of these two officers. They claim certain moneys amounting to \$5,099. Mr. Wade applies to the owners of the vessels for payment, and they, for reasons known to themselves, refuse to pay the money. They have received a clearance from the collector of customs for their vessel and the vessel is about to leave port. But by some means or other it is not allowed to leave. The collector of customs who has already given them a clearance, refuses to allow them to leave and invokes the strong arm of the law, backed by his officers, ties the vessel up to the wharf and puts some of his own men in charge. Whatever the ministers may say, the general public in this country will say that the collector of customs at that port and Mr. Wade, the Crown prosecutor, were acting in collusion to tie up that vessel. The general public will say that Mr. Wade prostituted his office and his power as representative of this government in Dawson, and used the influence he possessed as advising counsel of the government there, and of Mr. Davis, whether legally or illegally, to detain the vessel at that port after he had given her a clearance. I do not think that any fair-minded citizen of Canada will come to any other conclu-

Mr. PATERSON.

sion. The question is not whether this company, which has been injured, is bound to seek redress from the government or from Mr. Davis, in his private capacity, the question is, whether the government of this country is to be known as guilty of conduct such as is abhorrent to the whole commercial community of Canada, and whether people who go there to do business are to be held up by land pirates in that manner acting under the authority of this government. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Minister of Customs say that these people have their recourse in the courts, that they have a right to take an action of damages against this man. But what confidence can they have in the administration of justice there, what confidence can they have even in a judge there, when they see that two of the most important officials can conspire together to deprive them of the clearance to which they were entitled and which was given them by the collector of customs? And when a question is asked about it, the Minister of Customs says: You should not ask such a question as that which is liable to bring an action of damages against the Crown. It was the first time that I ever knew that the Crown or the ministers of the Crown would refuse justice. I do not think they occupy their positions for the purpose of preventing people obtaining justice. Any member of parliament would badly misunderstand his position if he allowed himself to be hampered in any way in asking questions for fear an action of damages should be taken against the Crown. The right we have to ask these questions is consecrated by the fact that by that means very great benefits have been secured to the people wherever constitutional government is practised. Parliament is the highest court of the empire, and any evidence that can be adduced before any other court ought certainly to find its first place in parliament. Therefore, I think the Minister of Customs has taken a very poor position in refusing to answer questions which are put here for fear an action for damages may result against the Crown. I will say no more on this matter at present, as I believe we should have another opportunity of discussing it with fuller information than we now have. There can be but one conclusion to arrive at from what we have already heard, and that is that two officers of this government in the Yukon have acted in a most outrageous manner, have prostituted their positions and the power which they hold, in fact they have really acted as land pirates in the Yukon.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). The hon. gentleman from St. Ann's, Montreal (Mr. Quinn), admits that we have not full information in regard to this matter, and those of us who have listened to this discussion must realize that that is the case.

I am surprised to hear this strong attack on the collector of customs, in view of the very meagre information which we have. I think it is only fair that this gentleman should be given an investigation and a fair trial before his dismissal is called for in such vigorous terms. He is a gentleman whom many of us are well acquainted with, and in whose honour and character we have every reason to place confidence, and I regret that he has been attacked in this severe manner without being able to defend himself. As we have heard from the minister that he is asking for a full report in regard to the matter, when we receive that, we can form a proper opinion as to whether this officer has been guilty of malfeasance in office. I certainly think that before he is condemned he is entitled to a fair trial like any other citizen.

Motion (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), to adjourn negatived.

ADJOURNMENT—PERSONAL EXPLANATION (MR. McDOUGALL).

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. McDOUGALL. I wish to bring to the notice of the House a statement which I find in a newspaper published in Sydney, Cape Breton, in reference to the speech made by the member for Cumberland (Mr. Logan), a few days ago. -It reads as follows:

Mr. H. J. Logan, of Cumberland, was one of the speakers on the budget debate on Thursday night. He made the following apt reference to Mr. McDougall, one of the members of this county.

After proceeding to quote a part of the statement made by the member for Cumberland, the paper says, referring to what had taken place in reference to legislation that was passed in the local House of Nova Scotia some years ago for the organization of the Dominion Coal Company:

They went further, and the member for Cape Breton was one of them, and waited on the Governor General to endeavour to prevent the organization of the scheme.

I was not in the House when the hon. member for Cumberland made his speech, but I have looked it over in the *Hansard*, and I do not find any such statement in his speech. But I found on further search, that the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, of Halifax, made a similar statement which reads as follows:

They went further, and the member for Cape Breton was one of them, and waited on the Governor General to endeavour to prevent the organization of the scheme.

I find the same statement in these papers. The *Morning Chronicle* of May 4 has it as a despatch from that paper's correspondent at Ottawa, and it is quoted in the editorial

columns of the *Daily Record*, of Sydney, Cape Breton, on May 5, where it is credited to the member for Cumberland. I wish to inform the House that there is not the slightest foundation for the statement. I have never gone to the Governor General in regard to this question, nor to any one of his advisers, nor before the government of the day in regard to it. I do not blame the member for Cumberland for making this statement, because I do not find it in his reported speech; but whether he is responsible for it or the correspondent of the *Chronicle*, I say that the statement is absolutely untrue.

Motion agreed to. and House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Thursday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, May 10, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. CHAMPAGNE presented the third report of the select committee appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of the House during the present session, as follows :

1. That Mr. Jeremiah Mullin, who was engaged for several days last session to assist the official reporters of the debates, be paid the sum of \$50 for his services.

2. That the services of Messrs. J. A. Bernard and S. Gélinas, official translators of the debates, be dispensed with from the 15th instant, and they be paid for their services the proportion of salary allowance that the length of their service bears to the length of the session.

3. That Messrs. Achille Fortier, Flavien Moffet and Emile Tremblay be appointed to the staff, and that each of them be paid for the work to be performed by them during the balance of this session the proportionate amount that the length of their service will bear to the length of the session.

PRINTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved :

That the rule of the House be suspended, and that the papers relating to the steamship 'John C. Barr,' referred to at page 431 of the Votes and Proceedings, being Nos. 63 and 63a, be printed forthwith for distribution.

Mr. McDOUGALL.

I have no doubt that the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will concur in that.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would suggest to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) that it would have been more regular to have had these papers referred back to the Committee on Printing, but, I have had a conference with the chairman of the committee, and, under these circumstances, I think the motion should pass. But, in future, if a similar case were to arise, I think I would insist upon the papers being sent to the Committee on Printing, and asking their judgment upon the matter.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no doubt that is quite a correct and proper mode of procedure, and it is merely as a matter of general consent that I can make the motion which I have made.

Motion agreed to.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved :

That the papers referred to in paragraph 105, page 433, of the Votes and Proceedings, be printed forthwith for distribution, and that the rules of the House be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 154)—from the Senate—to amend the Loan Companies' Act, Canada, 1899.—(Mr. Fielding.)

SUPPLIES FOR HALIFAX GARRISON.

Mr. CLARKE (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What are the names of the contractors furnished by the Imperial authorities from whom any supplies of provisions have been obtained for the Canadian regiment now garrisoning Halifax?

2. What amount of supplies or provisions has been obtained from each such contractor?

3. What amount of supplies and provisions has been obtained from each contractor not so furnished by the Imperial authorities, and what is the name of each such contractor?

4. Were J. A. Leaman & Co., and Moir, Son & Co., contractors for the furnishing of supplies or provisions to the Imperial authorities for the garrison at Halifax?

5. Have any supplies or provisions been procured from either of these firms for the Canadian regiment now garrisoning Halifax?

6. What supplies of meat have been obtained for such regiment from W. A. Maling & Co.?

7. Were they contractors for the supply of meat to the garrison for the Imperial authorities at the time when the Leinster Regiment left Halifax, or during what other period?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. Messrs. Gunn & Co., Messrs. Moir, Son & Co., Mr. H. D.

McKenzie. 2. Moir, Son & Co. supplied 1,371 pounds bread; Gunn & Co. supplied 1,000 pounds straw; Gunn & Co. supplied 1,000 pounds hay; H. D. McKenzie supplied 6,000 pounds hard coal. 3. Scrivens & Co. supplied 1,834 pounds bread; John Fry supplied 21,182 pounds bread; J. B. Shaffner & Co. supplied 1,854 pounds hay, 27,867 pounds straw, 2,020 pounds oats; W. A. Maling & Co. supplied 24,387 pounds beef. 4. Their names were furnished by the Imperial authorities as such. 5. Yes; from Moir, Son & Co. 6. W. A. Maling & Co. supplied 24,387 pounds beef. 7. Their names were not mentioned in the list furnished by the Imperial authorities.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—TRANSPORTATION OF TROOPS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. What companies or persons entered into any arrangements or agreements with the government for the transportation of men, horses, materials, &c., of the two Canadian contingents to South Africa, and what were the terms of each such arrangement or agreement as to the provisioning of the men during the voyage?

2. Did such arrangements or agreements, in any, and what instance, provide for the furnishing by the steamship owners of the provisions for the men during the voyage, and if so, upon what terms?

3. Was the provisioning of the men during the voyage to be paid for by the government to the steamship companies? If so, at what rate, or upon what terms?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. (a) The Allan Line and the Elder-Dempster & Co.; (b) First contingent: The government paid £35 for the officers, £30 for the non-commissioned officers, and £22 for men and horses; second contingent: The government paid 20 shillings per ton per month for the hire of the vessels, and also paid for the provisioning of them. 2. First contingent: The steamship owners furnished the provisions for the men during the voyage at the rates above mentioned; second contingent: The steamship owners also furnished the provisions on repayment by the government. 3. (a) The provisioning of the men of the second contingent during the voyage is to be paid for by the government; (b) The government reimburses the companies and remunerates them, upon reasonable terms, for their time and labour.

POSTMASTER AT CLYDE RIVER, N.S.

Mr. MILLS asked :

Has George Thompson, postmaster of Clyde River, N.S., resigned his office, or has he been removed therefrom?

Has a petition been presented praying that E. B. Thompson be appointed?

How many names are affixed to said petition?

Has any one, other than said E. B. Thompson, been appointed to said office; if so, who?

Why was not the prayer of the people's petition granted?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Thirty-one names. 4 and 5. Mr. James McKay has been appointed postmaster at Clyde River, and the department has no reason to doubt that the service will be efficiently performed to the satisfaction of the public.

1st PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES AND 6TH FUSILIERS.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. When were the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles and the 6th Fusiliers amalgamated as the 1st Prince of Wales Fusiliers?

2. How many officers were affected by this change?

3. Did the government make any of these officers any allowance to compensate them for the expense they were necessarily put to in providing themselves with new uniforms?

4. If so, what was the allowance granted to each lieutenant-colonel, major, captain and lieutenant?

5. When were these allowances paid to the several officers affected?

6. When was the 2nd Battalion, 5th British Columbia Regiment of Canadian Artillery, changed into the 6th Battalion of Rifles?

7. How many officers were affected by this change?

8. What allowances, if any, have been offered or paid by the government to each lieutenant-colonel, major, captain and lieutenant thus affected, as compensation for necessary expense incurred in procuring new uniforms?

9. Has the resignation of any officer of the 6th Battalion of Rifles been received by the Militia Department within the last four weeks? If so, whose?

10. Has any claim been put in by the officer commanding this regiment for compensation to his officers on account of being compelled to buy new uniforms?

11. If so, what was the amount claimed?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. May 1, 1898. 2. Twenty-three officers were affected from a military standpoint. 3. Yes. 4. An amount equal to two-thirds the value of the uniform they were obliged to purchase, payable upon production of invoice. 5. Claims have been paid as they came in since the amalgamation took place. 6. July 1, 1899. 7. 18. 8. \$28.90, the approximate value of undress uniform. 9. No. 10. No. 11. Answered above.

Mr. PRIOR. The hon. gentleman in reply to No. 4, says 'two-thirds' the value of the uniform. What is the amount in dollars and cents?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. This is the answer prepared by the officials. I shall try to get that information for the hon. gentleman.

FENIAN RAID MEDALS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. POWELL asked :

(a) When will the Fenian raid medals be ready for distribution in New Brunswick? (b) Have any arrangements been made to distribute them? (c) If so, who is to distribute them?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). (a) Medals for the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870, and the Red River Expedition are now being engraved for No. 7 Military District. Those for New Brunswick will be next in order for engraving; it is impossible to give any exact date. (b) No particular arrangement for their distribution. (c) They have heretofore been issued in bulk to the district officer commanding, through whom local arrangements for distribution are made.

MUNICIPALITY OF FRANKLIN, MANITOBA.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

Has the following resolution adopted by the council of the rural municipality of Franklin, province of Manitoba, adopted at a regular meeting of that council, held at Dominion City on April 10, 1900, been communicated to the government:

'Whereas there is situated in the municipality of Franklin an Indian reservation comprising a portion of township 2, range 2 east, in the province of Manitoba, consisting of about 13,000 acres of good arable land, well adapted for agricultural purposes, and convenient to the market; and whereas the population of the band of Indians to whom the said land was allotted, is becoming depleted and the land in question almost deserted; and whereas the settlement of the said reservation by an agricultural population would add greatly to the prosperity of the municipality and materially aid in the liquidation and payment of the heavy bonded indebtedness with which the municipality is encumbered.

'Therefore, be it resolved that we, the council of the rural municipality of Franklin, in session assembled, do hereby recommend to the Governor General in Council that the government take the necessary steps compatible with honour to arrange with the Indians and secure an abandonment of the said land, and in the event of this being attained, to open up the said land for settlement in lots of 160 acres each, to be disposed of under the usual homestead regulations.—Carried.'

Is it the intention of the government to carry out the request of the municipal council of Franklin, as expressed in the foregoing resolution?

If so, when will this land be available for settlement, and upon what terms?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. No. 2. When the request is received it will be taken into consideration. 3. It is impossible to answer this question until the matter has been considered.

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

ESQUIMALT DRY DOCK.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. What were the annual receipts and expenditures at the Esquimalt dry dock for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1895-6-7-8-9?

2. What have been the receipts of same for the present fiscal year up to March 31, or to the latest date the department has full returns?

3. When did the present scale of rates go into force?

4. What was the tonnage docked (exclusive of Her Majesty's ships) during the above several periods?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The answer is as follows : 1.

Year.	Expenditure.	Revenue.
1895.....	\$10,419 76	\$ 6,338 25
1896.....	12,355 09	10,221 68
1897.....	10,770 28	7,514 89
1898.....	11,745 84	6,227 92
1899.....	11,957 05	10,315 63

2. Revenue for present current year up to March 31, 1900, \$5,295.10. 3. Present scale of rates came into force by orders in council of March 7, and May 1, 1899. 4. Year—tonnage docked—exclusive of Her Majesty's ships : 1895, 10,350 tons ; 1896, 17,554 tons ; 1897, 20,484 tons ; 1898, 8,074 tons ; 1899, 25,803 tons ; 1900, up to March 31, 9,721 tons.

LACHINE CANAL LOCKMEN.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Is it the intention of the government to increase the salary of lockmen employed on the Lachine Canal?

2. Is it the intention of the government to give lockmen on the Lachine Canal adequate extra pay where their services are required for Sunday work?

3. Is there any regulation in force which obliges lockmasters to attend on the canal for Sunday work?

4. Is the regulation, if any exists, enforced upon the locks of the Lachine Canal?

5. Are lockmen on the Lachine Canal paid by the hour or by the day? What is the rate?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). 1. I am not in a position to say that it is the intention to increase the wages of the lockmen on the Lachine Canal. 2. The government considers it is now paying the lockmen on the Lachine Canal for their services on Sundays, when so employed. 3. It is optional with the employees as to whether they work on Sunday or not, when the services of men are required on that day. 4. No such regulation. 5. Lockmen on the Lachine Canal are paid by the month. 6. The rate is \$38 per month.

YUKON TERRITORY REPORT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Has the Department of the Interior any information in reply to the telegram sent to Mr. Ogilvie for his report on the Yukon Territory, referred to by the hon. Acting Minister of the Interior on May 3, 1900? If yes, what is Mr. Ogilvie's reply?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No reply to the telegram referred to has been received.

YUKON—BONANZA CREEK LEASE—MR. A. E. PHILP.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Respecting page 59, Annual Report for 1899, Department of Interior, 'A. E. Philp, Bonanza Creek, 2½ miles, and memorandum "Leases will be granted to the following persons upon thus complying with certain provisions of the regulations."'

- (a) When was Mr. Philp's application made?
- (b) For what portion of Bonanza Creek was it made?
- (c) Was the application for hydraulic mining lease?
- (d) If so, what provisions of the regulations have not been complied with?
- (e) What provisions, if any, have been complied with, and at what dates was compliance effected, respectively?
- (f) If the application was not for hydraulic mining lease, was it for dredging lease?
- (g) If for this lease, what provisions of the regulations have not been complied with?
- (h) What provisions, if any, have been complied with?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The reply is as follows: (a) January 12, 1898. (b) For that portion of Bonanza Creek beginning at the point where the said creek enters into the Klondike River, from thence up stream for a distance of two and one-half miles. (c) Yes. (d) Report from commissioner required by section 3, not received.

3. To any person who has filed an application in the Department of the Interior at Ottawa, or in the office of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, or in the office of the Gold Commissioner for a mining location in the Yukon Territory not provided for by the mining regulations already in force, the Minister of the Interior may issue a lease, subject to the same conditions as to size and otherwise and conferring the same rights as a lease issued under these regulations for a location acquired at public competition; provided that the commissioner has reported that it has been proved to his satisfaction that the applicant himself, or a person acting for him, was upon and actually prospected prior to the date hereof the ground included in the location, and provided further that the Gold Commissioner has reported that the ground included in the location is not being worked and

is not suitable to be worked under the regulations governing placer mining. But under this section no person shall be given a lease for more than one location.

(e) None, except payment of the rent. Payment made on February 23, 1899. (f). (g) and (h), answered by reply to (c).

CLAIMS IN THE YUKON.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

What is the date of the order in council providing that claims in the Yukon, when abandoned, shall revert to the Crown?

Does it provide that after having reverted they shall be disposed of as to the Minister of the Interior may seem right?

How many abandoned claims have thus been disposed of?

How many have been secured by one Clarke?

How many has Clarke secured within the last two years?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The answer is as follows: 1. October 7, 1899. 2. Yes. 3. The records of the department do not show that any of these claims have been disposed of, unless they have been included in hydraulic locations. 4. There is no record in the department of any having been secured by one Clarke.

THE DREDGE DOMINION.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

1. The number of employees on 'Dominion' dredge?
2. The number of crew on the 'Dominion' dredge?
3. Residence of each officer and man?
4. Date of appointment?
5. On whose recommendation was each of these appointments made?
6. Are they made locally by the official in St. John who has charge of the dredge, or are they made at Ottawa on his recommendation?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The answer is as follows: 1 and 2. Nine men. 3. There is no information in this department concerning residences of men employed on dredge *New Dominion*. 4. John F. Cheyne, master, appointed June, 1887; Frank H. Finley, crane-man, appointed May 25, 1889; Samuel Moore, cook and steward, appointed June 1, 1897; Robert L. Purves, fireman, appointed May 1, 1892; Frederick Fox, deckhand, appointed January 22, 1897; Burgess Gregg, deckhand, appointed October 18, 1896; John Reid, deckhand, appointed May 1, 1898; Henry W. Beacon, deckhand, appointed April 18, 1898; — Wilson, appointed April 27, 1900. 6. Appointments are made at headquarters, Ottawa.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved :

That from this date to the end of the session, government orders have precedence on Mondays after private Bills and questions to be put by members.

He said : I do not presume, Mr. Speaker, that there will be any objection on the part of my hon. friend opposite to this motion. I think the time has come in this session when the government should take Mondays, so as to advance as far as possible the legislation which we have to deal with. The House will, I think, all the more readily assent to this proposal in view of the fact that on Monday last we went through the whole paper, and every member having a Bill on the Order paper had an opportunity to deal with it. Most of the members were absent. One of the men who were ready to go on was my hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), who was ready to proceed with his resolution on prohibition.

Mr. MILLS. He was not here at all.

The PRIME MINISTER. He was here, and was ready to proceed ; but as it was ten o'clock at the time, the government did not think it was advisable to take up such an important subject at that hour. I stated to my hon. friend from York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) the other day that if the hon. member for Yarmouth had not another opportunity of bringing the subject to the attention of the House, the government would be prepared to give a day for the consideration of that subject. Therefore, I give notice to the House generally that at an early day the government will ask the House to agree to a day for the discussion of the prohibition question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I think we are all very anxious at this stage of the session and at this period of the year to facilitate the business in every possible way. I do not see any objection at all to the motion.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). Mr. Speaker, I should be very glad if the Prime Minister would allow this motion to come into effect after Monday next. I have an impression that very many members on both sides of the House would appreciate that, on the ground of the large number of public Bills introduced by private members still on the Order paper. It does, of course, appear superficially that private members having Bills of a public character have had a considerable opportunity of bringing them forward, and that before this period of the session those Bills should have been passed through some stages. But as a matter of fact they have not had that opportunity, because two or three resolutions, of an important character, of course, have taken up

an enormous amount of the time assigned to private members. For instance, on the transportation problem we had a very interesting and very valuable debate ; but it took up the bulk of four private members' days. Then, there was the prohibition resolution, the resolution of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and several other resolutions, in addition to the time occupied in the discussion of various questions under motions to adjourn ; so that every minute at the disposal of private members has been practically exhausted. Hon. members interested in the prohibition resolution will remember that that was placed on the Order paper on the 13th of February, and was only reached for discussion on the 23rd of April ; and the discussion lasted until quite a late hour in the evening, when it was adjourned with the understanding that we should have another opportunity to discuss it. On Monday last the resolution was reached in due course at about 11 o'clock, but in accordance with an understanding with my hon. friend the Premier, it was not brought up at that late hour. I am pleading now not on behalf of that resolution, because we have the promise of a day for it ; but I am pleading on behalf of public Bills introduced by private members. Of course, I am interested principally in a Bill which stands in my name, and other members are interested in other Bills. The Bill in my name is one to amend the Canada Temperance Act, a Bill of a public character affecting fifteen or twenty districts. It is true, the Bill was reached at a very late hour on Monday, and I was not prepared to go on with it, because, it being No. 45 on the list, I did not expect it to be reached, and I was not prepared to go on with it, having left the Bill and the papers connected with it at my lodgings. I suppose that other members, having Bills far down on the list, between No. 30 and 60, had no idea that owing to the absence of so many members the list would be run through so rapidly as it was. Therefore, I would ask the leader of the House, on behalf of a public measure of some importance in my own name, and on behalf of other measures in the charge of other hon. members, if he could not manage to give us one more Monday to enable us to bring them forward. I think that would be only fair, considering that on several Mondays the time up to 8 o'clock at any rate, has been taken up by the discussion of matters not on the Order paper, on motions to adjourn, and private members having public Bills on the paper have not had a fair opportunity to pass them through their various stages. I think the time is coming when there should be some amendment made to the rules of the House in order to give members an opportunity to have Bills of this kind brought forward and discussed.

Mr. MULOCK.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). I would like to say one word in supplement of what the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) has said. There are some sixty orders on the paper under the head of Public Bills and Orders; and although we have reached a very advanced stage in the session, Public Bills and Orders have only been called once during the entire session, and that was last Monday. Let me, however, qualify that statement by saying that when motions have been undisposed of and the debate thereon has been adjourned, these have been placed at the head of Public Bills and Orders, with the result that on every day set apart for Public Bills and Orders, debates have been held on these undisposed of motions. The result has been that with the exception of last Monday the actual Public Bills and Orders have not been called. I think I am correct in saying that we only reached it after 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening. I myself have a Bill of the greatest importance affecting the North-west, standing among the Public Bills and Orders, and I would like very much indeed to have a full discussion of that Bill. Last Monday night it was only reached about 11 o'clock in the evening, when the House was so thin that I was satisfied I could not even get five members to stand up for a division; and the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), who was going to second my Bill was ill, and unable to be present. I felt, therefore, that in justice to myself and to the people of the North-west who were interested in it, I should not go on with that Bill under the circumstances. Now, I would be very much pleased if an opportunity were given me to move this Bill and present arguments in its favour. The idea is to secure the taxation of railway lands in the west, a matter of the greatest importance indeed to that country. If an opportunity were afforded me, I think I could present sufficient arguments to satisfy this House that the Bill is a righteous one and should become law. Unless I am able to get the Bill before the House in the regular way, I may be under the necessity of bringing the matter up in some other form.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am sorry I cannot agree with the suggestion of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), and in saying so I think I will be supported by the House. We have reached a period of the session, I believe, when everybody feels that all our energies should be bent towards reaching prorogation, and that from this day on we should take government business on Monday in order to get home as soon as we can. But I may tell my hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) that we will make an exception in favour of the question of prohibition, and we will look into his Bill on the Canada Temperance Act which deals with the same subject, and see if we cannot take it up.

Motion agreed to.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION—CANADIAN EXHIBITS ON SUNDAY.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to bring before the government a matter which will engage to a large extent the interest of the country, and especially of the religious portion of the country. I find in a despatch from this city to the *Toronto Mail*, the following:

Mr. Tarte cabled that he has not succeeded in securing the closing of the Canadian exhibit at Paris on Sunday. The only country accorded this privilege is the United States.

I find in another journal this despatch:

The Canadian buildings at the Paris Exhibition will be kept open on Sunday, notwithstanding protests from the Canadian government and the Imperial authorities on the subject. The only buildings that will be closed on Sunday are those of the United States.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire what is the character of the protest that was entered by the authorities of the Dominion and by the Imperial authorities against the opening of their respective exhibits at Paris on Sunday; and I would like to be informed why these protests were necessarily ineffectual, and why the United States were able to close their exhibits. If the United States insisted upon closing their exhibit, and if the jurisdiction of the French authorities was the same in respect to other countries as in the case of Canada, and in the case of the Imperial exhibit, it strikes me that the same law ought necessarily to apply to each case. As a Canadian I feel hurt at the idea that the United States should alone enjoy the distinction among all Christian nations of observing the Sabbath at the Paris exposition. At the opening of that exposition it is well known that the ceremonies were of a character that indicated a studious avoidance of all recognition of divine authority or of religion of any kind; and it strikes me that under the circumstances there was a peculiar call for Canada and for other Christian nations to insist upon a recognition of the regulations, and usages, and rules which they deem to be essential and in the line of Christian morality and good government. I should feel, if we were not placed under duress and were not absolutely compelled to take the course which it seems has been taken, that this was an occasion where there was a loud call for the exhibition of firmness, for the vindication of principle, and for that reason I make this inquiry. I desire to know how and why it is that our own exhibit must be opened against protest of our authorities, in view of the fact that the President of the United States has said that the American exhibit must be closed on Sunday, and in consequence of taking that position the American exhibit is closed on Sunday. Where does the difference lie, and is it not possible for Can-

ada to range herself alongside the United States in occupying this position, which would be in accordance with Christian principle, and the claim we make to be a Christian people and a Christian nation?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). In reply to the question of the hon. gentleman, I may say that when the Canadian commission first discussed the question of the Paris Exposition we took steps to find out whether it would be open on Sunday. The very first commissioner who went over to Paris went with instructions to obtain this information, and to convey to the Imperial commission, under whom and through whom only we had any power to act in connection with the authorities in Paris, that it was the desire of Canada that her exhibits should not be open to the public on Sunday. The reply from that commissioner was that he was doing what he could in that direction, and that the Imperial commission appeared to think that it was impossible to secure that end. I afterwards communicated again with the Imperial commission through Lord Strathcona, our representative on that commission, requesting that Canada's desire should be granted. I have only had a reply from Lord Strathcona acknowledging the receipt of that communication and saying that he was doing what he could. Just lately, I have received a communication from my colleague, the Hon. Mr. Tarte, saying that the Imperial commission had decided that the British exhibits should be open on Sunday, and that they could not undertake to make any difference in favour of Canadian exhibits. I think that my message to Mr. Tarte crossed his, urging him again to see what could be done. I have received since a letter from the Hon. Mr. Tarte in which he dealt fully with this question, saying that he had discussed it, but had failed to secure the object aimed at, all the other exhibits at the exposition being open on Sunday. I have no information which would lead me to believe that the American exhibit is to be closed on Sunday; in fact an expression in the letter of the Hon. Mr. Tarte which I received the day before yesterday, would lead me to believe that the American exhibits are to be open also, although it is not categorically so stated.

Mr. CHARLTON. That is a mistake.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It may be, but he stated distinctly that all the rest of the exhibition was going to be open on Sunday. Of course, I have no means of knowing how the American commissioners have secured the closing of their exhibits on Sunday, even if they have secured it. But I can assure the hon. member that I have done all I could through our commissioner in Paris, the only channel of communication which is open to us with the Paris commissioners, to secure that the

Mr. CHARLTON.

Canadian exhibit should be closed on Sunday; and the reply from the Imperial commissioners is that they cannot succeed in accomplishing that object.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I am just in receipt of a letter of considerable importance particularly to Canadian workmen, which I would ask permission to read in order to have an explanation from the government. The letter is as follows:

Prescott, May 8, 1900.

Dear Sir,—I am mailing you under separate cover a Prescott 'Messenger' of May 4, 1900, marked on last page where one of our citizens was ordered back to Canada. I am well acquainted with Mr. White. He is one of our best men, and I had an interview with him to-day relative to this matter. He says that while at work in the store at Ogdensburg he was served with papers to return to Canada at once or be imprisoned. He had moved his wife and family to Ogdensburg, N.Y., and was practically a citizen of New York. There are now, and have been, citizens of Ogdensburg working in our town in defiance of the Alien Labour Law. Now, I am writing Dr. Ried, M.P., regarding this matter. I think it an opportune time now to make those howling Grits declare themselves on this matter, as they take lots of credit to themselves for being the labouring man's friend, when it always has been the Conservatives' aim to stand by the labour element. I thought I would call your attention to this particular case, as you are author of the alien labour clause. If I can be of any assistance to you at any time, you are at liberty to call on me.

I am, yours truly,

GEORGE McGOODKIN.

The Prescott paper published this article:

Turned Down.—John White, a Canadian, for several months employed in an Ogdensburg grocery store, was served with deportation papers last week, and returned immediately to his home in Prescott. White's employment here was in violation of the Alien Labour Law.

If we have an Alien Labour Law in force in Canada, it is time we should put it to some use. Not an American has been deported from this country under our law, while the Americans have shown no disinclination to put their's into force. Here is the case of a Canadian who went with his wife and family to Ogdensburg, and worked in the store in that place, and who was served with deportation papers and compelled to return to Canada or suffer imprisonment. And this despite the fact that there is an agreement or understanding between the two countries that owing to the fishery regulations and concessions made to the Americans from Ogdensburg to Cape Vincent, the Alien Labour Law would not be enforced at all. By an arrangement made by the International commission, matters were to stand in abeyance on both sides until the commission got through its work, yet the Americans are driving back Canadians every day who go to that country looking for work, and at the same time Americans are coming in here looking for work and this government does not raise a finger to assist our

labouring element or protect them in their rights. We have on our statutes a law open, that is their affair, and if we should properly be styled an 'Alien Labour Fraud' because it is nothing else, and was intended to be nothing else from the first. As my correspondent says, I introduced a Bill, which, if it had been passed, would have been effective, but the government put up one of its supporters to forestall me and introduce a Bill which was ineffective and never was intended to be of any avail.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I thought that my hon. friend was going to say something with regard to the question raised by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), and consequently I did not rise on the moment.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. McMULLEN. To put myself in order, I move the adjournment of the House. I consider the question exceedingly important which the hon. member for North Norfolk has brought up. I do not believe that the people of Canada will endorse for a moment the keeping open of our exhibit in Paris on the Lord's day. Our people would much prefer that we should withdraw our exhibit altogether, rather than be a party to the open desecration of the Lord's day in that country. I hope that the government will take steps to see that our exhibit is closed on that day. If the people of England are willing to keep their exhibition open, that is their affair, and if we should have to follow their course or withdraw our exhibit, I think that this government would be assuming a very grave responsibility if they should, under any circumstances, consent to a desecration of the Lord's day. I should be prepared to support a resolution to withdraw our exhibit altogether before I would be a party to keeping it open on the Lord's day. Let me tell the hon. the Minister of Agriculture, that the Christian professing people of this country will expect him to make every possible effort to have our exhibition closed on that day. If the hon. Minister of Public Works is in Paris, as the representative of the government and this country, he had better at once set about seeing that the religious convictions of our people are respected. I shall undoubtedly vote for any resolution to withdraw our exhibit altogether rather than allow it to be open on the Lord's day.

Motion (Mr. McMullen) to adjourn, negatived.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In answer to the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), I beg to say that the case he has brought to the attention of the House, judging from the letter he has read, is not a case of violation of the American Alien Labour Law. Mr. White had not gone from Canada to the United States in violation of that law, and if he was de-

ported, that was an abuse of the law. This is the second instance of the kind, however, which has been brought to my attention. My hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, brought to my attention the case of another Canadian who appears to have been deported from the United States under the pretense of a violation of the American Labour Law, when in fact there was none. This is a case which calls for diplomatic representation by this government to the American authorities that some of their officials, under colour of the Alien Labour Law, were going outside that law.

Mr. TAYLOR. What is a violation of the Alien Labour Law, if this case is not. This man went to the United States and hired in a grocery store and brought his family over, and they served him with deportation papers.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is not a violation of the Alien Labour Law.

Mr. McCEARY. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER. There is nothing before the House. We have drifted into this habit of discussion, and the House will agree with me that there must be some limit put to it.

SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford) moved second reading of Bill (No. 143) to amend the Act respecting the securities ties for seed grain indebtedness.

He said: I promised to give a few explanations on the second reading of this Bill, and the Bill is so simple it will not require many. It is in the interests of the settlers of the North-west, whose titles are encumbered by previous legislation, under which they were compelled to give personal security for the seed grain issued to settlers from time to time in that country. I am of opinion that the country will not lose anything by this action. To be relieved of this liability, will be an encouragement to the settlers of that section of the country, and the increase in the value of land there will be of much greater benefit to the country than any loss that one might suppose would be incurred by relieving these bondsmen of the personal liability they incurred. I think further explanation is unnecessary, unless it is required by some hon. member. I am satisfied that it is in the interest of the people of the whole country that this Bill should be passed.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) has taken this step, a step which, with some others should have been taken as far back, at least, as 1897. When the hon. gentleman's principal in the office of the Department of the Interior came west, after hav-

ing assumed office. I waited on him with a deputation and pressed on his attention the necessity of dealing at once with this question, and dealing with it, on the point touched by this Bill, in the way, in the main, the hon. gentleman is dealing with it now. But I urged him to go further and relieve abandoned homesteads from liens respecting seed grain, and also to give the principal debtor relief in respect to his indebtedness. So far as the point dealt with by this Bill goes, the Bill is complete; but, as I say, it is not the entire policy for which I contended. In the session of 1897, I brought the matter before the Minister of Interior, but the hon. minister did not see his way to even touch the question. I brought it before the House in 1898, and again in the beginning of the session of 1899. About the close of the session of 1899, although the Minister of Interior up to that time had very little hope, he came across the floor of the House to me and told me he was going to meet my views in regard to seed grain. Well, a Bill was passed, that ineffective Bill which led me to move for the bulky returns which have now been brought down, and which show how badly and clumsily and unsatisfactorily that Bill worked. The Bill of my hon. friend (Mr. Sutherland), so far as the bondsmen are concerned, is complete, save for one phrase. But when we go into committee, I shall urge my hon. friend to change the form of the clause so as to avoid the amount of correspondence that may otherwise take place. The clause reads:

The Governor in Council may discharge from liability persons who are liable to the Crown are securities upon bonds given to secure repayment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories.

Now, I would ask my hon. friend, what is the necessity of providing that in each case where a man has gone security for seed grain there must be an application to the Department of the Interior? While going the full length—as he clearly intends to do from the speech he has made—the full length of relieving the bondsmen in the North-west Territories, he still leaves a vice in this Bill which will lead to any amount of correspondence. We have a pile of correspondence now brought down about a foot and a half high connected with getting rid of the liability of various bondsmen for a small sum running from ten to thirty dollars. In committee, I will urge him to change the form of the clause, so as to place the men who have given bonds in such a position that when they come to do business with a land agent they shall not be confronted with this liability which parliament is now called upon by my hon. friend to abrogate. If he is trying to relieve these men, what is the use of placing them in this position? For instance, a man goes into the land office and wants to

Mr. DAVIN.

get his patent. The land agent says: You cannot get your patent because you are bondsman for John Jones in regard to section 2, township 18, range 3. The man says: But the Bill that was passed in 1899, and the Bill of 1900 were to relieve the bondsmen. The agent answers: Oh, well, you must make an application to the Department of the Interior. The bondsman writes to the department. Perhaps Mr. Smart may put some extreme construction on this, as he has put on the Act of 1899. Then the man will go to a lawyer or to a member, and there is further correspondence, and the bondsman is worried and taken away from his business and from his farm. In committee, I shall urge my hon. friend to improve that. Then, I shall ask him to legislate in this respect not only for the North-west Territories, but also for Manitoba. There are bondsmen in Manitoba also, and I want to see them placed in precisely the same position as those in the North-west Territories. I will then suggest to him, when we go in committee—for I cannot move it, because it would be construed as being a burden on the revenue—to relieve the abandoned homesteads, that is homesteads that have been abandoned and that still have seed grain liens charged up against them. What happens in regard to these? A man goes to the North-west Territories and determines to homestead. He picks out a suitable homestead and goes to the land office to enter for it. But the agent says to him: There is a seed grain lien against this homestead; the man who was originally on this homestead borrowed seed grain, and that indebtedness belongs to the liabilities you will have to shoulder. I shall urge the hon. gentleman to relieve these abandoned homesteads. And then I shall bring up the clause—I cannot move this either, I suppose, that is, I cannot move it in a form to place it in the legislation—but I should like very much to see the principal debtors relieved in the manner I suggested last year, when I divided the House—namely, that the debt should be handed over to the local government with instructions to collect it directly or take it out in statute labour. Now, Sir, let me say that, in speaking on the motion for the second reading of this Bill, I could not illustrate better the work that may be done by a man, whether he is in opposition or whether he is on the ministerial side, who persistently presses on the attention of the House the claims of the people of the country and the claims of his constituents, than by pointing to what has been accomplished in regard to the second homestead, in regard to this seed grain indebtedness, and many other things. I might almost compare myself, in dealing with the hon. Minister of the Interior, and with previous Ministers of the Interior, to a robin on the lawn, outside here, while drawing a twelve-inch worm. First, he

looks for the worm, then he gets hold of it, then he pulls it out a little way, then he pulls more, and then he pulls it all the way out, just as in this case, after having pulled the Minister of the Interior to a certain extent, at last, on this great question of the bonded indebtedness, I have drawn the worm completely. I congratulate my hon. friend, the acting Minister of the Interior, that he has come, on one of the most important features of my seed-grain policy, completely around to the views that I have advocated now ever since this question has arisen. I only hope that he will still further distinguish himself by taking the views that I have placed before him in regard to abandoned homesteads, and in regard to the principal debtor. I support the second reading of the Bill.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I would say to my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) that I do not think it is at all necessary to amend the Bill in the direction he suggests. The question of personal liability has been considered by the department, and in the cases to which he has referred of abandoned homesteads, there will be no liability against the land in the event of another settler, or another person, making an entry. That is perfectly clear. I am not prepared to go so far, and I do not understand the hon. gentleman asks it, as to say that the primary debtor should be relieved of his indebtedness, that the person who received grain himself and still owes the government for it should not pay the amount. I do not think that the hon. member asks for that, and I do not think it would be fair, or reasonable. While I agree that bondsmen, or sureties, might be relieved, I do not, for a moment, ask that the man who received the seed grain should not pay his own indebtedness. My hon. friend will see the necessity for this regulation when I point out that there are probably over a thousand bondsmen who were bondsmen only for other people, who had never received seed grain, and who will, by this Act, at once be relieved of their liability. As it is the intention that the primary debtor shall pay it is necessary that a formal application shall be made, so that the officers of the department shall know that there are no irregularities, or frauds, being committed. I think that the department has gone a long way in the interests of the settlers, and I think it will be found that this Bill will work out to the complete satisfaction of all concerned.

Mr. JOHN G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Mr. Chairman, I listened with a good deal

of attention to the hon. Minister of the Interior when he was introducing the Bill, but I did not hear a single argument why these bondsmen should be discharged. I have no doubt that the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), had, at some time previously, adduced some arguments in favour of it. How do you intend to treat the bondsmen who have paid under this Act? There are a lot of these bondsmen who have paid for this seed grain. You are making an invidious distinction between the man who pays and the man who does not. Are you going to recoup the bondsmen who have paid? I suppose this is the usual form in which an Act, empowering the Governor General to discharge an indebtedness to the Crown should be drawn. An argument was put forward by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia as to the language of the Bill. I think the language is perfectly correct. I was thoroughly convinced as to the proper language to be used by the argument of the hon. gentleman himself. I remember his discussing the subject of the difference between 'may' and 'shall,' and of his arguing that 'shall' should never be used when the Governor General, or the Crown, is mentioned in an Act of parliament, that 'may' was compulsory as much as 'shall,' and that it was the proper language to be used in reference to the Governor General. I would like the hon. acting Minister of the Interior to tell me why, after bondsmen have been compelled to pay, there should be this invidious distinction between those and bondsmen who have not paid at all, and whom it is proposed to discharge from their liability.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the hon. acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) replies to what my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) has said, I am quite sure that if my hon. friend behind me had been in this House and heard the arguments that have been addressed from time to time and year after year by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) to this House, he would have been thoroughly satisfied as to the justice of this measure. Unfortunately, he has not had the opportunity of listening to these arguments that have convinced both sides of the House that it is a wise and judicious measure to relieve these people from this seed grain indebtedness. The very fact that parties were in the position that made it necessary that there should be advances made for seed grain carries, on the face of it, a justification for the relief that is now proposed. I do not intend to anticipate what the hon. gentleman who is acting for the Minister of the Interior will say upon the subject, but, it appears to me that the fact of certain parties being able promptly to discharge the liability while others have not been in a position to do that, would make a distinction between those who have

already paid and those who have not paid.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply to the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart), I would say that when this matter was brought to my attention, I took it for granted that, presumably, persons to whom seed-grain was given were in need of aid in this way. They are, probably, people, who would not have accepted assistance in any other way. My view was that the government, having agreed to furnish assistance to the early settlers, or the needy settlers at that time, they should not have been compelled to furnish personal bondsmen, or sureties. That is my view of it, and taking that view, I thought it was only proper and in the interest of the people and of the country, that these people should be relieved of that liability.

It is a reason that appeals to my mind in the interest of the setting of that country. A grievance exists now, because where a man after going through the hardships of early settlement pays his own indebtedness, it is unfair to ask him to pay for his neighbour for whom he was forced by an Act of parliament to become surety. In that view, I think it desirable that this Bill should pass. If there is any grievance in the matter referred to by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart), I will be glad to deal with it. If any person has paid for a neighbour who has abandoned his homestead and from whom he cannot collect, I will be glad to give it consideration, but I do not think there are any such cases. It must be remembered that all persons who receive grain will be asked to discharge their indebtedness. I anticipate but a very small direct loss to the country, and indirectly I believe the country will receive considerable benefit from it.

Mr. DAVIN. I know that you cannot use the word 'shall' in regard to a sovereign body, and that 'may' is quite right here. I would suggest to the minister, however, that the clause should read in this way :

The liabilities of persons who are liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure repayment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories and Manitoba is, from and after the passing of this Act, discharged.

Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) object to put it in that form ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I consulted with the Law Clerk of the department, who is familiar with all these matters, and upon whom I look as a very able man, and we had considerable difficulty in arriving at a conclusion as to the best action to take. This is rather a serious matter as it deals with a previous Act of parliament and having had the advice of the Law Clerk upon it, I would prefer to act on his decision. I will consider this suggestion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), and if it is found beneficial,

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

I will be glad to consent to the change at a later stage or in the other House.

Mr. DAVIN. You are now abolishing the indebtedness of the bondsmen.

Mr. McMULLEN. No.

Mr. DAVIN. The meaning that the acting minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) attaches to the clause is that it is wiping out the liabilities of the bondsman. Is not that so ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The liability of the bondsman or surety.

Mr. DAVIN. Then let us clearly understand that the intention of the acting minister (Mr. Sutherland) is to wipe away the liability of the bondsmen for seed grain.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). That cannot be so, because it may arise and has no doubt arisen, that some of those men who are bondsmen have had ample security from the principal debtor. The principal debtor in fact may have assigned any interest he had in the homestead to the bondsman as security, and in such a case, the minister certainly would not allow the bondsman to escape who had security from the principal debtor.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. We do not interfere with cases of that kind.

Mr. DAVIN. When a man applies for his patent, and says: I am bondsman for two others to the aggregate sum of twenty dollars, and I want to be relieved of that. Now suppose the other has given him some security, how is the minister to know unless it is filed in the Department of the Interior ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If a settler applies for his patent, and there is a personal lien against him for seed grain, he would be asked to pay it before the patent was granted. But, if it was found he was bondsman for another person, he would be at once informed that he was relieved of that by this Act of parliament, and would look to the principal debtor himself.

Mr. DAVIN. I point out to the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), that the position he supposes is not understood by the acting minister to be the correct position. The minister (Mr. Sutherland) does not contemplate inquiring into these details, and he cannot do so unless it was filed in the department, and how could it be filed in the department unless it was some matter that the department had cognizance of. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) has fallen into an error in consequence of—he will excuse me for saying so, but I say it with all courtesy—in consequence of not knowing the exact conditions. The case that he supposes could not occur. The men who gave security were forced to do so by the government whether they liked

it or not, and it was not necessary for the man whom they secured to induce them to do so by giving them security. I have never met with such a case in the length and breadth of the Territories, and I do not think that my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) has ever heard of a bondsman who had been secured by the principal debtor.

Mr. DOUGLAS. No.

Mr. DAVIN. That difficulty does not arise then. Why does not the minister (Mr. Sutherland) consent to allow the clause to read as I have suggested. It is new to me that it is necessary that you have to go before council in this matter, and if you have not to go before council, what is the use of having the words 'Governor in Council' in the Bill. I want to get rid of this distressing and useless pile of correspondence which has arisen on the Act of last year. I have no doubt my hon. friend's legal adviser, Mr. Rothwell, is a very able man; but the first thing a lawyer does when asked to frame a clause is to ask what was done before; he is governed by precedents. In nine cases out of ten that is what we want; but there comes the tenth case, and the putting in of the Governor General in Council simply opens up a possibility of factious correspondence between the Department of the Interior and the bondsmen whom you now profess to want to set free.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not at all.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend will excuse me. I am more conversant with the condition of things in the North-west Territories than are some hon. gentlemen on that side of the House. What does the lawyer of his department know about the condition of the settlers of the North-west Territories? We from Manitoba and the North-west know the condition of the settler; we know where the shoe pinches and where the difficulties arise. Therefore, I urge my hon. friend to have the clause read as I suggest. What objection has my hon. friend to put in Manitoba?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My recollection of the Act of 1899, which we are amending, is that it does not apply to Manitoba.

Mr. DAVIN. I grant that; but what objection would there be to so legislate as to bring in Manitoba?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I am not quite sure as to the fact, but my opinion is that the seed grain liens in Manitoba have not got the bondsman clause in them at all.

Mr. DAVIN. I may be wrong about that. We will leave that. Will my hon. friend accept my amendment to the first part of the clause and drop the words 'Governor in Council'?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In my opinion it is of the utmost necessity that the clause should pass as it is, and I will tell you why. We adopt the principle in this Bill, and the discharge of the liability becomes a departmental matter. I can assure my hon. friend that the Governor in Council will pass such regulations as will make it very easy to carry out the intention of this Act and relieve those whom it is intended to relieve. The Governor in Council will be only too glad to carry out the intention of parliament in this respect; but if we were to adopt my hon. friend's suggestion, it might give rise to a great deal of difficulty which we cannot now foresee. I am satisfied that this will work to the full satisfaction of the settlers interested.

Mr. DAVIN. In order to test the matter, I move that the clause be amended to read as follows:

The liability of persons who are liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure repayment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories is from and after the passing of this Act discharged.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I think it would be an exceedingly imprudent thing on the part of this House to adopt any such amendment as the hon. gentleman has proposed. In my opinion, each case will require to be dealt with separately. If by one sweeping Act you relieve all bondsmen of responsibility, you will run the risk of not getting paid for a considerable amount of seed supplied. I question the prudence of passing this Act at all; but the statement of the acting Minister of the Interior, that a condition of things exists whereby some men have become bondsmen for others who are perfectly good for the indebtedness, and that the bond is a cloud on their title, is a good reason why the Governor in Council should relieve a man in that position. But each case has to be taken up by itself. The government are taking power by this Act, on a report of the Minister of the Interior, or by some other means, to relieve a bondsman under these circumstances; but it would be wrong by a sweeping Act to release all bondsmen, and thereby create a number of bad or doubtful debts. There is some force in the point raised by the ex-Minister of Railways, that if a man who has been a bondsman has paid the debt in order to remove a cloud upon his title, that man would have an equitable claim to be repaid the amount, if you passed an Act to relieve all the rest. I think the government should proceed very cautiously in this legislation.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend did not quite understand what the acting Minister of the Interior said, which was the very thing he aims at is to sweep away the bonded indebtedness.

Mr. McMULLEN. The acting Minister of the Interior means what the clause says and nothing else. My hon. friend is a lawyer; surely he knows enough to read the clause.

Mr. DAVIN. There is an Act on the statutes of last session which provides precisely what the hon. gentleman desires, and it is that Act which this Bill is intended to amend. The Act of last session provides:

The Governor General in Council may discharge from liability persons liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure payment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories, in every case where, upon inquiry, it is shown to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that the land owned by or entered as a homestead by the primary debtor is liable, and, in the opinion of the said minister, sufficient security for the sum owned by the primary debtor.

Under that law, whenever the Minister of the Interior is satisfied that the land against which the primary debt lies is good for the amount, he shall relieve the bondsmen. That is a condition of things which commends itself to my hon. friend's judgment, but that does not meet the case, and it is to get rid of the uncertainty and the annoyance that arise under that Act, that the present Bill has been introduced. The hon. member for North Wellington has probably read in the pages of *Hansard*, the memorial from the Agricultural Society of Moosejaw, composed of both Liberals and Conservatives, in which they express their regret that the government had not dealt in a more thorough manner with the seed-grain question, and urged that satisfactory legislation should be introduced. They even went to the length of saying that they regretted that the whole thing was not swept away.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. What do you mean by the whole thing?

Mr. DAVIN. They regret that the indebtedness was not entirely swept away. The way the existing law has worked is this: Where a man had taken out a patent, it was held that the land was liable, and the bondsman, when he applied to the land office, was told that he was practically discharged. But where the principal debtor had not taken out his patent and the possession therefore, had never passed to him, it was held that the land was not liable, and in that case the bondsman was not discharged. We had a lot of troublesome correspondence in connection with this matter. Of course any correspondence I have done for my constituents did not cause them any expense, but where they were living at other places, and could not come to the member, they had to employ lawyers and pay fees, and in the return brought down to the House, you will see correspondence from leading firms of lawyers with the Department of the Interior on this matter. Many lawyers at first did not quite understand how any difficulty could arise, for on the face of it, it seemed

Mr. DAVIN.

as if the legislation of last year was intended to relieve the bondsman, and it is because I do not want to have the vagueness continue that gave rise to all this correspondence, that I desire to see this clause remodelled. If the intention is, as the acting Minister of the Interior says it is, absolutely to relieve the bonded indebtedness, then why will he not make the change? Why compel a man, who goes to the land office, to send an application to the Department of the Interior, and have Mr. Smart reply and possibly some hitch occur. If you want to do in good faith, what you profess, you will get rid of the introductory words in this section, and make it read in accordance with the amendment I have moved.

I hope the hon. member for Wellington will not oppose the amendment. I hope he will not array himself against the interests of the Territories. In other years, when the late government was in power, I often, in the interests of the North-west Territories, had to fight him and his colleagues sitting on these benches. In the end we got the better of them, as in the end we are getting the better now of those who stand in the way of good legislation for the North-west. There are friends of the hon. gentleman up there, strong supporters of mine, whom he knows well, and who know him well, and I ask him to rise above these petty views of antagonism to the farmers of the Territories, and in one generous moment, support legislation that is for the benefit of these vast areas on which the prosperity of this country so much depends.

Mr. McMULLEN. I am not taking the stand I do in opposition to the farmers of the North-west at all, but what I want to do, is to secure the repayment of the amount of indebtedness which these people justly owe to the Dominion. The amendment proposed by my hon. friend, would wipe out every bondsman at once. Even where the primary debtor was not worth a cent, his bondsmen would be relieved. That is not the intention of the Bill, but to provide an easy and simple way of relieving a bondsman, when it is found that the primary debtor is perfectly good. But to pass it in the way my hon. friend proposes to pass it, would produce a crop of bad debts that I do not think it is necessary the House should pass an Act to produce.

Mr. DAVIN. If my hon. friend (Mr. McMullen) will excuse me, I would refer him to the Act.

Mr. McMULLEN. I understand the Act. The trouble with the Act was that a man had to go to the expense of getting out affidavits and to prove to the satisfaction of the Minister of the Interior that he was entitled, under the conditions that existed, to be relieved from his bonds. If a man was indebted for say \$20 upon his farm, he had to go before a commissioner and get

the affidavit of people to establish the facts—

Mr. DAVIN. Not at all.

Mr. McMULLEN—and the grounds upon which he asked that relief—

Mr. DAVIN. Not at all.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, that is the case. My hon. friend said that there was a large mass of correspondence on this very point. This Act will put a stop to that kind of thing. The Minister of the Interior has already stated that by a simple method, they will make it quite easy for the bondsmen to get relief, simply upon the evidence, possibly, of the land commissioner or of some man up there who is conversant with all the facts, and who will report that the primary debtor is good for the amount. In that case, the bondsman would be relieved. To pass the sweeping amendment proposed by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) he says, would be in the interest of the North-west. But there are other farmers than those of the North-west. This debt is due to the people of the Dominion, and they have a right to expect it to be paid.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). Two or three weeks ago, certain communications were read by me indicating a condition of things under the Act of last year, not at all desirable. For example, cases like this occurs. A settler who desired to have a lien removed and get his patent for his homestead, found that he was called upon to make an affidavit as to the financial ability of the bondsman who was security for him, and this became a very undesirable thing. And before he got through his affidavits with his lawyers the expense was more than the amount of the indebtedness. Again, under the Act of last year, a man who desired to be relieved, was asked simply to pay for two of his neighbours and to recover the amount in the civil courts. This seemed to me a state of things not desirable and liable to breed contention in any locality; so I called the attention of the government to it, and the acting Minister of the Interior agreed that he would bring in an Act at an early day that would do away with the liabilities of the bondsmen and holding only the primary debtor responsible for the indebtedness. This, I understand, is what the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) desires as much as I could possibly desire it—that our people should be relieved of this incumbrance. I had believed since 1896, that the double security was a mistake. It was wholly unnecessary, because the liability in each case was so small that a quarter section was ample security without calling in any further security. I feel disposed to support the second reading of this Bill, believing that it will cover the case. The difficulty that the hon. member for West

Assiniboia sees in it is only the method of going about the work; but I believe that the same issue will be reached under the Bill as it now stands, though it may require, possibly, more correspondence than the method he proposes. Still, I desire to express my satisfaction with the Bill as it is now before the House. I hope it will give abundant relief to our people and remove this grievance under which they have laboured for so many years.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) drew a picture of what had to be done under the old Act, and I saw the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) nod to him when he said affidavits had to be filed and so on. All that the Act of last year provides for is this—that where the land of the primary debtor is liable, then the bondsmen shall not be held for that lien. The Minister of the Interior did not need an affidavit to know whether a patent was issued or not, because patents could not be issued without it being on record in his own department. Therefore, you need not be surprised, Mr. Chairman, if in this correspondence there is no affidavit—showing that the argument of my hon. friend from North Wellington is groundless. Now, I was pained, I confess, to find my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) content with this Bill as it is and not ready to support my amendment—as I gather he is not. For I know well that there is not a man at present under bonds in East Assiniboia, whence the hon. gentleman comes, who would not regard the passing of this Act in its present form as inadequate and would not regard the amendment that I propose as one to be desired. There can be no reason for not yielding to that amendment, if the object is, as my hon. friend the acting Minister of the Interior says 't is, and as I have no doubt it is, to absolutely relieve the bondsmen. For, as the hon. gentleman knows very well, and has stated very properly, there is no such risk of losing money as some persons wish to raise before his mind as a kind of bugaboo. I cannot see what the object can be of having 'Governor General in Council' here. This parliament is perfectly competent to pass the clause as I want it amended; and if you want to effect the purpose you say you want to effect, to get rid of vexatious correspondence, to enable every land agent to administer the Act, the proper thing is to accept my amendment.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). It appears to me that if the position is as stated by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), and as I understand the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) says it is, I think we are all in accord. If the acting minister says that in view of the difficulties connected with the Act of last year, he has

arrived at the conclusion, and the government agrees with him that it is wise to wipe out this bonded indebtedness, I can readily see why it should be done. It seems to me there can be no possible objection to the amendment proposed by my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), which is that the Act shall have that effect without leading to another voluminous correspondence and a great deal of investigation, which does not seem to be desired by the government. I understand my hon. friend the acting minister to say that the object of this Act is to wipe out the bonded indebtedness.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is not the intention of the government to relieve parties from their indebtedness.

Mr. DAVIN. It is the bondsmen.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Persons receiving grain should be called upon and asked to make good their indebtedness.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. But the object, I understand, is to relieve the bondsmen.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend, who has had a large experience as the head of a department, knows that where several different kinds of cases exist in dealing with a matter like this, it is necessary to establish certain conditions and regulations under which the department shall act. There is a large indebtedness still due, and which will be repaid by the primary debtor, there is no doubt about that. As I have already explained, if there is any loss at all, it will only be in the case of an abandoned homestead. In the interest of the settlers and in the interest of the country, I appeal to the House to support the Bill. I am sorry it receives the almost veiled opposition of my hon. friend.

Mr. DAVIN. No veiled opposition, but I want to have the North-west placed in a proper position.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have already explained that this Act goes to the full extent of meeting the requirements of the settlers, at least so far as I could ask the government and parliament to consent. It will be a great relief and satisfaction to the settlers, and will promote their interests. That is the reason that I have taken the matter up. I am sorry to find it meeting with so much criticism. When I explained to the leader of the opposition that there are a great many different classes of cases to be dealt with and that it is necessary that each application should be made—

Mr. DAVIN. Explain what they are.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have already explained several times, that the only loss that can possibly arise would be in cases where the settler had made an entry for a homestead and afterwards abandoned it. But I am sure that small loss would be more

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

than made up by the satisfaction and encouragement given to the settlers, and the increased value given to the land still owned by the Crown, the quantity of which is very large in that district of the country. Under these circumstances, I would ask the Commons to support this Bill as it is. I am sure, if adopted, it will give the utmost satisfaction to the people interested, and if it does not, I shall be the first one to ask for any change that is necessary.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have entirely misunderstood the position taken by the hon. gentleman. We had a Bill last year which provides for everything this Bill will do, according to the position the hon. gentleman takes now. The object of this Bill is stated to be:

That the Governor in Council may discharge from liability persons who are liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure the repayment of seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That is the object.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understood the hon. gentleman to say the object was to get rid of this bonded indebtedness altogether, did I misunderstand him? If that is what he means, then there is no reason in the world for resisting the motion of my hon. friend. What do you gain by this Bill over the Bill of last year if the Governors in Council are to be the judges as to who the sureties are to be relieved and who shall not be relieved? You leave the case just where the law leaves it now, and you do no good whatever. By this you put it into the power of the Minister of the Interior to exercise a most unfair application of this Act, to relieve certain people and to refuse relief to certain other people. If that is the object of the Bill, I am entirely opposed to it. It would be better to let the law stand as it is than to pass this Bill with the understanding that it was to be optional for an individual member to say who shall be relieved and who shall not be relieved. If there ever was a time in the history of Canada when that power should not be given to the Minister of the Interior, that time is to-day. You may take this matter up a year hence and deal with it, perhaps; but to put the power into the hands of a gentleman, I care not who he is, to say to A: Yes, we will relieve you; and to say to B: No, we will not relieve you, is giving him a dangerous power. That is not what the acting Minister of the Interior said was the object of this Bill; he said the object was to get rid of this bonded indebtedness. Where people needed relief by giving them seed grain it was required that certain parties should come forward and become their sureties, and the government has arrived at a decision to relieve these sureties. It does not wipe out the indebtedness, but it relieves the sureties. I say if you are going to relieve the sureties, relieve them; but do

not pass a Bill that is going to clothe anybody with power to exercise a most unfair favouritism, and just at a time when it is not desirable that anybody in this House on either side should be clothed with such power.

Mr. McMULLEN. The leader of the opposition evidently sees a nigger in the fence.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, I do.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman is measuring the corn of the Minister of the Interior in his own bushel. He thinks that during the 17 or 18 years the Conservatives were in power, that power might have been exercised. Now, the leader of the opposition is not correct in the opinion which he has given, because, before this Act can be brought into operation a certain condition of things must exist. There must first be evidence that the primary debtor is absolutely good for his debt.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman does not understand what we are dealing with.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, I think I do. The Minister of the Interior must be satisfied that the primary debtor is perfectly good for the debt.

Mr. DAVIN. Will you ask the minister whether that is his understanding?

Mr. McMULLEN. I am satisfied he understands it. He will not relieve the bondsman of a debt where the country is going to lose \$20, \$30, or \$40 by it. He won't do it if it is going to produce a bad debt. I think it would be an imprudent thing to do unless the man is poor and struggling, and that relief will continue him as a settler: whereas if he was forced by the Crown to pay that money it might be the means of driving him out of his homestead. In a case of that kind I think the man ought to be relieved. But the primary debtor, as a rule, must be good for the debt before the bondsman is relieved. The old law provided for that, but the machinery to accomplish the relief was such that it took a very large amount of correspondence, as the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has already stated, and a long delay ensued and a great deal of trouble before you get relief. If this Act passes, supposing the Minister of the Interior orders a report from a homesteader, if there are homesteaders up there, and supposing he says to the homesteader: I want you to make a report upon every lot owned by the primary debtor for seed. That report comes in, and he finds that these men are all settled on their homesteads, improvements are made, houses and barns are built. Then under these circumstances the minister can wipe out all the liens on these places, there can be no objection to that. But if there are certain cases where no improvements are made, where the primary debtor cannot be found, where the country

will have to lose the money if the bondsman is relieved, in such a case I would say that the Minister of the Interior would not be justified in relieving the bondsman. I am satisfied that if this amendment were to pass it would at one sweep clear all bondsmen and leave nothing but the primary debtor. Therefore, the country has a right to expect that these debts will be paid. Where the first debtor is absolutely good there can be no objection to relieving the bondsman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The object that a bondsman had in giving bonds was to relieve a neighbour in distress. If he had not been in distress, or in a position that required him to receive assistance, in the form of seed grain, from the government, he would not have required any bondsman. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) takes the ground that if the parties for whom these bondsmen have secured this assistance are not able to make any recompense the bondsmen should not be relieved.

Mr. McMULLEN. I never said that.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If there are any bondsmen entitled to be relieved by an Act of parliament they are the bondsmen who have generously and kindly come to the assistance of the poor settler and who is not able to pay anything, and it is in such a case that the hon. member for North Wellington says we should hold on to the bondsmen. That is not the object the House has in passing this Bill, it is not the object of the hon. acting Minister of the Interior, and I do not think it would commend itself to the sense of justice of the members of the House.

Mr. McMULLEN. I will not permit the hon. leader of the opposition to put words into my mouth that I did not use, or to represent me as saying that, in such a case, the hon. Minister of the Interior should demand his pound of flesh. I say that in the case where a bondsman was security for a man who was not upon his homestead and not to be found, it would be a question for the hon. Minister of the Interior to say whether he should exact the amount from the bondsmen or not, or allow him to be released. If the conditions are such that the Minister of the Interior considered that it would place that bondsman in a position that would hazard his continuing at his home, or prevent his progress at his home, the minister should have power to release him. But, the hon. leader of the opposition spoke of a case that I did not have in view, and he has attributed words to me that I did not use. You must give the Minister of the Interior certain discretionary power in the application of such an Act to all conditions that may exist. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) laughs. He thinks that if he had that power he would

be able to elect himself again, because he will say: Unless you vote for me I will exact the last dollar of that bond. I will not say that he would be small enough, but, I have no doubt that he would do that kind of thing. The hon. Minister of the Interior does not live there, and I am satisfied that there is no intention of taking any such action as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) seems to suggest, but, there will be the best of evidence as to whether this would be a justifiable action or not. If the evidence is that he has released a bondsman where the primary debtor is no good, it will show that he has done it for a purpose, and there may be a charge brought against him, but, where he has released a bondsman, where the primary debtor is perfectly good, there can be no charge of wrong-doing brought against him. In one case he would be accused of wrong-doing, but, I do not think he could be so charged in the other case.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) has let the cat out of the bag. He has revealed the cloven hoof, and he has given away the object of the government. There is a rumour that the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), who is now in Europe, despairing of again being elected in Brandon, afraid to face his own constituents, who regard him with abhorrence, as all Manitoba and the North-west Territories regard him, intends to try conclusions in some of the North-west constituencies, and this will be a first-rate machine to give into his hands for the purpose of buying votes. The hon. gentleman has unintentionally peached upon his friends. Unintentionally, he has blown the racket. Unintentionally, he has given us the clue to the objects of the principal cracksman in that ministry. I do not think he should ask parliament, in the face of having thus given it away, to give the jimmies and crowbars to the cracksman to accomplish what would be the dire end, even if, under any circumstances, he could accomplish it, even with a jimmy. With the aid of this Bill, and with the cracksman's tools that the administration would supply to him, I can tell him that there is no constituency in the North-west Territories, or Manitoba, where that discredited fugitive from the justice of this parliament can be elected.

Mr. J. GUNION RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). I regret very much that this discussion should have assumed a tone which I do not think is necessary or advisable, and I think the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) may, perhaps, realize, when he goes back to his constituency, that his farmer friends will pray to be delivered from their friends if this is the attitude he is going to take upon this question. I believe that the object of the Bill is expressed in the Bill, and I believe that

Mr. McMULLEN.

it is an honest object. I believe that, if the hon. gentleman were as much concerned, as he claims he is, in the welfare of the farmers and in having this grievance remedied, instead of moving an amendment such as he has moved, and exhibiting factious opposition to the Bill, he would have been inclined to support a Bill in the form in which this one has come before the House. He has told us a great deal about how many years he had been like a robin. I do not know whether he spells it with one 'b' or two 'b's'. Some of the public accounts suggests that there might be two 'b's' in the robin that the hon. gentleman has been personating, or doing, during the last ten or twelve years.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order, or rather, two points of order. In the first place, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford) is attributing dishonest conduct to a member of this House, and in the next place, he is founding that on the public accounts. Therefore, the public accounts that would show it should be produced. If he is referring to what has taken place in the public accounts committee, which would be out of order, I may say that I do not think he was present at the exhibition which his friends made of themselves the other morning or he would not make any illusion to it.

Mr. McMULLEN. Mr. Chairman, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that a moment ago the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) called the hon. Minister of the Interior a cracksman and a fugitive from justice. I would like to know if these expressions are in order?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. That is easily understood. Hon. gentlemen on this side of the House consider where assertions of that kind come from, and they pay no attention to them. But, of course, when I used that expression—

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, I want a ruling on the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Flint). I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford) was a little out of order in using one word in his speech.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. What word was that?

The CHAIRMAN. The implication of robbing.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. There was no such language used. I asked the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) if he spelt robin with one 'b' or two 'b's'. I did not add any 'g' to the end of the word; consequently, there could be no such meaning as was attached by the hon. gentleman to the word.

Mr. McNEILL. Chair.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. There is no question that if I had put a 'g' at the end of the word, a point of order might have been taken, but, I did not do it, and, consequently, the point of order was not well taken. I regret to see that this discussion has assumed the character that it has. I am sure that the hon. gentleman's farmer friends in West Assiniboia will realize that, in opposing this Bill, which is brought in here honestly—

Mr. DAVIN. Who is opposing it? I am trying to make it an honest Bill.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Order, order, please, Mr. Chairman,—which is brought in with an honest desire to remedy the grievances of these people, he has not shown that he has been their friend. It is getting on towards six o'clock, and the hon. gentleman, in introducing a factious discussion of this kind, has not acted in the interest of the country or the constituency that he represents. I regret very much to see it, and I hope this will be the last of it, and that we will now be allowed to have a vote to decide whether the Bill as introduced or whether the amendment of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) shall become law.

Mr. DAVIN. I am much obliged to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford), coming from the constituency he does, and with his record in that constituency, attempting to lecture me. I stated once before in this House, that all my public and private life I laid open before any scrutiny, and I defy the most lynx-eyed—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, I defy the most lynx-eyed to point to a single spot of dishonour in my whole life. And, fancy the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford), lecturing me. That man playing on the word 'rob' and 'robblin'; that man who thieved a newspaper, to try and get himself elected.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I call the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), to order.

Mr. DAVIN. I withdraw.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a ruling on this point.

Mr. DAVIN. I withdraw; I withdraw.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Ah.

Mr. DAVIN. I have to do it. I hear another hon. gentleman over there, cry 'Ah,' in a very loud way, but I tell him he had better sing a little small, because I can make some references that will astonish him.

Mr. COWAN. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), refers to me, he is at perfect liberty to make them here and now.

Mr. DAVIN. How does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan), know that I referred to him? Does the cap fit him?

Mr. COWAN. Because I said 'Ah.'

Mr. DAVIN. I have withdrawn the word 'thieve,' but will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford), deny that he surreptitiously got hold of a newspaper, improperly, to help him in his election?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Most certainly I deny it, and I deny it emphatically.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, Sir, his colleague in that matter is alive.

An hon. MEMBER. Bob Watson?

Mr. DAVIN. No, it was not. Bob Watson said it was good politics. The senator they have sent to the Upper House; that senator weighed down with political misconduct, looked on with approval at the thimble-rigging that took place in that election.

Mr. McMULLEN. I rise to a point of order. I want to know if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), is discussing the Bill before the House?

Mr. TAYLOR. He is answering a personal attack.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), is discussing the clauses of the Bill?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Flint). I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), is a little astray from the point under discussion.

Mr. DAVIN. I was replying, as I had a perfect right to do, to a personal attack, and with reference to this Bill, I say that if it is an honest Bill, and if it means that the acting minister (Mr. Sutherland) says it means, he will accept my amendment. If the Bill does what the hon. member for Wellington says it does, then, it is of no value. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen), is playing the part of the Minister of the Interior; thinking that the acting minister does not fill the part; or else he is playing the part of the Prime Minister, as the Prime Minister is absent. I do not know which he is playing, but whichever role it is, he plays it with infinite grace. The only thing lacking from the perfection of dignity and grace with which he discharges his duty, is that he does not understand anything about the question. I must say this, however, that his not understanding the question, would add to his efficiency in representing some of his leaders, for it would enable him to play the role a little more to perfection, because that point in his character and intellectual outfit would represent something which we occasionally see on the front benches. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), has been interpreting this Act. The acting minister (Mr. Sutherland), told us that the object of this Act was to wipe out completely the bonded indebtedness, and he nodded to me, when I asked him whether that was so or not. However, the minister

remained quite silent and never interrupted the hon. member (Mr. McMullen), when on two occasions the hon. gentleman got up and gave an interpretation of the Act which was absolutely opposed to what the minister said was the correct interpretation.

Mr. McMULLEN. No.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes. The hon. member (Mr. McMullen), put a case where the primary debtor would not be able to pay, and would be undeserving, and he held that under these circumstances, the bondsmen should be held liable. Do I understand from the minister (Mr. Sutherland), that he would mean under these circumstances not to relieve the bondsmen? Not at all. If, therefore, he means that this relief shall be universal, why put in 'the Governor in Council?' Why arrange it so that it will lead to the mass of correspondence that we have had in connection with the Act of last year? The fact is as I have said, that the cloven hoof has appeared, and the design of the Act has been given away. If the acting minister (Mr. Sutherland), means to do the right thing, he will accept this amendment; if he does not mean to do the right thing, we understand him. The Bill even then, is some slight advance on last year's Bill, but if it is interpreted after the manner of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), then, Sir, I say, it would be no gain whatever. It is opening the door to misconduct on the part of politicians, and on the part of gentlemen connected with the Department of the Interior. And, we have plenty of evidence that we do not want an Act like that. I heard the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) in a theatrical aside, tell the acting Minister of the Interior, that he was about to 'give me a blow,' and now I will sit down to hear the great man from Wellington, rise up in all his intellectual power, to give me that blow.

Mr. McMULLEN. I want to say, in reply to my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), that on every occasion he gets up to address the House on a question concerning the North-west, he claims that he, and nobody else, knows anything about it.

Mr. DAVIN. I know a great deal.

Mr. McMULLEN. He thinks that everybody else's brain in the House is green but his own.

Mr. DAVIN. I never should think you are green, you are yellow.

Mr. McMULLEN. Why, if my brain was as green as is the brain of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), instead of going around with a skating rink on the top of my head, as he does, I could grow hair for sale. Let me tell him, that I understand the question quite as well as he does. He must not fancy that when his hat is on, it covers all the brains we have in this parliament. Why,

Mr. DAVIN.

every one who has sat ten years with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) in this House, knows that he has more rooms to let in his upper story than any man in this parliament.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend (Mr. McMullen), has told you, Mr. Speaker, that I have a skating rink on the top of my head. Well, there is no doubt about that. I certainly have a larger amount of forehead to show than the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen); but he did not tell you that there is a sort of similarity even now between us, because the curly locks that fell over whatever forehead he had twenty years ago, are no longer there. He did not, however, tell the House the difference between himself and myself, and the difference is: That though I am more bare-headed than he is, he is more bare-faced than I am.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman said that in my upper story there were a large number of rooms to let. Again, he did not tell us the difference between myself and himself. There may be rooms to let in my upper story, and there are rooms to let in the hon. gentleman's upper story; but the difference is this, that mine are furnished and his are unfurnished.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I hope that, after the able discussion we have had of the subject-matter of the Bill, the committee will now see that it is time that it should pass. My hon. friend thought well to call me some very hard names—a cracksman, and so forth. I may say to my hon. friend that perhaps I am not as sensitive as he is—

Mr. DAVIN. I never made a reference to you.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If the hon. gentleman's reference was to the absent minister, it was very unfair and improper. He has no responsibility for this Bill in a way, because anything that has been done has been done since his absence from the country. I am fully responsible for this legislation. I am not as good as the hon. gentleman, and I do not want to have an inquiry into all my shortcomings; but I want to show how unfair the hon. gentleman is in insinuating that there is something political in this measure. Up to this stage the hon. gentleman has urged the necessity of this legislation. This Bill is not for the purpose of vesting any power in the government or in the minister in regard to this matter. The Act of 1899 provided that relief should be given when satisfactory to the Minister of the Interior, and so on. I do not admit that there would be any maladministration under that provision, but this Bill removes all that, so that the hon. gentleman has been unfair in trying to lead the House to be-

lieve that this Bill is for the purpose of putting any power in the hands of the government. Quite the contrary. This measure will, I believe, give satisfaction to the settlers, and I hope after this discussion that the Bill will be allowed to pass without further opposition.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am very glad to see the leader of the government in his place, because I think I am justified in making an appeal to him which I hope will dispose of any difference with reference to this Bill. The hon. First Minister knows that a Bill was passed dealing with this question of seed grain indebtedness; and it involved, as has just been stated by the acting Minister of the Interior, a great deal of inquiry and discussion on the part of the Minister of the Interior, who was to report on the cases as they came up. After a great amount of discussion the acting Minister of the Interior has submitted a Bill, which provides:

The Governor in Council may discharge from liability persons who are liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure repayment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories.

There is the whole question.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. May I ask my hon. friend if he has the Bill of 1899 before him, and if he will read the first part of that?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, and I entirely concur in the view my hon. friend has expressed in reference to that. I also draw the attention of the First Minister to the statement of the acting Minister of the Interior, that one of the objects of this Bill is to remove the personal element involved in that measure. The acting minister has frankly, two or three times in this discussion, made a statement that it is eminently satisfactory, certainly to this side of the House; that is, that the object is to get rid of the whole of this question of bonded indebtedness. That is to say, parties who have become sureties for other persons who required to be assisted by the government, shall be relieved of their liability as bondsmen. There is the whole principle of the Bill. The acting minister has stated again and again to the House that his object in introducing this Bill is to sweep away the whole of this bonded indebtedness, and he has given a very satisfactory reason, that is, that these parties who gave assistance to their friends and neighbours in distress to enable them to obtain seed grain, are not to be held responsible.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Will my hon. friend allow me to point out one thing? I know that he understands the Bill, but many might misunderstand it from the way he puts it. It is not to remove the indebtedness, but to relieve the bondsmen of their liability.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Quite so. It is not to touch the question of indebtedness at all. It discharges the bondsmen from their liability, as my hon. friend has stated. Under these circumstances my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), who has taken so much interest in this question, has suggested that if that be the object of the Bill, the words, 'Governor in Council' should be removed, and the Bill should *ipso facto* do that which it is proposed to do through the Governor General in Council. As we are all agreed with the acting Minister of the Interior, on this side of the House at any rate, in doing what he declares to be the intention of this Bill, I appeal to my hon. friend the First Minister whether it is worth while to lose time or have any difficulty or difference of opinion when the object is attained amply by the elimination of the words 'Governor in Council.'

The PRIME MINISTER. As my hon. friend the leader of the opposition has appealed to me, I must express my regret that other duties prevented me from being in my seat when this discussion took place. My hon. friend will understand that it is not possible for me, not having heard the discussion, to come to any conclusion just now. I may say, however, that if I were to give an opinion now, it would not be in accordance with the view of my hon. friend, because, having discussed the Bill to some extent, not with the acting Minister of the Interior, but with the minister himself, I would be disposed to accept the minister's view. The only thing I would suggest to my hon. friend would be to let the committee rise and report the Bill, and let the third reading stand till to-morrow, and in the meantime I will confer with the acting Minister of the Interior.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think the suggestion of the First Minister is all we require.

Mr. DAVIN. There is something else. I now beg to move the following clause:

Liens for seed grain against abandoned homesteads in the North-west Territories from and after the passage of this Act are discharged.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The amendment is quite unnecessary.

Mr. DAVIN. Will the hon. gentleman explain how?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have already explained that there is no lien on an abandoned homestead. An abandoned homestead becomes Crown property, and the Crown can make a free grant of it or put any figure on it it likes. I have said already that whatever loss there might be, from time to time, to the country, through giving up any claim we might have against a person who had abandoned his homestead, that would be more than made up by the increase in value of the land that thus reverts

to the Crown. There is no necessity at all for my hon. friend's amendment.

Mr. DAVIN. If we get the public statement from the minister that after the passing of this Act, in no case shall a settler, when taking land, be asked to pay up for the seed grain liens against the homestead, that is quite satisfactory.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Certainly, that is what I have said.

Mr. DAVIN. Under those circumstances, I wish to formally withdraw the amendment.

Bill reported.

THE PILOTAGE ACT.

Bill (No. 11), to amend the Pilotage Act (Sir Louis Davies), was read the second time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved that the House resolve itself into committee on the said Bill.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I know, Mr. Speaker, that there are gentlemen in the House who wish to speak on this Bill. Although I do not profess to know much of this question, I have seen in the newspaper supposed to be a supporter of the present government, the *Montreal Witness*, an article pointing out that this Bill was constructed under most dangerous suggestions. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine was accused of framing its clauses, not in the interests of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, but under terror of the pilots on that river and the votes they control. I do not know whether my hon. friend read the article, but it is one likely to lead to a general discussion of this question in the House by those gentlemen who thoroughly understand it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I may say to my hon. friend that his predecessor in office (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was obliged to go to Montreal to-day, that he takes a very great interest in this question, and I think he would be very glad to have an opportunity of discussing the Bill. Could not my hon. friend allow it to stand until another day?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. My hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) is misled altogether about this Bill. It was not dictated by any motives suggested by the newspaper to which he referred. It is the outcome of a commission appointed to adjust the differences between the pilots on the River St. Lawrence, piloting between Montreal and Quebec, and the Pilotage Commission of Montreal. It does not extend to the district below Quebec. The pilots of that district were dealt with last session by a Bill on lines similar to the one before the House now.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

The pilots of the Montreal district went on strike a year or two ago and seriously imperilled the commercial interests of Montreal. A large number of most valuable ships are leaving and arriving at that port almost daily, and it is absolutely essential that they should be provided with pilots. Owing to the strike, caused by what the pilots thought were harsh measures dealt out to them by the Pilotage Board, the safety of the steamers were imperilled, and breaches of the regulations almost had to be resorted to in order to obtain men to take charge of these vessels. After a great deal of negotiating the pilots consented to resume work on my undertaking to appoint a commission to inquire into their grievances. If the commission reported a reasonable and fair remedy, I promised to recommend it to the House for adoption. Mr. Justice Lavergne was appointed chairman of the commission, Commander Wakeham, of *La Canadienne*, who has great experience, was appointed second member of the commission, and the deputy minister of my department was appointed third member. That commission took a great deal of evidence. The shipping interests were represented by counsel, and so were the pilots. The Bill before the House is the adoption to a large extent of the report of that commission. A portion of its report can be carried out by amendments to the regulations themselves, but a portion required amendments to the law, and I have therefore introduced this Bill.

The provisions are these: At present the members of the Harbour Commission at Montreal is by law constituted a tribunal to hear and determine all complaints made against pilots for a breach of the law or any of the regulations. The result has been most unfortunate. Owing to lack of legal knowledge, the Harbour Commissioners did not carry out the different inquiries with that degree of technical or legal accuracy which the courts thought necessary, and in nearly every case for many years the pilots applied to the courts for a certiorari in order to remove the case into the courts. So no punishment can be inflicted at all.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Will the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) allow me to ask him a question? I suppose the Harbour Commissioners have a counsel appointed by themselves or by the government to see that their proceedings are carried on legally.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am speaking of the facts as they are. The Pilot Board are not lawyers, and as reported by the commission, and as I am told by the chairman of the harbour board, when a writ of certiorari is taken, the decision of the board becomes futile, in consequence of the delay that elapses before the court decides on the rule nisi, as the time has expired during which the pilot's branch is suspended—four or six

months, or whatever it may be. What is needed is some simple tribunal which will hear charges or complaints against the pilot, and which will enforce punishment. It should be a tribunal which will give satisfaction not only to the pilot but to the shipping interest as well. The commissioners thought that three men might be appointed, one, the president of the tribunal or court, who should be appointed by the minister; another should be appointed by the Department of Marine on nomination of the pilots as a whole; and the third should be selected by the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, as representing the shipping interest, and the minister should appoint him. So, we should have a lawyer, the president of the court chosen by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; a pilot who would have technical skill and knowledge selected from the pilots, who during the time he acted in the court, would not act as a pilot, and who would bring the knowledge of an assessor to the court, and enable them better to decide on nautical matters; and you would have a gentleman representing more or less the shipping interest, selected and nominated by the Harbour Commissioners. The judgment of this court would be final and conclusive. The establishment of this court is only a temporary expedient, because it is proposed by the Bill that if and when the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court is either transferred from Quebec to Montreal, or—

Mr. CASGRAIN. Oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—I do not contemplate that at present, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) will understand—or a separate court is established for the city of Montreal when the business justifies it, from that time the whole jurisdiction now vested in the pilot's court hereby created, shall be transferred to the Admiralty Court. So, the court to be established is a temporary court until the Admiralty Court is established. That is the sum and substance of the Bill; I cannot conceive any objection to it. It is not in the interest of the pilot more than it is in the interest of a business man. Justice should be done in a speedy manner; and the pilots should know that there is this tribunal that will punish them for wrongdoing; and the shipping interest should feel that they can appeal to the courts with every confidence that even-handed justice will be done. If my hon. friends are anxious that the Bill should stand over, it can be discussed in committee, and, at the end of the discussion, let it stand, and we will resume it another day.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into committee on the Bill.

(In the Committee.)

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. SPROULE. Is there a pilotage court for Quebec?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). This is not for Quebec at all; this is a court to be established in the city of Montreal for the trial of complaints against pilots in the Montreal pilotage district. The Quebec pilotage district was dealt with last year. There was one in both the city of Quebec and the city of Montreal, and the one in Montreal heretofore has consisted of the Harbour Commissioners, and that has been found to be an inadequate and inefficient court. Neither the pilots have confidence in it, nor have the shipping interests confidence in it, nor do the commissioners themselves think they are competent to constitute an efficient court. The pilots below Quebec are a different body of men from the pilots above Quebec; they go from Quebec down to Father Point; they are two separate authorities altogether.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) explained before dinner that the Act which is now introduced is the result of a report of commissioners appointed under an order in council of January 11, 1898, to inquire into alleged grievances of the pilots in the district of Montreal. The committee say that when this report was published copies were sent to the different interests concerned with the work, and one and all in the district of Montreal; in the city of Montreal, for example, the Harbour Commissioners, the board of trade, and the chambre de commerce all petitioned against following the suggestions of the commissioners, that is to say, that a special court should be established, consisting of three persons, for the trial of these offences. Any lawyer will see at once that there is great force to the objections made by these different bodies. Under the Pilotage Act, chap. 80, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, the pilotage authorities are given certain powers. The pilotage authority of Montreal is described in section 5 to be the Montreal Harbour Commissioners. Now, section 73 creates, so to speak, certain offences, that is, every licensed pilot who, either within or without the district for which he is licensed, commits any of the offences described in that Act, is to be subject to certain penalties. That section provides that in addition to any liability for damages, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200, and suspension or dismissal by the pilotage authorities. It then goes on to say how this amount is to be collected, that is, it can be collected by any competent court of the province. The penalty may be recovered:

Before any court having jurisdiction to the amount of the penalty, or in a summary manner before a stipendiary magistrate, a police magistrate or two justices of the peace.

This, of course, comes under the Criminal Code and would now be what is called a summary trial. But, the Bill does not provide any machinery at all for the trial of these offences. That is the first objection I have to it. It creates a court, but it does not provide any machinery whatever. It is quite true that section 3 of the Bill says :

The court shall have jurisdiction and be competent to hear and determine all offences under section 73 of the Pilotage Act.

But, it does not empower these men as magistrates, and it does not make them competent to try any offences.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn), has not read the seventh section of the Bill. I think he will find that it covers the point.

Mr. QUINN. It gives them the jurisdiction and powers of a stipendiary or police magistrate.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It extends the provisions of the Criminal Code, which was formerly known as the Summary Jurisdiction Act, to the proceedings.

Mr. QUINN. That is very true, but under section 73, in giving them the means of punishing, it only gives them the power to fine. The second objection is that the court is to be composed of one individual to be appointed by the minister, a second to be appointed by the Harbour Board, and a third to be appointed by the pilots. The Harbour Commissioners in their petition, speaking on this question, say :

A great grievance has been made of the fact that pilots are not represented on the commission, when it sits in pilotage matters, especially for the trial of pilots. It seems to be an extraordinary pretension that the person tried should be represented on the bench by one of his own class. We are not aware that this occurs anywhere in judicial systems. It would be strange if it did. No doubt it would suit many classes of the community to be tried and sentenced by those in the same calling as themselves. The professional burglar would, no doubt, thoroughly appreciate this, and would be certainly more satisfied than he is with the present system. It seems to be a very undesirable principle that the pilots should, in trials especially, have a representative of their body upon the board. It might very possibly happen that this pilot should have to try a relative of his own, one of his confrères serving the same line of steamers, or one with whom he was not upon good terms. It has been suggested that he might be appointed for three or five years; this would present a great danger, as he would then know that he would have to be placed himself, sooner or later, in the same position as his confrère that he was called upon to judge. The end sought seems to us to be very much more satisfactorily and easily attained under

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the system as it exists. The only practical utility in having a pilot upon the board would be his availability for technical questions. This, however, can equally, if not better, be explained by an expert witness. He is then under oath and open to cross-examination, and can have his evidence thoroughly tested and strengthened or weakened, as it deserves.

This seems to me to put the case in a nutshell as regards the appointment of one of the pilots as a member of this court. Why does not the government establish, in the district of Montreal, an Admiralty Court, where all these cases may be tried? That is what the Harbour Commissioners ask for, that is what the Board of Trade ask for, that is what the Corn Exchange Association ask for, that is what all the shipping interests ask for in their memorandum, and that is what all the commercial bodies in Montreal have been asking for during the last three or four years. They have been asking that an Admiralty Court shall be established for the trial of all these cases. The Board of Trade, for example, say that :

That, so far as your petitioners are aware, neither the Harbour Commissioners nor the shipping interests have been consulted as to the provisions of the Bill, although the former are by law the pilotage authority, and the latter represent the only employers of pilots, and the payers of all pilotage incomes.

That the Bill in no wise remedies any of the evils presently resting on the pilotage, but, on the contrary, provides further taxation on an already over-burdened interest; moreover, it is of partial application, being limited to the service between Montreal and Quebec, leaving the service between Quebec and the sea untouched.

What are the reasons urged by the Pilotage Commission for the establishment of this court? They say that heretofore all trials have taken place before the Harbour Commissioners. There is no complaint made as to the justice, or honesty, of the Harbour Commissioners in these trials. There is no complaint made against them individually, but it is said that their judgments have been appealed from, and that they have been upset by the Superior Courts. This is very easily obviated. Why is not the section, which gives an appeal, repealed? If it is found unjust, or if it is found that it affects in any way the administration of justice in this particular manner, why is it not repealed or remedied in some way in order that justice can be done in these cases, instead of putting it into the hands of a court which it is not pretended will be better qualified to adjudicate upon the questions which are brought before it than the Harbour Commissioners are? It is not because a writ of certiorari has been issued in Montreal that the commissioners complain, but in their complaint they say that the appeals have been so numerous that their work has been rendered absolutely useless. But, these gentlemen have legal advisers. I do not know anything about the particular cases in which appeals have

been maintained against the judgments of the Harbour Commissioners, but I have no hesitation in venturing the opinion that, in nine cases out of ten in which these judgments by the Harbour Commissioners have been reversed, it has been because of some legal formality which had not been gone through, either before the trial, or during the trial, or at the time of judgment. It is, in all probability, owing to the want of some legal formality that these judgments have been reversed. That is not a ground for asking for the establishment of a new court. It is a ground, rather, for giving these men proper counsel so that they will be in a position to try cases properly and avoid such a possibility as a reversal of the judgment on mere matters of form. Notwithstanding the fact that they have read carefully the Bill which is now being considered they still say that they think the ends of justice will be better served by sticking to the conditions which exist at the present time than by the introduction of this new legislation. Now, I have in my hand, here, a copy of the report of the Commissioner on Transportation, adopted unanimously by the council of the Chambre de Commerce du District de Montreal. Under the heading of the 'Bill Amending the Pilotage Act,' they say in their memorandum:

Inasmuch as the chamber of commerce has, at different occasions, asked the government to establish a court of admiralty at Montreal; and

Considering that in the Bill now before the parliament to amend the Pilotage Act, the government expressed its desire to create, in the near future, a district of admiralty at Montreal,

Be it resolved, that the chamber of commerce does not favour the nomination of 'The Montreal Pilots Court,' but respectfully begs the government to institute at Montreal, as soon as possible, a Court of Admiralty constituted as per clause 8 of the said Bill amending the Pilotage Act, now before the parliament.

The whole difficulty would be gotten over if the minister would establish a branch of the Admiralty Court in the city of Montreal, where matters of this kind could be tried, and the judgment rendered by which court would, I feel confident, satisfy everybody interested. We have heard a great deal in the House about the deepening of the canals and the improvement of the St. Lawrence route, but from what I have learned from those deeply interested in our navigation, I have no hesitation in saying that the money spent in this direction will only accentuate the difficulties that exist between Montreal and the seaboard, owing to the condition of the channel, particularly between Montreal and Quebec, the insufficient lighting, and the difficulties in regard to the pilots. I was present when a deputation waited on the Minister of Marine some months ago, when men interested in all branches of trade submitted their views, and one and all agreed that until means were adopted to lessen the charges that are now placed upon shipping in Montreal;

until means were adopted to regulate the power the pilots possessed; until measures were taken to light the channel between Montreal and the seaboard and to buoy it in proper fashion; that it would be utterly impossible to obtain anything like a fair living rate of insurance on cargoes and vessels leaving the port of Montreal. The consensus of opinion of these men was, that it would be utterly impossible to hope for a large increase in the number of vessels coming to Montreal until remedies were applied, amongst others to our pilotage system. They were not selfish enough to urge that the profession of pilot should be thrown open to everybody; but they did urge that the number of pilots should be increased as much as possible. I understand that there are fifty-five pilots at the present time, and that the intention is to allow none others to enter the profession until it has been reduced to forty-five.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That was a suggestion of the commission which we have not adopted.

Mr. QUINN. I know that the pilots are working in that direction.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The number will be left at fifty-five.

Mr. QUINN. The different interests will, I think, be satisfied if the number is left at fifty-five, and if stricter measures are adopted for the examination of these pilots.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think the more stringent regulations which are being adopted with regard to pilots will give satisfaction. These regulations are provided for by by-laws of the Pilots Board and not by statute.

Mr. QUINN. Another question that the shipping interests, the Board of Trade, the Harbour Commissioners, the Corn Exchange, the Chambre du Commerce, and in fact all concerned in shipping, urge, is that these pilots be subject to a rigorous examination at least once every year, as to their eye-sight, and their knowledge of the channel, because in some instances, though not in many, it has been found that even men who are considered very expert have met with misfortune in bringing large ships up the river. The examination of pilots is at present, I think, once every two years.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Once in three years.

Mr. QUINN. I believe that under the present regulation, when the pilots are examined as to their eye-sight once, that is the end of it until they retire from the service. I especially urge that the government will see the necessity of establishing at the earliest date possible an Admiralty Court in the city of Montreal. Great inconvenience is now experienced for the want of such a tribunal, and until it is established the peo-

ple of that city feel they are not being fairly dealt with. I urge upon the minister the necessity of embodying in this Bill, or in some other which he may introduce, the amendments asked for by the Board of Trade and the Harbour Commissioners. There is one thing at least certain, and which ought weigh with the government, and that is, that the different bodies which I have mentioned, all agree upon what they think would be for the best interests of the port of Montreal. The only dissentient voice comes from the pilots who are possibly the greatest sinners in connection with the difficulties existing. The minister, in my opinion, should embody in a Bill the representations made by these different commercial bodies, and bring it before parliament at an early date.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We are already making provisions in the direction the hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn) indicates. The regulations of the Pilotage Board will provide that all candidates for pilot licenses must submit to examination and severe tests as regards eye-sight and colour blindness, similar to the examination passed by masters and mates. The regulations provide that the licensed pilots shall undergo every year the same tests as masters and mates have to undergo. The examination as regards eye-sight must be undergone by the pilots every third year. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn) has very properly referred to the suggestions made to the department, but if he examines the petitions of the shipping interests of Montreal, he will see that it is not the form of this Bill that they complain about, but that their chief complaint is against having any system of compulsory pilotage. They want compulsory pilotage abolished, not only in the Montreal district, but in the Quebec pilotage district. Their petition is as follows :

That the amendment which your petitioners have so long and urgently prayed for, viz., that the pilotage service from Montreal to the sea be thrown open to all qualified candidates possessing the necessary qualifications, preference being given to those having several years' experience of ocean navigation as masters and mates.

My hon. friend will see at once that that is not a very easy thing to do. There are a large number of certificated pilots holding branches in the city of Quebec. They have been brought up to this business since childhood, they are not fitted for anything else, and it would be a cruel thing to throw these men open to competition with every one who might compete with them. The same is true of the Montreal pilots. The objects sought by this petition are very good in themselves, but there are difficulties in the way which are insuperable. I do not suppose my hon. friend himself would advocate this drastic measure being put into effect at once. It may come about in the

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future as the efficiency of the pilots is increased by thorough examinations ; but, to abolish pilotage boards and compulsory pilotage to-day would be a drastic measure which, I think, no minister would be prepared to recommend. Then, they ask that the compulsory payment of pilotage fees shall be abolished. If compulsory pilotage were abolished altogether, many pilots would lose their living altogether ; there would be no receipts. Then, they ask that complaints against pilots be tried before a Vice-Admiralty Court to be established at Montreal. My hon. friend sees that we cannot just at present transfer the Vice-Admiralty Court from the city of Quebec to the city of Montreal, and there is not enough business to justify the establishment of a Vice-Admiralty Court at Montreal as well as at Quebec. It would be a burlesque to establish a court at Montreal merely to try breaches of discipline on the part of pilots. But, I quite agree that with the future growth of commerce and shipping at Montreal, circumstances may justify the establishment of a branch Admiralty Court there, and breaches of discipline on the part of the pilots might be tried before such a court, instead of before this temporary pilots' court which we are creating by this Bill ; so that, we have in view the object which the petitioners pray for in their petition. We establish at as reasonably early a day as possible a branch of the Vice-Admiralty Court there, with the provision that when it is established it shall have not only the ordinary jurisdiction of a Court of Vice-Admiralty, but, also jurisdiction in these pilotage matters. I think I have satisfied my hon. friend that ample machinery is provided in the seventh clause of the Bill, which he overlooked, and which provides for the application to the proceedings of the fifty-eighth part of the Criminal Code, formerly known as the Summary Jurisdictions' Act, conferring upon this court the jurisdiction and powers of a stipendiary or police magistrate. The objection which my hon. friend took to the Bill was, that one of the three commissioners to be appointed was to be a man nominated in the first instance by the pilots. Here we have fifty-five pilots who have been discontented in the past with their court to such an extent that they have gone on strike and thrown the whole shipping interests of Montreal into jeopardy ; and it is quite desirable, I am sure every one will feel, that a court should be established that will not only do justice in itself, but in which those brought before it will have confidence. If we can establish a court in which they will have confidence, I am satisfied that we shall have taken a long step in the direction of preventing a repetition of that unfortunate strike which took place a couple of years ago. I think there can be no objection to the pilots nominating one of the three members of the court ; but, I want to sug-

gest a small amendment in the fifth subsection of section 1, to the effect that the president of the court shall receive \$10 a day, as he must be a lawyer, and more of his time must be taken up than that of the assessors who sit with him.

Mr. MARCOTTE (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, I think it my duty to say a few words on the question which is now engaging the attention of the House, because quite a number of pilots reside in my constituency, and in the neighbouring county, Portneuf. I know that the pilots are deeply interested in the Bill now under consideration.

The hon. member for St. Ann's Division, Montreal (Mr. Quinn), who spoke before me, said that the court provided by this Bill, which is to consist of three members, could not be impartial and competent, on the ground that one of the members of that tribunal is to be selected from the pilots, on the nomination of the pilots as a whole, and that such a selection would be objectionable, as it is not fair that the persons tried and sentenced should be represented on the bench by one of the same calling as themselves. I think, Sir, that this is a very unfair insinuation. There are to be found in that corporation many honourable men who have more technical skill and knowledge than all the Harbour Commissioners who decide the questions affecting the pilots. It stands to reason that those pilots being practical men, who have spent their lives in navigating the St. Lawrence, are better qualified to sit on pilotage matters than the gentlemen who compose the Harbour Commission. Why, Sir, here are men who are perfectly acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of navigation; men who are familiar with the various accidents and misfortunes met with in bringing large ships up the river; men who have closely watched for years all pilotage matters; and surely nobody will pretend that such men are not more competent, from their knowledge and technical skill, to decide questions affecting the pilots than are those gentlemen of the Harbour Commission who know nothing about navigation.

As to the judgments of the Harbour Commission that have been appealed from, the hon. member (Mr. Quinn) said that nine out of ten cases had been reversed by the Superior Court, owing to some irregularities in the mode of procedure, for want of some legal formality, or for some excess of jurisdiction. I am not a legal man, and I am not in a position to form an opinion on those particular cases in which appeals have been maintained against the judgments of the Harbour Commissioner; but I say that means ought to be taken to avoid such a possibility as a reversal of the judgment on mere matters of form, or on irregularities as to the mode of procedure and the mere reception of the evidence.

I quite understand the reasons why the Harbour Commissioners take exception to this measure, but so far as I have been able to judge from what I have heard about the provisions of this Bill, I think it will meet the requirements of the case and materially aid in solving the difficulties existing. For, as I said, the members of the new tribunal which is created by this Bill, will form an impartial and competent tribunal. As to the Harbour Commissioners, I believe that, from the fact that they are business men, it does not follow that they are competent to constitute an official court and to deal with the various accidents in connection with the navigation of the St. Lawrence, such as collisions or grounding cases. They are, no doubt, actuated by the best motives, but they lack the necessary technical knowledge which experts alone, like the pilots, can master, from a long acquaintance with the difficulties and dangers of the navigation of the river. Everybody, therefore, understands the practical utility in having a pilot upon the board, by reason of his availability for technical questions in connection with accidents on the St. Lawrence.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn) also referred to the desirability of increasing, as much as possible, the number of pilots and of throwing open the profession to everybody. I do not know whether that would prove a good means of remedying the grievances complained of as regards the pilots. I think that the pilots are numerous enough to meet the requirements of the shipping interests. The pilots employed by the ship owners between Montreal and Quebec are undoubtedly very efficient men, fully deserving the confidence of those who employ them. They are thoroughly familiar with the difficulties that exist in the navigation of the river, and, after all, accidents are not very numerous. That accidents, such as collisions and cases of grounding do occur, the responsibility for which falls upon the pilots. I do not attempt to deny; but, on the other hand, hon. gentlemen will agree with me that most accidents which occur to shipping are caused not by the bad steering of the ship, but by defects in the apparatus itself or by the insufficient lighting of the channel or similar causes. I would deprecate any attempt at throwing the responsibility for shipping that may come to grief upon men who are not in a position fully to protect themselves.

As to the examinations which all candidates for pilot licenses, and even certificated pilots have to submit to, as regards eyesight and colour-blindness, and the knowledge of the channel, I am of the opinion that such tests cannot be made too severe. Any man who is affected by colour-blindness cannot be looked upon as competent to steer a vessel. If he does, the vessel which he steers may come to grief, and he alone should be held responsible for such

accidents. In this connection, I am happy to be able to say that my views coincide with those expressed by the hon. gentleman who spoke before me (Mr. Quinn).

Mr. QUINN. In reply to my hon. friend from Champlain (Mr. Marcotte), I may say that I was simply reading the report of the commissioners who state that it was rather a singular proceeding to appoint on a special tribunal formed to decide a question affecting the pilots, men belonging to that profession. They say that it is like naming a jury of burglars to try a burglar.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Rather an unfortunate analogy.

Mr. QUINN. Yes, but it is that used by the commissioners in their petition.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But my hon. friend will admit that it is rather unfortunate.

Mr. QUINN. Yes, but it is not mine. The hon. gentleman refers to section 3 of the petition of the shipping interests of Montreal, in which they say that the pilotage service from Montreal to the sea should be thrown open to all qualified candidates, possessing the necessary qualifications, preference being given to those who have served as masters and mates in ocean navigation. If we would be perfectly fair and honest and cast aside our political prejudices or our desire to serve possibly our own personal interests, we would see that the recommendation of the shipping interests is the best one in view of the interest of the navigation of the St. Lawrence. If you wish to make the St. Lawrence the great highway of transportation between Europe and America, you will not do so by establishing a close corporation at Montreal and another at Quebec in the form of pilots associations. It is not by having simply a limited number of pilots who, owing to their vocation, owing to the free open-air life which they enjoy, and their easy times, sixteen or seventeen hours a week, live to a very old age and when not able to perform their duties efficiently, on account of age or infirmity, still retain their positions to the exclusion of younger and better men. They are kept on the roll, although they do not do any work, and they receive out of the general fund the same proportion as men who are working all the time.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is not correct.

Mr. QUINN. Such is the statement made here. Anybody will see at a glance that it is impossible, while the navigation of the St. Lawrence is saddled with such a condition of things, to make it the great highway between America and Europe. It is impossible, under such a system, to get the large shipping firms to send their vessels to Montreal. There are other difficulties that

Mr. MARCOTTE.

I mentioned before. There is the difficulty that the channel is not sufficiently lighted, according to the views of the shipping interests.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think you will be able to establish that, and at any rate that is not under discussion.

Mr. QUINN. It is not, but I may mention that some of the most prominent members of shipping firms have told me, that one of the great difficulties is that the harbour from Montreal to the ocean is not under the charge of my hon. friend altogether, and that it ought to be under one department instead of under two.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Department of Public Works has to do with the dredging of the ship channel from Montreal to Quebec, and when that is done, the entire buoying and lighting of the channel is under the charge of the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. QUINN. These gentlemen say that the work would be more effectively done if it were all under the control of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, because no time would then elapse between the clearing out of the channel and the placing therein of the necessary buoys and lights. But, as the hon. gentleman says, this is a matter which is not now under discussion. Referring to the third clause of this petition, I would earnestly press on the hon. gentleman that we should do everything to bring about in the near future the condition of things asked for in that section. Even if it were necessary to provide pensions for those pilots whose efficiency is impaired through age or infirmity, who have either lost their sight or have impaired eyesight, the shipping interests would rather pay a large sum of money to superannuate these men and then have the profession thrown open to all competitors. The shipping interests can best protect themselves by employing the men who they know are competent. They will not employ incompetent men, and according to the representations made to me by the shipping men, probably half a dozen of Montreal pilots are sought for by all the lines, and out of the 55 pilots I believe only thirteen are employed at present permanently. The other 42 get employment from the tramp steamers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think that the hon gentleman has understated the number.

Mr. QUINN. Of course the number 13 is rather familiar in disagreeable things, and that is probably why it impresses itself on one's mind in this connection. Thirteen was the number impressed on my memory, but admitting that the number is 20, that is a very small number out of 55. It is said that these men work sometimes only 16 or

17 hours per week and some of them make as high as \$1,700 in the six months.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Very few.

Mr. **QUINN**. That may be, but I take my statement from the report of the commissioners. They earn that sum from the tariff they impose. Here is what the Harbour Commissioners say at page 28 of their report :

As to the question of reducing the number of pilots and apprentices, we think that it would be unreasonable on the part of the Harbour Commissioners to recommend, in the face of the unanimous evidence of our shipping interests and ship-owners, it would be a very dangerous principle to sanction. The pilots are a most estimable part of our people, but we do not think that they are entitled to any more privileges than any other class of our community. There are only a small number; they are earning good wages, and some of them are making as much as \$1,700 in six months' work, and they can do something else during the remaining six months. Some are earning more than their confrères, but it is so in any other class of trade and profession.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. My hon. friend is quoting from one factum of the lawyers for the commission.

Mr. **QUINN**. Yes, but the Harbour Commissioners—I will say it to their credit—are selected not only on account of their political work but because they are men who occupy exalted positions in the commerce of this country. I am speaking of those appointed by the government. As to the others, they are the choice of the Board of Trade, and the Corn Exchange Association and the Chambre de Commerce and the business men of Montreal. So that if it is possible to get unprejudiced men, these men must be credited with that quality. I think that a great deal of attention ought to be paid to their representation—more than we would even pay those who are speaking for the shipping interest, even the Corn Exchange Association or any other association that comes into conflict with the pilots. And, certainly, more attention ought to be paid to their representations than to those of the pilots, so that when the commissioners make these statements, I take it for granted that they are speaking authoritatively—I do not think that any one acquainted with any of these gentlemen will say differently—from facts within their own personal knowledge.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If the hon. gentleman would turn to pages 18 and 19 of the commissioners' report, he will find that the number of pilots he spoke of—the thirteen pilots—are those not employed by the regular lines. All the other pilots except thirteen are employed on different lines, and the thirteen are on what is called tour de role. And, in the last column, it gives the names of the steamship lines that employ them, with the earnings

of each pilot for a year or two. I make the correction, because I suppose the hon. gentleman (Mr. Quinn) desires to state the case as it is.

Mr. **QUINN**. I would not call the Dominion Coal Company, for instance, a line. What we were referring to particularly, was ocean navigation. I think that the number employed on the ocean steamships of which I spoke, will be found to be very few.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, my hon. friend (Mr. Quinn), is wrong.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I would like to ask the minister, what difficulties have arisen in connection with the present authority? I understood that, in several instances, their proceedings have been quashed—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Irregularities as to the mode of procedure and the reception of evidence. There are no legal gentlemen on the Board of Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Is it possible to remove our proceedings by writ of certiorari on the ground that evidence was wrongly received?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It seems so. I have no other knowledge than what is given me by the Harbour Commissioners. They say that all the cases have been removed by certiorari.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). For irregularities?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. For irregularities, or, it may be for excess of jurisdiction in some cases.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). It is only on account of excess or want of jurisdiction that certiorari can be used for that purpose?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. In the English provinces, yes. I am informed that that is the fact, that it is done.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I think it quite possible, under this Act, as some of its provisions are rather bald, that there may be writs of certiorari to remove the proceedings taken under it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I hope not; it was drawn with some care by the Department of Justice.

Mr. **T. DIXON CRAIG** (East Durham). I was a member of the Private Bills Committee when the Bill for the incorporation of the pilots came up, and took part in the discussion. Since that time, I have watched what has been said by the newspapers on the question. However, I do not need to apologize for taking part in this discussion, because this is not a question for Montreal or Quebec alone, or even for the river St.

Lawrence, but for the whole of the Dominion west of Montreal. I noticed, about a month or so ago, a very strong article opposing this Bill in the *Montreal Witness*. If I had seen such an article in the *Montreal Gazette*, I might have paid no attention to it, thinking that perhaps it was done on political grounds. But when I find it in such a strong supporter of the government as the *Montreal Witness* almost invariably is, I was constrained to read it. I found, to my surprise, that it was strongly opposed to the Bill; and I came to the conclusion that if the *Montreal Witness* opposed a Bill proposed by this government, it must be very bad indeed, and that I had better oppose it too.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig), will always follow the *Witness* as obediently as that.

Mr. CRAIG. I think I will always follow the *Witness* in opposing the government. But if I never follow it, except on such occasions, I do not think I shall have to follow it often. But, speaking seriously, this Bill is a very important one. We find that there is strong feeling in shipping and commercial circles against this Bill. I would like to know from the hon. minister, why the present state of affairs cannot continue?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am told by the Harbour Commissioners, that, as a matter of fact, they do not succeed in obtaining judgment against any of the pilots for breaches of discipline, or for acts of omission of commission on the part of the pilots, that their proceedings are set aside by the courts, being removed by certiorari.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is exaggerated.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I state the case as it was stated to me.

Mr. CRAIG. I am glad the minister answered that, as it gives me a chance to reply. I find the following in the *Witness*, which I suppose the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), will accept:

The Harbour Commissioners yesterday voted against Sir Louis Davies' new Pilotage Bill, and recommended the continuance of the status quo until the establishment of Montreal as an admiralty district. The same action was taken at the Marine Underwriters' Association.

Here it would appear that the Harbour Commissioners are quite satisfied with the present conditions. But the hon. minister says they are not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are not satisfied; they want an Admiralty Court established.

Mr. CRAIG. But, until they get that, they want matters left as they are. They do not want a pilotage court. Now, in what I have

Mr. CRAIG.

to say, I will quote the *Witness* as my authority. The minister says the reason the present state of affairs cannot continue, is that the Harbour Commissioners cannot enforce discipline. The *Witness* of March 2, refers to the fact that in 1897 a proposed Bill of incorporation was brought into the House, and that it was passed in this House, after strong opposition, but was thrown out by the Private Bills Committee of the Senate. It goes on:

The day this was done—June 18—the fifty-two pilots in active service went on strike, and after six o'clock that evening not one could be had for the many vessels requiring pilots, until Saturday afternoon, June 26. During this week the Harbour Commissioners held almost daily sessions to deal with the difficulty and to try pilots for refusal to do their duty. The result of the trials was that eight pilots were found guilty of refusing service. Four of these were dismissed, and at the request of the minister sentence was suspended on the other four.

Now, I come to the point referred to by the hon. minister:

A writ of certiorari was applied for in each of these cases, and the conviction of six of the eight was quashed by the Superior Court, on the ground that the bailiff's return of the service of the summons was irregular. In the other two cases, the conviction was maintained; one pilot was tried, but acquitted, while complaints were laid against several other pilots on the same ground, but, owing to the minister's request, summonses were not issued.

So, the minister interfered.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, that is not true; the minister has never interfered.

Mr. CRAIG. Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) say that this is not true?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is not true. The minister has not interfered directly or indirectly, in the prosecution of any of these parties.

Mr. CRAIG. I am very glad to hear that. I think it is a good thing I read this, to give the minister a chance to deny it:

The net result, therefore, of these trials was that two pilots were punished by dismissal and that the others got off scot free, through ministerial interference with the law made and provided for the protection of commerce.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig), is reading—

Mr. CRAIG. I am reading from the *Montreal Witness*, of March 2.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But I do not know who is the authority for the statement. So far as the allegation that ministerial influence was used, directly or indirectly, in the prosecution against any pilot, is concerned, the statement is without any foundation whatever.

An hon. MEMBER. It may have been some officer of the department.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, they would not dare to do such a thing.

Mr. **CRAIG**. Then, I hope the *Montreal Witness* will apologize. I am not making the statement on my own authority—

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I understand that; I am simply correcting the statement where it was wrong.

Mr. **CRAIG**. Now, I will read a little further:

Nor was this the whole of the interference, for in April of the next year—1898—on a petition from the pilots, transmitted through the department, the dismissed pilots were reinstated, so that none of them were allowed to suffer very much from an attempt to paralyze the trade of the port by persons enjoying privileges in view of duties they bound themselves to perform.

Now, there is another statement. It blames the government for reinstating the pilots. The article goes on a little further:

The above brief narration brings out very prominently the difficulties the commissioners have always been subjected to in dealing with the trials of pilots, and emphasizes the need for an admiralty court, which shall be supreme, and from which (as supremacy implies) there shall be no appeal, and with whose procedure and decisions there shall be no political interference. The difficulties have been pointed out very strongly by the commissioners themselves, the trials must of necessity be held promptly and disposed of speedily, otherwise it would be impossible to secure in many cases the evidence of essential witnesses. . . . In the few cases where they are not maintained—

That is, where writs of certiorari are not maintained.

--as we have seen, the minister steps in and nullifies the power of the commissioners.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman understands that that is entirely denied.

Mr. **CRAIG**. Then, I am very glad that I brought it to his notice.

Thus are the disciplinary powers of the commissioners over the pilot greatly diminished, and it is almost impossible for them to inflict and enforce punishment even for grave offences. . . . If Sir Louis Davies and his colleagues are wise and have the interests of the port of Montreal and the trade and commerce of the Dominion at heart, they will abandon the Bill forthwith.

It winds up by saying:

It has been suggested that this court would be strengthened by the addition of a member representing the Marine Underwriters' Association, and by one representing the shipping interests, and such is the opinion of a majority of the Harbour Commissioners.

Now, I have read that in answer to what the minister said, that the Harbour Commission was not able to enforce discipline. The *Montreal Witness* takes the strong ground that the Harbour Commissioners

have not been able to enforce discipline because they have been interfered with by the government. Of course, that is denied. We are told, and, I suppose, that is not denied, that these men who were dismissed for going on strike were reinstated. Now, I know that no member of this House has any feeling against the pilots as a body of men, we have the very opposite feeling; but, at the same time we hold that other parties have rights as well as pilots, and I believe in giving them their rights. I think the suggestion made by the member for Montreal (Mr. Quinn) is a very good one, that if it is found advisable, as there are pilots who are too old to perform their duties, there might be some system of pension provided for them. But, there is no doubt that if there are pilots who are incompetent, they should not be forced on men who have such large interests at stake as the vessel and shipping owners. We should not only consider the interests of the pilots in this matter, but we should consider the interests of the shippers and of the great mercantile trade of Montreal. I know that men who have large mercantile interests are opposed to this Bill. Now, who wants the Bill? Has anybody asked for it? Perhaps the minister could tell us that.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have told the hon. gentleman that this Bill is the result of a report made by a commission appointed to investigate into the grievances of the pilots, and the differences between the pilots and the Harbour Commissioners. That commission sat in Montreal and heard a large number of witnesses, heard counsel for the shipping interests, for the Harbour Commissioners and for the pilots. It made a report to the government, which report has been on the hon. gentleman's table for over a year. They recommended the establishment of this pilotage court. The hon. gentleman is going on hearsay in assuming that the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal opposed the establishment of this court and want the present status continued. The Harbour Commissioners of Montreal have submitted in their petition, which the hon. member from St. Ann's, Montreal, had from me, that in place of the pilotage court proposed in the Bill, they desire that a vice-admiralty court, as it now exists in Quebec, should be established in Montreal. They want transferred the vice-admiralty court from Quebec to Montreal, and they want it given jurisdiction to hear these cases.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Not to transfer?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. This is what they say: 'That the vice-admiralty court, as it exists in Quebec, should be established in Montreal.' You can either transfer it or establish another court. The member for St. Ann's was present when the Harbour Com-

misioners waited upon me, and he knows the first statement that they made was a clear declaration that the existing court is entirely insufficient.

Mr. QUINN. I agree with what the minister says there, but, the Harbour Commissioners were acting under a misapprehension; they did not understand what remedies could be afforded by the government. For example, a remedy could be afforded by a declaration in the Pilotage Act that there shall be no writ of certiorari from the Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. CRAIG. I asked the question, Who asked for this Bill, and the answer was, that this Bill is the result of the report of a commission. I might go further and ask, Who asked to have the commission appointed?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The commission was appointed as the result of the great strike which imperilled so seriously the shipping interests of the city of Montreal, and in order to effect a compromise or settlement of that strike, and to induce the pilots to return to work, I gave them the pledge that if they would return to work and end the strike and would allow ships to sail to and fro from that big commercial centre, a commission would be appointed to inquire into their grievances, and in so far as they reported that these grievances required to be remedied, and in so far as the report recommended itself to the government, we would introduce legislation to carry out the report.

Mr. CRAIG. That answer really says that this commission was appointed at the request of the pilots, and I infer that this Bill is really made in the interests of the pilots.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In the interests of the pilots and, I hope, in the interest of Montreal and the shippers.

Mr. CRAIG. They do not seem to think so.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The only difference is this: They prefer the establishment of a vice-admiralty court, and this court that is now being established is to take the place of the existing Harbour Commissioners until a vice-admiralty court is established in Montreal, when it takes charge.

Mr. CRAIG. That is all right, and I take this position, that they would rather continue the present system than have this Bill.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, they do not say that.

Mr. CRAIG. The *Witness* says that distinctly.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, here is the petition, here is the representation of the Harbour Commissioners:

That in place of the pilotage court proposed in said Bill, the council desires that the vice-admiralty court as it now exists in Quebec should be established in Montreal, and that all shipping cases and charges against pilots should be tried before it, the judge thereof having the right to appoint the necessary expert assistants, so that he would select such as were suited to the particular case before the courts; for instance, it might be advisable to call in a different expert for a collision than for a grounding case.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, yes.

Mr. CRAIG. I have not heard of any grievances, but the result of this is that the pilots hold the shipping interests in their own hands, and if they choose to go on strike they paralyze everything. The *Montreal Witness* says:

If the Bill and amendments to the by-law were passed, the port would be bound overhand and foot to the pilots.

I suppose that this article is written by some one who knows something about the question.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That may be or it may not be.

Mr. CRAIG. I know that when a minister fathers a Bill and introduces it, he does not like to admit that there is anything wrong about it. I agree with the *Witness* that the government would be wise if they would drop this Bill. I have another little article that I wish to read.

Mr. CLARKE. What paper is that from?

Mr. CRAIG. I am reading from the *Montreal Witness*.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am glad you have so much faith in it.

Mr. CRAIG. I am reading from the *Montreal Witness*, because it is an authority with the hon. minister. In the issue of February 28, I find an article headed 'Canadian Statesmanship':

The hon. the Minister of Marine has added himself to the number of Canadian politicians who trample on statesmanship.

I have come to the conclusion that this is a very bad Bill indeed. The *Montreal Witness* mentions several of the ministers who have displayed poor statesmanship, and it goes on to say:

And now the Minister of Marine has brought in a pilotage Bill to fortify the river pilots in their combination to take toll of the river commerce. To make the great commerce of Canada pay tribute to a close corporation of rivermen, most of whom never sailed the high seas

at all, is in keeping with the ideas of the days when a baron who had his castle on the mountain pass accounted all the business that passed that way as belonging to him, and taxed it just enough to drive it all away. . . . In the legislation on this subject, it is the demands of the pilots and their interests that get the first consideration.

I want the House to remember that I am reading from the *Montreal Witness*.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think you have said that more than once.

Mr. CRAIG. It is the only thing that has any weight with the hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What is the name of the paper?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where is it published?

Mr. CRAIG. I think the hon. minister knows where it is published.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, it is a good paper.

Mr. CRAIG. It is published on Craig Street, Montreal, I believe. I do not know that I could persuade the hon. minister to drop this Bill, but I wish I could. Perhaps the *Montreal Witness* may persuade him to do so. It may have another article pointing out a few more of the imperfections of this Bill, and as the Bill will not be passed to-night, perhaps we will learn something more about it from this paper. I do not know but what the *Witness* may change its opinion when it finds out that the hon. minister is determined to pass the Bill. However, I think the *Witness* is honest in its opinions, in this matter. I do not think that we can accuse the *Witness* of introducing politics into this matter, and I hope that the hon. minister will consider the objections that have been urged against the Bill, and that he will drop it.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorcency). Mr. Chairman, I am sure that we are all agreed that equal justice should be meted out to the pilots and to the great commercial interests of this country. It seems to me that the statements which have been made about the appeals from the judgments rendered by the pilotage authority have been grossly exaggerated. It has been said that almost all the decisions arrived at by the pilotage authority in the city of Montreal have been removed on writs of certiorari to another court, and that the judgments have been stayed in such a manner that any offences of which these pilots were accused have not been punished. It seems to me that there must be some exaggeration in this statement, because, according to the Code of Civil Procedure of the province of Quebec, only certain cases pending before the Harbour Commissioners can be removed to another court.

The cases are specified in article 1293, in the following words:

The remedy lies, nevertheless, only in the following cases:

1. When there is want or excess of jurisdiction.

Of course, that question would not arise very often, because the jurisdiction is so well defined in the statute that no one would take before this court any case in which the Harbour Commissioners had no jurisdiction.

2. When the regulations upon which a complaint is brought or the judgment rendered, are null or of no effect.

3. When the proceedings contain gross irregularities and there is reason to believe that justice has not been or will not be done.

I have some knowledge of the matter in which such proceedings are carried on under the Quebec Harbour Commissioners, and I know that the commissioners there have always been provided with an excellent counsel who has directed their proceedings.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is in Quebec.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes. There is an appeal given by section 74 or 75, of the statute—I do not recollect which—to the Superior Court, but it is a matter which is well known in Quebec that such appeals as are given are very seldom taken, and that the court, as constituted in Quebec, has given general satisfaction. That court is the pilotage authority for the harbour of Quebec and below Quebec, and it is composed of the Harbour Commissioners. It seems to me that instead of amending the law, as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries proposes to amend it by appointing three men to constitute a court, provision should be made so as to have the pilotage authority in Montreal exercise the same powers under the same legal restrictions and dispositions as the pilotage authority in Quebec does. Of course, on the one hand, everybody knows that the commercial community, the great trade interests of the country have to be protected, but, on the other hand, these pilots have rights and they quite reasonably seek the protection of the law also, and the law should be placed in such a position that their rights should be protected. It is a serious thing for a pilot, for instance, to be brought before a pilotage authority under an accusation of having, by his negligence or otherwise, caused a collision in the river or grounded his steamer, and in such a case, to be punished by having his license removed for his lifetime, thereby depriving him of the means by which he is earning his livelihood. Instead of introducing the provisions of this Bill, why not simply allow, until an Admiralty Court is established in Montreal, the Harbour Commissioners to

judge of these matters as they do in Quebec, but with the warning that they should provide themselves with a counsel learned in the law so as to direct their proceedings, and so that they shall not come under article 1293 of the Code of Civil Procedure. I cannot understand why it is that there are so many cases as have been stated in the city of Montreal in which the proceedings have been set aside for gross irregularity. It seems to me that there must be some negligence on the part of somebody. I do not know whether the counsel are not wide enough awake to see that these proceedings are properly carried on, or whether the commission have not given sufficient consideration to the opinions given them by their counsel. There is something wrong somewhere, but it is matter of detail which can be remedied without bringing in this statute or without the court which the hon. minister proposes to establish. It seems to me that you will not have anything better than the harbour board, because if you propose to appoint a man learned in the law as president, what kind of a man learned in the law are you going to get for \$10 a day. I do not know any man in Montreal of experience, or whose advice is worth anything, whom you would be able to secure for \$10 a day. You will have probably an inferior man, who will lead this court into all kinds of mistakes, into the grossest kinds of irregularities, which will defeat the object which you have in view. Now, as to the establishment of a branch of the Exchequer Court having jurisdiction in admiralty, in Montreal, it would not be anything very costly to the country. In Quebec, the Hon. Mr. Justice Routhier, of the Superior Court, was appointed at \$1,000 a year, and I take it that one of the justices of the Superior Court in Montreal would be willing to act as judge of the Exchequer Court having jurisdiction in admiralty, if the government gave him a similar salary. Indeed it is publicly known that a gentleman of the Superior Court is going to be appointed in a short time, if a certain Bill which is before this House is passed. There may be some gentlemen in Quebec who think that the Admiralty Court should not be established elsewhere than in that city, but I believe that the lawyers of Quebec are sufficiently patriotic and have a sufficiently high conception of the duties of government towards the people, not to raise any such objection. The public opinion of Montreal demands that in that commercial centre, that great port at which almost all sea-going vessels now congregate, a Vice-Admiralty Court should be established with the same jurisdiction as the court in Quebec. In view of the probable establishment of a Vice-Admiralty Court in Montreal it seems to me that the clause in the Bill which relates to the new pilotage court, might be struck out.

Mr. CASGRAIN.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I speak with a good deal of diffidence in a matter of this kind, and I take it for granted that the minister would not introduce the Bill unless something has come to his knowledge which makes it necessary. To satisfy my own mind, however, I rise to get some information. It seems a little singular to me—perhaps it is because of my inexperience—that it is the Governor in Council that is to create this court, and yet that the personnel of the court shall be on the nomination of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) alone. That perhaps is usual, but I do not know that I have met with it before in any of the Acts I happen to have read. The next point is as to whether the court is required to be unanimous or not. It is composed of three members, and I suppose in the absence of anything in the Act, which would permit the decision of two to be the decision of the court, there would have to be a unanimous decision. That might sometimes result in a miscarriage of justice because, of course, men will differ on these points. There are pilotage districts about which I know very little, but I take it that chapter 20, Revised Statutes, applies to all these pilotage districts, and I assume that the provision for recovering penalties is that found in section 101, which defines how these penalties are to be recovered and which makes special provision for the pilotage of Quebec and gives jurisdiction to the Quebec Harbour Commissioners. As to all other districts the first part of this section must apply, and the question arises in my mind whether it is the intention of this Act to give concurrent jurisdiction, or whether it is the intention to take away as to the pilotage district of Montreal, the jurisdiction of those persons who are mentioned in the first part of section 101. Then as to the application of Part LVIII. of the Criminal Code, I would think that the general application of so large a part of the Code would be rather dangerous, and that the particular sections of Part LVIII. should be defined. These are criticisms which occurred to me ought to be made on the Bill.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). There is something further which deserves the attention of the minister. The point as to the necessity of the court being unanimous had occurred to me, and it is perfectly clear that unless that statute is governed by something in the Interpretation Act the court would require to be unanimous.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is a clause in the Interpretation Act.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I know, but I was going to point out that that seems to put this Act in a worse condition if it does apply. It says that when any Act or thing is required to be done by more than two persons, the

majority of them may do it. The minister constitutes a court consisting of three members, and he says 'the court shall hear and determine. There is a great deal of doubt as to whether the court must not be unanimous, even in view of the language of the Interpretation Act. This Bill says:

The Governor in Council may create a pilotage court. . . . Such court shall consist of three members, at least two of whom shall possess nautical or pilotage experience . . . and the court shall hear and determine all charges.

It is not very plain to say the least, that unanimity on the part of this court is not required. Suppose it is not required, in what position is the minister. He says that you are to have a professional gentleman, who is to be a member of the court so as to keep the court from making mistakes into which the pilotage authority has fallen in the past. If this particular part of the Interpretation Act applies, it is not necessary that this professional gentleman shall be a member of the court. Two members who have only nautical experience will be a quorum and will deal with all these matters, although the professional gentleman is not there, and this Bill will not meet the difficulty which the minister says it is intended to remedy. Therefore, it seems to me that it would be necessary to amend the Act in one or two ways. You will have to provide that a quorum of the court shall include the legal gentleman who is to be appointed, or that it shall consist on all occasions of all three persons mentioned in the Act. Of course, if this provision of the Interpretation Act does not apply, it will be necessary in all cases that the court shall consist of all three persons; and if in any case any one of these persons should happen to be disqualified by relationship or interest, the court would be powerless to deal with a matter over which otherwise it would have jurisdiction.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is perfectly obvious that the hon. gentleman's criticism applies to any court that could possibly be established. If any member of the court were interested, he would be disqualified.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In the province of Nova Scotia it is provided that in some cases where a court consists of one person interest or relationship shall not affect the jurisdiction.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Department of Justice holds that the Interpretation Act governs and controls, and that if three persons are appointed to do certain things, two of them can act; so that, there is no use of repeating here the words of the Interpretation Act. With regard to the criticism of the hon. member for Kingston, I do not quite understand what he means. The Governor in Council creates the court, and when it

is created the Minister of Marine appoints the persons to act. What other mode of constituting the court can be suggested? If you provide that the Governor General in Council shall appoint the members of the court instead of the Minister of Marine, what difference does that make? So far as this jurisdiction of the court is concerned, there are several courts which have concurrent jurisdiction, and before which penalties could be recovered, and this court is added to them. The powers of a stipendiary magistrate are vested in this court, and the fifty-eighth part of the Criminal Code is made applicable. I do not see what else could be done. The Bill was rough-drafted by myself, and submitted to the Department of Justice, and this is the form in which they think it should be drawn. I know that there are always difficulties in constituting a new court, both as to jurisdiction and as to procedure. It is very difficult to constitute a court with absolute completeness so as to avoid all the pitfalls on every side; but, it appears to me, with the exception of one or two changes of phraseology which I intend to propose, that the Bill meets the case very well.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to see any opinion of the Department of Justice that that clause of the Interpretation Act applies to this Act.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was the opinion of the gentleman who drafted the Bill. It was my opinion also, and the opinion of my legal colleagues with whom I consulted.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). We have the words of the statute, and the words of this Bill, before us, and I do not think it is so plain a matter as the hon. gentleman would suggest.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It struck me, after looking carefully over it, that it was sufficient. I may be wrong.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The language of the statute is that the court should do this, not these three gentlemen; and in the Interpretation Act you have merely a clause like this:

When any act or thing is required to be done by more than two persons, a majority of them may do it.

Whether or not a court, the president of which must have special qualifications, is to be governed by that—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I shall be glad to consider the hon. gentleman's point with great care, because it is a very important one.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). One reason why the Interpretation Act might not apply is, the very reason which the hon. minister has given for the introduction of this Act,

namely, the necessity that the president of the court must be a person of professional qualifications. If the clause of the Interpretation Act applies, it will do away altogether with that safeguard. The hon. gentleman has not dealt with that particular point at all. If that applies, the court will have jurisdiction, although the professional gentleman is not sitting, and it would be open to every objection which this Act is intended to remedy. I would suggest that as a reason why the Interpretation Act would not apply.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The very fact that the hon. gentleman and the other gentleman sitting around him have raised that point makes it necessary that I should consider it with great care, and I will do so. Before the Bill comes up again, I will again consult the Department of Justice, and if there is any doubt on that point, there will be no difficulty in inserting a few words to remove the doubt.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). I would ask the hon. gentleman to consider that he has not done away with the old court, but is simply conferring powers on a new body, so that it seems to me that, as the Act stands, the two courts shall have concurrent jurisdiction. You have to denude the old authority of its powers.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I see the hon. gentleman's point, and I will consider it.

Mr. QUINN. The Harbour Commissioners, in their report, say :

It has not been shown that there has been at any time a disposition on the part of the Harbour Commissioners to take an unfair advantage of pilots when brought before them for trial. Pilots have been at such trials, assisted by counsel, and the Harbour Commissioners have, when they considered it necessary, taken the expert evidence and opinions of pilots and others regarding the matter under inquiry. Notwithstanding these facts, your commissioners are of opinion that the present method of dealing with charges brought against pilots is not the best.

That is all the distance the commissioners go until they come to their concluding remark, and recommend a certain court, such as is established by this Act. The minister certainly overlooked these words when he said they were in favour of this Act; and, as I said before, I attach more importance to the opinion of the Harbour Commissioners than possibly to the opinion of any other body in Montreal.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman misunderstood me, if he understood me to say they were in favour of this Act. They are in favour of a Vice-Admiralty Court.

Mr. QUINN. It was in answer to the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig) that

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

I understood the hon. gentleman to say they were in favour of it. The commissioners say :

The end sought seems to us to be satisfactory and easily obtained under the system as it exists.

In view of the difficulties that have been suggested by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), which struck me, but which I neglected to refer to in my remarks on the subject, why should we do that about which there is so much doubt?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There is no doubt.

Mr. QUINN. There is great doubt as to the jurisdiction of this court. If the object is to have a lawyer to preside over that court, and the Interpretation Act applies to it, and two members of the court will form a quorum, the court may be held without having the lawyer there at all. The two other members of the court may sit, subject to all kinds of irregularities and tumbling into irregularities. When you find a court established consisting of some of the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, falling into irregularities, even when advised by counsel, it becomes absolutely necessary to have the whole three present in court. But what certainty is there that you would have representatives of the pilots present when some gross case of infraction is brought up? The man who is to represent the pilots on this court is to be selected by them and be appointed either for three or five years, or we will say for life. Supposing a gross case of flagrant violation of the law arises, supposing a man has been drunk, the three members of the court must sit, in order that the court may be properly constituted. Therefore, to prevent this man losing his certificate before the winter season comes around, all that is necessary is not to have the representatives of the pilots in court. Supposing that the court could not be properly constituted until the month of November, then it would not be able to try this man's case and take away his branch or license for six months, until the season of navigation had terminated. The court could only take away his branch and prevent his acting as pilot between the months of December and May. That would be a punishment farcical in the extreme, and the object for which the court is established would be defeated. Under these circumstances, and particularly as the hon. gentleman said he is not anxious to force the Bill through to-night, perhaps the committee might rise.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, we will go through the Bill as far as we can. I promise to consider all the suggestions most carefully, but propose to do some work.

Mr. POWELL. The point raised by the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) at first blush might seem to be met by the clause in the Interpretation Act to which the hon. minister has referred. But I remember an almost parallel case in our own province. A court known under the old common law of England as the 'Commissioners of Sewers,' was brought under statutory jurisdiction in the province of New Brunswick. The court held, under language very similar to this contained in our local Act, that the Interpretation Act controlled the case, and no less an eminent jurist than Chief Justice Ritchie decided that an Act authorized to be done by the commissioners could be done by a majority of them. But in this particular case before the House, notwithstanding that decision, it does appear to me the Bill is capable of the construction the hon. minister puts upon it. The Interpretation Act, if he has it before him, he will see, provides as follows in its seventh section:

In every Act of the parliament of Canada, unless the context otherwise requires—

Then follows, among other provisions, the provision quoted by the hon. member for Halifax. Now, the question is: Does the context otherwise require it? Let us look at this Bill. Take the first, second and third sections:

The Governor in Council may constitute or create a pilotage court for the pilotage district of Montreal, to be known as the Montreal Pilots' Court, and hereinafter called 'the court.'

This is not conclusive, because it simply creates a court, and I do not attach much importance to that section as far as it goes, but

Such court shall consist of three members, at least two of whom shall possess nautical or pilotage experience.

Now, supposing that the men who did not possess such experience undertook to sit with one only of the men who did, the court is not the court constituted under that section. The context requires 'two men of nautical experience' to constitute the court. That is the very idea which the draughtsman had in his mind. If we go a little further, we will find that one of these men has to be nominated by the Minister of Marine. The context requires that a nominee of the Minister of Marine shall be a portion of that court. He is the independent man, and sits in the capacity of umpire. The other two represent interested individuals, and one of them is to be nominated by the pilots and the other by the pilotage authorities. That means that the specific individuals are essential portions of the court. It is different entirely from the case in which three men are simply elected to a certain position exactly on the same principle. This court cannot be constituted, or cannot fulfil the idea of the draughtsman, unless the three people repre-

senting those three interests are there. The context, I submit, is such that the words of the subsection of the Interpretation Act, which the hon. member for Halifax quoted from, and which the hon. minister relied upon, do not apply.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I promise that this subject will receive my best attention in conjunction with the Department of Justice, and if a clause is necessary, we will put one in.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I see that there is no express provision, though there may be one in the Interpretation Act, for the further appointment of any one of the members of this court in case he should die or resign. The Bill seems to contemplate only one appointment. It provides for one appointment in express terms. It is usual in many statutes of a similar character, to provide that the authority which appointed a particular member shall, in case of death or resignation, appoint another in his place. I do not know whether the hon. minister thinks that necessary, but I would be inclined to think it is, unless provided in the Interpretation Act.

On section 2,

The courts shall hear and determine all charges or complaints made against any pilot in connection with any accidents happening to or caused by vessels in charge of such pilot.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I want to recast section 2 by a small amendment, so as to make it read a little plainer, and be more comprehensive than it is in the Bill.

The court shall hear and determine all charges and complaints made against any pilot in connection with any accidents happening to or caused by vessels in charge of such pilot.

That is the way the clause reads now. I propose that it shall read that the courts shall hear and determine charges made against any pilot:

For offences committed against the Pilotage Act or any regulation thereunder which can now be heard or determined by the pilotage authorities, whether in connection with any accidents happening to or caused by vessels in charge of such pilot or otherwise.

The hon. gentleman asks a question as to clause 3, but I did not understand his question.

Mr. POWELL. I cannot understand the clause.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is to provide that the court may make an order for payment against the pilot, or against the person making the charge, if they find the charge unfounded, or out of the pilotage fund, if they think the circumstances justify it.

Mr. POWELL. It reads:

The court may make such order for the payment of the costs of the inquiry by any pilot

in fault or by any person making the charge of complaint against any pilot, or otherwise, out of the funds of the pilotage authority for the said district, as the court deems just.

The word 'otherwise,' is ridiculous there.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would hardly use that term—

Mr. POWELL. Then we will say it is entirely meaningless.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Strike out 'otherwise,' if you like.

Mr. POWELL. Very well, strike it out.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In subsection 2, I propose to strike out the words 'under sections 75, 98 and 99, of the Pilotage Act.' I desire to give them all the powers of the Montreal pilotage authority.

Mr. POWELL. I desire to call the minister's special attention to one point. I trust I am not wrong. I have not had the opportunity to consider it as fully as had the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), but, I think, in the limited time I have had, I have grasped the meaning pretty fully. The power of the pilotage authority as such is very limited. Section 101 of the Pilotage Act. lays down the procedure. The Harbour Commissioners has no jurisdiction over the penalties at all, as a court. But they have certain powers. If a pilot gets drunk, or neglects his duty, and, owing to that, under section 74, his act tends to the immediate loss, destruction or damage of the ship, or he refuses to do any lawful act to prevent such loss, in these two cases they have jurisdiction. Now, if you will pass to section 99:

Whenever any ship sustains damage through the fault of any branch pilot for and above the harbour of Quebec, the pilotage authority of the pilotage district of Montreal may, in its discretion, and upon such information as it deems expedient, and with or without complaint by any person, investigate the matter and declare the branch of such pilot forfeited.

The only jurisdiction they have is to declare the branch of the pilot forfeited under section 99, or, under section 95, to suspend a man, or dismiss him for being drunk, or causing damage to a vessel. Now you are creating a number of offences and penalties, and you confer jurisdiction on these people to the extent that the commissioners of the Pilotage Commissioners in Montreal, but they have no jurisdiction except such as I have stated. So, the operation of the amendment is to bring it back to where it previously stood. That is going to muddle the matter very much.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. Powell), quite understands the statute. If he will turn to section 73, he will find

Mr. POWELL.

that: Every licensed pilot who, either with-in or without the district, for which he is licensed, commits any of the offences in this list down to 'K':

—shall, for each offence, in addition for any liability for damages, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$200, and suspension or dismissal by the pilotage authority of the district for which he is licensed.

The object of this Bill is not to give them power or create any offences. We do not create new offences, but simply transfer to the new court the powers the Pilotage Board now has as regards pilotage offences, and also power equal to that of the court under the Summary Jurisdiction Act. So, they will have the authority to punish by imposing a penalty, and the power to collect the penalty under the Summary Jurisdiction Act.

Mr. POWELL. If you are going to put in an additional clause to secure that, it is all right.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is under clause 7, we will come to it.

Mr. QUINN. If I understand the hon. minister correctly, the section with which we are dealing now, simply refers to the offences under section 73.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And sections 98 and 99. Another offence is referred to under section 75, but in order not to repeat the sections, I struck it out, and provided for the offences under the Pilotage Act generally.

Mr. POWELL. Under subsection 2, it is provided that the court shall have power to 'hear and determine all charges of complaints,' and so on. That means complaints made before them. But, under section 99, I think it is, the pilotage authority under the old Act, had power to act on their own motion without complaint being made. Are their powers to be limited?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are not to initiate charges. That is the idea.

On section 6,

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would like to add to the end of that section: 'And may also, if necessary, and subject to the approval of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, appoint a clerk of the court who shall be paid by fees.'

Mr. QUINN. I am afraid that is making this court too expensive.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is only to be paid by fees, you see.

Mr. QUINN. But all these fees, no matter from whom they are collected, have

eventually to come out of the shipping in the port. There is already a heavy tax upon the shipping at that port.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not propose by this addition to increase the cost one iota. If the clerk is not appointed to do it, somebody else must draw out the papers, and the regulations provided for here provide that fees shall be paid to that person. It must be some one, whether the president who does the actual manual work himself, or some one else, and that some one must be paid for it. I propose that if the work is found to be heavy the clerk shall be appointed and paid by fees, but only in case the work requires it.

Mr. **QUINN**. We are now establishing a court consisting of three members. We hope they will sit only a few days in the year, but I do not think that will be the experience of the government. I think you will find, if you get a man to work for \$10 a day at all, if he is a lawyer—

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL** (Mr. Fitzpatrick). In the winter he will be glad to get it.

Mr. **QUINN**. But the members of that court who are working for \$10 and \$5 a day respectively, will see that that court sits every juridical day of the year, even if they do not sit for more than half an hour, and that is simply in consequence of paying \$10 a day and \$5 a day to the judges who will sit there; whereas, if you created a branch of the Vice-Admiralty Court in Montreal and gave one of the judges of the Superior Court \$1,000 a year extra to sit as judge of that court, as you do in the city of Quebec, you would have the affairs properly administered.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. What about your registrar, what about your marshal?

Mr. **QUINN**. All these officers could be taken from the officers of the court in Montreal to-day at a very slight addition. I venture to say that before this court is in operation a year it will be found to cost over \$7,000 a year to the port of Montreal; and I venture to say that with an expenditure to-day of \$2,000 a year, you could have a judge of the Superior Court, a registrar, a marshal, and everybody in connection with it. This heavy expenses will operate to the injury, not only to the city and port of Montreal, but to the national highway between Europe and America.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. The intention of this Act is simply to amend the condition of things that exist now at Montreal. At the present time the pilotage authority of the River St. Lawrence, between the harbour of Quebec and the port of Montreal, is the Montreal Harbour Com-

mission. This commission is a body consisting of five gentlemen, I think, appointed by the government, one appointed by the Board of Trade, another appointed by the shipping interests, another by the Corn Exchange, and another by the Chambre de Commerce. Now, these gentlemen have to try offences charged against pilots, and they are naturally interested in the shipping trade as against the pilots. Can this court be said to be absolutely impartial when it is composed largely of those who are interested in shipping that may come to grief? What is desired is a competent and impartial court, and I say it is not possible that they can be absolutely impartial, and it is not possible that they can be competent. I know from my own experience in Quebec, where we have shipping men with as extensive shipping knowledge as exist at Montreal, when the Harbour Commissioners are sitting with pilotage authority they associate with themselves the chairman of the Board of Pilots. The Harbour Commissioners of Quebec never sit as they do in Montreal without having the assistance of this competent person who represents the pilots. It seems to me that elementary justice requires that this should be done; in order that you may have a competent court, you should have a man with special technical knowledge of these matters. Moreover, the presence of that man on the board is an additional security in so far as he gives additional satisfaction to the pilots themselves. Now, what the Bill proposes is to have something different from that which exists at present in Montreal, and to come closer to the condition of things existing at Quebec. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that what is required in Montreal is a branch of the Admiralty Court. Now, who, with any experience of an Admiralty Court, will pretend to justify the existence of two Admiralty Courts for the St. Lawrence River between Quebec and Montreal? We have had an Admiralty Court in Quebec from the time of the conquest up to the present. At the present time, I say, speaking from my own experience, there is not enough business done in the Admiralty Court at Quebec, notwithstanding that it has jurisdiction over the harbour of Montreal as well as over the river down to the gulf—there is not enough work there to keep a judge going for a month in the whole year.

Mr. **CASGRAIN**. That is because, in Montreal, all the suits arising from the shipping contracts which come under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court in Quebec, are taken before the Superior Court.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. I am speaking of the conditions existing. The Admiralty Court may sit for suits taken in Montreal, and if they desire to proceed in the Admiralty Court there is nothing to pre-

vent their doing so. All that is necessary is to have the writs issued by the registrar because there is a deputy registrar of the Admiralty Court in Montreal. All that is necessary is to go to the court and issue the writ there. The judge of the Admiralty Court, although located in Quebec, may come and sit in Montreal. There is nothing to prevent his doing so. How many Admiralty Courts are there in Great Britain? You have not got this subdivision of admiralty jurisdiction all over Great Britain that you are seeking to impose upon us here. You now have a judge sitting at Quebec. Ships are passing to and fro at Quebec. If it is necessary to libel any ship there is nothing more convenient than to do it at Quebec. If it is necessary to examine any man on board, there is nothing more convenient than to do it as the ships pass up and down. This is a condition that has existed for years, ever since the time of the conquest, and no inconvenience resulted from that condition sufficient to justify the change. Assuming that you had an Admiralty Court in Montreal, what would be the difference, in so far as these cases are concerned in the conditions which would be brought into existence by this Bill. Everybody who has practised in the Admiralty Court, and knows anything about what goes on there, knows that this Bill is based on the idea of the Admiralty Court. The Admiralty Court consists of a judge, of a man learned in the law, who, in technical cases, brings assessors into that court. Here you have a man learned in the law who is to preside over the court, and then you have assessors sitting with him, a man representing the shipping interests, being one assessor, and another man representing the pilots being another assessor.

Mr. QUINN. But, under this Bill, the assessor is as much a part of the court as the man learned in the law.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In the Admiralty Court the judge is not obliged to observe the opinion of the assessor, while in this court he is.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am quite aware of that, but if the hon. gentleman will look at the case he will find that frequently the judge says that: Notwithstanding that my opinion is somewhat different from that of the assessors, in view of the fact that they are more competent to determine technical questions of navigation, I accept their opinion in preference to my own.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I might mention to the hon. gentleman that in England the judges would not look at the opinion of the assessor at all.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think that any judge of the Admiralty Court who had felt himself called upon to call in

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

assessors would overrule, without very grave reasons, the opinions of the assessors.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). So little influence has the opinion of the assessor upon the court that the English Court of Appeal refused to order the opinion of the assessor to be brought up so that it could be used in the Court of Appeal as part of the judgment of the court below.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is the opinion of the assessor that guides the judge, and it is the opinion of the judge that goes to the Court of Appeal. That is what is intended here. With this man learned in the law there will be these two men—the assessors—who are competent to advise him, one representing the shipping interest and another representing the pilots.

Mr. QUINN. The difference between these two men and the assessors called into an Admiralty Court is, that, in this instance, they are just as much a part of the court as he is, and if the Interpretation Act is correct, if the two of them agree against his opinion, their opinion will be the judgment of the court.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In that respect I have my own opinion as to what constitutes the court. I do not agree that the court is a body, as constituted by the law, consisting of three members. I say that the court is composed of the counsel learned in the law who acts with the assistance of his two assistants. I say, of course, that in a court of that description it would be necessary that they should be unanimous, but, it must be the opinion of the court unless the law says something to the contrary. In reference to the question of expense, I would appeal to the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), who has had some experience in these matters, as I have had myself, to say what would be the result of taking these cases to the Admiralty Court? I venture to say the costs in one case in the Admiralty Court would be equal to the cost of this whole court for a year.

Mr. CASGRAIN. But, you will have a special provision in the case of pilots.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not at all.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If you had a court you would have to apply the tariff to that court.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Surely you would make a special tariff for such cases as these! What strikes me about the court is this: If a decision shall not be arrived at unless the court is unanimous how will the decision be given in a case supposing that one of the members of the court is incompetent or disqualified from sitting?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The point is to be considered by the Department of Justice and myself as to whether the interpretation clause applies to the Act. If it does not, or there is any reasonable doubt about it, we will draft a clause settling the question. I would ask the committee to dispose of the clause which we are now considering as to whether we will appoint a clerk and pay him by fees.

Mr. QUINN. The objection I have has brought up a very interesting discussion and has resulted in a particularly interesting speech from the hon. Solicitor General. I quite agree with him as to the constitution of the court, and holding that opinion, it forces me to the conclusion that this Bill will be perfectly inoperative. This Bill is framed for the purpose of trying cases, as far as this court is established, against pilots. If three members are necessary to constitute that court, I venture to say that there never will be a complaint tried against a pilot in the city of Montreal until the season of navigation closes.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We may meet that by putting in a special clause.

Mr. QUINN. Now, then referring to the cost of the court and the appointment of a clerk, what I fear about this is that not only will we have the appointment of a clerk but we will have a permanent clerk appointed, we will then have to provide an office for him, with all the trappings and paraphernalia of a prothonotary's office, we will have to have a room for the judges, and they will have a sitting every day in the year. It will involve a cost of \$7,000 a year.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. How do you make that out?

Mr. QUINN. There are three men at \$20 a day—\$10 for one and \$5 apiece for the two others. They will sit every juridical day in the year. They will have offices in Montreal, they will have a court in Montreal, and they will sit every day in the year from January 1 to December 31. They may sit only half an hour a day, but they will sit and draw their \$10 or \$5 a day. And this will have to come out of the shipping interests—every dollar of it. It is all very well for the Solicitor General to say that the trial of one large case before the Admiralty Court would involve more than the whole cost of this court. That may be true, but the amount involved would be so large in the admiralty case that the whole cost of the court would be relatively insignificant. This extra expense is not for the purpose of trying cases that come regularly before the vice-admiralty court, but it is for the purpose of trying petty cases against pilots, the cost of which must in the long run come upon the pilots or the

shipping interests. In the end it will come out of the shipping trade of the port, because if a pilot is fined \$200 he will make it up in some way out of the shipping interests; he is not going to lose it. That is why I fear the expenditure of even such a small sum as the salary of a clerk.

On clause 7,

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I propose to recast this clause so as to make it express more clearly what the draughtsman meant. I move to make it read:

The provisions of paragraph lviii of the Criminal Code, 1892, shall apply to this Act for the recovery and enforcement of all fines, penalties and costs imposed under the authority of the Pilotage Act, and the court shall, for such purposes, have all the powers.

Amendment agreed to.

On clause 8,

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have recast this clause slightly so as to make it read:

8. Upon the establishment of an admiralty district at Montreal under the Admiralty Act, 1891, with a registry and a local judge in admiralty of the Exchequer Court in and for such district, the members and clerk of the Montreal pilots' court shall thereupon cease to hold office, and all the powers and jurisdiction of the Montreal pilots' court shall thereupon be transferred to the Exchequer Court of Canada, admiralty side, and the local judge in admiralty in and for the admiralty district of Montreal shall have and exercise all the powers, jurisdiction and authority conferred upon the Montreal pilots' court by this Act.

Provided always, that in the hearing and determination of any matter brought before him such judge shall have power to call in the aid of one or more specially qualified assessors and hear and determine such matter either wholly or partially with the assistance of such assessor or assessors. And such judge shall have power to make all necessary rules and orders for the more effectually carrying out the provisions of this Act and also of the Pilotage Act, so far as it relates to any proceedings which may be brought before the said judge.

Mr. QUINN. I understand the hon. gentleman will let this Bill stand.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not propose to take it out of the committee.

On section 9,

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Paragraph (c), section 59, of the Pilotage Act, allows the pilotage authorities to exempt vessels trading between certain ports from pilotage dues, but, strangely enough, Newfoundland has been omitted from the clause. Inasmuch as a large trade is growing up with Newfoundland, it is desirable that the pilotage authorities should have power to exempt vessels trading between Newfoundland and Canada, and I propose to amend the clause by adding 'Newfoundland.'

Motion agreed to.

The committee rose and reported progress.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM STATION ACT.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved second reading of Bill (No. 135) to amend the Experimental Farm Station Act.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. This Act is introduced in consequence of views expressed by the Auditor General, who holds that the Experimental Farm Act provides that even men employed as labourers for a few days shall be appointed by order in council. That has never been acted upon since the passage of the Act. The chief officers have been appointed by order in council, but the labourers have been employed from day to day, as is absolutely necessary, without order in council. Last year the Auditor General drew the attention of the director of farms to this, and made a formal request in his report that this practice should cease or that the Act should be amended. This Bill provides that while the chief officers are appointed by order in council, the other employees on the farm can be employed by the minister without the formality of an order in council.

Mr. WALLACE. This clause seems to go further than the appointment of labourers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At present the director and chief officers are appointed by order in council, and under the second clause that shall continue. But, the third clause provides that the minister may employ such other officers and employees as are necessary for each farm station.

Bill reported.

LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATIONS ACT.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved second reading of Bill (No. 134), respecting the incorporation of Live Stock Associations.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Perhaps I ought to give a slight explanation of the purposes and objects of this Bill.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). Would the minister, before he gives that explanation, tell us how it is going to affect

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

the organizations at present in existence authorized by the local governments?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It will not affect them at all; it does not interfere in any way with them. It simply provides that a group of gentlemen engaged in live stock operations, whose area of operations extends beyond one province, as in the case of the Holstein-Frisian Association, which made application to me last year for this purpose, may incorporate under a Dominion Act. The Holstein-Frisian Association of Canada, in November, 1898, passed a resolution which was forwarded to me, asking for an opportunity to incorporate under a Dominion statute. I then thought they could incorporate under what is known as the Joint Stock Companies' Act, and discussed the matter with them. They thought, at first, that they could do so; but afterwards they found that that Act did not serve their purpose at all, and later they asked me again to take up the matter and provide an Act under which live stock associations for the Dominion could incorporate, and form a pedigree book, for the purpose of registering live stock all over the Dominion. I may say that their request was much reinforced by communications which came to me explaining the difficulties which our exporters of thoroughbred stock have experienced in getting their stock admitted into the United States. The customs authorities of the United States will not recognize the provincial organizations of Canada, and we have not been able to remove that disability, when exporting thoroughbred live stock to the United States, so that duties have to be paid on it, notwithstanding the fact that the laws of the United States permit thoroughbred live stock to be imported free of duty. The consequence has been that many of our people have had to register their stock in United States associations. From correspondence which I have had with the department at Washington, I believe that associations chartered under a Dominion law, might obtain that recognition which the provincial organizations have not been able to obtain. These two arguments have appealed to me, so that I have tried to draw up an Act which would accomplish the object aimed at, and enable these live stock associations to be incorporated under a Dominion law without any expense to them.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). This seems to be entirely new. I notice the application is to the Minister of Agriculture. Why do you invest him with the authority to establish an association?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The application for incorporation has to be made to somebody in authority, and it was thought best that it should be made to the Minister of Agriculture, whose department deals with the work of such associations.

That was thought more appropriate than to have the application made to the Secretary of State.

Mr. SPROULE. I would think it would be more appropriate to have the application made to the Secretary of State, to whom all applications for letters of incorporation are usually made.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman will see that these associations have to comply with certain rules and regulations before incorporation is permitted, and it is the Department of Agriculture which should have to take cognizance of these things and deal with them.

Mr. SPROULE. The same thing would apply to the incorporation of any other association, such as a mining company; but heretofore all such applications have been made to the Secretary of State. In Ontario, all applications under the Joint Stock Companies' Act, are made to one individual.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In Ontario, the applications for the formation of the different breeders' associations, are made to the Department of Agriculture, and in Quebec, all applications for organizations of an agricultural character, such as dairymen's associations, exhibition associations and certificates for the exhibition of butter and cheese, are made to the Minister of Agriculture. Were this application made to the Secretary of State, it would have to be referred to the Department of Agriculture to be dealt with.

Mr. SPROULE. I admit that, but in looking them up, it would be much more convenient if all these applications were made to one department. I do not see that there is any special objection to it.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). May I ask the minister how many of these associations would he permit to be incorporated? It would seem to me that one might be organized in every county or every township?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If the hon. gentleman will look further down the Bill, he will see that only one organization in the Dominion can be allowed at any one time for a particular breed.

On section 4,

Mr. HENDERSON. I suppose that the first come will be first served, and that the first application will be the one entertained?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The application has to be in certain form and approved of by the minister, before granted. If a certain group of gentlemen apply for an Act of incorporation, unless there was some objection, their application will be granted, and others who came afterwards could not obtain incorporation. But

anybody may join the association, so that it can not be exclusive.

Mr. SPROULE. But they might be obliged to join it under rules or by-laws they would not endorse, and they would have no redress.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The rules and regulations have to be submitted to the minister before incorporation is granted.

On section 5,

Mr. HENDERSON. How many of these branch offices would be permitted? Suppose an application were made in British Columbia for the incorporation of a live stock association, then no other association could be organized in any other part of the Dominion. How many branch offices would be permitted to work under the association?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That would be determined by its needs. There would be only one association, and it would be for it to decide whether the whole business should be done in one particular centre or distributed through branch offices.

Mr. HENDERSON. It seems to me that in order to give value to a certificate of the association, it would be essential that the whole thing should be worked under one association.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. HENDERSON. And that it should have its head office here at the seat of government, and all certificates issued from that. The value of the certificates would be then very much greater.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I agree with the hon. gentleman. It was not the intention that certificates should issue from the branch office, but that simply branch offices might be established as a matter of convenience.

On section 6,

Mr. SPROULE. There ought to be reasonable notice given of changes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Clause *d* of section 5, regulates the mode of convening annual general and special meetings, and any changes would have to be made at a special meeting.

Bill reported.

Mr. SPEAKER. When shall this Bill be read the third time?

The PRIME MINISTER. Now.

Mr. SPROULE. I think it is too much to expect it to be read a third time to-night, as this is the first opportunity we have had to consider it in any way.

The PRIME MINISTER. Very well, to-morrow.

ADMIRALTY ACT AMENDMENT.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 138)—from the Senate—to amend 'The Admiralty Act, 1891.'

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and the House resolved itself in committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. FOSTER. Maybe it would be better, in the first place, to have a little explanation of this Bill.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The amendments are of trifling importance. Section 5, as it appears in this Bill, corresponds almost entirely with section 5 of the Act, except subsection b. Section 5 of the existing Act reads:

5. The Governor in Council may from time to time

(a) constitute any part of Canada an admiralty district for the purposes of this Act;

Up to that point, the amendment reads exactly the same. But, at this point there is a change:

(b) assign a name to any such district and change such name as he may think proper, and—

That is not in the old Act.

—and provide for the establishment of some place therein of a registry of the Exchequer Court on its admiralty side.

That is in this amendment also. Subsection 2 of this section also provides that the Governor General may:

(b) Divide the territory comprised in any admiralty district into two or more registry divisions, and establish a registry of the Exchequer Court on its admiralty side at some place in each of such divisions.

So, there is no real difference in the amending section, except so far as it permits the subdividing of admiralty districts into two or more registry divisions.

Mr. FOSTER. Why is the change made?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It enables us to divide the admiralty districts into divisions.

Mr. FOSTER. But, you can make that change without these others?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. These changes are necessary in consequence of the first.

Mr. SPROULE. It may be necessary to have these divisions made, but, it looks more like a Bill to divide up districts for the purpose of having more officers appointed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We cannot provide for the subdivision of a district into

divisions without providing machinery to operate a court in the new division.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). But, we have not had the object explained to us.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The object is so that we may divide—

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, but with what object—why divide?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We can, for instance, take the admiralty district of Quebec and divide it into subdivisions.

Mr. CASGRAIN. But, what for?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. To enable my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) to get what he asked for a moment ago with reference to Montreal.

On section 2,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The only change is that, whereas the Act provides that the Governor in Council may appoint for any district a registrar, a marshal, and such other officers and clerks as are necessary, the amendment authorizes the appointment of such officers, not only for any district, but for any division.

Mr. CASGRAIN. But, this does not agree very well with what my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has just been saying, that there should be but one admiralty district for the whole of Canada.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not for the whole of Canada, but for the province of Quebec. I believe that one is quite sufficient. But, if it is necessary to have admiralty divisions, this provides for their creation. Of course, if it is deemed necessary to establish other districts, my opinion will not prevent it.

Mr. CASGRAIN. If a judge is appointed, I hope he will be appointed on his merits, and because he knows something about the law which governs in such cases, and not because he has rendered certain services to the government in the school question.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know that my hon. and learned friend (Mr. Casgrain) is as fair as he generally is when he makes that remark. The judge to whom he refers was appointed by his own party.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Not to the admiralty.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. But, he was appointed by them originally to the bench.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The assistant judge was one who knew all about these admiralty matters. That is Mr. Justice Andrews. And the government went out of its way to appoint Mr. Justice Routhier because of certain services he is supposed to have rendered in connection with the school question.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) knows what I think about Mr. Justice Andrews. I have as good reason to know him and appreciate him as my hon. friend. As to Mr. Justice Routhier, I know no reason why such an attack should be made upon him. I feel confident it is not made because of his connection with the school question, but for some other reason.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The government, under this Act, might establish registry divisions in every district in the province and appoint a number of officials. Suppose you establish one in Toronto, one in the county of Grey, another at Simcoe, where there are large shipping interests—what is to prevent you from establishing one in every county?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Nothing except our sense of common decency.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Can the Solicitor General tell us what makes it necessary to amend this Act. I would like to have some explanation as to what the government propose to do after it gets the powers which this Bill gives to it. I would like to know what a registry means?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In view of the discussion which took place in connection with the Pilotage Act, it is quite apparent that a strong desire exists in Montreal among the mercantile community to have an admiralty court in the city of Montreal. That would be met by this amendment to the law. There is but one admiralty district in our province, which is called the admiralty district of Quebec, but the Governor in Council might subdivide that admiralty district so as to make an admiralty division within the district, and that would be called the admiralty district of Montreal, which would still be within the limits of the admiralty district of Quebec.

Mr. FOSTER. You have an Admiralty Court judge in Quebec, and he would be the Admiralty Court judge for the registry district in Montreal?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If we had an admiralty judge for the registry district of Quebec he would have a right to sit all through that admiralty district, including the subdivision which would be called the Admiralty Court division of Montreal. The registrar is the clerk of the Admiralty Court, and issues the writs and takes evidence.

Mr. FOSTER. He would have to be a competent man, and how much would be his salary?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As a rule, I think, with the exception of Quebec—and it may be that applies also to Halifax—marshals and registrars are paid by fees. In the Act which was passed in 1891, called

the Admiralty Act of Canada, the registrar of the registration division of Quebec having been appointed by the Imperial authorities, it was decided to continue his salary at the old remuneration. But now all other registrars are paid by fees.

Mr. FOSTER. If this registrar comes up to Montreal would he have a valid claim for an increase of salary? Do these fees come out of litigants entirely?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The judge would get no fees, he would have nothing except the allowance which would be paid him for travelling expenses, and which is now provided for under the Exchequer Court Act.

Mr. FOSTER. Then this marshal, registrar and bailiff would be paid out of fees which come out of the litigants?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Out of the litigants.

Mr. QUINN. Inasmuch as the government is taking this power, I hope they will act upon it as soon as possible.

Mr. SPROULE. Would the hon. gentleman tell us whether it is the intention of the government to establish these registration districts all over the country?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not able to say what the intention of the government is. The hon. gentleman will remember that last year or the year before, a Bill was introduced by the member for Richmond, N.S., (Mr. Gillies) which had for its object to provide that such an admiralty division as is provided for by this Act, should be established in his county; and I think the same thing was asked for by the member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). The object here is to do in regard to the admiralty what we have done in regard to county courts in Ontario, that is to localize the jurisdiction of the courts in such a way that they may be able to act expeditiously and promptly. Now, take the navigation on the St. Lawrence. You have an admiralty district for the province of Quebec, you have an Admiralty Court at Quebec, and there is a vessel down at Chicoutimi, or at St. Thomas, many miles from Quebec. It may be necessary to take out a writ to attach a vessel at one of these distant ports, and before that writ reaches the vessel it may be forty miles away.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I think the way to deal with that matter in the province of Nova Scotia would be to appoint the prothonotaries in the different counties, deputy registrars in Admiralty or Exchequer Courts, and to appoint the sheriffs in the different counties deputy marshals, just the same as commissioners in Nova Scotia are commissioners in the Exchequer Court of Canada and in the Supreme Court of

Canada. In that case, without increase of cost, you would give litigants an opportunity of getting their writs issued at once and save much expense.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Dealing with that suggestion, what would be the difference to the litigant between the appointment of a prothonotary as registrar and the appointment of a registrar who may or may not be a prothonotary? Both would have to be paid by fees. There can be no reason why a prothonotary should not be appointed registrar, as it would be idle to hope to obtain a man to perform the duties of registrar that has no other duties to perform. It may be that in many instances we shall have to take officers of courts already in existence.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In the way I suggest there would be no need of creating new divisions at all. You would simply appoint deputy registrars throughout the admiralty district of Nova Scotia. The sheriff of Halifax is marshal of the Exchequer Court in Admiralty in Nova Scotia. The sheriffs of the other counties would be simply the deputy marshals, and they would have the same authority that the marshal has, when they would act in his absence. It is practically the same thing.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know if the hon. gentleman has looked up the statute recently. I have not. What would be the power of a deputy marshal? I am not quite sure if the powers of the deputy marshal and the deputy registrar are co-extensive with the powers of the marshal or of the registrar.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I took it for granted that the deputy marshal had the same powers as a marshal, but I am not sure. If he has not it could easily be remedied by amending the Act.

Bill reported.

MARKING AND INSPECTION OF FRUIT FOR EXPORT.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 127), to provide for the marking and inspection of packages containing apples and pears for export.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 2,

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). Mr. Chairman, does the hon. minister (Mr. Fisher) think that until the 1st of July is sufficient notice? It seems to me that this is a very short notice to give the packers of this country to become familiar with the provisions of the Act.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Henderson) perhaps does not quite appreciate the scope of the Bill. The Bill applies only to the export trade, and it does not apply to the sale of fruit within the country. That, I think, had better be borne in mind in dealing with the Bill all through. The export trade in apples and pears, practically, will not commence until the end of August, and the great bulk of the trade does not come until September and October. The date of the 1st of July was simply put in as the middle of the season when the Bill would come into force, but the real effect of the Bill on the trade of the country will not take place until the export trade begins. I might say, in elucidation of this Bill, before we go on to discuss it section by section, that its introduction has been undertaken by myself in response to a very large demand on the part of a number of people who have been interested in our export fruit trade. The unfortunate occurrences which have been known and spoken of in connection with the export trade have created a desire that something should be done to try and put that trade upon a firmer footing than it has been on in the recent past. There have been a great many complaints, both by shippers themselves and by the public, and the reputation of our fruit in the foreign market, the old country market, which is practically the largest and nearly the only foreign market we have for apples and pears, has been such that our people have felt that something must be done to improve the condition of affairs. I have, in my hand, here, a large number of resolutions which have been passed by various organizations connected with the fruit trade of the country, fruit-growers' associations and others, asking that a Bill of this character should be introduced and that legislation of this kind should be passed through parliament. The reports which have been presented to the Committee on Agriculture of this House for the last two years have indicated the necessity of something of this kind. The Bill which I am introducing does not go, perhaps, as far as many people would like to see it go, but I felt that it was a difficult problem to deal with and that the difficulties were so great that I would like to take a short step before taking a longer one. I think, perhaps, it is more prudent in the interest of the trade that a short step should be taken while we are comparatively inexperienced in the working of such an Act, and that we may benefit by the experience gained in this short step so as to be enabled to take a longer step with assurance and security in the future if it is found necessary that a longer step should be taken. I would like to say a few words, just shortly, to explain the main provisions of this Bill. I have pointed out that it applies only to the export trade. I may say also that it only applies to apples and pears. The more perishable fruits could hardly be dealt with by an Act

of this kind. The inspection of the perishable fruits of this country would hardly be of service, or of value, on the other side of the Atlantic, because we could not be sure that such fruit would arrive there in the same condition as when it was inspected here. The reason that the Bill has been made to apply to pears as well as apples is, that, in the last two years, the experimental shipments of pears have been so successful and the growth of pears in this country appears to be so large and so likely to increase that I believe, and those who have been discussing the matter with me believe, that the trade in pears from Canada to the old country is likely to very largely increase in the near future if it is carried on under a good business system. Therefore, it is that this Act had better apply to pears as well as to apples. The difficulties which have arisen in the past have been found almost entirely in connection with the apple trade, and the Bill consequently applies to our export trade in apples. One of the main features of the Bill is, that all of the closed packages for export shall be marked with the name of the packer, his address, the size of the fruit it contains, the name of the variety, and the grade of the fruit.

Mr. SPROULE. How will you measure it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is a definition which says that the size shall be the size in diameter across the core of the fruit.

Mr. SPROULE. Would you be obliged to measure all the fruit?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The definition of size would mean the smallest size in the barrel. If it was marked 2 inches, all fruit in the barrel should measure 2 inches across the core, and so on. The Bill goes on to describe what shall be considered the specification of the grade, and it provides a penalty against any one who puts in the package, fruit that does not come up to the grade marked upon the package. There is a final clause which authorizes the Governor in Council to make regulations for carrying out the provisions of the Act. I would impress upon the committee that there is no intention nor expectation that all and every package of our export fruit shall be inspected. I frankly say that I think that would be impossible at the present time. Of course nothing is impossible, I suppose, if sufficient money and sufficient men are employed, but practically it would be impossible. It would be impossible, because the inspection itself would be liable to injure the fruit, if we undertook to inspect every individual package, and the work would so delay the transportation that, I think, it would be impossible to carry it on. If any package is improperly marked as to grade, there shall be a penalty for the infraction, and any

person who does pack fruit in that way and tries to export it, shall be liable to prosecution. His fruit will be open to inspection, by any inspector appointed by the government, who will have authority under this Act to inspect any fruit marked for export. These regulations will be made by order in council.

Mr. SPROULE. Where will the inspection be made?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I trust that those who have knowledge of this trade will take sufficient interest in this Bill to aid in perfecting it. As to where the inspection will be made, I am open to receive suggestions. The channels of our export trade are pretty well defined. Nearly all the export fruit from Ontario and Quebec goes by the St. Lawrence route from Montreal, some goes from Portland and St. John and Halifax, after navigation has closed. The maritime province fruit goes from St. John, Halifax, Charlottetown (P.E.I.), Yarmouth, and some smaller ports in Nova Scotia. The idea is, that an inspector shall be appointed at the points of export, but I think also, it would be in the interests of the trade, if certain inspectors should be distributed through the larger provinces, especially Ontario, who could be called on by exporters to inspect the fruit at the point of shipment, so as to facilitate the trade. I am not wedded to any particular part of these details, and I would like to hear the opinions of hon. gentlemen conversant with the trade, upon them. In drawing up this Act, I have tried as closely as possible to follow two lines. One is the series of resolutions passed by the Fruit Growers' Association, and the other is to try and assimilate these with the General Inspection Act, now in force. The Bill is based upon the two ideas, and, I think, it harmonizes the slight difference that existed between the resolutions of the Fruit Growers' Association, and the General Inspection Act, so as to make the Bill meet as fully as possible the object aimed at. I do not expect that the Bill will go through all its stages at this hour, but, I think, we can spend time profitably in discussing it to-night, and I shall be glad to answer any questions.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). The House is pretty thin now, and I would suggest that it is not advisable to go on with a Bill of this character. There are present three or four monopolists, the Finance Minister, the Premier, some cattle dealers, and other useful members, but our farmers are not very many, especially on the government side, and this is essentially a farmers' Bill. I do think the House is altogether too much stripped of its proper representation, to go on with this Bill to-night. Any discussion which would take place would be a discussion amongst a dozen of us. I suggest to the minister that as he has opened up his

Bill, he had better leave it till the House is fuller.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I thought perhaps some questions might be asked by some gentlemen who are here.

Mr. FOSTER. The whole discussion would have to be gone over again.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). I would like to bring forward one phase of this question that has not hitherto been before this House, so that the minister and others who take an interest in it may consider the matter before the Bill comes up again. The hon. gentleman opposite has noticed that there are not many farmers here, which is true. Although the Bill as at present drafted is altogether in the interest of the growers, there are other people in Canada who are also very much interested in this matter of apple inspection and proper apple packing, and I would urge the minister to give very careful consideration to the recommendation that this Bill be extended beyond the export trade. Practically the apple trade with the Canadian North-west can be dealt with in exactly the same manner as the export trade. The subject of apples is a very interesting one to us in the North-west. We do not grow apples at all, but we use them very largely, and we have been very much injured financially and otherwise through bad packing of apples and through a want of proper inspection of them. The Winnipeg Produce Exchange, before they knew that this Bill was going to be introduced, were moving in the direction of getting a Bill introduced, not for the export trade, but to regulate the shipping of apples to the North-west. Although the Bill will be of some use to the trade on the British side, it is otherwise altogether in favour of the grower. It was said in the House the other day that our goods were of that superior quality that when they reached the British market they were often sold for British goods, which in a good many cases is true; but anybody who knows the English market knows that inferior goods get a name, and all inferior goods are apt to be sold under that name; and I imagine after the way the apple market was treated in Great Britain last year that almost any sort of apples will be apt to be sold as Canadian apples. Now, Canadian apples are worthy of a good reputation, although a bad year may occur sometimes, and an act like this will prevent Canadian apples being injured by a year like last year. The minister says he prefers to confine the Bill to the export trade at present because it is a new thing, and his department will have a good deal of trouble in getting it started and getting the machinery at work. But I submit, while that is being done, that it would not entail much more work to apply it to the North-west trade as well. If that is not done now,

Mr. FOSTER

we shall have very little chance afterwards of having it done; because a trade will naturally grow up there independently of this inspection, and those packers who do not want to be bothered with the export trade when it is put under these regulations will work up a trade with the west, and we shall be that much worse off. Last year was the worst year we had for some time, and the loss in the west was something tremendous. The apple trade there is very large in proportion to the population. The Winnipeg wholesale men lost heavily; but that with them was a matter of trade, and they may be expected to look after themselves in that respect. But the consumers all through the country lost heavily on their winter stock of apples. The honesty of the packer was not evident when you came to open the barrel. The middle of the barrel would often contain fruit that would spoil all the good apples in it. There is a trade in the North-west which is all the while extending, and if it is put under regulations, it will be for the good of the consumer there and also for the good of the grower in Ontario. I hope the minister will take this matter under consideration, and put our western apple trade under this Inspection Act.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me that there would be a good deal of difficulty in working out this Act successfully, although there is no doubt a great need for some such law. You could put a good deal on the head of the barrel, but what you propose would tax its limit. The first thing that is referred to is the name and address of the packer, say W. H. Fisher; next, the size of the apples; next, the variety, say the Baldwin; next, the grade, say 'A. No. 1 Canadian.' All this will pretty well fill up the head of the barrel. I do not know that that will be a serious objection; but I think there should be something done beyond that. If you want to establish a reputation for any apples coming from a particular locality, such as the Annapolis valley or northern Ontario, which sometimes established a reputation for themselves, you should add the name of the locality. As to the variety, it often happens in packing apples that you find a barrel containing two varieties, half of one and half of another; and the two varieties, say Baldwins and Pippins, should be designated.

Mr. BURNETT. Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that the packers pack them in that way?

Mr. SPROULE. I more than pretend it; I know it.

Mr. BURNETT. To ship?

Mr. SPROULE. Yes, to ship, as well as for the local market. I have seen it done over and over again. Then, a matter of great importance is where the apples are

inspected. If you inspect Ontario apples at Montreal, must they grade as 'A. No. 1 Canadian,' and be sound, of nearly uniform size, of good colour, of normal shape, and not less than 90 per cent free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects, and properly packed? I may say that in some years it would be almost impossible to have any large quantity of apples for shipment if 90 per cent of them had to be free from scab, worm holes, bruises and other defects. Then, the very act of packing apples bruises them, as the head must be pressed down in order to prevent the apples shaking. If these apples are carried any distance by wagon or train, you will find that when they arrive at their destination they will not be in the good condition they were in when packed. Apples that might be found in proper condition, when inspected at the orchard, would not necessarily be in that condition on arrival at Montreal. I have seen apples that were sent a hundred miles into Toronto arrive in very bad condition, although they were in splendid condition when they left the orchard.

The Bill provides for grades A. No. 1 Canadian and No. 1 Canadian. I think it will be found that the grading of apples will be very much like the grading of grain, you will have to be guided a good deal by the quality that generally prevails throughout the particular year. In a very wet year, the apples would not be as good as in a dry year. In some years you will have apples generally tainted by scab, while in other years, they will be free from that taint, and if you try to apply exactly the same brand every year, in some years you would have very few apples for export.

With regard to false marking, the Bill provides that any inspector may efface such false marks and mark on the package 'falsely marked.' It would be much better, I think, for the inspector to put on the proper mark, as by branding the package with these words, he may render the fruit unsaleable.

I have no doubt that the hon. minister was moved by the very best intentions, but, it appears to me, that the Bill, if it should become law, will be unworkable. I agree with the hon. member for Winnipeg, that it ought to apply to apples going to the North-west or any other portion of the country as well as to apples exported to England. There are many parts of our country where the people do not raise apples, and they require good fruit just as well as the people in England.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. minister mentioned a moment ago that, perhaps, I had not observed the scope of the Act, and said that it was limited to apples for export. Well, Mr. Chairman, I desire to endorse what the hon. member for Winnipeg has said. To my mind, the Bill should be made to apply to apples for sale or export.

In this I am not simply expressing my own opinion, for I do not claim to be a practical apple-shipper or packer myself, although I have been engaged to some extent in that business, but, I have the opinion of a man in my county who packs a very large quantity of apples, and who is very strongly impressed by the conviction that the Bill ought to apply to apples for sale as well as for export. I would be happy to give the hon. minister the name of this gentleman at any time. He is a man of very considerable experience in shipping apples, and whose opinion is entitled to a great deal of weight in a matter of this kind.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Does the hon. gentleman mean that the Bill should apply to all sales or exchange of apples in the country or only to apples for sale for export?

Mr. HENDERSON. I take it that he meant that it should apply to apples for sale in this country, for instance, to apples sent to the North-west, or to Montreal, to be sold there.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Or to the next village?

Mr. HENDERSON. Well, apples sent to the next village are not usually packed and headed up in the way that apples are which are shipped to a distance.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They must be headed if sent by rail or steamer.

Mr. HENDERSON. No doubt, but a farmer driving to a village, a distance of a mile or two, would not head and pack his apples as if he were sending them by rail. This apple dealer to whom I refer is of the opinion that the wording should be changed, and I think that that is worthy of the hon. minister's consideration.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. HENDERSON. In the Bill, clauses 5 and 6 allow 10 per cent of inferior fruit in one grade, and 20 per cent in another, which will leave the door open for fraud and cause endless trouble in the inspection. My correspondent advises that a better definition should be given of the various grades. Let me quote what he says:

I have had several communications from members of the trade on this Bill. The opinion is that it would be necessary to distinctly define Grade A. No. 1, and No. 1, and also Grade A. No. 2. I thoroughly approve of the idea of each shipper putting his full name on the package, and not a fictitious name as heretofore.

When the Bill comes up again, I hope that these suggestions will receive the consideration of the hon. minister.

Mr. J. GUNION RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). I beg to endorse what has been said by the hon. member for Halton (Mr.

Henderson), and the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee). With regard to the remarks of the last speaker, there would be some difficulty if the Bill were made to apply to all apples for sale in the Dominion, but I cannot see that the same objection would hold in the case of its being made applicable to apples exported from eastern Canada to that portion of Canada lying west of the great lakes. We have, as the hon. member for Winnipeg has said, a very great grievance in regard to the quality of fruit shipped from Ontario. As we do not grow large fruit to any extent, we are dependent for our supply on that province, and I may say that it is no credit at all to the fruit-growers and packers of Ontario that the fruit should be so packed as to arrive in the condition in which it does in our part of the country.

It is not unusual for carloads of fruit to come into that country which is not worth 25 cents a barrel, so, anything that can be done to insure for the people of Manitoba and the North-west a fair deal in this matter will receive their hearty approval. While I take the ground that the Bill should be made to apply to apples sent to that country, perhaps, the evil may work its own cure. Even if this law only applies to apples for export, I suppose there will be no provision or understanding that apples marked for export shall not be sold in the Dominion. If that is so, our people, if they wish to buy the higher grade of apples can buy those branded as provided in the Bill. I ask the House to pass such a law as will put it out of the power of unprincipled shippers and packers in Ontario to victimize the people of the North-west as they have done in the past.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I am glad that the hon. minister (Mr. Fisher) has agreed not to go on with the consideration of this Bill to-night, as many hon. members who are interested in it are not present. I would mention particularly my hon. friend from Annapolis (Mr. Mills). He remained until a pretty late hour, but being convinced that the Bill would not come up to-night, he went home. In my opinion, the Bill in its present shape will be unworkable, and its principle result will be the appointment of a number of officials who will have to be paid by the producers or by parliament. Every person who packs apples should be his own inspector. The law should provide that every person who packs apples, no matter where they may be sold, shall brand upon the package his name and the kind and quality of apples. Regulations can provide that apples shall be known according to the quality as A, B and C, or 1, 2, and 3, as you prefer, and the character of each kind can be fixed. You make a size here of two and a half inches in diameter. Say you, make that No. 1, a smaller size No. 2, and a still smaller

Mr. RUTHERFORD.

size No. 3. If a person buys apples that do not conform with the regulations, penalties can be exacted from those who are responsible. As my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) has said, it is impossible to inspect apples. They may be packed here and sent by steamer to Montreal and sold in the market. Some will be repacked for export and the rest sold on the market there. No difficulty would arise if the apples were branded so that they could be traced to the packer. Of course, if they were damaged in transit, that is not the fault of the packer. As my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) says, you can provide that not more than a certain percentage shall have scab. This kind of legislation has already been passed in the case of wheat and other things. To follow this course would avoid the appointment of a number of useless officials.

Mr. ROGERS. Would you have the packer's post office address branded?

Mr. TAYLOR. That might be difficult. But, if this question is dealt with in the simple practical way, the law will prove efficient. If it is weighted down with all these conditions, however, it will not amount to anything. As the matter has been discussed, I would suggest that it might lie over for another year, and let the apple growers and dealers discuss it and make representations as to what will be the best practical course.

Mr. R. HOLMES (West Huron). I happen to represent a county which produces a large quantity of apples. Judging by the remarks even of those who are opposed to the Bill, I infer that there is a very general opinion that there should be legislation along this line. I take it that the Bill is of an experimental character. The Minister of Agriculture tells us that he has not gone quite so far as he would like to go, but he wanted to make sure of his ground. I am not an apple packer, and know nothing about it except what they tell me; but I am intimate with the packers. I know that there has been much dissatisfaction in the old country with the way our apples have been packed. I think that the suggestions thrown out by the western members are not practical. Every packer who is not able to find a ready export market, will probably send to Winnipeg or elsewhere as the case may be.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Wind falls.

Mr. HOLMES. Very often wind-falls, I admit. Of course, if you follow that course you will have to make the Bill applicable to all apples. I think it would be well to brand on the province as well as the fact of the apples being Canadian.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The full address of the packer is required; that would include the province.

Mr. HOLMES. It is generally regarded as a fact that one province, possibly produces better apples than another. It is easily to create or anticipate difficulties in connection with a Bill of this nature, but I think that in connection with the growing export business that we have in the apple trade, some such Bill as this should be upon the statute-book. This Bill, to use a phrase often used in newspaper circles, will fill a long-felt want. I do not know that it is altogether in the line of the desire of the packers.

Mr. CLARKE. May I ask the hon. gentlemen (Mr. Holmes) whether the packers in his constituency are in favour of it?

Mr. HOLMES. The apple packers in my constituency are divided on the subject, some are favourable and some are opposed. I think the apple growers are more favourable to it than the packers are. If the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) happened to be in a rural section, he would know that a good many difficulties were encountered in connection with the Bill.

Mr. HENDERSON. Has the hon. gentleman (Mr. Holmes) taken means to find out the opinion of the packers?

Mr. HOLMES. I am stating a matter of fact. I have talked the matter over with the packers, and some were in favour of such legislation as this, while others were willing, as the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) said, to be their own inspectors.

Mr. TAYLOR. I said, let every man be his own inspector, and let there be a law passed that he cannot put apples in a barrel under a certain size.

Mr. HOLMES. It means that every packer is practically his own inspector to-day, so far as his business is concerned.

Mr. HENDERSON. I do not wish the hon. gentleman to give the House to understand that I am opposing this measure. My only desire is to see a measure that will satisfy my own constituents.

Mr. GEORGE GUILLET (West Northumberland). I have had some conversation with apple packers in my riding, and I find they are unanimously opposed to this Bill; they seem to think it is an impracticable measure to carry out. They object to inspection which involves the opening of the barrel, and taking the apples out, and re-packing them again, as they say they cannot be put back in the same satisfactory condition for shipment. One man, the largest apple packer in my neighbourhood, says that if the law is passed in its present shape, he will go out of the business. I will read a portion of a letter that he sent me on the subject:

On reading the copy of the Bill, I have come to the conclusion that it is impracticable. It would be impossible to inspect the large

quantities going forward in some seasons of the year. Moreover, it would spoil the package, because it cannot be got back in as good shape again for shipping after being opened up. Unless apples are re-packed at shipping points, no inspector could put the government stamp on them. If my apples have to be unpacked at shipping points, I, for one will go out of the business. I admit that something should be done to compel the shipper to put his name and address on every barrel, marking the barrels No. 1, 2, 3, as the case may be. I would compel every shipper to sign an affidavit that his apples are truly marked according to quality, as marked on the barrel, and that the name on the barrel is the true name of the shipper. I would have a copy of this document go forward with each bill of lading to the man to whom the apples are consigned.

Under the present system, every apple packer ships his best apples under his own name, and he ships his inferior apples under a sham name, under the name of a firm which has no existence, and this is what is bringing discredit on the trade. I have the views of the other packers, which are in accord with those which I have just read. The leading firm in my riding, has a large cold storage in Cobourg, and purchases extensively from apple growers in the county of Northumberland. I understand that the minister had strong representations made to him of this character, when he was in Toronto, and that he left an impression upon the apple packers, that he would carry out their representations. I know that in my county, great care is taken in the packing of apples. They are gathered in large quantities, and taken to storehouses, where a large number of young people are employed in picking them over, and separating them into different grades, before they are packed. The existing evils have arisen from the practice of shipping the inferior grades under assumed names.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Through the courtesy of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), the apple packers of the city of Toronto, had an opportunity of meeting him a couple of weeks ago, and those of them who had received copies of the Bill, have pointed out many difficulties as likely to occur in its operation. I think the apple growers, too, will be materially injured in many ways, if this Bill becomes law. But the minister is seized with the objections they have urged, and I understood from him that he would give the packers the opportunity of sending a deputation down here to discuss the matter again, before the Bill finally passed the House. I may say to the hon. member for West Northumberland (Mr. Guillet), that I am advised by some of the large apple packers in the city of Toronto, that it is the practice to send their agents and representatives through the different portions of the province to buy the orchards and the apples, after they have been taken from the trees by the farmers, are put into

barrels by local packers, and sent direct to the port of shipment, so that they cannot exercise that personal supervision over them that they would do if all the apples were brought to their warehouses and selected and repacked there.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am glad that I asked the committee to take up the Bill this evening, in order to have a preliminary discussion upon it. I fully appreciate that it could not go through in a sitting like this; but I wished to obtain the views of those members who are interested in the matter. I will say a word before moving that the committee rise and report progress.

In reference to what the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee) and the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) have said in regard to the western views of this Bill I may say that I sympathise very much with the people in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories in what I cannot help calling the frauds committed upon them from which they have suffered so much. I shall be very glad if any provision can be put into the Bill by which that condition can be remedied. I am not at all wedded to the provisions of the Bill. I have drawn them in accordance with the best information I can obtain after consulting with the different interests engaged in the fruit trade, and I have tried as much as possible to meet the necessities of the case and as little as possible to interfere with the ordinary channels of trade. If there is any way by which the home trade can be protected successfully, I am just as much interested in doing that as in protecting the export trade, but I felt that the protection of the home trade to the same extent as I have undertaken the protection of the export trade would be undertaking upon myself too much in starting a new departure. It is possible some provision may be made in the Bill by which the home trade can be protected. I am quite willing to discuss that subject, and, if possible, to introduce such amendments to the Bill as may be considered necessary to achieve that object.

Mr. SPROULE. Would it not be a good plan to send this Bill to the agricultural committee, then give notice through the press and let anybody come before the committee and make representations there? We can have a freer discussion before the committee than in this House.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It might be worth while, but it was felt to be of such importance, and there are so many interests affected that I thought it would be better to have it discussed on the floor of parliament, in committee, where everything would go on record and where the members of the House could give their views in a more regular manner than they could, perhaps, in the committee of agri-

culture. But, it is a matter well worthy of consideration. I would like to remark that the suggestions made by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), are practically those embodied in this Bill, first that the packages should be marked. The Bill provides for just about the manner in which he suggested that the penalties should be imposed for fraudulent marking, and it provides that the people should be liable to these penalties for improperly marking the character of the fruit contained in their packages. It does not provide for the inspectors; it simply provides that the Governor in Council may make regulations for carrying out the law as passed. I do not say that I agree with the hon. member for South Leeds that in the home trade inspectors may not be very much needed because the party who purchases a barrel of apples can easily, himself, take action to impose the penalty.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why not the foreigner, also?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, he cannot practically do it at all. A barrel of apples goes abroad, it is sold upon the market abroad, and the buyer there has no recourse, practically. I grant that in the theory of the law he has full recourse.

Mr. TAYLOR. He does not pay for those apples in Canada, but he pays for them when they are received, and if, upon inspection, they are found not to be up to the brand, he keeps back the money.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At the same time the reputation of our fruit abroad suffers. This is the condition of affairs that obtains to-day. A man here has recourse because the hon. gentleman says he does not pay for the fruit, but the result is that practically he does not pay anything at all, but the buyer has the bill sent back to him for the carriage of the fruit. We want to avoid that kind of thing. We want to prevent people from trying to send fraudulently packed fruit abroad and from injuring the reputation of our Canadian fruit. It is not that we, or those who have demanded this legislation, are particularly concerned in protecting the English buyer. What we want to protect is the reputation of our productions abroad, what we want to do is to improve that reputation that we have in that market so that our products, when sent there, will get an immediate sale at profitable prices, and we cannot do that if we allow people to continue to send bad fruit such as they have been sending. Without some kind of inspection in this country the provisions of the Act cannot be applied to the export trade at all, because there is nobody in this country who is interested in putting the provisions of the Act into force against the person who is exporting improperly marked fruit. In

this country in the home trade, there are people who buy fruit and they, therefore, would be able to take action to enforce the penalty. I think it has been generally found that, in that respect an official whose duty it is to do this work is much more likely to take such action than the ordinary purchaser. As a matter of fact the purchaser would rather take his loss and gnash his teeth than take action against the man who sells a barrel of apples. I would like to say a word in regard to one or two other points. The hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Clarke), and the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Guillet), referred to the apple packers. I have received communications from a number of apple packers. They differ in their opinions and in their representations to me. Some of them have said that they thoroughly endorse this Bill in its general principles and scope. Perhaps there may be some of the details of the Bill which they do not think are practicable. I opened my remarks by saying that the framing of such a Bill as this is an extremely difficult matter, and I appreciate perhaps more fully these difficulties the more we discuss the Bill. Last year I appeared before the committee on agriculture and pointed out to the committee the conditions as they existed, and after discussing the question many of the members were anxious that we should have legislation on this matter. I shrunk from undertaking this difficult task, but it is only because of the evident and absolute necessity for legislation of this kind to protect the reputation of the fruit trade abroad that I have undertaken to introduce this Bill, and if it is passed I shall undertake to try and enforce it. But, as I have already said, the fruit growers are divided in their opinions. Some of them believe that there should be no legislation to control them. On the other hand, one gentleman remarked at a meeting at Toronto, which was referred to a few moments ago, and the suggestions from which I was very glad to have: We know perfectly well that we have been at fault, and that if the reputation of our fruit trade has suffered it has suffered through our own fault. He acknowledged the corn, and other gentlemen there agreed with him, while some of those present deprecated a little the strong language used, although none of them denied the facts. There is no doubt that a great deal of imperfect and improper packing has been done in this country, and while I think this Bill may and will interfere with that kind of thing to a very large extent, I believe that the packers themselves are really desirous of having something which will aid them—I will not say keep them straight—but will aid them to do their business in a way that is honest and straight, and which will aid them in increasing and improving the reputation of our fruit abroad. If one packer finds that his neighbours are packing im-

properly it is hard for him not to do the same thing, and the difficulties in which the packers now find themselves will be removed to a large extent by the provisions of the Bill. I am not going to go into the details of the interview with the fruit men. I have a memorandum of what occurred. When the House goes into the discussion of this matter again we may go into these points.

The committee rose and reported progress.

ENGLISH TRUST FUNDS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I beg to move for leave to lay on the Table of the House certain papers connected with the investment of English trust funds in Canadian securities. These papers comprise two orders in council passed on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, one dated February 23, 1899, and the other dated March 22, 1900.

Mr. FOSTER. This is rather a technical question, and it would be well to have these papers printed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Quite so.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I beg to lay on the Table of the House the report of the North-west Mounted Police for the year ending June 30.

Mr. SPROULE. When may we expect the report of the Minister of Agriculture?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). It has been in the hands of the printer for a long time. I shall inquire to-morrow and let the hon. gentleman know.

Mr. SPROULE. The minister told us some time ago that he expected it in a few days.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not remember saying that.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What business will the government take up to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will exhaust all the Bills on the paper.

Mr. FOSTER. Exhaust them?

The PRIME MINISTER. If we are allowed to.

Mr. FOSTER. You will exhaust us first.

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not think you are overworked so far.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Friday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, May 11, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. L. N. CHAMPAGNE (Wright). I beg to move, seconded by Mr. LaRivière, that the fifth report of the select committee appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of the House during the present session be now concurred in.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would ask that that motion stand until Monday.

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. There is no objection, I understand, to the first part of the report, which provides for the payment of \$50 to one of the officials, and I would move that that first part be concurred in.

Mr. A. A. C. LaRIVIERE (Provencher). If there is any objection to the whole report being concurred in, it might as well be left over altogether. The first portion is only a minor affair.

Mr. CHAMPAGNE. Very well.

RAILS FOR INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I draw the attention of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) to the following paragraph which appears in the Cape Breton *Advocate*:

The 'Advocate' is reliably informed that six miles of second-hand 67-pound rails have arrived to be used in repairing the Intercolonial Railway in Cape Breton. Forty-five miles of 80-pound rails are to come later, and the only section to be repaired is that from Sydney to Grand Narrows. Something better than this is wanted. There should be no tinkering. It is dangerous to run an express train over certain sections of the road. It will be rather late to adopt a proper policy when a serious accident has occurred.

The minister is, no doubt, aware of the very great strain that rails are now subjected to, especially in that part of the Island of Cape Breton, and I hope that instead of using old rails to repair the road he will be able, at an early date, to substitute the very best and heaviest rails where such a large amount of traffic is required. Especially will that be necessary in connection with the suggestion that there will be danger to the express trains unless the road is in thorough repair.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). It was not in contemplation, on my part at all events, to put down any old rails on that line at all, and,

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

I believe, in fact I know, that the information contained in that paragraph must be incorrect.

THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 135) to amend the Experimental Farm Station Act.—(Mr. Fisher.)

Bill (No. 134) respecting the incorporation of Live Stock Associations.—(Mr. Fisher.)

MARKING AND INSPECTION OF FRUIT FOR EXPORT.

The House again resolved into committee on Bill (No. 127) to provide for the marking and inspection of packages containing apples and pears for export.—(Mr. Fisher.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 8,

Mr. J. B. MILLS (Annapolis). It was with some surprise that we heard that this Bill was being put through its different stages, as it was understood that the minister (Mr. Fisher) agreed to let it stand so that some persons who desired to might be heard upon it. I went away from the House last night resting assured that such was the case, and what was my surprise to find that the Bill was being pushed through.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). No.

Mr. MILLS. I understood that the minister had agreed with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) to allow this Bill to remain over. I may say that, so far as I am concerned, and so far as my constituents are concerned, some sort of Bill such as this is necessary, but I do not believe in a great many of the sections of this Bill. We ought to have some sort of inspection for apples, but I do not believe in experimental legislation. I believe in having legislation thoroughly looked into before it is made law, so that we will not stultify ourselves by passing an Act one session and coming back the next session to repeal it, as has been done in more instances than one, two or three, since 1896. This is a very serious matter. This is legislation that should be gone into for the purpose of doing good, not only to the speculator and buyers of apples, but also to the farmers and producers of apples. Their interest should be guarded. I do not think it would be wise to put this Bill through at the present stage. I know of a number of members of parliament who are not here, and who went home last night little dreaming that this Bill would be brought up. I make the suggestion that the committee rise and report progress on the Bill, and ask leave to sit again.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is, I think, somewhat mistaken in what he has said. It is quite true, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr.

Montague), asked me not to take up this Bill last evening. I did not do so until quite late, and I then explained to the House that I did not propose to put it through, but that as we had a little time at the end of the sitting. I thought it would be well to bring it before the House, so that a preliminary canter, as it were, should take place upon it. I have no desire now, as I had no desire last night, to rush this Bill. I think, however, it is important that it should be discussed. While I believe it is absolutely necessary in the interest of our fruit trade that some such measure should become law. I do not wish to tie myself or the House down to the minor details of this Bill. I have given a good deal of consideration to the Bill in conjunction with the various interests concerned in the trade, and the Bill as it stands, is about the best I could see my way to drawing up, with the exception of one or two points, which I explained last night, and which, perhaps, I ought to explain now. In the first place, the Bill is demanded, not merely by one portion of those engaged in the fruit trade, but by all parts of that trade. The fruit growers represented by the Fruit Growers' Associations of the different provinces of Canada, have urged it very strongly. I have under my hand the resolutions passed by a large number of the Fruit Growers' Associations of this country, asking for a Bill of this kind, and for a good many of the details embodied in this Bill. I have also letters from packers in the same direction. These letters have not gone into detail, to the same extent as the resolutions of the Fruit Growers' Associations, but some of them have suggested details which are included in this Bill. In addition, I had the advantage of the recommendations and reports of the officers of my department, who have been watching the fruit trade. The Bill is founded on all this information. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills), says himself that something of this kind is needed, and I am sure that the fruit-growers of his county and of Nova Scotia generally, are desirous of something of the kind. There is one point in regard to the Bill as drawn, on which I have myself, some doubts. The Bill as drawn applies only to the export trade. I have no hesitation at all in saying that it would be well if we could have some system of branding and inspecting for the interior trade as well; but I did not include that trade in the Bill, because I felt that this whole movement was a new movement, in which I thought it would be well to move slowly and gradually. Therefore, I thought it would be better to try to deal with that portion of the trade which seemed to be more within our powers than to attempt to deal with what seemed to be a much more intricate problem. The channels of our export trade are pretty well defined, and there would be no great difficulty in having an inspection of that trade of the character intended by this Bill; but it would be practi-

cally impossible to have a thorough inspection of all the fruit sold locally or shipped from one point to another in the country. However, I have felt, and I feel still, that the appeal made by representatives of Manitoba and the North-west Territories, and also by the people there, ought to be very carefully considered, and, if possible, met. It is possible that it might be met, and I shall be very ready for suggestions on that point. In fact, thinking the matter over since the Bill was first drawn up, a suggestion occurred to myself, which will, perhaps, meet the case of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. It is this: That the Bill, so far as the branding and the penalties for improper branding are concerned, should apply to all the trade, interior, as well as export; but that the inspection, and the rights of the inspectors to open and examine fruit, should only apply to the export trade. The reason I make this condition, is that I feel how utterly impossible it would be for any number of inspectors we could possibly appoint, to follow up and deal with the varied channels of trade inside of the country. If my suggestion were carried out—I have not yet prepared an amendment in that direction—it would put upon the packers the responsibility of marking everything they sold in a closed package, as one or other of the grades indicated in this Bill; and if they did that improperly and wrongfully, they would be liable to the penalties of the Bill. But there would be no machinery for the detection of their wrong-doing, and the enforcement of the law. I think this could be permitted for the interior trade, because the purchaser would be near enough, and in close enough touch with the packer, to see to the imposition of the penalty. But, when we come to the export trade, I feel that it is necessary that the fruit should be inspected in this country. If the fruit once gets abroad, and is there found to be improperly branded, recourse against the fraudulent packer may not be possible; whereas, if we have inspectors on this side of the Atlantic whose duty it will be to inspect as much as they can, the packer, understanding that their fruit is liable to be inspected—

Mr. COCHRANE. Has the minister decided where the inspection shall take place?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, not definitely, although I had in my mind the idea of having some inspectors at ports of shipment and others in the country, who would be on call for shippers desiring to have their fruit inspected at the point of shipment. This matter, however, is subject to organization. It is not provided for in the Bill, but is left to the Governor in Council to make rules and regulations for the carrying out of the Act; and I would be only too glad if hon. gentlemen would aid me with their suggestions and advice as to

how the system of inspection might be carried on and improved upon.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). Has the minister explained what the system of inspection is to be?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not gone into that detail at all. The inspection of fruit would be arranged for, I suppose, in somewhat the same way as the inspection of other products. Suppose there was a shipment of a hundred barrels of apples. I suppose the inspector would pick out ten barrels and inspect them, and if he found them right, he might pass the lot; but if he found any defective ones, he would probably go on and inspect more, and if he found more defective ones, he would probably condemn the whole lot. But I have not gone into the details of that matter.

Mr. McNEILL. The difficulty is, in handling the fruit itself. It cannot be inspected without turning it out of the barrel, and if you turn it out, it has to be very carefully handled and repacked.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is no doubt that the inspectors will have to form a judgment as to the quality of the fruit in any particular lot, and that is one of the most difficult problems in connection with the whole question. I quite realize that if a barrel of apples is once emptied, it is almost impossible to fill it again and repack it properly, and therefore, it will be absolutely necessary that the inspectors be men well qualified in the packing of fruit, and allowed full time and all the aid necessary to do that as well as it can be done. But while there must be sufficient number of inspectors to carry out a fairly effective inspection, the object of the law will be largely gained by its being a deterrent, owing to the fear of inspection on the part of the packer, who know that any shipment of their fruit is liable to be opened and inspected. At present there is no such deterrent at all. The packers know that once their fruit leaves their hands it is not seen until it reaches the auction markets of the old country.

Mr. MILLS. If every barrel is properly marked with the packers name, would not that be a deterrent?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, and the hon. gentleman will see by the Bill that that is one of the first points as a deterrent. But even that is not sufficient to guard our fruit trading interests, and we have provided for the inspection in this country, so that the packers know that they are liable to penalties if the fruit is not properly packed.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Would it be practical to have the inspection made before the barrels are marked, and make the inspector responsible for the grading stamped on the barrel?

Mr. FISHER.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is largely a matter of administration. It was not my intention to charge anything for the inspection of the fruit. The inspectors would be there as policemen to look after the fruit, but I do think that if anybody wishes to have the inspection done at the orchard, he should pay a small fee. The inspector then would be called on to go to the orchard and mark the fruit according as he grades it.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). There is no provision in this Bill for anything of the kind.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. My hon. friend will see that section 17 provides that the Governor in Council may make provision for the enforcement of this Act, and the suggestion I have thrown out could be made a portion of the regulations provided for under that section.

Mr. HAGGART. But the Bill only gives power to make regulations in accord with the Act, and does not give the power of official inspection and grading by the inspector at the orchard.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The inspector could not himself grade the fruit, but when the packer has packed it, the inspector could be authorized to go to the packers point of shipment and see whether the grading or packing was correct or not, and that is all I suggest.

The point I wish to bring out in reply to the hon. member for Toronto is, that if the inspection is made at the point of shipment or the orchard, at the request of the packer, the packer should then pay a fee; but if made after the packer has put his wares upon the market or expedited them from his home station, then the inspection ought to be done at the expense of the government for the protection of the trade generally.

Mr. E. COCHRANE (East Northumberland). A very extensive exporter in my riding has drawn my attention to the clause providing that the informant, in the case of improperly packed apples, should get half the fine. He thought that a very dangerous clause, because one can readily understand that that where the exporter employed a man to pack 2,000 or 3,000 barrels of apples, and some difficulty arose between them, this man might put up a job on his employer and have him fined when he was not responsible for the bad packing at all. That appears to me to have a good deal of force, especially in view of the hon. minister's suggestion that the inspector may inspect the apples where they are packed, in which case the provision is quite unnecessary.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am rather inclined to agree with the suggestion of the hon. gentleman. That

clause was put in as it has been put into other Acts. When in Toronto the other day, I had the interview alluded to by my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Clarke) with a number of fruit packers, and the point referred to was one to which they drew my attention, and they asked to have that clause 16 eliminated. I would be disposed to fall in with that suggestion unless something comes out in the discussion to the contrary.

I would like to just refer to the interview which I had with certain packers in Toronto about ten days ago. I took careful notes of that interview, and one of the points brought to my notice was the one I have just alluded to. Another was the request that this Bill should apply to the home as well as the export trade, and there may be a way, as I have already pointed out, in which that can be accomplished without too great difficulty or expenditure.

Mr. COCHRANE. I would like to draw attention to this fact, as showing the difference between the home market and the British market. The farmers in our section do not pack any apples at all. The dealers buy the crops of the orchards and send their men in to pack. But in the case of the home trade, the circumstances are different. The farmer may pack his apples himself and may not have them packed just up to the standard, because he would not be getting the price for them that he would for apples packed for export. I do not think it would be fair to apply the same rule to the home market as to the export trade, except in the case of Manitoba, the North-west and British Columbia. The people there, I think, should be protected the same as if we were sending the fruit to Great Britain.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The question of the home trade is a very large question, one upon which, before the Bill leaves the committee, I hope, we can get the consensus of opinion of the House. My only reason for not including it originally was that I feared the great difficulties that would arise; but, I think that, perhaps, the suggestions I have made this afternoon will, to a large extent, overcome the difficulties. If those difficulties can be overcome, nobody would be more delighted than myself to give protection to the home consumers as much as to the consumers abroad.

There were a number of small points brought up in the meeting of the packers which I need not go into in detail. They were almost entirely matters that would be decided upon under the regulations, but, not under the Act itself. There were, however, two points on which I wish to touch. One was that, under clause 5, the proportion of sound fruit was too high—that was their objection.

Mr. McNEILL. I was just going to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fisher) if it was not

too low. Twenty-one per cent of inferior fruit in No. 1 apples is a very large proportion.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is the second grade. I confess that I thought the packers were a little unreasonable in that demand, and the clause, I think, gives them quite enough latitude. But, I did sympathize with some of the complaints they made, and hope to remedy some of the matters of which they complain. Another point they made, with regard to which I think a good deal may be done to meet their views, was that they wished not only the principal of the packing firm to be liable, but also the labourer who does the packing. As to that, I would like the opinion of the lawyers who are members of the House before expressing an opinion. If it can be done consistently with placing the responsibility where it really belongs, I would have no objection.

Mr. McNEILL. There seems to be a clerical error in clause 6. It speaks of No. 2 grade where it apparently means No. 1.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, that is right.

Mr. McNEILL. But, clause 5 refers to No. 1.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Clause 5 refers to A. 1, clause 6 to No. 1, and clause 7 to No. 2.

Mr. McNEILL. Does not the hon. minister think it a pity to have an A. 1 and No. 1? Would it not be better to have the grades known as No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I thought so myself, but, those engaged in the trade tell me that the description A. 1 is one known in the English market, and if we were to grade our apples 1, 2 and 3, they would appear in the English market to be of lower grade than they really are.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). I understood last evening that the government were anxious to get through with a number of Bills to-day, and I thought that this Bill would not come down until there was a full attendance of the members who are interested. This morning, the hon. member for East Durham (Mr. Craig) told me that he did not expect that the Bill would possibly come up to-day, and the hon. member for Welland (Mr. McCleary) was of the same opinion. These gentlemen represent two of the largest fruit-growing districts in Ontario, and both have representations to make with reference to this Bill. I made the suggestion that this Bill should be referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and that a day should be fixed for hearing both the growers and packers. If the hon. minister is bound to crowd the Bill through to-day, we shall waste all day on it, and then not get through.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I have told the House that I have no expectation of getting it through to-day.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. Then, it seems to me we are wasting time, because it will all have to be gone over when the hon. member's interested return. Better take it up some other day than Friday, a day when many members from Ontario are absent. The best course would be to refer the Bill to the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. **C. E. KAULBACH** (Lunenburg). I am sure that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) will see from the discussion that has arisen that it would be admitted in its present stage. I wrote to some fruit-growers in my own county on the subject, but have not received an answer. The other evening, when this matter came up, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) spoke on the advisability of delay, and was told that delay would take place in order to give an opportunity to hon. members to correspond with those in their constituencies who were interested in the matter. The county that I represent grows fruit very largely, and the growers there would feel very much disappointed if this Bill were to be put through in this hurried manner. There are a number of clauses which I would like to discuss in detail. I think the hon. minister should allow the matter to go over until another day, affording time to hear from party correspondents on the subject.

Mr. **MILLS**. I agree with what has just been said. I think the government had better go slow with this Bill. I can say that the people of Annapolis county are better prepared to have the government introduce a Bill for the prohibition of spirituous liquors than such a Bill as this. I have representations from some portions of the valley, and not only from my own county, but also from King's county, in regard to the matter. I have a letter here from a gentleman who takes a deep interest in these matters. He is a member of the Nova Scotia Fruit-Growers Association. I refer to the late manager of the Dominion Atlantic Railway, Mr. P. Innes. He writes me, under date April 22, as follows, among other things :

I submitted the Bill with the comments you sent me to a number of prominent apple-growers, such as R. S. Eaton, John E. Starr, Robert Starr and others—

Well known to the Minister of Agriculture.

Their opinion, as well as that of the meeting, is that the Bill should not be proceeded with this year, as its provisions are not generally known, and time is required for its discussion.

That is one. Now, I have a resolution that was passed at the meeting of the King's County Board of Trade, April 25, 1900 :

Whereas, the Bill for the inspection and marking of barrels filled with apples and pears in-

Mr. **TAYLOR**.

tended for sale contains two clauses which this board deems objectionable to the growers and shippers of these commodities in Nova Scotia, namely, the clauses referring to the marking of the diameter of the fruit which the packed barrel contains, and the clause requiring the barrels containing the fruit to be marked No. 1 Canadian, the latter clause being objected to because of the feeling that Nova Scotia apples have a better reputation in the English market than Ontario apples, which are commonly called Canadian.

As a matter of sentiment I do not agree with that resolution, for I believe in having the word Canadian brought prominently before every one. But as a matter of business, and as a matter of fact, Nova Scotia apples do have a better reputation, and do obtain a better price in the English market than any apples that are marked Canadian, or any other apples in the world, for that matter. That is the reason the people of the valley are a little anxious to have their welfare safeguarded in that respect. The resolution ends up with this clause :

Therefore resolved, that the board recommends that the passing of said Bill be held over for the present.

This resolution comes direct from the place where the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association has full swing, and these names I have mentioned are prominent men in that association. I have also, like my hon. friend from Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach), written to a number of persons in the Annapolis valley, and a number of them have written to me, asking for the Bill, which I have sent to them, and as yet I have had no reply. But knowing the people of the county as I do, they prefer to have the legislation which has been impliedly promised to them enacted by this House, than to have this Bill go through. Therefore, I would advise the government, if they want to get along speedily with the business of the session, to go a little slowly with this Bill.

Mr. **GUILLET**. I would also remind the minister that the apple-growers of the county of Northumberland desire further opportunity to consider the Bill before it is pushed through.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. As I said at the opening of the discussion, I did not expect to push the Bill through its final stages this afternoon. It cannot be said that the government is proceeding hastily with this Bill. It was introduced on the 29th of March, some forty days ago. The Bill has been before the House ever since, and hon. members have had it in their desks and have been able to discuss it, and make up their minds in regard to it, and to have such communication with their constituents as they desired. But putting that entirely aside, I have no desire unduly to press the measure. I do want, however, that the House should come to a decision so that we will know where

we are. I want the hon. members freely to express their views in regard to it, and I shall be only too glad to receive suggestions which may improve the form and the machinery of the Bill. I have already received some suggestions in the House since the Bill has been on the Order paper. In reply to the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills), I can only say that the Fruit Growers' Association of the province of Nova Scotia passed a resolution and embodied it in the annual report of their president, which says:

Careless and fraudulent packing of apples in Canada has become such a menace to this important trade that some inspection law seems imperative, and the Minister of Agriculture requests us to outline some form of an Act which will not entail any individual loss to the honest packer. You will find this a difficult task.

He says to the association:

I have had communication with the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, and they have passed the following resolution, which you will please consider carefully and adopt, unless some Act more desirable can be formulated.

Then he goes on to quote the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association's resolution, which were adopted by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association with some slight modifications, and which are contained in a letter written by Mr. Bigelow to me, but which did not practically change the form of these recommendations. The Bill has been founded largely on the recommendation of the Fruit Growers' Association. The changes which have been made in it have been made with a view to bring the Act as nearly as possible in line with the General Inspection Act, and not with any intent of changing the aim of the Act from what was intended. I can understand that there are some conflicting interests in the fruit trade. That, perhaps, as my hon. friend from Northumberland (Mr. Guillet) intimates, a great many fruit-growers do not pack their own product, and the result is that there may be a conflict of interests between the fruit-growers and the fruit packers. But still I am satisfied that the interests of each of them is the interest of all, and that if the trade is not protected by some such legislation as this, the result will be even more disastrous in the future than in the past; and that not only the fruit-growers may suffer, but that the fruit shippers and everybody connected with the trade will suffer. It is not likely that any Act which we may put upon the statute-book, to be effective, will not tread upon the toes of somebody. In fact if it were not necessary to tread upon the toes of somebody we would not require an Act at all. I would regret if this Act did not become law, or was not put through in some form or shape this session. During the last three years we have suffered severely in the English market in the reputation of our fruit, and if we

go on in the same line we are going to suffer still more. Our fruit is going to be still further injured in reputation in England, and the state of affairs which was found there last fall will be intensified instead of improved. I am satisfied it is only by such legislation as this that we can relieve the present situation, and I think the House and parliament would be recreant to its duty to the people interested in this trade, if some such legislation as this were not passed at this session. However, in view of the remarks which have been made by hon. gentlemen who are interested in this matter, I will not proceed further with the Bill, and I will move that the committee rise and report progress. But I warn the House that I shall take the earliest opportunity possible to push this measure along.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). The minister has intimated some of the difficulties surrounding an Act of this kind, such as inspection and the danger of conflict between producers of apples and apple packers. The discussion of the question seems only to have brought out the possible defects of the Act, and the conclusion that if passed in this shape it would be entirely unworkable and worse than useless. That being the case I would suggest that the wisest plan we can follow would be not to push the Bill this year but to publish a number of copies of it and send them around to the Fruit Growers' Associations and the Farmers' Institutes through the country so that at their meeting, this coming fall, they can discuss the Bill and make such representations to the government as they see fit. There is no doubt that all see the necessity for some kind of an Act, but those interested should have the Bill which it is proposed to crystallize into law, before them so that they can discuss it and point out its defects or recommend its virtues. If they have this Bill before them they can discuss it more intelligently than they could otherwise and decide as to whether such a Bill as this is needed, or not needed. The hon. Minister of Agriculture says that a great deal of harm will be done without this legislation, but I submit that much greater harm will be done to the fruit trade if we pass a law that is unworkable. I agree with what the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills) said about proceeding slowly in this matter. My suggestion last night was that we should send this Bill to the Agricultural Committee and invite the Fruit Growers' Associations to send representatives here to offer such opinions upon the Bill as they desire to give. I did not understand that the minister intended to proceed with the Bill to-day; I understood the minister to intimate that he might possibly concur in my suggestion, but I assume that he has since changed his mind and decided to push the Bill through. I think this is an unwise step. I think it would meet with

the approval of all those interested in the trade all over the country much more readily if he would allow the Bill to drop at the present stage, have a number of copies sent out to the Fruit Growers' Associations all over the country, and in the province of Ontario, to the Farmers' Institutes which hold their meetings in the fall of the year, when they will discuss the Bill, and I am sure the result will be that the hon. minister will have information before him which he has not in his possession at the present time.

Mr. COCHRANE. Mr. Chairman, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to the fact that although a number of gentlemen represent constituencies that are largely interested in this Bill we are not as practical in our information as men who are interested in the shipping trade of this country. Although I suppose I represent as large a fruit-growing section as there is in Canada, I would not pretend to offer advice to the hon. minister from a practical point of view such as shippers would be able to give him. I would suggest that he should not make the mistake that some Finance Ministers have made in this country by adopting regulations that would be very injurious to the country from the fact that, perhaps, they have not had the practical information that they should have had before such legislation took place. I would not want to suggest anything that would be derogatory to the hon. gentleman in his position as Minister of Agriculture, but I would respectfully suggest to him the propriety of referring this Bill to the Committee on Agriculture before the fruit gentlemen interested in the fruit trade could come. We could notify these gentlemen that this question would be discussed on a certain day, and those who pack apples and are interested in the trade would have an opportunity of submitting their opinions. I am satisfied that the hon. gentleman is very anxious, for his own reputation, that the Bill should be a perfect one and it would be better to adopt this suggestion than to find out after we have spent a great deal of time and given a great deal of attention to the measure that it would not be satisfactory to those interested in the trade. I am as much interested as any other hon. gentleman in seeing that our fruit shall sustain the high reputation that it had at one time, and in order to achieve that result we should have a Bill that will be workable when it passes parliament. I do not want to object to the Bill becoming law if it is necessary to have it passed this year. If it is going to do us any good the sooner we have it the better, but I am anxious that we shall have a Bill that will accomplish the end we have in view.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I do not think there is a member of this House but will admit that there should be the

Mr. SPROULE.

strictest possible care taken that no apples should be shipped except apples which are good. The English market is the best in the world, they want the best article there, they are willing to pay for it, and one can easily conceive that one or two years more of dereliction will have the result that they will not take our apples at all. They are exceedingly sensitive in England; they want us to send a good article. As to the details of the Bill, I would not offer any practical advice, like the hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane), but I would say that I believe it is necessary, as quickly as possible, that the men interested should be brought here. I see no reason why, in a week or two all who are interested should not be brought here. I can see that there is only one interest, the packers having no particular interest and the fruit-growers having no particular interest. It is one interest. The man who sells the fruit to the packer is anxious that the packer should come next year and purchase his fruit for even a better price, and the packer is anxious that the fruit should be so packed that he will get the greatest return. These two should be brought together, and I think they should be brought together very quickly, and that this Bill should pass. I can say more; it will be but a short time when one of the largest trades in Canada will be the fruit trade, and it is going on increasing immensely. In the Annapolis valley I do not think there is more than 3 per cent of the land that could be utilized for raising the best apples in the world under cultivation, not certainly more than 5 per cent. I stand here and make the statement, that for the world's market, particularly the English market, the Nova Scotian is beyond comparison the best apple that is raised in Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MILLS. It is true.

Mr. FRASER. And it is because I fear the loose way in which they are packed in Ontario may recoil on the Nova Scotian apples that I am anxious that this Bill should pass.

Mr. CLARKE. Gentlemen who are engaged in the fruit business in the city of Toronto do not desire, so far as I can ascertain their opinions, to offer any factious opposition to this measure. They desire to co-operate with the hon. Minister of Agriculture in making the measure as perfect and as workable as it can be made. The merchants engaged in this trade in the city of Toronto, I understand, export from 30,000 to 40,000 barrels of apples annually, and they seem to think that unless the imposition of the penalty is altered in some way it will be unworkable, and it will have the effect of driving them out of the business.

The hon. minister, as I said last night, very courteously interviewed a number of these gentlemen in Toronto a couple of weeks ago, and he seems to have left them with the impression that before the Bill was passed, or read a second time, they would be given an opportunity of meeting him again if they desired to do so. If the hon. minister would adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and send the Bill to the Committee on Agriculture, or if he would name a day when the Bill would be taken up again in committee, in the House, so that I might notify these parties who are interested, or if we gave them a reasonable time to come and interview the minister again, I think we would get over the difficulty. Practically, as the hon. minister says, the one objection taken by the fruit packers was in regard to the imposition of the penalty, and that was urged by them as a strong objection.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Which point is that?

Mr. CLARKE. In regard to the imposition of the penalty. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the fruit packers represented to him that it was not unreasonable to impose a penalty on the local packer, but if the hon. minister will agree to name a day and send a telegram to any of these parties notifying them that they will have an opportunity of being heard before the Agricultural Committee, they will be able to state their opinions and the hon. minister will then see what is best to be done.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I understand from a report of Prof. Robertson, which I saw, that apples from my province are sold in London as Nova Scotia apples, whereas, apples from elsewhere in Canada are sold as Canadian apples. I do not know whether the hon. minister is aware of that, or whether it is a fact. I think that the apples from the province of Nova Scotia usually sell for a somewhat higher price, as Nova Scotian apples, than do apples which are called Canadian. I do not know how the distinction arose, or whether it is important, but I believe it does exist. If you stamp these apples as Canadian and sell them as such, you may do financial injury to the fruit-growers of the Annapolis valley.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill provides that the name and address of the packer shall be upon the barrel, and that, of course, will include Nova Scotia as part of the address. The English law provides that all foodstuffs, including apples, coming from abroad, shall be marked with the country from which they come; and unless I am very much mistaken, I think that Nova Scotia apples have to have the name 'Canada' marked upon them also. It would be rather unfortunate if in any Dominion legislation, we did not use the word 'Canada' or 'Canadian,' in connection with

the articles that are sent to the old country. I would not like to see a Bill passed in this parliament which would seem to indicate that we were afraid to have the name 'Canadian' stamped on our food products. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), is right in saying that Nova Scotia apples have a better reputation in the English market than have the apples that are sold as Canadian. In the port, of course, they are all entered as Canadian, but in the market, and at auction sales, one is known as 'Nova Scotian' and the other as 'Canadian.' I am not prejudiced, because I do not come from either Nova Scotia or Ontario, but I must say that for the last two years the Nova Scotia apples have enjoyed a better reputation in the English market than have the apples coming from Ontario and Quebec, and sold as Canadian. The Nova Scotia apples have a special reputation, and I venture to say that that reputation is due to the fact that the Nova Scotian packers and shippers have been doing an honest business, and that the apples in their barrels are exactly what they purport to be. It is because I hope that state of things will be found all over Canada through the instrumentality of this law, that I want this Bill to pass. I know that in Ontario and Quebec there are a large number of men who pack and ship honestly, but unfortunately, there have been others who by the system adopted by them, have hurt the reputation of apples marked and sold as Canadian, in the English market.

Mr. CLARKE. What about giving the parties interested in this Bill an opportunity to be heard?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think it would delay the Bill, if it were referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and I imagine we could accomplish our object by fixing a day, say next Tuesday morning, when myself and any members of the House who wished, could meet the representatives of the various interests who want to lay their views before us.

Mr. SPROULE. It would be impossible to have the parties here by that time.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am quite willing to make it a later day.

Mr. TAYLOR. A week from next Tuesday?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am afraid that would be too long, say next Wednesday or Thursday, if you like.

Mr. SPROULE. It would be impossible inside of ten days to get the parties interested here. In the meantime, there will be an opportunity to communicate with these gentlemen, and if they like to send representatives here, they can do so. I think myself, a great many would come.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am willing to give hon. gentlemen ample

opportunity to consult their constituents, and I shall be only too glad to facilitate the parties interested in representing their views to the House. I would not like to postpone the Bill for any great length of time, because I trust that the session is drawing towards its close.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh no.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I know the session is not getting along very fast, but still we hope that say two months from now—

Mr. TAYLOR. Two or three months.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We hope that about two months from now the session may come to a close, and I would not like this Bill to be delayed.

Mr. McNEILL. I sincerely hope that the Bill will pass this session, because I believe it is of the utmost importance. There is no doubt that we are losing rapidly our trade for apples in the English market. There was a terrible falling off in the English importation of apples from Canada the year before last.

Mr. TAYLOR. Because they did not grow.

Mr. McNEILL. Last fall I had a conversation with a gentleman, whose word I have no reason to doubt, who told me that he had been informed by a man who boasted to him that he had packed some thousands of barrels for shipment to the United Kingdom, and put good apples on the top and bottom, but the greater part of the contents of the barrels were mere rubbish. If that kind of thing goes on, we will soon lose our trade altogether. The very fact that it is known in England that we have adopted measures to endeavour to secure an honest packing of our fruit, will in itself, have an immense effect for good.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). I come from a county where a large quantity of apples are packed and shipped to the old country, and for a number of years, I do not know of a single farmer who has packed his own apples. Under one system, the farmer pulls the apples, and the buyer sends his men to pack them, and he takes only what is fit for the English market, the refuse going to the farmer. There is another system which, I believe, has done the trade a great deal of harm, and that is that the buyers go around, purchase the whole orchard, pull and pack the apples, and all the farmer has to do is to drive them to the station. That has acted injuriously on the trade. Last year was exceptional in the province of Ontario. It was dry in my locality, and the apples were small on the trees until near the end of August, when the rain came and they took a second growth. That was one of the reasons why our apples were not good on the English market, because they were soft and did not keep. I

Mr. FISHER.

am in favour of a Bill being put through, as I believe it is in the interests of the farmers and the honest packer; but I want to see clause 16 expunged, because it would place even an honest packer in this position, that if he had a dishonest man in a gang, this man might, in spite, pack a barrel of apples in such a way as to render his employer liable to be fined and then go and give information against him. I hope action will be taken on this subject this session, for the sooner we get our apple trade placed on a solid basis, the better for both the producer and the shipper of apples in Canada.

Mr. SPROULE. Is it understood that this Bill will be allowed to stand ten or twelve days until we can have an opportunity of communicating with the people interested and ascertaining their views?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would not like to say how many days the Bill will be allowed to stand, but it will be allowed to stand for some time.

Mr. SPROULE. It must be allowed to stand long enough to enable us to hear from the people. Then we could send a copy of the Bill to prominent men among both apple growers and exporters, and learn their views. It would be little use doing that unless the Bill stood long enough for us to hear from them.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). While it is perfectly proper that care should be taken to make this a perfect Bill, I hope hon. gentlemen will avoid factious opposition, and will to the utmost of their ability facilitate the passage of the Bill.

Mr. MILLS. There is every desire on this side to help the Bill along.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am glad to hear it.

Mr. MILLS. Why should you use the term 'factious opposition'?

Mr. CHARLTON. I said I hoped the Bill will not get it, and if the hon. gentleman does not give it, my remarks do not apply to him. It is a matter of the greatest importance that Canada should maintain the character of her goods—her butter, her cheese, her bacon, her apples, and all her goods exported to Great Britain. We have been rapidly building up a large export trade; the increase has been enormous in the last two or three years. In consequence of this increase we have been able to dispense to a great extent with the market of the United States, which we thought so important to us, and therefore we want always to hold in view the importance of maintaining the character of the wares we send to the English market. The Americans lost the English market for cheese through laxity in inspection and dishonesty in manufacture. They embarked in the business of sending to England what is known as filled cheese—half cured and half

lard. The consequence is that we have taken the market from them. We want to bear in mind this instance of the results that follow the sending of bad products of the farm to the English market, and to keep in sight the great principle that it is of the last importance to Canada that we should maintain the character of all classes of farm products exported from this country to England for the purpose of going on in the course we have entered upon of rapidly increasing our exports to that country, and making England what she is more and more becoming, our largest and best customer.

Mr. COCHRANE. You have changed your views.

Mr. CHARLTON. Not at all.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would like to point out to hon. gentlemen that while this question has been before the House in the shape of a Bill for some forty days, this Bill is the result of discussions which took place at a large number of meetings all through the past year, and that very earnest representations with regard to this question were made to the Committee on Agriculture last year, and discussions arose in that committee in which different members expressed their views. Every fruit-growers' meeting held last winter discussed the question and passed resolutions upon it, and these resolutions are under my hand to-day. Therefore, this question has not been lightly considered or ill-considered in the form in which it is brought before the House. I am quite sure that hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as those on this side, wish to remedy the evil. I regret that one or two hon. gentlemen opposite think that this Bill should not pass this session. I cannot agree with them. I think the Bill ought to pass this session in the interest of our people and our apple trade, and I hope the House will take that view. In the meantime, as the House is not ready to proceed to-day with the Bill, and as some members desire to consult the interests involved, I accede to their wish to have the Bill stand for further consideration. I, therefore, move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. MILLS. I read a portion of a letter which I received and a resolution passed by the Board of Trade of Kentville, to the effect that this Bill should not pass this year. I did that, not because I agreed with what was in the letter or the resolution, for I agree that some such Bill as this should pass; but I did it for the purpose of showing that it should pass slowly, because that resolution came from the very men who asked the Minister of Agriculture to introduce such a Bill as this.

Mr. McNEILL. There is no desire on this side of the House to obstruct the Bill in

any way. We want the Bill to pass, but in such a form as to be most valuable. That is the only desire we have.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

SEED GRAIN INDEBTEDNESS.

Mr. SUTHERLAND moved third reading of Bill (No. 143) to amend the Act respecting securities for seed grain indebtedness.

Mr. DAVIN. I beg to move :

That the Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be re-committed to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of substituting for the clause in the Bill the following :

The liability of persons who are liable to the Crown as sureties upon bonds given to secure repayment for seed grain furnished by the Crown to persons in the North-west Territories is, from and after the passing of this Act, discharged.

On the question being put,

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yeas and nays.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Call in the members.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Contrary to agreement.

Mr. DAVIN. No.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I call the attention of the leader of the House to the question whether it is possible for a private member of this House to move to discharge a liability due to the Crown.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is too late now. I am against the amendment, at any rate.

House divided on amendment of Mr. Davin :

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bell (Pictou),
Bennett,
Bergeron,
Borden (Halifax),
Clancy,
Cochrane,
Davin,
Foster,
Ganong,
Guillet,
Hagartz,
Henderson,
Kaulbach,

LaRivière,
MacLaren,
McAlister,
McNeill,
Marcotte,
Martin,
Mills,
Morin,
Powell,
Roche,
Sproule,
Taylor, and
Wilson.—26.

NAYS :

Messieurs

Archambault,
Reith,
Bell (Prince),
Blair,
Brodeur,
Burnett,
Calvert,
Campbell,
Casey,
Copp,

Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Lewis,
Logan,
Macdonell,
McCarthy,
McGregor,
McHugh,
McIsaac,
McLellan,
McLennan (Inverness),

Cowan,
Dechêne,
Eills,
Flelding,
Fisher,
Flint,
Fortier,
Frost,
Godbout,
Gould,
Guité,
Hclmes,
Hutchison,
Johnston,
Joly de Lotbinière
(Sir Henri),

McMillan,
Paterson,
Pettet,
Puttee,
Rogers,
Russell,
Rutherford,
Scriver,
Semple,
Somerville,
Sutherland,
Talbot,
Tolmie,
Tucker, and
Wallace.—50.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negatived.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The motion now before the House is, that the Bill be read the third time.

Mr. DAVIN. Before this passes, I wish to state what my hon. friend the acting Minister of the Interior stated to the leader of the opposition in my presence this afternoon, namely, that when this Bill is passed, he will have an order in council relieving these liabilities. I understand the hon. gentleman to be bound by that.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There is no question as to the effect of the Bill and as to its being carried out in good faith, as I stated to the right hon. leader of the opposition.

Mr. FOSTER. What do you mean by good faith?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Relieving all the bondsmen and sureties.

Mr. WALLACE. I think the Bill very unjust. I voted against the amendment because I did not think it was fair. The Bill it not yet passed, and I hope that attention having been called to the injustice of it, the government will not press it, or that if they do press it, they will previously modify it in the way indicated by my hon. friend from West Assiniboia. It looks to me like an improper exercise of power by the government. The Bill provides that the Governor in Council may discharge from liability persons who are liable to the Crown. Why should such a power be placed in the hands of the Governor in Council? If the government laid down a principle upon which any and every person coming under the terms of the Act can be free from liability, that would be something we could understand, but, under this Bill, power is placed in the hands of the government before an election, which is most unfair. The Governor in Council may discharge from liability. Why, the Minister of the Interior, or any one having power and authority, can go to the electors interested and say: I represent the Governor in Council, and I say to you that if you vote for the government candidate, the Governor in Council will discharge you from liability. That is the power placed in the hands of

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

the government. The First Minister may tell us that they are too good and virtuous to exercise such a power wrongly.

The PRIME MINISTER. Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. And that they will do everything fairly. But, why the necessity of giving them the power to do wrong? There is no reason why such power should be granted the government. Let them lay down a principle by which they must be guided, so that every one who comes under the terms of this measure may have the advantage of it; but, to say that the Governor in Council may relieve one man from the surety he has undertaken and not another, leaves to the government the exercise of a personal or political preference, and, therefore, I am opposed to this Bill becoming law. I intended making some remarks on the amendment, but it has been declared lost, and these remarks would be out of order, but, at any rate, I hope that this Bill will not pass.

Bill read the third time and passed.

THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 138)—from the Senate—to amend the Admiralty Act.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

THE PILOTAGE ACT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 11) to amend the Pilotage Act.—(Sir Louis Davies.)

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). When the committee rose last night, I promised that I would consider certain questions regarding the necessity of having a clause determining whether the court should be unanimous in its decision or not. After considering the matter, in deference to the doubts expressed by my hon. friends opposite, I determined that it will be better to reconstruct the clause by making the court consist of one legal gentleman, with power to appoint assessors. The court will, therefore, consist of a commissioner, with assessors, and I propose that subsections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of section No. 1 shall be amended so as to read as follows:

2. Such court shall consist of a commissioner who shall be a barrister of the province of Quebec of not less than seven years' standing, and who shall be appointed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and sworn in before a judge of the Superior Court of the province of Quebec.

3. The court shall, in the hearing and determination of any charge or complaint against any pilot, and also in any inquiry in connection with any accident or damage happening to or caused by a vessel in charge of any pilot, have power to call in the aid of one or more especially qualified assessors, selected and appointed by

the Montreal pilotage authority and the licensed pilots respectively, as herein provided.

4. The licensed pilots shall, annually, under regulations to be made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, appoint one or more qualified pilots to act as such assessors, and the Montreal pilotage authority shall also annually select one or more persons qualified to act as such assessors.

5. The commissioner shall be entitled to receive from the person or fund from which the costs of any inquiry or proceeding are directed to be paid for each day actually occupied in the hearing of any case the sum of \$10, and each assessor, acting as such, the sum of \$5 for each day so actually occupied, and such remuneration shall be included to and collected as part of such costs.

6. From and after the creation of the court and the appointment of the commissioner as aforesaid, the power of the Montreal pilots authority to hear any matter which the court has power to hear and determine shall cease.

That is in deference to the suggestion of the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). The sections are in substance as they are now, with the exception that two of the commissioners are made assessors instead of forming part of the court. The Bill will conform to the practice prescribed in the eighth clause, providing that after the establishment of an Admiralty Court in Montreal, the local judge in admiralty of the Exchequer Court will assume jurisdiction, and all inquiries be held before him, assisted by two nautical assessors.

Mr. BERGERON. Is that all clause 1?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have substituted other sections for subsections 3, 4 and 5, and am making two of those, who were members of the court in the original Bill, assessors.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) In other words, the hon. gentleman has really remodelled his whole Bill and is proposing six new sections instead of the four in the Bill. He has made a generic change, and introduced a lot of details which it is impossible to follow.

Mr. FOSTER. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he leave that section, and have the Bill reprinted—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It will all come up on the third reading.

Mr. FOSTER. But we cannot discuss a clause of that kind on the third reading. Not only is this an important Bill, but the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) has made an absolute change in the nature of the Bill—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are the same sections as here.

Mr. FOSTER. No, there are six new sections.

Mr. BERGERON. And ten dollars is put in in place of five dollars.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, that was amended yesterday.

Mr. FOSTER. It is impossible for the House to catch the force of what the hon. gentleman proposes—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not propose to go to the third reading to-day.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, we will stay in committee that we may have an opportunity of discussing these questions.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Why not discuss it now?

Mr. FOSTER. How can you discuss it in the written amendment?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The same as any other.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman must treat the committee fairly, and he will not lose time by adopting the suggestion I make.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When we discussed the Bill last, certain legal questions were raised, as to the power of the court to act unless it was unanimous. The question was raised whether the Interpretation Act, which provides that where two persons have power to do anything, a majority of them can do it, would apply to a case of this kind. Some doubts were expressed, and upon considering the whole question, I thought it would be better to relegate two of the commissioners to the position of assessors, as in 8th section of the Act respecting the Admiralty Court, under which two of the assistants are called assessors. That is the only change. We are anxious to get the Bill before the Senate, and the change proposed is one easily understood.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). As I was not here during the whole of yesterday's discussion, will the hon. minister be kind enough to give me a little information. I understand that this court is to take the place of the commission against which so much has been said.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. And, as I gather from what the hon. gentleman said, the question has been raised whether a majority of the court should be able to give a decision.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes; I propose to settle that by making the two assistants assessors, as in the case of the admiralty.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) has not stated, but I suppose we can infer that one of these assistants will be the representative of the shipping interest, and the other representative of the pilots?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. And, in case of a difference of opinion, the legal authority in the court will give a decision, as in the Court of Review?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. One of the points brought forward by the hon. minister, while I was here yesterday afternoon, and on another occasion, was that up to the present the difficulty has been that there has been an appeal from the decision of the commission by certiorari to the Superior Court, and in nearly every case the decision of the commission was reversed, and when the rule *nisi* was passed, the time of punishment inflicted was over. Is the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) providing for this?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. There will be no appeal?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, unless they exceed their jurisdiction. There is a common law right of appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench from any inferior court, if it goes beyond its jurisdiction.

Mr. BERGERON. Will the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—or, I suppose we should say the Governor in Council—appoint the man to represent the pilots?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, but the pilots will nominate him.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose he is not obliged to accept their nominee, but he may appoint him. Then, as to the other, representing the navigation interests—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Will be nominated by the Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. BERGERON. But the Harbour Commissioners do not represent altogether the navigation interests.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is the only constituted authority that we could get at.

Mr. BERGERON. Have the navigation companies been consulted, and are they satisfied?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are all satisfied with that part of it.

Mr. BERGERON. So, the pilots will suggest a man, the Harbour Commissioners will suggest a man, and my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) will appoint a lawyer of not

less than seven years' practice to act as judge; and from the decision of this court there will be no appeal, except where they go beyond their jurisdiction. I was not here last night, but I believe it was said, and I have often heard the opinion expressed, that it would be more in the interest of the pilots, the navigation companies and the public, that such a court should be simply an ordinary court of justice appointed to hear these particular cases and sitting in Montreal, from whose decision there should be no appeal, except as in the case spoken of. That would involve no additional expenditure of money, and, I believe, it would give more satisfaction. I am very much afraid that this tribunal will not give satisfaction to either parties. The pilot judge and the harbour commissioner judge will be at loggerheads all the time; and the lawyer of seven years' practice, who will sit for ten dollars a day, will not be like Cæsar's wife. I am afraid that, instead of doing good, we are passing a law which will involve the government in a great deal of trouble. It would have been a great deal better to establish an ordinary court. There are courts in Montreal sitting every day; and we have lots of judges, though we have a Bill here to authorize the appointment of more. No doubt the suggestion I make has already been made. I have spoken to a great many people in Montreal on this subject since the Bill was placed on the Order paper; and the consensus of opinion, as I have found it, is that the best way to secure justice and to give satisfaction to all concerned is to follow the course I have indicated. I believe that the law as propounded by my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) will be little, if any, better than the one we now have.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). My hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) has alluded to the frequent appeals that have been taken and the upsetting of the decision of the commission in cases of complaints against pilots. I think that one of the reasons was that the pilots were not represented before this commission empowered to try them. Here is a provision by which they will have a fair chance to make themselves heard. I do not think that any set of men are more anxious for the reputation and good name of the pilots than the pilots themselves; and if they are allowed to choose a representative of their body to sit as assessor and make more clear, perhaps than could otherwise be done, the different features of the case from their point of view, I feel certain that the complaints of frequent appeals and upsetting of decisions will cease. We must acknowledge that among the pilots there are some men who are respected by the whole shipping community, and who deserve the greatest consideration, and whose opinion will be valuable and can be relied

Mr. BERGERON.

upon; such as Mr. Cleophas Auger, the president of the Pilots' Association, and in cases where they feel that the pilot is guilty of neglect or is answerable for any accident that happens, they will be the first to declare against him. So, instead of being at loggerheads as my hon. friend appears to apprehend, I think that the two assessors, if the shipping community make as good a choice of their representative, as the pilots will, will be generally in accord. We cannot condemn them beforehand, and suppose that they will be carried away by personal or professional feeling. I think we ought to have a better opinion of the man whom the class he represents will select, and we must hope that the choice they will make will be such as to give satisfaction to all concerned.

Mr. BERGERON. I know my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue is very honest in the expression of his convictions. Now, the pilots will suggest to the government the name of the man to be appointed to represent them, they will probably propose their best man. Now, what will be done by the other side? The Harbour Commissioners will also propose a man, and my hon. friend will admit that they will propose one of their own political creed. A Liberal will probably be the man proposed, and the lawyer who will be appointed by the government, I am convinced, will also be a Liberal. Now, when a case comes up, the lawyer and the representative of the Harbour Commissioners will politically stand by one another; and unless the poor pilot has a very strong case, or becomes a strong party man, the chances are ninety out of a hundred that he will lose his case, whether he is right or not. There is this danger with regard to that court. I say it frankly, I can see politics at the bottom of this project. It may be the Minister of Marine and Fisheries never entertained that idea, I take it for granted that he is acting for the best; but, I am only bringing to his notice some things that are likely to occur. On the other hand, we have a right to send such cases either to the Circuit Court of Montreal, or before a judge of the Superior Court. We have a right here to create a court, we can do anything we wish.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is very questionable.

Mr. BERGERON. I think we can do anything we please in this matter. I think it would give more satisfaction and better guarantees, both to the pilots and to the shipping interests, if we sent these cases before an existing court. I am convinced that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is doing what he believes to be best for all parties concerned. I know he has been greatly bothered about this, he must have received piles of correspondence and given many interviews; because I know that for the last three months this matter has been

agitated in Montreal. I am only drawing his attention to the danger there is that we may have the same troubles in the future that we have had in the past.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The county which I have the honour to represent is really the home of the pilots; out of the fifty-four pilots, there are forty-six or forty-seven who live in the county of Portneuf, and naturally I take a deep interest in the settlement of this question. As for the political feelings of the pilot who may be chosen, I may say that nearly all the pilots in my county have been steadily Conservatives. I am afraid I have not been able to change their political opinions. But, I must say, as I said a moment ago, that when we discussed the proposal of my hon. friend, it never entered my mind that there was any political object in view in framing this Bill. I know how anxious my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is to settle this question so as to give satisfaction both to the pilots and to the shipping interests. I have had occasion to call upon him with many deputations, both from the Harbour Commissioners and from the pilots, and I know the trouble he has taken to settle this question. I feel morally certain that there is no intention whatever of gaining any political advantage in the proposal he makes.

Mr. FOSTER. I am getting more and more confused, as I have been looking first at the Solicitor General and then at the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and thinking over the Bill that the Solicitor General pushed through last night, to which a third reading was given to-day, and now of the change made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I am inclined to believe that it is a contest between these two gentlemen as to the survival of the fittest, and at this moment the odds are in favour of the Solicitor General. What was the basis of the Bill of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries? There were several ways in which this thing might be done. There was the old way, but, there was dissatisfaction with it. Then, there was another way proposed, to take these cases before an Admiralty Court, to establish a branch of the Admiralty Court in Montreal, with a judge and all the necessary paraphernalia. My hon. friend was disposed to do something better for himself than that. He did not believe the old system was the proper system, he did not believe an Admiralty Court would do the work, and so, he introduced another proposition on the basis that he would make a fair tribunal of three judges, each of whom would be equal with the others, and each of whom should represent one of the three great interests. The distinguishing feature of this Bill was to have a triple bench on which the pilots should have one equal representative, the

pilotage authorities should have another, and the government should have a third. Now, there was some reason in that from the hon. gentleman's standpoint, and so, he based his Bill on that principle. We discussed his Bill last night, and while we were discussing it, there was another one being forwarded by the Solicitor General: the government, having carefully thought over the matter in council, had authorized the Solicitor General to introduce and carry through a Bill to establish a branch of the Admiralty Court in the city of Montreal. It was not theoretical legislation that the Solicitor General was putting through. When he was asked the question, he said it was the intention of the government to establish a registry division in the city of Montreal, in which division the admiralty judge for the province of Quebec would perform the duties of judge in admiralty in the city of Montreal; and he declared that it was the intention of the government to erect that registry branch, and that in future, in the city of Montreal, there should be a judge in admiralty with all the powers.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. The Solicitor General did not say there should be a judge in Montreal with all the powers.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The purport was that the judge in admiralty now in the province of Quebec, shall, by the formation of a registry division in the city of Montreal, become judge in admiralty in the city of Montreal. If I did not understand the Bill aright, then I am mistaken. But, what other effect has the Bill? I asked the question as to what would be the cost, and the hon. gentleman said there would be no addition to the judge's salary, because the admiralty judge in Quebec would be admiralty judge in Montreal; but, he said there would be travelling expenses, there would be a marshal, and so forth, but all that was covered by fees. The Solicitor General's Bill provides for a judge in admiralty with all the powers, and all the appurtenances of a court in the city of Montreal. And what else have you? At the tail end of this Bill the hon. Minister of Marine places these words:

8. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, after the establishment at Montreal of an admiralty district with a registry and a local judge in admiralty of the Exchequer Court, such local judge shall ex-officio be the president of the Montreal pilots' court.

This is the court that up to the present time this Bill contemplates the formation of. The hon. Solicitor General's Bill is through, it has passed this House, it gets its third reading, and it will become law. The moment it becomes law, what becomes of this Bill? Why do we have two hon. gentlemen striving to put two measures on

Mr. **FOSTER**

the statute-book and taking up the time of the House and the time of the country, when the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries says at the end of this Bill: This does not amount to anything, because the Solicitor General's Bill is already through? The registry office is actually established 'in esse' and the moment it is established all this falls to the ground. Now, my hon. friend has made another change. He has abandoned the only distinctive feature of his Bill, which was to have a tripartite bench so that all the different interests might be represented. He has changed all that, and he gives the pilots no representation. He is not giving anybody any representation. There is one judge. He constitutes a court, the pilots' representative may be there in a subordinate capacity, but he does not give any judgment. He simply gives advice, or if he is asked a question, he gives an answer to that question, or if he is asked to give values he gives values. But, while the pilots thought that when this measure was brought down the minister was giving them a judge who would be one of three to adjudicate upon their own cases, now the hon. gentleman has turned around and has given them a Bill which gives no power to their man at all. What is the good of his Bill? With the hon. Solicitor General's Bill passed he declares that it shall provide for the dominant and actual court just as soon as the registry office is established so that this Bill, as changed, has no *raison d'être*. He had begun with the position that he would give representation to all the different interests, whereas he is providing for only one judge, and he is appointing a judge it may be for a day, because as soon as the registry branch is formed in the city of Montreal this judge ceases to exist and all the work which this judge has to do and which this court is to adjudicate upon goes over to the Admiralty Court. So that, after this long round we have got back to where the advocates of the admiralty system started in the first place, and we will just have a judge in admiralty and two nautical assessors and this Bill will be just worth so much waste paper.

Mr. **A. F. MARCOTTE** (Champlain). (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that now that the hon. Solicitor General's Bill providing for an admiralty judge in the city of Montreal has passed the House and is about to become law, the Bill under consideration has no longer any *raison d'être*. But the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries has made several important changes; he has abandoned the fundamental idea of his Bill, which was that the three members of that board, representing the different interests should each have the right of voting and giving their judgment. The minister has changed all that, and the representative of the pilots, and the representative of the harbour commissioners as well are no longer there as judges merely to adjudicate

upon their own cases, but merely as assessors to give advice. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue whether he thinks the pilots will agree to play in that new court the mere part of assessors; while in the Bill as it stood yesterday, they were to be judges.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Under this Bill, which follows the practice in England, the pilots will have representatives in the court in the form of assessors who will advise the judge upon all nautical questions, and by their advice the judge will be largely guided. This is all the pilots want, and that is what they will have under the Bill. The hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) was astray, because, I suppose, he did not understand the proper construction of the Admiralty Court. The admiralty judge in the city of Quebec now has jurisdiction at Montreal, all over the River St. Lawrence and all over the province of Quebec. There is no extension of his jurisdiction to Montreal by the Bill of the hon. Solicitor General. All that the Bill of the Solicitor General does is to establish a local district where a local registrar will be appointed who will have power to issue writs and facilitate the carrying on of business at Montreal, instead of going to Quebec, to issue a writ.

Mr. FOSTER. Will there not be a judge in Montreal?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend mean to say that a judge in admiralty will not sit in the city of Montreal?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He may go to Montreal and sit if he desires to for the sake of convenience.

Mr. BERGERON. But he may sit in Montreal?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He may.

Mr. FOSTER. He has to sit in Montreal, because the hon. Solicitor General gave as the reason for putting his Bill through last night, that in order to facilitate the trial of cases arising in Montreal the judge was to go to Montreal and sit there.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He can sit there now.

Mr. FOSTER. But not without a registrar's office and the proper officers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Then what is the reason of having the Bill?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. So as to facilitate the issue of writs in Montreal.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend does not know what he is talking about.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Considering that I have been practising for thirty years in that court, I think I know more about it than the hon. gentleman does.

Mr. HAGGART. The Bill says that he shall sit in Montreal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, he shall sit in Montreal to hear cases which originate in Montreal. At the present time cases do not originate in Montreal, but they must originate in Quebec. Under the Bill they may originate in Montreal. The hon. gentleman does not propose to assign to a judge who lives in Quebec the duty of hearing all these disputes between pilots whose conduct is complained about and to bring him to Montreal every time a complaint is to be heard. But, when we get a local judge in Montreal the jurisdiction will be transferred to him because he is in the city.

Mr. FOSTER. What does your last clause do, then?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is what it does.

Mr. FOSTER. The Solicitor General told us last night that he was giving a judge in admiralty to Montreal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is why this Bill is necessary.

Mr. BERGERON. Then the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), does not intend to bring the admiralty judge from Quebec to try these cases in Montreal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, yes.

Mr. BERGERON. There seems to be a great deal more than we imagine in this clause 8, in connection with the Admiralty Court. I see now, from what has fallen from the Minister (Sir Louis Davies), that a judge will be specially appointed later on in Montreal as admiralty judge. That is what it means.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, we have no authority to do that.

Mr. BERGERON. Then what is the meaning of clause 8 here. It is clear there will be a judge of the Superior Court in Montreal who will have a special commission as admiralty judge.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Why?

Mr. BERGERON. For my part I would prefer that to the commission established by this Bill.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Some day you may reach it.

Mr. BERGERON. Why do you not do it openly and honestly now and not be leading us by dark passages to that result. I foresee the appointment of a judge in Montreal to that position.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The law does not provide for it.

Mr. BERGERON. Why create this court composed of a pilot, of a political heeler of the Harbour Commissioners, and of a young lawyer of seven years practice who will be on the stump day and night in political clubs in Montreal, lauding the glories of the present government, and who may be tempted to lean one way or the other without authority of law. Why not say at once that a judge shall be appointed. If the government is not prepared to appoint the judge just now, let them appoint one pro tem before making a permanent appointment. I call the attention of the minister to the fact that this Bill will leave him and his department in a worse position than they are now.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). (Translation.) I was just rising to reply to the question put by my hon. friend (Mr. Marcotte), but I put off my answer in order to give way to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies), who had risen at the same time as myself.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) Does the hon. gentleman know whether the pilots are willing to accept the change contemplated here?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) The ambition of the pilots is not so much to have the privilege of being represented on the bench and to sit on pilotage matters as to have a chance of making themselves heard.

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) And to obtain justice.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) They wish to have a hearing and, of course, to obtain justice—

Mr. BERGERON. (Translation.) But especially to obtain justice of the courts.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) I may say further that, for many years, I have given my best attention to this matter and that I am thoroughly conversant with it. Over the four-fifths of the pilots live in the county of Portneuf, which I have the honour of representing here, and I think it would be impossible to find a more honourable and respectable man than the president of the Pilot's Association, Mr. Cleophas Auger.

Whenever a pilot is prosecuted on the charge of breach of duty, naturally he is very anxious that his judges should be

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enlightened as to certain technical details which the most eminent members of the bar and the Harbour Commissioners themselves cannot always grasp, as they do not belong to the profession and have no special technical knowledge of these matters. The result is that the judgments rendered against the pilots are often appealed from, and those appeals are nearly always maintained. I am aware that the pilots have asked that one of their profession should be appointed by them to sit with the members of the harbour commission for the trial of pilots; and this, not because they hoped, by that vote, to exert any influence on the judgments of that board, but in the hope of placing such cases in a proper light.

I have frequently heard them remarking, and there was the ring of sincerity in these remarks: 'We do not wish to shield our comrades, if they are guilty, as when a pilot gets drunk or neglects his duty, and he causes a collision in the river or grounds a steamer; but we merely wish to be heard before the tribunal and to explain, with a thorough knowledge of the matter the reasons which may have contributed to such accidents; we wish to show either that such accident was the result of some uncontrollable force or honestly admit that it was the result of negligence or some other fault. Nobody is more anxious for the reputation and good name of the pilots than the pilots themselves, and they are perfectly aware of it.'

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) I feel certain that the pilots would not do anything wrong to screen one of their class; but, on the other hand, I think the change made by the minister in his Bill alters the main feature of it, as the pilot who represents the pilot associations is no longer a judge but merely an assessor.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) The pilots want at least to make themselves heard.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) Undoubtedly, under this new Bill, they will have a chance of making themselves heard, and that is certainly an improvement over the former state of things. Everybody knows that the pilots have had to suffer hardships in the past.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) At any rate, they have been made to suffer from errors.

Mr. MARCOTTE. (Translation.) But now that the Solicitor General's Bill is through, and that it has passed this House, could the minister tell me how long that new court under contemplation is going to last, and what is the object which the Solicitor General has in view, in pushing this Bill through?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. (Translation.) The Bill of the hon. Solicitor

General concerning the admiralty does not apply to these pilotage differences, which do not come under the control of the admiralty at all. Let me read to the House the action of various causes of action which come under the control of the admiralty court; and I am going to quote from the English copy, as I think my hon. friend is conversant enough with the English language to follow me:

13. Any suit may be instituted in any registry when—

(a) the ship or property, the subject of the suit, is at the time of the institution of the suit within the district or division of such registry;

(b) the owner or owners of the ship or property, or the owner or owners of the larger number of shares in the ship, or the managing owner, or the ship's husband reside at the time of the institution of the suit within the district or division of such registry;

(c) the port of registry of the ship is within the district or division of such registry; or

(d) the parties so agree by a memorandum signed by them or by their attorneys or agents.

As will be seen from the above, the jurisdiction of the admiralty court is quite different from that of the court which is going to be established to try those cases.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the clause is adopted I want to be clear on this matter. Has the government now any legislative authority for appointing a local judge of admiralty in the city of Montreal.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. FOSTER. They have not?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Then I want to ask the minister (Sir Louis Davies) what is the point of section 8?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The point of section 8 is simply this: If hereafter parliament vests in the government power to appoint such a judge, then when they vest in the government that power, the local judge will take the jurisdiction which is now given to the commissioner to discipline these pilots and to try their cases. There shall not exist a local judge in admiralty and a commissioner appointed under this Act. In the meantime the commissioner will be appointed under this Act to hear complaints against the pilots, and the moment the local judge in admiralty is appointed, if parliament ever appoints him, then he assumes this jurisdiction.

Mr. FOSTER. It is usual to define the duties of a judge before you have any authority to appoint him or apparently any intention of appointing him. Whenever the government comes to the conclusion that it is necessary to have a local judge in admiralty in Montreal, they have to bring in a Bill, and I should think it would be that

Bill which would confer the jurisdiction upon the judge. You do not say you are ever going to appoint a judge; you have no authority to do so nor have you introduced a Bill looking towards it, and yet you have a complete myth here and propose to legislate that if the world turns upside down some day, such and such will take place.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) reflects he will see that when you do appoint a local judge in admiralty, he could have no jurisdiction over these cases by virtue of his appointment. A special Act would have to be passed, not to amend the Admiralty Act, but to confer on the admiralty judge certain special jurisdiction. We do that in this case in advance.

Mr. FOSTER. Why?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because there is no necessity of having another Act passed. If a judge is appointed, he assumes the jurisdiction by virtue of this Act.

Mr. FOSTER. If the government were contemplating the appointment of a local judge of admiralty in the city of Montreal what was the use of the Solicitor General coming down and spending the time of the House, in putting through a Bill which expressly declared that there should be no local judge of admiralty, but a registrar in Montreal, and that the judge of admiralty in Quebec should hear cases there?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The appointment of a local judge of admiralty is not at present contemplated by the government. The Bill of the Solicitor General, is simply to facilitate the procedure and practice of the Admiralty Court. If this registrar is appointed, and a case is initiated in Montreal, the judge can come there and try it; but he has no jurisdiction to discipline the pilots or to try any matter arising out of the Pilotage Act. That would have to be conferred upon him by express statute. But we put a concluding paragraph in this Bill, providing that if a local judge of admiralty is appointed, he shall have jurisdiction in this case.

Mr. FOSTER. What my hon. friend has done is to take everybody into a family council to decide what is to be the name of the baby, years before it is born. Would it not be time enough to give the baby a name when it is in sight? My hon. friend has brought down an ill-considered Bill. He has cut the heart out of it, and now he has to admit that the tail of the Bill is of no use at all.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend stated a little while ago, that as at present constituted, the judge of the Admiralty Court in Quebec, would have jurisdiction to sit in Montreal.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He has power all over the province.

Mr. BERGERON. That is what I understood my hon. friend to say. What you are doing now is furnishing the house before the man brings in the bride. Between the two Acts, the one passed last night and the one before us now, the one coming from the Department of Justice, and the other from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, there seems to be a conflict; and there is a preparation for war in the last clause of the Bill of my hon. friend. By clause 8, a judge of the Superior Court at Montreal, will be made a judge of admiralty, sitting in the city of Montreal, with an additional salary, I suppose?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No; unless parliament passes a law authorizing that to be done, it cannot be done.

Mr. BERGERON. As soon as that is done, the present Bill of my hon. friend, falls to the ground.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. All but the last clause.

Mr. BERGERON. The only difference in the court will be, that the young lawyer who is to be appointed now, will give place to the judge. Why not bring the judge of admiralty from Quebec to try these cases?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You would not bring him to Montreal to try a case of discipline. It would cost more than it would be worth.

Mr. BERGERON. When a man is appointed at \$1,000 a year, and is surrounded by marshals and messengers, and all the paraphernalia of a court, I think that will cost more than to bring the judge from Quebec. There might be some matters which would not need his attendance at Montreal; but I am speaking generally. What was the use of passing the Bill passed last night?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In the case of an action in the city of Montreal, say an action for salvage, under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty Court, it would be necessary for the complainant to go to Quebec to take out his warrant and have it served on the ship at Montreal; but under this Act a registrar can be appointed in the city of Montreal, who will issue the writ, and when the case is ready, the judge will come from Quebec to try it.

Mr. BERGERON. Where will the registry office be placed?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), last night made a very good suggestion, that we should appoint the prothonotaries of the courts to act as registrars, because as the registrar is paid by fees, these are not likely to be

Mr. BERGERON.

sufficient to allow of the appointment of a man to that office, who is not otherwise engaged; and I suppose the registry office will be wherever the official is who is to be appointed.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Of course, the judge in admiralty now presiding at Quebec, is a local judge all over the province of Quebec. In looking over the Admiralty Act of 1891, I have not found anything in it which would prevent the government appointing a local judge in admiralty to sit in Montreal. The Governor in Council may appoint any judge of a Superior Court or County Court to be a local judge in admiralty for a particular district. Suppose he should appoint 'A' to be a local judge for a particular district, that does not take away his power also to appoint 'B' to be a local judge in that particular district. He will have that power unless we find some restriction, by reason of which he can only appoint one judge in each district.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a very important point, and we would like to have an answer. In answer to a question I put, I was informed that the government had not the power to appoint a local judge in admiralty, but, that there would have to be an Act of parliament passed. That was absolutely stated by two ministers of the Crown. Now, the point is raised, that under this section they had a perfect right to appoint any existing judge to be a local judge in admiralty. That opens up a vista. I can quite see what may be on the tapis now. They may want to add to the perquisites of some local judge in Montreal, and have the power to do it by giving him this appointment. We want to know if they have the power or not.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick.) Reading the statute as I do, its intention clearly is that the Governor in Council has the right to appoint a judge for an admiralty district.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It says 'may appoint any person to be local judge for a district.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My view is that where there is an admiralty district, for that district the Governor in Council has the right to appoint a judge, a registrar and a marshal, and has no more power than that. Under the law, as it stands, the Governor in Council has the right to appoint a judge for the admiralty district of Quebec, with the registrar at the city of Quebec. That is the exclusive power now vested in the Governor in Council. Provision is made in this Bill, that if at some future time an Admiralty Court is created at Montreal, a local judge may be appointed to that court, and a registrar. I am clearly of the opinion that the law provides merely for the appointment of one judge for that district, as it does for the appointment of one

marshal and one registrar. Taking section 6 in conjunction with section 17 of the Admiralty Act, and the general scope of the Act, I cannot come to any other conclusion.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). With all deference to the opinion of my hon. friend, I simply suggest that you do not find in the language of section 6 of the Admiralty Act, which contains the enabling power, any restriction at all. That section provides that the Governor in Council may, from time to time, appoint any judge of a Superior Court or County Court, or any barrister of not less than seven years standing, to be a local judge in admiralty of the Exchequer Court in and for any admiralty district. I do not think there is any restriction there. My hon. friend refers to section 17, but, all that does is to constitute the districts, and that does not limit section 6. It is possible that I may be mistaken.

Mr. HAGGART. In the province of Ontario, a lot of County Court judges are given admiralty jurisdiction. The districts may be set apart, but I doubt it very much. I think that these judges are simply given admiralty jurisdiction over the whole province of Ontario. There is, perhaps, half a dozen judges who have that jurisdiction.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Marine that it would be better to have the changes printed, and reconsidered again in committee.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope my hon. friend will not press that suggestion. We will have the Bill reprinted, and, on the third reading, we can have a full discussion. The First Minister is anxious to have the Bill put through as early as possible, and it has been pretty well threshed out last night and to-day. I am anxious to facilitate the passage of the Bill, so as to have it reach the Senate in good time.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Do you think that by pressing it through committee now you will facilitate its passage?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, we can discuss it again on the third reading.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You cannot go into all these details. A very important point has been raised, on which two very eminent leading gentlemen in this House, for whose opinions we have great respect, do not agree.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If this Bill be reprinted, it will be just as it is before the House now.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend will not lose a day by acceding to our request. The Bill can be reprinted, and be before the House on Monday. We do not want to delay the third reading, but, we do not want to go out of committee before we have settled all these details.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Let us then adopt this clause and have it printed, and we will then go into committee again.

Mr. FOSTER. We can discuss, then, the clause again.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We can discuss the whole Bill in committee.

Section agreed to, and the committee rose and reported progress.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 114) respecting the Toronto Hotel Company.—(Mr. Osler.)

Bill (No. 109) to incorporate the Manitoba and North Shore Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

Bill (No. 101) respecting the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. Klock.)

Bill (No. 83) respecting the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company.—(Mr. Flint.)

RELIEF OF J. W. ANDERSON.

On the motion to go into committee on Bill (No. 108), to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of J. W. Anderson.—(Mr. Cargill.)

Mr. JOHN McALISTER (Restigouche). Mr. Speaker, this Bill is for the purpose of granting a continuation of the term of Letters Patent which were issued to one James Anderson, and which were allowed to lapse through the fact that Mr. Anderson had inadvertently failed to make certain payments to the Commissioner of Patents within the time limited by law. It was shown by evidence, when the Bill was before the committee, however, that a man by the name of Sheldon acquired certain rights in this patent from the fact that he manufactured the article which was the subject of the patent during the time of the lapse thereof and up to the present time. When the Bill was before the committee, as hon. gentlemen who were present remember, an important discussion took place as to the exact meaning of section 2 of the Bill. It was thought by some, that, notwithstanding the passing of this Bill, certain rights which were acquired by Mr. Sheldon from the fact of his having manufactured, or sold the pump, for which the patent mentioned was granted, remained, and that it was not competent for Mr. Anderson to prevent him manufacturing and selling the same hereafter, notwithstanding the passing of this Act. I have looked carefully into this section since then, and I must say that I have grave doubts as to the power of Anderson to prevent Sheldon from manufacturing this article, and a number of legal gentlemen whom I have

consulted on the point, have expressed the same doubts that I entertain myself. In order to remove those doubts I think it is better to have this Bill referred back to the Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills. I therefore beg to move :

That the order be discharged and that Bill (No. 108) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of J. W. Anderson be referred back to the special standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, I do not think this is fair. This clause, to which the hon. gentleman (Mr. McAlister) refers, is a protective clause to protect the rights of those who have acquired certain rights under the old patent after the patent has expired. The Bill before the House is one introduced on behalf of a patentee, asking that rights which he once had and which have elapsed should be revived. But, in the meantime, after his rights had lapsed by his own negligence, certain parties acquired certain rights. There is a clause which has always been adopted by committees and by this House protecting those who have acquired these lapsed rights, which clause is in this Bill. There have been many Bills, I am told, at least twenty, within my own knowledge, passed with identically the same clause in them, and the same phraseology protecting the rights of those who have acquired rights, the rights having been acquired during the time that the patent did not exist. Now, the hon. gentleman moves to refer this Bill back to the committee for the purpose of taking away the rights—

Mr. McALISTER. Not at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES—which a man may have acquired when the patent was not in existence and bringing the old patent into existence. In respect to bringing the old patent into existence again there was no very serious division in the committee, because after hearing the evidence the committee determined that they would be disposed to bring the patent into existence again. They brought it into existence again. I do not understand why the ordinary form protecting the rights of those who had used the patent during the interregnum between the time of the expiration of the patent and the bringing of it into force again should be altered. The majority of the committee thought we had better keep to the old form which had been used.

Mr. McALISTER. But these are extraordinary circumstances.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is nothing extraordinary in this case.

Mr. McALISTER. It is unusual ; the evidence shows it.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is not a thing extraordinary about it. The patentee had certain rights, he had allowed them to lapse by reason of his own negligence, he came to the committee and said : Through inadvertence I should not be deprived of my rights ; I ought to have my patent revived, and the committee said : All right, we will revive it, but, those who have acquired rights in the meantime by reason of your negligence must not be prejudiced, and there is a certain form which has always been used by the House and by the committee protecting these rights. The hon. gentleman seeks to refer this Bill back to the committee in order that that form may be altered and that the rights acquired by a private person shall be taken away.

Mr. McALISTER. Not at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is very unfair. I cannot for the life of me see why this patentee should seek a special privilege or right which any other patentee has not got.

Mr. PRIOR. What difference does this clause make to the original patentee ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. For instance, suppose that the patent expired on the 25th of September, then there was no patent in existence. On the 26th of September a man began to manufacture and he manufactured for five months, as in this case. The patentee who had lost his patent by reason of his own negligence comes and asks parliament to revive his patent. Parliament says : We will revive your patent, but we must not prejudice the rights of those who have, by manufacture or user, acquired any rights, and we must protect their rights. I will not say what these rights are. This has been the form used in every Bill of this kind which has come before this House, but the hon. gentleman says : I will modify that form and say that this party shall not have any rights. If the law gives him rights in that patent, by reason of his user or manufacture, are you going to take them away by law ? I say it is most unfair, and I submit to the House that it is better for us to continue granting him the privilege and the concession which he asks for in the same way and subject to the same conditions as similar favours have been granted to every other man who has applied to this House for the last—I do not know how many years. Now, if you introduce a new principle and amend that protective clause by the insertion of words which take away from those who have acquired a right, you have to do it in all other cases, for those who have had Bills passed will immediately come in and say : Give us this clause and take away rights from those who have acquired them, the same as you did in this case. I do not

think that is good policy. I think we had better adhere to the language that we have always used. If A, B or C has acquired, in the meantime when the patent did not exist, any rights large or small, leave them to him, and do not take them away.

Mr. FOSTER. What kind of rights?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When the patent expired A begins to sell the patented article, he begins to manufacture it for one month or two months, or, as in this case, for five months, until the original patentee applies to renew his patent. Then his right may lapse or it may not. I do not know what the law may be. He may have acquired a personal right to continue to use that patent. As regards the rest of the public they cannot use it when the patent is revived. Now, the proposal of my hon. friend is not only that the general public shall be excluded from using this patent, but that the man who may have been a user for five months, and has acquired a right shall be deprived of that right. I say that is what we have never done before, it is an entirely novel principle, and if you adopt it here you will have to adopt it in regard to all patents in the past which you have revived, and in regard to all which you may revive hereafter. I think this gentleman ought to be satisfied with the language which has been used in the Patent Extension Acts that have been passed heretofore.

Mr. BERGERON. Does the hon. gentleman know whether the hon. member for Restigouche (Mr. McAlister) has any better argument to bring out than was brought out in committee when this Bill was discussed?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think it would be unfair to say the matter was discussed in committee, because it was only mentioned in committee towards the close, when somebody asked: What is the meaning and effect of that proviso? Does it prohibit a man who has used the patent for five months from continuing to use it? Some thought it might, and some thought it might not. What I was concerned with was to preserve the legal rights which both parties had just as they were. If a man by user, by manufacture, by sale, has acquired certain rights, don't take them away from him. The public who have not acquired them of course has no ground of complaint when the patent was continued, and they are prohibited from using it in the future. But if a man has acquired a right, it does not seem to me fair to take it away from him.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe.) I understood at the time that the object of the petitioner was to be placed in the same position he would have occupied had not his patent expired on the 9th of September last. Now, the clause referred to reads this way:

That any person who has, within the period between the 9th day of September, 1899, and the extension hereunder of the said letters patent, acquired by assignment, user, manufacture or otherwise, any interest or right in respect of such improvement or invention, shall continue to enjoy the same as if this Act had not been passed.

To my mind the word 'assignment' is perfectly in place, because if the patentee made any assignment of his rights after the 9th of September last to any person, it would be unfair that the person to whom he had sold such rights by assignment should lose them. Let us take the words 'user, manufacture or otherwise.' Now, I submit that those words mean that if, after the 9th of September, the date of the expiry of the patent, by failure to renew, any person has been manufacturing articles under this patent of the kind intended, or has been enjoying any rights otherwise than by an assignment, he would be in this position, that he shall continue to enjoy the same as if this Act had not been passed, that is, that he shall enjoy those rights from the passage of this Act for all time provided he can show that he was manufacturing the article between the 9th of September and the present date. I suggest that the following words be added:

But such user or manufacture of rights otherwise possessed, save under assignment, shall not prevail after the passage of this Act.

If these words were added to the clause, the patentee would have a perfect right as against the whole world, except as to any person to whom he might give the right by assignment in writing during that period.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I think if that is a proper interpretation the clause should be left as it is. I recollect where a great deal of trouble arose in a case something of this nature, where the patent was allowed to lapse after a certain length of time and another party commenced manufacturing. It was in connection with mill machinery, and many people purchased it under the conviction that they had a perfect right to do so. But, after the patent being revived and litigation taking place over it, the question was finally decided in favour of the original patentee. Then he notified the people all over the country who were using this particular piece of machinery, and made them pay large sums for using it, when they were innocent purchasers of what they had a perfect right to purchase. That will practically be the result in this case.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). The clause as passed by the committee has a far greater scope than has been mentioned. According to these words, 'extension hereunder of the said letters patent acquired by assignment, user, manufacture or otherwise,' the whole general public, after the 9th of September, have acquired the right

of manufacture and user of the patent. If you leave in the words 'or otherwise' there is no use whatever in giving him a renewal of his patent.

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). My impression is that the committee did not pass this Bill in the shape in which they intended to pass it, and it is only for that reason that I would agree to the motion of my hon. friend to refer it back to the Private Bills Committee. I think it is possible that if the argument that has been addressed to this Committee by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, were addressed to the Private Bills Committee, I might find myself in accord with that argument. But I think the majority of that committee were not in accord with those views, and that they intended that the party who was now manufacturing this article, should, after the passing of this measure, be obliged to pay a royalty to the inventor of the machine. The probabilities are that the way in which that section is at present drafted will prevent the former owner of the patent from charging or collecting any royalty from the present manufacturer of the article, for the machines that he will hereafter make. It is a debatable question whether he ought to collect any royalty: it is a debatable question whether the man who is now manufacturing ought not to continue to have the right to manufacture. But my conviction is that the majority of that committee did not take that view, and were not of that opinion, and that they thought that if this manufacturer escaped being called upon to pay royalty for the five or six months during which the patent had lapsed, he would be very fortunate. For the reason that the Bill at present does not embody the feelings of the majority of the committee, I am of the opinion that it ought to be re-considered by the committee. When the clause was being read at the close of the sitting of the committee, I asked several times for my own information, what it meant and nobody could tell what it meant, and I gave expression to the mild suggestion that it would be desirable that we should understand the meaning of the clause we were adopting.

Mr. SPROULE. If I understand the hon. gentleman, he would compel the party to pay a royalty after the patent is revived.

Mr. RUSSELL. For any machines he makes after that, but not for any at present made.

Mr. SPROULE. What would the hon. gentleman do with an innocent purchaser, who had purchased these machines?

Mr. RUSSELL. Do you mean purchased the right to manufacture?

Mr. SPROULE. No, the machines.

Mr. HAGGART.

Mr. RUSSELL. He could sell the article, but he could not sell the right. There was no invention, and, therefore, no invention could be sold after the patent lapsed, but he could sell the article after manufacture. No one pretends that there should be any royalty paid for any of these machines that have been manufactured during the period which the patent had lapsed.

Mr. SPROULE. That is what happened in the case I cited.

Mr. RUSSELL. That would be a monstrous result to follow and I assume that no one would ever assent to that. The question is whether it is intended by this provision to absolutely take away with one hand, what was given with the other in the first section of the Bill. I am confident that the Bill, as it stands, does not express the opinion of the majority of the committee, and that is why I wish it to go back. It may be that the majority will think that the views of the minister (Sir Louis Davies) are right, when they are heard, but they have not been passed upon by the committee.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I assume that the committee knew what they were doing and if that be the case, I do not see why they should have the chance of looking into it again. My own view of the matter is, that it is a revival of a patent so as to put the owner back in the position he was, before it lapsed.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). But if a man finding that the patent had lapsed, innocently went into the manufacture of the article, built a large factory and acquired property as he had a perfect right to do, will it be contended that the passing of this Act would put the owner of the patent in a position to clear him out.

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). If rights that had been recognized in law had been acquired by any parties, then when this Act is passed, it puts the owner of the patent in a position against the whole world who did not acquire rights, but as against the man who did acquire rights the owner never ought to have an opportunity of collecting tolls from him for all time to come. It is because of that that I will vote that we do not go back to committee.

Mr. FOSTER. Judging from the discussion, I think our wisest course is to send it back to the committee, who would debate this matter, and this time, I hope, fix the clause as they mean it.

Motion (Mr. McAllister) agreed to.

QUEBEC AND LAKE HURON RAILWAY.

House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 112) to incorporate the Quebec and Lake Huron Railway Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

(In the Committee.)

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I suppose the Minister of Railways knows something about this proposal. It seems to be rather an ambitious railway that is projected, extending from the city of Quebec to French River on the Georgian Bay, with a capital stock of \$10,000,000. Has the Minister of Railways satisfied himself that this is a bona fide company, which intends to build the railway and has sufficient capital to carry out the undertaking? Or is this simply a franchise granted for the purpose of speculation? I read over the names of the incorporators; I do not know whether they are substantial men or not; but I would like to have the opinion of the Minister of Railways, who must have looked into this project, as to the necessity for the road and the probability of its being built.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The Bill was discussed before the Railway Committee, and gentlemen of reputation and standing appeared there and stated that these people desired the charter for the purpose of constructing the railway. We did not get them to turn out their pockets to see whether there was anything in them.

Mr. FOSTER. No, they will turn those out later.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We had assurances which satisfied the committee. It is not proposed to confer any rights on this company which will infringe on other rights. We limit the time within which the charter shall continue unless the work is proceeded with and carried to completion. I think every real public interest was thoroughly safeguarded, and no objection occurred to any member of the committee. We had a large committee when the Bill went through, and I think all were satisfied of the propriety of giving these gentlemen the charter they asked for, and I confess that I did not think there was any objection to our doing so. These gentlemen were represented to us as persons of standing and means. It was stated to the committee that some of them were gentlemen of very strong financial standing. One of them was the president, or a very prominent member, of the Board of Trade of the city of Chicago. There were three or four American gentlemen of reputation and wealth, whose names are mentioned here. One gentleman was present at the meeting of the committee, and he impressed the committee to such an extent that there was no objection to the passing of the Bill.

Mr. FOSTER. Have any surveys been made of this road at all?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think not.

Mr. FOSTER. That is, there is no line mapped out at all.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes, they had a map.

Mr. FOSTER. They had a map of the country with a line drawn across it, I suppose; but there were no surveys?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We do not require surveys before granting charters.

Mr. FOSTER. I see that they have a bonding power of \$30,000 a mile for the railway and its branches.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Yes. If it is built, it will be a very costly road.

Mr. FOSTER. Of course, the committee has passed the Bill, but I would like to dissent from the doctrine stated by the Minister of Railways, that he did not think there was any reason for an objection to these franchises being given by this House, provided only they were asked for, and that the very fact that a number of gentlemen come and ask for a franchise to build a railway anywhere in this country, so long as it does not take up the ground of any other railway, is a sufficient reason why it should be granted. It seems to me that these railway franchises are worth something; if they are not, they would not be sought after; and the Minister of Railways as the head of the railway interests of the country ought to satisfy himself, when a franchise is asked for, that there is some ground for believing that the work will be gone on with, that there is a necessity for it, that there is something in the way of a survey or information which will prove to his satisfaction that it is a feasible as well as a desirable work. If we go on the principle of simply granting a franchise because it is asked for, and put into the hands of irresponsible men, charter-mongers, as we have done in the past, and as I dare say we shall do in the future, if we continue to act on this principle, I certainly think it is not a good principle. Here is a band of road which traverses the whole province of Quebec, and a part of the province of Ontario; and so far as I can learn not a scrap of information has come to the minister in the way of survey, topographical or otherwise, or to show the bona fide of the company. He simply says that inasmuch as these people apply for this franchise, and it does not interfere with anybody else's franchise, it ought to be granted. I think the country is in a mood to ask that a little more care be

exercised in the granting of great public franchises, especially to railway promoters. I think it is right that the country should grow into that mood more and more. The older the country grows, the more careful we ought to be in this parliament not to give great public franchises in the hands of persons who simply intend to sell them out and pocket the money, entirely oblivious of the country's interests. That sentiment is growing, and ought to grow in the country, and this parliament is old enough now to be more careful as to the way it grants indiscriminately these great railway franchises.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. The hon. gentleman has woken up very late in the day to the necessity of having all these matters looked into and studied so closely. The principle he now advocates, is one which he had ample opportunity in times past, to ventilate in this House, when he was in the position of exercising greater influence on its legislation. I am not prepared to say that gentlemen who, we have reason to believe, from statements made to us by responsible persons, members of parliament, are men of standing, means and character in the communities where they reside, when they come before us, asking for a charter, are solely actuated by speculative purposes. I think, on the contrary, that we are fairly entitled to assume that they have some intention of prosecuting the work they undertake to perform, and I think we would scarcely be acting prudently or fairly if we were to conclude that they were not intending to act in good faith in the matter. I do not know of any reason why we should particularly select this application and try it upon the principle the hon. gentleman suggests, while treating all other Bills that come before us on a different principle. I would like to suggest to the hon. gentleman that the Railway Committee do not recognize me as having absolute authority to dictate what they should do.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the hon. gentleman has had ample experience, that they do not.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I grant it. At every meeting of the Railway Committee, I take occasion, when I think it is proper, to express a decided opinion upon any Bill that may happen to be before it, on which I feel warranted in expressing such an opinion, but it does not follow, by any means, that my opinion shall be accepted by the committee. Other people have just as much right to their opinion, as I have to mine, and are as well entitled to express it. But what the hon. gentleman is doing is trying to discover some ground on which he can find fault with my action and select me to bear the weight of his ponderous condemnation. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman, who is a member of that committee, that he should

Mr. FOSTER.

attend its meetings, and try to what extent he can succeed in impressing on it this mode of dealing with the applications before it for charters, which he has now awakened to the conviction is the proper mode, and see how far his opinions will prevail. I do not think he will get very far. I do not see any reason why, when responsible gentlemen come to us and ask for a charter to build a railway through a portion of country which is entirely unoccupied, which is practically without railways, and the granting of which charter will not interfere in the slightest degree with any existing privilege—I see no reason why we may not assume, from the character of the applicants, that they intend to act in good faith, or why we should treat them in a different way from all other applicants. I am told that the name of the gentleman who was here before the committee, is Mr. Nichol. I believe that he is a gentleman from Detroit of very large means, and he made a very fair statement. I am reminded now by my hon. friend to my left, that he was prepared to have given a much more elaborate statement, but the committee were satisfied on all sides and they passed the Bill without dissent. I have not said that it is not the privilege of hon. members to find fault with the action of the Railway Committee, but I think that members of the committee, at all events, who hold the views which the hon. gentleman at this time of the day holds, ought to make it a point to attend the meetings of the committee and impress, if they can, those views upon it. I do not know a single individual whose name is incorporated in this charter. I am only going on representation made in the committee at that time, and am not disposed, though I do not know these gentlemen, to treat them any differently than the committee has treated in times past, other gentlemen in the same position, who were asking for similar charters.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not intend to assent to the principle laid down, and the party to which the hon. gentleman belongs and the Railway Committee in which he has any influence, will never grow much better on these matters, so long as he takes the peculiar line of advocacy that he does.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. That is your opinion?

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has come out boldly and strongly and said in so many words, that he does not consider any care ought to be taken at all, when we are disposing of the great franchises of the country. I think, on the contrary, that great care should be taken. The hon. gentleman says that I should attend the meetings of the committee and look after these matters there. So I should; I should be everywhere at once, although it is difficult to be in more than one place at the same time. But whether I was there or not, I have not for-

felted my right to make objections when the matter comes before the House.

Anybody knows that these great public franchises are sought on one or two considerations. Either for the legitimate purpose of building railways and other transport systems and working them, or for the purposes of speculation. Either they are sought by persons who intend in good faith to carry out their undertaking, or by others who have some scheme or other, by which they think they can make money. What is it that gives the latter the position of making money? Simply by the Railway Committee and this parliament giving to them an immense franchise, large bonding powers, and a corporate capacity, so that they may hold what they may consider a fairly good speculative position and be enabled to raise money in one or two ways—either by going on with the construction to a certain extent, or what is better, by simply selling out their franchise to some people willing to construct the road. We had an instance of this last year, and that is what gives point to my criticism. Last year we had a somewhat warm discussion over a road which was chartered from Edmonton to the Pacific Ocean, and over a subsidy which was given to some sixty miles of that road. The ground I took on that occasion was, that all the facts in the case pointed to this, that the gentlemen who were getting the franchise—a very important one, a franchise to build a road to cross the Yellow Head Pass, the only available route from Edmonton to the Pacific Ocean—were not gentlemen who intended to construct or operate that road after it was constructed, but gentlemen reputable enough in themselves in every way, who saw a good opportunity to make some money, if they could persuade the Minister of Railways, and then the Railway Committee, and then this House to give them this franchise, in the first place, and then to bonus a certain portion of the road afterwards. My representations were scouted by the hon. Minister of Railways, who declared that these men were undertaking, in good faith, a great railway enterprise, and would, no doubt, carry it through. Well, parliament had not been long out of session, when it was said in the *Toronto Globe*—I do not know with what truth, but the statement has never been denied—that these gentlemen who got that franchise, and who stood, therefore, in the gateway of a great undertaking, which all of us believed would be ultimately carried out, making another transcontinental railway, had sold out that franchise to the very men who were constructing the other part of that transcontinental railway. Well, now, if it is true—and it has not been denied, but, of course, you can get no information from the Minister of Railways and Canals about it, because he would not give the information about who were the proprietors or directors of the company when we were giving them a subsidy last

year, and I have never found out from him or the government whether the franchises had been sold or not. He may say that we have no responsibility, that these people have a right to make as much money as they can, by our aid, and we have a right, without much criticism, to give them the choice places for railway construction, and give them subsidies in order that they may be in a better position to cry 'stand and deliver,' and sell the franchise they get for nothing for a large amount of money. I do not expect to get the information. But, I say that if it is true that the gentlemen who were treated in that way by the minister and the government last year have stood there and collected the toll of hundreds of thousands from the men who are bona fide going to build the line, then, this parliament did what it should not have done with a public franchise, which should have been kept for the public good and not handed over for the private advantage of a few individuals. It looks as if this were something of a similar kind. The minister has not a scrap of information as to this road, as to the topography of the country through which it is to be built, or as to the possibility of building it. He was satisfied simply when reputable gentlemen came and asked him for a franchise. I do not think that public franchises should be dealt out in that way. When men come asking for franchises of this kind, they ought to reasonably satisfy those who can grant these powers that they are bona fide asking powers which they are going to use. We have had instances in the past, and we shall have instances in the future, if we keep on in this way, the bad results of which become apparent afterwards and load this country with costly franchises, which do not tend to the better development of our transport facilities. Hon. gentlemen may think I am hypercritical, that I have broken out in a new spot all at once. But, I have stated these things before, and I expect to state them again. I believe that hon. gentlemen are finding that the people of this country are beginning to look with a jealous eye upon the indiscriminate bestowal of these great franchises with reference to our transport system. I have great faith in the Committee on Railways and Canals, because I am a member of it myself, and because the Minister of Railways and Canals is a member of it, and others. But, I have no hesitation in saying, to my own condemnation and that of the committee, that the carelessness displayed in the bestowal of these franchises is not at all creditable to the committee. That is largely because the committee is too unwieldy; it is largely because they have no system in their work; it is largely because, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the members go into the committee without a shred of information on a given Bill, and cannot get it—they work in the

dark and have to work in the dark. What we want is a committee of experts who shall report upon every application that is made for a great public franchise, not only as to the feasibility of the enterprise which is about to be undertaken, but, also as to the bona fides of the parties and the probable cost of the work, and so, give that committee information which can actually put it in a position to give a proper franchise when it is reasonable to give it. I am not charging anything for my criticism of the Minister of Railways and Canals, or the government, or the House. I am condemning myself as a member of that Railway Committee, just as I am condemning others. But, I acknowledge my faults here this night, and I think that hon. members on both sides may well acknowledge their faults in this respect.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I am glad that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) has been driven, at last, to acknowledge his faults. One would think, from his ordinary speech, that he was absolute perfection. He has been in the House for eighteen or twenty years; and now, for the first time since I have been in the House and a member of the Railway Committee, he formulates these views and lays down this very excellent rule for the guidance of the committee. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he devote a little more thought to this question. Judging from his style of addressing the House, it is a much larger question than he has any suspicion of. He is in the habit of rushing to conclusions, of jumping to his feet and delivering himself *ex cathedra*, laying down philosophical principles, and speaking as though he himself were the sum of all the virtues. Let him just apply that penetrating, analytical mind, that gigantic intellect of his, to this question, and let him tell the committee the next time they meet how they shall work out the propositions he makes, how he would propose that the committee should assure itself of the bona fides of respectable gentlemen who come and ask for a charter. Shall we require an affidavit from each of them that they intend to prosecute the work? Or will a statutory declaration satisfy the hon. gentleman? Or does he wish a certificate of character from the mayor of the town in which they reside? What class of evidence would satisfy the hon. gentleman, in the present condition of his mind, as to the bona fides of these people? There are a large number of things he would have to think of pretty well before he could dispose haphazard of the various applications that come before the committee from time to time. I am convinced that the committee might use a little more care and be a little more rigid in enforcing its own rules in regard to charters generally. I have endeavoured, in my inefficient and humble way, to suggest to the

Mr. FOSTER.

committee, from time to time, things that I thought might be done; I have endeavoured to impress my views upon them on many occasions, but, often without effect. But, I am satisfied the committee have rules enough to assure a satisfactory degree of safety in dealing with charters that are applied for. It is because the committee often does not insist upon the observance of its own rules, perhaps, that we lay ourselves open to criticism. But, I do not think it lies in the mouth of any member of the committee to sit in judgment and assume an attitude of criticism with respect to his fellow-members on the committee. I think all have sinned in that regard, and often with a good deal of excuse, because they are satisfied that things are all right, and, in the urgency of business, they desire to facilitate rather than delay these Bills.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I am pleased to know that, even at this late hour, some hon. members of the House have waked up to what I have always regarded as their duty. As a member of the Railway Committee for several years, I have brought up the same question and pointed to the rules, which provided that before a Bill should be concluded in the committee. According to the rules, there must be a map of a certain size put up showing the way the railway proposes to run, its relation to other railways, and some kind of cursory survey of the country through which it would pass, and satisfactory evidence to the committee that there was a desire to build the railway, and, also, that the parties who had it in charge were able to finance the scheme. These were conditions absolutely necessary, in the judgment of those who revised the rules. But, I regret to say, that I got very little assistance from the members of the committee, including the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster). I can only say that among several members it got to be a standing joke that I should ask to have the rules followed as closely as possible. I think we have fallen into a lax way of dealing with Bills in that committee. For years we have been giving charters without rhyme or reason, and putting them into the hands of people who held up other corporations afterwards, and used them for the purpose of making money. I have thought that we have been very derelict in our action in that committee, and I am in favour, as far as possible, of enforcing the rules. But I regret to say that I have not received that assistance which I think I am entitled to get from older members of the committee.

The hour for private Bills having expired, the committee rose.

THE CRIMINAL CODE.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 137)—from the Senate—

further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

(In the Committee).

Mr. FOSTER. I have to say that two of my colleagues, the hon. member for St. Ann's, Montreal (Mr. Quinn) and the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) were obliged to leave town this morning, and before going they asked me to prevail on the good nature of the Solicitor General not to go on with the Bill to-day, as they desire to be present to discuss it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to.

LAND TITLES ACT.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 139), to amend the Land Titles Act, 1894.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The reason for this amendment is that at present the records in each of the land titles offices contain entries of all writs that have been filed in the office since the 1st of January, 1887, the date of the adoption of the Torrens system of registration in the North-west Territories. This causes unnecessary trouble and expense to those who have to search the records of the office. The legal gentlemen in the House will understand that in searching the title the sheriff is not required to notify the registrar appointed under that system of the release by payment or otherwise of any execution against the land. For that reason the registrar is unable to give a clear certificate of title to the parties interested. This amendment provides that the sheriff shall furnish to the registrar a record of all executions, writs or claims that may stand against the land, so that on examination of the title the registrar shall be able to tell just what liens or claims there are against the lands. It is for the purpose of expediting the search and avoiding the expense, delay and trouble that now exists when people have occasion to transfer property.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). This amendment has been made at the desire of the profession in the North-west Territories. They have long wished to have this amendment which simplifies procedure and at the same time curtails expense.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). I would like to ask the hon. acting Minister of the Interior if the word 'writ' means a judgment registered against the land.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I understand that it does. When a writ has been issued and filed in the registry office it is a lien against the land. I may mention that these are the same words as were used in the previous Act.

Mr. HAGGART. I do not think that the word 'writ' used in the phrase 'every writ shall cease to bind or affect land' would mean a judgment registered against the land.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). The only writ that would have an effect on land would be a writ of attachment, which is sometimes issued for the purpose of binding land owing to a person absconding from the province. There may be some provision in the North-west Territories that I do not know about.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In the old Act this language is used. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) is quite right in saying that the registrars, judges and members of the profession have requested this amendment to be made.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the interpretation of 'writ'?

Mr. HAGGART. The interpretation in the general Act would give the meaning of the word 'writ.'

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). The section of the Act which this clause amends says that there may be a writ of execution, or other writ, put upon the land. I infer that there must be some such procedure in the North-west Territories as the hon. acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) refers to. We cannot go wrong if we use, in amending a section, the same expression as is used in the Act that we are amending.

Mr. DAVIN. If the attention of the committee is directed to the clause which it is intended to amend, hon. gentlemen will see at once that the amendment is desirable. The clause reads as follows:

The sheriff, or other duly qualified officer, after delivery to him of any execution or other writ affecting land, if a copy of such writ has not already been delivered or transmitted to the registrar, shall, on payment to him of 50 cents by the execution creditor named therein, provided the said writ is in force, forthwith deliver or transmit by registered letter to the registrar a copy of the writ and of all endorsements thereon certified under his hand and seal of office, if any; and no land shall be bound by any such writ until the receipt by the registrar for the registration district in which such land is situated, of a copy thereof, either prior to this Act, under the law then in force or subsequent hereto; but from and after the receipt by him of such copy no certificate of title shall be granted, and no transfer, mortgage, encumbrance, lease or other instrument executed by the execution debtor of such land, shall be effectual except subject to the rights of the execution creditor, under the writ, while the same is legally in force; and the registrar on granting a certificate

of title, and on registering any transfer, mortgage or other instrument executed by the execution debtor affecting such land, shall be memoranda upon the certificate of title in the registrar and on the duplicate issued by him, express that such certificate, transfer, mortgage or other instrument is subject to such rights.

Then the subsection runs as follows :

The registrar shall keep a book in convenient form in which shall be entered according to the dates when respectively received, a record of all copies of writs received by him from the sheriff or other officer as aforesaid, whether so received prior to this Act or subsequent thereto; and such book shall be kept indexed, showing, in alphabetical order, the names of the persons whose lands are affected by such writs, with the day and hour and minute of such receipt.

Then the proposed amendment follows :

Provided that every writ shall cease to bind or affect land at the expiration of two years from the date of the receipt thereof by the registrar of the district in which the land is situated, unless before the expiration of such period of two years a renewal of such writ is filed with the registrar in the same manner as the original is required to be filed with him.

The object is to prevent writs that are obsolete encumbering land that really ought to be free.

On section 2,

Mr. DAVIN. I would ask you to read the section, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Sections 1 and 2 are really for the same object.

Mr. DAVIN. I know that, but I would like to have the Chairman read the clause.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The object of that is to compel the sheriff to notify the registrar.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, that is all right.

Mr. HAGGART. I do not know what this phrase means :

Thenceforth such land or portion of land shall be deemed to be absolutely released and discharged from the writ.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Whenever the land is released the sheriff notifies the registrar.

Mr. DAVIN. What the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart) has just referred to is in the old Act.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, but it seems a curious thing that on the expiration of the writ the land shall be absolutely discharged. Could you, by a renewal of the writ, bring the same land under the operation of a judgment.

Mr. DAVIN. Of course the object of the Land Titles Act is to simplify the transfer of real estate and also to place you in the position that you can go to the registry office and find out absolutely how real estate stands. Having got the certificate of the registrar as to the exact condition

of that real estate, once it has passed from one party to another, there is no danger of any further litigation.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) mistakes my meaning. Suppose there is a writ in the sheriff's hands against land in the North-west Territories. The writ expires by law at the end of two years. It has to be renewed at the end of two years. Suppose it is not renewed at the end of two years can a party, in the absence of any renewal bind this land ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Not after the memorandum has been filed. After the memorandum has been filed, under this section, thenceforth the land is to be absolutely released.

Mr. HAGGART. Then there is no possible renewal of the claim of the judgment creditor against the land except proceedings be begun *de novo*. From the time it is withdrawn until the renewal, I should say the land should be absolutely discharged. Has the judgment creditor no remedy at all of enforcing a claim against the land even by a renewal after the expiration of the writ ?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In the ordinary course the writ would have to be renewed before the expiration.

On section 3,

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I understand there is no municipal system in the Territories, and I propose to amend the section by striking out the words 'mayor or reeve' and inserting the words 'officer of the school district or municipality by whom said sale was authorized or his successor in office.' I would also strike out the word 'municipalities' and substitute 'schools or an ordnance respecting municipalities respectively.' This amendment was suggested by Judge McGuire since the Bill has been before the House who pointed out that there is no municipal organization there as in the other provinces.

Mr. HAGGART. Suppose the sheriff sold lands worth \$10,000, and there were only five or six persons at the place, and they agreed to divide it among themselves for the taxes, how would this clause provide against collusion at such a sale ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. This is to obviate the difficulty and expense in the present law in furnishing to the judge proof which he must have before he can grant an order confirming the sale for taxes. This amendment has been suggested by the judges and by the profession and is considered quite sufficient to protect all parties. Previously certain unnecessary details had to be proved, and which only could be procured at very great expense. This amendment requires notice and such evidence as would satisfy

Mr. DAVIN.

the judge that no unfairness can be done to the owner of the land.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is not so much confirming the sale of land for taxes as enabling the judge when notice is given to the opposite party calling on him to show cause why it should not be concurred in. The owner must be notified to show anything against the sale confirmed.

Mr. HAGGART. What is the object of confirming it if all the proceedings are irregular.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The object is plain to any lawyer, because if you went into court you would have to prove your title and a number of other things. Under this you must give notice to the owner to show cause why it should not be confirmed.

Mr. HAGGART. I understand the Act with reference to titles in land, and that all particulars must be given to a judge before a clear title is issued. But this is a special case and this Act evidently enables the judge to confirm the title, notwithstanding any irregularity in the proceedings.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is in default of the owner showing no cause after having received notice.

On section 4,

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In the Land Titles Act of 1894, no saving clause was inserted to provide for actions which were taken previous to the time the Torrens system came into force; and this is to provide for those cases.

Mr. HAGGART. It is not to affect suits pending?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That is it.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

LOAN COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 154), to amend the Loan Companies Act, Canada, 1899.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the character of this Bill?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is designed merely to make a verbal alteration in the Loan Companies Act of last session. The word 'franchise' is used frequently in that Act, and it is proposed to strike out that word. For instance, the Act of last session provides that a company to be incorporated under it may acquire the franchises and assets of any existing company. It has been ascertained that a provincial

company cannot transfer its franchise; therefore this amendment is to strike out the word 'franchise' wherever it occurs. The Bill is for no other purpose.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. HAGGART. Under the Dominion Act it is doubtful whether a company has power to mortgage its franchise. Under this Act you give to provincial companies the right to mortgage and transfer their franchises. I intended at one time to ask the hon. Minister of Finance to introduce a short Bill to give to Dominion companies, like electric companies, the power to mortgage their franchises as well as their other property. As you are now giving that power to provincial companies, why not extend it to all?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That might be done later. It is not touched by this Bill.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—BROCKVILLE AND WEST HURON ELECTIONS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). It may be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that early in the present session I had a notice upon the Order paper with reference to the report of the committee of last year, to which had been referred the matter of an inquiry into the West Huron and Brockville elections.

In order that I may make it clear to the House that I lost no opportunity of bringing this matter to the attention of the House, I may refer to the facts that this session of parliament opened on the 1st of February, that the Committee on Privileges and Elections was appointed on the 9th of February—that was on Friday; that on the following Tuesday, I gave notice in the House that I would move the next day to have this matter brought up and dealt with as a matter of privilege. On Wednesday, the 14th of February, I took that course. I brought this matter up, as a question of privilege, and asked to have the report of the committee and the evidence taken during the previous session referred again to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. On that occasion, you declared Sir, that it would be necessary to give a formal notice of motion, and that the matter at that time could not be dealt with as a matter of privilege, although it had been dealt with as such during the previous session. Accordingly, on the same day, the 14th of February, I placed a notice on the Order paper in the ordinary way. The Committee on

Privileges and Elections had not then been organized or a chairman appointed, and it was not organized or a chairman appointed until the following Tuesday, the 20th of February. On the 26th of February, motions were called, and when I proposed to deal with this matter as an unopposed motion, the right hon. the leader of the House insisted that it should stand, and it did stand as an opposed motion. On that same day, on the motion to adjourn, I brought the matter to the attention of the leader of the government, and asked that this particular motion should be expedited. On the 27th of February, the following day, the right hon. gentleman moved that government business should have precedence on Thursdays, and I then made a further request that before such a motion passed, we should have some understanding that an important motion of this character should be expedited. Nothing further was done or said with regard to my proposed motion until the 14th of March, which was on Wednesday, when the right hon. the leader of the House declined to take up unopposed motions first, for the reason that he thought unfair criticism had been made with respect to his action on the 26th of February. On the 19th of March, which was Monday, unopposed motions were taken first by consent, and the right hon. gentleman again insisted that this motion should stand as an opposed motion, and I accordingly dropped it. After that, on Thursday, 22nd of March, the House, instead of going into Committee of Supply, was occupied with a motion brought on by the hon. Postmaster General respecting workmen's wages on government contracts. On the following day, the 23rd of March, Friday, the hon. the Minister of Finance made his budget speech, and the debate upon his motion on that occasion was not concluded until Friday, the 4th of May, one week ago. Since that time the House has not gone into supply, and I therefore have had no opportunity of bringing forward this matter in any effective way. I now take this, Sir, as the first opportunity of doing so, and I only regret that I have to do so at so late an hour and before so thin a House. However, the presentment which I have to make of the case is not a long one. In the first place, I may very briefly refer to what took place when I made a somewhat similar motion in regard to this matter last year. On that occasion, I submitted to this House certain propositions with respect to the powers of this House to deal with returning officers and deputy returning officers. I submitted to the House the language of Mr. Blake used in 1875, when he said :

He would be sorry to believe that the House had been deprived by the passing of the Controverted Elections Act of its power over returning officers and deputy returning officers, of its power to investigate complaints made against them and to punish them for improper conduct.

Mr. FIELDING.

I also referred to the language of the late Sir John Macdonald on the same occasion, in which he gave his view as follows :

He was glad the hon. member did not propose to ask the House to consider the point raised in the petition, that the election case was before another tribunal. At the same time, it was not to be supposed that the House had abandoned its right to control, censure and, if need be, punish returning and deputy returning officers.

I also referred to the language of the late Sir John Thompson, used in 1887, on the occasion when matters in connection with the Queen's County, N.B., election were brought before the House. Sir John Thompson on that occasion used the following language :

Notwithstanding the general operation of the principle that a man ought not to be punished twice for the same offence, it is a well-recognized principle that the enactment of various penalties sometimes has merely the effect of establishing cumulative penalties against the offender, and not substitutive penalties. The effect of that would be, in this instance, that a returning officer who offended against a provision of the Elections Act, would be, in the first instance, liable to the public for the wrong done to the public by indictment, or by any other suitable procedure, for an offence against the Elections Act, and he would, in addition to that, be liable for the pecuniary penalties which the Act declares may be recovered by any individual aggrieved, and notwithstanding the establishment of those penalties he might still be liable at the hands of parliament for contempt committed against its privileges. I might illustrate my view of this question by changing for a moment the offence for which the person at the Bar is charged, by supposing it was a case of libel, in order to give an illustration more familiar to the House. Assuming that you, Mr. Speaker, or any individual member of this House acting as such, had been libelled, it would be quite clear that the offender would be liable, first, to criminal prosecution for libel; second, to a civil suit, at the instance of the person aggrieved; and, third, the offender could be summoned for contempt against the privileges of this House. Under these circumstances, I, as one member of this House, entertain this view: that this House should persevere in the question proposed; and I only presume to express these opinions now because it may be convenient on both sides of the House, according as questions of law arise, that those conversant with such questions should express their opinions, and consequently, lead the House more clearly to a decision.

And I also referred to the language of the late Mr. Weldon, who for a number of years represented the constituency of St. John in this House, and who was a very eminent constitutional lawyer. On that occasion, referring to the matter then before the House, he said :

We are not trying Mr. Dunn at the Bar for penalties, but he is here simply for the purpose of interrogating him with respect to matters connected with the privileges of this House, and I fail to see that by the statute respecting election trials this House has divested itself of its ancient rights and privileges in that respect. While the judges are entrusted with the power

of trying election petitions, a power conferred on them by parliament, parliament has not divested itself of the right to investigate into any subject. We find, not only by the cases referred to before the Committee on Elections, which are on the Journals of the House, but we are also aware that in many cases to which the learned counsel has alluded, the House of Commons of England has investigated election matters ever since the Election Act came into force. The person at the Bar is not being cited on any criminal charge. That is a fallacy on the part of the counsel.

And on the same occasion, the same hon. gentleman, later on in his speech, said :

In this case Mr. Dunn stands here as a witness, as a servant and officer of this House, for the purpose of offering explanations to this House for its information with respect, not merely to what took place in that particular election, but with regard to the public policy of retaining and maintaining in its efficiency, and in purity, honesty and uprightness, the election law of the land. It is not, therefore, a matter of this particular election, simply, but it is a matter affecting the public at large and the rights of the people, and, therefore, it seems to me that when it is put forth that this person is standing here subject to penalties, or that there is a second charge for a particular offence, I maintain that he does not stand charged with any offence, but that under the direction of the House he is brought to its Bar to give explanations as to his conduct.

And, on the same occasion, my hon. friend, the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), took the same view. He said :

The other point the learned counsel suggested was, that because certain penalties attached to an act of malfeasance on the part of a returning officer he may be punished for that act in the courts of the land, and that, therefore, parliament should not try his action at all here, is an argument which I think is unfounded, and for this reason : The penalties which the law prescribes for any act of misfeasance on the part of its officers, are penalties which are payable to any person who is individually damaged, and they can only be recovered by the person who alleged that he suffers that damage. If the gentleman who, we think, ought to have been returned in place of Mr. Baird, brought an action, it would be necessary for him first to institute a suit before the judges of the court, and only after we have a declaration by that court of his right to be returned could he maintain an action for damages. That action is one personal and peculiar to himself ; it does not affect the rights of the people, and it does not in any sense affect the privileges of the House, and, therefore, so far as Mr. Dunn is concerned, if Mr. Dunn was liable to damages at all, at any time, those damages cannot be recovered against him now, because the time for filing a petition has expired. I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind as to the jurisdiction of the House.

Now, Sir, on the occasion when I brought this matter before the House last year, the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in dealing with my motion, used the following language :

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) has brought to the attention of the

House one of the most important questions which can engage its attention. We have always held, in years past, and we are prepared to hold now, of course, that the purity of elections must be guarded at all costs and all hazards. It was our duty while we were sitting on the other side of the House, on more than one occasion, to bring delinquencies which had taken place in elections to the attention of the House, as to which, we thought, that the House, possibly in its action, did not always do itself the justice which it should have done. The question which has been brought up by the hon. gentleman involves one of facts. It refers to two elections, the Brockville election and the West Huron election. With regard to the West Huron election I am free to say, at once, that having heard the statement that the hon. gentleman has made, and which I understand he is prepared to substantiate upon his standing as a member of this House, he has made a prima facie case which, I say, without any hesitation, must go to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. With regard to the Brockville election I must say that, in my estimation, the case which he has made out is very, very weak, if indeed he has made a case at all. But such is the sanctity of the ballot, such is the sanctity of the rights of the people which they must exercise, whenever they are called upon at the polls, that though, in my opinion, speaking here in behalf of the government, the case made out in regard to Brockville is more than weak, still the government will not offer any objection to the case also being referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

I call attention to this for the reason that it does not seem to me that the right hon. leader of the House has had the same regard to the sanctity of the people's ballots and the sanctity of the people's rights during the present session, which he expressed on that occasion. I say that because, having regard to the procedure in similar matters which I shall bring to the attention of the House later, having regard to what I stated I could prove, and to what was proved before the Committee on Privileges and Elections during last session, I think it was the duty of the right hon. gentleman, as leader of the House and guardian of its rights and its honour, to have himself, on the earliest possible occasion, moved that this matter, which had been partly investigated before the Committee on Privileges and Elections last session, should be immediately referred to the committee this session, in order that the partially completed investigation might be proceeded with and completed. And, if the right hon. gentleman would enlighten the House as to the reasons which have induced him, during the present session, from time to time, to use the procedure of this House for the purpose of preventing me from making this motion, he will confer a favour upon a great many gentlemen in the House, who are somewhat curious as to what explanation he may have with regard to that matter. The right hon. gentleman did not content himself with using the language which I have already quoted, but he went on as follows :

I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that there is no question which can to better advantage occupy the time of this House, than that we should guard and watch carefully over the rights of the people at the polls.

And yet, during the present session, when I was willing to have this motion go, as a matter of course, as an unopposed motion, in order that the investigation might be proceeded with promptly, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, I have witnessed, with astonishment, the right hon. gentleman, from time to time, in his place, take a course which, to my mind, could only be adopted with the intention of preventing this motion being brought on promptly, and at the proper time. Then he goes on, in the same speech last session, to say :

If wrong has been done in these elections nobody ought to be shielded. If any one has contravened the law, it is fair and right that this should be investigated, and that we should know now henceforth and for ever, that the will of the people must be expressed as the people wish to express it, however severe the consequences may be on one side or the other.

I may be mistaken, of course, as to the right hon. gentleman's views during the present session, but looking at the action he has taken, I would not regard him as now entertaining quite the same views as those expressed in the quotation I have just read. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), on the same occasion, was equally emphatic. He said, referring to myself, and to the speech which I delivered in this House on that occasion, and referring to it for the purpose of criticism :

I think it would have become him far better had he made a simple statement of the case and on its merits asked what he would have unquestionably have obtained at once, a full and complete reference of this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I fully subscribe to the doctrine that, even if you do not choose to go to the courts, this House has not divested itself, and should not divest itself, of control over its own officers. Sir, the government invite investigation.

That was the statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce on that occasion ; yet, nevertheless, the conduct of his leader, in which he has participated, does not seem to have invited, very promptly at least, any investigation during the present session. Now, it seems to me that for the purpose of having this motion adopted by the House, I need only do two things : In the first place, to read the last report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections of last session ; and in the next place, to show that it is competent to again refer this matter to that committee, that there is authority for that course. It is possible, however, that in view of the opposition which, apparently, has been developed among gentlemen on the other side of the House, and particularly on the part of the leader of the House, I shall be obliged to go

a little further and point out to the House some portions, at least, of the evidence which was adduced before the Committee on Privileges and Elections during the past session. The unanimous report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, made on August 8, 1899, is in the following words :

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections beg leave to present the following as their third report :

Your committee, under the order of reference made on the 9th day of July, 1899, have partially inquired into and investigated the conduct of the returning officer and of certain of the deputy returning officers at the last election for the electoral district of the west riding of the county of Huron.

That in so doing they have heard the testimony of ninety-nine witnesses, and have submitted interrogatories for the examination by the county court judge of the county of Huron of four witnesses ; that twenty-five sittings have been held for the purpose of taking evidence, covering seventeen days and comprising seventeen morning sessions and eight afternoon sessions ; that the committee determined to hold the last session for the examination of witnesses on Monday, the 7th day of August, 1899, and for that reason nine witnesses then in attendance for the purpose of giving evidence were discharged without examination ; twelve witnesses also failed to attend, and the attendance of three was countermanded. The proceedings of the committee being thus incomplete the committee do not feel warranted in reporting any conclusions.

Your committee therefore report herewith the evidence given by the witnesses who were examined, that the House may take such action thereon and as to continuing and completing the inquiry and investigation as may be deemed best, and they recommend that the said evidence and exhibits be printed for the use of the members of the House.

That indicates clearly that, with respect to the West Huron election, the investigation was only partially completed, and that the nine witnesses who were in attendance at the time when the committee ceased their work were sent home without being examined. It also indicates that, so far as the Brockville election is concerned, the committee were not able, at the close of the session, to take up that matter at all. The result, therefore, is that the investigation as to the West Huron election has not been completed, that witnesses have been called before the committee but not examined, and that other witnesses will be required to attend before the committee for the purpose of examination ; and that, so far as Brockville is concerned, the entire investigation still remains to be held.

Now, with regard to the course which is usually adopted in cases of this kind, there can be no doubt. I have references to some authorities on that point which I will lay before the House for the purpose of supporting my contention in that respect. In the first place, Sir John Bourinot, in his book on Parliamentary Procedure, at page 515, lays it down that this can be done. He says :

To place a committee in possession of all information necessary for inquiry, the House will order that reports and papers of a previous session be referred to the committee.

He also says :

Neither can a committee report the evidence taken before a similar committee in a previous session, except as a paper in the appendix, unless it receives authority from the House to consider it.

In volume 107 of the English Commons Journals, at page 177, there is a precedent which is very much to the point. It was there ordered in two cases, as follows :

That the minutes of the evidence taken before the select committee appointed in the last session of parliament to inquire into the present mode of assessing and collecting the income and property tax, and to consider whether any other system of levying the same, so as to render the tax more equitable, can be adopted, which were presented upon the 23rd day of this instant April, be referred to the Select Committee on Income and Property Tax.

The proceedings of a committee of the previous session were on that occasion referred to a committee of the then present session. In volume 129 of the English Commons Journals, at page 129, there is a similar precedent. It was there ordered :

That the minutes of the evidence taken before the Select Committee on Public Departments (purchases, &c.) in session 1873, be referred to the committee.

In the same volume, page 237, there is a similar case, where it was ordered :

That the report from Select Committee on Anchors, &c. (merchant service), in session 1860, and the report from the Select Committee on Chain Cables and Anchors Bill, in session 1864, be referred to the Select Committee on the Chain Cables and Anchors Bill.

In the Journals of the Senate of Canada of 1878, page 59, the same course was adopted. In that case, on motion of the Hon. Mr. Girouard, it was ordered :

That the minutes of evidence taken before the select committee appointed in the last session of parliament to inquire, amongst other matters, into all the questions relating to the purchase of the property at Fort William for a terminus to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and to send for persons, papers and records, and to examine witnesses under oath, which were presented on April 27 last, with the report of said committee, be referred to a select committee composed of the Hon. Messrs. Scott and others, to continue the investigation and to inquire into all the questions relating to the purchase of the property at Fort William for a terminus to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and to send for persons, papers and records, and examine witnesses under oath, and to report thereon with all convenient speed this session.

During the last session of this House, in 1899, at page 2480 of *Hansard*, we find that this House passed a resolution, on motion of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) :

That the evidence and proceedings before the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts

during the last session of this House respecting certain prosecutions in the province of Manitoba, be referred to the said committee appointed for the present session for further consideration.

Therefore, we have these three precedents from the English House of Commons, the precedent from the Senate in 1878, and the precedent of this House in 1899, which are direct authorities for the action which I am asking this House to take in regard to this matter at the present stage.

Now, the next question is : What did I undertake to prove when I made this motion before this House during last session, and what did I prove ? I undertook to prove, in respect to one polling section, No. 4 Colborne, that 43 or 44 electors had deposited their ballots in favour of Robert McLean, and that at the conclusion of the polling, when the ballots were counted, only 30 ballots for Robert McLean were to be found. I proved by distinct evidence before the Privileges and Elections Committee, that at that particular polling subdivision, No. 4 Colborne, 98 ballots were cast, that none of them were spoiled, that at the conclusion of the polling 68 ballots were found to be marked for Robert Holmes, and 30 were found to be marked for Robert McLean. I brought before the committee 43 men who distinctly and unequivocally swore that they had marked their ballots for Robert McLean at that election, that they had handed their ballots to the deputy returning officer, and that they believed he had deposited them in the ballot box. I also showed that 125 ballots had been delivered in the first instance to the deputy returning officer, Donald Cummings, and that twenty-seven were unused. I need not go into the various minor irregularities of the appointment of four scrutineers for Mr. Holmes at that polling place, and the disregard of the provisions of the election law in regard to giving information during the holding of the poll as to what electors had voted and what electors had not voted. These are minor things, mere irregularities, but I do wish to invite the attention of the House to the evidence which Mr. Donald Cummings, the deputy returning officer at that poll, gave in regard to this extraordinary result, namely, that 43 men marked their ballots for Mr. Robert McLean, that they believed that they were deposited in the ballot box, and that only 30 came out. At page 15 of the evidence, Mr. Donald Cummings was examined and gave the following evidence :—

Q. Were you a member of any committee?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What committee were you a member of?—A. Of the Reform committee, that is, for the division. I was chairman.

Q. You were chairman of the division?—A. Yes.

Q. That is for what district?—A. No. 4. The same district in which he was deputy returning officer. At page 18 he gives the following evidence :

Q. Mr. McManus told us that instead of destroying the counterfoils you put them into your pocket?—A. Yes.

It must be borne in mind in this connection that there is a clear and distinct provision of the election law, a copy of which was furnished to this officer, that he should detach and destroy the counterfoils. That provision is contained in section 46 of the Dominion Elections Act, and is in the following words :

The elector, on receiving the ballot paper, shall forthwith proceed into one of the compartments of the polling station, and there mark his ballot paper, marking a cross or crosses with a pencil on the white circular space or spaces opposite to the name or names of the candidate or candidates for whom he intends to vote, and shall then fold up such ballot paper so that the initials on the back can be seen without opening it, and hand it to the deputy returning officer, who shall, without unfolding it, ascertain by examining his initials and the number upon the counterfoil, that it is the same which he furnished to the elector, and shall first detach and destroy the counterfoil, and shall then immediately, and in the presence of the elector, place the ballot paper in the ballot box.

These were the printed instructions furnished to this deputy returning officer. Previously to Mr. Cummings's examination the committee had been made aware by the evidence of one of the scrutineers, James McManus, that the deputy returning officer on this occasion had not destroyed the counterfoils, but that he had put every one of them into his pocket instead. Mr. Cummings is being examined at page 18 in regard to that, and he gave the evidence which I have just quoted. On the same page his examination continues :

Q. You didn't destroy them because you didn't want the litter upon the floor?—A. That is one reason.

Q. And the rest of the reasons?—A. There is no other reasons.

Q. This one of them is the only one you've got. What kind of building was this poll held in?—A. Temperance hall.

Q. Temperance hall?—A. Yes.

Q. Was the floor in very good condition?—A. Yes.

Q. Quite clean?—A. Yes.

Q. What is it used for, what is this building used for?—A. It is not used for anything in particular now, excepting for public meetings or anything of that kind.

Q. Had the floor been recently washed?—A. It was clean.

Q. Very clean?—A. No answer.

Q. Was there any one smoking there?—A. Yes.

Q. Any one spitting over the floor?—A. I expect so.

Q. Were you smoking yourself?—A. Yes.

Q. Where did you expectorate?—A. On the floor, I suppose.

Q. You thought the floor would be more soiled by the counterfoils than by the expectoration, is that the idea?—A. No.

Q. What was the idea, why were you more particular about the counterfoils than about spitting on the floor?—A. I will tell you the reason why. I have seen these counterfoils spread on the floor before when I was acting

as scrutineer, and I thought it littered the whole floor up, and I took another plan.

Q. That was on a previous occasion?—A. Yes.

Q. And what had been the result of that?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. Anything serious in consequence?—A. I do not think it.

Q. No serious consequences has resulted. You did not understand that it was your duty to destroy these counterfoils?—A. I certainly destroyed them when I tore them off.

Q. I beg pardon?—A. I destroyed them when I tore them off the ballots.

Q. You did not destroy them when you put them in your pocket?—A. I did not put them in the fire.

Q. Now, you tore off the counterfoil with which hand?—A. With the right hand.

Q. What did you do with it then?—A. I put it into my pocket.

I merely quote this evidence in justice to the deputy returning officer to see whether it is possible to gather from his evidence any reasonable explanation as to why he had not fulfilled the requirement of the law and destroyed these counterfoils on tearing them off instead of putting them in his pocket. At page 20, another attempt is made to get some explanation from him and with this result :

Q. You say that you took these counterfoils home with you?—A. Yes.

Q. And how long after you got them home did you destroy them?—A. That same night.

Q. You didn't litter up your floor with them, I suppose?—A. I put them in the stove.

Q. There was not any stove at the polling place, I suppose?—A. Yes.

Q. There was a stove there?—A. Yes.

Q. There was no particular difficulty about putting them in the stove at the polling place?—A. No.

Q. No difficulty?—A. No.

Q. That never occurred to you?—A. No.

Q. You did not understand it was your duty to destroy the counterfoils?—

I direct the particular attention of the House to his answer volunteered to this question :

—A. There was no fire in the stove, that was all.

Q. There was no fire there at all?—A. No, not that day.

Q. On the 21st of February?—A. Oh, yes, I suppose there was a fire.

Q. And there would be no difficulty in burning them?—A. No, I don't think there was any trouble to burn them there; I could have burned them there as well as at home.

Q. You are satisfied there was a fire there?—A. Yes.

Q. Why did you say there was not; you just thought it a good answer?—A. No, I don't know.

Q. Did you understand it was your duty to destroy these counterfoils?—A. Yes.

Q. And you didn't destroy them?—A. I certainly destroyed them.

Q. You didn't destroy them when you tore them off?—A. In that way.

Q. You didn't destroy them?—A. I tore them off the ballot.

Q. You didn't destroy them?—A. That was destroying them to that extent.

Q. You consider that tearing the counterfoil is destroying them?—A. I do.

Q. I thought you said you destroyed them at home?—A. I burned them at home.

Q. Then your conclusion is that you destroyed them at the polling booth and burned them at home?—A. No, not at all.

Q. And do you persist in your assertion that taking them off the ballot is destroying them?—A. I don't understand that.

What I suggest in regard to that is, that the witness does not seem to have given any very reasonable explanation of his conduct in not destroying these ballots, although he admits he understood it was his duty to do so. Now, the next portion of the evidence of this witness to which I will direct the attention of the House is, that the thirty ballots which were marked for Robert McLean were issued by Donald Cummings, the deputy returning officer, according to his sworn statement, and were initialled by him in pencil. His evidence with regard to that is to be found on page 31, and also on pages 29 and 30. I read from page 31, where counsel in dealing with the witness, sums up the result of the examination to be found on pages 29 and 30. My hon. friend (Mr. Powell) examines the witness as follows :

Q. Now, each and every one of these initials 'D. C.' on the back of these ballots I have now shown you of series 4 is in your handwriting?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And, of course, placed by you on the back of these ballots by yourself?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. These thirty ballots I have just shown you are all for McLean, are they not?—A. I did not look at that.

Q. Well, look, please, series 4, 1 to 30 inclusive. You have looked over them?—A. I have. I find them all marked for McLean.

There you have thirty ballots of that series which are all the ballots found marked for Mr. McLean. You have this witness admitting that his signature 'D. C.' on the back of them is in his handwriting and in pencil. On pages 32 and 33, you have the evidence of the witness with regard to fourteen somewhat peculiar ballots, which were marked for Mr. Holmes, which are initialled in ink, and which are somewhat plainly distinguishable from the others. I will have to trouble the House to listen to a little of the evidence with respect to these fourteen ballots. The witness is at first taken over each one of these ballots, and his attention is called to their appearance of certain ballots, and his evidence on this point is as follows :

Q. Now, will you look over these fourteen ballots and see if that is not true of every ballot of these fourteen, that that line to the right hand of the name of Holmes is straight and not jagged, clear and well defined?—A. Square.

Q. That line to the right of the name of 'Holmes'?—A. That is straight.

Q. Now, I will go over them. That is perfectly straight, nothing jagged in that line to the right of 'Holmes' (No. 14)?—A. Nothing.

Then he is taken over the other remaining eighty-four ballots. The House will remember that there were ninety-eight ballots which were marked; thirty being found marked for McLean and sixty-eight being

marked for Holmes. Counsel has dealt with fourteen of these ballots, and has pointed out certain peculiarities connected with them, and the witness is taken over the remaining eighty-four ballots, and he is asked about them in this way :

Q. Then, from 1 to 14, inclusive, of series 3 of Holmes' ballots the line to the right of Holmes' space is straight and definite, and not jagged?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, sir, I ask you to take the remaining eighty-four ballots and see if you can find any that are not jagged in various places. Now, sir, we take this, that is jagged, is it not?—A. Yes.

Counsel takes the witness over every one of these ballots and sums up the result of his examination by this question :

Q. Then, every ballot there which is deposited for Mr. Holmes, with the exception of these fourteen that are marked in ink, are jagged so far as the line to the right of the name 'Holmes' is concerned. Is that true?—A. Yes.

Q. And the fourteen are not ragged or jagged, but the line is clear, definite, straight and distinct?—A. Yes, so far as I could judge.

Therefore, you have fourteen ballots of these found in the box which are plainly distinguished in this respect, but not in this respect alone, as I will point out further on. They are plainly distinguished with regard to the appearance of the line near the printed name, from the eighty-four which constitute the remainder of the entire ninety-eight. Further than that, the attention of this same witness was directed to the twenty-seven unused ballots, and this question was put to him in summing up the result of the examination :

Q. Now, there is not an unused ballot but has also the edge to the right of 'Holmes' ragged?—A. No, not that I can see.

Therefore, the result is that fourteen ballots are found in this box which are entirely distinct in appearance in the respects which I have mentioned from the remaining eighty-four ballots, and are entirely distinct from the twenty-seven unused ballots which in every respect conform to the eighty-four ballots constituting the remainder of the ninety-eight ballots. In other words we have the twenty-seven unused ballots and eighty-four of the ballots in the box exactly alike, and corresponding with each other in every respect. We have fourteen ballots marked in ink, not in pencil, which did not correspond in appearance at all with either the twenty-seven unused ballots or with the remaining eighty-four ballots which were found marked in the box. Counsel had dealt in the same way with the thirty ballots, which were found marked for McLean, and had showed that these corresponded exactly with the unused ballots, and with these which we regard as ballots legitimately cast for Mr. Holmes; and did not at all correspond with the fourteen exceptional ballots to which I have already referred. The examination continues as follows at page 34 :

Q. Then, sir, of all the votes, of all the ballots that you got, the only ones in which the line is unbroken and clear and distinct are these fourteen that are endorsed by you in ink?—A. Yes, as far as I can see.

Q. Sir, doesn't it strike you as a peculiar thing that of all the ballots in the box the only ones different from the others should be marked for Mr. Holmes and should be of the few that are endorsed by you in ink?—A. I cannot account for it.

Q. You cannot account for this?—A. No.

Q. Now, on your oath can't you account for it?—A. No, sir.

Then counsel proceeds to point out to witness another very significant fact; an extraordinary fact in connection with these fourteen ballots, namely: not only are they distinguishable from the remaining eighty-four which were marked, and from the twenty-seven unused ballots, by the printing, but they are also of absolutely distinct and different paper—a fact which was not only proved by the evidence of an expert, but was admitted over and over again by the evidence of Mr. Cummings himself, which I now propose to read. My friend Mr. Powell proceeds with the witness as follows:—

Q. Now, I will call your attention to another thing. I will just call your attention to these fourteen ballots now. Now, sir, Mr. Cummings, will you please look at these as I place them out before you. (Series 3). Mr. Cummings, just leave them down there. Now, I call your attention to these. These are Mr. Holmes's ballots. I will take some of the Holmes's ballots of series 3. Now, I will take them at random and I just want you to see them. Now, sir, I have taken these at random. There should be fourteen there. Now, sir, I call your attention to this. Don't you see that these are different papers, that the fourteen ballots are of different paper entirely from the others? Now, sir?—A. Yes.

Q. Yes, they are. The witness says: yes, they are. That is in your judgment, of course?—A. Yes.

Q. In your judgment the fourteen papers that I have called your attention to as being endorsed in ink, that you have sworn practically are endorsed in ink, are on different paper from the rest of them deposited for Mr. McLean and Mr. Holmes and the unused ballots?—A. Yes.

Q. Different paper and lighter coloured?—A. Lighter paper. They don't show through so much.

Q. Different and lighter—the 14, the 14 numbered from 1 to 14;—3-1 to 3-14 inclusive. Now just tell me, Mr. Cummings, you say these 14 numbered 'series 3, 1 to 14,' are lighter and on heavier paper than the rest, in your eyes?—A. Yes, in my judgment.

Q. Lighter and heavier?—A. Yes, whiter and heavier.

Q. That is your judgment and there is no question about that?—A. No.

Then, counsel proceeds with an examination on a further point of difference, and he sums up the result of that examination in this way:

Q. Then on each one of these 14 ballots of series 3, numbered from 1 to 14 inclusive, you can detect a mark, a line rather, near the bottom of the disc opposite Holmes' name, extend-

ing on each side of the disc, but not running through it; that is correct, is it not?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, I would ask you if you can see the same mark on any of these others?—A. No.

The result of that evidence seems to be perfectly clear and distinct, that this witness, when the fourteen ballots are placed before him, admits that these fourteen ballots are different from the eighty-four marked ballots and the twenty-seven unused ballots, in respect to certain peculiarities in the printing and the paper. The paper on which these fourteen ballots is printed is of a different texture and colour from the paper of the other ballots. Certain other marks to which counsel calls the attention of the witness, are apparent on the fourteen ballots, and not on the others. On page 36, the witness gives this evidence in reply to further questions of my hon. friend, Mr. Powell:

Q. Then you are satisfied in your own mind, are you not, that all the ballots of series 3, from Nos. 1 to 14 inclusive, are different paper to the rest of the ballots?—A. In my judgment.

Q. I suppose you are no judge of paper to go into these stubs?—A. No.

Q. Now Mr. Cummings, you have already sworn that these initials on the back of all these ballots are in your handwriting?—A. Yes.

Q. There is no question about that?—A. No question.

Q. And how do you account for that fact, sir, that 14 of these ballots, marked for Mr. Holmes are endorsed in ink when none of Mr. McLean's are initialled in ink, and that these 14 are on different paper and apparently printed with a different machine? How do you account for that?—A. I cannot tell you.

Then, on page 37, the witness gives practically the same evidence. As it is short, I may trouble the House to listen to it:

Q. Now I put this question to you, Mr. Cummings, in view of all the facts that you have given to us only this morning, about these ballots: will you swear, sir, that a single one of these 14 ballots were taken by you from that parcel of ballots that was given to you, and the remnants of which are here?—A. I cannot positively swear.

It must be borne in mind that he says the initials on the back are his, and that he counted these ballots for Mr. Holmes, and yet he says he cannot say that a single one of these fourteen ballots was taken from the pad which was delivered to him. The fourteen ballots taken from that pad must have been disposed of in some way, and they are unaccounted for unless these are the identical ones; but he says he cannot undertake to swear that a single one of these fourteen ballots was taken by him from that pad of 125 ballots delivered to him by the returning officer. His evidence goes on:

Q. You cannot swear?—A. No.

Q. You won't swear a single one of these fourteen ballots was taken by you from that bundle?—A. I cannot distinguish one ballot from the other. I cannot swear that.

Q. You cannot swear that?—A. No, I cannot swear that.

Q. Even the fact of the initials being on the back of them does not convince you that one of these 14 was taken from that bundle?—A. It must have been so. It must have come off the ballots.

Q. Will you swear it did, sir?—A. I would not swear either ways.

Q. You would not swear either way?—A. No.

Q. Reflect again. Are you prepared to swear, sir, from your initials on the back of the ballots, of those ballots, that a single one of these 14 ballots were received by you from the returning officer?—A. Well, I can swear it, because they must have been taken off the bundle I got in the ballot box. It appears to me from the difference in the paper and the lines you are showing to me that is the only difference, a very slight difference in some cases. I cannot swear positively.

Q. I will put the question at greater length. Considering the fact that each and every one of these 14 ballot papers is marked for Mr. Holmes, that it is endorsed in ink, that the ballot is on different paper and that the printing of it is apparently different on account of the jagged line, in view of these circumstances, sir, are you prepared to say that you got a solitary one of these 14 ballots from the returning officer?—A. I cannot swear that.

Q. You cannot swear that?—A. No.

Q. Cannot swear it. Now, sir, if you are not prepared to swear that you did get them from the returning officer, would you please tell me where you might have got them?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. You cannot tell me?—A. No, I must have got them from the returning officer. That is my judgment in my respect.

Q. Are you not satisfied in your own mind that these are not the ballot papers that you gave the voters that went in to vote?—A. They would appear to be the ballots, I gave them.

Q. Don't you think the appearances are all the other way?—A. As far as my judgment is concerned.

Q. You have sworn these are your signatures?—A. Yes.

Then, at the bottom of page 38, his attention is directed to another very extraordinary matter in connection with these ballots. The fourteen ballots which were not only on different paper, but printed by a different machine were all marked with crosses practically in the same place and in the same way. There was no divergence as to the place or character of the mark. They bore the appearance of ballots which had been all marked by the same person at the same time, and the witness practically admits that. His evidence with regard to it is as follows:

Q. The crosses opposite Holmes's name in the 14 ballots of series 3 from 1 to 14 are pretty nearly uniform?—A. Yes.

Q. Apparently made by the one person, are they not, apparently?—A. Not much difference.

Q. And these 14 others, taken at random from Holmes's ballots, vary, big and little?—A. Some of them vary, but some not; there is one.

Q. And here is another, and here are some big and more little?—A. Yes, there is a little variation in some of them.

Then, further down he says:

Q. Then all of the ballots, and I have them all here, that are endorsed by you in ink, the

fourteen from 1 to 14 inclusive, are marked very uniformly with 'X'?—A. Yes.

Then, further on in the same page he says:

Q. In view of that fact, of that additional fact, are you not of the belief that the ballots that you have returned here are not the ballots given you by the returning officer, so far as numbers 1 to 14 in series 3 go?—A. Yes, they appear to be different.

Any yet they bear his own initials:

Q. They appear to be different, and you do not believe now that these are the same ballots that the returning officer gave you?—A. I cannot swear to it.

Any yet they bear his own initials:

Q. That is your belief?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, sir, if it is your belief that these are not the ballots that the returning officer gave you, how do you account for their being changed?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. You cannot tell me?—A. No.

Then, on page 40 he is examined further with regard to the identity of these ballots with those which he received from the returning officer:

Q. Now, sir, are you not absolutely satisfied that those fourteen ballots never came from the returning officer in that block?—A. I do not know.

And yet they bear his own initials:

Q. Are you not satisfied?—A. They appear to be different.

Q. Are you not now satisfied?—A. Yes, I am.

Q. That these fourteen ballots did not come from the returning officer, and are you not satisfied that you never tore the fourteen ballots out of that book?—A. I am not.

Q. You see how evenly that is trimmed there?—A. Yes.

Q. And you see how even the other end is trimmed?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, if these were removed from these stubs, can you conceive how it is possible for them to be wider than the stub, being in a book, fastened together, and trimmed with a machine?—A. I could not tell.

Q. No doubt of that; are you not satisfied that these fourteen ballots never were taken by you out of that book?—A. It would appear so.

Q. Are you not satisfied, sir, in your own mind they never were taken out of that book?—A. I could not swear to it.

Q. You would not like to swear positively to it, but I want your best judgment on it?—A. My judgment is that they vary.

Q. That they are different and could not come out of that book?—A. They are different.

Q. You are satisfied of that?—A. Yes.

Q. You are satisfied they could not have come out of that book, there is no question about that; now, Mr. Cummings, if you are satisfied as to that, I want you to explain to the committee how these fourteen ballots have your initials on the back?—A. I cannot explain it.

Q. You are satisfied they never came out of that book?—A. To my judgment.

Q. You have told me you are satisfied these fourteen ballots did not come out of that book; had you any other source of getting ballots than that book?—A. No.

Q. Then, sir, how are you prepared to explain, if you are satisfied they did not come out of that book and you had no other way to get ballots, how are you prepared to explain that your initials are on the back?—A. I cannot explain it.

Q. You have no explanation?—A. No.

Q. You are satisfied they didn't come out of the book?—A. According to my judgment.

Q. You have sworn positively these are your initials on the back?—A. They appear to be.

Q. And still you can't give this committee any explanation as to how your initials come to be on the back of the illegitimate ballots?—A. No.

That is all of the evidence of Mr. Cummings, to which I think I need refer.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Does the hon. gentleman leave the House on that point under the impression that his conclusion is that those were Cummings's initials?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He swore they were.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is the conclusion the hon. gentleman draws?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If my hon. friend will point out to me any portion of the evidence—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I just wanted to know if that is your conclusion?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes, that to the best of his knowledge and belief, those are his initials on the back of the ballots. I have read his evidence and am not discussing it, or saying what conclusion shall be gathered from it. I only point out that I undertook to prove certain matters in connection with this particular polling booth last year, and I am pointing to some evidence, on direct examination at least, which the deputy returning officer himself gave.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was not calling that in question, but I was only drawing attention to the single point on which the hon. gentleman dwelt, to show that Cummings admitted that the initials were his. My recollection is that that was not his final conclusion.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I think that the hon. gentleman is under a misapprehension as to what I have been doing. I have not been stating the effect of the witness's evidence, but quoting his language as taken from the evidence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman interlarded comments of his own. I am not saying that I object to that.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I interlarded nothing, except this, that I said that these are his own initials, and in support of that I read his own language. It may possibly be that at some place in his examination by Dr. Russell, or the hon. gentleman himself, Cummings qualified that in some way. But, if so, it does not, in the slightest degree affect the point I am making.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

I also wish to draw the attention of the House to the evidence of Mr. James Harvey. I cannot do better than read the evidence itself, so far as it is relevant to this. It is very brief. It will be found at page 318:

Q. Will you tell us what your occupation is?—A. I am a papermaker.

Q. A papermaker, yes, and in whose employ?—A. Mr. E. B. Eddy's.

Q. Who are the foremen of the papermaking works?—A. My father, Mr. Thomas Harvey, sr., and myself.

Q. Mr. Thomas Harvey, sr., your father, and yourself are the foremen, and who has to do with the making of the paper of the requisite thickness and weight and quality and everything else?—A. I do.

Q. Then, orders will come in to you with a sample, a piece of paper, and you have to make paper of the same weight and thickness?—A. Yes. Some orders require only weight, some only thickness, and some require both.

Q. And the thickness of paper, then, is a thing that comes frequently under your notice?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Very frequently?—A. Every day.

Q. Have you any means of judging infallibly the thickness of paper?—A. I have.

Q. Have you any instrument for that purpose?—A. I have.

Q. What is that instrument known as?—A. As a micrometer.

Q. And have you got that instrument with you?—A. I have.

Q. Produce it, please?—A. I have one, we have two different kinds. We have one that is more sensitive than this, that we use on very highly finished paper, but on rough paper you cannot use that; on rough paper we use this.

Q. I will just show you this. Now, sir, will you tell us, here are fourteen ballots; I would like to know the thickness of the paper in that ballot. That is No. 3-10?—A. That is four one-thousandths thick?

Q. Four one-thousandths of an inch?—A. This micrometer is graduated to one one-thousandth of an inch, thus each one mark makes one one-thousandth, two makes two one-thousandths. Here is the paper where there is no printing, and I screw it right down here and you see there is just four points.

Then he goes over these fourteen ballots, and he shows that practically, I think with one exception, they are all 4-1,000ths and that one exception is 3-1,000ths of an inch. And then he takes the remaining eighty-four ballots that were marked, and the twenty-seven ballots that were unused, and he takes the stubs of the ninety-eight ballots that were used, and he measures every one of these, and he finds that each one of them is 2.1,000ths of an inch. So that you have this expert proving by an instrument, which he himself, in his uncontradicted evidence, declares to be infallible, that these fourteen ballots are double the thickness, not only of the remaining eighty-four, and of the twenty-seven unused ballots, but also of the ninety-eight stubs, from some fourteen of which these fourteen ballots were supposed to have been taken, making it as clear and distinct as evidence can make it, that these fourteen ballots never did come off any fourteen of

these ninety-eight stubs. The witness was recalled for cross-examination at page 466, and his cross-examination amounted to very little. My learned colleague (Mr. Russell), asked him these questions :

Q. Are these machines you use for testing the thickness of paper not susceptible to mistake on account of the wearing of the thread?—A. No, because there is an arrangement for adjusting them. I always prove them to see if they are right before using them.

Q. How do you prove them?—A. By seeing that that '0' comes to the mark. I see that there is nothing in there before I use them—no dust or anything, and if the thread does, by any chance, get worn, you can see it and adjust it by the screw. They are infallible to the one-thousandth part of an inch.

It seems to me that the evidence of this expert, which only corroborates in that respect the evidence of Cummings himself, reveals a most extraordinary state of affairs, and one which may well demand further investigation at the hands of the committee. You have 125 ballots given this deputy returning officer, Mr. Cummings; you have ninety-eight of those used; you have sixty-eight ballots found at the close of the poll, marked for Mr. Holmes; you have thirty at the close of the poll found marked for Mr. McLean; you have forty-three men coming before the committee and swearing that they marked their ballots for Mr. McLean. Thirteen of those ballots have in some way disappeared; fourteen of those found in the box differ from the remaining eighty-four ballots, and from the twenty-seven unused ballots, and from the stubs, in colour, thickness and appearance. And it is proved by the uncontradicted testimony of an expert witness that these fourteen ballots so different in appearance, never came off any of the ninety-eight stubs which were produced before the committee and examined by this expert. Now, if, as the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who leads the House, told us last year, the sanctity of the ballot and the rights of the people are matters of grave concern, surely, a circumstance such as that I have detailed demands further investigation by a committee of this House.

Now, I pass from that to poll No. 3 in the town of Goderich, where even a more peculiar condition of affairs is found to exist. In that poll, 118 men voted and 123 ballots came out of the box.

Mr. FOSTER. This is the growing time.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Seventy-two of these ballots were marked for Holmes, 40 were marked for McLean, 10 were not marked at all, 1 was rejected by the deputy returning officer, 2 were destroyed, and 53 ballots were unused, making a total of 178, the number delivered to the deputy returning officer in the first instance. Of the 123 ballots which came out of the box, 72 were marked for Holmes, 40 for McLean, 10 were not marked at all, and 1

was rejected, making a total of 123. Now, 35 men appeared before the committee and swore that they had marked their ballots for McLean and delivered them to the deputy returning officer, James Farr. Nine more men were in attendance to give evidence on that point, when the committee decided that it would hear no more evidence. Some 10 other men have made declarations, which were in my hands before the committee, to the effect that they marked their ballots also for Robert McLean. So you have from 53 to 55 men, who have either sworn or made solemn declaration that they had marked their ballots for Robert McLean and delivered them to the deputy returning officer James Farr, whereas only 40 ballots marked for McLean were found in the box at the close of the poll. Now, a subpoena was issued for Farr on the very first day when subpoenas were called for before the committee. It was found impossible to effect service upon him. There has been a discussion about that in the newspapers, into which I do not intend to enter. It is sufficient for me to say that he could not be found, and some evidence was given as to the reason why he could not be found. With reference to what took place at the poll in that polling subdivision, I would like to refer, very briefly, to the evidence of Henry R. Armstrong at page 321. He was the poll clerk and he swears that none of the agents for either candidates were sworn before the polling began, though an entry was made in the poll book by the deputy returning officer that they had been sworn. Now, at page 322, he produces the official record, and he is asked how many electors voted at the polling division, and he answers as I have stated, 118. And at page 323, he is asked how many ballots came out of the box :

Q. How many were marked for McLean that were counted?—A. Forty.

Q. How many for Holmes that were counted?—A. Seventy-two.

Q. How many ballots do you say that had no mark on them that came out?—A. Ten.

Q. And how many ballots came out that were rejected?—A. One.

Q. Now, would you please just total that up for me. It is 123, the Chairman says, but I want you to make sure of it yourself. Forty for McLean, seventy-two for Holmes, ten not marked, one rejected?—A. Fifty-three.

Q. The fifty-three did not come out of the box?—A. One rejected.

Q. That is 123, is it not?—A. That is 123.

Q. Yes, then, sir, you state that 123 ballots came out of that box?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, how many went in, from your record, turn back here?—A. One hundred and eighteen.

So that 5 ballots, at least, got into that ballot box which were, apparently, not delivered to the deputy returning officer by any of the voters. Then the witness gives evidence at pages 324-5, with regard to certain marks on the ballots to which I need not direct the attention of the House. But at page

326, the following evidence is given—the Farr referred to being the deputy returning officer :

Q. Did you see, sir, Mr. Farr have any ballots on the window-sill in the room at any time during that day?—A. About four o'clock in the afternoon he got up from his seat, walked out towards the stove, and then from there he went over towards one of the windows on the south side of the building, and he stood there. I was busy reading the paper, there was nothing doing, and the voters slackened up for the afternoon, and I was reading the paper and just happened to see him at the window-sill; he had a lot of papers on the window-sill. I cannot say what they were, but I think they were stubs; I cannot say. I paid no attention to that because I did not think there was anything wrong at the time.

Q. You paid no attention to it?—A. No, I did not.

Q. Didn't you tell your wife that Farr told you he made thirteen or fourteen ballots during the afternoon for Mr. Holmes.

Question objected to by Mr. Russell.

Q. Did Mr. Farr tell you anything to that effect?—A. At half-past one that day my dinner was brought down, and about half-past one I got off the chair and went over to a small table in the rear where I was sitting. I put the basket upon the table and commenced to take my dinner, and made the remark to Farr, 'I guess they have forgotten to bring your dinner.' I said, 'I guess you had better come and have some with me.'

Q. What did he say?—A. He came over and sat beside me.

Q. Did he say anything?—A. He made the remark to me.

Q. What was it, now?—A. 'There were thirteen damn good ballots in that box for Holmes.'

By the Chairman:

Q. There were thirteen?—A. Thirteen; I didn't understand what he meant by it at the time.

Q. You didn't understand what he meant by it at the time?—A. No, I didn't understand.

Then Mr. R. W. Clark gives evidence, at page 339-40. He says that he was one of the representatives or agents of Robert McLean at the poll, and he observed Farr at the window during the afternoon :

Q. During the day did you observe Mr. Farr at any of the windows?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Which window was it?—A. It was the south-east window.

Q. What did you observe while he was at the window?—A. Well, I noticed that he had some papers out on the window-sill, and I noticed that in the lot there was ballots among them.

Q. What you saw was that he had those papers on the window-sill?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did he seem to be doing with them, or what was he doing with them?—A. I don't know, unless he was examining them.

Q. How far was he away from you?—A. He was pretty near the width of this room, I should judge.

Q. Had he his back or his face towards you?—A. His back.

Q. How could you see the ballots in that case?—A. I could see them from the side, as it were.

Q. He had his back directly towards you?—A. No, there was room to see the window-sill at the side.

Q. Was he there any length of time?—A. Oh, for a few minutes. I could not say how long.

Q. Were you out in the hall at any time during the day?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

Q. The hall is represented here (showing sketch)?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was any one else there while you were in the hall?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who were they?—A. Mr. Farr and Mr. Yates.

I omit such portions of the evidence as are immaterial :

Q. Did anything take place while you were in that hall with regard to the ballots?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What took place?—A. I picked up a ballot marked for Holmes with Farr's initials on, as I supposed. I stooped down and picked up the ballot, and said, 'Here, Farr, what does this mean?' He grabbed the ballot out of my fingers before I had time to do anything myself, and he tore it up and threw the pieces down. I said, 'What does that mean?' and he said, 'Oh, hell, there was lots of them round town yesterday,' and Yates said, 'Yes, I seen them, too,' that is the expression he used.

Q. The ballot which you picked up was lying on the floor?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You saw it had initials on it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. His initials on it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you say from observation—had you seen him write, had you seen him make his initials?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you observe the initials on this ballot sufficiently to say, to enable you to say whether in your belief they were his initials?—A. Well, I would not say that, they were his initials all right, but I would not say it was his writing.

Q. And the ballot was marked on front for McLean, you say?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You said Holmes all right?—A. Well, it was a mistake then.

Q. Was the ballot marked for McLean or Holmes?—A. For McLean.

He also gives evidence on page 340 with regard to the counting of the ballots at the close of the polls, but I do not think that I need trouble the House with that. Now, some evidence was given before the committee as to the reasons which prevented the service of a subpoena upon Mr. Farr and prevented his attendance before the committee. The evidence, in brief, is that on the day after this matter was brought up in the House last year, Mr. Farr, who was then employed in a fairly lucrative position in Toronto, threw up his situation and left Toronto for a time, and for some weeks after that he practically kept in hiding for the avowed purpose of evading the service of a subpoena which would bring him before this committee. It is also clear from the evidence that during that same time he was in communication with a gentleman named James Vance, who was said to be a political organizer in the interest of the party of which the hon. gentlemen opposite are exponents; in fact, I think one witness goes so far as to state that Mr. Vance is assistant organizer to Mr. Alexander Smith, the chief organizer of the Liberal party in the province of Ontario. But I am not particularly concerned with that, I am only concerned with the fact that there should be a further opportunity given of securing the evidence of Mr. Farr and Mr. James Vance before this committee. To indicate that Mr. Farr's evidence before that committee

would probably be more or less pertinent, in fact I may say very pertinent, to the matters as to which the committee is to inquire, I refer to the evidence of Mr. Joseph Kidd, on page 336. He was acquainted with Mr. Farr and had some conversation with him respecting his conduct at this election as deputy returning officer. Joseph Kidd is in the employ of D. W. Thompson & Co., of Toronto. He says he knows James Farr, he says that James Farr was in the employ for some time of that same firm, D. W. Thompson & Co. Then he goes on to testify :

Q. Do you remember about what time he left ?
—A. It was some time in July.

Q. Did you have any conversation with him before he left in regard to his going ?—A. Yes.

Q. What was it ?—A. Oh, I saw him—he had left about a week before that and came back to get his pay—I saw him ; I asked him where he was going ; oh, he said, he was knocking around the country ; had been in Ottawa and had been in Goderich, and I told him he had got himself into a nice box, there was crooked work up in West Huron. Then, oh, let me see now—he, of course, denied doing anything wrong ; I asked him what he was going to do, and he said he had a ticket for North Dakota, at any rate he took it from his pocket, showed it to me, it was for North Dakota. I didn't examine it ; said he had a cheque for \$500, and I think that is about all the conversation that took place between us.

Q. Said he had a cheque for \$500 ?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you where he got the cheque for \$500 ?—A. No.

Q. From whom he got it ?—A. No.

Q. Did he say anything to you as to the cause of his leaving the employ of Thompson & Company and going away ?—A. Well, not at that time ; I had a conversation with him before he left, the morning that I read in the paper of the matter being brought up in the House here at Ottawa. I went in and twitted him with it, and he, of course, denied then doing anything wrong ; but he did not at any time say anything to me about the cause of his going away ; he simply quit next day and came back on Saturday to get his pay when I had the other conversation with him.

Further down, the same witness says :

Q. The next time you talked with him he told you he had been in Ottawa and Goderich ?—A. Yes.

Q. And told you he had a cheque for \$500 and a ticket for somewhere in Dakota ?—A. North Dakota.

Q. Did you see it ?—A. He pulled the ticket out of his pocket.

Q. Did you see the cheque ?—A. No.

Another witness, James Nelson, gave evidence to be found at page 472. This witness also knew Farr, and had some conversation with him respecting the same matter. He gives this evidence :

He (Mr. Farr) went home on the 14th. It was the 14th he was talking about going home, he went home on the Thursday and then he came back on Friday.

Q. Did you see him on Friday ?—A. I saw him on Friday at supper time.

Q. Did you have any talk with him ?—A. Not just then, but after supper we went up to the

bedroom and he showed me a ticket which he said a man by the name of Vance gave him. First he had said that his brother gave it to him ; then he said Vance gave it to him, and he said it was for North Dakota, but it was not. It was from St. Paul, Minnesota, to Chicago, and from Chicago to Hamilton, and from Hamilton to Toronto. Some said the ticket was no good. Of course, I don't know that, and he had a check on his trunk for Hamilton, North Dakota. He said his trunk was there.

At page 473 he gives evidence as follows :

Q. Did you have any conversation with him ?—A. Yes, I had a conversation with him then. I says, 'the papers claim that you are all to blame for this affair.' 'Well,' he says, 'I ain't all to blame.' He says, 'If I go down to Ottawa I will give different evidence altogether.'

Further on the same page :

Q. He didn't tell you anything else that night ?—A. No sir.

Q. Did he tell you any other night ?—A. The next night ; I didn't see him all that day. This was Saturday night. He told me about meeting his friend, and Sunday I didn't see him because I had went out with Mr. Martin to the half-way house. He was going to Brooklyn. I came back that night and Mr. Vance came down to the house.

Q. What Mr. Vance ?—A. Mr. Vance that I just mentioned.

Q. Do you know what his first name is ?—A. I don't know what his first name is.

Q. What sort of a looking man is he ?—A. A medium-sized man ; I think he has a sandy mustache. I seen him at night, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, I think he wore a straw hat.

Q. What height is he ?—A. He must be between 5 ft. 6 and 5 ft. 8, I think it is.

Q. Have you ever seen Mr. Vance before ?—A. Not before this Sunday night.

Q. Was he present at the conversation with Farr ?—A. No, sir.

Q. What did Mr. Vance do ?—A. He came down for Farr, to see if he could see Farr. He had told Farr to call on him Sunday. Vance had asked me if Farr was in, and I told him, 'No,' he had went out, but if he had a message to leave I would tell Farr when he came back. He told me, he says, 'Well, I will give you my address' and he gave me his address and said: 'When Farr comes send him up here to my house.'

Q. What address ?—A. 95 Howard Street, Toronto.

If any gentleman has a curiosity to turn up the Toronto Directory he will find that at 95 Howard Street, Toronto, Mr. James Vance resides.

I marked down the address, and when Farr came home at 12.30 I told him Vance had been down and wanted to see him and was going away that morning and wanted to see him that night, and Farr asked me if I would not take a walk up there with him and I put on my clothes and went up there with him.

Q. Up to his place ?—A. Up to his place.

Q. 95 Howard Street ?—A. 95 Howard Street.

Q. A house or office ?—A. A house, a residence and we talked about different things on the way up. I asked him about the election, and he says—I asked him, if this election was run straight would Holmes be elected, and he said 'Not on your life.'

By Mr. Russell :

Q. Who said this ?—A. Farr.

By Mr. Borden :

Q. Did he say anything else on the way up ?—

A. He didn't say anything else about it, but he went into the house and must have stayed about 20 minutes in the house.

Q. Did you go in ?—A. No, sir, he told me not to go in. He said, 'You can't go in this house with me, you had better stay out and wait till I am through.' On the way down he was speaking about the election and I said, 'That will queer you. You won't be able to get returning officer there again,' and he said, 'Oh yes, I will get to be returning officer,' and that is all I remember going down. We went to bed as soon as we got home. I seen him Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and Wednesday Vance called again.

Then on page 475 the witness gives the following evidence. He is asked about a conversation with Farr on his return from a trip though the country :

Q. Well, did you have any conversation with him about the election ?—A. No, nothing only that he said Vance had a telegram from Ottawa telling Vance to keep his man low.

And further on :

Q. Did he say anything further to you on this occasion that you remember of ?—A. No, except that he had a rough time keeping out of the way in Brooklin, Oshawa and Whitby.

Q. Now, he said he had a rough time in Oshawa, Whitby and Brooklin, keeping out of the way?—A. Yes, keeping out of the way.

Q. And was that all that took place at that conversation—was that the same day he came back, Saturday?—A. Saturday evening.

Then later on, at page 477, this witness details that at a subsequent interview Farr changed his story and told him that he had been guilty of no misconduct in connection with this election, that the ballots were very thin and that a greater number must have got in by mistake. At page 477 he gives the following evidence :

Q. As I understand you, he told you he was keeping out of the way, and had a hard time?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you think he was keeping out of the way for?—A. I thought it was Vance.

Q. You understood it was on account of Vance he was keeping out of the way?—A. Yes.

Then, a witness by the name of Harry Ross was also examined in respect to the same matter, and he gave evidence at page 394. He says that he knows Farr, and this question is put to him :

Q. Did he talk to you about it more than once?—A. Oh, yes, I was with him two or three times after he left D. W. Thompson's.

Q. You spoke of it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he give you any idea as to the reason he left?—A. Well, no he didn't, but he knew I knew, you know, and didn't say anything about the reason he left.

Q. He knew that you knew? How do you know?—A. He talked to me that way.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

Q. What did he say that indicated that you knew?—A. Well, he asked me if I knew the reason why; I told him I thought I did. I heard all about it, of course I saw it in the paper, you know.

Q. Yes; did he speak at all of what appeared in the papers to you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. He spoke of what appeared in the papers?—A. Yes.

Q. Respecting what?—A. The West Huron election.

Q. And told you that he supposed you knew why he was leaving?—A. Yes.

Q. Did this occur more than once?—A. Well, no.

Q. Did he refer to it more than once?—A. No, he didn't refer to it more than once.

Q. Not more than once?—A. No.

Q. And you told him in reply that you did understand why he was leaving?—A. Yes.

And then further down on the same page the witness said that Farr told him he had somewhere about \$500, and he would get more if he could get it. At the bottom of page 395 the witness gives evidence as to a conversation with this same man Farr subsequently when he returned to Toronto, after being away for some days :

Q. Do you know where he was living in Toronto at the time that you saw him on Church Street?—A. Yes.

Q. Where was he living in Toronto then?—A. 414 Church St.

Q. What is the number?—A. 414 Church St.

Q. And you say that was how long ago?—A. That was about the latter part of July.

Q. The latter part of July?—A. Yes.

Q. Yes, were you aware at that time that a summons had been issued for his appearance before this committee?—A. That is what he told me.

Q. He told you that a summons had been issued?—A. Yes.

Q. And what did he say about that?—A. Oh, he said he was keeping hiding. He didn't want to be served with this summons. Of course, I don't know anything about that, you know.

Q. He told you he knew a summons had been issued for his appearance here, and he was keeping out of the way and evading it?—A. I said that I didn't think he was, because he was staying in this house, and he and I went out walking.

Q. He told you that he was hiding?—A. Yes.

Then, at page 397, evidence of the same kind is given :

A. He told me he was in a bad fix, and told me it was just like being in jail, and a few things like that. You know, of course, he didn't tell me any particulars of the case that night.

Q. Well, just give it to us as definitely as you can; he told you he was in a bad fix and about the same as being in jail?—A. Yes.

Q. And what else?—A. I asked him the reason why, and he said there was a summons out for him, and he was trying to keep hid; and that was all happened that noon hour.

Q. And that he was keeping hid for what reason?—A. In case he would get the summons.

Q. So the summons would not be served on him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. When you left him he asked you to come around at night?—A. Yes.

Then, he gives evidence of the same kind of conversation that night, and we have further evidence which I will briefly quote:

Q. What did he say he had done?—A. Well, he told me he was returning officer at the election in Goderich, and told me he voted twenty-two times himself; that is about all he could tell me.

Q. He told you he had voted twenty-two times himself?—A. Yes.

Q. That was all?—A. Said he was in a bad fix, that was about all he told me.

Q. Did he give you any information as to how he voted twenty-two times himself, how he had done it?—A. No.

Q. In the conversation in the evening at his boarding-house he referred distinctly to the West Huron election, as I understand?—A. Yes.

Then, in cross-examination, at page 399, he gives exactly the same kind of evidence as to his desire to evade service of the summons. In cross-examination, at page 401, in answer to my hon. friend (Mr. Britton), he gives the following evidence:

Q. When was this conversation?—A. The first was that night. He told me that night he had voted twenty-two times. That is all I have to say.

Further down in the same page, in answer to my hon. friend (Mr. Britton), he said:

A. He told me he was in a bad fix.

Q. I would like if you would give me his words as near as you can?—A. I am doing so; he said he voted twenty-two times in the one day.

Another witness, Thomas Marshall, pages 484 to 486, gives very similar evidence which I need quote only very shortly. It is evidence of a conversation with Farr. Farr told him that he had a sum of money and a ticket for North Dakota, and that he was going away on account of his action in the West Huron election. He makes some reference to Vance at page 486:

Q. In any conversation you had with him did he make any reference to Mr. Vance?—A. Only about this ticket.

Q. What did he say about the ticket?—A. First he told me his brother gave it to him, and then on another occasion he made a remark that Vance gave it to him.

Q. Did he say anything to you about having money or expecting to get money?—A. Yes, several times.

That, Mr. Speaker, is a portion of the evidence which was advanced at the investigation before the committee last session in respect to the proceedings of the deputy returning officers at No. 4 Colborne and at No. 3 in the town of Goderich. The committee has reported that the investigation is incomplete, and I take it that the facts proved by these witnesses are an ample warrant in themselves for a continuation of that investigation and for further inquiry in respect to the matters, which, according to the report of the committee, have been clearly left in an unfinished and incomplete state. In respect to Brockville, I may further say that the case which I made

out last year was pronounced by the right hon. Premier to be a weak case, but, nevertheless, his high regard for the sanctity of the ballot, and for the honour of the House, induced him to send it to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I presume that his regard for the sanctity of the ballot, the honour of the House and the rights of the people, is not less pronounced this year than it was last year, and that therefore, it would be unnecessary for me to adduce any further evidence or to make out any better case this year than last year for the purpose of obtaining a similar resolution of the House in regard to this inquiry. But, I may say, that, in addition to what was before the House last year, I have a sworn statement which I will not read to the House at present, because I do not think it is necessary, but I will state what the purport of it is. I have a sworn statement to this effect: That an expert was employed and paid to train deputy returning officers to steal ballots and substitute forged ballots in their place at that election.

That eleven deputy returning officers, whose names are given, were so trained by that expert, and that they received 161 forged ballots for the purposes of such substitution.

That the amount to be paid to these men for each ballot which they would so substitute was, in most cases, the sum of \$5 per ballot.

That the method by which these 161 forged ballots were to be substituted for good ballots was as follows—this is the only clause of the sworn statement which I think it necessary to read, and I read it only because it corresponds so strongly, it seems to me, with the evidence I have read.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Whose affidavit is that?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). This is a sworn statement.

Mr. LANDERKIN. What date is it?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Of quite a late date.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would say whose affidavit it is.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It is the sworn statement of a man named Pritchett.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He is being investigated now.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). With regard to this matter?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. With regard to criminal proceedings.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well, that is very good. The date of this is December 29. I give it for what it is worth. I give it as an inducement why this matter should

be investigated before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I do not vouch for it. I say it is a sworn statement which this man has made, and if his sworn statement is untrue, it is right and proper that he should be prosecuted and punished severely for making such a statement. If, on the other hand, his sworn statement is true, and these men were trained to substitute ballots at the Brockville, or any other election, it is right and proper that the men who are concerned in that should also be tried and punished for their conduct in that respect.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). This is what this sworn statement says :

The deputy returning officer would keep the false ballots so that he could readily take one in his left hand when he wished to work it. When a known Conservative voter would be in the act of handing his ballot to the deputy the latter would place his left hand upon the table with a false ballot under the hand, but no counterfoil. At the same moment he could accept from the voter, with his right hand, the genuine ballot and counterfoil. He then would place the genuine ballot under the left hand fingers, as if for the purpose of tearing off the counterfoil, and with a quick motion of the right hand he would remove both genuine ballot and counterfoil, at the same moment raising the left hand and leaving on the table a ballot from which the counterfoil had apparently been just removed. He would put what he had in his right hand in his coat pocket, and then put in the box the ballot lying upon the table. This ballot, so put in the box, would be one of those previously furnished by me to the deputy, and on which I had put a cross in favour of Comstock.

Whether or not the statement in that affidavit is true, I do not know. I know that he has sworn to that statement, and I venture to make this remark in regard to his statement: That it seems to offer an explanation, which has not been previously given, of the reason why counterfoils were on so many occasions put into the pockets of deputy returning officers, during the West Huron and Brockville elections, in defiance of the plain requirements of the law; and put into the pockets of officers who on previous occasions had never seen fit to adopt any such course. I have read to this House the evidence of Mr. Cummings with regard to the reasons which induced him not to destroy the counterfoils, to refrain from destroying the counterfoils and to put them in his pocket. I venture to submit to the judgment of any reasonable man in this House: That the reasons which Mr. Cummings adduced for his conduct in that respect are absolutely inadequate and unsatisfactory. He gave as a reason in the first place: That he did not want to litter up the floor upon which men were treading with their boots coming in from the public streets; upon which they were expector-

ating; a floor for which you would not imagine he had any particular regard, as he himself admits he was expectorating over it. He gave, in the next place, the reason, that he supposed he was destroying the counterfoils when it tore them off, and in the next breath he says, he destroyed them when he went home. He gave, in the next place, the reason, that he burned them at home because he had a stove there and a fire in it, and he could not destroy them by burning in the polling booth because there was no fire in the stove. Upon his attention being directed to the fact that it was February 21, he admitted there was fire in the stove in the booth, and withdrew that reason, but gave no other reason. So, from first to last throughout his evidence, I cannot find any satisfactory or adequate reason advanced by him or any one else for his conduct in putting these counterfoils in his pocket instead of destroying them, and if my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who devoted a good deal of attention to this matter during the last session, can suggest any reason when he comes to deal with this subject, I think he would do a great service to this House. It must be borne in mind that this deputy returning officer admits, in his evidence, that the printed law was placed in his hands requiring him to destroy these counterfoils, and that he understood it was his duty to destroy them. Now, he did not destroy them, and he put them in his pocket. I read his evidence to-night in which he said that he understood it was his duty to destroy them.

Now, Sir, having regard to the report of the committee, having regard to the evidence, with which I fear I have wearied the House, and having regard to the further sworn statement, to which I have directed the attention of the House, I think I have every reason for moving: That the evidence and papers in connection with this matter should be again referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I regret that, for reasons which are not in any way due to me, and which I mentioned at the commencement of my remarks, that I have been unable to make this motion at an earlier date. I therefore move:

That all the words after the word 'that' be left out, and the following added instead thereof:—

'The poll books, voters' lists, and all other papers, letters and documents and memoranda relating to the last election for the electoral district of Brockville and the last election for the electoral district of the West Riding of the county of Huron, which were referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections during the last session of this House, and also all proceedings and evidence had, given, taken, or received, by or before the said Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections during the last session of this House, respecting

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

the matters aforesaid, be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections appointed during the present session of this House, for further consideration, and for the purpose of inquiring into and investigating the conduct of the respective returning officers and of the several deputy returning and other officers at and in connection with the said several elections respectively, and of reporting thereon with all convenient speed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Mr. Speaker, at this late hour, on the stroke of twelve, I think no useful purpose would be served by continuing the debate, and I therefore move its adjournment.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.50 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, May 14, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SUPPLIES FOR THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, the 10th instant, I asked a question of the right hon. leader of the government relating to supplies for the North-west Mounted Police, and he was good enough to say that if I would move for the papers, they would be brought down. I therefore beg to move:

That an Order of the House do issue for copies of the schedule calling for tenders for supplies for the North-west Mounted Police for the years 1897-8, 1898-9 and 1899-1900, the tenders accepted, the contracts awarded when tenders were called for, and the contracts awarded when tenders were not called for.

Motion agreed to.

OFFICIAL DEBATES OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. N. CHAMPAGNE (Wright) moved:

That the fifth report of the select standing committee appointed to supervise the official report of the debates of the House during the present session be concurred in.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I think the House is entitled to have some explanations before this report is concurred in. I am not conversant with the facts myself, but I would like to present them to the House as I understand them, because if they are as they have been represented to me, an injustice seems to have been done to an old employee of this House, Mr. Gélinas. Mr. Gélinas has been in the service of the House as a translator for some sixteen or seventeen years. A new appointment had to be made during this year to replace Mr. Dansereau, who died recently. All the applicants for the office were subjected to a competitive examination; and all the present members of the staff, with the exception of three—Mr. Beaulieu, formerly the chief of the staff, Mr. Larose, the present chief, and another gentleman who was appointed last year after a competitive examination—were also required to pass an examination. I understand that the gentlemen who are now recommended for appointment—Messrs. Achille Fortier, Flavien Moffet and Emile Tremblay—came out first in the competition. The result is the appointment of these three gentlemen by the committee. I find no fault with their appointment; it seems to be quite proper; but, I understand that it involves the removal of Mr. Gélinas, who is an old employee. If I am credibly informed, Mr. Gélinas was also found to be a competent translator, though not so competent as the three gentlemen now named for appointment. I am told that the competition was divided into three classes: Class A, representing supreme merit; Class B, a shade under, and Class C, a shade still under; but, that any one who came within any of these classes was held to be a competent translator. If Mr. Gélinas were a new man, coming up for a fresh competition, and were a degree inferior to the men who have been selected, I would have nothing to say in his favour; but, if it be true that Mr. Gélinas, though, perhaps, not so well qualified according to this examination as the three gentlemen now named for appointment, yet passed his examination successfully, and has been found to be a competent translator, I submit that in justice to an old employee, he should not be set aside in favour of another man. That is the suggestion I offer to the House, and if these representations are true, it seems to me that the sense of justice of the House will be in favour of keeping an old employee who is competent to discharge the duties of his office. These facts I have from hearsay. I have not spoken to any member of the committee in regard to the matter, but some friends of Mr. Gélinas have come to me and have presented these facts to me, and I would ask for some explanations from the members of the committee before we come to the conclusion embodied in this report.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Mr. Speaker, I happen to know some of the history of the matter referred to by the right hon. gentleman, being a member of the committee. I may say that we have had a great deal of trouble with the French *Hansard* for many years. When that committee was formed some nineteen or twenty years ago, I believe, there was no politics in the selection of the translators. In fact, though the committee was formed by a Conservative government, there were, I think, three or four translators appointed who were Liberals; but, we were looking for competent men. Unfortunately, in 1887, I believe, something happened which led a minister of the Crown to complain of some of the translators, and three of them were dismissed for political reasons. Since then politics have had something to do with these appointments. The consequence was that when the Liberals came into power in 1896, there was a great move made for friends of hon. gentlemen opposite to oust the present translators and replace them by some of their friends. I need not say that strong opposition was made to that in the committee, and it was prevented in some measure. Some of the old translators were kept, and new ones were appointed or brought in, recommended purely and simply on political grounds; and we found that a gentleman that had been recommended by the chairman of the committee knew so little about translating that for two years he never translated one line, but gave out the work to others right and left, paying them out of his own pocket, and drew his pay from the paymaster here. As complaints were coming to our committee nearly every week, we came to the conclusion that we should do something to improve the competency of that bureau. I need not say here that the French *Hansard* has not been what it should be. First of all, it is to-day over a month behind time.

Mr. MORIN. Thirty-five days.

Mr. BERGERON. With regard to the subject under discussion, I may tell the House that the translation in some cases, of the debates, has been done so badly, that we have had to get some of the speeches retranslated, about three weeks or a month after they appeared on the revised *Hansard*. We have had to get the whole translation made over again. Matters came to such a climax, that we brought before us the head of the staff, Mr. Larose, who was appointed last year, after going through a thorough examination, and who is a very competent translator, and asked him whether his men were competent to do the work. And, I may say to the House, that both sides of that committee were then united in having the business carried on independent of politics altogether. Mr. Larose came before us

and it was a sad sight to see the position in which he found himself. It seemed to us that he was afraid to speak out, because some of the translators under him are brothers-in-law of members of this House, on the opposite benches. Mr. Gélinas is a brother-in-law of the hon. member for St. James Division, Montreal (Mr. Desmarais). When we saw the position in which Mr. Larose felt himself to be, we decided that the best was to have these translators undergo a thorough examination before two gentlemen, who would act as judges, and we appointed Mr. Decelles, librarian, and Mr. Coursolles, an old translator in this House, of, I think, thirty or forty years standing, to find out the fitness of these men, irrespective of any political bias. We had these men brought into this House, and each of them was given over two pages of the debates of the Senate to translate. They were under the surveillance of our most trusted clerk, and were given two hours to do their work. Their work was then examined by two judges, during the Easter recess, and the results of these examinations were then submitted to the committee by these judges after recess. Very few passed a very good examination. The report of the judges was that they were not as satisfied as they would like to be with the work of these men, who were appointed to translate the debates, and whose work, when the volumes were bound, are sent to Paris and Brussels, and other places where the French language is spoken. We then made a scale of fitness. The best translation we called A 1, without knowing the name of the individual who did the work. In no case did we know the name, but each translator signed his work with a nom de plume. The next best translation we graded as A, and I believe there were one A 1, and two A, and four B, and then we had a scale D, &c. We put aside, altogether about seven or eight, some of whom had not finished their work, and others who had translated as if they did not understand what they were translating. We did not submit the chief translator to an examination, because last year he had passed his examination before the same judges, very favourably. Nor did we ask Mr. Labine, because he had been accepted already this year, after undergoing a very thorough examination, and we also left out Mr. Beau-lieu, who has been the head of the bureau for the last eighteen years, and who was one of the examiners last year.

In the committee, one of the members, who belongs to the party of hon. gentlemen opposite, contended that we should first know the names before coming to any decision; but we took a division on his suggestion, and by eight votes to one, we decided that in order to avoid any political bias, we would not see the names, but would accept the report of the judges.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Did the judges know the names ?

Mr. BERGERON. No, the examination was carried on in a most impartial way. I do not want to say anything about Mr. Gélinas, but I may tell my hon. friend that if he pushes this thing too far, he will do Mr. Gélinas very great harm, because we have had some reports already before the committee about Mr. Gélinas, which might be brought up, and would do him more harm than good.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Better bring them out than say that.

Mr. BERGERON. No, I have said enough. Of all those who underwent an examination, Mr. Lasalle, one of the oldest translators, passed the best. There was no surprise at that. The members of the committee came to the conclusion that the examination had been carried on in a most impartial and honest way, and made their recommendation which, I think, should be accepted. If my right hon. friend knew all that we do, he would be satisfied to accept this report which was carried by a majority of his friends on the committee, and which is the only good and impartial report we could bring before the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not know Mr. Gélinas, or what his politics are. I do not know if I ever saw him, or whether he is qualified or not. I simply have stated to the House, the report which was brought to me. What was reported to me is that Mr. Gélinas is competent to do the work, though perhaps he was a degree inferior to those favourably reported on. The report to me was that while his work was not equal to that of the three gentlemen in the competitive examination, still it showed he was qualified. If Mr. Gélinas is qualified, I submit to the House that we ought to keep on an old employee who can do his work, and do it well, rather than take in another man from the outside, who may perhaps do it a little better. If Mr. Gélinas were a new employee, or one of the applicants, and came in the scale he did, I would not have a word to say, but if he was sufficiently competent, I think that in justice, he ought to be kept in his position.

Mr. BERGERON. I am under the impression, although I did not know it at the time, that Mr. Gélinas' work was amongst those which were purely and simply discarded. I speak subject to correction, but I believe he did not translate half the work given him. I may say further, it was understood that he would be kept at work until the 15th, but I believe he did not do any work since the examination. I asked the translator how that happened, and he said that this was not the first time it had oc-

curred. I would like to put my right hon. friend's conscience at ease, by assuring him that if Mr. Gélinas had passed the examination, he would have been kept in his position.

Mr. JAMES SOMERVILLE (North Wentworth and Brant). As I am a member of that committee, I think it my duty to say something with regard to this matter. I entirely agree in everything that has been said by my hon. friend from Beauharnois with regard to the fairness and impartiality of the examination. If the members of this House were conversant with the trouble we have had in this committee for the last twelve or fifteen years in keeping the translating staff in order and seeing that their work was done, they would sympathize largely with us in our efforts to perform the duties entrusted to us, and they would sympathize with us in our present endeavour to secure good translators. In the first place, the one great difficulty with regard to the translating is that the men are working in a room outside of this building, a room down on Sussex Street. We have tried year after year to get a room in this building, so that the translating staff might be under the supervision not only of the chief of that staff, but of the chief of the reporting staff, and that the members of the committee might have some supervision over the men also. But we have failed, so far, to get a room here. I do not believe that the staff will be thoroughly efficient until they work in a room in this building, where we can see that they attend to their work and that they are here to perform it during certain hours. That is one great difficulty we have had to contend with. As to politics being considered in the matter of this appointment, I can say that that is not the case. I do not think there was the slightest desire on the part of any Liberal, but one, to know the names of the men who had passed their examination. We were willing to accept the report of the examiners to us as being a correct report, and one upon which we should make the appointments. Not only that, but we were satisfied that the examiners were competent men. They had discharged similar duties a year ago. We acted in the most impartial manner, and we appointed the men whom the examiners declared to be the most competent. I do not see for my part, on what ground the members of the House can overrule the report of the committee, if they want a good translation of the debates. We acted conscientiously and faithfully in the discharge of our duties, doing what we thought to be the best; and I am satisfied that the House will agree with us that no better system of examination could have been adopted than that followed in this case. We did not know the names of the men who had

been examined. As to the man Gélinas, I do not think it would be well to state to the House—as one of the hon. members who preceded me remarked—all that came before the committee concerning him. But I may say there was a little trouble about the adoption of the committee's report. I went to the clerk of the committee, and got him to translate the report upon this man's examination; and I can say here that he did not pass an examination which would indicate that he was qualified to be one of the translators. He skipped all the hard sentences in the translation which he made; he did not translate half of the speech that was given him to translate. I am not going to say anything at all about the remarks made with reference to other matters in connection with this translator and his work in the translating bureau; but I am convinced from the examination he underwent that he is not qualified to be a translator of the debates of this House; I am satisfied that the committee recommended the men who were best qualified.

I know that it has been stated that, in the past, politics entered into the appointment of the translating staff. It will be remembered that in 1887, a minister of the Crown in the late administration had two or three of the most competent translators discharged on the ground that they had interfered in politics in the province of Quebec. That started the trouble. In making the appointments to the translating staff, the English-speaking members naturally took the advice of the French-speaking members as to the men best qualified for this office. The year before last, we had to make an appointment, and we naturally relied upon the chairman of the committee, who was one of the French-speaking members, and who lived in the city of Montreal, and ought to have known who were competent men for this work. But he actually recommended to the committee and secured the appointment of a man who could not translate, and who never did translate a line all the time he was drawing his salary as a member of the staff. After such an experience as that with the most important man in the committee, the chairman, we have had some hesitation in accepting the recommendation made by the French members of the committee. Consequently, this year we adopted the plan we did, in order that we might secure the appointment of efficient and reliable men to the staff. I think we have succeeded in getting good men—that has to be proven by their work—but, at all events, we acted honestly and conscientiously. I do not see what better method could have been followed, in order to promote the efficiency of the translation of *Hansard*. I think the report ought to be adopted. And, the less said about Mr. Gélinas as a translator as a

member of the staff, the better for him, as he may have to make his living outside of the public service after this.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). I heartily concur in what has been said by the hon. member for North Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville). I would like to add one word, and that is with reference to the presentation of the case by the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The right hon. gentleman said we had certain grades with reference to those who passed an examination. We had; and I hold in my hand a memorandum that I made at the time. There were one graded A 1; two graded A; four B; two C; and two D. When the committee decided to adopt that method of making grades as the reports were read, there was no understanding, so far as the committee was concerned, as to whether A, B, C, D, or any other grade should be considered competent. That matter was not discussed; but, no doubt, the view that the committee held was that those of the best grades should be given the appointment. There were some twelve, I think, who submitted themselves to examination, concerning whom the report was so bad that we decided not to consider them at all. We left the balance, some ten or twelve, to be considered, and this was the report when they were considered. I am perfectly satisfied that no member of the committee, when the decision was reached, understood then, and I am disposed to believe that no member of the committee except the hon. member for North Wentworth and Brant knows now what the report in regard to Mr. Gélinas' examination was. We simply decided then, that inasmuch as we had called for an examination of all the members of the translating staff, and all the candidates for the vacant positions, the logical sequence was that we should only appoint those who were best qualified, the men who passed the best examination. And when, in the committee, the real names were called for, there was an immediate protest on the part of almost all the members of the committee that that was just the information the committee did not desire—that if we were in earnest in securing the appointment of those best qualified, it was particularly desirable that we should not know their real names. When they underwent examination, each wrote his name on a slip of paper and also a non de plume; and these were sealed and placed in the hands of the clerk. The examiners did not know, in any case, who were passing the examination, and they made the report regardless of the personality of those whose papers they examined. Then, when the political question was brought up by one of the members of the commit-

tee, the feeling, apart from him, seemed to be unanimous that the question of politics should not enter into the case. One member of the committee had previously made a statement to the committee that the translation of his speech was wholly unfit for circulation, and the consequence was that the country was put to the expense of securing an additional translation of that speech. The committee felt, and I am sure the House will agree with it, that, in view of the frequent complaints that had been made it was our bounden duty to secure the appointment of only the best available translators, and that is the only motive that actuated us. Now, with regard to the statement made by the hon. member for Wentworth and Brant (Mr. Somerville), that the chairman of a year or two ago had appointed a man wholly incompetent, who had never translated a single sentence submitted to him, I may say that the moment that fact reached the ears of the committee we immediately moved for the dismissal of that man, and although there was unanimity in the committee on the question, the chairman of that day actually declined to put the motion and left the chair, with the result that a temporary chairman was appointed and the motion was passed, and an effort was then made to bring the matter before the House in order to prevent the adoption of the report. The members of this House have no conception of the constant worry to which members of the Debates Committee are subjected in connection with the translation of the debates. You, Mr. Speaker, will bear witness of the fact that day after day I have sought interviews with you in order to see if it were not possible to get the members of the translating staff transferred from their quarters on Sussex Street to a room in this House. I made the life of your predecessor burdensome by my frequent visits to him in order to secure the same result, but it seemed to be impossible. The difficulty is that members of the translating staff are allowed to go away and to remain away for days and sometimes for weeks, with the result that the member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) is able to say that the French translation is over a month behind. Now, the members of that committee are quite satisfied that ten translators are quite sufficient to do that work efficiently and to keep it right up to the mark. I believe myself that if we had a proper head for that staff, and if these translators were working in this building where they could be under the supervision of the chairman of the committee, the work would be properly performed. As we are near the end of the present parliament, I would ask that the matter be effectively regulated in order that we may not bequeath to our successors the unpleasant legacy that we have had to endure. I do not suppose that it is necessary to make any further appeal to the

members of the House to adopt this report, for a more righteous conclusion never was arrived at than was arrived at on that occasion, and all the members of the committee, with one exception, were in favour of that report.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). From the point of view of the English *Hansard*, this act is also important. I went down to the Printing Bureau to-day and found that the French *Hansard* is 735 pages or columns behind, and the revised edition of the English *Hansard* is 324 pages or columns behind. A gentleman at the Bureau explained to me that when a member makes a speech in French in a big debate, and it is of considerable length, if the translating staff is in any way inefficient, it throws the English revised edition back. Of course, from the point of view of our French Canadian members, a backwardness of 735 pages is a very serious thing. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) as to rooms, I am told that there are *Hansard* rooms in this building never used for any purpose. If that be the case, it would be an easy thing to fit up two or three of those rooms for the translators. I quite agree with the member for Lisgar, that as long as these gentlemen hang loose, as it were, on Ottawa, and can go away when they like, having no official habitation here, the work is likely to be inefficiently accomplished. I suggest to you, Sir, that we have an inquiry as to whether there are not *Hansard* rooms in this building available for this purpose.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I thoroughly commend the action of the committee; I am very glad that we have a committee that has taken the matter up in this way and pressing it energetically, and I am sure the House will support them. But I think with the speakers who have just addressed the Chamber, that we are not doing our duty by the House nor by these translators unless we bring them more within the purview of the House and closer to their work. There are plenty of rooms in this House that could be got. There is no necessity for renting a room for the translators and putting them away down where they are free from supervision. It is impossible for this committee to supervise them when they are beyond the precincts of the House. I do not think you will ever give the men a fair chance until you bring them under the official supervision of this committee. I think if the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock) will put his mind to it—it may be difficult to make the change just now while this session is going on—he will be able to procure rooms in this House that ought to be at the disposal of the officials of the House such as this staff are. We have no

rooms in this House for people to rent, that may be sources of income for any official of the House, no matter who he may be. The rooms in this House are for the official work of this parliament, and whatever other accommodation can be given to the members of the House, the officials of the House should first be provided for. I am sure that the Minister of Public Works will find that he could get sufficient roomy quarters for the ten *Hansard* translators, so that they will be within the purview of the committee. My own experience goes to show that these rooms could be had, they could have been had, I think, in our time. As I said before, I think the paramount claim on those rooms in the House belongs unquestionably, to the official work of the House, and when that is done, whatever we can do for the convenience of members it will be proper to do.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Are there any rooms being rented to any one?

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend who is an aspiring cabinet minister, I hear, might direct his intellect towards the solution of that problem himself.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). With reference to the suggestion of the hon. member for York, (Mr. Foster), that the Department of Public Works should set apart rooms in this building, perhaps the first step in that direction would be for the committee to make a recommendation, if they think that is a desirable arrangement. I think there is a good deal in the suggestion, and if such a report were made by the committee I am sure every respect would be given to it.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. If the hon. the minister will look back he will find on record half a dozen recommendations in that direction during the past five or six years.

Mr. BERGERON. It has been done in writing and it has been done verbally, on many occasions. I may say to the Minister of Public Works, that his predecessors have never been able to do it, because the rooms in this building are supposed to belong to the Speaker. At any time when the Minister of Public Works in the old days of the Conservative government wanted to do anything, His Honour the Speaker would not allow him to have any rooms in this House because they belonged to him for his own staff. I am mentioning this because if my hon. friend wants to do anything of that sort, he will find that it will be advisable to confer with His Honour the Speaker. We do not know to whom these rooms belong, the hon. Minister of Public Works or the Speaker.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I may mention that I was chairman of a committee appointed to go into this important question, and we selected a large room downstairs that at one time was used as a restaurant. It was decided that that room would just fill the bill.

Mr. FOSTER. How would room 16 do?

Mr. RICHARDSON. It would be all right. There were about ten members who had gone down there and secured desks, and I was met with a difficulty. I had to go around among the members, and after I had worked patiently amongst them for about two weeks trying to persuade them to give up this room, I succeeded in persuading all of them but one. I think that the late Speaker would have given us that room had he not been unfortunately cut off. On the day on which you were appointed, Mr. Speaker, I went to see you in connection with the same matter, and I would again urge that you give us the use of that room. The House and the country have a right to it, and you would save \$600 a year rent, which we now pay for the rooms on Sussex street. I think that it would be perfectly satisfactory and it would be large enough for the purpose.

Motion (Mr. Champagne) agreed to, and report adopted.

MILITIA ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 155) further to amend the Militia Act.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like the hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) to explain briefly the purport of the Bill.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The purport of the Bill is simply to amend the law in such a way as to give power to appoint colonels in addition to lieutenant-colonels, and officers below the rank of lieutenant-colonels. At the present time there is no power to appoint any officer senior to the rank of lieutenant-colonel except in two cases where the Act provides that the quartermaster general and the adjutant-general may be full colonels. But, there is no power beyond that. We think that now the country has grown to a state of sufficient importance to take power to give commissions to colonels.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would be glad if my hon. friend would go a step further and explain the necessity for altering the law so as to enable the government to appoint colonels.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There is no authority under the law now to appoint colonels.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What is the change required for?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. A great many gentlemen—I think I have heard the hon. gentleman's name mentioned—I am not sure that he has accepted the position yet—but a great many gentlemen have consented to be honorary lieutenant-colonels of regiments, and it is thought only proper when appointing, as has been done in the case of several English noblemen, gentlemen of high rank, to positions of that kind, we should have power, under the law, to give them the rank of colonel. Besides that it is thought, and believed, that we have officers now in the militia of Canada who are quite deserving of, and quite competent to fill, the position of colonel in the militia. I may say, in addition, that this change has been recommended by the Imperial officers whom we have had here. Last year it was proposed to bring down an amendment of this kind, but we were not able to reach it. I am quite satisfied that the whole of the militia of the country would approve of it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Was this recommended by the General Officer Commanding?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. PRIOR. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) has omitted one matter. I see that in the last clause of this new Bill the government take power to appoint a major-general under certain conditions.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The last clause states:

In time of peace no person except the Officer Commanding the Militia shall hold higher rank in the militia than that of colonel; but Her Majesty may, whenever the militia is called out for active service in the field, appoint therein other officers of rank superior to that of colonel, but not higher in any case than that of major-general.

Clause No. 47 in the Act, as it now stands, limits the power to colonels. There is power, under the existing Act, in time of war, to appoint colonels. It is now proposed that we shall take one step above that, and that we shall take the power, during time of peace, to appoint colonels, and during time of war, to appoint to the next higher grade a major-general.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Militia if this recommendation of the Major-General

Commanding is in the report which we have before us.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think it is in last year's report.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no doubt that some hon. members in this House remember that when Max O'Rell commenced his lecture on the United States, on one occasion, he said:

The United States of America has a population of about 70,000,000, mostly colonels.

I do not know whether my hon. friend intends to emulate the republic in that or not.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 156) to amend the Civil Service Act. He said: Mr. Speaker, the chief purpose of this Bill is to provide for a class of officials to be known as junior second-class clerks. Some years ago we had a class of officials corresponding to this, and also a class known as third-class clerks. Both of these ranks have been abolished, and it has been found, at times, to be very inconvenient that there should be no class of clerks between a temporary clerk who begins at \$400 and a second-class clerk who begins at \$1,100 a year. Many cases have arisen in which it is desirable to appoint an official whose services we can hardly expect to obtain for \$400 a year, and at the same time we might not wish to pay him \$1,100 a year at the beginning of his official career. It seems desirable that there should be an intermediate class. We propose to create this class of clerks to be known as junior second-class clerks at a minimum salary of \$600 and a maximum salary of \$1,000. We provide that under exceptional circumstances the salary may be \$700 a year where a candidate has, in addition to the regular examination, been able to pass in two optional subjects. There is a further provision, that, in case of a special character, a person may begin his services at \$800 a year where he is a graduate of a university, or of the Royal Military College. Six hundred dollars a year is to be the ordinary minimum salary, \$700 a year when he passes a special examination, and \$800 in such cases as, in the judgment of the minister, may be proper ones where the candidate is a graduate of a university or of the Royal Military College. We think it will be found that these changes will be sufficient to meet the necessities that have arisen in this respect. There is another provision that in the Post Office Department the salary of a packer or sorter, the

maximum of which is at present \$500, may be increased to \$600. These are the chief provisions of the Bill.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Is there anything in this Bill that curtails the rights of existing members of the civil service as at present enjoyed?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Nothing whatever. It simply fills in this blank between the temporary clerks and the second-class clerks.

Mr. HAGGART. How many do you propose to take power to appoint?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is a general provision, but we cannot appoint any until parliament has voted the money.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). A month ago I referred to the incompleteness of the return ordered in the case of the *John C. Barr*. In the revised *Hansard*, April 18, 3761, it will appear that precise questions were put in regard to the return, and the Minister of Customs stated that the papers not brought down were being prepared and would be laid on the Table of the House. I referred to the matter on several occasions since. On May 7, I pointed out that an important document was not brought down, and the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) promised to give it his attention. The document I referred to was an answer of Mr. Ogilvie to a special instruction sent him to inquire into, among other things, the charge of attempting to obtain a British register where the ship was really owned by United States citizens. On May 10, a further supplementary return was brought down purporting to be in compliance with the order of the House of February 12. But, in that return there is no reference to the *John C. Barr*, although there is to several other vessels, probably in answer to a communication forwarded by Mr. Maitland Kersey. I call the attention of the government to the fact that the document I mentioned as being specially wanted has not yet been brought down.

The PRIME MINISTER. If the hon. gentleman sends me a note, I will send it to the Customs Department.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). On May 10, a return was brought down to an order of April 28, in reference to correspondence between any persons and the Department of Marine and Fisheries regarding the prohibition of the exportation of fish from Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba. The return is comprised entirely of one letter from a

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gentleman in Selkirk, and one from a firm in Montreal. It appears to me that there surely ought to be more correspondence than that. Were there no replies to those letters?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The same idea occurred to me when the return was sent to me, and I wrote to the officer in charge, who informed me that the practice of the department is to bring down all returns up to the date they were moved for. Those were all the papers up to the date of the motion. There is some correspondence later than that, and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Roche) desires to make a motion, I will bring it down.

Mr. ROCHE. Why not bring it down without a motion?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The supposition is that when an hon. gentleman makes a motion, he has some correspondence in his mind which he wants to get, and the correspondence up to that date has been brought down.

MONTREAL HARBOUR AND CONNERS SYNDICATE.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I ask the acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock) if he has any information as to the negotiations carried on between the Montreal Harbour Commissioners and the Connors Syndicate. I put a similar question some time ago. I also ask if the hon. minister is aware that the floating elevators in Montreal have increased their rates by 20 per cent. If that be the case, it is calculated to do a great deal of harm to the port of Montreal, because the consensus of opinion is that the cheaper that port is made the better it is, not only for Montreal, but for all Canada.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) asked me two weeks ago if the arrangements between the Connors Syndicate and the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal had fallen through. I at once telegraphed to Mr. Mackay, chairman, for an answer, and the next day I received a communication from him informing me that they had not fallen through. My hon. friend was not in the House the following day or I would have given him the answer. However, that is the substance of the reply I received from Mr. Mackay.

Mr. BERGERON. Has my hon. friend got the details?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have not the reply with me at the moment, but I have given the tenor of it. Mr. Mackay intimated that there were some communications passing between the Harbour Com-

missioners and the Conners Syndicate, but negotiations had not fallen through.

Mr. BERGERON. Of course, this is a private company, but I would point out to the minister that the floating elevators are taking advantage of the lack of promptness on the part of the Conners Syndicate, and they are charging 20 per cent more than formerly.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I presume the only thing I can do is to communicate that information to the Harbour Commissioners, in the hope that it may stimulate them to greater efforts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). As a matter of personal explanation, I would like to say, that on page 5357 of the unrevised *Hansard*, I am reported as quoting from page 473 of the evidence in the West Huron case. I did quote some of the evidence there, but only as far as the word 'altogether.' The reporter has added to the quotation further than that, quoting a reference to a conversation with Mr. Holmes; but, as Mr. Holmes denied that that conversation had ever taken place, I did not really quote it. The error probably arose through the reporter copying from my report of the evidence, in which I had marked the whole answer, although I read to the House only a portion of it, for the reason above mentioned. I have made the necessary correction for the revised edition.

ROYAL MINT FOR CANADA.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) I wish to call the attention of the government to an item which appeared in the *New York Tribune*, on the 13th instant, and which has been copied in all the Canadian newspapers. It is as follows:

Imperial interests have taken the place of all foreign questions, and despatches in the London journals from European capitals have not been so meagre for many years. Imperialism is the thing which interests every reader; even the smallest details are discussed, such as the establishment of a branch of the royal mint in Canada. A request is expected from Ottawa that Canada shall be placed on terms of equality in this respect with India, Australia and South Africa, and it will be granted at once.

In view of the fact, that there is a very strong feeling all over the country, and especially amongst the business men of British Columbia as to the advisability of a mint being established in Canada, I think it is only right that I should ask the right hon. the Premier whether there has been any communication between this government and the Imperial government, in regard to the establishment of a branch of the royal mint in Canada. There is no doubt that would be of great advantage to the

people of British Columbia as well as to the whole of Canada, if a mint were established. Large amounts of gold are now being brought from the Yukon, and from other parts of the North-west to the Pacific coast, most of which goes to Seattle. I am perfectly certain that if a mint were established in British Columbia, a great deal of this gold would come there, and the men who brought it, and who could sell it, to the banks or to the mint direct, would buy supplies with the proceeds in British Columbia, instead of buying them in the United States. If the government have not already taken this matter into consideration, I would urge upon them the necessity of, at once, opening up negotiations with the Imperial government in regard to it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Mr. Speaker, this matter has engaged the attention of the Department of Finance, though there have been no official negotiations of the character indicated by the hon. gentleman. It is by no means clear that the establishment of a royal mint, under the same terms and conditions as in the case of Australia, would serve the interest of Canada. It would perhaps not be appropriate to enter into a discussion of the subject now; but I may say that there are difficulties arising out of the fact that the Australian sovereign corresponds with the English sovereign, whereas our five dollar piece does not. However, a way may be found to overcome those difficulties. The desirability of possibly having something done in the direction the hon. gentleman indicates, has engaged the attention of the government, and will continue to engage its attention, though I am not in a position at present to make any further statement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask if the government have consulted the leading banks of the country on the subject?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Not very recently. The Bankers' Association, by resolutions, have occasionally expressed their opinion. The bankers are somewhat divided on the subject. The president of the Bankers' Association on one occasion expressed a strong opinion in favour of a mint, but the majority, I believe, dissented from that view. The government has not had any recent communication with the bankers on the subject.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READING.

Bill (No. 112) to incorporate the Quebec and Lake Huron Railway Company.—(Mr. Belcourt.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 150) respecting the Salisbury and Harvey Railway Company.—(Mr. Lewis.)

YUKON ROYAL COMMISSION.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. When was the following document, now on the Table of this House, received by the government:

(a) 'Commissioner's Office, Y.T.,
' Dawson, Feb. 20, 1899.

'Sir,—I regret to inform you that the Royal Commission for the investigation of the charges against officials has, to an extent, fallen through.

'Mr. Armstrong, chairman of the miners' committee, who drew up the memorial which led to the issuance of the commission, and Dr. McDougall, the secretary of the committee, withdrew from the investigation when they learned that the scope of the commission only included what occurred previous to August 25, the date of the memorial.

'I would have been quite willing to have gone on taking cognizance of everything up to date, but the question was raised and could not be avoided. There is no doubt, from the wording of the document, that only such things as were related to or come within the scope of the memorial, could be investigated under the commission. The "Nugget" newspaper, which has been advertising and publishing the corruption of the officials, that is, the former officials, and publishing very wild statements with reference thereto, has also withdrawn on the same ground. This the public may take as an admission that they do not consider the charges very serious. They each submitted for investigation some seven or eight malfeasances of office, of which only one or two took place since August 25. They may be perfectly honourable in their motive in withdrawing, but when you recollect that there was a great deal which could be taken up and investigated within the scope of the commission and that they have withdrawn, it looks like an admission that they were not very serious in drawing up the memorial.

'I do not wish to anticipate the report in any way, but will simply state that as far as the investigation has gone, with the exception of an ignorant half-breed doorkeeper, they have not proven any fraud against any official.

'We are going on as fast as possible, but you can understand that it takes time to investigate these matters. The witnesses are reluctant to come forward, and very often it is very difficult to find them. The charges that have already been made will be investigated, and any others that come to my knowledge definitely enough to assume form, I will also investigate. I suppose you will feel averse to granting another commission, but I do not think it would do any harm, and possibly might do a lot of good, and stop the mouths of a lot of disgruntled individuals here if you would issue me another commission under chap. 115, instead of chap. 114, authorizing me to take cognizance of all charges against officials up to, say, July 1 next.

'No good might come of this, but it might be perhaps productive of one advantage, and that would be to for ever stop the mouths of those who are now grumbling.

'You will probably see a copy of the "Nugget" of last Saturday, which treats of the affair in a most inflammatory and serious way. This sheet is run by Americans, with an Englishman for editor. It appears these people have never had any newspaper experience heretofore, and have not learned that many of the stories they hear are simply emanations of frenzied individ-

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uals who imagine they have lost a fortune because they cannot get the claim they wish, or some similar idea. As fast as I can, I will prepare a report on each special charge and transmit it to you, summing up at conclusion the general report on the whole question.

'The question of the withholding of McDonald's royalty has been brought up, and we will have to investigate it. At the same time, this matter is a serious one; McDonald presumably owed the government some \$70,000 for royalty due, out of which only about \$2,000 was paid. Under ordinary circumstances, the man would lose all his claims, but, as this was authorized by the late commissioner, of course McDonald could not be made to suffer for his acts; but it will have a very bad effect on the minds of the public when it becomes known that such was done.

'If you can see your way clear to renewing the commission and extending it, please do so at the earliest possible date. I think that it would be politic to do it, and I would urge you, as far as lies in my power, to grant it for reasons I have above stated.

'I have the honour to be, sir,

'Your obedient servant,

'(Sgd.) WILLIAM OGILVIE,

'Commissioner.'

(b) Were the members of government other than the Minister of the Interior, aware of the receipt of this communication when, on May 15 and 29, 1899, the following questions were put and answered, May 15, 1899:

'Yukon—The commission to Mr. Ogilvie—May 15, 1899.

'Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper asked:

'1. Has any communication respecting the commission of inquiry been received by the government from Mr. Ogilvie?

'2. If so, what is the purport of such communication or communications?

'3. Has Mr. Ogilvie asked for an extension of his powers in the commission of inquiry?

'4. If so, what is the date of the request?

'5. Has any reply been sent to a communication of February 27, 1899, from the committee of miners of the Yukon, referred to by the hon. the Minister of the Interior on May 1, 1899 (Hansard, page 2329)?'

'The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).—1 and 2. There has been no official communication on the subject. 3. Mr. Ogilvie has not asked for an extension of his powers, but in a private letter to the minister suggested that it might be desirable to extend the period to be covered by his investigation. 5. No.'

'The Yukon Investigation—May 29, 1899.

'Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper asked:

'1. Has any official or unofficial or other communication been received by the government from Mr. Ogilvie respecting the commission of inquiry?

'2. If so, what is its purport?

'3. Will the hon. the Minister of the Interior lay upon the Table of the House that portion of the private letter from Mr. Ogilvie referring to the subject to which the minister alluded on May 15, 1899, in the House of Commons?'

'The Minister of the Interior.—I have said Yes. 2. The report has been received. 3. Inasmuch as the remarks in reference to the subject are intermingled with references of an unofficial and private character, it is not considered proper to lay a copy of them upon the Table of the House.'

'Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.—The hon. gentleman has not replied to the second part of the question.'

'The Minister of the Interior.—I have said that a report has been received which indicates that it is a report from Mr. Ogilvie. The hon. gentleman does not expect me to read the report.'

(c) To whom is the document set out above (a) addressed? Was it marked private or personal? Is it complete as it stands, or have 'private and unofficial references' been eliminated?

(d) With this document before parliament, does the government now consider that the answer given on May 15 and May 29, 1899, was accurate?

(e) Why was the document of February 20, 1899 (a), withheld from parliament until the year 1900?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I beg to reply: (a) It was received by the Minister of the Interior on the 3rd of April, 1899. (b.) The Minister of the Interior at that time regarded the communication as a personal one. Whether it was at that time submitted to the government the ministers cannot recollect. (c.) 1. To Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior. 2. No; but as the letter was unofficial in its character the minister evidently regarded it as such. (d.) As the minister regarded the letter as a personal one, he was correct in stating that he had no official communication. (e.) Because before action was finally decided on, the minister received the commissioner's letter of the 14th of April, from which the following is an extract:

I have already intimated to you the nature of the evidence in a previous communication. A day or so after the parties who brought the charges had abandoned them, I wrote asking you to extend the commission, or issue a new one for the satisfaction of these people, thoroughly believing that they would not take advantage of it, but that the issuance of it would stop their mouths. Since that time I have come to the conclusion that the issuance of another commission, or the extension of the present one, would serve no useful purpose.

This letter of the 14th of April being a revocation of that of February 20th, there seemed no occasion for producing the latter. But when it was found that in the evidence taken at the inquiry such letter was referred to, it was produced to make the record complete.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. With reference to a statement of the hon. the Minister of Interior, made to this House on April 4, 1899, as follows:—'I have no report as yet of the result. The newspapers contain some reports, more or less reliable. I have a preliminary note from Mr. Ogilvie, saying that the report would be forwarded in a short time;' and to a return in answer to information asked for by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Thursday, May 25, 1899, Sessional Papers No. 63d, stating that this note was 'Private,' is the document dated February 28, 1899, brought down in answer to an order of this House in 1900, Sessional Papers No. 69, the note referred to, or was there another communication on this subject not brought down?

2. Was the government aware, on the date of the above statement, that Mr. Ogilvie had

reported to Mr. Sifton, privately or otherwise, as follows:—'I regret to have to inform you that the Royal Commission for the investigation of charges against officials has, to an extent, fallen through.'

'Mr. Armstrong, chairman of the miners' committee, who drew up the memorial which led to the issuance of the commission, and Dr. McDougall, the secretary of the committee, withdrew from the investigation when they learned that the scope of the commission only included what occurred previous to August 23, the date of the memorial.'

* * * * *
 'The question of the withholding of McDonald's royalty has been brought up and we will have to investigate it. At the same time, this matter is a serious one; McDonald presumably owed the government some \$70,000 for royalty dues, out of which only about \$2,000 was paid. Under ordinary circumstances, the man would lose all his claims, but as this was authorized by the late commissioner, of course McDonald could not be made to suffer for his act; but it will have a very bad effect on the minds of the public when it becomes known that such was done.'

3. Were the documents communicated to any of the members of this House, who on April 13, 1899, were asked to support the following resolution:—

'That we have observed with pleasure that on receipt of complaints against some of the officials in the Yukon district, His Excellency's government took prompt action to inquire into the matter of such complaints by appointing Mr. William Ogilvie as a commissioner for that purpose. Having entire confidence in the integrity and ability of Mr. Ogilvie, we are satisfied that his inquiry will be impartial and thorough, and that it will place His Excellency's advisers in possession of all the information necessary to enable them to do justice to all parties concerned?'

4. Was the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries aware of the above report or letter from Mr. Ogilvie, when he said, on the 14th April, 1899, in the debate on the said resolution:

'What did Mr. Ogilvie do? He opened his court and said: I shall not apply the strict rules of evidence which obtain in the ordinary courts of law, but I invite any man to come forward, who has any evidence whatever to give against any one of these officials, and to give that evidence without fear. He published circulars throughout the whole of the Yukon, he issued subpoenas to compel the attendance of every man whose name was given him as a possible witness, and he added that, under the power conferred upon him by the statute and his Royal Commission, everybody could give evidence without fear that that evidence would ever be used against him. He quoted the section of the statute providing that no man could be prejudiced because the evidence he gave could never be used against him in court afterwards, and the newspapers which were clamouring for investigation out there published editorial after editorial, imploring the men who said they had evidence to give to come forward and give it to this tribunal. Now is the time, they said. The government has granted your request; Mr. Ogilvie has come out to investigate; you have the protection of the law and can give your evidence without the fear of its ever afterwards being brought up against you, your evidence will go before the parliament of Canada, and you cannot be prejudiced

in any way. Come forward, therefore, and give it. I will not say what the result has been, because I have only gathered that result from the public press, but we have not heard from any honourable gentleman in this House that any very damning evidence has been given. But let me say this: When that report comes down before this House, if there is any body of men in this House who believe that the investigation should be prosecuted further, who think it should be continued so as to embrace charges after the 25th August, who believe that any special charge has been left without thorough investigation, the government will see that the fullest investigation is given. We are determined that not a stone shall be left unturned to get to the bottom of every charge which has been made against any government official in that territory.

'And if this commission, by reason of any limitation in its power or in the construction put upon it by the lawyers, cannot attain that end, this government will enlarge the commission and will see that justice is done. There will be no skulking behind any law points, there will be no attempt to evade the investigation on the ground that the commission has not authority. If that commission does not give authority another commission can; and if there is any witness who will forward to the government a statement that he can prove a charge of wrong-doing against the officials there which is beyond Mr. Ogilvie's power to investigate, he may rely upon it that an investigation will be held. Sir, what reason under heaven can this government have to shrink from the amplest and fullest investigation.'

5. Referring to the following extracts from the report of proceedings before Mr. Ogilvie laid on the Table of this House, what representations, if any, for a further commission, not included in the above return, was made by him?

On the 22nd day of February, being the second day of the inquiry:—

'The Commissioner—Suppose you take up those charges that occurred before the 25th August and go on with them until the question is settled. Personally I want to make the commission as full and general as possible, I am stopped, though, through a legal technicality'; and afterwards:—

'Mr. Tabor.—Have we had your ruling, sir, regarding the point as to whether you will admit evidence on charges subsequent to August 25?

'The Commissioner.—Do you want it now? I have consulted with the legal adviser here and have come to the conclusion that I can only hear charges under that commission that occurred before August 25. If there is any way in which I can go on and hear others, I am quite willing to do so.—if there is any legal method—and further, I intend to refer the matter to the minister and ask for another commission or an enlargement of this.

'Mr. Tabor.—As I read the commission, Mr. Commissioner—

'The Commissioner.—It is clear in the commission. I cannot legally administer an oath to witnesses giving evidence on charges after that date, neither can I subpoena witnesses.

'Mr. McDougal.—Is there no appeal from the decision of that legal point? Can we bring before Judge Dugas the legal points involved in that decision?

'Mr. Clement.—No. The wording of the commission is perfectly clear. There is not a scintilla of doubt about it. You can't get over it.

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'Mr. McDougal.—There is no appeal?

'Mr. Clement.—No.

'Mr. McDougal.—I know little of law, but it doesn't appear to me that the meaning of that document excludes the examination of evidence as to misconduct that occurred after August 25. Now these charges were made in the letter; have been made since; are still made; and made every day, and the examination should be made into matters into which the commission refers. There is nothing referred to as to time at all. The document does not say that the charges prior to that shall be examined, but that an examination shall be made into the statements and complaints. They refer to certain actions made from day to day, and made still, and it is utterly impossible to read it any other way than that this investigation should consider charges up to the present time.

'The Commissioner.—Unfortunately it is otherwise.

* * * * *

'The Commissioner.—My legal adviser has advised me that I cannot legally administer an oath in any transaction that occurred after that date; and if I do I might get into trouble.

'Colonel McGregor.—I have no desire to induce you to go beyond your power.

'The Commissioner.—If there is any other legal way to take the investigation up, I will do so and will urge the minister by the next mail to extend this commission, or have a new one. Regarding the letter that was read yesterday, by Mr. Armstrong—that is only the deputy minister's opinion, and perhaps under the instructions of the minister. Even the minister doesn't always utter the law. Even the minister cannot override the law. I am sorry I am stopped.

'Colonel McGregor.—I have never had any desire that charges should be proved against the officials; but to give general satisfaction. I am speaking on behalf of the committee, of which I was one. All I can say is that that order does not satisfy the committee.

'The Commissioner.—I regret that as much as you do, and perhaps more.

'Mr. McDougal.—Can you be surprised that any one cannot carry on a prosecution which commences say February 25, before which no matters can be brought up which occurred after August 25.

'The Commissioner.—It may be surprising, but all I can say is I am quite as much surprised and disappointed as you are. I regret it, but I will take such steps by any legal method I can to go on with the investigation, and if you wish I shall ask for an enlargement of the commission, or a new one to end on such a date so that everybody will be satisfied. I cannot override the commission; there is no use. I will write the minister at once and urge him strongly to give another commission or to have this one enlarged. One is as easy as the other.

* * * * *

'The Commissioner.—It is only a one-sided investigation; some of the people are here and some in Ottawa.'

6. Referring to the above assurances of Mr. Ogilvie and to the above communication from Mr. Ogilvie, dated February 28, 1899, wherein he says:—

'I suppose you will feel adverse to granting another commission, but I do not think it would do any harm, and possibly it might do a lot of good and stop the mouths of a lot of dis-

grunted individuals here if you would issue me another commission under chapter 115, instead of chapter 114, authorizing me to take cognizance of all charges against officials up to say the 1st of July next'; and to the report of the Minister of the Interior, October 7, 1898, preceding the Royal Commission limited as above, wherein 'the minister represents that in his opinion it is highly important that a full investigation should be made into the charges and complaints set forth in the said communication, and into any others that may be preferred.' 'The minister, therefore, recommends that under the authority of chapter 114, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, entitled: "An Act respecting Inquiries concerning Public Matters," a commission do issue, appointing William Ogilvie, Esquire, the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, a commissioner under the said Act, to inquire into the charges and complaints set forth in the said communication and into any other charges or complaints that any person in the Yukon Territory may desire to prefer against the officials of the government of Canada in that territory, and to report thereon and upon all other matters incidental thereto.'

What communication, private or official, if any, passed between the said minister and the said Mr. Ogilvie before the private letter of April 14, 1899, brought down, wherein the latter wrote:—

'I have already intimated to you the nature of the evidence in a previous communication. A day or so after the parties who brought the charges abandoned them. I wrote asking you to extend the commission or issue a new one for the satisfaction of these people, thoroughly believing that they would not take advantage of it, but that the issuance of it would stop their mouths. Since then I have come to the conclusion that the issuance of another commission or the extension of the present one would serve no useful purpose.'

7. Did Mr. Ogilvie ever advise the parties to whom he give the assurances of the above that he had written the said letter of April 14, the substance of which is contained in this private letter?

8. Having regard to the statement of Mr. Ogilvie that he was stopped from making the inquiry full and general, through a legal technicality, what did the hon. the Minister of the Interior mean when he informed this House on June 29, 1899:—

'Mr. Ogilvie was determined that the investigation would be thorough, and he was not going to allow any lawyer to dictate to him in regard to technicalities or the rules of evidence.'

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, there do not appear to be any letters in regard to the extension of the commission other than those included in the return, so that the letter in question is probably the one which was referred to by the Minister of the Interior. Ministers are unable to state when the letter of Mr. Ogilvie was first brought to their attention. 5. None. 6. Neither the records of the department nor the minister's private files, show that any correspondence took place other than the letter of the 28th of February, 1899, between the minister and Mr. Ogilvie, on the subject prior to the letter of the 14th of April, 1899. 7. The government is not aware as to whether Mr. Ogilvie did so or

not. 8. I understood that the Minister of the Interior meant that Mr. Ogilvie was determined that within the scope of the commission the investigation would be thorough, and that he was not going to allow any lawyer to dictate to him in regard to technicalities or rules of evidence. It was well understood that the policy of the government was that no formal inquiry could properly be held in respect to vague newspaper rumours and anonymous statements as to irregularities in the administration of affairs in the Yukon, but that the moment a charge was made on the responsibility of some person prepared to give evidence in support of it a commission would issue. The first charges which could properly be made the basis of an inquiry were formulated on the 25th of August, and the commission issued. It, of course, could not go beyond that date, but in going to that date it covered the time of the alleged occurrences which were made the subject of the hon. gentleman's first complaints, and the report shows that Mr. Ogilvie's conduct of the inquiry was such as to justify the minister's statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. Has the government considered the subject referred to in the papers brought down to this House as follows:—

Private (?) letter of February 28, 1899, from Mr. Ogilvie to the Minister of the Interior:—

'The question of the withholding of McDonald's royalty has been brought up and we will have to investigate it at the same time. This matter is a serious one. McDonald presumably owed the government some \$70,000 for royalty dues, out of which only about \$2,000 was paid. Under ordinary circumstances the man would lose all his claims, but, as this was authorized by the late commissioner, of course McDonald could not be made to suffer for his act; but it will have a very bad effect on the minds of the public, when it becomes known that such was done.'

(Confidential.)

'Dawson City, Y.T., July 20, 1898.

'Alexander McDonald, Esq.,

'Dawson City, Y.T.

'Dear Sir,—I have just received your letter of to-day with regard to the royalty and the manner in which it would affect your interests if collected at once. I fully realize the value of all your mining interests and of the work you have devoted to their development, and also appreciate the fact that besides expending large sums of money in this way, you have also re-invested largely in this territory, instead of simply removing the gold from the mines and sending it outside.

'I believe from what you say, and from what I have learned from other sources, that to insist on the payment of the royalty on your total output at once might be embarrassing to you.

'I am sure the Canadian government recognize the value of your services in developing the country. I would not care to do anything which might seriously interfere with you.

'I do not see anything unreasonable in your proposition to pay one-half of the royalty in September next and the other half in May, 1899. I will write the gold commissioner instructing him that you are to have the time mentioned in which to make your payments.

'I am yours truly,

'J. M. WALSH,
'Commissioner of the Yukon.'

(Confidential.)

'Commissioner's Office,
'Dawson, July 22, 1898.

'Thomas Fawcett, Esq.,
'Gold Commissioner, Dawson.

'Dear Sir,—I inclose a copy of a letter I am forwarding to Mr. Alexander McDonald, in reply to a communication from him applying for an extension of time for the payment of royalties due by him this season. You will please be guided in accordance therewith, and give the necessary instructions to the inspectors of mines.

'I have the honour to be, sir,

'Your obedient servant,

'J. M. WALSH,
'Commissioner, Yukon District.'

'Dawson, July 22, 1898.

'Hon. J. Morrow Walsh,
'Commissioner of the Yukon District,
'Dawson.

'Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of to-day, inclosing copy of a letter forwarded by you to Mr. Alex. McDonald. I have noted the contents of said inclosed copy and will govern myself accordingly.

'I have the honour to be, sir,

'Your obedient servant,

'THOMAS FAWCETT,
'Gold Commissioner.'

The report of April 27, 1899, of Mr. Ogilvie, which says:—

'You will also see that some inquiry was made into the laying over of Mr. Alex. McDonald's royalty, and an explanation furnished for the same. All the evidence submitted in this connection was that furnished in the letters between Major Walsh, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Fawcett.

'There appears to have been no wrong-doing in this, at least none was made manifest, Major Walsh taking the view that it would be impolitic to exact Mr. McDonald's royalty, as it would put him to considerable hardship if he was compelled to pay it, and later on, his paying it would benefit the country as much as if he had paid it last spring.'

2. Has the government ever examined Mr. Alexander McDonald's letter of July 20, 1898, to which Mr. Walsh refers in his letter of that date? Is it in his possession or under the control of the government?

3. Is the government aware that notwithstanding Mr. Ogilvie's report as above the following evidence was given before him:—

'Mr. Fawcett.—For a moment I would like to ask Mr. Calder about the Alex. McDonald royalty question. I want to ask him a question.

'The Commissioner.—You are still under oath, Mr. Calder.

'By Mr. Fawcett:

'Q. Do you know that Alex. McDonald's royalty was laid over for a time; the payments of it?—A. I have no positive knowledge.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

'Q. Do you believe it was laid over?—A. Yes.

'Q. Have you any knowledge of any other person's royalty being laid over?—A. No, I have not. The only question of laying over the royalty was this letter.

'Q. You have no knowledge of any other case?—A. No, none whatever.

'Mr. Fawcett.—That is all.'

And again, that Mr. Fawcett, the gold commissioner, testified that Mr. Wade decided the question of giving this water front to Alexander McDonald, and

'Water Front Case.

'Mr. George being called and sworn, testified as follows:—

'By Dr. Bourke:

'Q. Will you be good enough to tell us what you know about the water front; you are conversant with everything. Tell the court all you know. I think that is the best way?—A. I should judge that any information at my disposal which you would be interested in would be that regarding an interview I had with Mr. Wade regarding the water front. He was very frank in a great many matters, and, as is my wont, I put many impertinent questions. I remember one question distinctly: "Mr. Wade, what part of this money did you get of this water front?" He said: "I got no share of it." I waited a while and repeated the question again: "Is there any of this money coming to you?" He replied (by the way, I would like to preface my remarks by saying that this was a public interview; it was for the press; I had my note-book and pencil in my hand at the time). He replied, none, unless a certain fee he had received from Mr. Alexander McDonald could be considered in that light of a division of the profits. I got him to make me a statement of what that fee consisted. He said he had immediately after his decision which gave Morrison and McDonald the water front, he had been retained by Alexander McDonald for his attorney for one year, and had been given a handsome bonus as a retainer fee.'

And that Mr. Wade, after leasing in April, 1898, the water front to Messrs. Morrison and Alexander McDonald, testified as follows:—

'As to the question of a retainer, Mr. Commissioner, I admit that I was retained by Morrison & McDonald to look after their legal business. That was the result of negotiations after the leasing of the water front. The retainer was purely for my legal services. At the same time I received a retainer or yearly salary from Morrison & McDonald, I received numerous retainers—really yearly salaries—from other prominent people in business here, including the N. A. T., Mr. Patrick Calvin, the A. C. Company, at or about the same time, just showing what practice was then; besides, there was Engellman, Col. Bowie and others. And I need not mention them all. The retainers which I received for my legal services would look large in the east; but, at any rate, they were the current retainers here; and I received them from all these people; and I was no more to give legal services to McDonald & Morrison than to any other of the people I have mentioned. Such a thing never entered my mind, nor the minds, I am sure, of Morrison & McDonald. Never dreamt of such a thing. Considering the volume of law business of McDonald & Morrison—the largest in the Yukon, the retainer was reasonable and was for legal services only.'

4. What information has the government in

support of Mr. Ogilvie's statement in his private letter above that 'McDonald presumably owed the government some \$70,000 for royalty dues, out of which only about \$2,000 was paid'?

5. What are the actual facts as to the amounts due, the dates when due, the date when paid, respecting which the above indulgence was ordered?

6. Referring to the following statement of the hon. Minister of the Interior on June 29, 1899:

'I wish to say to the House what the position of the government, in connection with these charges, is. The position is this: So soon as charges were made against our officers, we sent a commission to Mr. Ogilvie—the only man who was in a position to investigate them, because at that time we could not have sent a judge in over the ice—to make an examination. We had complete confidence in Mr. Ogilvie's integrity and in his desire to make a thorough and complete investigation. He has made an investigation; we have not yet received his full report; but what we say in regard to it is, that when we get the remainder of Mr. Ogilvie's report, we will give this whole subject, and the evidence that is contained in it, our fullest and most careful consideration. We will give every fact, every alleged fact, that is brought before the government and brought before parliament, our fullest and most careful consideration. And if there is the least ground for finding that there should be any further or more complete investigation, we will provide that that further and more complete investigation shall take place.'

Will there be further or more complete investigation into the matter? If yes, by what means and when? If not, why not?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I beg to reply: 1. The subject-matter of the correspondence quoted was not submitted to council. It was disposed of by the Department of the Interior on the report of the comptroller of the Yukon Territory. 2. No. The letter was never forwarded to headquarters. 3. Yes. 4. None; the official report of the comptroller goes to show the amount to have been overstated. 5. The amount due was \$36,128.13, for the output for the year 1898; \$2,100 was paid on the 26th of August, 1898, and \$34,028.13 on the 20th of June, 1899. The government are not aware of any facts which call for further investigation.

MR. CHAS. A. GASS.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

1. Did the Postmaster General receive a petition or petitions against his taking the course of dismissing Mr. Chas. A. Gass from the postmastership of Moosejaw?

2. Was one of the petitions professedly signed exclusively by Liberals?

3. Will the Postmaster General place on the Table the report made by the inspector as to the manner in which Mr. Gass discharged his duty?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Yes, if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) desires it.

Mr. DAVIN. I shall be glad if my hon. friend (Mr. Mulock) would do that.

YUKON—DREDGING LICENSES, TESLIN RIVER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

Referring to the following letters now on the Table of this House:

Ottawa, January 12, 1898.

To the Honourable
The Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

Sir,—I desire to apply for a dredging license for that part of the Teslin River commencing at the upper boundary of application Reference No. 54079, and from thence extending up stream a distance of thirty miles.

Yours truly,
A. E. PHILP,
(For Frank Barrett),
Vancouver, B.C.

Ottawa, March 4, 1898.

Hon. Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—I beg to apply for dredging lease on Teslin River for thirty miles, applied for under Reference No. 54299.

FRANK BARRETT,
Per his Attorney,
A. E. Philp.

(a) Was Mr. Philp or Mr. Barrett, care of A. E. Philp, Esq., on or about March 11, 1898, informed that as to the application for permission to dredge for minerals other than coal in thirty miles of the submerged bed of the Teslin River formerly applied for by you, and which you were informed would be leased to you upon payment of the rental on or before February 15 (or words to that effect), the whole stretch of the river had been covered by other applicants?

(b) If so, did the regulations then in force warrant an assurance of a lease covering thirty miles?

(c) Was the whole or any part of the river stretch referred to in paragraph (a) covered by other applicants between February 15 and March 11, 1898?

(d) If it was, by whose application was it and each part of said river, respectively, covered, and how many miles were covered by each applicant, and for what time did each application so cover?

(e) Has any lease been granted of the whole or any portion of the stretch of river referred to in paragraph (a)?

(f) If the answer to paragraph (e) be in the affirmative, what is the date of each lease, what is the name of each lessee, and how much rental has each lessee paid?

(g) If no lease has been granted, when did the last option for a lease expire?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. (a) Mr. Burnett was advised in care of Mr. A. E. Philp on March 11, 1898, as follows:

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, applying for permission to dredge for minerals other than coal in thirty miles of the submerged bed of the Teslin River, formerly applied for by you, and which you were informed would be leased to you upon payment of the rental on or before the 15th ultimo.

In reply I am to say that the whole of this river stretch has, since the above date, been

covered by other applications, and the applicants have been given a certain period within which to pay the rental thereof.

(b) Yes, but at a later date Mr. Burnett applied for 10 miles elsewhere, so that he could only be allowed 20 miles on the Teslin River. (c) The whole was covered. (d) 1. E. H. Smith, 85 to 90 miles from mouth of river. To March 28, 1898; 2. John Dunlop, 65 to 85 miles, from mouth of river. To March 31, 1898; 3. Geo. Sutherland, 60 to 65 miles, from mouth of river. To March 28, 1898. (e) Yes. (f) W. L. Parrish, 60 to 70 miles, March 8, 1898, \$1,000; D. C. Catlin, 70 to 75 miles, January 19, 1900, \$500. (g) May 3, 1900, for 75 to 99 miles from mouth of river.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—STORES FOR FORCES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

Has the Canadian government, or any member thereof, or any officer acting under the government, been requested by the Imperial government to act for them in providing in Canada stores, in the shape of uniforms, boots and other military equipments, for the supply of the forces operating in South Africa? If so, what are the conditions under which has the government of Canada, or officer thereof, undertaken to provide these equipments? If the Canadian government, or officer thereof, have acted as above stated, did the government of Canada call for tenders to provide these equipments at the lowest prices to the Imperial government, as would have been done had these equipments been required by the Canadian government?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The answer to the question is : No.

YUKON TERRITORY—LANDS UNDER LICENSE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. What is the number of acres of land under license in the Yukon Territory?
2. The amount paid, per square mile, to secure such licenses?
3. The amount charged for the right of cutting on each cord of wood cut, and on the cutting of the logs per thousand feet, board measure?
4. The amount of yearly rental for each square mile?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. 129,920 acres. 2. The first nine berths granted in the Yukon Territory, were disposed of at public competition, the average bonus, per square mile received, being \$172.35. A bonus at the rate of \$250 per square mile has been paid for each berth subsequently granted. 3. Cordwood, 50 cents per cord. Logs, \$2 per thousand feet, B. M. 4. No rental is charged for timber berths in the Yukon Territory—held under permit or license.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

SOLICITOR GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

Is the government aware that Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick is one of the counsel defending Mrs. Mooney, who is being prosecuted at the Quebec Criminal Assizes for the murder of her husband? Is this Mr. Charles Fitzpatrick who is defending the accused against the Crown, the same Mr. Fitzpatrick who holds in the Laurier government the position of an officer of the Crown, namely, that of Solicitor General? Does he hold this two-fold position of defender of the Crown and defender of criminals against the Crown, with the knowledge and authorization of the government?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The administration of criminal justice in each province is under the jurisdiction of the provincial authorities, and the prosecution of persons charged with crime, rests with the law officers of the Crown in the province, and not with the law officers of the Crown of the Dominion. The Solicitor General has no official status before any provincial court in the prosecution of persons accused of crime.

MOLOCANI AND STUNDISTS.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Is it true that certain people called Molocani and Stundists are about to come to this country?
2. What race and what country do they belong to?
3. What is their social condition?
4. What is their means of subsistence?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The department is not in possession of any information to answer the question.

NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE—HARDWARE SUPPLIES.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

1. On May 7 the right hon. the Prime Minister stated that the last time tenders for supplying hardware to the Mounted Police of the North-west Territories was in December, 1895 (that is, in the last current year of the late Liberal-Conservative government); that since then no tenders have been called for; that lists of articles required were sent to responsible firms; that the prices of J. H. Ashdown, Winnipeg, were found to be the most favourable; that hardware has been principally supplied by the Gurney Stove Company, Winnipeg, and J. H. Ashdown. To what firms, besides these two, were lists of articles sent?
2. To what percentage, if any, were the prices of J. H. Ashdown and the Gurney firm more favourable than those of the other (if any) firms?
3. How much has been paid to J. H. Ashdown since June 30, 1896?
4. How much to the Gurney firm?
5. What are the names of all the firms who have been paid for supplying hardware to the amount of \$1,000 and over?
6. How much has been paid to each?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier. 1. The Commissioner of the Mounted Police reported that he had sent schedules to the leading Winnipeg firms, and to local firms in the Territories; and that those who responded were: J. H. Ashdown, Winnipeg; Miller, Morse & Co., Winnipeg; The Hudson's Bay Co., Winnipeg; A. F. Grady, Macleod, for part only. 2. Comparison of the quotations of the three complete tenders—on the basis of approximate quantities—produced the following results:

Miller, Morse & Co.....	\$7,492 60
J. H. Ashdown.....	6,759 04
Hudson's Bay Co.....	6,724 20

The prices of J. H. Ashdown and the Hudson's Bay Company, being so nearly the same, preference was given to the former, whose business is exclusively hardware, and who understands exactly what is required for police purposes. 3, 4, 5, and 6. Are answered by the annexed statement:

2. Is there a report to that effect before the department?

3. Is the government aware that the said Mr. Ouellette declared, under oath, at the last revision of the voters' list, that he was the proprietor of the said barber's shop?

4. Is it the intention of the government to allow this state of things to continue?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. Agapit Ouellette is not mail clerk. 2. The Post Office Department is not aware that Mr. Agapit Ouellette keeps a barber shop at Lévis, nor is it concerned in ascertaining whether such be the case, as Mr. Ouellette is not an employee of the department, but a contractor under agreement to do certain specific work, and so long as that work is done in accordance with the requirements of the contract, the department does not feel warranted in inquiring how Mr. Ouellette employs the remainder of his time.

PAYMENTS MADE FOR HARDWARE SUPPLIES, N.W.M. POLICE, FROM JUNE 30, 1896, TO DECEMBER 31, 1899.

	1896-7.	1897-8.	1898-9.	1899-1900.	Total.
J. H. Ashdown.....	3,223 36	3,596 86	2,503 63	1,652 41	10,976 26
Gurney Stove and Range Co.....	1,088 19	432 33	699 38	324 96	2,544 86
Hudson's Bay Co.....	228 33	540 38	1,356 27	292 23	2,417 21
Miller, Morse & Co.....	3,587 49				3,587 49
The Smith & Fergusson Co.....	63 66	153 94	736 72	683 85	1,638 17
A. F. Grady.....	445 91	249 93	175 35	224 62	1,095 81
A. Macdonald.....	186 86	118 26	632 59	65 59	1,003 30
Ross Bros.....	98 77	502 56	349 75	288 81	1,239 89
Calgary Hardware Co.....	77 77	119 05	271 45	104 59	572 86
H. Bentley.....	422 84	129 90	172 81	41 74	767 29
J. A. Kerr.....	176 11	56 90	177 50		404 51
Massey-Harris Co.....	356 00				356 00

There were other purchases from local firms in the North-west varying from \$50 to \$250, during the years covered by this statement.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AS INSURANCE AGENTS.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Bergeron) asked:

Have the government compelled an employee of the immigration department to resign an insurance agency, giving as their reason for so doing that the government employees must apply themselves to their official duties only?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No.

I.C.R.—Mr. AGAPIT OUELLETTE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Bergeron) asked:

1. Does Mr. Agapit Ouellette, mail clerk at Lévis station of the Intercolonial Railway, keep a barber's shop at Lévis?

RAILWAY SLEEPERS ON INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. POWELL asked:

How many railway sleepers were supplied to the Intercolonial Railway extension from the Chaudière Junction to Ste. Rosalie, during the year ending June 30, 1899, and charged to maintenance of line?

What was the total cost of said sleepers?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The number of sleepers, 17,289, charged to maintenance on that section. Total cost, \$3,081.06.

YUKON DREDGING LEASES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. Referring to applications for dredging leases made by A. E. Philp for himself and others, and mentioned in the return now on the Table of this House, was Mr. Philp, in December, 1897, January, 1898, or at any time, permitted to ex-

amine the public records, books, &c., or any of them, in the Department of the Interior, to obtain descriptions for applications, information as to prior or other applicants for dredging leases?

2. Did Mr. Philp examine the books or records, as above, in connection with these applications or otherwise?

3. If yes, in reply to above 1 and 2, by whose authority did he do it?

4. Was this information open to the public as a matter of course?

5. Do the same rules in this connection prevail as obtain in respect to applications for timber leases?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. The public, including Mr. Philp, were informed, upon making application, of the portions of the rivers applied for and granted. The names of the lessees were furnished, but not the names of applicants. 2. Yes. 3. The chief clerk of the Timber and Mines Branch. 4. Yes. 5. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Referring to the dredging leases granted to--

W. L. Parish (p. 50, Interior Report), 1899.

A. E. Philp (p. 46, Interior Report), 1899.

P. C. Mitchell (p. 47, Interior Report), 1899?

What is the date of application for each lease, respectively?

2. Are all the papers respecting these leases and applications therefore included in the return respecting dredging leases now on the Table of this House? If not, what papers are not brought down?

Have all the terms of each of these leases been complied with? If not, in what particular, in the case of these leases, respectively, has been non-compliance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. A. E. Philp, January 12, 1898; P. C. Mitchell, January 12, 1898; W. L. Parish, April 9, 1898. 2. Yes. 3. None of the terms of the leases have been complied with except payment of first year's rent.

R. W. MORGAN.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Referring to page 46, Interior Report, 1899, is the name R. W. Morgan correctly stated, or should it be R. J. Morgan?

2. Where does the said Morgan reside?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. R. W. Morgan, as stated. 2. New York.

YUKON DREDGING LEASES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What dredging leases have been transferred with the consent of the Minister of the Interior in writing?

2. In the case of options given to Mr. Philp, if any, or to parties for whom he acted as attorney, was the consent of the Minister of the Interior, in writing, obtained where the leases were granted, if any, to assignees of Mr. Philp or those whom he represented?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Klondike Yukon Copper River Company, lease No. 136, Indian River; C. M. Wiggins, leases 164 to 169, Indian River; J. A. Macpherson, leases 200 to 205, Lewes River; C. M. Thompson, lease No. 214, Pelly River; A. W. Ault, leases 215 to 219, and lease No. 220, Mc-Question River; Jas. Stratton, lease No. 249, Yukon River; H. G. Houghton, leases 117 to 120, Sixty-mile River; T. A. Watter-son, leases 104 to 109, Pelly River; E. Pat-terson, leases 92 to 97, Macmillan River; A. Simpson, lease No. 230, Henderson Creek; Jane Thompson, leases 246 to 248, Lewes River; D. S. Keith, lease No. 254, Crooked Creek; John Weir, leases 54 to 59, Stewart River; F. J. Monroe, leases 48 to 53, Stewart River; A. M. Eastman, lease No. 110, Pelly River; A. M. Eastman, lease No. 194, Big Salmon River; A. M. Eastman, lease No. 225, Yukon River; A. M. Eastman, leases 121 and 122, Lewes River; A. M. Eastman, lease No. 226, Yukon River; A. M. Wiley, lease No. 43, Pelly River; A. M. Wiley, lease No. 44, Little Salmon River; G. H. Rogers, leases 170 to 175, Hootalinqua River; W. L. Parrish, leases 178 to 179, Teslin River; E. Rogers, leases 140 to 145, Stewart River; J. E. Smillie, leases 146 to 151, Stewart River; L. T. Leet, leases 152 to 157, Stewart River; J. C. Smellie, leases 158 to 161, Stewart River; C. M. Thompson, leases 255 to 259, Pelly River. 2. Only in the case of W. L. Parrish, mentioned in reply to (1).

N. CHARBONNEAU, Q.C.

Mr. BERGERON asked :

1. Is it a fact that N. Charbonneau, Esq., Q.C., is retained by the government of Canada in a case of the Queen vs. Schaffetlin & Fitzgibbon, now proceeding in the city of Montreal?

2. If so, what remuneration is Mr. Charbonneau to get?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Mr. Charbonneau is retained by the Department of Justice in the case of the Queen vs. Schaffetlin & Fitzgibbon, now proceeding in the city of Montreal. I cannot say at present what remuneration he will receive.

BINDER TWINE, KINGSTON PENITEN- TIARY.

Mr. CLANCY asked :

How much hemp or other fibre was received for the manufacture of binder twine at the Kingston Penitentiary between October 31, 1899, and April 1, 1900?

How much binder twine was shipped from the Kingston Penitentiary between June 30, 1899, and January 1, 1900?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Quantity of fibre received at Kingston Penitentiary from July 1, 1899, to April 1, 1900, 226,955 pounds. Twine shipped between June 30, 1899, and January 1, 1900, 252,128 pounds.

Mr. TAYLOR (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

What quantity of hemp for the manufacture of binder twine at the Kingston Penitentiary has been received at that institution since July 1, 1899, up to May 1, 1900?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Fibre received from July 1, 1899, to May 1, 1900, 319,132 pounds.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—LIST OF CASUALTIES.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to inform the House of the substance of a cablegram received on Saturday night from South Africa, reporting the following casualties on the 10th instant :

Killed—No. 7193, Private F. G. W. Floyd, 7th Fusiliers.

Wounded—No. 7018, Pte. E. Armstrong, R.C.A. (slight); No. 7208, Pte. G. W. Leonard, 22nd Regiment, 'Oxford Rifles' (dangerous); No. 7221, Pte. A. R. McLean, 38th Regiment, 'Dufferin Rifles' (severe).

I also desire, Mr. Speaker, to refer again to a matter which has been before the House on two occasions. It was brought up by the hon. leader of the opposition in reference to proofs of death which the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation has been endeavouring to obtain. In order to make the statement of the case complete, I would like to read further communications just received, copies of which have been forwarded to the company. They are as follows :

(Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Minto.)
Downing Street,
May 2, 1900.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 88 of March 26 respecting the evidence of death required by the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation in the case of members of the first Canadian contingent killed in South Africa, and in reply to transmit to you, for the information of your ministers, copy of a correspondence with the War Office on the subject.

I have, &c.,
(Sgd.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor General,
The Right Honourable
The Earl of Minto, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

Downing Street,
April 14, 1900.

Sir,—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Lansdowne, a copy of a despatch from the Governor General of Canada, inclosing a copy of correspondence between the Department of Militia and Defence, and the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, regarding the evidence of death required by the corporation in the case of members of the first Canadian contingent killed in South Africa, and I am to inquire what answer should be returned to the Governor General.

2. I am also to request that the statement required by the corporation in the case of Granville Johnston may, if possible, be supplied.

3. The sub-inclosure to the Governor General's despatch are sent in original, and I am to ask for their return.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) H. BERTRAM COX.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

War Office,
London, S.W., April 28, 1900.

Sir,—With reference to your letter, 11195, 1900, dated 14th inst., I am directed by the Secretary of State for War in return herewith the inclosures forwarded therewith, and to inform you that the High Commissioner for Canada has already applied to this department for certificates of death of non-commissioned officers and men belonging to the Canadian contingents who have been killed in action, or died from wounds or disease in South Africa, and the same will be issued by this department with as little delay as possible after the receipt of the necessary documents in this office.

The High Commissioner has been informed that certificates will be issued to him as soon as the necessary reports have been received, and that steps will be taken to hasten the despatch of the death report required in these cases.

I am, however, to point out that it will be weeks, and possibly, in a few cases, months, before the necessary documents will be available. A telegraphic notification of the death of Private G. Johnston, Canadian Regiment, only has been received. On receipt of documentary evidence of death, a certificate will be at once issued.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) FRANK T. MARZIALS.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office, Whitehall, S.W.

SUPPLIES FOR THE HALIFAX GARRISON.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). There was a question on the paper the other day which was partially answered in the absence of the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), and I see that the question has been removed from the Order paper instead of being allowed to stand. It is as respects the prices that were paid for meat by the Department of Militia and Defence at Halifax for the garrison. If my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) has the information I would be glad to receive it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I stated that the prices are the contract prices paid by the Imperial authorities. I will see that all the information is given.

PRINCE OF WALES FUSILIERS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). On the last day for questions the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden) promised to let me know the amount of money that was paid the Prince of Wales Fusiliers for new uniforms. Has the hon. gentleman that information?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). No, I have not, but I will get it.

OCEAN STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 151) to amend the Act relating to ocean steamship subsidies. He said: Hon. gentlemen will remember the resolution that we passed the other day. This Bill is a facsimile of the resolution.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported and read the third time and passed.

CRIMINAL CODE, 1892, AMENDMENT.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 137) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) why he does not proceed with the motion that is before the House in amendment to going into Committee of Supply. I think the usual procedure is that such cases take precedence of a motion of that kind. I hope my right hon. friend does not intend to prevent this House any longer from dealing with one of the most important questions which has ever been under its consideration and which it is absolutely necessary should be dealt with now.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The reason is that the other day, when this Bill was called, at the request of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) who stated that the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) wanted to be here to discuss it, the Bill was postponed and we took up this other motion, and for the further reason that we want to clear the paper of these Bills.

Mr. G. E. **FOSTER** (York, N.B.). I suppose the Speaker has left the Chair. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) knows that when I made that request, there was no motion by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) to go into Committee of Supply, and consequently this motion by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had not been moved. It was quite within the power of the hon. gentleman who had charge of the Bill to say whether we should go on with the Bill at a future occasion, which he very graciously did in order to have the presence and aid of legal gentlemen from his own province when he took up the Bill. After that had been done then comes the hon. Minister of Finance's motion to go into Committee of Supply, and then this resolution is moved. I do not think the precedent was ever before broken that when we had a

motion made, involving a want of confidence in the government, if they do not accede to the proposition, they take up other business before they know whether they have the confidence of the House or not. I do not feel like going on and taking up these other Bills until we have disposed of this motion and certainly I doubt very much if my right hon. friend makes much progress by that means.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. May I be permitted to ask my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), if this procedure is for the purpose of enabling the government to give further consideration to the very important question, as to whether they will accept the motion of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), in reference to the Huron and Brockville elections. If that is the case, it will furnish a reason, but otherwise the House is bound to an answer from the Prime Minister as to the ground on which he violates the established precedent of the House, in reference to the manner in which public business is conducted.

On section 332,

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Read the clause.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Pictou). Mr. Chairman, in view of what has been said by the leader of the opposition, I do not think it would be fitting for hon. gentlemen to allow the Prime Minister to escape his responsibility in silence. I as a member of this committee, object to being dragooned into this business, and this way of doing business. I object to be met simply by the sheer strength of numbers—for there is no show or pretense of reason given—and being thrust into a discussion of this Criminal Code when there is another important matter before the House, which according to precedent, should be disposed of. I protest against this intervention on the part of the government in a motion challenging their right to go into supply. Until that motion is disposed of, we should not proceed with this other business. I wish to see whether the House is willing to be dragooned on the mere caprice of the government—for they have given no reason, but remained silent—into considering this Bill, before the Prime Minister or some member on the Treasury benches speaking for the government, gives a reason for this unusual procedure. I beg to move that this committee do now rise.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend knows—

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I have made a motion, and I think it should be put.

The **CHAIRMAN** (Mr. Campbell) having put the motion that the committee do now rise.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), and the leader of the opposition, and every gentleman opposite knows, that the debate which has now arisen is out of order. The moment that the Speaker left the Chair no member had a right to speak on any other subject than that before the House. It was through courtesy that I allowed my hon. friend to put an observation to which I gave an answer, and when the answer was given, I took it that the incident should have been closed for the day. The government has no intention whatever of avoiding the responsibility of the motion moved by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), but the government would remind the hon. gentlemen opposite that there are such things as courtesies extended from one side of the House to the other. We knew that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) would move his amendment the moment we proposed to go into supply. When the present item, in reference to the Criminal Code was before the House the other day, the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) asked that it should not be proceeded with further, as several gentlemen, notably the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain)—wished to be present. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) yielded readily to the request made, and this afternoon when the hon. gentleman from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) is in his seat, we propose to proceed with the discussion of this Bill which was postponed the other night. My hon. friend says there is an important motion before the House. There is indeed, and I am surprised that gentlemen opposite should insist on taking this motion on a Monday in a thin House, and decide to wait until another day when we could have a full House to discuss it. This Criminal Code Bill was postponed at the request of gentlemen opposite to allow certain members to be present; and when we resume the discussion at the earliest possible date, and with the member for Montmorency in the House—or he was in the House until a few moments ago—I am surprised that these gentlemen opposite should object to it. The hon. the leader of the opposition was not in the House on Friday evening when this took place. I ask him this: When certain procedure is consented to for the mutual convenience of members, and when one order is postponed and another taken up, does he think that the amenities of the House are to be preserved by making this objection under such circumstances. Is that the way that engagements entered into, whether formally or tacitly, between both sides are to be carried out. Does he think it fair between party and party that when the government propose to resume this order, postponed at the request of gentlemen opposite, that such objection should now be interposed. This is a Bill which is purely technical, and the discussion of which will

be confined chiefly to the legal members of this House, and does not the hon. gentleman think that it would be more convenient to every one that we should proceed with it. My hon. friend must know that upon this motion of the hon. gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Borden), there are certain members absent who want to speak on it, and even if there was no other reason than the general convenience, I think we should proceed with this order now before us. Mr. Chairman, I speak feelingly on this matter. I want to ask hon. gentlemen opposite, whether we are to have a regular understanding between both sides carried out or not. I am quite prepared to take the motion of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), but I ask that we should, this afternoon, dispose of the order which we were proceeding with the other day, and which we simply laid aside at the request of hon. gentlemen opposite and for their convenience. For the same convenience, I ask that this order be proceeded with, and we shall then be quite prepared to take up the motion of my hon. friend from Halifax. But I am surprised, I say frankly to the hon. leader of the opposition, and I venture to say that if he had been here on Friday afternoon, and knew what took place then, he would not now ask what he has asked, but would allow us to proceed with this order. I ask that an engagement made in that way should be respected.

Mr. GEO. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) My hon. friend is rather surprising in this new mood of his. Perhaps he will go back a little further than Friday; perhaps he will go back to Thursday night, when I asked the question, as to the business for Friday, in order that we might be prepared to go on with the motion of my hon. friend from Halifax, and the right hon. gentleman said that he would exhaust the Bills in the government orders. Therefore, my hon. friend from Halifax, had really made all preparations for going to New York, with the idea that there would not be any supply asked for on Friday. By a piece of good luck, if we may so term it, for some reason or other, my hon. friend from Halifax did not go to New York, and he happened to be here. But, Sir, it was a very great surprise to us on this side of the House, when there were not more than eighteen or twenty members in the House, that the hon. gentleman should go on with supply, without exhausting the government Bills, and force my hon. friend in so small a House, to open up his case. That was the important period for a debate of this kind: It was the laying down of the whole case, when, if ever we ought to have a full representation of the members in this House. But we were forced, against the government's promise of Thursday night, before the government Bills were exhausted, and with a very thin House, to go into the discussion of this subject;

and so my hon. friend made his opening address. Now, Sir, what happened in the course of the various government Bills being called up? This Bill to amend the Criminal Code, was called up, and it was postponed, that was not done as a favour for myself or for the party. If it was anything, it was a favour to the whole House and to the Bill, because when we discuss a Bill to amend the Criminal Code, I suppose we need our legal members on both sides of the House to be here to as great a number as possible. So when this Bill came up, I suggested what I think had already been talked over with the Solicitor General, that in the unavoidable absence of some hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, the Solicitor General should postpone it, and the Solicitor General agreed to postpone it. The government had other orders; what were they? There was the House again in committee on a Bill to amend the Weights and Measures Act; that was not exhausted. There was the House again in committee on the Bill to amend the Pilotage Act. That had been discussed and laid over, and that was out of the road.

The PRIME MINISTER. At the request of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. FOSTER. What does my hon. friend mean to say? Does he mean to say that gentlemen on this side of the House are not to exercise their judgment at all, with reference to a Bill—are to make no criticism of it? This Bill had been brought down in a certain shape and printed. Then the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries came down with a written amendment of six different sections, entirely altering the Bill; and we requested that these should be printed before the Bill finally passed out of the committee. Was that a fair request? Does my hon. friend say that that should be put on the line of courtesy, and that he is gracious and we are crabbed and ill-natured, because we did not go on with that Bill, but asked, under these circumstances, that it should be put off? It is no courtesy to this side of the House; but it is a fair right of every member of this House to have printed and before him, five or six amendments, which entirely alter a Bill, in order that every man may make up his mind on the Bill as affected by those amendments. There was also on the paper, a Bill to provide for the marking and inspection of packages containing apples and pears for export; that was not exhausted; there was another to amend the Act respecting the safety of ships, by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. He was in his seat, and that item was not brought up. There was a most important order, if there is any meaning in it at all—a resolution introduced by the Postmaster General and partly discussed in this House, with reference to the letting of government contracts. That was not exhausted, and it was open to the government to have

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gone on with that. There was the second reading of a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the election of members of the House of Commons, in the hands of the Solicitor General; and the Solicitor General was here. He is always prepared, *semper paratus* is his motto; and he was prepared to go on with that; but it was not called up. Then, there was the second reading of a Bill respecting the grain trade, in the inspection district of Manitoba; it was not gone on with. Another was the Bill standing in the name of the Finance Minister, who was present—a Bill respecting inscribed stock in Canada in the United Kingdom. Another one standing for its second reading was a Bill to amend the Act relating to ocean steamship subsidies. Another was a very important one with reference to contracts with certain steamship companies for cold storage accommodation. These were all on the government Order paper, and the hon. leader of the government promised to exhaust them before calling supply, but he did not do so. The very moment the government called for supply, they gave my hon. friend from Halifax, an opportunity to move his motion, a most important motion; and I have heard hon. gentlemen opposite, when they were on this side of the House, argue that until motions of this kind were definitely settled and passed upon by the House, the government had no right to proceed with other business; nor did the government of the Liberal-Conservative party, in my experience ever ask the House to deviate from an important motion, involving the standing of the government, until it had been decided by the House. So that my right hon. friend has no right to lecture us on lack of courtesy. He has no right to put an implied agreement forward, that because they gave way on this Bill, to amend the Criminal Code, and this important motion afterwards intervened, thereafter this motion could be set aside, until a Bill of less importance should be disposed of. I think my right hon. friend is entirely wrong in that position; and I do not like to see the leader of the government getting out of temper because of what he styles lack of courtesy. They are simply acts of right between different members in this House, which we exercise every session, when gentlemen, who want to be present at the discussion of an important subject and have unavoidably to be absent, ask that it should be laid over until they return. But there is no implied agreement that the very moment they return, no matter what other business may have come up in the interval, we must go on with that particular measure. The request is simply that the measure should not be gone on with in their absence. But what do we find? We find that a most important motion, one on which the government have to make their election as to what they propose to do, one which the

right hon. gentleman has been endeavouring to burk since the first day of session until now, has come up before the House. It is a question with regard to a demand which last year the right hon. gentleman declared to be so reasonable, both in the case of the West Huron election and the Brockville election, that he would accede to it and send these matters immediately to be dealt with by the Privileges and Elections Committee. It is a motion with regard to the West Huron election, which was taken before the committee last session, and which, in that committee, was made to appear by actual evidence more important than it did upon the prima facie statement of the case in this House, and which prima facie evidence the right hon. gentleman thought was sufficient to warrant him in sending the matter before the Privileges and Elections Committee. When this session opened, the right hon. gentleman forgot his promise of last year, he forgot his moderate and statesmanlike statement of last year, that all matters affecting the independence of the electoral vote, affecting a member's standing in this House, even by implication, were so important that they should take precedence of all others and be sent to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, when there was a fairly prima facie case made out. This year the right hon. gentleman forgot that statement; and when my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) made his motion at the first available opportunity, he was met by a technical point of order and forced to defer it. He then tried to bring it up at the very next opportunity, after he had given formal notice of it. My hon. friend from Halifax was not anxious to display his rhetoric, he was not anxious to make in this House a case against the government, he was willing to let his motion pass without discussion, and have the matter sent at once to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, entirely devoid of all partisan appeals in this House before it got to that tribunal. Why was he not allowed to bring it before that tribunal? Nobody knows. But the right hon. gentleman was nervous about it, and he took good care that the hon. gentleman's motion should not be passed. Time and time again the right hon. gentleman hung it up, and hung it up advisedly, and behind him his supporters rose and gave out the statement whether authorized or not, that altogether too much importance had been given that thing last year, and that this year they did not propose to allow anything of the kind. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) gave us that view, and so certainly did the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Casey), and I am not sure that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) did not. These gentlemen stand high in the councils of the government, they are the lieutenants of the government, not one of

them would be gratified or complimented if told that he was not in the confidence of the government, or that he did not know what the government was going to do. Not a frown crossed the ministerial brow when these independent supporters of the government flatly told the House and the country that no such opportunity should be given for the investigation of the case this year as were given last year. So that up to Friday night last my hon. friend from Halifax had no opportunity at all to press his motion. Supply has been before this House for two and a half months, or nearly so, and had been kept back, and would have been still kept back on Friday night, if these hon. gentlemen had been ready with their Bills, and they are keeping it back now. Why? Is it to weary out the House? Is it to weary out the country and get the people into that state of mind that they will say that this thing has been going on at Ottawa three months or more and we do not want any more of it. Is it their object to put it off until the last possible hour, when, in the heat of the dog days, it will not get the discussion it should. It has been the intention of my hon. friend from Halifax to get this on at the earliest moment. Now it is on, what is the government going to do? Is the right hon. gentleman going to swallow himself in this as he has done in many other matters? Is he going, after his declaration of last year, to deny my hon. friend the right to take this matter before the Privileges and Elections Committee this session. The case of West Huron was weak last year compared with what it is to-day, in the light of the evidence brought out last session, but it was strong enough at the beginning of last session to bring forth the statement of my right hon. friend that it should be sent to the committee. Is he going back on that statement, and if so, in whose interest? Not in the interests of electoral purity, not in the interests of the sacredness of the ballot of this country, but in the interests of men who sit in this parliament under the very strong suspicion that if straight ballots had been honestly counted they would not have seats in this House. He is going to the country with a smirch upon his record and career if he takes the responsibility of telling the electorate of this country: You may read whatever affidavits you like, you may make whatever prima facie case you like, we are not going to give you the opportunity of having these cases brought before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. If he takes that ground, I have no hesitation in telling him that this government is on its trial right here in this parliament to-day; and if it takes that ground in this parliament, it ought not to have the confidence of the members, and in this country I believe it will not deserve the confidence of the electors. So that it is a much more

important question than my hon. friend thinks. Or is he going now to send it to the committee? If he is, then, in the name of a fair investigation, let him send it there as soon as possible. We have now reached the 14th May, when parliament ought to close, and the hon. gentleman is still fighting for delay until it will be too late to give this matter the full investigation it ought to have. Not one moment, therefore, should be lost if my hon. friend is going to send it to the committee, and if he is not he should be tried by this House before he goes a step further in the conduct of business.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I do not propose to discuss the West Huron election case, because that will be discussed very shortly when we reach it, and it cannot be discussed when the matter before the House is a Bill to amend the Criminal Code. My hon. friend has ingeniously evaded the charge of want of good faith brought against him. It would have been much more to his credit had he confined his remarks to that charge, but instead he went into a tirade on the West Huron and Brockville elections, although he knows these matters will be thoroughly discussed when the motion of the hon. member for Halifax comes before the House, as it will very shortly. What have these to do with the Criminal Code?

Mr. **BENNETT**. The Criminal Code has a good deal to do with them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bennett) knows that the government have been trying for days and days to press forward the Bills which have been on the Order paper and which require action on the part of this House before they go to the Senate.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Why did you not press them Friday night?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We did. The hon. gentleman talks about the Weights and Measures Act. This was postponed by my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) at the express request of the members of the opposition. They wished to consult people in their own constituencies. Of course, the matter was important, and he yielded. Then, the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) wanted to go on with the Bill for the marking and inspection of packages of apples and pears for export. But some hon. gentlemen opposite asked him to postpone the consideration of this Bill until they had had time to consult with those in their own locality who were interested. The Criminal Code Bill was brought up, but, the hon. gentleman who was leading the opposition appealed to the

Mr. **FOSTER**.

good-nature of the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick)—that was the way he put it—not to go on with the Bill, because the hon. member for St. Ann's, Montreal (Mr. Quinn), and the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) were absent. The Solicitor General yielded that point. So, after all the Bills that were ready—

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. No. There were other Bills.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There was one other Bill, one of great importance, one that we considered of too great importance to bring it forward at that hour of the night—the Dominion Elections Bill.

Mr. **FOSTER**. There were others.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) was not present on Friday night, as the hon. gentleman knows, and, therefore, his Bill could not be gone on with. The Bill respecting the safety of ships is a very small Bill, merely to correct an error in the Act of last year. It was a matter that need not occupy a moment. But, the main Bills before the House, those that I have mentioned, were postponed at the request of members of the opposition. We did not know, when we moved supply at ten o'clock, that they were going to spring the West Huron election upon us.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Spring! The hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says that every member of the government knew that the moment you went into supply that would be brought up.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No notice was given. Of course, hon. gentlemen opposite were not bound to give notice. But, what I am contending is that all the main Bills that we were ready and anxious to go on with were postponed at the instance of hon. gentlemen opposite, except the Dominion Elections Bill, which was too important to be gone on with at that hour of the night.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What about item 16, the Bill respecting the grain trade, and 17, respecting inscribed stock of Canada in the United Kingdom, and 19, the cold storage Bill?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I can answer for No. 17. Some papers which were important in the discussion of this Bill were laid on the Table, and my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) asked that they should be printed. If I had persisted in going on with that Bill, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) would have, properly, taken exception.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. So, all the Bills were kept

back at the instance of the opposition. We went into supply late on Friday night, with a thin House, and I never dreamed that this motion respecting the West Huron election would be made at that time.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I may explain that I informed half a dozen members on the other side of the House that I would make this motion the first time the motion for supply was made. I mentioned it also in writing to the Solicitor General not later than a week ago last Saturday, in answer to a request from him that I should let the matter stand.

The PRIME MINISTER. I would appeal again to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). On Thursday evening, the hon. gentleman asked me what business would be taken up the following day, and I told him. We took up the Pilotage Bill; but, for reasons against which I have nothing to say, the hon. gentleman then leading the opposition asked that the Bill should stand, because he wanted to have my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) present. We did not take up the Weights and Measures Bill because there was a general consensus of opinion that it should not be gone on with before hon. members had an opportunity of discussing it with their constituents. The Bill respecting the packing of apples was taken up, but, at the solicitation of several members on both sides, it was postponed that they might have an opportunity of discussing it with their constituents. There remained then the Elections Bill. Nobody expected that that would be taken up at eleven o'clock Friday night. Of course, there was the Bill respecting the inspection of grain, but that also was too important to be taken up at that time. There were two small Bills, one of which we have taken up to-day, and the other we could not take up in the absence of my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher). We thought to go on with the Criminal Code Bill. But, it did not suit hon. gentlemen opposite to go on with this measure, and so we yielded and allowed the consideration of it to be postponed. I appeal to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) that, under these circumstances, it is only fair that we should go on with this business. For my part, I did not expect that we should be called upon to take up the motion of my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) in such a thin House as we usually have on Monday afternoon, when many hon. gentlemen, who desire to take part in the debate, are absent.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No one is more disposed to help forward anything that will promote the courtesies of the House than I am, and no one attaches more importance than I do to the carrying out of an under-

standing across the floor. After hearing this discussion and the statement made, I can only say that I regard it as a mere pretext to avoid going on with this discussion. But, if my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will say that he only wants until to-morrow to decide whether they will accept this motion or whether they will oppose it, I am ready to agree, for my part, that he should have that time. I appreciate the gravity of the case. I feel that the character of parliament and of parliamentary institutions are at stake in this matter. I feel that the character of my right hon. friend and his colleagues are at stake—

The PRIME MINISTER. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) may think that a small matter, but I do not agree with him. The character and standing of the government of Canada, whoever may compose it, is a matter of vital consequence to parliament and the country. So, under the circumstances, if my right hon. friend says: I want, then, until to-morrow to decide what course we shall take in this matter. I am quite ready to wait.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will give an answer to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper).

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then, I will wait for it.

The PRIME MINISTER. I told my hon. friend that the government did not want a minute to come to a conclusion on this matter. We are ready to meet it. I appreciate the charity of my hon. friend; it speaks well for the kindness of his heart. But, I do not think I need it, and am not ready to accept it. The hon. gentleman knows the condition of things in this House on Monday and on Friday. Now that we have such facilities for communication with Ottawa, he knows that Friday and Monday are days when it is difficult to take up important business. Therefore, we do not want to take up this important business to-day, but to take it up to-morrow, when we shall have a full House, and when hon. members, who desire to take part in the debate, will be present. But, we wanted to take this Monday to clear off the paper and put through as many Bills as we could.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Now that the hon. gentleman has been good enough to answer the question that I asked him before, I will ask him another: Will this question be the first Order of the Day to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. Certainly, that has been my intention from the start.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Under these circumstances, I will give way to my right hon. friend.

Motion negatived.

On section 32,

Mr. POWELL. I would like to ask the Solicitor General, why, when he is recon- sidering this section, he draws the purely arbitrary and, let me say with humility, ab- surd distinction between personal property in animals, and other personal property. For instance, why should a man who steals a sheep valued, we will say, at \$15, be in a different position, before the eyes of the criminal law, to a man who steals \$15 worth of boots and shoes? I could understand why a distinction should be made between wild animals that are kept in confinement, and animals which are kept for domestic pur- poses. But I can see no distinction in prin- ciple between these two classes of property in this section. When we are legislating in the matter, why not place the criminal law on some philosophic principle, instead of drawing this arbitrary distinction?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitz- patrick). There is a great deal of good sense in what the hon. gentleman has said, but if we were to endeavour to base the crimin- al law on philosophic principles, I think, we would have to begin by destroying the pres- ent code, and making a new one. That may be done in the future, possibly in the near future; but for the present we are trying as far as we can, to amend the code that we have before us. But with regard to the distinction between property in animals and other personal property, it seems to me that a man is entitled to more protection when we are dealing with property, which is not under his immediate control, property which of necessity must be placed out of his reach. There is a great difference between the man who steals a pair of boots, which would naturally be under the immediate control and supervision of the man who owns them, and the man who steals a sheep, which would, naturally, be in the field, and not under the immediate control of the owner.

Mr. POWELL. That distinction struck me, but why not limit the Act to that class of cases? Why make the Act so general as to include the stealing of animals from the owners' inclosure or barnyard?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not prepared to say this is a proper distinction. But to adopt the suggestion of the hon. gen- tleman, you would have to take a number of these articles dealing with theft in the Criminal Code, and reconstruct the whole of them; you would have to enact one clause which would practically take the place of all these various clauses which we have had in the Criminal Code from time im- memorial, so to speak.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). I do not share the opinion of my hon. friend who desires to see this Code all changed. In 1892, when the House dealt with the

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Criminal Code, we studied it thoroughly. This was the old English Act, which had not been put in force in England, but was re- cognized as having been the subject of a great deal of careful study by some of the strongest jurists in England. In 1892 it passed under the careful supervision of Sir John Thompson, a gentleman admittedly of great legal attainments. If it has been found necessary to change clause 322 in this way, I do not see any reason why we should change any other clause. There have al- ready been so many changes that we can hardly recognize the old law. I do not see any material difference between section 332 of the Act, and the one which is brought down by this Bill.

Mr. DAVIN. It seems to me that this clause provides a very severe penalty. I confess I cannot see any advantage in the change.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The clause which it is intended to substitute provides for a more expensive class of animal, mak- ing it a higher offence in proportion as the animal may be more valuable. That is the only object of the change. The section was introduced in the Senate where they appear to have given very great consideration to the Bill. I feel that I am obliged to main- tain the clause, but if my hon. friend sees that there is any serious objection to it we might reserve it, although I do not see any reason why it should stand.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Campbell). Car- ried.

Mr. BERGERON. No, I understand my hon. friend, the Solicitor General, will allow it to stand for further consideration.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We have several others that we have allowed to stand, but I would not like to let it stand unless it is necessary.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in committee.)

On section 410,

Mr. A. F. MacLAREN (North Perth). Mr. Chairman, before going any further with this clause, I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General what he is going to do in regard to my Bill, No. 62 on the Order paper, to amend the Criminal Code.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The sug- gestion that is contained in Bill No. 62, to amend the Criminal Code, introduced by my hon. friend (Mr. MacLaren) is valuable, but it is somewhat of an important departure from the rules that have hitherto guided us in criminal matters, and I would like the hon. gentleman to allow it to remain in

abeyance until the Department of Justice has examined it further so as to determine whether or not we can incorporate the suggestion in the Criminal Code. The matter will receive serious consideration and if it is possible to adopt the suggestion, which is a valuable one, it certainly will be adopted.

Mr. MacLAREN. Very well; I hope it will receive the very serious consideration of the Department of Justice.

On section 520,

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). Mr. Chairman, when the Bill was introduced there was a subsection 2 following that section and I notice that it has now been dropped. By reference to the Senate Debates, I see that it was lost by a very small majority in the Senate. It was a section exempting trades union organizations from the operation of that clause, and I wish the hon. Solicitor General would tell us if he has considered the matter, and whether subsection 2, which was in the original Bill, should not be included here. The hon. Minister of Justice in the Senate said that this main clause, in its present shape, would leave the trades organizations of this country at the mercy of any person who wished to set the machinery in motion. I think we should take some steps to protect that body.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have the Bill as it was reported from the Senate and the Bill, as reported from the Senate, contains the second subsection, as follows:—

Nothing in this section should be construed to apply to combinations of workmen or employees for their own reasonable protection as such workmen or employees.

I do not exactly see the point of the objection urged by the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee). The section is not applicable to combinations of workmen or employees who, it is provided, shall have reasonable protection.

Mr. PUTTEE. Subsection 2 is not in here at all.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, it is. Subsection 2 is there, is it not?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No, it is not here.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is in the Bill as I have it. Subsection 2 is in the copy of the Bill which has been sent to me from the Senate. I am willing that it should be inserted in the Bill here.

Mr. PUTTEE. This is a very important clause, and I trust the Solicitor General will make sure that it is reinserted.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not hear what my hon. friend (Mr. Puttee) says, but if he wants the clause inserted, and moves that it be reinserted, I agree.

Mr. PUTTEE. If it was the intention to have this clause in the Bill, it certainly should be there, and I will move that it be reinserted as follows:

Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to combinations of workmen or employees for their own reasonable protection, as such workmen or employees.

Mr. BRITTON. I will second that.

Mr. BERGERON. What does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee) mean by that clause?

Mr. PUTTEE. It means exactly what it states there, to exempt labour organizations and trades unions from the operation of this clause. The Minister of Justice said in the Senate that if the clause were passed in its present shape, without the amendment I have moved, it would place the trades organizations of this country at the mercy of any one who liked to set the law in operation. Therefore, you would take away a most distinct right they have at the present time. By reading clause 520, it will be apparent that the idea is, if possible, to prevent the organization of trade combinations for the raising of prices. I presume this House does not expect it will be operative, but the clause most certainly also gives power to disband any organization of labouring men formed for their own protection. In view of the opinion of the Minister of Justice, which I have quoted, and the statement of the Solicitor General, that he had intended to have this subsection 2, included in the Bill, I think there should be no objection to it.

Mr. BERGERON. Does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee) think that the Minister of Justice left it out on purpose?

Mr. PUTTEE. It was left out by mistake we have been told.

On section 520,

Mr. BERGERON. Under the law as it stands to-day, has not the judge the right to clear the court if he wishes to? What is the explanation of this clause?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Under the general law, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) is aware, the courts are open to the general public, but by section 550, the trials of all persons under the age of sixteen years shall, so far as practicable, take place without publicity. Our intention is to extend substantially the provisions of section 550, to the cases provided for in 558. In the trial of charges for indecent offences and things of that kind, we leave it discretionary with the judge to declare that for the purpose of such trials the court shall not be a public court, and that he shall have power to determine who shall have access.

Mr. BERGERON. I have seen the judges exercise that right already in Montreal. Has not the judge power to do so now.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think he has. I have in my mind a very well-known case in Quebec, in which the judge restricted the area of the court room which was left open to the public, and I think he had power to do that, but the judge said he could not go beyond that, and I am quite sure he was right.

Mr. BERGERON. The clause will do no harm anyway, because it leaves it in the discretion of the judge.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think it is rather wise.

On section 589,

Mr. BERGERON. What is the object of this change ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This is a change suggested by the Attorney General's office in the province of British Columbia, to meet difficulties which exist there. In effect, the change assimilates the procedure in cases of this description to the procedure in cases of summary conviction, provided for in section 878 of the Criminal Code, which provides an easy and effective mode of disposing of recognizances.

On section 601,

Mr. BRITTON. Whether this section is necessary or not, I think I can see how it comes to be suggested. No harm, so far as my experience goes, has ever resulted from the law as it stands, and I cannot say that any particular harm is going to result if this amendment is adopted. But the point is this: I think this amendment is in the interest of the officers of the court, who sometimes want a person charged with an offence which is not very serious, to be held over for trial to the general sessions of the peace. I speak now of the province of Ontario, where the Crown prosecutors are sent to attend the assizes. Sometimes they have very few cases, sometimes none at all, because the county judge's criminal court takes from the assizes the trial of all who are willing to be tried by a judge without a jury. This section is proposed to meet such a case, so that, instead of being sent in the natural order of things, to the next court of competent jurisdiction, for trial, which is the assizes, which are to meet in October or November, the county attorney asks the judge to postpone the trial to the sessions, which will come on in December. I do not think that is necessary, as I think the law works very well as it is. This amendment seems to be introduced at the instance of the county attorneys; and the point is, whether the judge should have the power in such cases, to traverse the case, by changing the recognizance to the sessions which are further off, instead of to the assizes which are near by.

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

Mr. BERGERON. What is the object of doing that ?

Mr. BRITTON. It seems to me that the object is that the county attorney prefers to have the handling of the case, because of the fees connected with it.

Mr. BERGERON. I do not think that should be countenanced by parliament.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend is reading into this section an interpretation which, I fear, I have not been able to see in it. At the present time it is open to some question whether or not a magistrate can commit to the court of sessions, instead of to the assizes, and this is for the purpose of enabling him do so. Any one who knows the practice of the province of Quebec, will see the reasonableness of this. If you commit to the quarter sessions, you have a trial without a jury, whereas if you commit to the assizes, you entail upon the province the additional expense of a jury trial.

Mr. BERGERON. In the province of Quebec, if an accused person prefers to be tried by a jury, his desire is granted, and then he will have to wait for the criminal court; but the case mentioned by my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton), is one in which the assizes meet first, and the case is put off to the sessions. There would seem to be a lack of justice in doing that.

Mr. BRITTON. So far as Ontario is concerned, both at the assizes and the sessions, criminal cases come before juries. If a man is tried without a jury, he is tried neither at the assizes nor the sessions, but before the county judges criminal court, or before a judge or magistrate having criminal jurisdiction.

Mr. BERGERON. A magistrate ?

Mr. BRITTON. When a man is brought before a magistrate for a preliminary hearing, he elects whether he will be tried by jury or not. If he elects to be tried by a jury, he would be at present committed for trial to the next court of competent jurisdiction, and would have to remain in custody unless he gave bail. This section allows the magistrate to take bail for the sessions, although the sittings of the sessions may be two or more months further away than the next court of competent jurisdiction, which would be the assizes. The case would naturally come before the nearest court, so that it would be disposed of quickly unless delay were required. The clause reads :

Section 601. By adding thereto the following subsection:

'3. Where the offence is one triable by the court of general or quarter sessions of the peace and the justice is of opinion that it may better or more conveniently be so tried, the condition of the recognizance may be for the appearance of the accused at the next sittings of that court, notwithstanding that a sittings of

a superior court of criminal jurisdiction capable of trying the offence intervenes.'

The section seems to me unnecessary, as I can see no great advantage in it, although perhaps there is no harm.

Mr. BERGERON. It is loading our Criminal Code with new clauses.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My information is—and I submit it with all deference to the opinion of the hon. member for Kingston—that it is a great convenience in the administration of criminal justice, to have this power vested in a magistrate to determine whether a case will be tried at the assizes or the sessions. There is an advantage in having it tried at the sessions, because that is the most expeditious and cheapest mode. The section cannot do any harm.

Mr. BRITTON. There are some cases which the high court would not take up time in trying, but will hold over for the sessions.

On section 641.

Mr. BRITTON. I want to take a little credit for this. The section is simply amended by the insertion of subsection 2.

2. The counsel acting on behalf of the Crown at any court of criminal jurisdiction may prefer against any person who has been committed for trial at such court a bill of indictment for the charge on which the accused has been so committed or for any charge founded on the facts or evidence disclosed in the depositions taken before the justice.

And I call attention to that fact that this was in each of the Bills I introduced each session, since I have had the honour of being a member of this House, but I was unable to carry it through.

Mr. BERGERON. Then you are the father of it?

Mr. BRITTON. I claim to be, though there may be others who have made suggestions to the Minister of Justice with reference to it. The omission of this clause was a slip in the code when first enacted. The strict interpretation is, that unless a prosecutor in every case submitted himself to be bound over to prosecute, there was no power to lay an indictment except by the written consent of the judge.

Mr. POWELL. What about the common law right?

Mr. BRITTON. The judges did not act on it, and they gave their order or consent as a matter of course. This provides that the indictment may be laid as of right, whereas previously the prosecutor ran the risk of having his indictment quashed unless he took the precaution of having a judge's order or consent before he went to the grand jury.

Mr. BERGERON. Does a case like that happen often?

Mr. BRITTON. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred where the complaint is laid before a magistrate, and the magistrate finds a prima facie case, the prosecutor is not asked and does not submit himself to be bound over to prosecute, nor are the witnesses in all cases bound over to attend. As the law was interpreted, an indictment could not be laid in such a case without a judge's order or consent.

On section 678a,

Mr. BERGERON. Does not the law provide for that already? The judge has a right to hold witnesses in court as long as he wishes. I see this is not for the case of an absconding witness.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The committing magistrate commits a prisoner for trial, and then he binds over any witnesses who may appear before him at the assizes, to give evidence. But, there may be other witnesses knowledge of whom may come to the accused or to the Crown, but who were not known before the committing magistrate. If it is proved to the satisfaction of the judge that these witnesses may not be forthcoming, it is optional with him to issue a warrant and bind them over to appear, as a committing magistrate might do. That is the object.

On section 680,

Mr. BERGERON. What is the object of this? I see that the additions are paragraph *b*, and also the words 'or any chairman of general sessions.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It seems to me that it is only proper that the chairman of general sessions, who has authority to deal with the prisoners, should have authority to summon the witnesses under these conditions. Subsection *b* is intended to meet the cases that occur, especially in British Columbia, and may occur in any province, especially where they have to travel long distances. Under subsection *a* of the existing law, the judge issues a warrant for the person in custody to appear. The warden of the penitentiary, or other person who has the witness in custody, or hands him over to the person named in the judge's order, and that person produces him before the court. So, it is necessary that the person named should go to where the witness is confined and bring him back to the place where he is to be examined. Under subsection *b*, instead of having the double trip, an order may be given directing the custodian of the prisoner to bring him to the place where he is intended to be examined. This avoids a double journey and thus saves expense.

Mr. BRITTON. As to the words 'or chairman of the general sessions,' is that

necessary in the province of Quebec or elsewhere? With us there is no chairman of general sessions, except the judge of the court of criminal jurisdiction.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It cannot do any harm anyway.

On section 687,

Mr. POWELL. Is that section intended to allow, for instance, depositions which may be given on another charge, but which may be pertinent in the matter before the court, to be admitted in evidence? It is sufficiently general to cover that, but it might be held by strict interpretation not to cover it. Would it not be better to restrict this?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Is that necessary? However, I am willing to consider that.

Mr. POWELL. It is well known that, carrying on a defence, for instance, is very much like playing a hand at cards—you make the best use that you have at your disposal. In the trial of one charge, the counsel for defence may think it will not do to enter into cross-examination, but to accept the facts in the direct examination. But, in another charge or trial, the case might be different, and, if the deposition were admitted, he would be prejudiced by the game he had felt it desirable to play in the first place. I think it should be limited to the trial of that charge or a similar charge.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think the suggestion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) is a reasonable one and should be acted upon.

Mr. BERGERON. It does not seem to me that there is danger, under the clause, of a deposition in one trial being brought in in another.

Mr. BRITTON. If the language of the section does not clearly mean that, it is in reference to the same charge, then it ought to be made so, because it is evident that it should be in the same case.

Mr. BERGERON. Would a judge hear a deposition of that sort?

Mr. BRITTON. I do not think he would. But it is better to put it beyond question. You will see in the note, a reference to an article from the Canada Law Journal, giving the date. I know something about that article in the Law Journal. That same section has been introduced two or three times in Bills that have not passed, but this subsection 2, appears now for the first time. It is, to my knowledge, that in a criminal trial, where the jury disagree, the evidence given by one of the witnesses was offered at a subsequent trial, because the witness was out of the country, and that evidence was not allowed.

Mr. BRITTON.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It could not be allowed under the law as it is now.

Mr. BRITTON. It is evident that if a deposition taken in a preliminary inquiry ought to be allowed where the witness is dead or absent, much more ought it to be allowed where there have been all the formalities of a trial in the presence of a judge.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. But under this clause the doubt which the hon. gentleman is pointing out, would exist. Under clause 2, I should imagine that that evidence could be imported from one trial into another. I agree with the hon. gentleman that it should be made so clear that there could be no possibility of such evidence being used, except in the same trial, and in case of the death of the witness, or the impossibility of getting the witness to come up and make his deposition personally. That evidence should be admissible in the same trial, but it should not be transferred from that trial into another one.

Mr. BERGERON. I think the clause as it stands, is as good as we can make it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we had better not adopt that clause without some amendment. The intention is to make the deposition given at a former trial for the same offence available, on a new trial; and I would suggest that these words be added: 'In this section the word deposition includes the evidence of a witness given in a trial before the same court for the same offence.'

Mr. BERGERON. Why do you say the same court?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is the same court with us. If the jury disagreed, and you tried the man over again before another jury, his evidence given before the same court would be admissible. I think, perhaps, I had better leave this and consult with my hon. friend, and get him to make an amendment which would meet the views of the committee; and when this clause comes up again, we can consider how far he has met their objection. I understand the intention is to make the evidence given in the same trial between the same parties available on a new trial.

On section 687,

Mr. BERGERON. Is that introduced for our new population of Doukhobors and Galicians? Surely this is not made for Canadian-born children?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In the case of some children coming from abroad, there are no registers of birth possible, and in order to establish the age of a child, recourse is had to a record made by any incorporated society, such as the Children's Aid Society.

On section 702,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This is to make the evidence now available on a charge made under section 198, available on a charge, made under the next section, 199.

On section 729,

Mr. POWELL. I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General in what case has doubt arisen in regard to the words 'or on any other holiday.' It has been decided in the maritime provinces time and again that no day is a *dies non* except Sunday.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is not so with us. A bank holiday is a *dies non* for almost all civil procedure. Of course we could not make it a *dies non* in matters affecting criminal procedure; but to avoid doubt we provide that a holiday shall be the same as Sunday.

Mr. POWELL. Does that express it?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand so, but, how there can be any doubt, I cannot understand.

Mr. BRITTON. I have known courts to sit frequently on Good Friday to receive verdicts the same as other days.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Coming as I do from a law-abiding province, it would be a matter of impossibility to conceive that a judge would sit on Good Friday with us.

On section 765,

Mr. POWELL. Why not allow it to a party where he gives bail. It is a very inexpensive and expeditious mode of trial. I know that the judges in our counties have found trouble in that matter, and that they have really stretched the law, and tried fellows under a kind of fictitious imprisonment. As I take it, the great object of speedy trials in small matters is to save expense. Why should it be made contingent on the defendant being actually in custody?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I know that what my hon. friend speaks of has occurred in Montreal. I know of a case where a judge formally took a man into custody so as to give him an opportunity to have his case disposed of. It seems to me that it is an idle formality that ought to be dispensed with, and that we ought to get down to the substance. If my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) would prepare an amendment that he thinks would meet this difficulty when this matter comes up again, we could consider it.

Mr. POWELL. They evade it with us, as they do in Montreal.

On section 766,

Mr. BRITTON. I do think that this is really unnecessary. I do not know of any case of a judge who does not reside in the

county or union of counties, but if there is such a case, I do not think that the sheriff ought to be relieved of that part of his duty, which is to bring the matter to the attention of the judge. The judge is the person to cause the prisoner to be brought before him. Of course, it is the duty of the prosecuting officer, or of the county crown attorney, who is the person to do that in a sense, but why change the law? I do not know of any such case existing. If any such case exists why change the law and allow the sheriff simply to bring the matter before the prosecuting officer instead of going to where the judge is and giving him notice.

Mr. BERGERON. Who has asked for this?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not quite sure that there is any case in Ontario where a judge lives at a great distance from the jail, and whether it would be necessary for him. Under the section, as it is now, it is necessary for the judge to receive notice for the purpose of going to where the prisoner is to call the prisoner before him, and he is obliged to go back another day for the purpose of having the trial. By the amendment, it is provided that notice shall be given to the prosecuting officer. He will then notify the judge and the judge will come on the day fixed for the trial, so that he will not be obliged to make two trips for the purpose of holding the trial.

Mr. POWELL. Do the words 'before him' mean before the judge?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes. This is the difficulty which exists now, and this section is to remove it.

Mr. POWELL. It is a grievance in the maritime provinces, where we have judges whose jurisdiction extends over three or four counties, sometimes.

Mr. BRITTON. I apologize, because I did not know what the government were providing for.

On section 789,

Mr. BRITTON. Suppose a person is charged with an attempt to steal an amount not exceeding \$10? I think that you have not the provisions in this section which are applicable; and that, while a magistrate may not exercise summary jurisdiction in the case of an actual theft, he can exercise summary jurisdiction in the case of an attempt to commit a theft. That, of course, is an anomaly. The attempt, of course, is less than the actual theft, yet, if I recollect right, and I think I do, if this clause is adopted, the magistrate cannot try summarily the actual theft of an amount exceeding \$10, yet he can try an attempt to commit the theft of any amount.

Mr. POWELL. You want to cover the attempt as well?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. POWELL. I would suggest, in pursuance of the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kingston, that the case could be met by inserting the words, 'or with inciting to theft or with attempt at theft, or with having obtained or attempted to obtain property by false pretenses.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. With the consent of the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), I will submit his suggestion to the draftsman with the view of having a clause drafted in that sense.

Mr. BRITTON. If I am not out of order, I would like to move that section 783, subsection b, be amended by adding after the word 'theft' the following words:

Where the value of the property with reference to which the alleged attempt was made does not, in the judgment of the magistrate, exceed \$10.

Mr. POWELL. That is another quality of offence altogether.

Mr. RUSSELL. It is very difficult for a magistrate, if the charge is merely that the man has attempted to commit theft, to decide how far his attempt was intended to extend.

Mr. POWELL. Section 768 deals with another subject. This is the Speedy Trials Act; the other is the Summary Trials Act. The first one is not limited to \$10.

Mr. RUSSELL. It is the case of summary trials by consent.

Mr. POWELL. The technical term is 'speedy trial,' and the other is 'summary trial.'

Mr. RUSSELL. The speedy trials comes before a judge, and the summary trial comes before a magistrate.

Mr. BRITTON. In this case, in section 783, a magistrate may, subject to the provisions hereinafter made, hear and determine the charge in a summary way. This practically is unlimited as to the amount. If a man attempts to steal \$100,000 from a bank, he may, under this section, where it is only an attempt, be tried in a summary way before a magistrate.

Mr. POWELL. You are not speaking of the section before the House?

Mr. BRITTON. No, I am speaking of section 783, and I only ask the committee if this is not the proper time to move such an amendment. Section 783 deals entirely with different cases, but among the cases it deals with is a charge of having attempted to commit theft, and that we limit in no way as to amount. I submit that before you give a magistrate power to deal in a summary way with such a case, you ought to limit the amount. I say the limit should

be \$10, because it is only intended to deal with minor cases of theft.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would like to consider that.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Might I ask attention with regard to section 683?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. All the sections are opened for discussion now.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If my hon. friend will look at subsection 2 of section 683, he will observe that reference is made to the use of depositions as evidence at the trial. The section itself deals with the taking of evidence under commission out of Canada, and it seems to me that the section should permit such evidence to be read before the grand jury, if it does not do it already. In the case of Regina vs. Chetwynd in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, the judge decided that this evidence could not be read before the grand jury. The evidence was taken in Boston, after the man was committed for trial, and after due notice had been given to the prisoner of the time and place of taking it and he attended in person and by his counsel. Nevertheless, although the evidence could be read at the trial, it was held that it could not be read before the grand jury.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is another difficulty that has occurred to me in connection with this section, and one that ought to be dealt with by an amendment. Assuming that no rule of practice exists in the criminal court, you have to fall back on the procedure of our ordinary civil courts. In the province of Quebec, in our civil procedure, it is necessary to appoint three commissioners, unless the parties consent otherwise, and you have three commissioners travelling all over the country for the purpose of examining witnesses. I am glad of the suggestion. I think we ought to consider 683 so as to meet not only the difficulty in Nova Scotia, but also the difficulty constantly occurring in the province of Quebec. I am anxious to adopt the suggestion of my hon. friend (Mr. Powell), which meets the existing difficulty, but I would like to have the whole clause reprinted embodying his suggestion, so that we might see that nothing is omitted or that we are not overstepping the mark.

On section 790,

Mr. POWELL. There is a matter I desire to bring to the attention of my hon. friend the Solicitor General. Though it may not be strictly pertinent now, I do not know of a better time. One of the numerous faults in the Criminal Code is a ridiculous provision with respect to a common assault. The matter came to my notice when one of the students in my office appeared before a magistrate, and, to my utter astonishment came back and announced that the prosecu-

Mr. BRITTON.

tor had refused to allow the magistrate to go on to conviction in a case of common assault. The law, as it stood before the code was enacted, provided that a magistrate could dispose summarily of any case of common assault. But, under the code as at present, either the complainant or the party complained against can refuse the magistrate the right to proceed, and the case must go before the grand jury and the party be indicted. In the case I speak of, the action was taken by the prosecutor maliciously. The defendant was a respectable man; but his name was banded about in the newspapers of the province of New Brunswick as that of a man brought before the grand jury on a criminal charge. In the case of the serious charges referred to in this section, the defendant alone can have a summary decision, without any discussion on the part of the prosecutor. But, under the law as it stands, a man who wishes to injure the reputation of an enemy can trump up a charge of common assault, refuse the magistrate the right to determine the matter finally, and have the accused prosecuted before the grand jury as any common criminal would be.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I admit at once that this is a crying grievance in the administration of the criminal law. A case of common assault that might be settled by the infliction of a fine of fifty cents—

Mr. POWELL. Or dismissal.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Or dismissal altogether—may be sent to the grand jury and then the party committed. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) will take section 864 of the code and suggest the change that will effect what he desires, I will agree to its adoption. While we are on that, I might call attention to section 843, under which, in the case of hearing before a magistrate, at the request of either party, a stenographer shall be employed to take the evidence.

Mr. POWELL. Section 864 reads:

Whenever any person unlawfully assaults or beats any other person, any justice may summarily hear and determine the charge, unless at the time of entering upon the investigation, the person aggrieved or the person accused objects thereto.

If we simply strike out the words:

—unless at the time of entering upon the investigation the person aggrieved or the person accused objects thereto.

I think that will effect all that is necessary.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Very well. I take it for granted that we shall find in *Hansard* a note of all the proposed amendments, so that when the time comes to reconsider the Bill, I shall have the whole matter before me.

Mr. RUSSELL. If in the case of common assault, the defendant requires a jury, why should he not have one?

Mr. POWELL. I may mention that an appeal lies to the county court judge, where the whole case is retried and where new testimony may be adduced.

Mr. RUSSELL. But he might prefer to have a jury.

Mr. POWELL. But how are you going to do that?

Mr. RUSSELL. Just as you do under the existing law—let him have a jury.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The defendant gets the benefit of a jury. The case is first disposed of summarily before a judge. If the defendant is convicted, he can appeal to the High Court, and there, he gets the benefit of a trial before a jury. I speak with hesitation concerning the law as applicable to any other province but my own. There is no doubt, however, of the appeal. In my own province, the case of an appeal goes before the court of Queen's Bench and is heard absolutely *de novo*, as if nothing had taken place in the lower court, but there is the advantage that, where there is no appeal, the case is disposed of. Take trifling assaults in the seaport towns such as Quebec. A man may say: I want to have my case go before a jury. He gives bail and that is the last you see of him. When the case comes up he is beyond the jurisdiction. But, even if he was in attendance, why have all this expense without a preliminary trial, at all events?

Mr. POWELL. Especially where the law will send him to jail for a year for a trivial offence.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In Nova Scotia I think he would be tried by a county court judge without a jury. There is something to be said for the view of my learned colleague, that a man should have the opportunity of being tried by jury if he prefers it. There may be peculiar circumstances, matters of public opinion, an offence of this kind may be committed under special circumstances where a man should have the right to be tried by jury if he so elects.

Mr. RUSSELL. In many such cases the prosecutor elects his own judge, and he may hale a man up before a judge who is predetermined to convict him, and the defendant may know that. I am not sure but that if he chooses to have a jury he should not have it. That is a right which is inherent under Magna Charta. If the plaintiff chooses to ask for a summary trial, he should have the right of doing it, as he always had before the code was passed.

Mr. POWELL. The history of this right to have a trial by jury on appeal, as near as I can remember, is as follows:

Mr. RUSSELL. I mean in the first instance.

Mr. POWELL. He never had the right in the first instance, in common assault, since confederation. Before 1869, throughout Canada, the man accused of common assault had the right of trial before two magistrates. In 1869 the law was changed, and he could be convicted before one magistrate, and if convicted the right of appeal lay to a higher body, but he had a right to the higher body if he saw fit to be tried by jury.

Mr. RUSSELL. He has got that now.

Mr. POWELL. The law was afterwards changed denying him the right to go before a county court judge. I think he was again sent back to his previous status, and the code came in and denied him the right to go before a county court judge and a jury, and it substituted for that this cumbersome procedure. There is no reason why it should pass into the region of indictable offences. There is no appeal in matters of evidence, he is simply put on his trial *de novo*, as if nothing had taken place, except that if the conviction is bad, he may move to have it quashed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If he is sent before the assizes he would have all the paraphernalia of the assize court, the grand jury, the petty jury, the witnesses summoned, and all this to try a case of assault where the penalty would probably be 50 cents or \$1. This seems to have been an innovation introduced at the time the Criminal Code was enacted, without reflection; because certainly from the time of confederation up to the time the Criminal Code was enacted, assaults were tried before a magistrate. The complaining party came and made his complaint, and the defendant made option, and that option was conclusive.

Mr. POWELL. He had no right to make option, he was precluded from having a trial before a jury.

Mr. BRITTON. What is the change there?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The change there is to be found in the ninth line, in these words:

And the court or judge may include in the amount to be paid such moderate allowance for loss of time as the court or judge, by affidavit, or other inquiry and examination, ascertains to be reasonable.

This provides that in addition to the costs incurred by the person complaining, he shall receive, or be allowed, in the discretion of the court, an amount for such loss as may be fixed.

Mr. COWAN. This is re-enacting 49 Vic., chapter 174. Forty-nine Vic., section 248, applied to common assault, in these terms:

When any person is convicted on any indictment of any assault, whether with or without battery and wounding, or either of them, such

Mr. RUSSELL.

person may, if the court thinks fit, in addition to any sentence which the court deems proper for the offence, be adjudged to pay to the prosecutor his actual and necessary costs and expenses of the prosecution, and such moderate allowance for loss of time as the court, by affidavit or other inquiry and examination, ascertains to be reasonable; and unless the sums so awarded are sooner paid, the offender shall be liable to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three months, in addition to the term of imprisonment, if any, to which the offender is sentenced for the offence.

It seems that in the preparation of the Criminal Code, that portion has been left out. Section 834, of the Criminal Code, deals with costs only as follows:—

If a person convicted on an indictment for assault, whether with or without battery and wounding is ordered to pay costs as provided in section 832, he shall be liable unless the said costs are sooner paid, to three months' imprisonment in addition to the term of imprisonment, if any, to which he is sentenced for the offence, and the court may, by warrant in writing—

And so on. In this amendment, as in the Criminal Code, the words are omitted:

—and such moderate allowance for loss of time as the court, by affidavit or other inquiry and examination, ascertains to be reasonable.

Under section 834, as it now stands, one man may make a violent assault upon another, may injure him, and lay him up for weeks, and there is no jurisdiction under which the court can grant him any moderate allowance, or any allowance whatever for the loss of time, and he would be relegated to his civil rights.

Mr. POWELL. That is where he should be.

Mr. COWAN. Why should he not be relegated to his civil rights in connection with costs as well? It makes an exception of the costs. He does not pay the costs.

Mr. POWELL. But these costs are due to the Crown.

Mr. COWAN. Just so; I admit that. Why should the Crown stand upon any higher right than the individual?

Mr. POWELL. One is a matter of civil procedure and the other is a matter of criminal jurisdiction.

Mr. COWAN. In nine cases out of ten, so far as pursuing by civil process is concerned, you might as well proceed against a vacuum, because these parties are generally not worth anything.

Mr. POWELL. If you cannot get it in one way, you cannot get it in another.

Mr. COWAN. It seems to me that the Criminal Code should be extended, so that a person in addition to being kept in custody for three months, should be required to make some additional recompense.

Mr. POWELL. I think the line has been drawn very closely in respect to assaults

already. There is a provision in the Criminal Code, re-enacting a provision of the Act of 1869, which is re-enacting the old Ontario Act to the effect that if a man is convicted of common assault, and pays the fine thereafter, there shall be no civil remedy for trespass of the person. This Act is clearly ultra vires, and I do not know why Sir John Thompson allowed it to crawl in.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A case has been decided.

Mr. POWELL. I know that Judge Palmer has decided the point in a case I brought before him myself.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We are coming very close to the line now.

Mr. POWELL. I think it is bad legislation in the old law to compel a man to pay the costs at all.

On section 838,

Mr. POWELL. This is a logical consequence of the first part.

Mr. COWAN. Is not that rather an extraordinary provision?

Mr. FLINT. I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General what the changes are here, whether they are formal changes in the wording of the clause, or is there a substantial change in the meaning?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Section 838 deals with the restitution of stolen property, and I must confess to the committee that I entertain grave doubts as to our right to enact this clause at all. I would like if hon. gentlemen would consider this question. It seems to me that when we are proceeding to determine the conditions upon which property is to be restored to the owner, we are dealing with a question affecting property which is within the limits of the provinces. Take the case where property is disposed of to a buyer, who purchases in good faith. He acquires an indefeasible title, which title would be good as against a person from whom this property is stolen, but we are here enacting that that property shall be restored. How can we proceed to do it? In this connection I would like to state to the committee, that, at the Department of Justice, we have received a letter from a young gentleman in Regina, which, I think is worth communicating to the committee. This young gentleman is named Grimmitt, and he is evidently of a very serious turn of mind, and a student.

Mr. DAVIN. What is his name?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. His name is Grimmitt, and he is a student in the office of Hamilton & Jones. He says:

Dear Sir,—I am a student-at-law, and have been studying lately the question of title to goods. I saw in the 'Globe' recently that you had introduced an amendment to the Criminal Code, whereby the provision of enabling the owner of stolen property to recover possession

of his goods upon conviction of the thief should be extended to cover the case of goods obtained under false pretenses. *Vilmont vs. Bentley* (1887), in England, decided that this was the English law, but this decision has been over-ridden by the English Sale of Goods Act, 1893, section 24, and this section has been reproduced in the North-west Territories Sale of Goods Ordinance, in section 24 of that ordinance. Now, if the amendment introduced by you becomes law, will there not be a repugnancy between it and section 24 of the North-west Sale of Goods Ordinance? And if so, which will be ultra vires. I am anxious as a student to get a little light on this question, and should consider it a personal favour to send me a line in reply.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) T. T. GRIMMETT.

This gentleman whoever he may happen to be, is evidently of a very original turn of mind and a very studious young man. I think it due to him to make mention of this letter and to say that the attention of the Department of Justice having been drawn to the letter of this young gentleman, we have come to the conclusion that the young gentleman is right, and that the department and parliament have been wrong in making this legislation for years.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. Is that a sample of the North-west Territories?

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, yes, in all respects, original and right.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we will drop that section altogether, but for the moment, I shall be content with dropping the amendment.

Mr. POWELL. Take this case. A thief steals a moderately large sum of money we will say, and comes into court. He has the money in his pocket and he probably takes enough out of it to pay his counsel.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. POWELL. I may say that I have not taken such money myself. A man who took the money knowingly would be guilty of a criminal offence himself. The thief puts the balance of the money back in his pocket. He is in the penitentiary and what is the good of suing him? In a case like that there is a great hardship. I do not mean this parliament should enact a law interfering with civil rights; but I think we have a right to deal with this matter as proposed as being a matter of criminal law and procedure. This money, of course, usually goes into the hands of some person who is certainly not a criminal, and out of him there is a better chance of getting it by civil process. I think we had better let the section stand.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we ought to be able to meet the difficulty pointed out by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). Under the cir-

cumstances it would perhaps be wise to drop the suggested amendment, and then we can deal with the original section.

Mr. BRITTON. I confess that the young gentleman whose letter was read showed himself studious and a gentleman of ability. However, the difficulty suggested by the Solicitor General does not strike me as very strong; because it seems to me we are not determining the right between the actual owner and any one else. We are determining simply that property or money found in the hands of a prisoner who was convicted, shall be handed over to somebody who, according to the result of that trial, is better entitled to it than the person convicted.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It does not conclude a title.

Mr. BRITTON. No. It does not in any way prevent the real owner recovering it from the man to whom the property is handed. That right could be enforced according to the law of the particular province. If we permit property that prima facie, according to the result of the trial, is not the property of the person in custody to remain with him, there is a hardship in letting that property remain with him and saying to the man who is prosecuting: You must get it by civil process or in some other way.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is a difficulty. Take the case of a man who receives stolen goods, and he has disposed of them to a purchaser in good faith who has paid the price. What is the position of the person who acquired the goods under these conditions. He surely had acquired a title.

Mr. BRITTON. Not in Ontario.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He has under the civil law of our province.

Mr. COWAN. Not with us.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If he has acquired under the civil law a title to that movable property, how could you defeat that title by reason of an enactment which we may make here?

Mr. BRITTON. You cannot.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is my difficulty.

Mr. POWELL. I imagine that case is covered by the concluding words of the section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think so.

Mr. FLINT. Can we not enact that property found on the person convicted of theft, should be in some way impounded by the court, in order that the civil trial as to the right to the property would pro-

ceed. I was always under the impression that the court did have power to impound.

Mr. POWELL. If I mistake not under the common law the goods of a felon would be forfeited to the Crown; hence we would have a right to deal with it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think the Acts says: 'In respect to which the offence has been committed.' With us such goods would remain under the control of the clerk of the peace after the conviction, and then the person who is entitled to the property makes application before a judge of the civil court to have the goods restored to him, and on the order of the judge, the clerk of the peace hands these goods over to the person from whom these goods have been taken.

Mr. POWELL. Suppose the court made what we will call an order of restitution. That order would only be given as a matter of procedure. It could do no harm. The civil right could be tried in the civil case afterwards, and I do not think the law would be ultra vires at all on the ground of interference with civil rights.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We may be able to re-enact a provision which would obviate all the difficulty.

Mr. RUSSELL. As a matter of criminal law and procedure, it strikes me that we have the right to say what shall become of property which has been the subject of a crime, and which is in the custody of the law at the time. Then, the question is simply this: As we certainly would have a right to legislate for forfeiting stolen property to the Crown, the question is whether we have not a right to grant a title of the property to another. We certainly have been legislating on the supposition that we have a right to control not merely the custody of stolen property, but the title.

Mr. POWELL. This goes no further than the custody.

Mr. RUSSELL. It is a very difficult question, whether we have or have not that right. My impression at first blush is, that we have, having the power to legislate in regard to property which has been the subject of a criminal offence, and which, by common law, would be forfeited to the Crown. Of course, I admit the difficulty of the question, and it is well worthy of consideration.

On section 872,

Mr. FLINT. Until the case of the Queen vs. Horton was decided in Nova Scotia, the law was supposed by all practitioners to be as it is in this section; but, in that case, the court held that while it might be possible to punish a criminal with hard labour for certain petty offences, upon his not paying a fine, you could not punish him with hard labour for not paying the distress in

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

default of the original punishment; and this clause has been drafted as suggested as meeting the case, by the stipendiary magistrate of Yarmouth, who is a very able practitioner. It has been before the Department of Justice, and at one time I had a very careful plea on the subject.

Mr. RUSSELL. Where imprisonment is mentioned without hard labour, of course, hard labour cannot be attached, and there is no mention of hard labour in the imprisonment which is imposed as an alternative to not having the property for distress. Therefore, it is necessary to mention it.

Mr. BRITTON. I think it has been decided in two or three cases in Ontario that there was no power to imprison with hard labour in default of paying a fine with costs, and the object of this clause is that hard labour may follow as part of the punishment in default of paying a fine or in default of distress.

Mr. POWELL. This is a matter which requires more consideration than appears on the face of it. Take the case of a man who is convicted of an assault. The justice has the power to impose a penalty, not exceeding two months imprisonment, with hard labour. In addition he has the right to award, and adjudge that the defendant shall also pay to the prosecutor the sum of \$20 for his costs, and in the case of default to pay the costs within twenty days, the same shall be levied by distress, and sale of the defendant's goods, and in case of insufficient distress, it is ordered and awarded that the defendant be confined in the common jail for three months. The court, in the first place, has the power to impose a penalty of imprisonment, with hard labour. Then the latter part of the section is followed, because there is an award of distress and imprisonment in case of default. True it is with respect to costs, but I am speaking of the inclusiveness of the words. The man would be imprisoned for two months, and if, at the expiration of that term, he had not the money to pay the costs, he would be subject, under the amended section, to possibly three months' hard labour, on account of his poverty. I do not think we should treat a man as a convict because he is poor and cannot pay his costs.

Mr. BRITTON. Does not my hon. friend think that this applies only to such a case as this. Section 782 has reference to all the Acts under which a conviction may take place. Under one Act, a conviction has taken place, and the offence is punishable either by imprisonment, with hard labour, not exceeding six months, or by fine, not exceeding a certain amount and costs, and the usual adjudication follows that for non-payment of fine and costs, he would be subject to further imprisonment. The magistrate or the court, instead of awarding pun-

ishment, in the first instance, by imprisonment, with hard labour, simply imposes a fine and costs. Then there is a default in payment of the fine, and by reason of that, the punishment is imprisonment. In that case, as I understand this amendment, there is power to impose hard labour with imprisonment.

Mr. POWELL. It is all right in that case.

Mr. BRITTON. I do not think it applies to any other.

Mr. POWELL. Why does it not apply to the case I have mentioned, where you condemn a man to imprisonment for assault and then order him to pay the costs?

Mr. BRITTON. If, on conviction for assault, there was a power to imprison to apply at hard labour, I think that would apply in that case.

Mr. POWELL. And a man should be imprisoned on account of his inability to pay costs?

Mr. FLINT. It only gives a magistrate power and does not say that he must imprison at hard labour.

Mr. POWELL. I do not think a magistrate should have power to do what is an outrage. No man should be imprisoned as a convict on account of his poverty. It is bad enough in this enlightened age, to have him in jail, without treating him as a convict. Instead of becoming more lenient in our criminal law, I am afraid we are going back to the days before Bentham.

Mr. RUSSELL. When you punish him for not paying costs, why not punish him with hard labour. If it were simply a case of imprisonment for non-payment of debt, in our province he would swear out of jail, as they call it, in a few hours. But, if he is imprisoned as part of the punishment because he does not pay costs, it seems to me he might as well be at hard labour.

Mr. FLINT. My hon. friend (Mr. Powell's) arguments sound well. At the first blush, it seems that a man punished in this way is punished for his poverty. But this poverty may not be actual. A man may be able to pay, but there may be a certain amount of obstinacy about paying the costs, and discretion in the magistrate to punish with hard labour may be in the interest of justice. It must be remembered that we are dealing with a criminal who has committed a very serious offence, and, as the costs are part of the injury done to the prosecutor or to the community, he must make up what is necessary to vindicate the law in his case.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). I agree with the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) as I understand him. I agree also with the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) as far as he goes. The

criminal law should not be used as a punishment for poverty. But, if a man is not able to pay costs, he should not only not be imprisoned at hard labour, but he should not be imprisoned at all.

Mr. POWELL. He ought to be able to swear out.

Mr. COWAN. Yes, there ought to be some provision by which he could do that.

Mr. POWELL. Take another case. Suppose a man has been guilty of common assault, and is mulcted in a sum of \$20, with the alternative of imprisonment for two months at hard labour. The costs are \$15. The man may have money enough to pay the \$20 fine, but not enough to pay the \$15 costs. Then, the magistrate may put him in jail for three months at hard labour, because his money does not hold out to pay the costs. My hon. friend from Halifax speaks about it being part of the punishment. I do not agree with that. Whether the costs are large or small is a matter of accident. If the people who witnessed the assault are from a distance, the expenses will be higher than if they are near at hand. It is more like a civil suit, where the costs are not sued for, but are simply incidental. I do not regard them as a substantive punishment at all.

Mr. COWAN. The question is asked as to the case of Regina vs. Colson, 24 Ontario Reports 247. That was a case arising on a summary conviction in the city of Toronto for illegally practising medicine, the section of which is as follows :

It shall not be lawful for any person not registered to practice medicine, surgery or midwifery for hire, gain or hope of reward; and if any person not registered pursuant to this Act, for hire, gain or hope of reward, practises or professes to practise medicine, surgery or midwifery, or advertises to give advice in medicine, surgery or midwifery, he shall, upon summary conviction thereof, for any and every such offence, pay a penalty not exceeding \$100 nor less than \$25.

That case came before a magistrate and he was fined on appeal. Chief Justice Armour says :

We think we cannot uphold the conviction. We do not proceed upon the ground that there was no evidence of an offence. Where the conviction is valid on its face we are not to look at the evidence for the purpose of determining whether an offence is established by it. That is a matter for the magistrate and for the appellate court, where there is an appeal. The conviction here is bad, because it does not specify the particular act or acts which constituted the alleged practising of medicine. We had no statute such as they have in England, saying that the word of the statute shall be sufficient.

On section 927,

Mr. BERGERON. What is the object of this clause ?

Mr. COWAN.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is a general provision covering all the fines, penalties and forfeitures in respect of any of the laws of Canada. These all go to the Dominion government. This section makes one general clause having application to the whole of these fines. Instead of having to go over all these statutes and each man's offence to see how they are to be disposed of—because it is only in the absence of any other provision in the general law that the fines should belong to the Crown—this disposes of the whole matter so that we shall not have to refer to any other statutes.

On section 955,

Mr. BERGERON. This is to add to clause 955.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, under the general law you cannot condemn a man to imprisonment in the penitentiary for less than two years. This provision is intended to provide for a case of escape so that a person may be condemned to imprisonment in the same penitentiary even if the imprisonment does not exceed two years, or six months or one year, as the case may be.

Mr. BERGERON. If a man was condemned for seven years he may be condemned to six months more, or a year more.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. POWELL. If a man attempts to escape he may be punished by two years in the penitentiary. It may be by less, but it must not exceed that.

Mr. BRITTON. I know that this has been a difficulty in the law that for escape you could not really punish a man by an extension of his term, but you had either to abandon the sentence, or the sentence would not take effect until the original sentence had expired after which you had to bring the convict to a jail and put him in there as punishment for the escape.

On section 957,

Mr. BERGERON. In regard to this clause, I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General if, under the new Bill presented to the House this year in providing for a reprieve from jails or reformatories, the hon. Minister of Justice would be able to prevent whipping if it were asked for in a proper way ? I see that it has to be done not less than ten days before the expiration of a sentence. If the Minister of Justice can remit a sentence, can he also prevent a whipping if it is asked for ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Would he have the right to commute a sentence in so far as a whipping is concerned ?

Mr. BERGERON. Yes. Suppose a young man or an adult is condemned to be whipped : if there seems to be doubt about the case and if a demand was made on the

Minister of Justice, could the condemned obtain a reprieve from that castigation?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He can now relieve him from a part of the sentence, as well as from the sentence itself. I am not prepared to answer the question as to whether the prisoner could be relieved while being incarcerated simply of the punishment, in so far as whipping is concerned.

Mr. BERGERON. That is what I want to know. I would like to know if a demand to that effect were brought before the Minister of Justice he could be relieved of that portion of the punishment although he would not have any time taken off his sentence.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is to say, that the sentence would be allowed to remain, but that the man would be relieved of that part of the sentence in respect to whipping. I would not like to answer that off-hand. It seems to me to be only reasonable that it should be within the power of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. BERGERON. If he could do the more, he could do the less.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would fancy so; if he could commute the sentence he should be able to relieve the man from any portion of it. If my hon. friend will bring that point up again I will consider it and perhaps be able to give him an answer.

On section 958.

Mr. BERGERON. The last part of that applies to the Yukon Territory. I think that has been asked for by the judge.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. POWELL. What is the object of subsection 2?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It has been designed specially to meet the case of the Yukon country where men are detained for considerable lengths of time at considerable expense. It is proper that the judge should be, at the exercise of his discretion, in a position to fine a man who is able to pay an amount sufficient to provide, if not entirely, at least, in part, for his maintenance in prison.

On section 971,

Mr. COWAN. Judges have the power now to suspend sentence.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not when the offender incurs a penalty exceeding two years. This law is intended to apply to minor offences in which the punishment is less than two years, but if the punishment exceeds two years there is no provision. In order to meet this case the section has been introduced.

Mr. BERGERON. That is left to the discretion of the judge entirely.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Left to the discretion of the court and the judge. In a case in which the penalty is imprisonment exceeding two years, the judge must have the concurrence of the officer representing the Crown.

Mr. RUSSELL. With the permission of the House, I would like to offer an amendment to section 449. A number of sections to be substituted for that are put in my hand by a very skilful practitioner, who says:

These sections are designed to protect manufacturers and bottlers whose business is now injured by the action of unscrupulous persons, who procure bottles from second-hand dealers, junk stores, &c., and fill them with inferior soda water, ginger ale, &c., and by merely covering up the manufacturer's name on the bottle, and covering up his trade mark, sell the inferior ginger ale, &c., and although it is impossible to show that there is any fraudulent representation or deception practised on the public in the first instance (as the name and trade mark are covered up), still the use of the bottles in this way eventually injures the manufacturer, as the new cover sometimes slips off, and his reputation becomes injured in some cases thereby. He might have a civil remedy against a person so using his bottles now, but a civil remedy is tedious and expensive. What is wanted is statutory power to have such offenders convicted. Such power is given under United States statutes, and there is no reason why it should not be given in Canada. The bottles are not sold, they are only loaned, and their contents sold; but notwithstanding that it is a condition of each sale that the bottle shall be returned, it frequently happens that people are mean enough to sell the bottles, although not their property, and eventually the bottles find their way into the hands of unprincipled bottlers via the junk shop, &c. It is therefore not unreasonable to provide that any one covering up or concealing the trade mark or name on a bottle for the purpose of selling again, or any person trafficking in such bottles or filling the same again with mineral water, &c., without consent of actual owner shall be subject to a penalty.

There was a prosecution here last year which failed because it was impossible to show that an actual deception and injury occurred to the public. The public are not the only parties to be protected. The manufacturer is entitled to be protected in the way I have mentioned, and I hope that you will take this matter in hand.

I therefore propose the following should be substituted for section 449:

449. Every one is guilty of an indictable offence who—

(a) wilfully defaces, conceals or removes the duly filed trade mark or name of another person upon any cask, keg, bottle, siphon, vessel, can, case or other package with intent to defraud the proprietor thereof without the consent of the proprietor, or unless such package has been purchased from the proprietor;

(b) being a partnership, corporation, dealer, manufacturer or bottler, without the written con-

sent of the proprietor, trades or traffics in any bottle or siphon which has upon it the duly filed trade mark or name of the proprietor, or fills such bottle or siphon with any beverage for the purpose of sale or traffic.

2. The using by any manufacturer, dealer, partnership or corporation other than the lawful owner thereof, without the written permission of such owner, of any bottle or siphon for the sale therein of any beverage, or the buying, selling or trafficking in any such bottle or siphon by any dealer or manufacturer other than the owner, without such written permission, or the fact that any junk dealer has in his possession any such bottle or siphon so marked or stamped, without such written permission, shall be prima facie evidence that such use, buying, selling or trafficking or possession is unlawful within the meaning of this section.

I will leave this proposed amendment with the Solicitor General, and his draughtsman can go over it and see if it is in proper form.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend does not want to press it to-night?

Mr. RUSSELL. Not at all.

Mr. BERGERON. If there are any other amendments, I would ask that the Solicitor General should look over them and have his officers look into them also.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is another question which I would like my hon. friends to consider. That is an amendment which would enable us to meet this difficulty with reference to bucket shops. The existence of these bucket shops is a very serious menace in Montreal especially, and unfortunately up to the present time we have not been able to draft an amendment to the law which would enable us to deal with these institutions. Sir John Abbott drew a Bill, as hon. gentlemen are aware, but unfortunately in a case decided in Ontario, it was held that this law did not meet the difficulty as they have it in Toronto. I would like my hon. friends to give the question some attention, to see how far we can draft a clause which would meet what is certainly a serious difficulty in Montreal at present.

Mr. POWELL. Has section 205 been passed?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Everything is open. I look upon this as a measure that we are all interested in to make it as perfect as possible, and everything is open.

Mr. BRITTON. I would call attention to two amendments which I have from time to time advocated, and I would ask that they be taken into consideration by the Solicitor General and be introduced into this Bill. One is with regard to section 744. At present the accused person has got to have

Mr. RUSSELL.

the consent in writing of the Attorney General before he can take the first step towards having a question reserved if the judge at the trial refuses to reserve it. That seems to me to be unfair. I do not think that any Attorney General will act on caprice, or will take so strong a view of it, that in any ordinary case he would not be willing to grant that. But I submit that the principle is not fair, and I suggest the following amendment, which I think ought to be accepted:

6. Section 744 of the said code is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:

744. If the court refuses to reserve the question, the party applying may move the Court of Appeal as hereinafter provided.

2. The Attorney General or any person who has applied to the court to reserve any such question of law, may, on notice of motion to be given to the accused or prosecutor, as the case may be, move the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal. The Court of Appeal may, upon the motion and upon considering such evidence, if any, as they think fit to require, grant or refuse such leave.

3. If leave to appeal is granted, a case shall be stated for the opinion of the Court of Appeal, as if the question had been reserved.

4. If the sentence is alleged to be one which could not by law be passed, either party may, without leave, upon giving notice of motion to the other side, move the Court of Appeal to pass a proper sentence.

5. If the court has arrested judgment and refused to pass any sentence, the prosecutor may, without leave, make such a motion.

My other suggestion is a repeal of section 748. This section gives the Minister of Justice power to grant a new trial. I will not discuss that at this late hour, but I intend to say a few words on it at a later stage. I understand that the Minister of Justice is opposed to the repeal of this section, and, therefore, it is perhaps useless for me to ask to have it repealed. But I think the argument is in favour of repeal. I do not think that the power of pardon, or the granting of a new trial should rest with any Minister of Justice.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose my hon. friend has read all of his amendment, so that we may see it in *Hansard* to-morrow. I think there is a very strong point in that, and when it is discussed, I want to bring to the attention of my hon. friend, something within my own knowledge, in reference to some very awkward things which the amendment of my hon. friend might obviate.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 15, 1900.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

UNOPPOSED MOTION.

Copies of all correspondence, reports and papers relating to the prohibition of the exportation of fish caught in Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba since date of return moved for April 23, 1900, to the present time.—(Mr. Roche.)

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 159)—from the Senate—for the relief of Gustavus A. Kobold.—(Mr. Bennett.) On division.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). My attention has been called to the fact that the supplies voted for the legislative service are exhausted, and it is necessary to make immediate provision to supply the deficiency. Therefore, in anticipation of the regular supplementary estimates, I present the following Message from His Excellency the Governor General, signed by his own hand :

MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons further supplementary estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ended June 30, 1900, and in accordance with the provisions of 'The British North America Act, 1867, the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** moved that His Excellency's Message, together with the accompanying estimates, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I take the opportunity of asking my hon. friend when he expects to favour the House with the remaining supplementary estimates ?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The supplementary estimates for the current year will be brought down in two or three days, and those for the coming year very shortly afterwards.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY—BROCKVILLE AND WEST HURON ELECTIONS.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding :

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply, and the motion of Mr. Borden (Halifax) in amendment thereto.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I am sure that every member of this House will re-

cognize the importance and gravity of the subject we are discussing. We all admit that no discussion can take place in this House as to the right of the people, freely and without any restriction, to record their votes for the man of their choice. much less could any decision of this House on that subject be looked upon in any other light than as being of the utmost importance. I myself would be the last one to minimize the importance of the present discussion. I desire that we should approach it carefully and prudently, and with the sole object of reaching just and permanent conclusions, on the important question now before us—conclusions which can be defended now and hereafter on good solid and substantial grounds, and which will constitute a precedent not only for this but succeeding parliaments. Every one of us recognizes that the ballot box is the basis on which an honest government is dependent, and I trust that there will not be a man on either side who will not be determined on every occasion to do everything possible, by voice and vote, and if need be, by force, to protect that ballot box. No one can condemn more than I do the man who interferes with the free expression of the will of the honest elector in depositing his ballot at the polls. Some hon. gentlemen, during the course of some desultory conversations or discussion which took place on this matter, went so far as to designate such men as scoundrels, and I am not here to challenge the use of that vigorous language. I admit that the officer or the man, whether an officer or not, who interferes with the free expression of the opinion of the electorate at the polls and his choice of a candidate, is a man who cannot be punished too severely. The crime of tampering with the ballot box, or the expression of the will of the people as contained in that ballot box, is one that cannot be punished too severely. But, while we are unanimous on that point, we must be careful that in the punishment of offenders against the law we should proceed according to well-recognized rules which the law has provided, so that the punishment of such ill-doers will take place according to just and well-recognized rules of procedure.

We had an election investigation last session into the West Huron election case. The reference of that case to the Committee on Privileges and Elections was made on a motion proposed by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), that both the West Huron and Brockville cases should be referred to that committee, and I desire to say that, perhaps, the House acted a little hastily, at least, with respect to that resolution. Whether it did or not will appear before this discussion closes; but, at present, I am merely concerned in calling the attention of the House to the conclusion I have personally reached, and which has been reached by men much more eminent than I in this and preceding parliaments, namely,

that the most inefficient body to which can be referred the decision of questions of fact is the Privileges and Elections Committee. I recognize very fully that that committee is an excellent body to which could be referred fairly and safely all questions of law. It is composed, as a rule, of lawyers from the different provinces, who have seats in this House, men well versed, most of them, in the laws of the several provinces, and many of them besides having very great parliamentary experience. They have had all these advantages; and therefore, I say, that so far as that committee is concerned, I consider them a peculiarly well qualified committee to deal with all questions of law. But I do not consider them a well qualified body to deal with questions of fact. That was recognized, of course, many years ago. The British parliament, and, I think, every colonial parliament, so far as I know—at any rate those possessing the privileges of responsible government have, after much experience withdrawn from that committee all questions of fact regarding elections. And why, Sir? Because it was felt that it was a body to which such important questions could not be fairly trusted; it was felt that partisan feelings would creep into that committee and override all other considerations which should control the committee's decision. And I believe it is with the general assent, not only of the parliament of Great Britain and the colonies, but of the people whom those parliaments represent, that, many years ago, all questions relating to controverted elections were withdrawn from this Privileges and Elections Committee and transferred to the courts. Then, again, it is found that this committee is an ever-changing committee. One day you will have a dozen members present, the next day eight, the next day eight different members, and so on. With rare exceptions the same men do not attend the committee every day. You have not the privilege of having before you counsel to conduct the inquiry; one for the prosecution and one for the defence; one to examine witnesses and one to cross-examine them. All the guards and safeguards that the law throws around the ordinary proceedings for the investigation of fact in criminal matters are absent from this committee. The organization of the committee, and its being an ever-changing committee, make it about as inefficient a body to investigate and decide complicated questions of fact as any court I know of. Therefore, as a result of experience in this matter, the examination into questions of fact, political and legal, and politico-legal, which rise out of elections have been withdrawn from that committee and vested in controverted elections courts constituted for that express purpose.

Now, I say so much because it will be my duty to comment, very shortly I hope, upon the manner in which this committee did deal or was permitted to deal with some questions

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

of fact which came before it. But, for a moment, let me call attention to the speech with which my hon. friend (Mr. Borden, Halifax) moved the resolution before the House. I have nothing to complain of in the tone of that speech or the manner in which it was delivered; nor have I anything to complain of in the matter of it—that is, the hon. gentleman had a right to put in what he did and to leave out what he did. But I do not agree with the conclusion that he reached. I think he divided his speech into two or three parts. The first part was devoted to a somewhat ingenious apology for or explanation of his conduct in bringing forward this motion at this particular time. The House has been in session for about three months and a half, and, prima facie, the hon. gentleman did appear to be acting with very great negligence in bringing forward a motion of this kind, to resume an investigation before the Privileges and Elections Committee, at the end of three months and a half. But he undertook to explain that he was not to blame. He intimated that some thirteen days after the House met, he gave notice of his intention to move in this matter and attempted to move it the fourteenth day after the House met, treating the question as one of privilege, when he was informed by the Speaker that he was out of order and must put his notice on the paper. In the beginning, I want to say, in my opinion, the hon. gentleman is chiefly to blame for the position in which this question stands to-day. Every one knows, who has had experience in parliament—and my hon. friend is not without some experience at least—and those around him have had great experience—that the time to put a notice on the Order paper for debate, if you wish to reach it early in the session, is the first week of the session. Everybody knows that after the first fortnight, the paper is so filled with notices that resolutions put on after the time can hardly be reached until late in the session, if they are reached at all. So, instead of letting day after day go by after the meeting of this House on the first of February, without putting his notice on the Order paper—that is, if he really desired to have this referred to the committee, if he did not mean merely to play a game of political battledore and shuttlecock with it—he should have put his notice on the Order paper during the first days of the session. For reasons of his own, which I have not to quarrel with, he allowed day after day to go by; and when he came to put his notice on the Order paper, he found that there were many notices ahead of him, and he could not get at it as early as he expressed the wish to do. Who was to blame for that?

An hon. MEMBER. The government.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. 'The government' says one hon. member. Why, the government does not

control the Order paper, it does not dictate the order in which motions shall be put. We are not responsible for the negligence of the hon. gentleman, if it was negligence, in not putting his notice on the Order paper until fourteen days had elapsed and until the paper was filled. The government had no more control in such matters than any member of the House.

Mr. TAYLOR. The motion was reached and the government said it should stand.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), the whip of the party, sees the fix he is in, and pleads another excuse. I suppose he refers to the practice which has grown up in this parliament—and a very good practice it is—of having motions about which nobody desires to express an opinion of any kind pass as unopposed motions. There seems to be a most extraordinary idea in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite as to what these unopposed motions are; and my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) is not free from that heresy. That hon. gentleman seemed to think that because, when this motion came up, the leader of the House, having notice from one or more members of the House that they desired to speak upon it, called it to stand, the leader of the House was obstructing the motion. The leader of the House had no option in the matter; he has no more power to further discussion on any one of these motions than any member of the House; he cannot say that one motion shall be gone on with and adopted and another left on one side. Before a motion can be called out of its place and adopted, there must be the unanimous consent of the members of the House; and if one member of the House expresses his desire to speak to the motion, it is not an unopposed motion and cannot be treated as one. So, when this motion came up, it was pronounced an opposed motion by several hon. members.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I beg the hon. gentleman's (Sir Louis Davies') pardon; he is absolutely inaccurate. The only member who called out that the motion should stand, in my hearing, was the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). And the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) misunderstands my point altogether. The point I made about this was, that having regard to the duty of the leader of the House with respect to the honour of the House, it was his duty, at the first opportunity this session, to have made this motion himself.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is an entirely different point; the hon. gentleman must not get away from the point that we are discussing. The hon. gentleman has ventured to say, with a great deal of assurance, and, I think, after a little while that he will hesitate to repeat it, that no hon. member in this House called out 'stand,' because he did not hear

him. Now, he is wrong. There were several hon. members who called out 'stand.'

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Name them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), and several hon. members intimated their desire to express their opinion on this question. So the hon. gentleman is entirely wrong in his facts. The leader of the government is not responsible in any way whatever for calling 'stand,' when that question was called up by the Speaker, but he was bound to call 'stand' when any hon. member supporting him, or opposed to him, intimated a desire to discuss the question.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I repeat that on both occasions no member of the House, to my knowledge, said 'stand' except the right hon. leader of the House, and he did say 'stand.'

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. member has qualified it now very properly with his knowledge of hearing. Well, his hearing does not appear to be very acute, because there were many who did hear numbers of hon. gentlemen around us asking that the matter should stand. Therefore, I have put this matter plainly and squarely. The hon. gentleman, in speaking the other night, reflected not once, but several times, upon the leader of the government, for his conduct in that regard. I venture to say that his reflections on that occasion were without any foundation, and that he himself would be the first to admit it when he comes to understand what the true meaning of an unopposed motion is. Now, the hon. gentleman, if he accepts that view of the situation, will see that the question comes before the House to-day because of his negligence, or the negligence of his friends in not having placed the motion, for purposes of their own, upon the Order paper, within the first fourteen days of the session.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That seems to irritate and annoy some hon. gentlemen opposite. But, I may be entirely mistaken, I do not think it does irritate them, for I have a strong opinion that the hon. gentlemen who are saying 'oh,' never intended that question to go upon the Order paper. It was intended to be kept for the purpose of political discussion, political sensational discussion, and not to be referred, because, as I humbly believe, a reference could do no possible good, or achieve more results than has been achieved by the evidence which has been submitted. It, therefore, appears to me that when an hon. gentleman brings forward his motion at the present day, in the shape of a want of confidence motion in the government, in

a shape that it cannot be in any sense amended or altered, he does so for the purpose of having it defeated, he challenges defeat. If the hon. gentleman had brought forward his motion as a substantive motion in the ordinary way in which motions are made in this House, it would have been open to amendment; one part of it might have been accepted and the other part rejected. The hon. gentleman knows, he knew long ago, he was told in this House long ago, that a good many members were not prepared to refer the Brockville election to a committee of inquiry, because they thought there were no grounds for that reference whatever; while the same gentlemen might have been prepared to refer the West Huron election. The hon. gentleman knew that; but he did not move his resolution so that these gentlemen could vote for a reference of the West Huron election and reject the reference to the Brockville election. Oh, no. He says: I will move it in a way that you cannot amend it, you must swallow every part of it; West Huron and Brockville must go together, you cannot separate them. You may think one should be referred and the other should not; but I will not permit you to vote that way; I will not permit you to vote for one reference and not for the other; I will make you vote for both, whether you think both should be referred or not. Well, the hon. gentleman is perfectly within his rights. He can make his amendment in this way, in a way that was stated yesterday to be a want of confidence motion in this government, on a motion to go into supply, and precluding any amendment whatever.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman permit me to ask a question? If this is a want of confidence motion, was the motion of my hon. colleague from Halifax (Mr. Russell), on a similar motion to go into supply, also a want of confidence motion? And that was carried.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the hon. gentleman had listened to me just now, he would have heard me refer to it as a motion which was yesterday described by the member for York (Mr. Foster), as a want of confidence motion in this government, unless the government chose to accept it *holus bolus* without amendment.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Is not that the case with regard to the other?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The other did not require any amendment, the other was a resolution which the government was prepared to accept.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to suggest that if there was any confidence to be placed in the pledges of the First Minister and other members of the government with reference to this same question, this motion would not require any amendment either.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman and I differ entirely upon that point, and I think a majority of the House will differ from him. The hon. gentleman, as an old parliamentarian, understands that this motion should be moved in a form which left it open to members of the House to move an amendment, if they so desired, and to refer one of the counties to the Election Committee without being compelled to refer the other, because there may have been grounds in one case, and not in the other. It does not necessarily follow that every motion that is made for a reference to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, must carry.

Now I propose for a moment calling the attention of the House, before making some slight reference to the evidence, to the jurisdiction which has been retained by this parliament. I stated a moment ago that we had relegated to a court constituted by the Controverted Elections Act, the trial of all election petitions, and we have explicitly stated that no election petition should be contested or tried in any other way, than by this Elections Act. Before calling the attention of the House to the identical words of the section, I would like to call its attention to one decision, at least, which has been given by this House upon that Act, and upon the jurisdiction which this House now possesses, since it has relegated to the election courts the trial of these controverted elections. Everybody remembers well the Queen's County election case in New Brunswick; everybody remembers that that was a case in which the returning officer, Dunn, on his own motion, contrary to law, in violation of his duty, in opposition to all the facts, chose to return the minority candidate, Mr. Baird, to this parliament, his opponent having obtained some sixty-one votes more than Mr. Baird had. There was no excuse for such conduct except the paltry and trivial excuse put forward by the returning officer, that as Mr. King's deposit money had not been paid by an agent, but by himself, it was illegally paid. Every one knew that the mode of paying the deposit adopted by Mr. King was the proper mode of paying it; every one knew that there could not be a legally constituted agent until the candidate was nominated, every one knew that the excuse, or apology, offered by the returning officer was the veriest farce, that it was an insult to the House of Commons, and that the returning officer was guilty of contempt. The matter was brought before the House and referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and the Committee on Privileges and Elections, from whose report I am quoting, after discussing the matter at great length, reported to the House:

That in the opinion of this committee, the House ought not to declare that the said George

F. Baird is not entitled to sit in the House, but should leave the case to be disposed of under the provisions of the Controverted Elections Act, it being the intention, spirit and policy of parliament that all questions as to the validity of the election of members to the House of Commons should be decided by the ordinary legal tribunals of the country instead of by the House of Commons.

That was the decision given by the Committee on Privileges and Elections in the year 1887, in the matter of the Queen's county election, and that decision was brought before this House on a motion made by Sir John Thompson, that :

The House adopts the report of the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections on the case of the election for Queen's County, N.B.

I moved in amendment to it, that, instead of adopting the report, the returning officer should be summoned to the Bar, and made to amend his return so as to make that return conform to the expressed wish of the people at the polls. The decision of the House was that no matter how flagrant the case was, if the returning officer returned a man to this House and his opponent felt himself aggrieved by it he must go to the election court under the Controverted Elections Act to get his remedy, because, they said that it was :

The intention, spirit and policy of parliament that all questions as to the validity of the election of members to the House of Commons should be decided by the ordinary legal tribunals of the country instead of by the House of Commons.

The section of the Controverted Elections Act to which they referred, was section 68, and it is as follows :

All elections shall be subject to the provisions of this Act, and shall not be questioned otherwise than in accordance herewith.

Now, we have the section and we have the decision of the parliament of Canada upon it, and I suppose if that was to be treated as a precedent it was to have some authority with respect to subsequent applications of a similar or like kind. Sir John Thompson, in moving the House to adopt the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, to which I have called attention, made one exception, and one only, which he thought it was proper to interpolate into the section, and that was that where one of the candidates was a disqualified candidate, the House would have the right to act, and to declare that the other candidate had been elected. With that one exception, I think his language was broad enough, strong enough and clear enough to show, that, in his opinion, at least, there was no other way in which, under the present law, an election return could be affected than under the Controverted Elections Act. I take the liberty of quoting from *Hansard* what he said. Referring to the change in the jurisdiction over election petitions from this House, or

a committee of this House, to the courts of the land, he said :

Since the change which I have referred to, and by which parliament has renounced its rights to deal with the matter of controverted elections, there has been fully recognized in the various discussions that have taken place in the Imperial House of Commons this principle that everything has been transferred to the judiciary in connection with controverted elections, excepting the one question of the disqualification of persons who have been returned to parliament. As was said by Sir Henry James in 1882, in the case of Michael Davitt, the only question which parliament has reserved to itself to deal with, is the question whether a proper person has been returned in obedience to the writ. As was explained by Lord Coleridge and Lord Selborne in a previous debate in 1870, that reservation is not in conflict with the statute which says that the election shall only be contested by an election petition, because the House has to consider whether the writ has been obeyed which commanded the electors of the shire, or the county, to return a suitable person (one of the 'magis idoneos et discretas') to sit in that House. The House, therefore, is still seized of the right to decide whether the writ has been obeyed by the election of a person who is fit and proper to sit in that House. But as soon as the question has been decided as to the qualification of the person so returned, the conduct of the returning officer, or the number of votes which were received, the conduct of the candidates, and every other question connected with the election, or with the conduct of the returning officer, has been relegated to the judiciary, and the House has always declined to exercise its functions and its power to interfere.

So that, there can be no possible doubt if Sir John Thompson's exposition of the law was accepted by this House, as was the resolution which he moved after making this speech, that this House was bereft of every jurisdiction in reference to the election of members of the power to make examinations affecting the conduct of officers, who had conducted elections, or the number of votes received by the different candidates, and of every other question, excepting one, and that was simply where one or other of the candidates was disqualified. I did not hold that view. I was sitting in opposition at that time, and I voted against the hon. gentleman's resolution. I held a different view. I held, in common with such great men as Edward Blake and Sir John Macdonald, that the House had not denuded itself of the authority over these officers—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But that was not the opinion of hon. gentlemen who are cheering. They voted in accordance with this speech, and the resolution I have read, that, under the Controverted Elections Act, all these questions had been withdrawn from the jurisdiction of this House, and that there was no question left to this House at all except one question, and that was whether the candidates were disqualified or not.

They held that view, and they voted for it every one of them. No, there was one who voted the other way, a gentleman who received great honour for it, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. He stood out of his party, but he stood alone. He voted against the resolution, but he voted alone. Every other member of the Conservative party did as Sir John Thompson desired him to do; he declared that this House had no jurisdiction in election matters at all. On that occasion I took the opportunity to say wherein I differed from Sir John Thompson, and I would not ask the House to listen to an extract from anything I said myself, were it not that I have been challenged in the newspaper press and in this House also for having expressed upon that occasion, in 1887, different opinions from those I entertain now on this important question. I have made no change in my opinions on this question. I entertained the opinion then that the House had the right and the power to punish officers for contempt in all cases where the facts were brought properly before them. I will ask the House to allow me to read from *Hansard*, page 678, the argument that I addressed to the House on that point:

Sir, I contend, as a matter of law, that the rights which this House can exercise respecting the election of its members have not been in any degree minimized by the passage of the Controverted Elections Act. I state that as a clear principle of constitutional law, and I think I have the authority, not only of the leader of the opposition, but of the leader of the government, for that position—that the same rights which this House retained to itself when in former days it relegated the trial of election petitions to the election committees of the House, these same rights the House continues to retain after it has relegated the trial of election petitions to the judges of the land. There has been no change. Almost the same words which were used in the old Controverted Elections Act, for referring the trial of controverted elections to the Election Committees of the House are used now in the Controverted Elections Act; and the hon. gentleman knows well that the principle is this: that while the House will not entertain any petition questioning the return of a member, having relegated to the courts of the land the right to receive and determine upon such petitions, at the same time the House has never failed, of its own motion and in its own right, when the facts are brought before it, to consider all the facts set forth in the return of a returning officer: and if it believes he has returned the wrong man, to make him amend his return accordingly.

I pointed out in that case that as it appeared clearly before the House that the minority candidate had received sixty-one votes less than his opponent, and as there was no disqualification attaching to his opponent, (his election being conducted in every respect properly), that every principle of law and justice and common sense dictated that the returning officer who had made a false return should be made to amend that return at the Bar of the House, and that the amended return should entitle the majority

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

candidate to take his seat. That was the only principle I contended for then.

Hon. gentlemen know that before these cases were referred to the courts of the land under the Controverted Elections Act, there were courts established in this House, with rules and regulations providing for petitions and other particulars and for a trial, in almost every respect the same as the rules which provide for a petition and evidence in a trial under the election Act. There was a court here constituted by law, then called the Privileges and Elections Committee. That court could not receive a petition on a mere motion made in this House by a member. It required a petition filed within a certain number of days after the House met, containing allegations of facts. That petition must be accompanied with a certain sum of money as a deposit. That petition had to be followed by particulars of the offences and so on, just the same as the proceedings before a controverted elections court. So I contended then, and it is my humble judgment that I was right; that the transference of the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee here, to the ordinary courts of the land did not oust this House of the jurisdiction it had before to punish the returning officers or deputy returning officers, if they were guilty of violating the law which had been entrusted to them to be carried out.

I say here that we stand to-day in this position: That we have a Controverted Elections Act providing for the trial of election petitions and everything that could arise out of election petitions, with a declaration in the statute, that no election shall be questioned otherwise than in accordance therewith. And then in addition to that we have another statute. The prior statute was passed many years ago and remained in force for many years, but it was felt by some hon. members to be ineffective in reaching corruption which was widespread throughout certain electoral districts, for the reason that frequently—I might almost say always or nearly always—when an act of corruption had been proved on the part of a candidate or his agent sufficient to void the election, the judges rested there and went no further. And no matter what evidence a man had behind that, to show corruption and corrupt conditions throughout the constituency, the judges thought that the moment they found a corrupt act had been committed, the election should be voided and so they stayed the proceedings. We had then a most important statute passed in the year 1886. For the purpose of remedying that condition of matters, for the purpose of enabling any twenty-five electors who thought there was a general system of corruption extending throughout the electoral district, and wanted, not to disqualify the man elected, but wanted to bring home the fact of the existence of that corruption in a constituency to parliament and to the country; an Act was introduced in 1886, for

the purpose of enabling them to do so. In my humble opinion that Act is a most important one, because it affords machinery whereby in every county in the Dominion; if there has been corruption or wrong-doing, if there has been wrong doing on the part of the officers who had charge of the ballot boxes; if there has been ballot stuffing on the part of others who had not charge of these ballot boxes if there has been fraud or corruption of any kind which stood between the wishes of the people and their choice as expressed in the ballot box; if there has been any attempt to thwart or prevent the return of the candidate of their choice; this Act provides a means whereby a thorough and exhaustive inquiry should be made by those desiring to make it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
What Act is that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I shall quote it in a moment. I desire to call the attention of hon. gentlemen who follow the debate to the fact, that we had on one hand the Controverted Elections Act as it stood, providing for fullest inquiry into an election to determine as to which candidate ought to be returned, and for the punishment of all cases wherein evidence of wrong-doing happened to be brought out at the trial. On the other hand we had this other Act providing for inquiries as to corrupt practices at elections; and with these two, in my humble judgment, machinery was provided by law for the fullest and most thorough inquiry by the courts of the land into every conceivable condition of corruption and wrong-doing which could exist in any community. I am sorry to be obliged to trouble the House by reading at length the first section of this Act, but my argument would be ineffective and incomplete unless I did so, and therefore, I have to ask the House to pardon me if I take a few minutes to read the first provision of this law. It says:

1. Whenever the House of Commons, by address, represents to the Governor General that a judge in his report on the trial of an election petition under the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, states that corrupt practices have, or that there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have extensively prevailed at the election, or that he is of opinion that the inquiry into the circumstances of the election has been rendered incomplete by the action of any of the parties to the petition, and that further inquiry as to whether corrupt practices have extensively prevailed is desirable—

That provides in the first part of the section for one condition of affairs. Whenever the Controverted Elections Act falls short of ascertaining the entire truth or exposing all the corruption, this Act may be brought into operation:

—or whenever the House of Commons, by address, represents to the Governor General that a petition has been, within sixty days after the publication in the 'Canada Gazette' of the receipt of the return to a writ of election, by the

Clerk of the Crown in Chancery (if parliament is sitting at the expiration of the period of sixty days, or, if parliament is not then sitting, within fourteen days after the then next meeting of parliament), presented to the House of Commons, signed by any twenty-five or more electors of the district, stating that no petition charging the existence of corrupt practices has been presented under the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, and that corrupt practices have, or that there is reason to believe that corrupt practices have extensively prevailed at the election, and having annexed thereto a solemn declaration under the statute in that behalf, signed by the petitioners, stating that they are such electors, and that the allegations of the petitions are true to the best of their knowledge and belief—and when the House of Commons, by such address, prays the Governor General to cause inquiry to be made under this Act by one or more judges of the Supreme Court of Canada, or by one or more judges competent under the Dominion Controverted Elections Act, to try an election petition in the province within which the district in question is situate, or by one or more persons named in such address—such persons being county court judges, or being barristers-at-law, or advocates of not less than seven years' standing, and not holding any office or place of profit under the Crown—the Governor General may appoint one or more of such judges or such persons, as the case may be, to be a commissioner or commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of such corrupt practices; and if any of the commissioners so appointed die, resign or become incapable to act, the surviving or continuing commissioners or commissioner may act in such inquiry as if they or he had been solely appointed to be commissioners or a commissioner for the purpose of such inquiry; and all the provisions of this Act concerning the commissioners appointed to make any such inquiry shall be taken to apply to such surviving or continuing commissioners or commissioner, and in case a sole commissioner is originally appointed, then to such sole commissioner.

Mr. HAGGART. Does that apply to frauds?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, that is just what it does apply to—a fraud of any kind or description, or any act which is a corrupt practice under the Dominion Elections Act. The whole gamut of fraud and wrong-doing is provided for by that statute. It provides for either contingency—where a petition has been filed under the Controverted Elections Act and the judge reports that for some reason or other he has not been able to get to the bottom of the facts; and, also where no petition has been filed, if twenty-five electors of a constituency sign a petition to this House, that in their opinion corrupt practices have extensively prevailed, and ask for an inquiry. I say that statute covers the whole ground, and in any constituency in this Dominion, where there is reason to believe that any wrong-doing or corrupt practices have prevailed, this Act brings it within the power of twenty-five electors of that constituency to have a judicial inquiry by an address of this House to the Governor General.

Mr. POWELL. Might I ask the hon. gentleman if he has considered the effect of the late Franchise Act, which renders it absolutely impossible to work the Weldon Act, so called ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Franchise Act has nothing to do with inquiries into corrupt practices.

Mr. POWELL. That is very true, but the wording of the Weldon Act is such that the passing of the Franchise Act absolutely cut away its power.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not understand the hon. gentleman ; but, he will have an opportunity of elaborating and maintaining his position when he comes to speak later. I have read to the House every word of the first section, which defines the conditions and circumstances under which a writ may issue authorizing the judges to hold this inquiry ; and, as far as I can see—I say it, of course, subject to any new facts which the hon. gentleman may bring out—the Controverted Elections Act and this Act together cover the whole ground.

Mr. POWELL. I thought the hon. gentleman was referring to the Weldon Act.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am referring to the Controverted Elections Act and to the Inquiries into Corrupt Practices at Elections Act, and I say that, so far as I can see, the section which I have read does cover every possible case. And so we stood in this position, that after the last or the preceding election, twenty-five electors in any county or riding of the Dominion, where there was no election petition filed, had a right to come to this parliament, declaring that in their opinion corruption had extensively prevailed, and parliament was then bound to vote an address to the Governor General, praying that a commission should issue, either to the judges of the Supreme Court or to the judges of the Superior Courts of the provinces, directing them to sit and hold a thorough and exhaustive inquiry, and report whether those corrupt practices existed or not. Then follow all the sections, some seventeen in number, necessary to enable This Act to be properly carried out, prescribing the manner in which the inquiry should be conducted, providing for the remuneration of the witnesses and for bringing them before the court, and enabling the court thoroughly and effectively to carry out the purpose which parliament had in view. So, I repeat the proposition which I laid down before. I humbly submit for the consideration of this House, that with these two statutes before it, there was no wrong-doing in either the riding of West Huron or the county of Brockville which could not have been made the subject of a thorough judicial investigation at the in-

stance of any twenty-five electors in either of those constituencies, if they had so desired ; and in every case where corruption was proved, the inquiry would be at the expense of the public, and not of the petitioners. Therefore, it does appear to me that parliament, having made this provision for a full and exhaustive judicial inquiry at the hands of independent judges, against whose impartiality not a word can be charged, and for proper means of carrying on the inquiry and punishing those who might be proved guilty of wrong-doing, it would be an act of usurpation on the part of parliament to come and say, we will not leave an inquiry to be carried on under these petitions, under either the Controverted Elections Act or the Inquiries as to Corrupt Practices at Elections Act, and even if no petition is presented to us, we will relegate the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I do not think that was the intention ; I do not think my hon. friend who moved this resolution originally ever dreamed that that was the intention, and he was careful to guard the resolution which he introduced last year so as to confine the inquiry to the conduct of the respective returning officers and the several deputy returning officers in connection with the elections in question.

Mr. HAGGART. Suppose there was no knowledge of these frauds until a year after the event, would there be no remedy ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Act provides for an inquiry long after the time has expired within which an election petition can be filed. There is no trouble about that.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If I understand the hon. gentleman correctly, he is not arguing that parliament is ousted of any jurisdiction over this subject, but that parliament has constituted tribunals with sufficient powers to deal with this subject outside of parliament. Am I right in my understanding of the hon. gentleman's argument, so far that he is not arguing that parliament cannot inquire into these matters ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did argue that parliament had, in my opinion, divested itself of all jurisdiction to inquire into election matters, except into the conduct of its officers. I argued that in 1887 ; but I argued in 1887, and against Sir John Thompson's argument, that parliament had not parted with its jurisdiction over its officers, and had a right to bring its returning officer to the Bar to answer for his conduct, or to punish the deputy returning officers for misconduct. But, apart from that, I confessed that the argument was irresistible that we had no power to inquire into election petitions at all. But, the reason I am bringing this up now and trying to lay before the House the exact jurisdiction which parliament in

my opinion retains is this, that there has gone abroad through the country, sedulously cultivated by the Conservative press, the idea that this House has jurisdiction to inquire into the West Huron and the Brockville elections, and into the question of corrupt practices at either of those elections, and that we have not done so. There never was a more false idea in the world. In my humble judgment, parliament had not jurisdiction to inquire into corrupt practices in either of those elections. Further, parliament did not attempt to usurp such power, and did not refer to the Elections Committee any such practices. The power of reference to the select committee is a limited and defined and a very limited power, and that power is merely to inquire into the conduct of the returning officer or the deputy returning officers and not to go beyond that. The result was this, that when we got a certain distance in that inquiry, and it was found that possibly some wrong-doing might have been done, either by the returning officer, or some third party outside, our hands were tied, and we could not inquire whether the third party did the thing or not, or whether it was the returning officer who had done it. I am pointing out that if the House desires a very exhaustive and complete inquiry, that inquiry must take place under that statute provided by parliament, for the purpose of making an inquiry thorough, exhaustive and complete. The question, therefore, is one which I desire to press home, even at the risk of one little repetition. I would venture to say that from the articles that appeared in the public press, from time to time, five out of six readers would believe that the whole question of the West Huron election and the Brockville election had been referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and that the question before that committee was whether there had been bribery or corruption. But nothing of the kind was before the committee. I deny that the seat of either member could be or would be affected by the finding of that committee. No such question was submitted to the committee. The seats of these members were not, and could not be affected by any finding that committee could make, for the good reason that the members were not summoned before it, nor were their interests referred to it for inquiry at all. The one thing, and the one only, which, by the terms of the resolution, were referred to the committee, and which parliament had the power to refer to it, was the conduct of the returning and deputy returning officers. So that, whether these men were properly elected or not, whether outside parties had stuffed the ballots or not, whether there had been on either side of politics a widespread system of corruption or not, neither this House nor the committee had the slightest power to investigate.

I call attention to the singular fact that if, as these hon. gentlemen opposite allege,

there was widespread corruption in either or both of those constituencies, they had full knowledge of that corruption within a month after the election had taken place. It was proved in the evidence submitted to the committee that that knowledge was all in their hands within one month after the election; but for reasons of their own they chose neither to inquire into that corruption, under the Controverted Elections Act, nor under the other Act, providing for investigations into all matters of fraud at elections. Why they did not, I am not going to inquire. They apparently had their own reasons. But there is this to be always borne in mind, that when investigations of that kind are brought before the courts, the conduct of the parties on both sides can be investigated, and I am not questioning the prudence which dictated to my hon. friends to refrain from instituting any inquiry of the kind. Now they come before the House, some sixteen months after the election has taken place, and we are face to face with the proposition that these cases should be referred back to the same committee as last year, because the committee's action of last year was not conclusive. My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), devoted some time to showing that the House had power to take this course if it chose. I am not here to question that dictum. I would not raise a doubt as to the power of the House to refer this evidence back to the committee again, if it thought it right and proper in the public interest to do so. I do not think that there can be any reasonable argument made against such a proposition. But I want to refer the House to one or two facts, which convince my mind at least, that it would not be in the public interest to refer the West Huron election back again to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

I call the attention of the House, Sir, to the fact that in sending these cases to the committee last year, we acted with very great, and I venture to say, undue haste.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, and I venture to say that my hon. friend will agree with me when I submit my reasons. Assuming that this House has jurisdiction to enter upon matters of this kind, I would ask any hon. gentleman whether, he thinks, we ought to exercise such jurisdiction, unless the facts are brought before us in the proper manner. I ask, has there been a petition filed before this House by any one of the candidates at either of these elections, or by any elector in the electoral districts of West Huron or Brockville, asking this House to interfere and refer the matter to the Elections Committee? Sir, not a single petition has come to us from either one of the defeated candidates, or any elector in either riding, setting forth any wrong-doing which he

desired this House to investigate. That is my point number one, and I think it is a most important point. I do not think that this House has the right—using the word in its proper sense, as distinct from power, for while I acknowledge the power, I deny the right—to refer, of its own initiative, such matters to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, for investigation, unless there are prima facie grounds laid before it to justify such action. What have we here? We have an outside member who states openly: I have no knowledge of the facts, I do not live in that part of the country, I do not live even in the province where the elections took place. I am amongst those members who are the farthest removed from the counties in question, and, perhaps, I was selected for that reason. I have no personal knowledge of the facts alleged, and no petition has been presented from any elector in either of the counties, charging any wrong-doing. I have no mandate from any one—not a man in either county has presented a petition, asking me to move in the matter—but I come forward simply on my own initiative, and move to refer the conduct of the deputy returning officers to the committee for investigation. I submit that that is not the proper course to take. I submit that these are not the proper conditions under which this House can accept jurisdiction and take action. I say that there should be a proper petition presented from responsible electors, setting forth certain facts, which would in the first place, convince the House that there was wrong-doing on the part of the returning or deputy returning officer before the House made any such reference.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman permit me, as part of my justification, to read what the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce has said?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will permit the hon. gentleman to ask me any question, but not to argue the question in the middle of my speech.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I desire to ask a question, whether or not this declaration of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is not a sufficient justification?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have heard that statement already. The hon. gentleman read it the other night in his speech, so that we have had the advantage of hearing from the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce himself, what he said a year ago, and having had it repeated by the hon. gentleman from Halifax the other night, but that does not alter the argument in the slightest degree. The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), was not touching the question—

Mr. FOSTER. Hear, hear.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) shouted before he was out of the woods, before he heard what I had to say. The Minister of Trade and Commerce did not touch the question of procedure. Now, secondly, having shown that there was no proper procedure in the matter, in my humble judgment, I say there were no specific charges made against any returning officer of any kind or against any deputy returning officer. And I wish here to call the attention of the House to this material fact, that neither against the returning officer in West Huron nor against the returning officer in Brockville was there ever a charge made, direct or indirect. And no charges were made against the deputy returning officers before the case was referred; but certain declarations were read, and these were all that were brought before the House by the hon. member for Halifax—declarations of certain electors who said that they had voted one way—and there were more of these declarations in his hands than there were votes for that candidate found in the ballot box. Now, whether the House should have referred the West Huron election to the committee or not, I am not going to argue; the House did refer it, and the House had some case to go upon—there were some statements made and some affidavits; and the House thought for the time being that there was a prima facie case which called for investigation.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Did not the Prime Minister say that the strongest case was that of West Huron, and that Brockville was the weaker?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is what he said.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) said that the Brockville case had been spoken of as the stronger.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If so, it was a slip of the tongue. I say that there was no petition, no formal allegation before the House from any elector or any candidate from either county. Still, there were these affidavits in the West Huron case which the House accepted as making a case worthy of reference to the committee. But, whatever case there may have been prima facie in the case of West Huron, there was no case made or attempted to be made in the case of Brockville. There was no specific charge made, even by the member who moved the resolution, against the returning officers or any deputy returning officer in Brockville. Though the motion had for its object to refer the conduct of the deputy returning officers in Brockville to an investigating committee, there was no petition against them, no affidavit against them,

nor was there a statement made by a member of the House on his responsibility that one of them had committed any specific offence. There never was a more utterly baseless case presented to the House against any man in whose case an investigation was sought than was presented to the House in the Brockville case. The Prime Minister said it was a very, very weak case, if there was any case at all. He might have said that there was no case. I repeat, even at the risk of wearying the House, that there was no petition, there was no affidavit, nor was there an allegation which any member dared to make on his responsibility, of any specific act of wrong-doing on the part of any deputy returning officer in Brockville. When it went to the committee, what had we? The committee did not know what was referred to them, and the whole field was open for any member to take up what he liked. I will read every word on this subject that was uttered by my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) when he presented the case of Brockville to the House; and I am prepared to ask the House, after hearing that statement of the most ingenious member on the opposition side, if they can discover one single charge of wrong-doing made against any of these officers.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) refer to what was said this year or last year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Last year. I think it fairer to take last year, because the statement was fuller. Before I read what the hon. gentleman said, let me give the substance of it as I understand it. The first statement was that the day before the election ballots were in the hands of electors of the same appearance as the official ballots, and one was found by a boy who saw a man throw it away. Was there ever a more flimsy statement to refer to the Committee on Privileges and Elections? The man who threw away the ballot, the boy who saw him throw it away, and the man who afterwards received it, were not officers of this House, and we had no power to inquire into their conduct or to punish them. Therefore, the reference of this statement about the boy and these men to a committee for examination was utterly futile. Next, it was stated that a Liberal voter gave a marked ballot to a man who did not use that marked ballot, but was ready to produce it. Supposing that to be true, and supposing you argue from it corruption, what jurisdiction had the committee to which we referred this case? The Liberal voter who was alleged to have given that ballot was not an officer of this House, and we had no jurisdiction over him. Our excellent committee could not examine or bring him before us or punish him if he had done wrong. Therefore, the inquiry

so far as these cases were concerned would necessarily result in a farce. Then it was stated that ballots marked for Comstock, and so folded that the upper part of the cross would be visible to the deputy returning officer were found in No. 4 poll of Elizabethtown. Well, suppose they were. Who put them there? Is there a charge there, direct or indirect, that our officers were guilty? What were you going to inquire into? No charge was formulated, no name was given, nothing specific was charged. Therefore, the reference was utterly futile and useless.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) mean what he said, or was it a slip of the tongue—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am asking a question for the purposes of debate.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Certainly; I want to hear it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) said that in such a case as he was putting, the committee would have no power to examine, and that the witnesses could disobey any summons to attend before the committee?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) misunderstood me. I say that so far as this reference is made to wrong-doing by parties not being officers of the House, such as deputy returning officers, that we had no power to investigate, the reference would be ultra vires.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In that case, does the hon. gentleman go so far as to say, supposing we were travelling outside our functions in referring the matter to the committee, and that committee summoned the witnesses before them, that the courts would protect the witnesses in disobeying the summons?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the argument advanced by Sir John Thompson and ratified by a majority of this House is correct, that this House has divested itself of all jurisdiction except in relation to the conduct of its own officers, then, if we attempted to exercise jurisdiction in such matters from which we have withdrawn ourselves, I think the court would stop it. I may be wrong. I think that nine-tenths of the House assented most of the way to the proposition that this House has divested itself of all jurisdiction except in matters relating to the conduct of its officers.

If that is correct, and if we attempt still to exercise jurisdiction in matters that we have by statute withdrawn from ourselves. I think the courts would stop us. But I may be wrong. Then, the next charge in substance was that the deputy returning officer at No. 1 poll refused to destroy the counterfoils. Well, that is not an offence, and I do not know why we should refer it to the Elections Committee. Supposing it were proved ten times over, there is no offence in it, there is no corrupt act for which a man can be punished. I do not know what the hon. gentleman understands by destroying counterfoils, but I rather gather from his statement last night that he considered the counterfoil was not destroyed by the deputy returning officer putting it in his pocket, but he did consider it to be destroyed if the deputy returning officer threw it on the floor. I do not see the distinction myself; but however, we will not squabble about matters of that kind. The last charge was that the deputy returning officer at poll No. 2 refused to seal the ballot box. He was very wrong in refusing to seal the ballot box, but if he was guilty of any offence he could be fined or imprisoned, and he would be fined or imprisoned under the Dominion Elections Act. But I do not think hon. gentlemen would contend that for that offence he could be either fined or imprisoned. Now, having stated substantially the charges made by the hon. gentleman, I will ask the House to refer to his speech last year, and let me read exactly what the hon. gentleman said at page 6730 of the *Hansard* :

Now, in the case of Brockville, I have in my possession a report of an investigation made in regard to certain matters concerning the deputy returning officer of that election. I state that it can be established, as I believe, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, that ballots of exactly the same character in every respect as the official ballots—in fact official ballots—were in plentiful use in the hands of the workers for the Liberal party in that constituency. I have now in my possession a ballot which was picked up in the street. It was found by a boy who saw a man throw it away. It was picked up and brought to two gentlemen, who placed their initials upon it. It has been compared with the official ballot which were used and found to have the same marking upon it, the same little defects, the same little irregularities as the official ballots. We also find on this ballot a cross neatly marked opposite the name of Mr. Comstock. It is supposed that, for some reason or other, it had been secured but was not used; some other ballot was used in its place, or the person for whom it was designed did not see fit to use it.

That is one charge. Now the House will see there is no charge made that any deputy returning officer or any officer of the government has been guilty of an offence. Somebody on the street had a ballot which he says was like, and could be called an official ballot. Perhaps it was cut out of a newspaper,

as newspapers are in the habit of publishing forms of ballots at the time of an election. I do not care what it was, all I am concerned about is that there is no offence alleged in the statement made by the hon. gentleman of which the privileges and elections committee could take cognizance. He goes on :

We also find that another ballot, duly marked, was presented by a Liberal worker to a voter in the constituency, who was asked to vote by depositing that ballot, and who did not see fit to do so, but placed the ballot in the hands of gentlemen who are prepared to produce it before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Perhaps I had better make my statement on that point a little more explicit and give the circumstances a little more in detail. I forgot to say that certain gentlemen in that constituency came to this voter after the ballot had been handed to him and desired very much to get it back, and, as I understand, offered a very considerable sum of money to get it back; but the voter did not see fit to give it back, but retained it and placed it in the hands of the gentlemen to whom I have first referred. I say, Sir, it can also be established, as I believe from the report of the investigation which has been made, and which I hold in my hand, that official ballots were in the hands of the Liberal workers in about every polling division in that constituency, and were used. And I say further that in polling district No. 4, Elizabethtown, a large number of ballots marked for Comstock in identically the same way and so folded that the upper part of the cross would be visible to the deputy returning officer, were found in the ballot box at the close of the day. Now, it is a somewhat suspicious circumstance, to say the least of it, that you find a large number of ballots folded and marked exactly the same way, and so folded and marked that it was easy for the deputy returning officer to ascertain exactly for whom the voter voted. I say that points to collusion between the deputy returning officer and those who are working for the Liberal candidate. It can be shown, as I believe, that the deputy returning officer of No. 1, east ward, Brockville, refused to destroy the counterfoils of the ballots and insisted on keeping them in his pocket. He also kept putting his hands in his pocket when parties went into the compartment to vote. He was asked by the scrutineer, Mr. W. W. Richardson, to destroy the counterfoils as directed by the Act. This he refused to do. Mr. Richardson says that he is satisfied that the deputy returning officer substituted a ballot for one given by a Conservative voter. When the ballots were counted at the recount, two that were marked for Mr. Comstock were rejected by the judge, owing to the fact that there were some distinguishing marks on the backs of them made by the deputy returning officer. It appears from the report of this investigation that the deputy returning officer at No. 3, Kitley, Mr. W. D. Livingston, was seen conferring with a Liberal worker with a ballot in his possession; and that is a circumstance that requires some explanation.

I say, further, that another deputy returning officer, the one for No. 2, Elizabethtown, also was guilty of a very grave irregularity in connection with this election. He was Mr. J. B. Truesdel. This man refused to seal the ballot box, and has since said that he would be damned if he would give them satisfaction for doing so. He was asked by Mr. Foster to seal the ballot box, in accordance with the provisions of the

law, and he distinctly refused to do so. Now, there was either a motive or there was not a motive on that occasion. Judging this circumstance and the other circumstances I have mentioned in the light of a certain document which I propose to read, hon. gentlemen will see the significance of some of these things. I also understand—I do not see the statement before me at this moment—that one of the deputy returning officers at Brockville—I desire to be corrected if I am wrong—was an accountant in the employ of Mr. Comstock, the sitting member, who was a candidate at that election.

I do not care whether that last statement is correct or not. Now we find an allegation made by the hon. member which I did not notice before, that a man named Richardson says that he saw the deputy returning officer substitute a ballot for one given by a Conservative voter. We have not got a statement in that whole case which in any way affects directly or indirectly the conduct of the returning officer.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Would the hon. gentleman say that Liberal workers throughout the riding having official ballots in their possession, outside the polls, is not a circumstance that points to some collusion, to some wrong action, of the returning officer or the deputy? Does he regard it as a perfectly proper thing that these official ballots should be in the hands of the workers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not say that would be a proper thing, on the contrary, I would condemn it; but I have yet to see where the hon. gentleman takes the responsibility of making that statement.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman has just read it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I did not read anything of the kind. The statement I read was this:

That it can be established, as I believe, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, that ballots of exactly the same character in every respect as the official ballots.

Which is a very different thing. He says that official ballots were in the hands of the outside public. But that does not point to the guilt of any single deputy returning officer, or any official of the government that ballots similar or like official ballots were in the hands of the outside public. The hon. gentleman knows that the Elections Act was passed for the exact purpose of inquiring into charges of that kind.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Let me read another thing I said last year:

I say, Sir, it can also be established, as I believe from the report of the investigation which has been made, and which I hold in my hand, that official ballots were in the hands of the Liberal workers in about every polling division in that constituency, and were used.

That is what the hon. gentleman has read within the last ten minutes, and then states that he did not read it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not say I did not read it, I have just read it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I also stated:

It can be established, as I believe, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, that ballots of exactly the same character in every respect as the official ballots—in fact official ballots—were in plentiful use in the hands of the workers for the Liberal party in that constituency.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman knows well what I am talking about, I am not talking about Liberal workers, but I am talking about offences which could be referred for investigation to the Privileges and Elections Committee, about officers of this House, deputy returning officers; and the hon. gentleman is now seeking to evade that legal point.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I will read it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No; I do not want the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) to make an argument. It is quite impossible for me to get on at all. If I did not read that—

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That is not what I mean.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If I have not read it, the hon. gentleman will find it at page 6730. I have read every word that the hon. gentleman can find in that speech. If the hon. gentleman can find any other paragraph I have not read he can bring it up later. But, I say that the hon. gentleman knows that we must have, in this House, some distinct and positive statement of wrong-doing before we can be justified in referring a case of that kind to a committee, and I allege that we have not got it. I allege that most positively, and if I am wrong the hon. gentleman can read it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Read it now.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have read all that. The hon. gentleman sends me over to read what I have read twice.

Mr. FOSTER. No, that is what you could not find.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is what I have read twice. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) was not in his place, but he is perfectly prepared to back up anything that is said on the other side.

Mr. DAVIN. Read what is marked there.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have read it. I say that the mere statement of a member of parliament, however strong he may make that

statement, cannot take the place of proper legal information which should be furnished to this House in a proper way. Not only did I state to this House what the hon. gentleman says, but I undertook to read his speech, which is in *Hansard* and before every hon. member, so that every hon. member can see whether I have overstated or understated the charge made by the hon. gentleman. I have stated it correctly and substantially, and I say that neither directly nor indirectly are there any charges made by the hon. gentleman against the officers in Brockville which ought or could be referred to the Privileges and Elections Committee. Since that time a good deal has taken place. We do not stand to-day in the position that we stood in a year ago.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. When the hon. gentleman is done cheering what he thinks to be a very pertinent remark, and I am glad he approves of it, I will go on and enforce still further what I have just said. We have had parties in that district who have endeavoured to do what they should have done at first—prosecute any man that they thought guilty of wrong-doing. We have had two cases of that kind. They made an attempt against one Liberal working. They arrested him, brought him before the court, and they made a charge against him. So far from complaining of this, I am not at all complaining, if they thought that they were justified in this action. They tried him and they failed to convict him. They brought up another man, brought him before stipendiary magistrates, brought him before the court, dragged him before the court from day to day, and then discharged him without trial. They did not dare to bring up any other man or attempt to try him. What is the fair inference that can be drawn from these circumstances? After they had attempted to convict two men, after they had tried one and did not even dare try another, is it not clear that if there were anything against any other worker, if there was a scintilla of evidence, they would have brought him up? I will point out to the hon. gentlemen who cheered my statement of a moment ago, that we are in a different position to-day from that in which we were in then, because, although it was open to these gentlemen to do this then, it was not done then, and it has been done now. The criminal law has been invoked, attempts have been made to punish these men, and they have failed. To attempt to place these people in jeopardy a second time is to violate one of the first principles of criminal law. A man is not to be put in jeopardy a second time, and after he is discharged it would be unjust for this House to put him on his trial a second time. I ask the House: What charge are hon. gentleman asking us to refer

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

to the committee? Has a single name been mentioned in this House of a deputy returning officer who has been guilty of wrong-doing? I press that home. What is the name of the officer who has been guilty of wrong-doing? There is no affidavit, or petition, or statement. Therefore, I say, there is no specific charge, and, therefore, it could not be referred. Then, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) introduced a statement that he had not introduced before in regard to Brockville. The newspapers say that he read an affidavit. He did nothing of the kind. I am not going to question the hon. gentleman's conduct of his case, but, if the newspapers report that he read an affidavit in this House, I deny it.

Mr. DAVIN. He read an extract from an affidavit.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know whether he did or not. He read a paragraph from a document which he had in his hands, but he did not file it or lay it on the Table of the House. He did not place it before the House so that the man who makes it could be charged with perjury if he has sworn to what is false. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) stated that it was an affidavit, and I am not going to question his statement, because I am sure he would not say that it was if it was not. He read a single paragraph from the affidavit, but he did not read the whole of it, or lay it on the Table of the House, and the section which he read does not refer to any specific act of wrong-doing. The substance of the affidavit which the hon. gentleman did not read was, as I gathered from his statement, that there had been a conspiracy on the part of some Liberal workers, and a man named Pritchett, to commit a crime when the election came off, not that anything was done, but that there had been a conspiracy to do it. If there was a conspiracy, and he had knowledge of it, what was his duty under the criminal law? What was the duty of those who drew that affidavit? If they had that information in their possession last December, and they believed a single word of it, why did they not go into the court and prosecute the parties to this conspiracy? They did not do it. Oh, no: but they say that they have an affidavit. They kept it locked up from December to May and then they attempt to read it in the House. But, they do not lay it on the Table, but they put it back into their own pockets again. Yet, they ask the House to act upon that. Why, Sir, it is an insult to the House to ask them to act upon alleged statements of that kind. Who is this man Pritchett? I do not know, and I do not care. I see that he was the subject-matter of an inquiry before a commission the other day, and that Judge Morgan denounced him as a self-convicted liar. I do not know anything about him. The judge who heard

his evidence may, perhaps, be best qualified to express an opinion.

Mr. BENNETT. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) if he knows what the press say about Judge Morgan?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not. I do not know Judge Morgan. I never saw him.

Mr. COWAN. Judge Morgan is the junior judge of the county of York, appointed by the Conservative party, and a straight-line Conservative.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Whatever he may have been, I assume that on the bench he has no politics at all.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman says that he is a politician still.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I do not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) to say that he is a straight-line Conservative.

Mr. COWAN. I said that he was a straight-line Conservative prior to his appointment. If he had not been he would not have been appointed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Let us come back to the point. The point I am trying to make is, that, weak as the case was that was presented by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) last year, it has not been strengthened in the slightest degree by the extract he produced, or read, or the affidavit which he did not file, because the extract which he did read does not refer to any specific offence alleged to have been committed, but refers to a conspiracy alleged by Pritchett to have existed before the election came on at all. Now let us see how the matter stands, in my judgment. I will leave the Brockville case for a moment, and I now come to the evidence given before the committee in the West Huron case, and I say there was no direct evidence to impugn the conduct of the two deputy returning officers who were charged with malfeasance in the West Huron case, and so it was attempted by indirect evidence from those who had voted, to show that a larger number had voted for McLean than were represented by ballots in the box at the close of the poll. It was sought to be inferred from that, that the returning officer must necessarily have been guilty, but I watched my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) very closely, and he did not say that this proved the deputy returning officer was guilty, and I ask him now, whether as a lawyer, he would draw that conclusion? Did it follow that

because in Colborne, thirteen more men swore they voted for McLean than ballots were found in the box for McLean; that, therefore, the deputy returning officer was guilty of wrong-doing? The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), did not express any opinion on that, and I do not blame him for it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Does the hon. minister wish me to answer?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not wish an answer. I am commenting upon what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) did say. I know the hon. gentleman is capable of expressing his opinion and making another speech upon it, and what I am saying now is, that he expressed no opinion on it when he moved the resolution. He had a perfect right to an opinion, and I would ask him before the debate closes, whether he would express an opinion on that?

Mr. WALLACE. What is the opinion of the minister?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace), I have no hesitation in giving my opinion directly. I say it by no means follows that, because thirteen men more than the thirty ballots found for McLean swore they voted for McLean and their ballots were not found in the box; it by no means follows that the deputy returning officer did wrong. They may not have put them in the box. They may have for reasons of their own, promised to vote for McLean, and afterwards determined for corrupt reasons or otherwise, to vote for Holmes.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They may have got ballots from parties to whom they sold their votes, as has frequently been proved in election courts to have been done, and they may have gone in and put in a ballot for Holmes and led McLean to believe they were voting for him, and that is perfectly consistent with the facts as proved.

Mr. DAVIN. They swore they did not do that.

Mr. TAYLOR. The returning officer put them in the box.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will answer one at a time please. I undertake to say that if a man is capable of selling his vote, he is equally capable of swearing to a falsehood when he comes into court. I am only arguing this now. There are two things which may be open to you to conclude: One is that either the returning officer or some other person abstracted the ballots and put in wrong ones, and the other is that these men themselves, sold their votes outside for a consideration,

or for some other purpose, and put in the ballots themselves.

Mr. DAVIN. As my hon. friend has appealed to me—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not appeal to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), at all. The hon. gentleman interrupted me, and I answered him.

Mr. DAVIN. May I ask the hon. gentleman this question? He says that a man who would sell his vote would also swear falsely?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Might.

Mr. DAVIN. Would the man who thus behaved improperly in regard to voting, kick up a row about it, as these men did?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is a new phase of the case to me. I never heard of these men kicking up a row. On the contrary, from the evidence, which lasted a great many days, and which came from the mouths of a great many witnesses, I gather that it was only after infinite toil and trouble, that McLean and his two coadjutors, were able to get these declarations out of the men at all. I will tell my hon. friend this: My recollection is perfectly plain with regard to at least two of these men, that they were induced to give their declarations under false pretenses. They were told the document they were signing, was not an affidavit at all, but a mere statement to know how they voted, and on that false representation, they were induced to sign a paper, and instead of kicking up a row, they were lying just as low as they could. I do not deny that there were many honest, straightforward, good men, who voted for McLean, and came forward to swear to it in the Election Committee. Nobody questions how they voted. There were thirty of them. The ballot boxes show they voted and they swore they voted, and I have no doubt they were honest, upright men. They had no hesitation in coming forward and may have been anxious to come.

Mr. DAVIN. And they expressed their surprise.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But, how about the thirteen others, whose ballots were not in the box, and who said they voted for McLean, and one or two of whom broke down utterly in cross-examination?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, irretrievably broke down. One of them was very little removed from an imbecile, if he was removed at all, and never should have voted.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. DAVIN. We should hear his opinion about the counsel.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), who interrupts me, was examining him at the time.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I took no part in it whatever; it was the hon. gentleman.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was leading up to the point that there was no direct evidence, and perhaps in the nature of things, there could hardly be direct evidence of tampering with the ballots, and so the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), had to resort to indirect evidence, and how did he do it? He did it by producing electors who voted, and questioning them as to the person for whom they had voted. But no such evidence could possibly affect the seat of the member. Why, Sir, if you turn to the law, you will find that when these gentlemen were allowed to come up and give their evidence as to how they voted, that was directly contrary to the law. The law says that no man shall be allowed to tell how he voted in an election, but these men were allowed to tell it, and why? Simply because the inquiry on which we were engaged, was in our opinion, one which could not, no matter how it resulted, affect the seat of the member. The law says:

No person who has voted at an election shall, in any legal proceeding questioning the election or return, be required to state for whom he voted.

And Chief Justice Strong (then Mr. Justice Strong), in giving his opinion upon that law, declared that not only could the voter not be required, but that it was not open to him even if he were willing, to state for whom he voted. I will quote the words of Mr. Justice Strong:

It is no answer to this to say that secrecy is imposed for the benefit of the voter and that he can waive it, for I hold secrecy to be imposed as an absolute rule of public policy, and that it cannot be waived. The whole purview of the law is different from the English Act and from the Ontario Act. I am of opinion, therefore, that the learned judge rightly rejected the evidence, though I may not be able to agree with the grounds he put it upon.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What year was that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Haldimand election case of 1887. I quoted from 15 Canada Supreme Court Reports, page 515. So I say, we not only allowed the evidence to be given, but we allowed the evidence to be given because in our opinion, in the opinion of the committee, the inquiry could not in any way affect the result of the election; and yet, ever since that, we have heard hon. gentlemen opposite, rising in this House and

appealing to the galleries, and saying that the result of that inquiry already has shown that morally the member who sits for West Huron ought not to be a member for West Huron, and that he should resign his seat.

Mr. TAYLOR. The *Globe* said so.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The *Globe* did not say so.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes it did.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It did not make use of any such language as that. But, hon. gentlemen in this House have said so and the hon. gentleman opposite, who is laughing, for some reason or other, has repeated it more than once, without having any foundation for it. I say that it is perfectly clear that if the result of the inquiry could have affected the election, in view of the express words of the statute, and the construction put upon it by Justice Strong, it was not open to a court to permit of one of those voters giving this evidence which we permitted them to give. I say, secondly, that every facility was given in that committee to further the object of the inquiry. Charges have been made in the irresponsible newspaper press that I myself and some of my colleagues were there obstructing the inquiry. There never was anything further from the truth. I remember the time when the question came up whether or not these gentlemen were to be permitted to say for whom they had voted. We asked for time to consider—one day and one night; and the party press throughout the country then charged that we were burking the inquiry. Some of my legal friends, legal friends for whose opinion I feel the highest respect, were never convinced that we should have allowed those men to state for whom they had voted—that the secrecy of the ballot should have been abandoned as it was by the majority. But I, for one, thought differently, and I voted that way, because I believed that the result of no inquiry we could make, under the reference made to us, could affect the result of the election. I say the government afforded every facility to the inquiry and to the hon. gentleman in getting his witnesses here. He summoned whom he liked; he spent money like water; \$13,000 or \$14,000 of the people's money was spent in bringing witnesses. I do not complain of that if any good resulted from it—if any wrong-doing on the part of any officers of the election could be shown. But, summing all up, what was the result? So far as the Colborne poll was concerned, the deputy returning officer, Donald Cummings, did not try to escape, but was examined time and again and as often as the members of the committee desired to examine him, but gave his evidence openly, fairly, and, I believe, honestly. I rose from that committee with the conviction on my mind at least that Donald Cummings had told the

plain, unvarnished truth, and that he was an innocent man, and not a party, directly or indirectly, to the packing of the ballot box. I did not believe it possible that an old and respectable farmer as he was, with the character given him by every one of his neighbours who were called before the committee—a character for uprightness, honesty and integrity during the sixty-five years that he has lived on this earth—looking at him and looking at his large, horny hands, I did not believe it was possible for him to commit the sleight-of-hand tricks imputed to him on that occasion. A regular professor of legerdemain could not act as deftly as it was alleged this man had acted in order to hide those ballots and substitute others. Donald Cummings swore time and again that the identical ballot papers which he had received from the voters, one and all, as they came up, were taken by him, and after he had torn off the counterfoil, were put by him in the box—the identical ballot papers and no other. I appeal to the gentlemen who were on that committee if not only the evidence of Donald Cummings himself, but the evidence of the scrutineers, those on behalf of McLean and those on behalf of Holmes, did not unite in the conclusion that from beginning to end, as far as they could see or as far as any one could see, the whole proceedings were conducted, with perfect propriety, perfect accuracy and perfect legality. At the close of the poll, what did we find? We found that there were 68 ballots for Mr. Holmes and 30 for Mr. McLean, and it is alleged now that 13 more voted for McLean than there were ballots in the box, and that 15 more voted for McLean at the Goderich poll than appeared in the box. This would make 28 ballots, and if they were all counted as the other side allege they ought to have been counted, and if the fraud was proved and the fraudulent ballots were taken out and counted rightly, there would be a difference of 58, which would still leave the hon. member for West Huron with the large majority of 84. I am merely pointing out in passing that the number of ballots impugned here could not by any possibility affect the result of the election. The only two polls questioned were Colborne and Goderich. So far as Colborne is concerned, I am sure that I am within the judgment of the majority of the committee when I say that those who were there and saw Donald Cummings give his evidence came to the conclusion that he was an innocent man.

Mr. DAVIN. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, gentlemen may differ, but that is the conclusion I reached. Then we take the other poll, the Goderich poll.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Before the hon. gentleman leaves that, will he allow me to ask him how he explains the fact that the

13 ballots were of different paper from the paper of the stubs?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is a perfectly legitimate question. I say there are two theories which can be advanced, assuming that the hon. gentleman's proposition is correct. One is that these men did vote for McLean and that other ballots were substituted by the returning officer for the ballots they attempted to use. Of that I say there is no proof, and my opinion is the contrary. The other theory is that the 13 men who alleged that they voted for McLean did not vote for McLean, but for Holmes, and got their ballots outside. They would not put in the ballots they got from the deputy returning officer at all, but the improper and illegal ballots which they got outside the poll. That answers the whole argument about the 13 ballots in the box being of different paper from that of the stubs. Assuming the argument, which the hon. gentleman put with a great degree of force, that the 13 ballots found in the box marked for Holmes were marked on the back in ink with the initials of the deputy returning officer, and were of different texture and of different print from the official ballots, it would only go to show that these men got the 13 ballots outside, got them marked outside, and put them into the box; and if that is true, the charge that the deputy returning officer was guilty of wrong-doing falls to the ground.

Mr. **DAVIN**. What about Cummings's initials which were on those ballots?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman knows that it was not sworn that they were Cummings's initials.

Mr. **POWELL**. He swore himself that they were.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I beg pardon. He did not swear anything of the kind. He swore that they looked like his initials; he supposed the ballots were genuine; but afterwards, on cross-examination, when the differences were pointed out to him and the committee between the ballots which were initialled in ink and those which were initialled in pencil, which were undoubtedly genuine—

Mr. **POWELL**. Where does the hon. gentleman get that in the evidence?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. If I have not got it under my hand, I will promise to get it for the hon. gentleman and read it to him. I read it only last night in the evidence of Cummings.

Mr. **POWELL**. You must be mistaken.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Take the other poll, the Goderich poll. Here we have a man who

Sir **LOUIS DAVIES**.

is not of the same character as Donald Cummings—the man Farr. It was proved that he was a drunkard, and he refused to obey the summons of the committee. For that kind of man I have no sympathy. He was a Conservative.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Oh, oh.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It does not follow that because he was a drunkard he was a Conservative, and I am not connecting the two at all. But he was a Conservative, and voted for Mr. McLean at that election. The evidence on that point is clear and distinct. If the hon. gentleman will turn up the evidence of Mr. Mitchell, page 417, he will find the following:

By Mr. Russell:

Q. Mr. Mitchell, I just want to ask you if you know how Mr. Farr voted at the last election?—A. He voted for Mr. McLean.

By Mr. Borden:

Q. You saw him mark the ballot, did you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how did that happen?—A. Well, it occurred just as I got through my own voting. Farr saw me and called me back and said, 'I want you to see how I am going to vote for Holmes; they have got it all over the town; I am going to vote for McLean.' And he marked the ballot for McLean.

Q. And he showed you that?—A. Yes. I told him, 'I don't want to see how you vote,' but he insisted on showing me.

Q. Did you believe, as a matter of fact, that he had voted for McLean?—A. I did, certainly.

Q. You did believe it?—A. Yes.

Q. That he put a ballot in for McLean?—A. Yes, for the reason I saw him mark a ballot and put it in the box.

Could there be anything plainer than that? Do any hon. gentlemen opposite now deny it? It was proven that Farr was a Conservative and had voted for McLean, and the presumption is that if he did any stuffing of the ballot boxes, he must have stuffed them in favour of McLean.

Then my hon. friend, when he referred to this man's evidence the other night, quoted some evidence to show that there was a probability of Farr having received \$500. I thought that that was hardly fair. I did not find fault with many of the quotations which the hon. gentleman read, but I thought he was distinctly unfair and unjust in reading that quotation. The reason I say so is this, that he knew that James Nelson had distinctly sworn—a witness called by himself—at that investigation that that story of Farr having received \$500 was all 'poppycock,' to use the expression of Nelson himself. Perhaps I had better read that evidence. I think that my hon. friend did not deal with the House as fairly as he did in other matters when he quoted evidence, and rather gave us to understand that there was reasonable ground for believing that Farr had received \$500.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I read the evidence both ways on that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We will see whether my hon. friend read all the evidence both ways on that point. James Nelson was examined, and part of his evidence is quoted by the hon. gentleman, but not the part which I am about to quote, and that is what I complain of. I find on page 476, that Nelson testified as follows:

Q. Now, did he say anything to you in any of these conversations with respect to getting any money?—A. Well, the first time after he came home from Goderich he said: 'I got a ticket and cheque for \$500, and more, too, if I wanted to,' but he didn't have any cheque for \$500; I know he hadn't, because Saturday night he went over with Marshall for his pay to the factory where he was working, and he had sent me in to his coat pocket, to his inside pocket, for some address which he wanted me to make out, and there was nothing but the address there.

Q. And on that occasion you say there was no cheque?—A. Yes.

Q. It was Saturday night he went for his pay?—A. Saturday morning, that is what I heard from Marshall afterwards.

Q. You don't know from your own knowledge?—A. No.

Q. You heard this from Marshall afterwards?—A. Yes.

Q. Marshall lives at 414 Church Street, does he?—A. Yes.

By Sir Louis Davies:

Q. As a matter of fact, then, Mr. Farr was in Toronto last Friday?—A. Last Friday.

Q. And being in Toronto he could not be away in North Dakota or anywhere else, eh?—A. No, sir.

Q. No secrecy about that; it was publicly on the street?—A. Yes.

Q. Publicly on the street corner you saw him?—A. On the street corner.

Q. I suppose he was well known in Toronto among the workmen he mixed with?—A. I don't know his acquaintances.

Q. The men he worked with knew him?—A. I suppose so.

Q. Was he working among a large number of men?—A. I don't know.

Q. I thought you were one of the men working at the same factory?—A. No, sir.

Q. You said you were satisfied that he had no \$500 cheque at all?—A. He had no \$500 cheque at all.

Q. You seem very positive about that?—A. I am positive.

Q. This was a kind of bluff game?—A. Yes.

Q. The fact is, he was out of money?—A. Yes.

Q. The fact is, he was out of money?—A. He was out Monday.

Q. Out of money, I say?—A. Well, he was out of money Monday.

Q. You satisfied yourself he had no \$500 cheque?—A. He had no \$500 cheque.

Q. Or any other hundred dollars?—A. I don't believe he did.

Q. He seems to have satisfied you pretty well by previous statements he had done nothing wrong?—A. Not on his account.

Q. According to his account he had done nothing wrong?—A. Nothing wrong.

Q. And was firm in this as a matter of fact?—A. He was firm in th's.

Q. He didn't stuff the ballots?—A. That is my conversation with him.

And further down, Nelson said:

Q. Well, as a matter of fact, in his conversations he denied he had done anything wrong, denied he had stuffed the ballot box, and told you as a matter of fact that it could not be done?—A. That is what he said?

Q. And denied he had done anything else wrong in the election?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Russell:

Q. The conversation that you had with Mr. Farr in regard to ballot-stuffing which you called his attention, as I understand you, was to the effect that the ballots were very thin, and that he might have given two to a voter at one time; is that what you said?—A. That is what he said.

Q. And he disclaimed having done anything crooked?—A. That is what he said.

Q. This cheque that he told you he had for \$500, that is all poppycock, you think?—A. That is all poppycock, I guess. He didn't have any cheque. He said he could get money.

Q. He said he did have the money?—A. He said he could get the money.

Q. He said he did have the cheque?—A. No, he said first he had the cheque for \$500, and then afterwards the next day when he sobered up—

Q. But that day he said that he had a cheque for \$500?—A. He said when he came back from Goderich, 'I have a ticket for North Dakota and a cheque for \$500.'

Q. And now you say that was not true?—A. That was not true. The next day he said he could get the \$500.

Q. That may have been equally untrue?—A. I don't know anything about that, of course.

So that, in so far as the \$500 are concerned, the very gentleman called to prove that Farr had received \$500 from some person, proved that the story was false, and that the man had not received \$500, or any other \$100, and had no money at all. I am not concerned to defend Farr in any way. When he refused to come before the committee, my sympathy at any rate did not extend to him. If he has done wrong, let him be punished with all the rigour the law imposes on returning and deputy returning officers who break their oath and infringe the law, and commit wrong on the electorate.

I say that McLean, the defeated candidate, had all the evidence against Farr which he produced against him during last session, within a month after the election was over. That fact is established beyond controversy by the evidence given on pages 285, 388, 382 and many other places in the evidence. If he knew or believed that Farr had been guilty of any wrongdoing in relation to the poll where he was deputy returning officer, it was McLean's duty to have prosecuted him under the Election Act. Look at sections 100 to 105 of that Act, and you will find that its provisions are very stringent for the punishment of those who violate the law as deputy returning officers or otherwise:

Every one who—

(a) forges, counterfeits, fraudulently alters, defaces or fraudulently destroys any ballot paper or the initials of the deputy returning officer signed thereon, or

(b) without authority supplies any ballot paper to any person, or

(c) fraudulently puts into any ballot box any paper other than the ballot paper which he is authorized by law to put in, or

(d) fraudulently takes out of the polling place any ballot paper, or

(e) without due authority destroys, takes, opens or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purpose of the election, or

(f) attempts to commit any offence specified in this section,—

Is guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall, if he is a returning officer, deputy returning officer, or other officer engaged at the election, be liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or to imprisonment for any term less than two years, with or without hard labour, in default of paying such fine; and if he is any other person, to a fine not exceeding \$500, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, in default of paying such fine.

I say the law provides for the very case which it is insisted has occurred here, both at Goderich and Colborne. If there is guilt, the law provides punishment for that guilt, and a means for bringing that punishment about. The evidence which Mr. McLean and his friends say they have now they had in their possession a month after the election; and if they desired, not to play to the political gallery, but simply to punish the wrong-doers, it was not only their right but their duty to bring action against these men and punish them. I ask: Has there been a charge of any kind or description brought by Mr. McLean or one of his friends against the deputy returning officer in West Huron? Not one. Has there been a criminal action brought by them against anybody for breach of the election law on the allegation which forms a basis of their complaint? So far as I have been able to ascertain, not one. They have 'laid low': they have brought no action under the Dominion Elections Act; they have filed no controverted elections petition; they have not attempted to have the case investigated before a judge; they would not file their petitions under the Dominion Elections Inquiries Act, under which the matter could be investigated by a commission of judges, free from bias, and the guilty parties punished at the expense of the country. They prefer to come here to have the case referred to the Privileges and Elections Committee, where the reports that get in the press will not be the reports of what took place in the committee, but garbled reports, put there for the partisan purposes of the partisans who published them. The hon. gentleman knew that if he went into a properly qualified court and the newspapers published garbled reports, they would be punished for contempt. They avoided the judicial tribunal

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

where impartiality could be had and justice secured; they come here where politics can be dished up with justice, and so dished up with it that justice can be perverted. Under these circumstances, and seeing that the seats of hon. gentlemen are not affected, I have come to the conclusion that it would be in the public interest that these matters should not again be referred to the Privileges and Elections Committee for further investigation. And my reasons for that conclusion have been given, perhaps at greater length than they ought to have been given; but I propose to sum them up in a few words.

That the law provides full, ample and complete remedies for the discovery and punishment of electoral frauds: 1st. In the Controverted Elections Act, chap. 9; 2nd. In the Corrupt Practices at Elections Inquiries Act, chap. 10.

That under either one or both of these, the fullest and most effective inquiries could have been made, and the facts probed to the bottom—under the latter Act, in every proper case, not at the expense of the party, but of the government.

That the jurisdiction of this House as regards these inquiries is now limited to inquiries into the conduct of its election officers and their punishment for wrongdoing.

That there is not the slightest ground submitted justifying the reference of the Brockville case, no deputy returning officer being charged with any offence, and the reference of that case under the evidence would establish a dangerous precedent, and one which could be used by an unfair majority to defeat the intention, spirit and policy of parliament with respect to inquiries into wrongdoing or irregularities at elections.

That if any one has any good ground of complaint against any of these deputy returning officers at Brockville, he could have prosecuted him under the Dominion Elections Act, or if he complained of general corruption, he could have proceeded either under the Controverted Elections Act or the Inquiries into Corrupt Practices at Elections Act—and no one having done so, and no petition having been presented to this House by the defeated candidate or by any elector of Brockville, or any one else complaining of the conduct of any of the deputy returning officers, it is not in the public interest that we should, at the mere invitation of a member of the House, not pretending to speak from personal knowledge, unsupported by any sworn statements of electors or others, enter upon an inquiry such as that proposed.

That the inquiry into the conduct of the deputy returning officers of West Huron, embracing as it did the examination and evidence of over one hundred witnesses in the polls where irregularities are charged, was, for all essential purposes, ample and complete.

That with respect to Deputy Returning Officer Cummings, this evidence satisfies me he was not guilty of the charges preferred against him, and while Deputy Returning Officer Farr's conduct in avoiding service of summons and refusing to attend to give evidence would justify the committee in making every presumption against him, the proper, if not the only effective way, to punish him is by prosecution and indictment under the Dominion Elections Act.

That the coupling of the demand for a reference of the cases of West Huron and Brockville in one resolution, presented so that it cannot be amended, is most unfair to the House, and prevents a proper consideration of the question, whether it is desirable in the public interest to reopen at this stage of the session the inquiry in the West Huron case.

Under these circumstances, I feel that I am acting in the public interest in relegating all parties who think there has been wrong-doing or corruption at either or both of these elections, to the courts provided by law for inquiry into and punishment of those acts when proved; and I am strongly of opinion that while the Privileges and Elections Committee may be a most excellent tribunal for the elucidation of all points of law having reference to the election of members to this House, and one well qualified to determine upon the legality of returns which a returning officer may make of the votes received, it is a most inefficient tribunal from its frequently changing members, the absence of counsel to conduct either prosecution or defence, and the impossibility of properly examining and cross-examining the witnesses, of reaching conclusions on disputed questions of fact.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) who has just taken his seat, I am sure, has convinced the House that he has lost none of his usual positiveness and none of his usual courage. I confess that I feel some astonishment that a gentleman with his powers of memory should have charged before this House, whose members were witnesses of what took place, that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had endeavoured to evade the obligation that rested upon him of bringing this matter before the House at the earliest opportunity. Is not the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) aware that at the opening of this session the government delayed—if I were given to the same methods of insinuation as the hon. gentleman, I would say purposely delayed—the appointment of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. No sooner was that committee struck than at the very earliest opportunity, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), brought this matter to the attention of the House. He brought it forward in the same manner that it had been brought last year, the steps were identically the same, he brought

it up as a matter of privilege. The previous year no objection was taken on the ground that his course was not in accordance with the technical procedure of the House. The leader of the House on that occasion yielded a ready consent to the passage without discussion of the motion that this matter be referred to the committee; but on this occasion we were confronted with a technical rule of procedure. Whether the Speaker was right or wrong in his ruling, is not my province now to discuss, the occasion for discussing it has gone by. Suffice it to say that, debarred from the privilege of bringing it up in the way which the precedent of last year affirmed to be the proper course, the hon. member for Halifax was compelled to resort to the usual practice of putting the motion upon the paper. What reception did the member for Halifax meet with at the hands of the government then? The Minister of Marine and Fisheries says that there were gentlemen on the other side of the House who desired to discuss it, and that prevented it passing as an unopposed motion. I would like the hon. gentleman to tell me how it is, that, according to the records of this House, on every occasion in which that motion was given the go-by, the Speaker used these words, 'Stands at the request of the government.' Did it stand at the request of a private member? According to statement of the ministers and the official declaration of the Speaker, it stood at the request of the government. However, there is no use wasting time in discussing this question, it is well understood by this House, and it is well understood, I have no doubt, by the country. I shall pass, therefore, to the discussion of another matter that is raised by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

The hon. gentleman says that this House, according to his view, has denuded itself of the power of investigating the legality of the return of members to this House except under one set of circumstances. I know not what pertinence any hon. gentleman can see that has to the discussion of this question. But I am sure that there is not a member in the House besides himself who ventures the opinion that it has the slightest connection with the matter that we are discussing. If the object of the hon. member for Halifax was to refer this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for the purpose of contesting the legality of the election of the hon. gentleman who sits for West Huron and of the hon. gentleman who sits for Brockville, then this argument might be pertinent; but there is no such attempt on the part of the hon. member for Halifax, and there is no such intention on the part of the hon. gentlemen who are associated with him on this side of the House. The object of this investigation is entirely foreign to the matter which is raised by the Minister of Marine

and Fisheries, the simple object of this investigation is to investigate the conduct of the returning officers and what I may call the condition of politics in the country generally. Now, the hon. gentleman is too good a lawyer to deny, and bold as he is, he will scarcely dare to deny, that this House has ample power to investigate the conduct of these officers. That is what we might call parliamentary common law. It requires no statute, the House has never attempted to denude itself of that power in any way. What, then, is the pertinence of his reference to the Revised Statutes, chap. 10, where provision is made for the investigation into corrupt practice? Parliament has never declared itself against the policy of trying these matters itself; it has only declared itself against the policy of trying election petitions before the House. But this court of parliament is seized of this matter, not only as having collateral jurisdiction, but as having primary jurisdiction to inquire into it.

The hon. gentleman asks, again, if there was any petition before the House asking the House to proceed. Why, does he imagine that hon. gentlemen on this side are so green as to consider that question for a moment? I would ask the hon. gentleman whether in a more weighty matter affecting the parliamentary status of members, the case of the county of Queen's, there was any petition before the House? The only petition was the charge of the present Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and he was backed by no affidavits, he was backed by no statement of wronged electors. It was simply the promptings of the pure breast of the hon. gentleman himself. I refer to this matter for the purpose of showing the difference between the course of the hon. gentleman and the course of—I will not say of his leader in this House, although the course of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is a direct want of confidence in the course of his leader. Everything that he has said from his seat in parliament reflecting upon the intelligence of gentlemen on this side of the House, reflects with double force upon the conduct, the judgment, and the sincerity of his leader in this respect. But between the course of the Minister of Marine and what was done by the Conservative party when this Queen's case came before the House? Did Sir John Thompson, the Minister of Justice at that time, the first lieutenant of the Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, then leading the House—did he attempt to shield himself behind a technical plea? Did he attempt to say to the House: I refuse an investigation into this matter, the government will not tolerate an investigation for the reason that this matter has been relegated to the law courts? No. What was his course? So far from pursuing the course which the hon. gentleman intimates to this House, and which he would have

the country believe through the newspapers, he pursued, Sir John Thompson took the course of referring the matter to a parliamentary committee, said it was the proper thing to do, in order to have it thoroughly ventilated before the committee. And a thorough ventilation was had, evidence was gone into, and a report was made by the committee, and the solemn adjudication of that committee was confirmed by this House. Concerning election petitions, the report of that committee was to this effect, that the relegation of these matters by parliament to the courts of this country was a matter of wholesome political policy that should not be departed from in any individual case, but the integrity of the Act should be preserved, and it was preserved on that occasion. All that committee had a right to do was to make a full inquiry into the facts, and this it did.

Now, the hon. gentleman comes forward to-day and says there was no case in Brockville. When did this dawn upon him? Last year the leader of the government and the House were given notice by the hon. member for Halifax that this matter was to be brought before the House. Regular notice was given, and the considered course was taken, the matured opinion was given by the hon. leader of the government, and what was that? He rose in this House and, like any gentleman who felt his responsibility as leader of the government, he said: I appreciate the principle of the purity of politics, by all means let the investigation go ahead. Sir, there is a precedent that we have for our action in this case. But to-day, what are we treated to? The government are now burking the very policy they laid down last year. Last year they committed this House and the country to this policy. They allowed the Committee on Privileges and Elections to conduct this investigation half way through the West Huron case. Now, finding that the investigation has gone against them, that there has been unearthed a mass of corruption, and that there is a likelihood of these gentlemen being placed in the position of the Athenian gentlemen who lived on the labour of the brigands in Thessalonian Hills, they change their tactics, knowing that a further investigation will place them in a more discreditable position than they are in to-day they prevent a full inquiry into the facts.

Let us look for one moment at how this matter stands. I will proceed to the discussion particularly of the question that is before the House. Let us look at the requirements of the law in respect to the purity of elections and to the ritual which is laid down for the conduct of elections. The law lays down very distinctly certain things. The object, Sir, of the ballot is to secure the purity of elections, and to secure independence on the part of the elector. To accomplish these, from the experience of

parliament, and the experience of statesmen, it was found necessary to protect the ballot by certain safeguards, which were incorporated in the statute. In the first place parliament in the most emphatic manner said that elections shall be conducted by officials under the sanctity of an oath which is a guarantee that the people of this country should have. It said that not only shall this oath be administered to the returning officer himself, but to the election clerk, to the deputy returning officer, to the poll clerks, and to the agents who represent the different candidates at the polling booths. They must furnish and secure honesty and independence, certain other enactments were put upon the statute-book. In the first place, it said that the ballot shall be printed under the direction of the returning officer to secure immunity from fraud, that the ballot must be printed on paper of a certain colour, that it shall be white paper, and of a certain thickness, evidently for the purpose of preventing the marking showing through on the opposite side, disclosing how an elector had voted. Then, in addition the statute impliedly, not expressly, made the provision that the returning officer shall keep an account of the official ballots that are printed. He, himself, shall allot these in the necessary quantities for the different deputy returning officers, at the different election booths throughout the electoral division. The law went further and prescribed that the deputy returning officer and his clerk shall keep an accurate account of what is done with these ballots. If any were to be destroyed they had to be given an account of, if any were by mistake marked wrongly, they had to be given an account of, if any were rejected by the deputy returning officer, they had to be given an account of, if they were polled they had to be given an account of, if any remained over after the election was held, they had to be given an account of, so that there was a guarantee against fraud in respect to the ballot papers in connection with the election. Now, about this election: What do we find? It is an established fact that every requirement of the law, from the first step to the last step, was generally ignored. In the first place, I do not know whether the returning officer himself—we did not have him before the committee, as he was sick—was sworn to the performance of his duty, or not.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There was no charge made in respect to him at all.

Mr. POWELL. No, he was not before us; but, we know that the oath was administered, but to only one of the deputy returning officers, whose conduct was inquired into before the committee. Therefore, as far as these polls are concerned, there was no sanctity of an oath, and the guarantee which should be given to the electorate was

entirely denied them. Not only was the deputy returning officer not sworn, but his poll clerk was not sworn, and as if to add infamy to injury—and it is known to no one better than it is to the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries—every one of these gentlemen signed a false certificate, they subscribed a false statement in a matter of record, and that false record is among the records in the possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, if it has been taken back to his office from the committee room, and is to be found an enduring false record that these gentlemen were sworn to the performance of their duty when they were not sworn.

As respects the printing of the ballots, they handed over to Mr. McGillicuddy, who is, as he himself says, a mugwump, a gentleman upon whom has been bestowed a good deal of political pap—

Mr. BERGERON. He has a contract for \$60,000.

Mr. POWELL. Yes, but we will not go into that just now. Mr. McGillicuddy was given the work of printing the ballots, and he goes upon the stand himself, and has the effrontery to state, that while he was ordered to print 6,150 ballots, he printed no less than 6,500 odd ballots, or 350 more ballots than he should have printed. Mr. McGillicuddy coolly brought down before the Committee on Elections, two bunches of ballots amounting to 300, which he had no business to keep at all, which it should be made a criminal offence to keep, as in the province of Quebec it is made a criminal offence. He put the ballots in packages and on nearly every one of these packages there was a false entry. On the back of one there was an entry of 150, when there was almost 200 ballots in it. What were these extra ballots put in there for? Had any hon. gentleman in this House any doubt that it was done designedly and for the purpose of giving to these gentlemen who were not conducting the election under the sanctity of an oath, the means of handing fraudulent ballots to the manipulators and workers of the election in the interest of the Liberal party?

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. POWELL. Before recess, Mr. Speaker, I was directing the attention of the House to the action of Mr. McGillicuddy, the printer of the ballots, and to the improper distribution that had been made of these ballots. Mr. McGillicuddy, through his agent and through his clerk, had purported to send out to the deputy returning officers, 6,175 ballots. After whatever legitimate use had been made, and after whatever abstractions may have been made,

there were returned by the deputy returning officers, not 6,175, but 6,301; or they accounted for 126 more ballots than Mr. McGillicuddy said they had received. To illustrate the careless manner in which Mr. McGillicuddy attended to his duties—and I use the euphonistic term 'careless manner'—it will be seen on page 310 of the evidence before the committee, that Mr. McGillicuddy said, that so far as any knowledge he had and so far as any check he had taken in respect to the ballots, there may have been 10,000 or 50,000 printed. Then, the foreman of his printing office, who was placed upon the stand, swore, that only in the case of two polls had there been an actual count, and that the remaining ballots had not been counted before being sent out. This, Mr. Speaker, was done for a purpose. The duty of Mr. McGillicuddy was clear; the duty of the returning officer was clear—to secure the purity of election the strictest account should have been kept of the ballots against the deputy returning officers. To show what advantage was taken of this condition of affairs by the deputy returning officers, I will direct the attention of the House to poll No. 4 at Colborne. There, as was proved by a witness who gave testimony before the committee, the ordinary majority for the Liberals in past elections was from 8 to 12, and you can imagine how the Conservatives of the county were startled to find that the majority at this election in this particular polling division where party feeling ran high, where men were well set in their political sentiments; the Liberal majority had increased from 8 to 12 to no less than 38. It was this fact that aroused public indignation, and when the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—who I regret to see is not in his place—professes to this House that he was of the opinion that these gentlemen were dragooned into making affidavits and solemn declarations; that hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies)—and I speak advisedly—makes a statement which he knows or should know is not substantiated by the evidence adduced before the committee. Sir, these parties voluntarily rose to assert their rights. They knew that some trick had been played upon them, that some deep fraud had been perpetrated, and voluntarily they made these solemn declarations which were read by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). Now, Sir, 43 Conservatives in that district made solemn declarations (which are equivalent to an oath so far as sacredness is concerned and so far as punishment for fraud is concerned) 43 Conservatives made solemn declarations that they had voted for Mr. McLean while only 30 ballots for Mr. McLean were deposited in the box. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) followed up his statement in the House by producing forty-one witnesses before the committee, and these forty-one witnesses made solemn oath that they had voted one and all for Mr. McLean. In addition to

that, there were two gentlemen who voted in that polling booth who made solemn oath before the county court judge of Huron, that they had also voted for Mr. McLean. Only thirty votes appeared in the ballot box in favour of Mr. McLean, the Conservative candidate, while 43 men upon their solemn oath declared they had voted for him.

But, the case does not rest with that. Mr. Cummings, deputy returning officer, was produced upon the stand. I leave it to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to extract whatever comfort he can from the testimony of Mr. Cummings. He thinks Mr. Cummings was an honest man. Sir I know the responsibility that should attach to any gentleman who represents a constituency in this House. I know how mean and cowardly it is to make an insinuation in this House to which there is not attached that responsibility that would be attached in a law court, to a statement made upon the public platform. With full knowledge of this, and knowing how guarded I should be, I make this statement to the House: That on no hypothesis whatever, can the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) or any other gentleman on the ministerial side, free Mr. Cummings from deliberate perjury. Now, I conducted the examination of Mr. Cummings so far as the ballots are concerned. I was bound that Mr. Cummings should deliberately and with full knowledge of the situation make every statement on oath that he should have. I asked him generally about the ballots, as to the initials upon them, and he swore generally that they were in his handwriting. In order that he might not be deceived I took each specific ballot deposited in the box, laid it in Mr. Cummings hands, cautioned him to look carefully and see whether the initials were in his handwriting or not, and that gentleman swore and swore again and again and again—because I was bound there should be no question, or uncertainty about his statement—he swore again and again and again, that these initials were in his handwriting. The hon. the Minister of Marine says that Mr. Cummings on cross-examination took that back. I cannot understand what the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) means by that. I was conducting the cross-examination and Mr. Cummings certainly did not take it back to me. If the minister has made a slip of the tongue and refers to re-examination, I can tell the minister that the record of the re-examination will give him no more comfort than the cross-examination, because Cummings did not take back one iota of his statement. Let us look at this matter for a moment. Cummings put his initials upon the back of these fourteen bogus ballots. There are only two hypothesis that are possible under the circumstances. Either Mr. Cummings deliberately gave these ballots to people outside to help along bribery or corruption by connivance,

and put his initials illegitimately upon them; he either did that to aid fraud perpetrated by people outside with his knowledge and consent and with his connivance—or else, Cummings deliberately stole fourteen genuine ballots that had been deposited there by electors and made a substitution of fourteen bogus ballots for them. The minister is on the horns of a dilemma. No amount of logical acumen, no powers of an advocate can possibly denude that transaction of the character of theft and the grossest fraud. I am astonished that a minister of the Crown—and, Sir, upon these ministers of the Crown rests the good government of the country; upon them rests the guardianship more than upon any one else of the sacred traditions of the English race—I am astonished that the Minister of Marine should place himself in the position of an apologist for thieves and perjurers. I now pass to the poll of district No. 3, Goderich, presided over by that illustrious gentleman, Mr. Farr. It pleased the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to insinuate that Mr. Farr was drunk, that he was not accountable, that he was a gentleman of Conservative leanings. If he was a gentleman of Conservative leanings, so much the worse was it that any man should have seduced him by bribes for infamous purposes from his political fidelity. Not only was that done, as I shall show by an affidavit, but this gentleman, the agent of the Liberal party, undertook to hoodwink the Conservatives of the country by making the assertion that he had voted for the Liberal-Conservative candidate in that election. Now, Sir, we find that Mr. Farr's poll was held on one side of the street, while another poll in Goderich was held on the opposite side of the street. The gentleman on the other side of the street was billed with 200 ballots, and on the last ballot in the pile was written by Mr. McGillicuddy's clerk, '200 for Goderich No. 3,' or No. 2, as the case may be. The testimony produced proved that the last of these 200 ballots had been abstracted, and that in place of it had been put a forged ballot endorsed, not with the No. 200, but the No. 178, and that at least twenty-two ballots had been removed or stolen. At the poll on the opposite side of the street where Farr presided we find that Farr had fraudulently perpetrated the infamy of stealing not less than twenty-two good ballots and substituting for them twenty-two bogus ballots; and this mysterious coincidence occurred, that the ballots which had been substituted were entirely different in general character from the rest of the ballots at that poll. There were well-defined marks of distinction between them. Across the road, the 178 ballots correspond exactly in appearance with the twenty-two bogus ballots in Farr's poll. In case of both of these polling certificates professing to be under

oath were subscribed and returned as matter of record. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries attempted to show that Mr. Farr had not been as bad a man as he had been depicted, and—would hon. gentlemen believe it?—the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in professing to read the testimony of Mr. Farr on page 476—I am sorry the hon. gentleman is not here—deliberately omitted the following lines from the evidence, showing that Farr had perpetrated this iniquity deliberately and of collusion. The evidence he omitted was this:

Q. He didn't stuff the ballots?—A. That is my conversation with him.

Q. And that he had a conversation with two men the night before the election, and decided that it would not and could not be done?—A. No, he said it could not be done; he didn't say it would not.

Mr. Speaker, we have arrived at this stage of the discussion in which I think I can fairly make the assertion that there was a deep-laid plot in respect to these elections; and, Sir, I will draw from the hidden position they occupy some men of more importance in the Liberal ranks. For years back it has been known that Conservative majorities in constituencies and portions of constituencies pronouncedly Conservative have been mysteriously changed into minorities or mysteriously lessened. This had made an impression on the minds of the Conservative leaders, and the electorate of Canada was shocked by the disclosures made in the McNish case. I will read the confession of Mr. McNish for the purpose of showing that there is a deep-laid and widespread conspiracy to steal the elections.

Mr. BRITTON. That is good evidence in this case, of course.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. POWELL. On page 6733 of *Hansard* of last year will be found Mr. McNish's confession. I start with that as the first public disclosure of this infamy, and I will follow it up with some statements showing why the Conservative party did not move in this matter earlier than they did move. They were waiting for the full disclosure of the iniquity of the plot:

St. Thomas, June 26, 1899.

Messrs. Crothers & Price, Barristers, &c., St. Thomas.

Dear Sirs,—We beg to advise you that Mr. McNish has discussed at length with his solicitors the charges contained in the petition which has been filed against his return as member of the legislative assembly of Ontario for West Elgin, and that they have to a considerable extent investigated the charges contained therein and other matters which have come to their knowledge in connection with the election. And the subscribers hereto make the following statements and admissions respecting the same:

1. That a large number of persons were specially sent into the constituency by men working

on behalf of the Liberal party for the express purpose of taking part on Mr. McNish's behalf in the election held January 12, 1899, and we believe that fraudulent and corrupt means were used by some such persons to secure his election.

2. That several of the said persons illegally and without authority acted as deputy returning officers at the said election, and in at least three cases so acted in the names of reputable local men, having, under assumed names, been introduced to the returning officer by local agents of Mr. McNish.

Exactly the same game as was attempted to be played in West Huron. ●

Mr. BRITTON. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question. You say exactly the same game. Will you name any outsider?

Mr. POWELL. I say exactly the same game was attempted as was played in West Huron, and I will give you the evidence later.

3. That in many of the polling subdivisions of the riding there were grave irregularities connected with the return of the ballot-boxes and their contents, the voting, and the counting of the ballots thereat.

4. That there were large numbers of persons brought into the riding for the express purpose of personating legitimate voters, and assisted by some of Mr. McNish's local supporters, such persons did personate qualified voters in voting for Mr. McNish.

5. That the declared number of votes for Mr. McNish largely exceeded the number of bona fide votes cast for him.

6. That a large number of ballots cast for Mr. MacDiarmid were in some nefarious and corrupt manner manipulated, whereby the result of the election was rendered doubtful, and that in this connection the voting at Shedden and Middlemarch, and in the several divisions in St. Thomas where said strangers so acted as deputy returning officers, merits special mention.

7. That there are good reasons to believe that there are many specific and well-authenticated cases where agents of Mr. McNish concealed at their homes some of the strangers, who there paid large sums of money to electors to induce them to vote for him.

8. That Mr. McNish will forthwith deliver to the Speaker of the legislative assembly his resignation as a member thereof for the said electoral district.

Now, here is proof, not out of the mouth of some enemy, but of the man himself, who confesses to one of the most iniquitous conspiracies that the political history of any country affords. The same personnel of the gang that operated there to a large extent were present in West Huron. Does the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) imagine that some great conversion had been wrought in these people in the meantime? Does he think that they were not, in all probability, the same kind of men, when operating in West Huron, that they were when operating in West Elgin. Here they are: Cap Sullivan, Bill Malloy, Dan Ferguson, John O'Gorman, John G. Pritchett, Thomas Lewis, and a man by the name of Horton, with the organizers, Smith and Vance. In addition to those were two

Mr. POWELL.

prominent members of this House, Mr. Mulock and Mr. Tarte.

I am addressing men, I know, of common sense, and I ask any man of common sense to conjure up in his mind the purpose for which Cap Sullivan, Bill Malloy, Dan Ferguson, John O'Gorman, John G. Pritchett and Thomas Lewis could be in any constituency? If the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) were here, I would ask him what he supposed they were doing there. Not one of them had the slightest political influence in either constituency or the slightest financial influence. Not one of them spoke in the campaign. They were introduced for what purpose? Was it not for the same purpose that they served in West Elgin, that is, for stealing the elections.

In confirmation of that I will read here the affidavit of Mr. Pritchett, but, before reading it, I may say that it would have been more in keeping with the character of a member of the government of this, the leading colony of the British Empire, if the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, instead of decrying John G. Pritchett as he has done, in this debate, had let the weight of his denunciation fall upon him when this government was participating in his plunder. After Pritchett had served his day and generation and they had no further use for him, and he was politically dead, they pitched him overboard. But I challenge the right hon. the leader of the government to proceed against Pritchett. Pritchett is in the Dominion to-day. He gave evidence before the Ontario commission for the investigation of election frauds the other day; and if his evidence is false, he is a perjurer. I challenge the government, now that they have the power, to arraign this man before the courts of this country and have him indicted for perjury. I will go further and give them further incitement to inaugurate a prosecution. It is reliably reported to me Pritchett says they dare not. He says it is the last thing on earth they would dream of. He told Conservative gentlemen to whom he spoke about coming back: If you fellows do not prosecute me, I am not a bit afraid of the others, for I know too much about them for them to attempt any prosecution of me. Here is his affidavit:

State of Michigan.

City of Detroit.

To wit:

I, John G. Pritchett, of the city of London, in the province of Ontario, contractor, at present of the city of Detroit, make oath and say:

1. I have for several years taken part in municipal affairs and in politics in the said city of London, and have acted as deputy returning officer in municipal elections, and also in the elections for the legislative assembly. I always acted with and on behalf of the Liberal party. In 1898, I was elected an alderman for ward No. 6, in said city of London.

2. In the general election for the legislative assembly of 1898 I took an active part as a can-

vasser for votes on behalf of Colonel Leys, and was appointed by Sheriff Cameron his deputy returning officer for the said election at polling division No. 3 in the sixth ward of the said city of London.

3. From my experience in the various elections, I formed the opinion that elections could be more easily and surely won by the manipulation of ballots than by buying votes; and after the said general election I, in conversation with friends, used words to that effect.

4. Thereafter, at the request of John O'Gorman, of London, I took part on behalf of the Liberals in by-elections, my special duty being to instruct deputy returning officers in the method of manipulating the ballots so as to win the election whatever the vote might really be.

Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal leaders in any constituency sitting down to such cold-blooded infamy as that, and these are the men from whose circle of acquaintance they may attempt to disassociate themselves to-day, but the fruits of whose iniquities and labours they are enjoying. These are the men whose aid they asked for in the hour of their political need.

5. At the request of the said John O'Gorman, I went from London to Goderich in the spring of 1899 to take part on behalf of the Liberals in the federal by-elections then about to be held. I arrived in Goderich on Thursday or Friday between the nomination and the election, and went to Craig's Hotel, where I registered. The first person I met after my arrival—

Tell it not in Gath, proclaim it not in Askelon.

—was Alexander Smith, the chief organizer for the Liberal party.

Is it not a most mysterious coincidence that Smith pops up ready to meet Pritchett at this particular time. The coincidence alone might be regarded as exceptional and having nothing peculiar about it, but when it was one of a thousand mysterious coincidences, no law of mathematical probabilities would exclude these people from a share in the infamy.

I asked him where the boys were.

The well known men of the brigade.

He said, 'Oh, about town'. Shortly afterwards O'Gorman came in. He said there would be nothing for me to do for a little while, as they were not in shape. He also said that he wanted me to act as a deputy returning officer.

The hon. member for Kingston can have his curiosity gratified now.

I said all right I will act. In the afternoon of the following day O'Gorman asked me to drive out to see a person whose name I cannot now recall. This man lives about four miles from Goderich, and was a carpenter and pump-maker, and had some other business as well.

This might have been our friend Cummings, I do not know.

He was to be a deputy returning officer, and O'Gorman asked me to see him and instruct him how to do the work. I drove out, but when I

met the man and talked to him, I did not think it wise to use him. I therefore returned to Goderich without disclosing my mission. On Saturday a man named Grant, a school teacher of Goderich, began to bring deputies to me. He brought a man named Farr, who, he said, was to be a deputy returning officer. He went away, leaving Farr with me. I talked with Farr, but did not consider him safe. I suspected him of having a leaning towards the Conservatives, and he looked like a man who drank. I reported to Grant that I did not think Farr a safe man, and that I would not have anything to do with him.

An hon. MEMBER. Who was Grant?

Mr. POWELL. He was a school teacher, training the young idea in the advanced Liberalism of England.

After my report, Grant and a Mr. Horton talked about Farr in my presence, and they decided to get back from him his authority to act as deputy. That was on Saturday afternoon. After that Grant came to me again and said they had to let Farr go through, and that he would be all right. I replied, 'Well, if you are willing to risk it, I am willing.' Grant brought Farr to me again on Sunday afternoon, and went away at once, leaving Farr with me. I then talked to Farr. I instructed him how to substitute ballots, and showed him how to work it. He did not seem to understand how I could do it, and made me do it very slowly for him. Then he tried it, and got quite handy with it, though rather clumsy. I told him to keep on practising. He had been drinking some. He seemed amused and quite delighted with the thing. He said, 'By kripes, I will take them all. There will not be a vote in the box but Grits.' I said, 'Do good work and you will be well paid for it.' He said, 'How much.' I said I would give him \$10 if he worked five ballots, and \$15 for twenty. He said, 'All right.' I gave Farr twenty ballots and he put his initials upon them. I tore off the counterfoils and made the twenty ballots up in a parcel and gave them to him to use. On the night of the election he came to me terribly excited, and asked where he was to get his money. He said he had fixed twenty-three ballots. I had only given him twenty, but he said he had sent out and got more. I told him to take his good ballots over to Horton, who would pay him. Either Grant or O'Gorman had told me to say that if there was any question about payment of money. I saw no more of Farr.

6. On Sunday night Grant also brought me an elderly man with a grey beard, slight in build and rather tall. I think Grant said the man's name was Cummings, but I am not at all sure about that. I would recognize the man if I should see him. Grant said he was to be deputy returning officer. He left the man with me. I instructed him how to manipulate the ballots, and showed him how to do it. I made him the same offer of money as I had made to Farr. He did not try to work the ballot in my presence, but said he would see what he could do. I tore the counterfoils off fifteen or twenty ballots and folded up the ballots and gave them to him. He did not initial them while with me. He took the ballots away with him, and I did not see him again.

7. O'Gorman asked me to go out seven miles from Goderich to see a man named Young, who was to be a deputy returning officer. I saw Young and talked to him. I hinted that cer-

tain things could be done with ballots and said that if he wished to change a few votes, I could show him how it might be done. He refused very positively, and said if he had to do that he would give up the ballot box. I returned and so reported to O'Gorman.

There seems to have been one conscientious man.

8. I was not made a deputy, as Horton said local people insisted upon the positions.

9. At the hotel I did my work at O'Gorman's room, as my bedroom was on the third floor. When I went into his room on Sunday morning no person was there. On the table under some writing paper, there were some packages of ballots—four packages, I think. I knew they were for me, to be distributed among such deputies as I should arrange with. I took the ballots and gave some of them to Farr and to the man I supposed to be Cummings, as I have stated. The others I burnt on the night of the election.

I pause here. Where did these ballots come from? All the ballots were printed with the blocks of McGillicuddy. McGillicuddy or McGillicuddy's agent must have been fraudulent abettors of this scheme.

10. On the day before the election day, O'Gorman paid me \$25 for my services and \$15 for my expenses. I left Goderich on the morning after the election.

11. On the night of the election, I took part in the procession celebrating the Liberal victory. D. McGillicuddy, Tom Lewis and I occupied one carriage.

I think Grant was in our carriage also, but I am not sure about him.

12. The method of substituting a false ballot for the genuine one which the deputies which I have mentioned were to use, is as follows: He would keep the false ballots so that he could readily take one in his left hand when he wished to work it. When a known Conservative voter would be in the act of handing his ballot to the deputy, the latter would place his left hand upon the table with a false ballot, without a counterfoil, under the hand. At the same moment he would accept from the voter, with the right hand, the genuine ballot and counterfoil. He then would place the genuine ballot under the left hand fingers, as if for the purpose of tearing off the counterfoil, and, with a quick movement of the right hand, he would remove both genuine ballot and counterfoil, at the same moment raising the left hand and leaving on the table a ballot from which the counterfoil had apparently been just removed. He would put what he had in his right hand in his coat pocket, and then put in the box the ballot lying on the table. This ballot, so put in the box, would be one of these previously furnished by me to the deputy, and on which I had put a cross opposite the name of the Liberal candidate. I made an exception in my practice of making the cross myself in the case of the ballots given to Cummings, as he objected to putting his initials upon them in my presence, and therefore I concluded not to put the cross on them.

13. When it was settled that I was not to be a deputy, O'Gorman spoke to me, and Grant did also, about acting as scrutineer, and it was arranged that I should act in that capacity at a poll about seven miles from Goderich, where a deputy sheriff was to act as deputy returning officer. Grant brought this deputy, a small, thin man, whose name I cannot now recall, to

me at the hotel and introduced him. Grant then left. I talked to him for some time, and finally explained to him how to substitute false ballots. He practised it in my presence, and agreed to work it. I gave him only ten false ballots, as his division was known to be a very close one. I took off the counterfoils and he initialled the ballots. I put the crosses on opposite Mr. Holmes' name, and gave the false ballots to the deputy. We drove out to the polling place together. He called at the hotel for me. I acted as scrutineer. I saw the deputy substitute three false ballots, but I do not know how many he succeeded in working. The other side watched him very closely. After the counting was finished and the totals given, I heard a Conservative scrutineer say: I wonder who the three traitors are; we will find it out. They seemed to know exactly how many votes they ought to have had. I had, as scrutineer, a list of the voters marked as to how they had promised to vote, and I had arranged with the deputy that when I wanted to give him a hint to substitute a ballot, I would press his leg with my foot. I gave him the signal for more than three men, but I saw the deputy was nervous and was not working it well, so I stopped. On our way home he told me they watched him very closely. I never spoke to this deputy about money.

14. On the Sunday before the election I told Grant a scrutineer could give us help if he wished to try, and that I could show him something. Nothing more was said to Grant about that, but on the afternoon and evening before the election he brought to me from seven to nine young men, bringing only one at a time and leaving him with me. I told each man that by inserting a bit of lead under his thumb nail and securing it with mucilage or bicycle cement, he could be able, when assisting the deputy to open and lay out the ballots for counting after five o'clock, to spoil Conservative ballots by making a mark on the paper. All of them said they would try it. Their names may have been mentioned in my presence, but I have no recollection of it. One of them told me he was a student in Mr. Garrow's office, and I understood him to say he had just come from Toronto. He is a tall, slim young fellow, and I would recognize him again.

(Sgd.) J. G. PRITCHETT.

The above-named deponent, John G. Pritchett, being duly sworn, says that he has read the foregoing affidavit by him signed, and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true in substance and in fact of his own knowledge.

Subscribed and sworn to at the city of Detroit, in the state of Michigan, one of the United States of America, this 29th day of December, 1899, before me.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM L. CARPENTER,
Circuit Judge, Third Judicial Circuit,
Michigan.

Probably, that is sufficiently definite for the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. Now, passing from South Huron, I will read another affidavit of Pritchett bearing on the Brockville election:

State of Michigan,
City of Detroit.

To wit:

I, John G. Pritchett, of the city of London, in the province of Ontario, contractor, at present of the city of Detroit, make oath and say:

1. For several years I have taken part in municipal affairs and in politics in the said city of London, and I have acted as deputy returning officer in municipal elections and also in the elections for the legislative assembly. I always acted with and on behalf of the Liberal party. In 1893 I was elected an alderman for ward No. 6, in the said city of London.

2. In the general election of 1898 for the legislative assembly, I took an active part as a canvasser for votes on behalf of Colonel Leys; and was appointed by Sheriff Cameron his deputy returning officer for said election at polling division No. 3, in the Sixth ward of the said city of London.

3. From my experience in the various elections, I formed the opinion that elections could be more easily and surely won by the manipulation of ballots than by buying votes, and after the said general election I, in conversation with friends, used words to that effect.

4. Thereafter, at the request of John O'Gorman, of London, I took part on behalf of the Liberals in by-elections, my special duty being to instruct deputy returning officers in the methods of manipulating the ballots so as to win the election whatever the vote might really be.

5. On Saturday, the 8th of April, A. D. 1899, O'Gorman came to my shop in London, and asked me to go to Toronto by the afternoon train of next day. He said there was to be a pretty tight election at Brockville, and he wished me to go there, leaving Toronto for Brockville early on Monday morning. He said he would meet me at the Walker House, Toronto. I asked him what was in it. He said \$50 and expenses. I said that was small. He replied that much was sure, and there might be more. I missed the Sunday train, as my wife arrived too late for it. We went to Toronto by the very early train on Monday, and my wife remained in Toronto with her sister. I met O'Gorman at the Walker House. We went into a private room, off the sitting-room, and there he told me I was wanted to instruct the deputy returning officers, and do the best I could. He told me to stay at a hotel in Brockville, which he described. It was kept by a German. I started for Brockville that Monday morning by the Grand Trunk Railway. Tom Lewis, of London, was with me.

6. We arrived at Brockville on the afternoon of Monday, April 10, and went to the hotel as directed by O'Gorman. We did not like the hotel, and after supper changed our quarters to the St. Lawrence Hall. On the 11th, O'Gorman came to the St. Lawrence Hall, and on seeing us said, 'Oh, you are here, are you?' We said, 'Yes, we are going to live like other people or go home.' Lewis went out into the country. I did nothing for a few days. On the day after the nomination I talked to O'Gorman at the hotel about handling the deputies. I said, 'What am I to do if they talk money.' He told me to use my own judgment, but not to offer more than \$5 for each ballot substituted.

7. On Friday or Saturday, April 14 or 15, O'Gorman brought to my room a Mr. Robinson. He introduced him and said that Mr. Robinson was to act as a deputy returning officer, that I could have a talk with him and post him as to his duties. O'Gorman then left the room. I talked with Robinson, but did not think he was a suitable man to undertake the work we wanted. I therefore confined my remarks to the ordinary work or duty of a deputy.

Mr. BRITTON. Does it say where Upham was deputy returning officer for?

Mr. POWELL. I did not notice that. But the lessee of the opera house is sufficiently definitive.

8. On the afternoon of Sunday, the 16th of April, O'Gorman brought to me a Mr. Upham. He was lessee of the opera house and was to be one of the deputy returning officers. O'Gorman withdrew after introducing him. I found Upham anxious to have Mr. Comstock elected and inclined to help. I asked him was he willing to take any chances. He asked the nature of them. I explained fully the method of substituting ballots in the federal elections and said it was better than paying money for votes you were not sure of getting. He agreed that my plan was a good idea and safer than buying. I said it was safer to pay a deputy in whom we had confidence, \$5 for every substituted ballot than to pay money to a voter on whom we could not rely and who might be suspected of taking money. I showed him how the manipulation could be done. He asked if it had ever been done in other elections. I said, yes, and successfully. He asked, had any one been caught. I said, had he ever heard of such a thing—that if it had ever leaked out it would have been in every paper in the land. With a piece of paper I showed him how to do it. He tried it and did it fairly well, but I told him to practice and become expert. He said he would have another talk with me and I would have to make final arrangements with him. He then left the room. On Wednesday, the 19th, the day before the election Upham came again to me. He came of his own accord. I was in the hotel sitting-room when he came in. He made a sign and went up the front stairs. I went up by the back stairs. My room was on the third floor and we went there. I asked him how he was getting along. He said pretty well. We had another trial and he worked it very well. I then told him that for every ballot he substituted and brought the genuine one to me he could get \$5. He was satisfied and agreed to do the work. I handed him 15 ballots and asked him to initial them. He did so. I tore off the counterfoils, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them, put an elastic band around them, and handed them to Upham. I cautioned him not to allow any person to see them. He said he would take care.

9. The thing to be worked was as follows: The deputy returning officer would keep the false ballots so that he could readily take one in his left hand when he wished to work it. When a known Conservative voter would be in the act of handing his ballot to the deputy, the latter would place his left hand upon the table with a false ballot under the hand, but no counterfoil. At the same moment he could accept from the voter, with his right hand, the genuine ballot and counterfoil. He then would place the genuine ballot under the left hand fingers as if for the purposes of tearing off the counterfoil, and with a quick motion of the right hand he would remove both the genuine ballot and counterfoil, at the same moment raising the left hand and leaving on the table a ballot from which the counterfoil had apparently been just removed. He would put what he had in his right in his coat pocket and then put in the box the ballot lying on the table. This ballot so put in the box would be one of those previously furnished by me to the deputy and on which I had put a cross in favour of Comstock. This Upham had practised and was expert at it and he agreed to work in 15 ballots at \$5 each.

10. After the close of the poll Upham brought to me at the hotel 15 genuine ballots for White

with counterfoils attached and told me he had worked in the whole of his false ballots and could have done more. I took him to O'Gorman's room, ushered him in, told O'Gorman the amount and left them together. I do not recollect whether Upham showed me the genuine ballots they were for O'Gorman to settle upon, but about 5 minutes afterwards I saw Upham down stairs. I asked him if all was right. He said, yes, they had carried out what I promised to the letter.

11. On Saturday the 15th, a man named Cowan, a butcher, who was to be a deputy, was brought to me and introduced by O'Gorman, who then left us. I talked to Cowan about taking some risks to win the election. He said if there was risk he ought to be well paid. Not much more was said on that day. I reported to O'Gorman what Cowan said. O'Gorman said leave that to us we will arrange with him, and he said something about Cowan's owing Comstock. Cowan came again on Sunday. Nothing more was said about money. I explained the method of substituting ballots and showed him how to work it. He tried it and promised to practise. He came again on Tuesday evening. He had another lesson then and did fairly well. I got him to initial 20 ballots, took off the counterfoils, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them and gave them to Cowan. I saw no more of him. He did not come to me for a settlement.

12. O'Gorman brought to me a young lawyer named Jones, of Brockville, who was to be a deputy returning officer. I explained to him the method of substituting ballots as I had done with the others. I showed him how it worked on the first occasion that he came to me. He said it was a grand thing. He tried it and at first was not very expert. He did not stay long and I said nothing about money. He came again next evening and practised it again in my presence. He had improved. He said he had been trying it in his office. I do not think I talked money to him then. He came again the evening before the election I gave him 25 ballots and he initialled them. I tore off the counterfoils, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them up, put an elastic band around them and handed them to him. I told him he would get \$5 for every one of those he worked in. He said he would get some of it. I acted as scrutineer for Mr. Comstock at Jones's polling place. I saw him work several of the false ballots. A man named Lee voted. Jones fumbled his ballot. I thought he was trying to work in a false one. A ballot fell on the floor. The Conservative scrutineer was very sharp and vigilant. He tried to stand up to see what was going on. I obstructed him by getting up at the same moment. He seemed very angry. Some time later he said he would not give much for Lee's vote. I said why? He replied, you know why. I said I do not see how I should know. He replied: Oh, you are not so slow. In the course of the day Jones made an excuse to go upstairs. I went also. I told him he was doing first rate but to be more cautious as the Conservative scrutineer was watching very close, much more so than was usual with scrutineers. Just before 5 o'clock everything was quiet and Jones went upstairs again and I went also. Jones told me he had got in 12. I did not believe him. After the polls closed I told O'Gorman what Jones said, and that I had seen him work 7 and did not think he got in as many as 12. O'Gorman settled with him. He told me he paid Jones for 12 as he did not want to kick with him. He said Jones did not produce the genuine ballots and claimed he had destroyed all the papers. I saw Jones that night coming from O'Gorman's room.

Mr. POWELL.

He told me that O'Gorman had settled with him.

13. O'Gorman also brought to me a Mr. King who, as I understood, was a bookkeeper in Mr. Comstock's employment. He was to act as a deputy returning officer. O'Gorman introduced him and left. I had only one interview with King. I instructed King how to substitute false ballots and showed him four or five times how it was done. He did not try it in my presence. I gave him 15 false ballots. He initialled them in my presence. I removed the counterfoil, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them up, and gave them to King. I did not mention money to King and did not see him again.

14. A man named Smith, who was to act as deputy, in Elizabethtown, was brought to me by O'Gorman. I instructed Smith as I had done with the others. He practised the work in my presence and agreed to do all he could. I agreed that he should be paid \$5 for every ballot he substituted. He asked for 20 ballots and initialled them. I took off the counterfoils, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them and handed them to Smith. The night of the election he returned the whole of them to me. I was so busy that I had no time to get his explanation. He promised to see me again. I have not seen him since.

15. A man named Truesdale, said to be a farmer, and who was to act as a deputy, was brought to me by O'Gorman. I, on two occasions, gave him instructions and showed him how to work in the false ballots. He practised in my presence and I agreed with him that he should have \$5 for each one he used and I gave him 13 ballots. I treated them as I did the others. He was to act at some distant polling place and I do not remember seeing him again.

16. O'Gorman also brought to me a man named James Kelly who was to act as a deputy. Kelly told me he was a clerk in a dry goods store at Brockville. On two occasions I instructed him and he practised in my presence working the false ballots. He was very smart in picking it up and I agreed with him that he should have \$5 for each false ballot he worked in. I gave him 13 which he initialled and I treated them as I did the others and handed them to Kelly. On the night of the election he gave me back 5 false ballots and he said he had 8 genuine ones. I took him to O'Gorman to be settled with. Upham happened to go up at the same time and O'Gorman saw the two men. He was very abusive to me for bringing, as he alleged, two men at the same time. They must have heard him. Upham went in first, and I left Kelly waiting. I saw no more of him. I was very angry with O'Gorman and told him to run his own show, that I would have no more to do with him.

17. O'Gorman also brought to me a man named Neelson who was to act as deputy in one of the townships. I instructed him once and showed him how to work the false ballots. He practised in my presence. He was very nervous and did not do well, but said he would keep on practising though he was afraid he could not manage it. He said they would be on to him. I agreed that he should have \$5 for every false ballot he used. I gave him 8, he initialled them and I dealt with them as I did with the others. I saw no more of him.

18. O'Gorman also brought to me a man named Bates, another named Field, and another named Boull, all of whom were to act as deputy returning officers. I instructed each of them, they all practised, and I agreed with each that he should have \$5 for every false ballot he worked in. Bates got 7 ballots, Field 10 and Boull 15. Each

initialled his lot and I dealt with the ballots as I had done with the others. They came to me separately. I do not know who settled with these men. I did not.

19. On the Tuesday before the election day O'Gorman gave me 4 packages of ballots out of which I obtained those I gave to the several deputy returning officers. Those not so used I destroyed. Previous to Tuesday I had been asking O'Gorman for the ballots as they would have been better for practise than ordinary pieces of paper. He could not give them to me. He said: 'I can't get them from the printer.' On Tuesday he handed me the packages of ballots without any remark.

20. When I was acting as scrutineer, the Conservative scrutineer objected strongly to Mr. Jones putting counterfoils in his pocket. He said they should be destroyed. I argued that the deputy had a right to do so or to eat them if he saw fit.

Mr. Jones agrees with the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. Jones decided that he had a right to put them in his pocket. Shortly afterwards the sheriff came in, and I brought the point to his attention. He said the deputy could do as he liked with them; he might put them in his pocket, or anywhere else, and destroy them after the close of the poll.

Alexander Smith and James Vance were at Brockville all the time I was there. O'Gorman, Tom Lewis and I left for Toronto at two o'clock in the morning after the election. When nearing Toronto O'Gorman settled with me. He really gave me \$70, but claimed he gave me \$75. I suppose there was some mistake in the counting.

(Sgd.) J. G. PRITCHETT.

The above-named deponent, John G. Pritchett, being duly sworn, says that he has read the foregoing affidavit, by him signed, and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true in substance and in fact of his own knowledge. Subscribed and sworn to at the city of Detroit, in the state of Michigan, one of the United States of America, this 29th day of December, 1899, before me,

(Sgd.) WILLIAM L. CARPENTER,

Circuit Judge, Third Judicial Circuit,
Michigan.

(Seal of the Court.)

State of Michigan,
City of Detroit.

To wit:

I, John T. Pritchett, in the city of London, province of Ontario, contractor, at present of the city of Detroit, make oath and say:

1. That on the 26th or 27th day of September, A.D. 1899, I met Thomas Lewis, of London, by appointment with him at his residence in said city of London, Ontario, when he produced an affidavit already prepared and said, 'They want you to sign this;' and I said, 'What is it? What do you want me to sign?' and he then said it was to the effect that I had nothing to do with the Brockville election. In reply to him I said that I could not make any such affidavit, and would not sign anything to that effect.

2. The said Thomas Lewis when urging me to sign the said affidavit, offered me \$100, which he said he would pay me as soon as I would sign it, which I refused to do.

3. The Thomas Lewis, who so requested me to make such affidavit, is the Thomas Lewis,

of London, Ontario, with whom I went from Toronto to the said town of Brockville on the 10th day of April, A.D. 1899, to take part in the election there; and with whom, and in company with John O'Gorman, I returned from Brockville to Toronto on the night after the said election. The said Lewis, the said O'Gorman and Alexander Smith, the organizer of the Liberal party in Ontario, all know that I was in Brockville at the time aforesaid for about twelve days for purposes connected with the said election.

4. On the 23th day of February, A.D. 1900, the said Thomas Lewis called me up by telephone at Detroit, Michigan, and requested me to meet him at Carolon's saloon at the corner of Abbott's Street and First Street, in the said city of Detroit. I went immediately to meet him at said saloon at three o'clock in the afternoon. We met in the bar-room, and he asked me to one side, and opened the conversation by asking me how I was getting along.

5. In this interview the said Thomas Lewis told me that the commission to investigate the West Elgin election would commence work at St. Thomas on the next day, the 1st day of March, and that no doubt I would be examined the last of that week or the beginning of the next week, and that if I would give evidence the commissioners would come to Detroit to take it. He did not say whether or not the commissioners had said that they would come to Detroit, but asserted that they would come if I would testify, and that all I would have to say was that so far as my division was concerned, everything was regular. I said to him that I did not want to be investigated.

6. I further said to him that if I were investigated I would tell the whole thing; Lewis argued with me that I would be wise to do what he asked of me, and promised that if I did so everything would be fixed up shortly. He wished and offered to pay me all arrears under the agreement made with me when I was obliged to leave London ten months ago to avoid arrest in connection with the West Elgin election, and said he would guarantee all further payments promptly until the whole matter should be fixed up. I replied that I did not want his money. He persisted in urging me to give the testimony he wanted, but as I refused to do so, he finally said it would not be necessary for the commissioner to come to Detroit.

(Sgd.) J. G. PRITCHETT.

The above-named deponent, John G. Pritchett, being duly sworn, says that he has read the foregoing affidavit, by him signed, and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true in substance and in fact of his own knowledge.

Subscribed and sworn to at the city of Detroit, in the state of Michigan, one of the United States of America, this 9th day of March, A.D. 1900, before me,

(Sgd.) WILLIAM J. CARPENTER,

Judge, Third Judicial Circuit, Michigan.

(Seal of the Court.)

Now, Mr. Speaker, having read these affidavits what is the inference fairly to be drawn from them? Whether these affidavits are true or false this much is certain, that grave charges have been made and been sworn to, and if the right hon. leader of the government has not changed his political opinions within the last twelve months it is absolutely impossible for him to resist this application for a full and com-

plete investigation. We have this fact unquestionably, that the gentleman who was elected for West Huron was Mr. McLean, and not Mr. Holmes. If there is truth in the affidavit of Pritchett, the deduction that cannot be overcome is that the gentleman who was elected for the constituency of Brockville was not Mr. Comstock but the ex-Speaker of this House, Peter White. These are the facts, Sir, that have been adduced before the committee and that have been sworn to in these affidavits. They afford food for serious thought. As I said before: Who was Pritchett, who was O'Gorman, who was Lewis, who was Sullivan? Who were the rest of the gang? Gentlemen who, when they heard the tocsin sound alarm of battle in any constituency, rushed immediately to the fight. The leaders of the government, the officials, their representatives, the party organizers in the province must have known exactly what kind of men these were. They saw them there; they must have known, or had a belief as to what they were doing. They must have known or believed that they were perpetrating frauds, that they were stealing ballots. If gentlemen, members of the government, were not actively engaged as supporters or abettors, and I will not suggest, or insinuate that they were, they closed their eyes conveniently, at least, to the crime which, in their own hearts, they must have believed was being perpetrated and contented themselves with enjoying the fruits of the crime. They cannot maintain their self-respect as a government, and hon. gentlemen who sit behind them cannot conscientiously support them until the government are cleansed of the dark aspersions that are put upon them by these affidavits.

Mr. WOOD. If they were true they would be all right.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) is a dealer in hardware. What evidence have we of collusion? In the first place, take the West Huron election. These frauds could not have been perpetrated without ballots. McGillicuddy was just the man to be used. He provided the means for the frauds being accomplished. He printed several hundred more ballots than he was ordered to print. Did he take care of these ballots? No, he gave them out to the parties who are to conduct these frauds. It is a most mysterious thing that Pritchett and these others could get command of these ballots. Hundreds of them were distributed for what other than fraudulent purposes? They are given out to the different deputy returning officers, to be used where these were needed doubtless. The Liberal organizer was there. He was organizing the whole plan of the battle. He knew what work is allotted to this individual and to that. He must have known that these frauds were

perpetrated. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) was there. He was in Brockville also. He saw these men in West Huron, and he saw them in Brockville. He knew they were in for the by-election. Must he not be intellectually as well as morally obtuse if he did not believe in his heart that these people were engaged, as footpads, in an attempt to steal from the Conservative party and from the electorate the representation of that constituency on the floor of this House? The inference is, to my mind, perfectly unanswerable. If this hon. gentleman and the recognized political agents and party organizers of the Liberals, had no suspicion of it, if they were so innocent as not to have it cross their minds that these men were engaged in nefarious schemes, they are too innocent to occupy the Treasury benches or to conduct election campaigns. They must be of the capacity of children. They have not yet grown to the full maturity of manhood and an acquaintance with the ways of the world. I was astonished at the action of some members of the government before the election committee. When it was made as clear as noonday that Cummings was engaged either in stealing ballots, by way of substitution, or, violating his oath, if he did take the oath, and I believe he is one of those who did take the oath, by not conducting the election properly, by putting ballots into the box which he had not given voters, when that man was convicted out of his own mouth, by his own evidence, what was the part played by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries? I say it to the credit of the representative in the government of the province of New Brunswick, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), that he sufficiently appreciated the position that he would not allow his reputation to be aspersed; he withdrew from the committee, and he said in tones that every one heard, that he needed no further evidence to be convinced that fraud was perpetrated. But, Sir, it was left to the hon. Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies), to throw out all kinds of aspersions as to the motives of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden), to throw out all kinds of aspersions on the members of the opposition, collectively and individually; it was left to him to stand as godfather to this clique, to stand as godfather to Farr; to stand as godfather to Cummings; to stand as godfather to O'Gorman. Sir, we see that minister (Sir Louis Davies), standing up in this House to-day, and exercising all the ability that God has given him, in a vain attempt to hoodwink the people of this country, and to protect these men in their felony; because, forsooth, he and his party have shared in the fruits of their iniquity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have only a word to say, and I am done. It is this: Under British rule, wherever British institutions extend, it is the glory of the British subject,

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that his empire is a pure empire. Let but for a moment fraud eat its way into the vitals of the body politic, and the empire is gone. There never has been a state from the dawn of civilization to the present time, but which if it fell when corruption was rampant and because of that corruption. Against it prophet has thundered and philosopher has reasoned, and poet directed his withering fire. Let us be worthy of our British traditions. Let us stand one and all for a pure electorate and clean elections. If fraud does prevail in the country, if both sides in politics engage more or less in fraud; let us not get lower than the standard of morality that prevails among a band of thieves; let us at least have honour between ourselves. Let us give each other a fair show in the conduct of polls, let justice prevail, let law prevail there. If public opinion winks at doings of a shady character let them not be done by those guardians of the state who preside over the ballot boxes. Sir, I say no more. My position upon the committee was technically that of a judge, but really every man on the committee endeavoured to bring out all the facts he could. Especially is it the province of the opposition to bring out facts against the government, and especially is it the province of the followers of the government to bring out facts against the opposition. We did that as well as we could, as far as we went. I regret that this government after having put their hand to the plough, now turn back. One would have expected gentlemen like the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), a man who has not lost all his original glory; man although he may be a fallen angel, possess some marks of the old manliness, that characterized him—I wonder what the hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright), thinks about this matter. Is he willing to sit in his position, and notwithstanding his oath of office of fealty to the British Crown; and allow his party and himself to enjoy the fruits of political felony? Is the leader of the government, whose one great ideal is British tradition and British statesmanship, who glories that he is an Englishman of the advanced Liberal school; is he going to sit there and allow these tactics to prevail, tactics that are worse than the tactics of any semi-civilized community? And when corruption and fraud is rampant in this country, he is to whom has been committed the honour and integrity of this state, to silently sit by, while his friends and associates aid these debauchers, not having the courage to grapple firmly with the men of his party, who are desirous of protecting these malefactors in their evil-doing.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). Mr. Speaker, I may say that during my short experience as a member of this House, I never heard a more unfair speech than the one which has just been delivered. Considering all the circumstances of this case; con-

sidering what is fact and what is fiction; considering that the gentleman (Mr. Powell) who addressed the House is a lawyer of standing, I repeat that I have never, in my experience, heard a more unfair speech—attacking persons who are absent, producing affidavits such as he has, from men of no character against men of reputation and standing in the country; producing these affidavits without notice or warning and under the privileges of parliament—I say again, that I never heard a more unfair speech made in any deliberative assembly. Now, I shall say at the outset and without fear of successful contradiction—I have not the slightest doubt that gentlemen opposite will contradict it—but I say it from my place here and I say it as a matter of truth: That I, for one, declare that I am as anxious to have purity in elections as any member of this House. When the matter is brought before the proper tribunal, where there can be a fair investigation, I will go as far as any gentleman in this House in endeavouring to get at the truth, to find out the guilty, and to punish the criminals, if they can be found. In saying that, I believe that I am saying what every member of the Liberal party, so far as I know, will say, and what every member of the government will say. This matter that we have in hand, is something that we have got to consider in itself, and to see whether what is proposed to be done, is the proper course to get at the truth in matters of this kind. As was said by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), this afternoon, the popular opinion in the country is that this whole matter of the West Huron and Brockville elections was referred to this committee. Every one that talks of it in the country—unless their attention has been particularly directed to the order of reference to the committee—think that a roving commission, a sort of general mandate was given to the Committee on Privileges and Elections to go into the whole matter, and investigate alleged frauds, no matter by whomsoever committed, and bring any one from anywhere, who may have at all participated in the elections. Now, nothing of the kind was done. The order of reference was simply as to the conduct of the returning officers and the deputy returning officers in these constituencies. It will be necessary to go a little into the history of the case, to answer the argument of my hon. friend (Mr. Powell). Upon the statement of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), this matter was referred to the committee for the purpose of inquiring into the conduct of returning officers and the deputy returning officers in these two constituencies, and the committee took up the West Huron case, the evidence with regard to which is now before the House. The report of the committee is dated August 9, and it shows that there were twenty-five sittings of the committee, covering seventeen sessions in the morn-

ing and eight in the afternoon. It shows also that we had the evidence of 99 witnesses orally heard before the committee and 4 witnesses examined by interrogatory—103 in all; that 12 witnesses failed to attend; and that 9 additional witnesses attended, but were discharged without examination. After the most careful examination—so careful that a good deal of fault was found by some of the members of the committee with what they considered the smallness of the questions asked, the minuteness of the testimony with the view to testing the credibility of the witnesses—the investigation was closed with reference to polling division No. 4, where Mr. Cummings was the returning officer. The nine additional witnesses were to be examined only with reference to the polling division in Goderich, where Mr. Farr was returning officer. I think I shall be able to prove—I hope to the satisfaction of hon. gentlemen opposite, although perhaps that is hoping against hope—that nothing was found that would point to the guilt of Mr. Cummings, notwithstanding what has been said by the last speaker. Now, this committee have made their report. They do not recommend anything. They simply report the evidence which they found, and they leave it to the House to say what should be done—to do as it deems best or as it may be advised in the matter. Here we are, then, with this matter before us to deal with, unless there is abundant reason to show why the House should send it back.

Now, as to No. 4 polling division. Bear in mind that of all the polls in West Huron, only three polls were in any way referred to. At poll No. 4, where Mr. Cummings was returning officer, James Chisholm and John Lawson were scrutineers for Mr. Holmes, and a man named John McAvoy and another named Dancy, for a part of the time assisted in counting or otherwise. The men who acted for Mr. McLean were James McManus and Edward Shaw, both respectable men, shrewd and intelligent, not men who would not detect fraud if perpetrated in any ordinary way or by sleight-of-hand, as has been suggested here. There were 98 votes polled—68 for Holmes and 30 for McLean; there were 125 ballots, and 27 remained, so that every ballot was accounted for. One thing seemed to be clear to every person present at that subdivision, and it was this, that Mr. Cummings actually put in the ballot that was handed to him by the voter in each case. I am not speaking now of the Liberals, but of the Conservative scrutineers who were there and whose names I have given. Every one at that poll thought, as Mr. Cummings swore, that he had put in the actual ballots received from the voters. After the election, when these men on the Conservative side compared the results with the canvass which they had made, they found that in some way or other there were not as many votes for the

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Conservative candidate at that polling place as they had expected. My hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) says that the men felt that they were outraged, and they came forward and voluntarily gave their declarations in regard to it. The hon. gentleman is not quoting the evidence when he says that. He is so saturated with this matter that he may think he is quoting it when he is not. The men who made the declarations and who were present when they were taken said that Mr. Hays went to these men at their places of residence and asked them for these declarations. Being Conservatives, they stated that they had voted for Mr. McLean, and that they were willing to say that they had so voted; and so we got these declarations. The inquiry being set on foot, instead of having it carried on in the election courts, the men who got the declarations put them in their pockets, and they were not seen again until they were produced in the House of Commons and before the Privileges and Elections Committee. The men who made these declarations were unquestionably Conservatives, and when they came here they were allowed to swear and did swear as a matter of fact that they had voted on that occasion for Mr. McLean. Now, Mr. Cummings was examined before the committee. I do not know how his evidence comes to have struck the hon. member for Westmoreland in such a way that he is very much prejudiced against it: but every unprejudiced person who heard Mr. Cummings's evidence regarded him as a candid man; and Mr. Cummings swears—and in this he is not contradicted by the others, according to their belief—that he actually put into the box the very ballots he received from the different voters. My hon. friend says you cannot conceive of fraudulent ballots being produced in any other way than by fraud on the part of the deputy returning officer. Let us see. His case, as I understood it, depended on this, that the ballots that were put into the box were not the ones that were received from Mr. Cummings. If that is so, Mr. Cummings, according to the evidence, is no party to the giving out of those ballots, which did not come from his pad. The voters must have got them in some other way. So he is not a party to that; and if it is true that he actually put into the box the ballots he received from the different voters, then, assuming them to be fraudulent, some other way must be found to account for them than to blame Mr. Cummings. That seems to me to be perfectly clear. There is one other way, and I only suggest it. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) was angered on one occasion, and gave me some uncomplimentary notice, because I ventured to suggest that there was a possibility of some of those 43 voters having committed perjury. I will not suggest that, but I will say this, that I do not know, and the committee does not know, this House does not know, that any one of these 43 persons

stands any better in the county of Huron than does Mr. Cummings, according to the sworn statements of the Conservatives who came before the committee; and Mr. Cummings swore that he actually put into the ballot box the identical ballots which he had received from the voters. Now, one oath is as good as another.

Mr. MILLS. Forty-three others?

Mr. BRITTON. Just as good as 43 others, because, mind you, 30 of these 43 swore to the truth, because their votes are there, and it left only 13 of these men on the other side. And it is not the cumulative evidence of 13 against 1, but it is each man's evidence of a particular thing against another man's evidence of a particular thing. It is not thirteen against one in any such sense as that, and there is a reason why these men, if they were either bought by persons depraved enough to buy them, or if they changed their minds in any way, which may account for their voting one way and talking the other.

Cummings was shown these ballots alleged to be fraudulent, and on looking at them, not suspecting forgery or fraud, he thought that the initials on the back were his. I am assuming that these were fraudulent ballots and am asking that Mr. Cummings be not found guilty on the evidence here, but be found to have told the truth when, not suspecting fraud or forgery, and finding that the initials on the backs of these ballots resembled his, he said naturally and in good faith: Yes, these are my initials. But, when the points of difference in the ballots themselves, as compared with the others, were pointed out to him, he then began to doubt, and would not say positively that the initials had been put on by him. So that, I think the conclusion to be drawn from the evidence is that Mr. Cummings gave candid and honest testimony.

I will deal with Pritchett's affidavit later on, and I wish first to discuss the general question of the possibility of Mr. Cummings being able to do such sleight-of-hand work as it is alleged he did on that occasion. If this were not a political matter, if there were not such a wide cleavage between us, if it were any ordinary matter, I could ask and expect a fair answer from hon. gentlemen opposite when I put to them the question, whether, in view of the fact that Cummings was an elderly and a clumsy man, a man who all his life had been accustomed to hard work on a farm, he was likely to be one who could, with any amount of teaching and practice, be able to do such clever sleight-of-hand work as to deceive all those present in the room, namely, first the voter himself, and, secondly, the scrutineers. Is it credible that a man of his training could do successfully, under the scrutiny of so many people, the sleight-of-hand work described by Pritchett, namely, accept from the voter, with his

right hand, the genuine ballot and counterfoil, then place the genuine ballot under the left hand finger, as if for the purpose of tearing off the counterfoil, then, with a quick motion of the right hand, remove both genuine ballot and counterfoil, and at the same moment raise the left hand and leave on the table a ballot from which the counterfoil had apparently been just removed, then put what he had in his right hand in his coat pocket and put in the box the ballot lying upon the table. I do not believe that any unprejudiced person present at the committee and hearing the evidence would believe that Cummings could have been capable of doing anything of the kind.

There may have been some suspicion of Dancy with reference to these fourteen ballots. Supposing we acknowledge, for the sake of argument, that these ballots were forged or fraudulent, and supposing the deputy at that polling booth put the stubs in his pocket, is not that often done by reputable returning officers? I do not pretend that it is right. I do not pretend that that is destroying the stubs in the proper sense of the word, so that they could not be identified as even the counterfoil of ballots, but, we know that that is often done, and we can readily conceive that Cummings honestly considered, when he tore the counterfoil from a ballot and put it in his pocket, that he had destroyed it, just as if he had thrown it on the floor. And we know that the practice has obtained of throwing these counterfoils on the floor, where they are no more destroyed than if put in the pocket. It is simply one of these mistakes that a man may honestly make, and which do not render him open to the imputation of fraud.

Well, we have got all the evidence we can get, except of course, this affidavit of Pritchett, which I will deal with later. Apart from that affidavit, which was sprung on the House to-night for the first time, every one will admit that all the evidence that could be given with reference to Cummings and what took place at his poll, has been obtained. If we have all the evidence, what then do hon. gentlemen opposite suggest? Even supposing that it is a question of oath against oath with regard to him—and it is not even that—all the evidence that can be had with reference to Cummings has been obtained, and what more can be done about it? I would like to know what hon. gentlemen opposite would have us do, dealing simply with Cummings? Let them tell me what object there is in sending this matter back to the committee, apart from Pritchett's evidence. Admitting that we have all the evidence that can be offered with reference to Cummings, what object could there be in sending this matter back to the committee? Could they make a report that Cummings is guilty? Would this House accept such a report? And if they did, what is there to be done in a matter of that kind? So, with

reference to Cummings, apart from what I would say with reference to Pritchett, there is no ground for sending this matter back to the committee for any further investigation. No judge or magistrate or jury, no honest, fair-minded man, would say that Cummings was guilty. The most they could say would be that they were in doubt, but, under any circumstances, the accused must be given the benefit of the doubt.

Having said that much, I will leave the matter, so far as that polling place is concerned. Some evidence was given with reference to No. 2 poll, where Herbert Morris was the deputy returning officer, and the hon. gentlemen opposite attacked him at first with just as much ferocity as they did Cummings. But, when the investigation was made, it was found that in the case of that polling booth there were 125 ballots. Of these eighty-seven were polled and thirty-eight returned. Forty-nine were cast for McLean and thirty-seven for Holmes, and one was rejected. That one was rejected by the deputy returning officer as a forgery, and we must take it for granted that his decision was acquiesced in by those who were present. On the recount, one other ballot was thrown out, but it was admitted by every member of the committee that the deputy returning officer had acted in a most fair and impartial manner. The committee could not go in pursuit of the forger of that one ballot in order to find out who he was.

With reference to poll No. 3, Goderich, I do not stand here to question the statement that Farr was a bad character. I do not know or care what his antecedents were. He seems to have been at that time a man thoroughly in disrepute, but he was endeavouring to reform. He had been deputy returning officer in many elections before this. He had been appointed by the Conservatives and by the municipal councillors, and, apart from his character, Farr was just the kind of man who would be selected as deputy. It is within the knowledge of hon. members that usually the same deputy returning officers are selected over and over again to fill that office. Sheriffs and registrars who are appointed returning officers look to these men who are familiar with this kind of work; and it was the most natural thing in the world that Mr. Sands, knowing Farr, or having Farr's name suggested to him, should select him—because apart from the one thing, his bad habits, he was a man who would be available where there was no fraud suggested or thought of, and would be one of the most likely to be appointed. We have this state of things—that in that case there were 118 votes polled, while 123 ballots actually came out of the box on its being opened, and of this 123 ten were blank, so that only left 113 persons whose votes were counted for anybody, and so five voters

lost their votes at the poll. This is a state of things that one cannot readily understand, except from the fact that this man was in a state of intoxication or semi-intoxication. He acted like a foolish man both on that day and afterwards. We have all the evidence we can get with regard to him. My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) says this is an unfinished investigation, we have nine more witnesses to be examined. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax), tells us frankly that they have reference to the poll where Farr was deputy returning officer. Admit that they are ready to declare that they voted for McLean; admit that they did vote for him. I am willing to admit that for the sake of argument. What more are you going to get? These men, we are told, made declarations. That is evidence of the kind we had before the committee, and we will take it as evidence. So, here are nine more men to give evidence as to what took place at Farr's poll. But what more evidence do we want? There is the evidence, and there is Farr, such as he is; and here is the result of his poll; and that result is that five men have lost their votes, for McLean or for Holmes as the case may be. Can Farr be punished? If so, I would like the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax), to make a motion that would be parliamentary that would bring him within the law, if this evidence points to his guilt. But, so far as that poll is concerned, no further evidence can be given, and there is no use sending the case for investigation. That is the whole case of the West Huron election, except what we got in the Pritchett affidavit.

My hon. friend for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) said the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) did not quote all the evidence, or did not quote the evidence correctly regarding what Mr. Farr said. I do not know that it is worth while to lumber up *Hansard* with the evidence that is before the House in book form. But I followed the speech of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries very carefully, and I say that any one can read the evidence for himself, and he will see that anything that was omitted in reference to Farr does not help the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) one particle. The fact is, that Farr did make statements in regard to having received money that he did not receive, and there is no evidence that he did. He lied from first to last, when the truth would have answered him best, a foolish sort of lying that showed that he was not in a condition in which he was able to continue fraud even if he desired to perpetrate one. And now, in regard to Donald Cummings, we send that back to the committee without any suggestion that there is a single witness who can say more than has been said. The hon. member for Halifax said

in his speech the other night that the nine witnesses were in reference to another poll and to show that they had voted for McLean. So that is the whole case in reference to that. The hon. member for Westmoreland developed a new cause of complaint to-night. This is the first we have heard of it. We had cross-examination of the witnesses, these declarants who said they had voted for McLean as to whether they knew it was a declaration they signed, and whether they swore to it or not. The cross-examination was at some length, and that led to the cross-examination of the deputy returning officers as to the oath taken by them. Now, that brought out the fact, which, I suppose, will be paraded as something wrong, that these deputy returning officers did not take the oaths prescribed by law. I can only say that when the books were looked at, here were these oaths properly signed by the deputy returning officers. And, if they did not remember actually taking their oath, by taking the Bible in their hands or raising their hands and declaring it to be true in the sight of God, as it comes before the committee it is perfectly regular. I do not think that, with any show of reason, persons now will say in this House that because some little irregularity is alleged—is alleged, let it be understood—with regard to the taking of the oaths—

Mr. DAVIN. Little irregularity!

Mr. BRITTON. It is only an irregularity, an irregularity I have no doubt, which is very often perpetrated. No harm has come of it in regard to this particular matter, because you had an investigation of the ballots themselves. There have been two investigations of the ballots. First by recount, and second by the ballots of all being here before the committee of the House and in custody of the clerk of the committee. So that no harm is pretended to have occurred. So, if there was an irregularity, and I do not say there was not reason to think there was, it was not a matter for parliamentary inquiry, as it seems to me. The next point the hon. gentleman raises is as to the printing of the ballots. He said Mr. McGillicuddy made a statement in regard to the matter, which shows that you can fairly conclude that some fraud was perpetrated in reference to these ballots, and he read the evidence of Mr. McGillicuddy. Now, I want to read the evidence of Mr. McGillicuddy, and I will leave it to hon. gentlemen who heard the hon. member for Westmoreland read it, omitting some parts of it, to say whether there is anything suspicious in reference to that or not. This is the evidence as found on pages 299 and 301.

Q. You might explain how it is done?—A. The two blocks were put side by side and printed on one forme, and when a thousand impressions

had been taken off it represents two thousand ballots.

Q. What is the purpose of having two dies instead of only one, to save time and save press work is it?—A. Yes, to get them off in a hurry.

Q. Then after they were printed, the method was?—A. To put them, the ballots, under the knife, the guillotine.

Q. You were going on to describe the method; after the imprint was taken from the die or off the die. What was done with it?—A. What, the ballots?

Q. Mr. Sands himself that is?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, go on?—A. When the paper was cut we went on and printed them.

Q. Well, as to the parcels he gave you a list and the numbers that would be required for each polling subdivision?—A. Yes.

Q. Were these parcels put up by you?—A. None of these were put up by me.

Q. These were put up in your office?—A. Yes.

Q. By your workmen?—A. Yes.

Q. They were put up in parcels for the deputy returning officers?—A. No, for the returning officer and he passed them on to the deputies.

Q. They passed from your office directly into the hands of the returning officer?—A. Yes, he called for them.

Q. And parcelled them out to the different subdivisions?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you have some conversation with him about the ballots?—A. When he was going away finally I said: 'Are you sure that you are going to have enough ballots, because the hundred and fifty that you have ordered there over the six thousand represent 25 cents per hundred, and that is 37½ cents, and if you want more of them we won't do it for 25 cents per hundred, we will want 37½ cents as we can do them in quantities at that price but not if we have to put them on the press again.' He said he thought he had enough.

Q. You had some conversation about the price?—A. Yes. He said you can put down 38 cents if you like and that is all about that.

Q. He would allow you 38 cents, he was going to be handsome. Well, now there were more ballots of course which he did not take?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you those with you?—A. Yes.

Q. Will you give them to me?—A. Yes.

Ballots produced by witness.

Q. These are the three parcels which were left over after you had made the delivery to the returning officer?—A. Yes.

Q. Are those all the ballots that were left over?—A. All that I got that were left over.

Q. How many are there, there?—A. I think they are marked one hundred each, they were given to me as hundreds.

Q. That would represent three hundred?—A. Yes.

Q. And your men were supposed to have delivered six thousand one hundred and fifty?—A. Yes.

Q. And they actually did deliver that number; that would leave a difference of fifty?—A. There is always a certain amount of waste in anything of that kind and one per cent of six thousand one hundred and fifty would represent sixty-one and that would compensate for the difference.

Now, that is the evidence with reference to the ballots, and if it is true that there were only fifty ballots printed that were unaccounted for, this man who gives evidence, swears that they would all be more than accounted for by the waste that ordinarily exists. So the attack that is made upon

Mr. McGillicuddy by the hon. gentleman to-night for the first time, seems not to be fair. The committee's attention was not specially directed to this point made to-night for the first time, as something that is really important in the investigation. These are the only three points that are involved in regard to West Huron. When this investigation was going on, every attempt that was made by anybody to get at the truth, was declared by some of the Conservative press, to be obstruction, and an attempt to cover up fraud. They spoke then as they have spoken to-night, of a gang, they spoke of the machine; and the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), said that Bowles was there, and Linklater was there, and the friends of the government supplied the money. Now there is not one tittle of evidence for those statements.

Mr. SPROULE. I did not say that in committee.

Mr. BRITTON. Then you said it somewhere else.

Mr. SPROULE. I am willing to say it now.

Mr. BRITTON. You are willing to say it now. That is the beauty of it; you are willing to make the charge, but you have no evidence to sustain it.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. gentleman deny that the gang was in West Huron?

Mr. BRITTON. I deny that this gang was there at the instance of the government. I say there is no evidence that what the hon. gentleman calls a gang was there, except so far as appears by the evidence that is given to-night for the first time. We will have to deal with that by itself.

Mr. SPROULE. I saw some of them there myself, and I speak from knowledge.

Mr. BRITTON. Then the hon. gentleman's friends were there. Perhaps he could tell us who constituted the other gang, and what was the other gang doing. Have the friends of the government not as good a right to be represented there, as the party to which the member for East Grey belongs?

Mr. SPROULE. I was speaking of O'Gorman and Lewis, both of whom I saw there.

Mr. BRITTON. An attack was made to-night on the Postmaster-General, for being there, and on the Minister of Public Works for being there. Cannot hon. gentlemen conceive of men being there for an honest purpose?

Mr. QUINN. The attack on the Postmaster General was made for being in West Huron.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What for?

Mr. QUINN. For associating with these men.

Mr. BRITTON.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I was not here when such a reference was made to myself. May I ask the hon. gentleman to what he alludes?

Mr. QUINN. It was not I who made the statement; I was simply correcting the member for Kingston.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Well, I will see who made the statement before this debate closes.

Mr. BRITTON. Mr. Speaker, I hope we have not got down so low in politics that men cannot attend a political meeting, that they cannot go into a constituency to express their views on the policy of the government, without members of this House getting up and saying that they are either associating with a gang, or that they are there for fraudulent purposes, or are themselves guilty of fraud. There is such a thing as honesty and honour left yet, notwithstanding what hon. gentlemen opposite have said in regard to this case.

Now, with regard to Brockville. The member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), has introduced that subject this session, and given reasons why he asks for an investigation in Brockville. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has quoted his exact words of last session and I will not weary the House by quoting them again. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries has called attention to the trivial character of the charges that are made. Now, the hon. gentleman says that all this information in regard to Brockville is the result of the investigation of the committee. A committee appointed by whom? If the committee was a fair and impartial one, I suppose he ought to be satisfied with the result of its investigation. One would suppose that if the committee had found anything like fraud, there would be an investigation before the courts instead of hon. gentlemen limiting their investigation into the conduct of a deputy returning officer, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. But, he says, a boy picked up a ballot that he saw a man throw away. Now, if that man had the ballot for a fraudulent purpose, do you suppose he would throw it away where a boy could pick it up? Is that a likely story? Therefore, you are driven to the conclusion that the man had something which appeared to be a ballot, which was not a ballot, and that he was throwing it away, not for a fraudulent purpose, but for the purpose of destroying it, not dreaming that anybody would pick it up on the street and take it to anybody else. We also find that he says that he took another ballot presented by a Liberal worker to a voter who was asked to deposit that ballot, that he did not see fit to do so and that he placed the ballot in the hands of gentlemen who are prepared to produce it before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. There was a specific thing done by some-

body which, if it had been for a fraudulent purpose could have been dealt with very easily on that occasion. There was no necessity that this thing should be produced before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and if it was a lawyer who had it he would know that there was an easy way under the law to deal with it instead of being willing to produce it before the committee. Then he states also in regard to the polling subdivision of Elizabethtown that there was a large number of ballots marked for Comstock identically in the same way, that they were so folded as to show part of the cross, and that they were found in that position in the ballot box. Any one who will infer fraud from finding certain ballots in a certain position in the ballot box is going a long way indeed. It is impossible to tell how ballots are in the ballot box before they are turned out. Every person who has acted as a scrutineer in any election knows that. But, the person who tells us that the ballots are folded in a certain way in the ballot box, of necessity, cannot know that if the ballots are folded up as they generally are. I shall not go on with these particular matters in reference to Brockville that were dealt with by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but shall come to a conclusion, so far as Brockville is concerned, and then deal with the Pritchett affidavits. I may say here, and emphasize it, as part of the defence of myself in reference to the vote that I want to give in this matter, that it is a most material circumstance in this whole case that two persons in Brockville have been dealt with in a way that they ought to be dealt with, but, I may mention that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries was a little mistaken in thinking that these were deputy returning officers. It was one of these deputy returning officers, who, it is suggested, was trained by Pritchett, who was so keen and observant that he thought he detected a forged ballot that had been produced by a man named Gordon Empey, and he practically put Empey under arrest for producing what this deputy returning officer thought was a forged ballot. This man, Gordon Empey, who was said to have possession of a forged ballot was tried and was acquitted. My hon. friend thought to minimize the acquittal of this man by mentioning the fact that there were only two Conservatives on the jury, although I thought there were more. There were two honest Conservatives; that is all. These two men did not deal with the case as Conservatives, and the other ten men as Liberals, but they dealt with it according to the evidence, not according to the speeches made by hon. gentlemen in this House, or according to the suggestions and innuendoes of hon. gentlemen, but according to the evidence. They said that this was not a forged ballot, but that it was the actual ballot that the deputy returning officer had given him. The judge said,

on a recount that he would have counted that ballot as a good ballot. Another man named Wendling was charged with the possession of forged ballots, and placed under arrest, but afterwards the charge was withdrawn, and this is the position that we are in, concerning this matter. Now, then, I want to refer to what my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), who is here now, did when he introduced this matter to the House. Having given this statement in regard to what he was prepared to prove, of what he alleged in regard to Brockville, as was read from *Hansard* to-day, he asked: What do these things mean? He proceeded to state what they meant and would prove it by reading the confession that Mr. McNish gave up in West Elgin as proof of something that was done in Brockville, a confession that was given in a provincial election trial, the confession of a man who makes it in a suit for the purpose of terminating this suit. We know that a man will often make a confession of this kind, for the purpose of terminating a suit, although he knows very little of the facts of the case. He makes that confession in a provincial election trial, and the hon. member for Halifax, the good lawyer from Halifax, adduces the confession of Mr. McNish to prove guilt on the part of the Liberal workers in Brockville.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Is the hon. gentleman speaking of my remarks the other day?

Mr. BRITTON. I am speaking of your remarks, as read from *Hansard*, last year.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I may mention that the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) said that all that was needed was a plain statement and a committee would be granted at once.

Mr. BRITTON. I am dealing with the hon. gentleman as a lawyer.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am giving the hon. gentleman's leader's comments.

Mr. BRITTON. I am referring to the position you took as a lawyer.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman does not believe in his own leader.

Mr. BRITTON. I think if the hon. gentleman was trying to prove the guilt of any person in court he would not rely upon such evidence as that which he knows would not be received. If such evidence as that would not be received in a court, where is the fairness of bringing it up in this House and trying to couple Mr. McNish's confession in West Elgin with a charge of wrong-doing in Brockville. We have what has been said in regard to Brockville as well as in regard to West Huron. Then, hon. gentlemen bring forward to-night for the first time, the affidavits made by J. G. Pritchett, for a con-

sideration, as I shall mention in a minute or two. Pritchett has a record. Pritchett comes from a good Conservative school. He knows all the tricks of the trade.

Mr. TAYLOR. When they turn Grit they always turn bad.

Mr. BRITTON. He turned Grit for a consideration, I have no doubt.

Mr. McMULLEN. And he has turned Tory again, for a consideration.

Mr. BRITTON. Yes. We have seen his name mentioned in London. We find that long ago, when a friend of ours happened to get into the toils in London, the man who was against him then and who was concerned in putting the law to work was named Pritchett. I do not know what relation he bears to this Pritchett and I do not want to impute to this one anything which he may not be deserving of, but I know that a man named Pritchett was connected with an election trial many years ago in London, and that he was the relator in a trial. This Pritchett comes apparently from hiding in the United States. He went away to avoid prosecution, as he says himself, and having gone away to avoid prosecution he makes these affidavits in hiding. He stated in his evidence yesterday before the commission that he made these affidavits because he was paid for it by Mr. Barker, the organizer of the Conservative party. He states himself that he made his statement before that commission under the promise that he would not be proceeded against for the crime he had committed. This same gentleman—no, I shall withdraw that word—this same man, this same scoundrel, who gave his evidence before the commission, was pronounced, as was stated by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, by the judge as a self-convicted liar. That is what was said of him by the judge, and undoubtedly he is a self-confessed liar, a self-confessed refugee from justice, a self-confessed seller of his oath for a consideration, and we are asked to-night as to three affidavits made in Detroit to prosecute him in this country for perjury. We are asked to do that by a good lawyer. Why do you not prosecute him? If the hon. gentleman can discover a law under which we could prosecute a man here for perjury in an affidavit which he makes over in Detroit, Mich., I would like to know it. I do not think he can find any such law. Then he says to us: That is what you ought to do. I will tell him what he ought to do, and I think every gentleman here will agree with me. If that man's affidavit is true, then he was counselling and teaching them to commit a crime, and there was a conspiracy on the part of these deputy returning officers, and they can be prosecuted for that conspiracy, and then we will see who is telling the truth.

Mr. BRITTON.

Mr. TAYLOR. You prosecute them; they are government officers and you have the evidence.

Mr. BRITTON. That is for the local government to do. Any one can put the law in motion in reference to a conspiracy.

Mr. TAYLOR. Let the government go on and prosecute.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Lay your information before a magistrate.

Mr. BRITTON. There are crimes which are barred by expiration of time, but this is a conspiracy under the code, and you can prosecute at any time. Lay your complaint and the prosecution will go on. It is the first time that we have heard these affidavits. The hon. gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Borden) reads an extract from one the other night, and the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) read the others to-night, and I would like to know where they are. I want to see them.

Mr. TAYLOR. They are in the *Hansard* room.

Mr. BRITTON. I would like to see the original.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You would not like to see Pritchett before the committee though.

Mr. BRITTON. I would like to see him before the court. I invite the hon. gentleman to take him there where he will be protected by the judge, and where the counsel who will cross-examine him will be protected under the ordinary rules that prevail in criminal courts, and then we will see who is telling the truth. Now, with regard to Mr. Pritchett, when I read the statement in the newspaper of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), I thought I had better make a little inquiry in regard to Brockville. I did not know the deputy returning officers of the whole riding of Brockville, but I know the returning officers in the town of Brockville. It is true that Pritchett mentions the names of one or two deputy returning officers of the town of Brockville, but he mentions the names of two or three who were not deputy returning officers, and he is wrong in his affidavit in stating that these people were deputy returning officers at that election. I took the names down as they were mentioned by the hon. member (Mr. Powell), and I think I have them right. Pritchett in his affidavit says he met a man named Smith. I suppose there are many Smiths in Brockville, but there was no Smith in this instance who was a deputy returning officer in Brockville. He mentions a man named Cowan, but there was no such man deputy returning officer at Brockville. He also mentions a Mr. Jones. I want to tell this House who Mr. Jones is, and I no

more believe that Mr. Jones, the son of Mr. D. B. Jones, who was a Conservative all his life, and died a Conservative; I no more believe that Mr. Jones would accept training for an unlawful purpose than I believe any hon. member of this House would be guilty of it. I think you will find that Mr. Jones will contradict that as flatly as any man can contradict it. I mean Mr. Elmer W. Jones, who is a barrister and a son of the late D. B. Jones, and the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) will know him, because I think he was a government officer.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman is, I think, referring to the wrong Jones.

Mr. BRITTON. I am referring to the lawyer Jones there.

Mr. TAYLOR. This is not the man at all. Refer to the insurance Jones, the son of Jones the loan companies man.

Mr. BRITTON. Pritchett's affidavit refers to Jones who was a deputy returning officer, and that is the one I am concerned with. That deputy returning officer is Elmer W. Jones, who was a barrister, and he is the son of D. B. Jones, and I tell the House that Mr. Jones would no more be a party to be put in training by Pritchett for an unlawful act than would any hon. member of this House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is the hon. gentleman referring to the deputy returning officer in the town of Brockville only?

Mr. BRITTON. I said I only had the names of those.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not in the county?

Mr. BRITTON. Not in the county. I stated that I have only the names of the returning officers in the town of Brockville, and not in the rural part of the constituency. We only heard the names to-night, and the names of some of those in the town of Brockville are mentioned.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman is losing sight of the fact that the constituency of Brockville, is called Brockville, but it includes more than the town.

Mr. BRITTON. I do not lose sight of it, because I mentioned that I only made myself acquainted with those who were deputy returning officers in the town of Brockville.

Mr. WALLACE. But there were other deputy returning officers outside the town of Brockville.

Mr. BRITTON. Quite so, but the names of those mentioned in the town of Brockville are a sufficient guarantee that Pritchett's statement is not true. He mentions the name of James Robertson in that affidavit. Now, James Robertson was deputy sheriff for years, and he is an old resident

and well known. Whatever Mr. Robertson's business abilities may be he is not, in my opinion, capable of any such fraud as is charged here. He mentions some one who, he says, was deputy returning officer at the opera house, and the person he named was not deputy returning officer at the opera house at all. I do not know who was deputy returning officer at the poll of the opera house.

Mr. TAYLOR. He said lessee of the opera house.

Mr. BRITTON. The deputy returning officers in the town of Brockville are men who are well known and of good character. Those mentioned are men of good character, and so far as Pritchett's affidavit refers to any one of these, they are foul slanders against these people in my opinion, and I have no doubt we shall hear from them later. One word more with regard to this. I say without fear of successful contradiction, that apart from politics, there is not a man in this House, there is not a judge or a jury, that would hang a dog on the evidence of that man Pritchett; on affidavits made on such circumstances as have been mentioned; paid for by this man, Mr. Barker who was at Brockville and who investigated the cases brought before the court, and who pursued Pritchett to Detroit and got these affidavits for a money consideration to produce in this House. I say that is not fair party warfare; it is an attempt to hit below the belt, and it should not be countenanced in our political strife.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us see what cases should come before a committee. When there has not been any return and the facts clearly warrant a return, and where the case calls for speedy justice, that case should go before a committee. I do not pretend to say that this parliament has divested itself of any jurisdiction over matters affecting the purity of the House of Commons; and, particularly, it has not divested itself of control over its own officers; but, certainly it is not every case that ought to come before a committee of this House. Since this Act was passed, no case involving charges similar to those set up in regard to the West Huron and Brockville elections have been sent to that committee; and we ought not to establish the precedent now of sending such cases there. If such matters are to go to committees of the House of Commons, how much better off are we by reason of the legislation which has been passed for the very purpose of taking such matters away from the disturbing element of committees of the House of Commons? When election trials took place before committees, they were not regarded as fair tribunals by constitutional writers. It was felt that it was well to get rid of such prejudiced tribunals. I will read a short extract from Cox's 'British

Commonwealth,' on page 209, because the remarks, dealing with this subject, are very pertinent to the case we have in hand :

The existing provisions of law against bribery and intimidation of electors may be at once assumed to be inadequate. This inadequacy arises from several causes. In the first place, the adjudication on questions of bribery and corruption is given to tribunal peculiarly unfitted to act with judicial scrutiny and impartiality. If love of privileges had not an almost irresistible influence over human nature, the House of Commons would be utterly without excuse for the tenacity with which it maintains a power which it, of all bodies, ought to be the very last to covet. All means of preventing corruption of electors must be imperfect, so long as the tribunals which investigate it are chosen from the persons elected, and not from an independent body. True it is that great precautions are used to avoid choosing, on an election committee, members of the House of Commons personally interested in the result of its inquiry. But so long as bribery and corruption occur—as unhappily and indisputably they do in almost every part of the country—the members of that House will exercise very tenderly the powers entrusted to them. They may be—they are generally—men of integrity; but they are subject to human infirmities, and with however firm purpose they set out in their inquiry, it is too often shaken by a reflection that, if the sentence against corruption were strictly pronounced in every case, a large proportion of the elections would be invalidated. They know too well the manner in which elections are conducted to forget that such a sentence would frequently endanger their own seats. I quote that to show that an election committee is not the place to send matters of this kind to.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I would like to correct a statement he made a few moments ago, for I am satisfied he does not want to go on record as having made a false statement. I would say that Mr. Elmer Jones, of Brockville, a lawyer, who he said was a Conservative, is a son of the clerk of the Division Court there, Mr. D. B. Jones, also manager of the loan and savings society, who has been a Grit all his life, and whose son is one of the rankest of that kind that there is in Brockville.

Mr. BRITTON. Of course. I must accept the correction. I may say that I did not depend for the information on his being a son of Mr. D. B. Jones. The Jones I referred to was a lawyer in Brockville, who was afterwards made customs officer or postmaster.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is Bill Jones, an old bachelor, who never had a son. The hon. gentleman also made the statement that Pritchett made the affidavit that the men he named were returning officers in Brockville, while they were not. These gentlemen, to my knowledge, were returning officers, one at Lyn, and another a few miles back of Brockville.

Mr. BRITTON. Then, the hon. gentleman should bring charges against these men.

Mr. BRITTON.

Mr. TAYLOR. They are officers of this government; let them make the prosecution.

Mr. BRITTON. I submit, in addition to what was said this afternoon, that the charges made are not the kind that should come before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. What occurred in connection with the West Huron case, before the first sitting of the committee, the speeches made in this House and the editorial articles in the newspapers, all prove that it is not in the public interest that such charges should be investigated by that committee; and since the passing of these Acts, no such case has gone there. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that in these investigations you are only on the fringe of the corruption that ought to be unearthed. If that is true, why did not those who thought there was any such corruption in these constituencies as has been alleged avail themselves of the privilege that is given to them by the Act recited this afternoon? It would have taken no more trouble for these men—and they were quite within the time to do it—to get the petition of twenty-five electors, than was required to get their declarations; and if they believed the charges, there was no difficulty in putting the law in motion. It is worth noting how careful the law has been framed in regard to the particular offences it is intended to cover. Everything is provided for, whether fraudulent ballots or neglect of duty, or fraudulent acts individually or in concert with others; and penalties are recoverable in the way mentioned; so that, there is no excuse for gentlemen coming here and saying, we want an investigation, for they can get it before a judicial tribunal, where it will be properly hedged about and guarded. There has been, from first to last, in this matter, a great outcry. There is no doubt that this is part of an organized plan of an election campaign, which is started with an attempt to make the government responsible for frauds which are alleged, but which cannot be proved. I do not say that all these elections have been pure. I do not say that there have not been improper practices to some extent in the different elections, but what I do say is, that there is no more responsibility for these practices resting on members of this House, who have had nothing to do with these particular constituencies, than there is on men who were not in politics at all. But an organized plan of attack has been made by hon. gentlemen opposite, with the object of trying to convince the people that these things were done by this side of the House, and that we are attempting to burk an inquiry. We are doing nothing of the kind. Nothing is further from our desire.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BRITTON. We court an inquiry, but that is a very different thing from calling for an inquiry before a prejudiced tribunal,

where you will be howled down when you attempt to bring out the facts. That is what was said in England, and what I say now. I say that this Privileges and Elections Committee of this House is not the place where can fairly be tried an offence of the description brought before this House. No one who knows the procedure before that committee will fail to agree in that opinion. All sorts of irrelevant testimony was admitted before it last session. No specific charge was made, and yet allegations based on no specific charge were allowed to be investigated, and names were bandied about without regard to reputations, and insinuations of the grossest kind indulged in, without any let or hindrance. If that is a proper place to try matters of this grave and important description, I am much mistaken. But in the courts every opportunity is given and every safeguard is afforded in the trials of such cases. Our judges have dealt with cases of this kind before, and dealt with them fairly. We have had the case of ballot-stuffing in Manitoba, the case of the Queen vs. Saunders, that came before the court there, and was fully investigated, and resulted in a conviction. If that court allowed a man to say for whom he had voted, it did so because the seat of no member of the House was thereby endangered, and the only matter in question was the crime itself. In the case of Hastings against Summerfeldt, the defendant was a returning officer. The plaintiff had inadvertently marked his ballot for the wrong candidate, and he showed his ballot so wrongly marked, and asked for a new one. But the deputy returning officer showed it to some persons in the polling booth, and refused to return it, and put it in the box, so that the man's vote was counted against the candidate for whom he had intended to vote. The judge in that case, Judge Falconbridge, said that, under the Election Act, the deputy returning officer was guilty of a breach of duty, and liable to a penalty. In the case of the Queen against Sturdy, Chief Justice Wilson said :

A person who does an act which a statute, on public grounds, has prohibited generally, is liable to an indictment for misdemeanour, and it is not necessary that the statutes should prohibit such an act in express language.

The defendant's name appeared on the voters' list, but before the election he lost the right to vote. He voted without having at the time qualification. Held that he was guilty of a criminal offence and was rightly indicted for a misdemeanour.

There is a case reported in the Law Journal, 1883, page 377, in which case a vote was tendered by a voter who had the right to vote, and refused, and the deputy returning officer was held liable to a penalty, although he had acted in perfect good faith.

In the case of Muskoka and Parry Sound, Judge Gowan, now a member of the Senate, whom everybody respects, held that irregular acts or omissions by a deputy return-

ing officer, in dealing with ballots, do not warrant disallowance, and he allowed written ballots to be counted, furnished by the deputy returning officer, because the printed ballots had given out, although no such contingency was provided for by law. In his judgment, he said :

If acts challenged and fraud charged, these should be inquired into, on an election trial or action or a charge against the deputy returning officer.

So that the courts give every possible latitude with reference to all these matters.

It does not seem to me quite fair that hon. gentlemen opposite should excite themselves so much on these matters, as if they were the only purists in this country. They ought to remember that they have a record which it would not be wise for them to make too public. The hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), told the young men of Toronto, that they ought to read the history of the Conservative party, and I believe that my hon. friend, who usually sits in the place I now occupy, had something to say about this the other night. It would be well for them, before they shout so much against the Liberals of this country, to look back on the history of their own party. I know very well the objection that may be raised to the *tu quoque* argument. I know that two wrongs do not make one right. But none the less, it would do these hon. gentlemen some good if they would recall the history of their own party, with reference to these election frauds. We have had lately before the courts of Ontario, a lot of trials for election frauds, and a lot of convictions, and the convictions were not all of persons on the one side of politics. There were both Conservatives and Reformers implicated, and I do not know or care, whether there were more Conservatives or Reformers, but I do know that men who stand high in the councils of the party opposite, have been found guilty of corrupt practices. I know that one man, who ran against the present member for South Ontario (Mr. Burnett), admitted corrupt practices, and the judges wondered that he himself was not brought up for trial and punishment. But he goes about unmolested, although no doubt his conduct was open to just the same charges of corruption as hon. gentlemen opposite are so lavish in making, with regard to the elections in West Huron, Brockville and West Elgin.

We also know something about what took place at North Renfrew. And we know that in the constituency of South Leeds, before the hon. gentleman who now represents that constituency, had anything to do with it, and who, I dare say, conducts a pure election, hordes were torn loose to defeat the Hon. A. N. Richards in an election contest and that constituency was ankle-deep in corruption. The same thing may be said of North Renfrew, where we know all the foreigners there voted for the Conservative

candidate. And coming later down, we can find many cases in which the corruption was not all practised on the one side, so that it hardly lies in the mouth of these hon. gentlemen to make the charges they do. It may not be out of place for me to refer to the former head of the Conservative party, a man of undoubted ability and against whom no one would desire to say anything—the late Sir John A. Macdonald—but who was very nearly disqualified in an election trial.

Mr. WILSON. Where ?

Mr. BRITTON. In Kingston, when he was unseated in 1874. The trial took place before Chief Justice Richards; and before it went very far, such gross corruption was shown to have been practised, that the late Sir John Macdonald abandoned his seat, and the trial was continued as to the personal charges against him. The judge reserved judgment on the personal charges, and I will read this one clause of his decision :

I must confess I have been very much embarrassed in coming to a conclusion satisfactory to myself. If it was not that I felt compelled to look upon this branch of the case in the nature of a penal proceeding, requiring that the petitioner should prove his allegation affirmatively by satisfactory evidence, and that he might have given some further evidence to have repelled some of the suggestions in respondent's favour, if such suggestions were not reasonable ones, I should feel bound to decide against the respondent.

The election was set aside and all costs against him, even to the costs of pursuing the personal charges on which the petitioner failed. So, it has not been all on one side, if we go into the matter historically, or simply deal with it according to our own memory. For that reason I think hon. gentlemen ought not to make of this a party question that they are making such a tremendous to-do about, but they might be modest, fair and candid and deal with it in a fair way. I will conclude with this very short summary which I wish to put on record :

1. Upon the facts alleged, neither West Huron or Brockville is a proper case to go to the Elections Committee of the House of Commons.

2. The law having defined offences, attached penalties and punishments for the commission of those offences, and having provided means for trial before judge and jury, and having provided a mode for the recovery of pecuniary penalties, it is not intended that such violation of the election law as is alleged here should go to a committee.

3. Assuming it to be true, as alleged (and it is not true—

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) is reading his speech.

Mr. BRITTON. I am not reading my speech.

Mr. BRITTON.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, that is the hon. gentleman's speech and he is reading that. The reading of a speech is strictly forbidden under the rules.

Mr. BRITTON. I am not reading my speech, I am reading a succinct conclusion.

Mr. WALLACE. I object to succinct conclusion. That is another name for reading his speech, and that is strictly forbidden by the rules of the House.

Mr. BRITTON. I will conclude by saying: Assuming it to be true, as alleged (and it is not true, but, on the contrary, many of the alleged acts are the purest fiction), no good can be accomplished by sending these cases to the committee.

The seat is not attacked.

No specific charge is made against any one.

There is no power to punish in any adequate or proper way any person found guilty.

There is no proper protection to the accused against improper modes of examining witnesses.

There is no way of excluding irrelevant and incompetent evidence.

4. I say this is not burking inquiry. These alleged facts were all known in time for an election petition, or in time for a petition to the House of Commons, in time for charges, as some were charged, in the courts.

5. The whole parade of this matter in the House and by the Conservative party is in pursuance of a plan and is characterized by such apparent want of good faith that we should not permit another dollar to be added to the thousands spent in a perfectly useless inquiry, an inquiry that must result in nothing as to finding out guilt or punishing it.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, the country will be greatly surprised, to-morrow, when the announcement is made in the public press that the government have seen fit to change the position they took last year in reference to the investigation of the frauds in Brockville and West Huron. The members of the Liberal party throughout the country who are hide-bound partisans will receive the statement with the greatest pleasure. That goes without saying. The Ontario government were reckless enough to court an investigation with reference to certain election frauds practised in that province; and last year when this government, very foolishly according to the opinion of the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) and others, permitted an investigation to be allowed, they were reprimanded very strongly for having done so. There is one very striking feature in this debate and that is this—the Department of Justice is represented in this House by the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), and

the Solicitor General, doubtless realizing the weakness of the case and thinking of its many imperfections and the disadvantage under which he would labour, passed that load over to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). And partly by speaking and partly by reading arguments, whether prepared by himself or by somebody else, that hon. gentleman endeavoured to persuade himself that the government were right in taking the right-about-face action that they have taken to-day. Let me tell the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the government that the people of Canada are not concerned as to any fine points of law in reference to these inquiries. The people of Canada to-day are looking to the government and asking whether the sacred rights of the ballot are to be trampled under foot by organized force and fraud, and whether this is to be permitted for all time to come. I must pay some attention to the remarks of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton), who has just resumed his seat. He declared throughout his remarks that the reputations of certain men had been assailed in this connection; and before he sat down he saw fit to make the statement that the affidavits made by this man Pritchett had been secured by payment of a sum of money by Mr. Barker of Hamilton. I tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) that the statement that Mr. Barker had procured these affidavits by the payment of money is without one tittle of proof.

Mr. BRITTON. He stated it yesterday.

Mr. BENNETT. Where?

Mr. BRITTON. Before the commissioners.

Mr. BENNETT. I venture the statement that Pritchett never made such a statement and I deny what the hon. gentleman has said on that point. Two lines of defence have been adopted by the hon. gentleman. The first is that there should be no inquiry because this is a trivial and petty matter, and the second is that the Conservative party have been just as bad in the past. But the hon. gentleman must recollect that he and his friends on that side are political Pharisees. For years they have been telling the people that they were the Puritans, that if they were afforded an opportunity this country would see political morality such as it had never witnessed. This country has witnessed political morality! It has been dragged down to such degradation by heelers who have gone around headed by ministers of the Crown that we see to-day what we have never seen before. A church synod—I refer to the Presbyterian synod of Ontario—has felt it incumbent upon it to deplore the prevalence of corruption and these frauds that have been perpetrated throughout the country. I do not think the hon. member for Kingston can find in the 20 years of Conservative rule any case

where a church organization felt called upon to place itself on record on account of infamous practices in connection with elections. What has been this chapter of crime—because it is the fullest chapter of crime known in Canada, not only on account of its villany but because it has been condoned by those who have the administration of criminal law in their hands? The hon. member for Kingston says: Why does not Pritchett prosecute these men? I tell the hon. gentleman, and the House knows it well, that, to-day, the administration of law in the province of Ontario is in the hands of the hon. gentleman's friends. They know that Pritchett has been in the country for the last two or three weeks, and why is he not prosecuted? They allow him to walk free the streets of St. Thomas. Why? Because he can involve men of his own stamp? Nothing of the kind, but because he can place men who are high in authority in this country in a position where they will be driven to go into the box and perjure themselves, as Lewis did the other day, or else admit the truth of their connection with that gang. Why is it that Pritchett, this man who charges himself openly with crime, why does not the criminal law of Ontario reach out and prosecute him? It is for the reason he has stated when he met Mr. Barker in the city of Detroit, and said: If the Conservatives won't prosecute me, I fear no prosecution from the Liberals. And so he is permitted to roam around the country, and the friends of the hon. gentlemen dare not prosecute him. Now, what started this whole carnival of corruption, commencing in the summer of 1896? Beaten in his own riding, the now Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) was forced to go to the riding of North Grey, and there for the first time was seen a spectacle of corruption, a carnival of crime, that has only been excelled in West Huron. Headed by the Postmaster General and the member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland), a crowd of men invaded that riding. There was Cap. Sullivan, there was Lewis, and a whole lot of other members of the gang. And what was the result? A riding that had been Conservative for years was carried by the Liberals with a majority of over 450. Flushed with their success in that riding, the gang moved on to the next election which took place in Cornwall. Doctor Bergin had had a majority in that riding of 400, and that was changed by the gang into a majority on behalf of the present member of upwards of 500. It is true, the Conservatives believed that public opinion had changed, not by the means we know now that produced the result, but by means of a plentiful expenditure of money. What happened next? There were coming on three more elections, and the forces had to be divided. There was an election in North Ontario, and one in East Simcoe, and one in South Brant. The Postmaster

General and the member for North Oxford parted company. Part of the gang was brought up by the Postmaster General into the riding of East Simcoe, and part of the gang was taken down to the riding of South Brant. As a result of its operation Mr. Henry was defeated in South Brant. But the returning officer in East Simcoe, so far as my knowledge goes, was an estimable gentleman, and when I asked him for the names of the deputies who were to be appointed, and he told me, I said to him, flatly and fairly: 'Mr. Miller, if you permit those men to act as deputies I will hold you responsible for any frauds that occur.' And he, having a reputation to sustain, secured another list of names who were substituted. Well, what took place in that riding? There was a man named Hanna employed by the Grand Trunk Railway to pass up and down and see if the conductors indulged in stealing, and this man was brought into the riding to go from one end to the other, and there in the town of Orillia he was found closeted with a certain Minister of the Crown. Sir, the statement that I make here to-night I have made outside of this House, and I shall continue making it, and I have afforded this man Hanna every opportunity to bring me into court to prove the truth or falsity of that statement—I state that he was found closeted with a Minister of the Crown, and that Minister was the Postmaster General.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman's statement is absolutely without foundation.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman says the statement that he was closeted with this man Hanna is without foundation. At the nomination in West Huron I made the statement publicly on the platform, and there defied the Postmaster General, as I defy him now, and as I defy Hanna, to bring me into court and I will prove the truth of my statement by credible witnesses.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It is an absolute falsehood.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, the public will judge whether a man will rest under a falsehood if he is able to clear himself. I know that in the riding of East Simcoe the people believe that Hanna was closeted with the Postmaster General, and no power can make them think otherwise. Now, what happened next? A series of local elections then came on. The election of the Hon. John Dryden was contested, and a by-election followed in the riding of South Ontario. But before I leave that subject, let me say that a minister himself told me in the corridor that if I did not keep quiet in making these attacks on certain ministers the machine would be turned into the riding of East Simcoe. Well, I invite the machine into the riding

Mr. BENNETT.

of East Simcoe, and they will meet with a worse defeat than they have ever suffered yet. What happened next? As a consequence of fraud certain by-elections were going on in the province of Ontario for the local House. It was thought absolutely necessary that improper means should be resorted to to win South Ontario. In North Waterloo and other ridings the same gang that took part in the West Huron and Brockville elections were to be found in force and activity. Now, hon. gentlemen opposite complain that the statement of this man Pritchett is untrue. Well, why don't they prosecute Pritchett if his statement is untrue? And who is the man that says that Pritchett is not to be believed? It is Mr. Thomas Lewis, the man concerning whom the following evidence was given in the witness box on the occasion of the trial of the North Waterloo election. Mr. A. R. Shantz deposed in substance the following:

Lewis sat down and proceeded to tell me what was to take place. He said they proposed to pay \$5 apiece for every ballot spoiled or switched. He took a piece of paper and put a piece of lead under his thumb, and showed us how to pick the ballot up so that when seen it was a spoiled ballot. He showed me how to switch the ballots also, and said they would be worth the same. He said he should get all in the room to handle the ballots, so then all might be said to have a hand in what was done if there was any trouble. He said he would not pay any more than twenty, so that \$100 was the limit a man might make in this way. Lewis said we would be protected from trouble, that they would protect us. I asked Lewis as to what would be done if there was a recount. He said it would be fixed up so that it would come out the same, and that he would have too large a majority, anyway, for a recount.

Yet this Lewis is the worthy creature of whom Chief Justice Meredith said on the bench, in reference to the same case, that no reliability was to be attached to his statements. And because Lewis says that what Pritchett has deposed to is untrue we are asked to believe that all the statements made by Pritchett are untrue. Now, this is what Chief Justice Meredith said in reference to Lewis in the North Waterloo case:

That the witness Lewis was a party to it is also established—notwithstanding his denial by oath—by an overwhelming weight in quality as well as quantity of evidence. After hearing his own evidence one is not surprised to hear of his being engaged in bribery and other corrupt practices.

Pritchett, all through this affidavit, says that whenever he went into West Huron the first man he met was Mr. Alexander Smith, the Liberal organizer, and that Mr. Smith at once introduced him to certain men to whom he gave certain instructions. The member for Kingston and hon. gentlemen opposite say that they want the truth to come out. If they want the truth to come out why don't they bring these men face

to face with Pritchett? Does any man believe the statement of Cummings, the deputy returning officer, in the evidence he gave in that case? Here is a man who swears that the poll was held in a building that was rarely used, in which men were expectorating, and where he expectorated himself, the floor was covered with tobacco juice, and the statement he makes is this: 'I placed these counterfoils in my pocket, because I did not wish to litter the floor.' And the guileless member for Kingston stated in his remarks that that was a very frequent habit. I challenge the member for Kingston or any other man to say that he ever saw a deputy placing these counterfoils in his pocket. What follows next? When Cummings is asked, he says: I took the counterfoils home and burned them. Why, in the name of common sense, did you not burn them in the stove in the ballot booth? He said: Because there was no fire in the stove, and before the words were cold upon his lips he admitted that it was in the middle of February, that it was a cold day, and that there was a fire in the stove. This is the guileless Mr. Cummings, by whose actions he is to be judged rather than by his oath. In addition to the circumstances of suspicion attached to him, we have the statement made by Pritchett that he had instructed him in the art of stealing ballots. If Mr. Cummings is the innocent that the hon. member for Kingston tries to persuade this House that he is, why is not Cummings brought here and confronted by Pritchett? You can have Pritchett here at any time you like. He is defying you, he is defying the provincial authorities, he is daring them to bring him face to face with these people, but the ministers are afraid to confront Pritchett. The hon. member for Kingston says: Here are a dozen reputable men, who were selected by the returning officer in Brockville, because they were all reputable and honest men. If they are reputable and honest men and friends of these hon. gentlemen, because they are, why does not the Prime Minister say, now, that having the evidence of Pritchett before us, we will summon these twelve or fifteen deputy returning officers, confront them with Pritchett, and prove whether they are guilty or not. Why are not all these men Boull, Jones, Nealson, Kelly, Robinson, Cowan, Upham, King, Smith and Truesdale confronted by Pritchett? These are the men that they say are reputable men, one a practising barrister in Brockville, and another a bookkeeper for the hon. member for Brockville (Mr. Comstock). Why does not the hon. member for Brockville insist upon his bookkeeper being brought here? The hon. member for Brockville is a man of means. If, as the hon. member for Kingston says, the country has suffered too much already, I think if the hon. member for Brockville has any regard for his bookkeeper, or any regard for his own reputation, he should

be willing to bear the cost of an investigation, and have Pritchett meet his bookkeeper face to face. These hon. gentlemen think they can brazen the matter out. They think that because they have a servile majority behind them, it is the voice of the country. I can tell them that they will find that it is not the voice of the country. They will find that the voice of the country will make itself heard at the right time; they will find what Mr. Hardy found in Ontario in the two ridings of Elgin. Mr. Hardy brazened it out as long as he could, and then he gave way to that archbrazen, Mr. Ross. Mr. Hardy withdrew from the public gaze of a public position, and when the Ontario government were reckless enough to allow an investigation into West Elgin, these hon. gentlemen began to abuse Pritchett. What is the press saying to-day about the farce that is going on in Ontario? These three judges and the counsel who are prosecuting that matter permit the press of Ontario to deride them, to scoff at them, and to treat them with the most utter contempt. These judges are afraid to attempt to move a hand to prosecute the proprietors of these newspapers for contempt of court, because it would be contempt of court of a most aggravated kind if their statements were not true, and it is not contempt of court if they are true. What does the *St. Thomas Times* say:

Counsel of the same political stripe as the scoundrels who committed the crimes are given charge of the case, one of them a man who had been previously engaged in concealing these very frauds.

The reference is to Mr. R. A. Grant, a practising lawyer of Toronto, who is associated with Mr. Watson in prosecuting these crimes. As Mr. Whitney said on the floor of the Ontario legislature: If we are allowed to appear by counsel, and if the investigation is made full and fair, we will place Mr. Grant in the category of the criminals. Yet, this same Mr. Grant is one of the prosecuting attorneys:

The commissioners refuse to permit them to do so. No one but the counsel whose party's interest it is to conceal the frauds and the former counsel of the men responsible for them can get the ear of the commission. . . . A direct encouragement to these men to do so. They are exempt from cross-examination. They are exempt from contradiction by other witnesses. For no adverse interest is allowed to be represented. . . . More than this, the prosecutors, by sneering at, browbeating and abusing those who confess to doing wrong, hangs a threat over witnesses who do not swear themselves clear. Pritchett is an example. Whatever his character or crimes (and he was once prominent in his party), he has been roughly and unfairly dealt with by the commission, in such a way as to discourage disclosure of the frauds the commission is supposed to be here to investigate. . . . The slick Tom Lewis, who was reported in North Waterloo, and whom the High Court judges then said they could not believe on oath, and others of his ilk, who 'can lie as deftly as a Russian diplomat,' are handled

almost, as has been said, 'with all the solicitude of a Sunday school teacher.' They tell a smooth story, exculpate themselves, are patted on the back and go free.

That is the style of a commission that is going on in Ontario, and then these hon. gentlemen who have charge of that commission abuse Mr. Pritchett. Judged apparently from the tone of the public press, they would not permit Pritchett to say anything. We know that money was paid to the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite in order to get them out of the country. We know that after that scoundrelly Goderich election, Linklater was paid to get out of the country, and yet, hon. gentlemen think that they can brazen out this thing. But, the climax in this West Huron election was reached when we heard the pious and worthy Mr. Preston say that he brought into the riding Cap Sullivan, Macdonald and others because he knew they were men who would ever frown down anything wrong. Well, the public will have to take Mr. Preston at his word, and the public will have to take Pritchett at his word. This pious and unctuous Preston was so disgusted at the idea of anything wrong and improper, he said that it was such a rude shock that he would be some time before he would recover. What does Pritchett say of Mr. Preston in regard to the South Ontario election, when Mr. Dryden was unseated?

Monday, the day before the election, Mr. W. T. R. Preston arrived at Oshawa. He told me he had come from Whitby. I had seen him at the nomination, and we knew each other when we met at Oshawa. Jack Brant and he had driven over from Whitby. As I stood in the hall at the foot of the stairs Preston said to me: I want you to go down to Whitby. I want some help there to-night. I said I would go. That evening I drove to Whitby and met Preston in his room at the Commercial Hotel. Brant was in the room. He had gone up either with me or just before me. Preston said: 'I will be ready for you in a minute.' Brant and I went into a room near by. In a few minutes Preston came into that room, and handed me \$50 in \$2 bills. He said nothing and went out again.

All through this affidavit in reference to West Huron, Pritchett does as he did in these other cases. He names a number of these men who he instructed in the art of stealing and switching ballots. The public believe that such a carnival of crime and corruption has never been carried on in this country, and it is no wonder that church conferences have been so far driven as to remark the prevalence of this sort of crime in the country. Who is going to put down crime in Ontario? The Ontario government, who are the administrators of the law will not put down crime. Why? Because I do not believe that such men as Smith, Preston, Threlkeld and Vance are going to perjure themselves, and if they do not perjure themselves they are going to tell the truth of their wrong-doing. These men

are going to be driven into this position, that they will have to explain where they got the money spent in these elections, and how it came to be used in this wrong-doing. The result of it all would be, that it would link together such a chain of crime that Mr. Pritchett can afford to proclaim himself the biggest scoundrel in Ontario, and yet the innocent Ontario government says: 'We like to encourage this kind of thing in the country, so you can walk about a free man, Mr. Pritchett. These gentlemen opposite are afraid to bring these Brockville deputy returning officers to confront them with Pritchett. They are afraid to put them on their oath, before a committee of this House, and why? It is because some of them, at least, may tell the truth, and it is the truth that this government wishes to avoid. What an illogical and ridiculous position does the government occupy in this. Last year when the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), said that he believed that he could prove certain things on the information given him, the Prime Minister at once replied: We court and invite an inquiry; you can have it. The inquiry went on. I will not say a word about the mode in which that inquiry was conducted. Of that the public can judge for themselves, and they have judged. This year the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), comes forward, and he is balked in every way, and denied an inquiry. If the government with a majority at their backs were anxious for an inquiry, it was theirs to say on the very first day of the session, that there must be an inquiry, and the inquiry would commence. If, on the other hand, it was the wish of the government that there should be no inquiry, as we now know it to be the fact, then it was the policy of the government to take the course they have taken to-day. Last year, on the bald statement of the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), that he believed the evidence in his possession was true, the Prime Minister was pleased to grant an investigation. This year, with sworn testimony of accumulative crime in West Huron, and the Premier says through his minister (Sir Louis Davies): 'There shall be no inquiry.' Last year with hardly any evidence at all, in the case of Brockville—and although the Prime Minister said the Brockville case was weak, he held there should be an investigation. But what does the Prime Minister say to-day? There are the names of a dozen men, political friends of his own; there are the names of a dozen men who supported the hon. member for Brockville (Mr. Comstock); there is the name of his own bookkeeper, charged with crimes, dark and black, and the hon. member for Brockville does not call on this government to give his bookkeeper an opportunity to prove himself innocent. What is the reason of that? It must be one of two things. Either the member for Brockville and his friends know the guilt of these men, or else, they are afraid these men will tell

the truth. The hon. gentleman from Brockville (Mr. Comstock), knows that for the past six months, citizens of that town have been across the line in the United States, afraid to return home for fear of criminal prosecutions.

These gentlemen opposite say: Why do you not prosecute these men criminally? Forsooth, prosecute them criminally for political crimes in the province of Ontario? That newspaper proves what a farcical proceeding that would be. Give these prosecutions into the hands of men who scoff at the law, who make a football of law and justice in the province of Ontario, what a farce that is? And yet the government are driven to this position, that the public believe to-day that they are afraid to prosecute these men for fear some of them might tell the truth. Where is the government going to stand?

Mr. COCHRANE. They are going to fall.

Mr. BENNETT. Where is their majority in this House that was always prepared to applaud them? I have seen gentlemen opposite applaud everything the government did; applaud the Yukon deal, applaud the Drummond County deal, and to-night these applauders and clacquers are not in the House, but are transferred to government positions. Yes, more than that. If the Liberal members were in their seats, there are twenty men on that side of the House whose names in the public press and throughout the country are associated with government positions to come. There is the member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), who gets up to justify this conduct of the government, and his own paper has named him for a government position.

Mr. BRITTON. That is the old story.

Mr. BENNETT. Well, if the Kingston *Whig* will persist in saying that he is to get a judgeship, I cannot stop that paper. And, when the member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), endeavours to bolster up the government in this, or in any other dark proceeding, then he must be prepared to take the hard knocks that are in politics, for let me tell him that politics are not five o'clock tea parties by any means. Time will tell whether the Kingston *Whig* is right when it says that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton), will either get a Superior Court judgeship, or a senatorship.

Mr. COCHRANE. Which will you have?

Mr. BENNETT. Speaking for myself, I regret sincerely, that the government should take this stand. I do not believe that human nature is as dark and evil throughout as it is in the case of Preston, as it is in the case of Pritchett, as it is in the case of Lewis and the others. I believe that these men who were recommended in Brockville, as respectable men to take charge of polls; I believe that while these men were led to

Mr. BENNETT.

commit the crimes Pritchett says they did commit, still they are not so black and perjured in their souls as to take false oaths, in order to defend gentlemen opposite. I believe that some of them at least would tell the truth, and it is because the government fear that, and for that reason alone, that they are afraid to take these men from Brockville, to confront them with Pritchett, and to prove the truth or falsity of his statement. Mr. Speaker, I have nothing more to say, beyond this: If there was reason last year, in the opinion of the government, to merit an investigation, how much stronger are not these reasons to-day? There must, in a short while, be an appeal to the grand inquest of the nation; the people of this Dominion, and if the people of this Dominion are prepared to encourage this sort of wrongdoing; if they are prepared to say that the sacred rights of the ballot—and it is a sacred right of free men—are to be trampled under foot by an organized gang of scoundrels whose villanies are condoned by the government, then I can only say: God help the country that is under the power of an organized mob such as that whose dark deeds have been brought to light in connection with the West Huron and Brockville elections.

Mr. RUSSELL moved the adjournment of the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). It is rather early to adjourn at this period of the session, but I hope hon. gentlemen will not object. My hon. friend is not in very good health this evening.

Some hon. MEMBERS. All right.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What business to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. There is only one business that is to be disposed of. We want to clear that off the record, and then proceed to business.

THE FOX BAY SETTLERS.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). Before the House adjourns, I wish to read an article which appears in the *Montreal Witness* to-night, and to ask the Premier if the statements therein contained are true. The article is as follows:

Quebec, May 15.—Several of the French papers here publish the following letter, alleged to have come from Ottawa: 'Probably disagreeable news is expected here from Anticosti in a few days. The famous settlers on the island (Fox Bay), who were to have left last September, are still there and showing no sign or willingness to leave, notwithstanding the judgments, the agreements entered into and the offers of the Federal government, which offered them lands, transportation and provisions. The settlers do not want these. What they want is money. The case

is one of regular blackmail. They further ask to be allowed to remain on the island until next September. The same dilly-dallying farce that has been going on for two years is still being played. But Mr. Menier wants an end put to it. Mr. Commettant, governor of the island, and Mr. Martin, Mr. Menier's agent, left Rimouski last week with the Rev. Dr. Griffiths, commissioned by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to try and settle the difficulty, and are going to make a fresh effort of persuasion to get these people out. The government has placed at their disposal the federal cruiser 'Constance.' If this fails, force must be resorted to. As already stated, the news from Anticosti is anxiously awaited here.

I would like to know from the Prime Minister if the statements made there are correct, or if he has any knowledge of them?

The PRIME MINISTER. What statements? There are so many there that I would like to know from my hon. friend what information he wants from me.

Mr. WALLACE. What about the cruiser *Constance*?

The PRIME MINISTER. The cruiser *Constance* is not at the service of Mr. Menier. Mr. Menier has his own boat, I understand.

Mr. TAYLOR. Is the cruiser *Constance* carrying Dr. Griffith or Mr. Menier's agent, Mr. Martin, at the instance of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, as stated here?

The PRIME MINISTER. No, it is not so. I have not been asked to provide for Dr. Griffith, who is a reverend gentleman who takes an interest in the settlers. It is quite probable that he has been taken on board the *Constance*, which cruises in that district every year. With regard to the settlement of this matter, I have no objection to state what I know. Mr. Menier has obtained a judgment and conviction against the men known as the Fox Bay settlers. The hon. gentleman brought the matter to the attention of the House in the early part of the session. He knows that we have taken some interest in those people. We have offered to give them lands in the North-west Territories wherever they choose to have them, and I understand that they have selected a block of land on the shore of either Lake Winnipeg or Lake Winnipegosis—I am not sure which at this moment; and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at my instance has agreed to carry them to their destination. I suppose there will be no objection raised by the supporters of the government if we transfer them from Anticosti to the Pacific Railway station at Quebec. We are ready to do that at any time they ask us to do so. They have asked a respite from Mr. Menier, the proprietor of the island, for a few months, until midsummer or the month of August, to carry out the judgment, and Mr. Menier, I am informed, has refused to grant it. That is all I know of the matter at the present time.

Mr. TAYLOR.

THE CANADIAN EXHIBIT AT PARIS.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). Before the adjournment, I would like to have the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) tell us briefly if he can, in what condition is the Canadian exhibit at Paris, particularly the cold storage part of it. I think Professor Robertson went away at short notice owing to some trouble in connection therewith.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I am very glad to give the hon. gentleman the information he desires. The reports which I have from the Chief Commissioner in Paris, my colleague, Mr. Tarte, are that the Canadian exhibit is in an advanced stage of preparation—that it is practically the most advanced of any exhibit at the exhibition, with the exception, possibly, of the German exhibit, which I understand is a little more advanced than ours. With regard to the cold storage exhibit, there was a mistake made by the contractor for the building in carrying out the instructions sent from here. The result was that the architect in charge under the Imperial commission did not see his way to make the changes necessary to carry out our views, fearing that they would entail considerable expense. After several communications by cable, I thought it best for Mr. Robertson to go over and see if he could arrange to harmonize the actual construction with his plans for a proper exhibit. He has reported to me since his arrival that he has succeeded in doing that, and that the cold storage arrangements are very nearly if not quite completed. I received a letter from him yesterday, in which he stated that he hoped in about a week or ten days that they would be completed, and that without much expense.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the cost of the buildings?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot give the hon. gentleman the cost of the buildings off-hand. I gave it to the House the other day when asked a question formally on the paper. I might say that the commissioners inform me that the arrangements for the completion of our exhibit are progressing rapidly, and that the comment on such of our exhibits as are placed is very favourable, and they are extremely pleased with the appearance those exhibits are making.

Mr. FOSTER. It might not be out of place to ask the Prime Minister if he can give the House any information as to the time when the absent Minister of Public Works and the absent Minister of the Interior will be in their places in the House. We are coming very close to the time when their estimates must be considered, and when questions of some gravity and importance affecting their departments will

be put. Is there any possibility that we shall have the light of their countenances with us before we get through with that operation?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If my hon. friend is very anxious to have the rules of the House observed, he should commence by observing them himself, and he should remember that on a motion to adjourn only one subject can be discussed. I cannot tell him when the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of the Interior will be back here.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Can the Minister of Agriculture tell us yet whether any decision has been made with reference to the Sunday closing of the exhibition?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I have received no further information, though I have sent a communication with regard to the subject.

REPORT.

Annual report of the Department of Agriculture.—(Mr. Fisher.)

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.40 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 16, 1900.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

MOOSEJAW POST OFFICE.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). Mr. Speaker, I have here the report of the post office inspector in the case of the Moosejaw postmaster. My hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) asked me to lay this on the Table. I presume I shall have to make a motion for permission to do so, and I desire to move to that effect.

Motion agreed to.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC COMMISSION.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** (by Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) asked :

1. What was the date the last commission to inquire into the effects of the liquor traffic was appointed?

2. What date was the work completed and report submitted to the government?

3. Who were the members of the commission?

4. Who was the chairman of the commission?

5. What amount did each member of the commission receive for salary, gratuity or services?

6. What amount did each member receive for expenses or in any other shape?

7. Name of each member of commission; what he received for salary, gratuity or services and for other services? What was the total cost of the commission, including printing report?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). In reply to the second question of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville), I beg to say the report of the commission was dated March 29, 1895, and was transmitted to the government April 5, 1895. All the other questions have already been answered, and the answers will be found in *Hansard* of March 12.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OFFICE.

Mr. **CLARKE** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What are the names of all members of the House of Commons of Canada appointed to positions each year from the 1st of November, 1873, up to the 1st of November, 1878?

What were such positions, and what were the salaries?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The following appointments were made during the time specified :

Members of the House of Commons appointed to positions, 1st November, 1873, to 1st November, 1878.

	Salary.
1873.	
Hon. J. Crawford, Lieutenant-Governor, Ontario.....	\$10,000
Hon. S. L. Tilley, Lieutenant-Governor, New Brunswick	9,000
1874.	
Hon. E. B. Wood, Chief Justice, Manitoba	5,000
E. V. Bodwell, Superintendent, Welland Canal.....	2,900
A. A. Dorion, Chief Justice, Quebec.....	6,000
Hon. W. Ross, Collector of Customs, Halifax	3,000
1875.	
Hon. D. A. Macdonald, Lieutenant-Governor, Ontario	10,000
Hon. T. Fournier, Judge, Supreme Court.	7,000
Hon. H. A. Paquette, Senator.....	1,000
1876.	
D. Stirton, Postmaster, Guelph.....	Paid by allowances.
Hon. C. H. Pozer, Senator.....	\$1,000
Hon. D. Laird, Lieutenant-Governor, North-west Territories.....	7,000
B. E. Tremaine, Judge, Nova Scotia.....	2,400

1877.

Hon. C. A. P. Pelletier, Senator.....	\$1,000
Hon. J. E. Cauchon, Lieutenant-Governor, Manitoba.....	7,000
Hon. T. Moss, Justice Appeal, Ontario..	5,000

1878.

J. L. McDougall, Auditor General.....	3,200
Horace Horton, Clerk, Auditor Office....	1,600
W. A. Brouse, Senator.....	1,000

After dissolution, Mr. Lajoie, who had been member for St. Maurice, was appointed superintendent of the St. Maurice works, on October 7, 1878. Mr. Richard, who had been member for Megantic, was appointed sheriff of the North-west Territories, on October 8, 1878.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—REWARDS TO CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. GUILLET (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What substantial inducements are likely to be offered to our volunteers in South Africa to settle in that country at the close of the war ?

2. Is it the intention of the government to ask parliament to make provision for granting a tract of land to each Canadian volunteer serving in South Africa who returns to Canada after the termination of the war ?

3. Is it not of public importance that an affirmative answer should be given at once that all concerned may be promptly advised ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The government has no intimation on this subject. 2. This is a matter which should not be considered during the war, but afterwards. 3. The same answer applies to this question.

YUKON—CLEARANCE OF STEAMSHIP YUKONER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Did the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman), on July 10, 1899, request D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, to refuse clearance of the ss. 'Yukoner' until the wages of the crew were paid ?

2. Did the collector of customs clear the ss. 'Yukoner' and afterwards, at the request of Mr. F. C. Wade, detain the said vessel ? If yes, what are the respective dates of clearance and detention ?

3. If yes, in what capacity did Mr. Davis act in clearing the said vessel, and in what capacity did he act in detaining her after clearance ?

4. If Mr. Davis detained the said vessel after clearance granted, under what statute and section thereof or under what authority did he act ?

5. Did Mr. Davis, in connection with the claim against said vessel, allow the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman) the sum of \$750 for legal services rendered to the master in the prosecution of the crew of the 'Yukoner,' notwithstanding the solicitors or the owners of the vessel had declined to prosecute under the facts alleged ?

6. Did the collector of customs at Dawson receive in his official capacity a cheque for \$5,099.45 from the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

after tying up the ship subsequent to her first clearance ?

7. Did the owners of the 'Yukoner' request an accounting and return of the said sum, or at all events that it be paid into the court of the district pending the determination by the proper court of the question in dispute between the vessel-owners and the master and mate of the said vessel ?

8. Did the Department of Customs obtain any opinion or advice on the subject from the Department of Justice ?

9. Did the Department of Customs, on the 16th December, 1899, request Mr. Davis, 'in view of the opinion from the Department of Justice,' to arrange a settlement with the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' ?

10. Did the opinion from the Department of Justice, if any, refer to Mr. Davis's conduct as 'high-handed and improper' ?

11. In reporting to the Department of Customs, did Mr. Davis say he was 'submitting to all these details without prejudice,' and did he comply with the advice of the Department of Justice as above in question 9 ?

12. After communicating the report of this public officer to the solicitors of the ss. 'Yukoner,' did the Customs Department of Canada write to the solicitors on April 21, 1900, and say : 'This information as received from Mr. Davis, together with a copy of further statements submitted by him in relation to this matter, has been furnished to you (without prejudice) ?

13. Does the Department of Customs, or the Crown represented by the Canadian government, admit that it is accountable to the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' for disposal of the proceeds of a cheque made payable to the collector of customs at Dawson for the sum of \$5,099.45 in connection with the ss. 'Yukoner' ?

14. Has the Department of Customs declined to account for the money in question ?

15. Has the Department of Customs left the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' to its remedy against the collector of customs personally in connection with the receipt of the said \$5,099.45 and repudiated all responsibility for his conduct in regard thereto ?

16. Has the Honourable the Minister of Customs declined to produce for the information of parliament the opinion of the Department of Justice referred to in question 9 ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I would say that I hope to be able to lay on the Table of the House in a short time such documents as I properly can in connection with this matter ; and I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will consent to let the question drop and seek the information he wants in the papers so to be brought down. If he finds that there is anything not covered in that way that I can properly answer, I will answer it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) when he expects to lay the papers on the Table ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think it can be done to-morrow—at any rate, at an early day.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Very well, the question drops.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY AND THE PRICE OF OIL.

Mr. DAVIN asked :

Whether the Finance Minister is aware that last January the Standard Oil Company declared a quarterly dividend of 20 per cent upon its capital stock, that it has now declared a dividend of 10 per cent for the three months ending May 1st, thus making a dividend of 30 per cent for the past six months? The capital stock of the company is \$100,000,000; is not the amount already paid out in dividends this year, \$30,000,000? This is now nearly \$5,000,000 more than the total customs receipts of the Dominion for the last fiscal year. Does the government intend to take measures this session to curtail the Standard Oil Company's power of extorting exorbitant prices out of the pockets of the Canadian consumer of oil?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I question whether the hon. gentleman's inquiry comes within the rules. But, waiving that, I beg to answer as follows: 1. I have no information respecting the affairs of the Standard Oil Company. 2. There has been no legislation under the present government which would assist that company in charging exorbitant prices. Every step taken by the present government, either with respect to legislation or to departmental administration, has been in the direction of removing restrictions and lessening the price of oil. 3. The duty on imported oil, which existed under the late government, has been reduced. 4. Burdensome regulations existing under the late government, with respect to inspection of oil, which could only take place after it had been put in barrels, have been abolished, thus facilitating cheap and convenient methods of handling the oil. 5. The number of points at which oil can be imported in bulk, in tank cars, has been increased. 6. Permission has been given to use tank wagons. 7. The former regulation forbidding the use of tank ships, has been repealed, thus giving along the line of our water communications the opportunity to receive oil by cheap transportation. 8. Where railway companies increased their freight rates on oil in such a manner as seemed likely to prevent competition in the oil trade, the government, on the advice of the Railway Committee of the Privy Council, disallowed the increase and ordered the restoration of the former rates. In short, every step taken by the present government in relation to the oil business has been for the purpose of removing burdensome restrictions, reducing the cost of handling oil and cheapening the article to the consumer. If the price of oil has recently increased to the consumer, and larger profits are being realized by the manufacturers, either in the United States or Canada, such enhanced profits are not due to any measure of the government, but must be due to other causes for which the government are not in the smallest degree responsible.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. minister (Mr. Fielding) make that perfect by comparing the price of oil in 1896 and now?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) might as well ask me to compare the prices of anything else in 1896 and now. The prices of many things have increased since 1896. This is the growing time.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fielding) has omitted to state how much each farmer uses.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. A great many things might be said about the oil business, but we have given a large amount of information in the answer submitted.

YUKON—DREDGING LEASES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Referring to application of William L. Parrish per A. E. Philp, June 13, 1898, for a dredging lease for that part of Teslin River (Hootalinqua) commencing at the upper boundary of reference application No. 54,299, thence up stream a distance of thirty miles, (now on the Table of this House) :

(a) Whose application was No. 54,299 and what is the description of area contained in it? What is the correct description of that part commencing at the upper boundary of reference application No. 54,299, thence up stream as above?

(b) How many options for a lease up stream as above, if any, were given on the area referred to in paragraph 1 above, to whom were they given and at what date, respectively?

(c) How many options for a lease, if any, were given on the area referred to in paragraph (a) above, to whom were they given and at what rate, respectively?

(d) Was a lease, or were leases granted covering the area, or any part of it, referred to in paragraph 1 of this question? If yes, to whom and when, respectively?

(e) Was a lease, or were leases granted covering the area, or any part of it, referred to in paragraph (a)? If yes, to whom and when, respectively?

(f) From whom was the cheque received from Chicago, referred to in letter of Mr. Anderson of the 1st March, 1898, to Deputy Minister of the Interior?

(g) Who supplied the description of areas in leases 178 and 179?

(h) Are these descriptions covered by the application of January 13, 1898, in paragraph 1?

(i) If not, what is the date of any other application containing such descriptions?

(j) Referring to Mr. Philp's letter to Mr. Sifton, 9th April, 1898, what is meant by mistake in marking the location of leases on Teslin River issued to Ildo Ramsdell, of Chicago? Whose mistake was it? Did the leases not follow the description in the application? If not, why not?

(k) Who, if any one, directly authorized G. U. Ryley to send the following telegram :

April 12, 1898.

A. E. Philp, Esq.,
Care of Foster & Hewitt,
250 Dearborn Street,
Chicago, U.S.A.

Ten miles on Teslin, beginning eighty miles from mouth, thence up river, will be granted upon receipt of plan you showed me and the lease.

(Sgd.) G. U. RYLEY.

(l) Referring to letter of B. D. Adsil, Chicago, May 14, 1898, saying: 'In February we purchased of Mr. A. E. Philp, of Brandon, Manitoba, two five-mile dredging leases in Teslin River, to be located from fifty to sixty miles from the mouth of said stream'; had Mr. Philp any lease or leases at this date?

(m) If the answer to (e) be in the affirmative, in what localities had Mr. Philp leases?

(n) In February, 1898, how many options for leases, if any, had Mr. Philp procured from the department, either in his own name or that of Parrish, Lindsay, Mitchell, Burnett, Hearn and others?

(o) If Mr. Philp in February, or later, held as attorney for others, or in his own name, options for leases, how many, and which were they, were followed by leases actually delivered?

(p) What connection had Dr. J. W. Forbes with the leases on Teslin River covered by the application in paragraph 1, or leases granted in this connection?

(q) Referring to Mr. Adsil's letter to the Department of the Interior, March 19, 1898, 'Dr. Forbes visited your department with Mr. Philp when Mr. Philp was last in Ottawa'; whom did these gentlemen see on the subject-matter referred to? Did they concur with the Minister of the Interior? Is there a record of their visit and the subject of it in the department?

(r) What is the date of application upon which leases No. 269 and 270 issued to W. L. Parrish for 10 miles of the Teslin?

(s) Have all the regulations and terms of the leases been complied with, in connection with these leases, since they have been granted?

(t) Have registration fees referred to in letter of August 8 and 17, 1899, been paid? If so, when?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. (a) 1. Frank Burnett. 2. That part of the Teslin River, commencing at the upper boundary of application reference number 54,079, and from thence extending up stream a distance of thirty miles. 3. Commencing at a point in the centre of the Teslin (or Hootalinqua) River, ninety miles above its mouth, thence up stream in the centre of the said Teslin (or Hootalinqua) River, following the sinuosities of the same, a distance of thirty miles. (b) W. L. Parrish, 100 to 200 miles, January 22, 1898; Geo. Edwards, 90 to 100 miles, January 22, 1898; E. H. Smith, 100 to 110 miles, March 12, 1898; J. E. Adams, 110 to 120 miles, May 17, 1898; A. E. Mortimer, 100 to 110 miles, May 27, 1898; F. A. Philp, 100 to 120 miles, June 24, 1898; F. B. Jamieson, 100 to 110 miles, October 11, 1898; R. G. St. John, 90 to 100 miles, May 19, 1899; H. W. Thomas, 90 to 120 miles, January 16, 1900. Each option lapsed before succeeding one for same tract was offered. (c) Frank Burnett, 60 to 90 miles, January 22, 1898; E. H. Smith, 85 to 90 miles, March 12, 1898;

John Dunlop, 65 to 85 miles, March 12, 1898; Geo. Sutherland, 60 to 65 miles, March 8, 1898; Frank Burnett, 60 to 80 miles, April 9, 1898; W. L. Parrish, 80 to 90 miles, April 12, 1898; W. L. Parrish, 60 to 70 miles, May 12, 1898; A. E. Mortimer, 70 to 90 miles, May 27, 1898; R. T. Smith, 80 to 90 miles, June 25, 1898; F. L. Owen, 70 to 80 miles, June 25, 1898; Frank Burnett, 70 to 80 miles, July 12, 1898; G. M. B. Vrooman, 70 to 90 miles, October 12, 1898; R. G. St. John, 70 to 90 miles, May 19, 1899; D. C. Catlin, 70 to 75 miles, January 13, 1900; C. S. Sargent, 75 to 90 miles, April 3, 1900. Each option lapsed before succeeding one for same tract was offered. (d) W. L. Parrish, 110 to 120 miles, March 8, 1898; Geo. Edwards, 90 to 100 miles, March 8, 1898. (e) W. L. Parrish, 60 to 70 miles, March 8, 1898; D. C. Catlin, 70 to 75 miles, January 19, 1900. (f) The cheque was marked good and forwarded by the Bank of Montreal. The name of the maker of the cheque was not recorded. (g) The descriptions were prepared by the Department of the Interior. (h) Yes. (i) Answered by (h). (j) The department has no information as to what was meant by Mr. Philp in saying that a mistake was made further than Mr. Philp's statement, that Mr. Ramsdell expected he was getting a location at a point lower down the river. It was suggested at first that it might have been a mistake of a clerk in locating on the plan, but this was found not to be the case. It was not the mistake of the department. The description in the leases, although not worded the same as the description in the application, covered the same stretch. (k) Authorized by the minister on the recommendation of the chief clerk of the timber and mines branch. (l) Mr. Philp had no lease or leases on the Teslin River at that date. (m) None, but Mr. Parrish's application was made through Mr. Philp.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In answer to (m), do I understand the minister to say that none of the applications, except that for Parrish, was made through Philp?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I call particular attention to that for further inquiry. The return shows that all these applications were made by Philp.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. This is the answer made by the department, I will inquire. I think there are different applications.

—(n) 30 miles on Stewart River, W. J. Lindsay; 30 miles on Stewart River, P. C. Mitchell; 30 miles on Klondike River, A. E. Philp; 30 miles on Teslin River, Frank Burnett; 30 miles on Teslin River, W. L. Parrish; 30 miles on Bonanza River, A. E. Philp. None in the name of Hearn. (o) 20 miles on Stewart River, P. C. Mitchell; 20

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

miles on Klondike River, A. E. Philp; 20 miles on Teslin River, W. L. Parrish. (p) No connection further than shown by the correspondence included in the return to the House, and his own statement when at the department, that he was interested in the matter. (q) 1. They saw the chief clerk of the timber and mines branch. 2. They probably did, although there is nothing to show it in the records. 3. There is no record of their visit, other than contained in the names included in the return to the House. (r) April 9, 1898, but the leases were dated back to the date of those for which they were substituted. (s) None of the provisions of the regulations have been complied with, except payment of first year's rent. (t) No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would ask the hon. the minister, if he would be good enough to allow subsection (m) to stand, so that instead of my putting the question again, the hon. gentleman may refer to his officers, so as to make that matter absolutely certain. I am not referring merely to the description in the first part of it, but generally to the applications of Parrish, Mitchell, Lindsay and others in the return. They are not the same area, but they all appear in that return to be per A. E. Philp. With the consent of the minister, I would ask that the subsection stand.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think it would be more satisfactory to the hon. gentleman and to the House, if he would write me a memorandum, and I will be glad to bring down the information to-morrow.

LEPERS IN TRACADIE LAZARETTO.

Mr. PRIOR (by Mr. Earle) asked :

1. How many patients are there at present in the Tracadie Lazaretto ?
2. Are they all from the province of New Brunswick; if not, how many are from that province, and how many from each of the other provinces of the Dominion ?
3. When were those, if any, from Nova Scotia and Manitoba admitted to the lazaretto ?
4. What means of transportation were employed in taking these lepers, if any, to the lazaretto ?
5. Is the hon. the Minister of Agriculture aware whether there are any lepers in British Columbia or not ?
6. Has the hon. gentleman ever been requested to take any lepers from British Columbia to Tracadie, or to assume the cost of their maintenance in British Columbia ?
7. Has the hon. gentleman ever refused to do so ? If so, for what reason ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Nineteen. 2. Fourteen from the province of New Brunswick, one from Prince Edward Island, three from Manitoba (disease contracted in Iceland), one from Nova Scotia. 3. Manitoba cases admitted, two, (three originally, one since dead), on April 15, 1897, and one on July 25, 1897. The

Nova Scotia case admitted July 12, 1899. 4. In April, 1897, the lepers from Manitoba being in the contagious stage, were transported in a special car, which was subsequently disinfected under Dr. Smith's superintendence. For other cases that had not reached the contagious stage, such arrangements were not necessary. 5. The minister was officially informed of the presence of lepers in the lazaretto at D'Arcy Island, B.C., late in the autumn of 1897. 6. No. 7. Yes. By an amendment of the Quarantine Act in 1872, the clauses relating to public health, which gave the Department of Agriculture administrative powers, under statutory direction, in cases of outbreaks of sickness in the provinces, were eliminated and the administration in all such matters thereby relegated to the provincial governments. It was explained to parliament that such was the object of the elimination. By order in council dated February 7, 1898, the Dominion government, therefore, declined to assume charge of the care of the lepers on D'Arcy Island.

IMPORTS OF WAGONS AND CARRIAGES INTO P. E. I.

Mr. MARTIN asked :

The number of wagons and carriages entered at the ports of Alberton and Tignish, in Prince Edward Island, for the fiscal years 1897-8-9 ? To include buggies, farm wagons and bicycles. The value of each and the amount of duty paid ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). It is impossible for the department to furnish the information required by this question at present, for the reason that Alberton and Tignish are only outports of customs, and our statistical returns do not give the value of importations of outports separately—such importations being included in the returns of the chief ports having survey over the outports. To obtain the information, it will be necessary to write to the port of Summerside, which has survey over the outports of Alberton and Tignish, for a special statement. This will be done at once.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—PAYMENTS TO SS. LINES FOR TRANSPORTING SECOND CANADIAN CONTINGENTS.

Mr. CLARKE asked :

1. What has the government paid, and what is it liable to pay, to the Allan Line and to the Elder-Dempster Line respectively for the provisioning of the second Canadian contingent for South Africa ?
2. What sum for (a) each officer, (b) each non-commissioned officer, (c) each man, and (d) each horse, has the government so paid or become liable to pay ?

3. What provisions and supplies did each such steamship line so provide for such purpose, and at what price?

4. From what persons or firms were the respective provisions and supplies in each instance purchased by each steamship line, and in what quantities and at what prices in each instance?

5. Did the government or the Department of Militia, or any person on its behalf, in any instances suggest or name to such steamship lines the person or firms from whom such supplies or provisions should be so purchased?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). It is impossible to give separately, at present, the cost of the provisions. However, I can state to the hon. gentleman, that the government has paid to the Allan Line, on account of the second contingent, \$140,573.60; and to the Elder-Dempster Line, \$175,987.29. This includes the charge for tonnage, as explained in my answer the other day, namely, 20s. per ton for a month, and the cost of fittings, coaling and provisions. The accounts have not yet been received in detail and adjusted; therefore, it is impossible for me to separate under the different headings the sums which I have given.

Mr. WALLACE. How many men were sent on that vessel?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. I have not the number here now. It is about 1,200 men, and about the same number of horses. 2. In reference to No. 2, the House will see that there was no amount charged for officers. There was no distinction as between officers and men. The steamer was chartered for a lump sum; therefore, it is impossible and quite unnecessary to separate the cost of the officers from that of the men simply because no rate was fixed. 3. The answer to No. 3 is that the accounts have not yet been received. 4. Is answered by No. 3. 5. Certain names were suggested, but the companies were not restricted to any list.

TRAMP CATTLE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

Has any correspondence taken place between the Medicine Hat Stock Growers' Association and the government on the subject of tramp cattle from the United States? Have any steps been taken to abate what is a growing nuisance?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). Some correspondence has taken place between the Medicine Hat Stock Growers' Association and the government on the subject of tramp cattle from the United States. What is possible is being done by the North-west Mounted Police, by the force along the frontier, to stop the encroachment of tramp cattle from the United States.

Mr. PATERSON.

Mr. DAVIN. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) know if the force is adequate at present?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. That is a question I cannot answer at the moment.

CUSTOMS OFFICER AT MOOSEJAW.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

Who were the applicants for the position of customs officer at Moosejaw? Was Mr. J. K. Stevenson appointed? On whose recommendation? Who were the other applicants?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). When the appointment of a customs officer at Moosejaw was determined upon, the only name or application before me was that of Mr. J. K. Stevenson, who received the appointment. He was recommended to me by parties in whom I have confidence.

THE YUKON TERRITORY—APPLICATIONS FOR LAND.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

Referring to the following report now on the Table of this House:

North-west Mounted Police,
Fort Constantine, Yukon River,
December 4, 1896.

The Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

Re Klondike Townsite.

Sir,—I have the honour to report, for the information of the department that land in the vicinity of the mouth of the Klondike River is becoming very valuable, and a few speculators are endeavouring to get the whole into their hands.

Up to the present time there are six applications to purchase land at what is locally known as the Klondike township. This does not include the reserve asked for by the police for their own and other government purposes. Most of the applicants are either American citizens or representatives of American companies doing business here.

In one case an application to purchase 160 acres was made by Joseph Leduc. He has been selling lots, evidently thinking that the application and deposit of survey fee gives him a title to dispose of lots, some of which have changed hands several times, and as high as \$300 cash.

I beg to recommend that the department take the townsite into their own hands, laying it out either in lots or in blocks of two or three acres, and dispose of same either through the land agent or by public auction.

There are a certain number here who wish to get everything in their own hands, to the exclusion of smaller men.

The small angle of level land on the south bank of the Klondike, at its junction with the Yukon, has been occupied by the Indians for some years as a winter camp, and at the first rush to the Klondike some parties purchased from the Indians their cabins at a price from \$50 to \$100 each. These men are under the impression that they have purchased any right, title or interest the Indians may have had in

this ground, which, in my opinion, is not warranted. I would recommend that this also be included in the Klondike townsite. The Indians have moved off it, and have now squatted with their missionary on the ground applied for for government purposes. The missionary, and also the bishop, has been notified that this land has been applied for as a government reserve. (Refer to the bishop's application and my report re Indians.)

An application of Andrew Harper, dated November 21, 1896, with survey fee paid, has this day been applied for by one Stewart Menzies, an employee of the Alaska Commercial Company. This man holds a power of attorney from A. Harper to deal with his business here, and in my opinion it is a piece of sharp practice on the part of the second applicant for this land, and further, that the application is made, as well as a prior one by the same person, S. Menzies, in the same vicinity, is in the interests of the Alaska Commercial Company, a foreign company doing business here.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) C. CONSTANTINE,

N. W. M. Police and Acting Govt. Agent.

(a) What action was adopted in the case of Joseph Leduc's application referred to?

(b) What action was taken by the department in the case of Andrew Harper's application, November 2, 1896?

(c) What action was taken by the department in the case of Stewart Menzies's application?

(d) If any of these applications were granted, upon whose report were they granted, respectively, and what is the date of each report, if any?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. (a) The 160 acres of unsurveyed lands applied for by Mr. Joseph Ladue were granted to him and the representative of the Harper estate (Harper and Ladue being partners in business), and Mr. Ladue was advised by the department that patent would issue in favour of the above for the land in question with the exception of such portions thereof as may have been prior to the 24th December, 1897, the subject of agreement to purchase from Ladue or Harper, and also with the exception of such portions as any person or persons may have prior to this date entered into possession thereof under license or permission from Ladue or Harper. This land was surveyed as Group Lot 3, Group 2. (b) The application of Arthur Harper (not Andrew Harper) to purchase land near Dawson City, which is dated the 17th November, 1895, was forwarded to Mr. Ogilvie for consideration in July, 1898. This matter was reported upon by Mr. Commissioner McLeod on the 8th September, 1898, who recommended that patent issue in favour of Mr. Joseph Ladue and Mr. James M. Wilson, executor for the Harper estate, on the latter filing a specific request to that effect. This land is surveyed as Group Lot 2, Group 2. (c) Mr. Stewart Menzies's application to acquire land at Dawson was referred to Mr. Ogilvie for consideration in July, 1898. Mr. Ogilvie has reported recently to the effect that the land applied for was that which was grant-

ed to Mr. Harper, being Group Lot 2, Group 2, referred to in answer 'b.' (d) All applications for land in the Yukon territory that are entertained are granted by the commissioner as provided for by order in council of the 7th July, 1898. Note.—The above lands are referred to in Mr. Constantine's report of 1896, as being in Klondike townsite, which is now Dawson.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to ask the hon. acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) if he would be good enough to give me, either across the floor of the House, or afterwards, the date of the report of Mr. Ogilvie, to which he has referred.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I will be glad to procure the date of Mr. Ogilvie's report.

THE YUKON TERRITORY—DISPOSAL OF RESERVED CLAIMS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

Referring to order in council, October 27, 1899, in which the following recommendation of the Hon. Mr. Sifton, that he be authorized 'to dispose of any claims or fractions in the Yukon Territory reserved for the Crown, in such manner as he may decide,' was approved, will the government lay on the Table at an early date a statement showing:

What disposal has been made under the orders, and all papers connected with each claim and disposal thereof?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The statement asked for will be prepared and laid on the Table of the House, also copies of all papers connected with each claim and disposal thereof. I will give full information.

THE YUKON TERRITORY—THEFT FROM GOLD COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Has any action been taken respecting \$2,400 stolen from the office referred to in report of Mr. Lithgow, January 30, 1899 (now on the Table of this House)? If so, what action and when?

2. What are the facts known to the department in this matter?

3. Has any investigation been made into the matter referred to in the following extract from this report: 'The following amounts have been charged against his account: Received from W. H. Norwood, \$8,128 for free miner's certificate; this does not agree with the stubs which I inclose, being for \$10,000, but in the absence of any return from Norwood, I must accept Mr. Fawcett's figures.' If so, what action and what result?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. On the 21st July, 1898, Mr. Fawcett, late gold commissioner for the Yukon district, filed a sworn affidavit explaining the circumstances connected with the theft, and in this affidavit is shown the steps that were taken for the discovery of the thieves. A copy of the

affidavit is attached hereto. 2. The only facts known to the department are those contained in the affidavit mentioned. 3. Mr. Norwood reported that when he forwarded the money to Dawson a large sum was placed to the credit of the royalty account, which should have been credited to the Free Miner's Certificate Account; and that he would obtain from the bank a statement of all moneys paid in by him, which would be found to correspond with the statements showing the moneys collected by him. This statement has, no doubt, been furnished to the comptroller at Dawson by Mr. Norwood or the bank, but the department has not been advised. The comptroller is being instructed to report to the department at once as to this matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) refers to a copy of an affidavit. Would he allow me to have a copy of that affidavit?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not suppose the hon. gentleman requires me to read it. It is attached to the answer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not want the hon. gentleman to read it, but I would be glad if he would send it over to me.

THE YUKON TERRITORY—ADVANCES TO MR. J. E. GIROUARD.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

Referring to the following document now on the Table of this House:

Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, January 9, 1899.

Sir,—I am directed to call your attention to the fact that the sum of \$240 stands against you in the departmental books here, being advances to you for expenses which have not been accounted for. I am to say that the deputy minister is of the opinion that you have had ample time to account fully and satisfactorily for all the advances made to you, and he hopes that you will no longer delay in complying with the requirements of the department and the Audit Office in the matter.

Although full instructions have been given to you in regard to accounting for advances to meet expenses, I am to remind you that the statement of disbursements required should be in duplicate, and should give the dates, names of places, &c., and should show the expenditure day by day as far as possible. This statement should be accompanied by vouchers or accounts receipted by the payees. Full explanations of expenditure should be given, with a view of aiding the department and the Audit Office in the examining and passing of the accounts. It is, of course, imperative that the following form of certificate should appear at the foot of your disbursement statements: 'I hereby certify that the above account is correct and just in all respects, and that the whole expenditure was incurred on government business.'

Any portion of the advances not expended and not properly vouched for in the statements should

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

be deposited in the bank to the credit of the Receiver General and deposit receipts sent to Ottawa.

Please send your accounts and vouchers to Mr. Lithgow, the comptroller, for transmission to Ottawa, as it is his particular duty to see that moneys are properly accounted for. A copy of this communication will be sent to Comptroller Lithgow.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) LYNDWODE PEREIRA,
Assistant Secretary.

J. E. Girouard, Esq.,
Registrar,

Dawson, Yukon Territory.

(a) Is Mr. Girouard a member of the Yukon Council?

(b) What was the total advance of public money made to Mr. Girouard, and the date?

(c) How often was he communicated with on the subject by the department, and on what dates?

(d) Has Mr. Girouard accounted for the money? If so, when?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. (a) Yes. (b) The sum of \$240, as follows: On July 28, 1898, \$100; on July 29, 1898, \$140. (c) Mr. Girouard was communicated with, directly or through the comptroller of the Yukon Territory, Mr. J. T. Lithgow, on the following dates: January 9, 1899; June 1, 1899; February 16, 1900; April 21, 1900. (d) Mr. Girouard accounted for the expenditure by statement dated 13th February, 1899—but the account was not in shape for transmission to the Auditor General, and correspondence has taken place between the department and Mr. Girouard with a view to procuring more details. It appears that he sent an account with details of his expenses on the 15th November, 1898, but these were lost with the mail which went down in the Thirty Mile River about that date. An adjustment of his account will be made before the end of the current fiscal year.

YUKON TERRITORY—TIMBER LICENSES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou) asked:

Referring to Mr. Smart's letter of March 28, 1898, to J. W. Willison, Esq., Crown timber agent, police post, Lake Bennett, and now on the Table of this House:

(a) Have any parties in the Yukon Territory been permitted to, or have they been reported to the department as having cut timber before timber license was granted or before the required bonus was paid? If so, what is the name of each party?

(b) Have any persons or bodies corporate been permitted to enjoy, or have they been reported to the department as enjoying, more than five square miles at one point, or more than five timber berths altogether? If so, what are the names?

I have made some slight verbal alterations so as to improve the English of the question as printed.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have no objection to the hon. gentleman's English if he would

try to cut down his questions so as to have them shorter. The answer to the question is as follows: (a). No person who acquired a timber berth was given permission by the department at Ottawa to cut timber thereon before the bonus was paid and a license issued. Permission, however, was given at Dawson to the following persons who applied for timber berths and paid the bonus prescribed by the regulations to cut timber thereon, prior to the issue of a license: Kerry Canadian Mill Company, Klondike Yukon Stewart Pioneer Company, Yukon Saw-Mill Company, D. G. Stewart, Joseph Ladue Gold Mining and Development Company, Frank Swanson, O. W. Hobbs, D. A. Matheson, Stanly McFadyen, Richard Davenport. The above mentioned persons and companies were the owners of saw-mills and as it would take some time to obtain licenses from Ottawa to which they were entitled, having paid the bonus prescribed by the regulations, and there was a great demand for timber, they were permitted to cut it before the licenses were issued. (b). No: with the exception of Messrs. Heney & Stewart, who were permitted to include within their berths the island in the river opposite to the same, containing an area of one square mile, making the total area of the berth six square miles. The islands could have been made a separate berth, and covered by a separate license, but it was thought advisable to include the whole area of six square miles in one license.

INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I would like to ask the Prime Minister if there is not one more paper at least which ought to be brought down along with these papers concerning the order in council about coasting on the lakes. It opens by saying:

That, on a report dated October 14, 1899, from the Minister of Finance;

But the report of the Minister of Finance, upon which, I suppose, the whole order is based, does not appear in the returns brought down. Would the right hon. gentleman say whether or not that will be brought down as I wish to get the papers printed?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentleman knows from his own experience that an order in council is almost an exact copy of the report of the minister.

Mr. FOSTER. If there is no report—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is a report.

Mr. FOSTER. If there is no further report of the Minister of Finance except what in substance is given in this, then I do not see upon what basis the council founded its action. There surely must be some reasoned report of the Minister of Finance.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will look into it.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—TELEGRAMS RE CASUALTIES.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I wish to read to the House two telegrams which were received this morning from South Africa:

(Sir Alfred Milner to Lord Minto.)

Capetown, May 14, 1900.

May 14. Regret to report that 7833, Private J. W. Raymond alias J. W. Culver was slightly wounded Israel's Poort, 25th April.

(Sgd.) MILNER.

(Sir Alfred Milner to Lord Minto.)

Capetown, May 14, 1900.

May 14. 334 Trooper T. Woolacombe, Second Canadian Mounted Infantry died of dysentery and pleurisy at Carnarvon on 22nd April, casualty was reported officially to War Office but only to-day to me hence delay.

(Sgd.) MILNER.

SUPPLY—BROCKVILLE AND WEST HURON ELECTIONS.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply, and the motion of Mr. Borden (Halifax) in amendment thereto.

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, the House has been reminded that the subject introduced by my hon. friend and colleague, the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), is one which should be approached in a judicial spirit. In offering my small contribution to the discussion of the matter to-day, I shall endeavour to emulate, as well as I can, the calm and serene judicial temper in which the subject was approached by the member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) last night.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUSSELL. In doing so I shall try to repeat as little as possible the arguments that have been so powerfully addressed to the House by my hon. friends, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton). These hon. gentlemen did refer briefly to the incidents connected with the procedure on this subject during the present session, but they did not make much reference to what had taken place during the past session in regard to this matter. I was not present during the whole discussion last evening, by reason of being compelled to attend a meeting of one of the committees of the House, and if any references were made of which I am not aware, I hope the House will pardon me if I should repeat them. What I shall say to-day is by way of rebutting the charge that has been brought against this side of the House, of

a desire and an attempt to burk inquiry into those so-called election frauds.

Mr. MILLS. You have a job before you.

Mr. RUSSELL. I feel that I am quite equal to it, because I do not consider it is anything like the job that my hon. friend (Mr. Mills) imagines. Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say in opening, that if there is any person on whom the responsibility rests for burking these investigations and causing them to fail of succes, it is the hon. member (Mr. Borden), who has introduced the motion now before the House. The election was held, as we all know, in West Huron on the 21st of February, 1899, and the return of Mr. Holmes as member for that constituency was gazetted on the 11th of March, 1899. Solemn declarations were procured,—some of which were read to this House last session,—during March, 1899; they had begun to be procured early in March, and all of them, so far as my knowledge goes, were procured during that month.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). One of them at least that I remember was not procured until well on in May. Then it was made in Calgary, and was not received here until after the middle of May.

Mr. RUSSELL. That does not affect the matter in the slightest possible degree, because the substance of my hon. friend's case was in his hands, or in the hands of those who are promoting this inquiry, during the month of March, 1899. These gentlemen were very well aware during the month of March, 1899, of everything they would be likely to prove in the investigation they asked this House to grant. There can be no pretense that they had not under their control all the material which would be necessary to enable them to petition the courts for the purpose of setting aside the election which they now claim was an undue and improper election, at any time previous to the 10th of April, which I understand was the date at which the time for presenting an election petition expired. They did not choose to go to the courts. I am not censuring them in that regard; but I think it is a perfectly fair and just comment upon their conduct that they did not choose to go to the courts of the country for the purpose of having their wrongs righted and their grievances redressed. But having chosen to pass by the courts, which are the proper tribunals for the trial of this question, and having chosen to come to this House, which is not the proper tribunal for the trial of this question, they allowed the whole time from the opening of the session, some time in the month of March, all of April, all of May, all of June, and a good part of July, to expire before ever bringing their grievance to the notice of this House. I want to know whether it would not have been perfectly feasible and easy for my hon.

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friend or for those who furnished him with the material on which he is moving in this House, to have taken action when they became possessed of the knowledge they had in March, 1899, and had determined that this House was the proper, or for them the safer, tribunal for the trial of those elections. I say if having made up their minds that they were going to come to this House for the purpose of obtaining a redress for their grievances, I want to know what excuse has been or can be given, for allowing nearly the whole session until some day in July to expire, while this House was comparatively at leisure, and might have given some reasonable degree of attention to the subject—why they chose to allow almost four months of the session to elapse before bringing their case to the attention of the House. Had my hon. friend chosen to act more diligently and more promptly, had he chosen to avail himself of the opportunities afforded to him to bring these matters to the attention of the House early in the last session, whatever the result would have been worth to him—and I propose to show later that it would have been worth very little—whatever advantage he could have derived from the inquiry, there is no doubt that he would have had the opportunity of concluding the inquiry into the case of West Huron, and probably that of Brockville as well; and if there were any parties connected with those contests who could have been proved guilty, he could have had his inquiry brought to a termination before the prorogation of the House last August. There can be no doubt whatever about that; and for the abortive result of that inquiry, for the fact that time and money were wasted in an attempt to prosecute an inquiry which has not yet been finished, and which bears no likelihood of being ever finished, in the way hon. gentlemen opposite have chosen to select, they are themselves to blame: and my hon. friend who could have moved at any time in the first three or four months of the session of 1899, is wholly responsible for that abortive result. I intend to show later on that if my hon. friend had succeeded in getting an adverse judgment from a committee of this House and from this House in reference to one or more of the deputy returning officers engaged in those two electoral contests, it would have been absolutely valueless to him, and perfectly farcical as a vindication of the election laws of the Dominion. I will deal with that point at a later stage. But if there was any value to him at all in a verdict from this House with reference to Cummings or Farr or any of the deputy returning officers in Brockville, my learned friend has himself to blame for not having secured it. I will not deal with what has occurred this session, further than to say this, that if my hon. friend had been as solicitous about his motion as the hon. member for Vancouver

(Mr. McInnes) was with reference to his motion for a mint, or as the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Gillies) was about his motion in reference to the tobacco duties, he could have had a discussion of this subject two or three months ago. The hon. member for Richmond put his notice on the Order paper on the 5th of February, and secured a discussion of the matter on the 7th of March. But my hon. friend did not do anything of that sort at all. I do not know why he was not here at the opening of the session; but he surely could have commissioned his friend, the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) to have put a notice on the Order paper as early as the hon. member for Richmond gave his, and as the hon. member for Vancouver gave his. He need not have waited until the 16th day of February, when there were thirty-eight motions on the Order paper ahead of the motion which he then proposed to move, before intimating to this House that he would ask to have this matter referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. SPROULE. Might I ask the hon. gentleman one question? Would he consider it proper to put a motion on the paper to refer a matter to a committee which was not in existence?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, I would consider it proper, and the best authorities of this House advise that it would be proper. Of course it would be. No one would make any objection to such a course, and I cannot conceive, of any person who would give five minutes reflection to the subject asking a question like that. My hon. friend said—and this is his excuse—that he did not know that this matter would not be treated as an unopposed motion. He should know that every hon. member has a right to oppose a motion if he sees fit, and he must have known the law as it was read to him by the Speaker when he did make the motion, that it was not a subject which could be treated as a matter of privilege. Having let go by last session and the recess and a considerable part of the session, he could not claim for his motion any precedence of the motion of the hon. gentleman for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), or the motion of the hon. member for Richmond, or the motion of the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), or any of the other motions which in the view of those promoting them are quite as important as this. He must be taken to have known that. If he supposed that the same course would be taken this session as was taken last session, I ask him if he remembers what Sir Robert Peel once said of the suggestion that a motion dealt with in one way one session must be dealt with in the same way in another session. Peel scouted the idea, and said that it was as absurd as to suppose that one must navigate the same water in the same boat with the same helm at all

times, no matter what might be the nature of the tide or the direction of the wind. My hon. friend must have known that there was no rule by which he could claim that this matter should have precedence of other matters equally important in the eyes of those who have them to promote in this House. Therefore, if he has committed any error, he will not stand up in this House and make the plea, which he certainly would never make in a court of justice; for I have been acquainted with him in his practice for a considerable number of years, and I have never yet heard him ask any indulgence or consideration from the court on the ground that he did not know the law or the procedure or the rules of the court, and did not understand his rights or the way to secure his remedy. I say, therefore, that if he had taken an interest in this matter, and had been really solicitous to have an early consideration of the subject during this session by the Committee on Privileges and Elections and by this House, he certainly could have had it two months ago and very likely three months ago, if he had taken the proper and regular methods which he should have taken in the circumstances in which he was placed. I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, to go any further into those questions, which are comparatively trivial questions to my mind.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, comparatively trivial questions to my mind. I wish to go into the really important and substantial question which is now before this House. Hon. gentlemen opposite have shifted their ground very considerably since this matter was first brought to our attention. Every one can remember that when my hon. friend made his motion last session he was very careful to disclaim any idea of interfering with the election or return of Mr. Holmes for the riding of West Huron. He was very careful to say, if I understood him correctly, that he accepted the precedent adopted by this House in 1887 to the effect that this House had lost its jurisdiction over the return and election of members to this House, and that the only thing remaining to this House was either such an exception as the personal disqualification of a member who has been returned by the returning officer, or the punishment of one of the officials who had been employed in the conduct of an election, as a matter affecting the dignity of this House and the duty owed by their officers to the House. He was careful to repudiate any idea that his motion affected the seat either of the hon. member for West Huron or the hon. member for Brockville.

But what did we see during the progress of the investigation before the Committee on Privileges and Elections last session, and since then during recess. Every other morning, in the organs of hon. gentlemen oppo-

site, there were suggestions and accusations and attempts made to prove that the hon. members for Brockville and West Huron should resign their seats, which had been awarded to them by the return of the returning officers. And I am bound to admit that they so infected public opinion with this foolish, irrational and utterly unjust view of the case, that some papers, even on our side of politics, made the suggestion that if this, that or the other thing were so—which, of course, they were not—Holmes should resign his seat. I mention this as an illustration of the extreme injustice done to the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Holmes) and the hon. member for Brockville (Mr. Comstock) by the way in which these proceedings were brought before this House, and if this were any other than a political contest, a contest on which directly or remotely the fate of parties might be made to depend in this country, the downright unfairness and injustice of that course of procedure and of this style of comment would present itself to the mind of every hon. member, and most accurately and forcibly to the very just, fair, impartial and able mind of my hon. friend and colleague from Halifax (Mr. Borden).

It is contended now, not merely that we have the right to punish one of our officials for official misconduct in connection with the prosecution of an election, but that the result of the investigation should affect the seat of my hon. friend from West Huron. That contention, if I understood him correctly, was advanced by the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) the other day. He contended that this House had never abandoned its right to inquire into the results of an election contest and return, and had the right to inquire into the merits and reverse the result. And the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) threw out the suggestion that it was the duty of Mr. Holmes, if the votes of these two subdivisions in the electoral riding of West Huron had been proved to have been affected by the corrupt or dishonest practices of the deputy returning officers, to resign his seat, even although in every other division he had an undoubted and clear majority.

Mr. POWELL. I am sorry to contradict my hon. friend, but I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. RUSSELL. Then I understood my hon. friend to have said so, but accept his statement that he made no such contention.

Mr. POWELL. I never thought of making it.

Mr. RUSSELL. Life is too short to read the hon. gentleman's speeches in *Hansard*, or I might refer to them, to verify my statement, but he certainly did indicate, if I understood him at all correctly—I am speaking of the time when he opened his speech in such a fair and impartial manner a few weeks ago, but shortly afterwards, meta-

phorically speaking, was in his shirt sleeves with his shot gun over his shoulder and on the war path to shoot some person in consequence of what happened in West Huron—he did indicate to my mind, and must have left on many minds, the impression that it was the duty of Mr. Holmes and Mr. Comstock to resign their seats as the result of the inquiry.

Mr. POWELL—I never did on that occasion either, and the hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken as respects both occasions.

Mr. RUSSELL. I am giving now in all sincerity the impression left on my mind by the discourse of my hon. friend. Of course, I know he may have had some more acute listeners than I, who could gather more intelligently his meaning, but I am speaking of the impression left on my mind, and which I am satisfied was made on the minds of many other gentlemen in this House by the discourse he gave us the other day.

Let us examine that contention—the contention of the hon. member for South Lanark at all events—that by an inquiry, conducted as this was, by calling in witnesses who had voted at an election, and voted secretly by ballot, and by interrogating them as to their votes and by proving—so far as that is demonstration or evidence at all, and it was admitted as evidence in this inquiry—that there were some votes cast in a particular electoral subdivision for a certain candidate which did not appear as having been so cast in the electoral return—and that in that manner the result of the contest was affected—this House can deprive a member of his seat. I want to know how that is going to affect the seats of hon. members on the other side. I want to call the attention especially of hon. gentlemen opposite to the enormous disadvantage at which any such doctrine, if accepted, would have placed them at any time during the past four years in this House, and will at any time during the next twenty years. Does not the hon. gentleman see that there is hardly a member on the other side who can hold a safe seat in this House if once we concede any such doctrine. Take, for instance, the seat of the hon. member for West Assinibola (Mr. Davin), who holds it by a majority of one—by a fair majority of one. Quite true, that majority was given him by the casting vote of the returning officer, but that does not make it the less his right and his duty to occupy a seat here. But what would happen if a majority of this House could refer his case to the Committee on Privileges and Elections and have an inquiry into it and call on the voters in some particular division to declare how they had voted, and procure one single man who would come forward and say that he did not vote for him, as his ballot indicated, but for his antagonist. How would that affect the seat of an hon. member who holds it by a majority of only one? There are

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numbers of hon. gentlemen opposite who hold their seats by narrow majorities, and there will be still more of them after the next election, and those that will then hold their seats will hold them by still narrower majorities. Do not these hon. gentlemen see what a tremendous weapon they are putting into the hands of their adversaries? They will come back after the next election, somewhat diminished in numbers and with diminished majorities, and if we were to accept the doctrine they lay down now, when we will have organized our Committee on Privileges and Elections, as we will do of course, with a majority on our own side, we will be at liberty to call any one of them before that committee and inquire into the majorities by which any one of them holds his seat. Does not the hon. member see that we can secure half a dozen witnesses who have voted for them. Of course, there will be many, 'lowd fellows of the baser sort,' men who, for half a dollar, will come before the Privileges and Elections Committee and swear that they voted, not for the hon. member sitting there, but for his antagonist. Would it be right to lay down the principle that such an inquiry should change the return in the half dozen or more seats that would be in this way affected and send these hon. gentlemen out of the House? It is quite true that there are half a dozen who could be spared. And, no doubt, there will be half a dozen in the next parliament who can well be spared in the public interest; but, for my part, I do not want to see such a doctrine laid down or any precedent established by which we would accomplish even that desirable consummation by such very questionable means.

Mr. LANDERKIN. But, surely, such an end would justify the means?

Mr. RUSSELL. Almost.

I will not be personal; but, I think I could name more than one hon. member on that side of the House whose removal from the House, even by this method, if we had had this wrinkle from the hon. member for South Lanark (Mr. Haggart) a few years ago, would have been of infinite benefit to the public business of the country, and would have prevented the huge burden that has been laid on the columns of *Hansard*. I think the account of one hon. member has run up to 3,796½ speeches, or thereabouts, to date. And all this would have been saved if we had been able to use the methods that is now claimed to be fair and just methods, to eject the hon. gentleman from this House. But, Sir, that, we know, is not the law. We know now that, notwithstanding the views of the hon. member for South Lanark, it is not the precedent that has been established in this House; on the contrary, it has been established by authority as eminent as that of Sir John Thompson, and as distinguished

as Dr. Weldon, that, since the passing of the Controverted Elections Act, this House has not had jurisdiction—that is, it is not in accordance with proper precedent and proper parliamentary practice, to inquire into the majority by which any hon. gentleman in this House holds his seat. I feel sure that if I had time to read through the two volumes of the debates of the House for 1887, I should find expressions to the contrary in the speeches of my hon. friend from York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), and others on that side—especially the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill)—who have taken such strong ground in this case against what they call the burking of inquiry into matters of this kind, and who have taken such strong ground with reference to the rights of constituencies. Though the doctrine that I have spoken of was upheld by Sir John Thompson and Dr. Weldon, in the case of the Queen's County election, it must surely have been after some protest on the part of these other hon. gentlemen. But, I have not been able to find their protests. In the Queen's County case, which was referred to by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) yesterday, there was an undoubted majority in favour of one candidate, but Returning Officer Dunn, in the plenitude of this usurped authority, saw fit to give the seat to the candidate with the minority of votes. It must be that the hon. gentleman to whom I have referred, protested against that, though I have not been able to find that fact recorded. The only view I can find as coming from that side of the House is that expressed by Sir John Thompson, whose words were read to the House yesterday, which I will not repeat, establishing the precedent that the House will not inquire into the majority by which an hon. member holds his seat. In that case of the Queen's County election, I am free to concede still, that the House might very properly have brought the returning officer, or rather the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, before the House and commanded him to amend the returns on the undisputed facts before the House—facts not requiring to be tried by any committee, but admitted by everybody and standing out on the face of the returns, that the man who had the right by majority of votes was not returned and the man who had the minority had been returned. But, as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries pointed out, when there are disputed questions of fact, when it is a question what votes were cast and what votes were not cast, whether certain votes were counted lawfully or unlawfully—questions requiring a scrutiny of votes and the investigation of questions of fact, surely the precedent established was a good one, no matter how much we may have resisted it at

the time, and no matter how strongly we may have felt that it was inapplicable to the case then under consideration. This House is totally unfit for such work as the trial of election petitions—and totally unfit for such work as it is asked to undertake at this moment. Hon. gentlemen have, perhaps, read in the Greville Memoirs the remarks which the writer makes with reference to the party spirit manifested even in state trials, where political questions were at issue and political interests at stake. Mr. Greville, referring to the proceedings against Lord Melville, notes it as a conclusive proof of the mighty influence of party spirit, that even in such a case, involving the guilt or innocence of a high official, all the Whig peers voted on one side and all the Tory peers on the other, with no apparent regard to the essential merits of the case. Now, if you cannot get a tribunal such as the House of Lords free from the partisan spirit, in the case of a state trial, I want to know how you can expect a committee of this House to be free from party spirit in such a case as that which we investigated last year, and which we are asked to investigate again this year? I am not going to allege or pretend that there was less party spirit on this side of the House than on the other side; it is sufficient for my argument to say that both sides of the committee—that is, the membership on both sides of this House as found in the committee—was influenced by party spirit in the inquiry last session. I will give the House an illustration of that. We had a motion before the committee, which I thought was a very fair and just motion, to this effect—the question was as to whether you should or should not immediately call up certain witnesses, men who had voted in one of the electoral subdivisions of West Huron. It was certainly against principle that they should be examined in respect to the way in which they had voted, if by any possibility such a declaration on their part could be avoided. It certainly was against the spirit of the Act that a man voting in secret and voting by ballot should be interrogated as to the way in which he had voted. He could not be required to make any response in an election trial as to the way in which he had voted if he had voted legally; and the contention was made that these witnesses ought not to be allowed to be asked for whom they had voted at all. But, this was the motion that was made, that, at all events, they should not be asked for whom they had voted until the committee had exhausted all other means of arriving at a true result, and at the facts that had taken place in respect to the matter. It was said that otherwise you would unnecessarily give away the secrecy of the ballot. The argument was that if there was any possibility of the committee concluding that it would be necessary to do that,

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at all events, the committee ought not to do it until they had exhausted all other means of getting at the facts. That strikes me as a fair and reasonable resolution, as a proposition to which there could be no possible exception. Yet, we found that every hon. gentleman on the other side of the House who was sitting on that committee opposed that motion, and every hon. gentleman from this side of the House who was sitting on that committee voted in favour of that motion. Does not that illustrate the partisan character of the tribunal? Does not that prove to a demonstration how entirely unfit such a tribunal is to discuss the question of the guilt or innocence of an official for the trial of whose guilt or innocence you have such a perfect and satisfactory tribunal appointed by the law of the land? I say, then, that that tribunal is entirely and absolutely unfitted by its nature for the purpose of prosecuting an inquiry such as this. But, I say further, that this House, and the members of this House, never had, and never will have, the time to devote to an inquiry such as that. Here let me refer to something that was said by my hon. friend from Westmoreland a while ago, where I thought he did not correctly represent the facts to this House with reference to what took place during the course of that election investigation. The hon. gentleman said, as I understood him—and I speak again with submission, and expecting to be corrected—or he gave the House the impression, that there were very few meetings of that committee at which there was not, at least, a considerable number of the members present to hear the evidence. Now, Sir, that is not a fact. The fact is that there were quite a number of sessions of that committee at which there was no person present except the chairman of the committee, the member for Westmoreland, my hon. colleague from Halifax and myself. A number of sessions of that committee took place when no other gentlemen were present. Well, that statement was made and the member for Westmoreland attempted to rebut it by calling up the records of the committee, and he said: You will not find a single session of that committee at which there was not a considerable number of members present, sixteen one day, eighteen another day, twenty-one another day, and so forth. But, the hon. gentleman failed to call attention to this fact, that he was only taking the records of the membership as it appeared at the beginning of the session, in the morning at eleven o'clock. If you will look at the records of that committee you will see that the committee sometimes rose at 1.45 p.m., and took a recess; it rose at six o'clock and took a recess. You will find there were afternoon sessions of the committee, and evening sessions, when the House was sitting. My learned friend will find, if he

examines the record, that there were no less than eight sessions of the committee held under these circumstances, and at these eight sessions I make bold to affirm that at hardly one of them was there a membership present of more than four gentlemen that I have named—perhaps the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was present, but I think he was often absent. The evidence was taken by the chairman and reported by the stenographer, in the presence of the chairman, of my hon. friend from Halifax, of my hon. friend from Westmoreland, and of myself, although all the other members of the committee must admit that they had a duty to hear that evidence, although they were going to be called upon to pass judgment upon it, and although one of them has described himself as having the duties of a juror and compelled to pass judgment as a juror upon the effect of the evidence that was adduced during the inquiry. What possible verdict could that intelligent juror give as to the way he should value the statement of a witness whose evidence he had never heard, whose demeanour he had never seen, and of whose conduct he could not judge? It is the most absolute travesty upon a court of justice to call a competent court the thirty or forty members of that committee, every one of whom would have taken the same view as his leader, on which ever side he might happen to be. The members on this side of the House, I am quite sure, would have arrived at whatever verdict was arrived at by their leader; and, I am quite sure, the members on the other side would have arrived at whatever verdict my hon. colleague from Halifax had chosen to arrive at on the evidence that came before that committee. Talk about judicial procedure, talk about juries, talk about doing justice, talk about deciding on the guilt or innocence of a man, talk about punishing him after a trial such as that; and I am sure that the natural and reasonable instincts of any hon. gentleman must revolt at the idea of an investigation conducted under these circumstances and under these auspices, resulting in the punishment or acquittal of any person, for any crime of any character whatever.

Now, Sir, I wish to make another suggestion, one which I foreshadowed in my opening observations, and that is, that this House has no adequate power to punish any person effectively for the offences that are charged against the deputy returning officers in these two ridings. Why, Sir, if these men, if Mr. Cummings, if Mr. Farr, if the various deputy returning officers in the riding of Brockville, have been guilty of one-tenth part of the crimes which are attributed to them in the affidavits which have been read and in the charge made by my colleague from Halifax, the right place for them is behind the bars of a penitentiary; every mother's son of them should be serving out his term in a penitentiary. And what does my hon. friend pro-

pose? I suppose he proposes that we should have our solemn investigation, that we should have our conference, that we should have our report to the House. That report would be brought down, I suppose, in the closing days of the session, it could not be brought down before if it was brought down at all, when, I dare say, this House would be held up, as it was last session, waiting the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Then, after we had gone through the solemn farce of trying these men under these circumstances, and getting a verdict pronounced against them, I want to know what we would do with them. My hon. friend who, I presume, understands this question certainly as well as myself, and I want to know what he will say upon the question as to what we can do with them when we have arrived at our adverse judgment and have pronounced them guilty of an offence against the dignity of this House and against the election laws. Is there any tower to which he can send them? Is there any prison in which they can be imprisoned? Perhaps there is. Does he pretend that they can be held in custody a single hour after this House has been prorogued? If I understand the law rightly, the utmost this House can do will be to call them up to the Bar of the House, perhaps we can make them kneel down and go through some form of obelance, and make some sort of apology; and we, perhaps, can give them some sort of friendly admonition, some few words of advice. At the most, we can send them to prison only so long as this House is in session, and I have a very considerable doubt if a judge of any court having habeas corpus jurisdiction, might not, on hearing the whole inquiry, say that we have not even power to do that. That is a question which, perhaps, is worthy of discussion later on. But, at most my learned friends will not pretend that we could do more than send them to prison during the time this House is in session, and when this House is prorogued they go scot-free the following morning. And we are asked to admire such a proceeding as a vindication of the laws of this parliament, as a vindication of the laws of this country. We are asked to regard that as a punishment for crimes which, if they have actually been perpetrated, should land every one of the perpetrators in the penitentiary for a couple of years at the inside.

Now, for my part, I do not propose to engage in anything so farcical as that, but I am going to discuss, at all events, rightly or wrongly, the question as to whether we have any power to imprison these men, or to punish them in any way, for the acts that they are alleged to have committed. I doubt whether we have. I admit that it is a thing, perhaps, savouring of recklessness rather than courage to start such a question as that, when I know that by Mr. Blake, by

Sir John Macdonald, by Sir John Thompson, and by other great and leading luminaries of parliamentary law in this House, the opinion has been expressed that there is no doubt, and the expressions which have been used by both Mr. Blake and by Sir John Macdonald are to the effect that they would be very sorry to believe that this House had ever given up its right to control returning officers and deputy returning officers as its own officers. But for that opinion, I would have been inclined to ask, whether it is correct to say that a returning officer is an officer of this House, or that a deputy returning officer is an officer of this House. I do not think that this question has been very carefully looked into. I would suggest that it would be a most excellent matter for hon. members in charge of this question, to inquire into, and that it would be a most excellent thing for the hon. gentleman who is to follow me, to address himself to that question, and to show by what process of reasoning, or by what course of legislation, or by what evolution of parliamentary law, it comes about that this House has jurisdiction to punish a returning officer or a deputy returning officer for an act which it has constituted an indictable crime by the statutes which we have now on the statute-book of the Dominion. I do not know how it happens that we have this power, unless it be that the returning officers and the deputy returning officers are indeed, as they have been said to be, officers of this House, but I do not know how they come to be officers of this House, and if hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House would assist me—I am only a humble inquirer—I would be glad to receive light upon this point. A returning officer is 'such a person as the Governor General appoints.' The writ which is directed to him is described as 'Her Majesty's writ' 'to him directed.' The return is made to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and a duplicate is sent to the party elected. He is paid by a warrant of the Governor General, directed to the Minister of Finance. If there should be a vacancy in the representation in the House, this vacancy is supplied by the Speaker, who issues, not a writ, but his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who issues the writ as Her Majesty's writ, directed to the returning officer. If there is anything in all that routine, in all these provisions, in all the process through which the returning officer is selected and constituted, which makes him an officer of this House, then I can understand the process of reasoning by which it is said that this House has a right to punish that officer, if he misconducts himself in the execution of his duty, and in making his return of the writ.

Mr. TAYLOR. Who pays him ?

Mr. RUSSELL. He is paid, as I have said, by a warrant of the Governor General, directed to the Minister of Finance.

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Mr. TAYLOR. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUSSELL. If that makes him an officer of this House we have a great many officers.

Mr. TAYLOR. An officer of the government.

Mr. RUSSELL. An officer of the government? Very well; if he is an officer of the government, he is not an officer of this House. I am not going to dogmatize upon the subject, which, so far as I am aware, has not been very thoroughly discussed by anybody so far. I feel rather inclined to treat the matter as according to Mark Twain the Prophet Elijah treated the prophets of Baal. He said, according to Twain's old sea captain: 'I do not say that they cannot call down fire on the sacrifice, but I only want to see them do it.' So here I do not say that they cannot show any precedent for the punishment of the deputy returning officer appointed—as all our deputy returning officers have been, but I would like them simply to do it. It will afford comfort to me, and enlightenment to the House if hon. gentlemen will point out any precedent which shows that the House has a right to inflict any punishment on these deputy returning officers, assuming that they have been guilty of the crimes alleged against them in the proceedings before the House. This much is absolutely clear. To me, at least, it seems a thing so clear that there is no room for arguing it at all. The analogy is perfect between the question of punishing the deputy returning officer and that of trying a controverted election. In 1887, this House adopted as a principle, that seeing that the trial of controverted elections of members of this House had been, by the law, handed over to a tribunal constituted for that purpose, it was not expedient for this House to undertake to do the same duty, that it was wrong and improper for the House to enter upon the trial of controverted elections, when it had given to the courts the right and the jurisdiction to inquire into and adjudicate upon these controversies. If this is good logic and a good precedent, I want to know where the analogy breaks down, when you apply it to the case of the punishment of the deputy returning officer. This legislature, not this House, but this legislature, the Governor General, the Senate, and the House of Commons, have passed an Act, by which they have said that if a returning officer, or a deputy returning officer, places a ballot fraudulently in the ballot box, he shall be liable to a fine of \$1,000, or to imprisonment for two years—I suppose imprisonment in a penitentiary. If it is good logic to say, that, because this parliament has handed over the trial of controverted elections to the courts of the land, therefore, this House ought not to be engaged in the same kind of controversy, I want to know, is it not equally good logic to say, that, if this legislature has given the

courts of the land the right to try and punish these people, it is also improper that this House should be engaged in doing the same thing and doing with such infinite inadequacy, that which it has handed over to the courts of the land to do, and which the courts can do so much better? I see no imperfection in the analogy, or in the logic. Perhaps we will be told what this House can do. I believe there has been no attempt on the part of the House of Commons, by way of punishment for contempt of the House, not for a couple of centuries, at least, not since 1666, to fine anybody. They have not since pretended to have power to do anything but to imprison, so that we cannot fine these gentlemen, and if I am right, we cannot imprison them for any wrongful act they may have committed. At the most we can only imprison them during the time that the House is in session, so that their imprisonment ceases when the House is prorogued. They then go scot-free. They then go before a jury of the land and they ask why they should be a second time punished, why they should be dragged before a tribunal to be tried in reference to a subject upon which they have already been tried by this abortive, inadequate machinery of an investigation, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections of the House of Commons.

If they can be punished at all, I suppose it will be conceded that the only ground of their being punished, would be for contempt of the House, if they had acted in the way in which it is said they have acted, as officers of the House in the execution of their duties. Now I hold in my hand one of the best books on the subject of the jurisdiction and privileges of the House of Commons, the constitution of parliament, and its powers and functions, that I know of. This probably is the best recent book we have on the subject, and I do not find any authority in it for regarding the fraudulent performance of his duty by a returning officer, as an infraction of the privileges of this House. This is Sir William Anson's book on the Law and Custom of the Constitution, vol. 1, and I find from it, that the kind of offences for which the House does punish persons, is:

The offences for which punishment is inflicted may be generally described as disrespect to any member of the House, as such, by a person not being a member; disrespect to the House collectively, whether committed by a member or any other; disobedience to the orders of the House or interference with its procedure, with its officers in the execution of their duty, or with witnesses in respect to evidence given before the House or a committee of the House.

That is the kind of offences for which the House inflicts punishment under this general and vague authority which it has, to punish persons for contempt of the House. I do not find that any one of them bears any resemblance whatever to a charge against an official altogether outside of the

House, as to the performance of the duty cast upon him by the general law of the land. I do not see why there is any better reason for this House to punish an officer for failure to discharge that kind of duty, than there is for the House to undertake to punish any officer for failing to properly discharge any duty cast upon him by the law of the land. If this House is interested in having its members properly constituted, and if it is going to undertake to punish all offenders against the election law, then, as Mr. Lyons said in his argument before this House in 1887: If a man kicks up a row at the polling booth and prevents persons from voting, will this House undertake to punish him for a breach of privilege. For my own part, I find it difficult to suggest where the line should be drawn in these matters, if you are to haul up all such offenders here and punish them. If you are to do that, then it seems to me that you can punish all offences committed in elections, under the same vague power which is claimed by this House. At all events, Mr. Speaker, whether we have the power to punish or not, there can be no doubt that the courts have adequate and absolute power, and there can be no doubt that if my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) had been as anxious to get Mr. Cummings or Mr. Farr in the penitentiary for their offences against the Election Act, as he was, or as his friends were to make political capital out of the offences that are alleged against these men, he would have had them punished long ago if the charges are true. From what I know of the skill of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) in adapting means to an end, if he had been as anxious to get Mr. Farr punished—if he is guilty—as he and his friends have been to get this matter into the newspapers—bringing it up every day, sedulously nursing it, keeping the community in a state of agitation over it, using it as some sort of a set-off against the miscellaneous and long-continued rascalities that have been brought home to the Conservative party in many years past—if they had been as anxious to punish these men as they have been to do all this, they certainly would have taken the more effective way of having Mr. Farr and Mr. Cummings brought before the regular courts of the land, where, if guilty, they might have been mulcted in \$1,000 or placed in the penitentiary for a period of two years.

I wish to address myself now for a moment to the question as to whether Mr. Holmes—I suppose Mr. Farr's case is not yet concluded—

An hon. MEMBER. Mr. Cummings.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, I mean Mr. Cummings. I beg pardon of Mr. Holmes, but he need not be offended, for anything I was going to say in regard to Mr. Cummings would not be in any way offensive

if applied to Mr. Holmes. What I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, was, that Mr. Cummings is not guilty in my judgment of any of the offences alleged against him. In view of what has been said to the detriment of Mr. Cummings, who has been maligned for almost twelve months, I think it right to express the conviction impressed on my own mind. In view of the adverse comments on his character and reputation made in the Conservative papers, I deem it but justice to say, that I have no hesitation in stating that I am absolutely convinced of the entire innocence of Mr. Cummings of the charges made against him. Those of us who heard all the evidence that could be adduced against him and was adduced against him, and who witnessed his demeanour before the committee, have a right, I suppose, to express our opinion in that regard. It is very likely, indeed, that gentlemen who went to that committee predisposed against Mr. Cummings, predisposed to find him guilty, predisposed adversely to such a degree as made them unsuitable as judge or jury to try the case, it is very likely that such gentlemen will be ready to say that Mr. Cummings was a guilty man. I have no doubt that those who went there with like predispositions against Mr. Holmes would draw the same conclusion with regard to him. But I do say that the members who went to that committee with an unbiassed mind, and ready to take a fair view of the evidence, will have the same opinion in regard to Mr. Cummings as they have with regard to Mr. Holmes, that they are both absolutely guiltless in the matter.

Now, Sir, all the proceedings connected with that election were confessedly regular upon their face. If any such crime has been committed by Mr. Cummings as that charged against him, then it was committed by the perpetration of a piece of legerdemain such as it would require a consummate artist to achieve. For my own part, after hearing all the evidence, I came to the conclusion that Mr. Cummings was not only morally, but physically incapable of performing the trick which was attributed to him. I call the attention of the hon. member for Westmoreland to one particular circumstance in which he figured as one of the actors, and which tended to bring this conviction to my mind as much as anything else that occurred in the course of the whole trial. That was this: My hon. friend attributes to Mr. Cummings that he put his hand in his right-hand pocket and there deposited, I suppose, a lawful ballot, and that he then abstracted from some inside pocket—which has been discovered by the hon. member for West Assiniboia, but which was not discovered by any of the witnesses—abstracted from that inside pocket a spurious ballot marked for Mr. Holmes, and placed that spurious ballot in

the box. Now, I wish to call attention to an incident that occurred as illustrating the physical incapacity of Mr. Cummings to perform that trick. He was asked to handle some ballots by my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) in the course of the inquiry, and it was a matter of general remark that he handled them very clumsily, handled them as if his fingers were all thumbs; so that my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) lost patience with him and said: Allow me; I am a more expert manipulator than you are, I will take these ballots out of your hands, and I will manipulate them for you. If any one was physically capable of performing this trick it would not be the deputy returning officer in Colborne poll, but it would be my hon. friend (Mr. Powell). That was a very significant circumstance as pointing to the physical incapacity of Mr. Cummings to manipulate the ballots as alleged, and it is a circumstance which would impress in his favour, any one who saw his demeanour in the witness box, when he was charged with the crime. It would be rather a laborious thing to read the evidence, and I shall not read it at length; but if my hon. friends will read the evidence of their own witnesses, James McManus, their own Tory scrutineer, and Edward Shaw, their own Tory scrutineer, which they will find in the published report at pages 7 and 88, they will find that these two Tory scrutineers, who watched the conduct of Mr. Cummings, had not a word to say against him. Mr. Shaw was not only not impressed at the time with anything wrong having happened, but after the inquiry had taken place, he was asked whether he had any suspicion in regard to the way in which that poll was conducted, and he said not merely that he had no suspicions at the time, but that he had no suspicions now. This was after all he had heard about the matter, after all he had read in the newspapers, after all the statements in the affidavits and after all the attempts to prejudice the public mind in the matter. But being a fair-minded man, he says he has not even now any suspicion that there was anything wrong in the conduct of that poll; and I shall be entirely ready to accept the judgment of their Tory scrutineer with reference to the bona fides of Mr. Cummings and with reference to the propriety of his conduct. If you read the evidence of the other witnesses, McAvoy, Lawson and Tobin, who were in the polling booth all the time the election took place, with the exception of an hour when some of them were out taking lunch, you will find that it is all to the same purport, that there was nothing wrong in the conduct of Mr. Cummings at that polling booth. But apart even from this evidence, one clear statement from Mr. Cummings would be sufficient to rebut the evidence given against him: for, as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) pointed

out, the statement of each of the witnesses referred to an independent issue, whether he did or did not put into the ballot box the particular ballot of a particular voter. Mr. Cummings says he did. The voter at the very worst says he did not; and Mr. Cummings's statement that he did is entirely equal as a matter of law, and better, on an issue of guilt or innocence, than the statement of the witness that he did not.

The only circumstance, then, that has to be accounted for is the fact that 13 witnesses have come forward and have sworn in effect that Mr. Cummings did not put into the ballot box the ballots they handed to him. We must face that statement; there is no doubt about it. There is the statement made by 13 witnesses against Mr. Cummings, that the 13 ballots which they severally had handed to him were not put into the ballot box, but that other ballots were put in in place of them. Well, Sir, I suppose the House is very well aware of the way in which that evidence was got—the way in which the declarations of those men were concocted. If it is not, and if any one will look at the evidence of Joseph McCann, on page 52, and the evidence of James Kirkpatrick, on pages 65 and 66, he will see that immediately after the election. Mr. McLean, having been disappointed in the support he had received, finding more votes against him than he had expected to find—which is not a very unusual experience in the life of a defeated candidate—and finding that some of the men who had promised to vote for him had apparently gone back on him—which also is not a very unusual thing in the life of a candidate—went around among them and challenged them: 'Didn't you say you were going to vote for me?' 'Yes.' 'Well, I hope you kept your word.' What could a man say to that except that he had, whether he had or not? His ballot was a secret ballot, and I suppose the man who has a right to the secrecy of the ballot does not strain the matter very much when he thinks that if he has a right to keep his secret, he has a right to lie about it to a person who asks him a question which he has no right to ask. Having made the statement that he had so voted, he was asked, 'I suppose you would have no objection to sign a paper to that effect?' 'Certainly not.' The paper is presented to him, and he signs it. How could he refuse to sign it after having made the statement? The declaration was not in many cases presented to him as a solemn declaration having the effect of an affidavit, but as a simple statement. But the declaration having been got, the next stage is easy. This man is told: 'There is going to be an inquiry into the election by a committee of the House of Commons, and you will be hauled up before that committee, and asked to say for whom you voted; now, don't forget that you have signed a declaration stating that you voted for McLean, and you had better stick to

that declaration, because, if it is proved that you have made a false declaration, you may find yourself lodged in the penitentiary or in the county jail.' Heaven knows what the poor man's imagination would conjure up as the consequence of having made that declaration. Take the 13 electors of the class to which these men belonged, and they would think they had involved themselves in the danger of a prosecution for perjury for having made a false declaration. No person knows for whom they voted, nobody knows that they did not vote for McLean but voted for Holmes. It is a great deal easier for them to go into the witness box and say, 'I voted for McLean,' than to say, 'I voted for Holmes, but signed a solemn declaration that I voted for McLean.' That is a terrible temptation to present to a man in humble circumstances. He is caught; he knows he is caught, and he takes the bull by the horns, and goes before the committee and swears, as these 13 voters did, that they had voted for McLean and had not voted for Holmes, knowing that nobody could say anything to the contrary, that their votes are locked up in absolute secrecy, and that there is no danger of their being confronted with a false declaration.

Mr. MILLS. How about the evidence of the micrometer?

Mr. RUSSELL. I will take it all up by degrees; it is all here. The micrometer has absolutely nothing to do with the question I am discussing. I want to call the attention of the committee now to the fact that there was a concerted attempt to frighten these people, to impress them with the fact that they had signed a solemn declaration. If any one will read the evidence of Scarlet Williams at page 179, or that of Abner Morris at page 234, he will see that there was a concerted effort to produce an impression on the minds of these witnesses time and again that it was easier for them to stick to the declaration they had made than to go back on it, and that it would be a dangerous thing if at the inquiry before the committee they did not stick to the statements made in that declaration. More than that, they did not trust these witnesses entirely to themselves and to their own inspiration. They were corralled in a hotel in this city, and they had the services of a man to keep them in good training and to instruct them. If any hon. member will look at the evidence of James Clark, on page 206, and the evidence of Aaron A. Williams, on page 216, he will see the nature of the services rendered by Mr. Beck. Why, there was no occasion on which that committee met, when Mr. Beck was not sitting there in full view of the witnesses confronting them. He was with them in the hotel, he was their conductor on their excursions around the city; they had their personal conducted expeditions over the

city, and they thought so much of his services that they passed the hat around, and from the large fees they received as witness, day in and day out—and which amounted to a pretty penny, some \$10,000 or \$12,000, I am informed—they made up a purse for Mr. Beck to reward him for the kind services he was rendering McLean and the witnesses in keeping them here while the matter was being inquired into. So that every precaution was taken that they should not go back on the declarations they had made. There is nothing remarkable in the fact that dragooned, coralled and trained in that way, thirteen men out of some 100 odd in that particular subdivision, should have been worked up to come here and swear positively that they had voted for McLean, when they had voted for Holmes. My belief is that that was what took place. I cannot bring myself to believe that Cummings was physically or morally capable of the trick attributed to him. It is not an uncommon thing, any man who has had experience in election trials or courts of justice at all, knows that it is no uncommon thing to find a considerable number of witnesses who will lie in a case like this. It is unfortunate and it does not show the best side of human nature; but any one of us who has had any legal practice, more especially in election trials, will not be surprised at such things occurring. I have known of cases in which a candidate was obliged to confront a dozen or more witnesses, and I am sure that there are not members of this House who have been obliged some time or other in their career, to stand up in court and confront at least a dozen of witnesses, who have come forward and deposed to statements which were utter fabrications, but which were given as statements of fact for the purpose of disqualifying a candidate. And in each case, it has been laid down as law in this country that where a candidate has squarely contradicted the statements of such witnesses—no matter how many there may be, so long as each gives evidence on an independent issue—the word of the candidate, as in this case the word of Cummings, must be received on each one of the issues as answering the statements made by each one of these witnesses. Not merely is that the legal conclusion, but any fair-minded man, watching the demeanour of those witnesses, seeing how they behaved, seeing the shuffling way in which they answered the questions put to them, seeing how some of them collapsed altogether under cross-examination, seeing how some trembled as they came to the stand, noticing the way they evaded questions, remarking the whole course of cross-examination, could not fail to come, not merely as an indisputable legal inference, but as a matter of actual demonstration, to the conclusion that this legal conclusion is a correct solution of the

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question at issue between Cummings and those witnesses.

The hon. member for Westmoreland attached importance to the fact that there were two different kinds of ballots, and that the thirteen produced were different ballots printed on different paper from the genuine ones. My hon. friend refers to the micrometer to show that these were different ballots, printed on different paper from the stubs from which they were taken. I admit freely that if the micrometer was an infallible piece of machinery and honestly manipulated, it was proved that these ballots were on different paper from the stubs from which the real, genuine ballots were taken. But that does not prove that Cummings put them in the ballot box at all. Those witnesses may have, for reasons of their own, taken those ballots, marked them for Mr. Holmes, and given them to the deputy returning officer to put into the ballot box in the place of the official ballots which they had received from him. Everybody knows that that is not an uncommon thing for voters to do.

Mr. WALLACE. Where would they get them?

Mr. RUSSELL. It was easy to get them. The ballots were printed in an ordinary country printing office, somewhere around Lake Huron, I suppose, and the printers had directions to print a certain number, but they were not printed in any secret place, with any guarded surroundings, but at a place where it was the simplest thing for anybody to get any number he wanted. I admit that that was an irregularity. I admit that the returning officer should have stood over the printer, when printing them, and seen that none were printed except those put up in the parcels for which receipts were taken. But everybody knows that that is never done, and that until you have some official stamp or seal or mark on the ballots used, you will always have the possibility of this thing happening, and of there being more ballots printed than are required.

Mr. HAGGART. Had not these ballots the initials of Cummings on them, and did he not admit that the initials were his?

Mr. RUSSELL. No, he did not, and they did not have his initials on them. His initials were only on the genuine ballots. If these were genuine, which I do not think was absolutely disproved, but may be regarded as improbable, then they had his initials upon them. But if they were spurious, then they did not have his initials upon them, and he did not say they had. I can only give my hon. friend the effect of Cummings's evidence, because I have not here the brief which refers to the particular page, but the effect of his evidence was this. These particular ballots were put in

his hand at an early stage of the inquiry, and he was asked if the initials on the back were his, and he said they were. He had not then the remotest suspicion that there could be any contention made that they were not the very ballots he had given the voters; and assuming that they were, he answered, as any innocent man would, but as a guilty man in all probability would not, that the initials were his. What else could he have said when he believed in good faith that those were the ballot papers he had given the voters, and which they had brought back to him to put in the box? But after he discovered that there were two distinct kind of ballots, and after the suspicion was created that these might be spurious, he was asked whether the initials were his, if the ballots were not those he had given the voters. He replied that they certainly were not. I am merely giving the effect of his evidence and am not quoting his exact words. That particular question, I now remember, was objected to and not pressed, but he was asked a more explicit question.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him? He says that Mr. Cummings said the initials were his only before he knew there were different kinds of ballots. Let me point to him this evidence at page 36:

Q. Then, you are satisfied in your own mind, are you not, that all the ballots of series 3, from Nos. 1 to 14, inclusive, are different paper to the rest of the ballots?—A. In my judgment.

Q. I suppose you are no judge of paper to go into these stubs?—A. No.

Q. Now, Mr. Cummings, you have already sworn that these initials on the backs of all these ballots are in your handwriting?—A. Yes.

Q. There is no question about that?—A. No question.

That was after his attention had been drawn to the fact that there were two different kinds of ballots.

Mr. RUSSELL. Because he had not come to the conclusion that there was anything wrong about the papers. He believed at that time that these were genuine ballots. And believing that he believed these were his initials; and it is not proven that they were not genuine ballots, nor is it proven that they were not his initials. I find this in Mr. Cummings's evidence, at page 43, of the inquiry:

Q. You told Mr. Powell that you didn't put any number on the counterfoil?—A. Yes.

Q. You simply put the initials?—A. I simply put my initials.

Q. Now, if a voter brought back to you a ballot paper having the counterfoil on it, would you have any means of identifying that with the paper you had given him except what you would conjecture to be your initials put there?—A. No, no means.

Q. Would it be possible—did you examine the colour, thickness or print—of course not, that was on the face—the outside of the ballot was all that you could see?—A. That was all.

Q. Did you examine the colour of the paper of the ballots or the thickness or quality when the ballot was given back to you?—A. No.

Q. You simply took it in good faith from the voter, tore off the counterfoil in the way that has been described, folded it and put it in the box?—A. Yes.

Q. Now, you have said to Mr. Powell you could not be certain these fourteen ballots were the ones given to you by the returning officer?—A. I have.

Q. Could you be certain that they were the ones given by you to the voter if you had not numbered the counterfoil?—A. That is the same position.

Q. Just the same position getting it from the voter as from the returning officer?—A. Yes.

Q. That is to say, it might be possible for a voter to bring back a different ballot bearing your initials and for you to fold it and put it in the box?—A. Yes.

Then, at page 45, I find this:

Q. Mr. Cummings, you made your statement yesterday that you had initialled all these ballots; I want to ask you, as a matter of fact, did you initial any ballots but these handed to the voters in the booth?—A. None.

Now, I consider it to be an extremely unfair thing, and an unusually unfair thing, on the part of my hon. friend to seek to make it appear that Mr. Cummings could be represented as stating that the initials on these ballots were his initials. He stated them to be his initials, and believed them to be so. And everybody believed them to be his initials, and these ballots to be genuine ballots. I think yet, that they may be genuine ballots. But suppose a ballot paper to have been handed to him by a voter, as to which ballot paper we are not prepared, even now, to say conclusively that it was spurious—how are we to hold that it was wrong for him to assume that it was a genuine ballot? And, how can we say it was wrong for him, under that supposition, to swear that they were his initials, when he tells us that if it should turn out that these are spurious ballots, these are not his initials, because, he says, he initialled no ballots, except those he gave to the voters? Surely it is pressing the matter unduly, to say that he swore that these were his initials. Now, I promised I would say something about the micrometer—

Mr. HAGGART. Before going on to that, would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Russell), please explain how it comes that these thirteen ballots are initialled in ink with a pen, while the others are done with a pencil?

Mr. RUSSELL. There is a great deal in the evidence about that. The evidence is that some of the unquestionably genuine ballots were also written with ink.

Mr. McALISTER. No.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, my hon. friend (Mr. McAlister), is forgetting the evidence.

Mr. McALISTER. Not one.

Mr. RUSSELL. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that there are no ballots in ink in No. 4 Colborne, except these thirteen ballots?

Mr. HAGGART. I would say that the whole thirteen were in ink, and there is only, at most, one which was—

Mr. RUSSELL. No, several. And the question was put to different witnesses at the time, and to different members of the committee, and we had to examine them closely, to determine whether they were written in ink or in pencil. No person, unless his eyesight was very good, could be certain on that point, without examining the ballot papers through a magnifying glass. Are we, then, to hold Mr. Cummings to be a criminal, because, when these ballots were presented to him, bearing what appeared to be his own initials, he did not stop to think whether he had written his initials in ink or in pencil, or whether the ballot handed to him was initialled in ink or in pencil. The paper was brought to him, apparently in good faith, bearing his initials, and he folded it up and put it in the box, without suspicion that there was anything wrong about it. If his attention had been called to any suspicious circumstances, he might have got out his magnifying glass, and looked to see whether the initials were in ink or in pencil. He was not conducting an election trial, and had not had his suspicions aroused then. He did not suspect that anybody was trying to fool him, and I do not know that it would have made much difference to him, if they were. So long as the voter wanted to put in the box the ballot that he handed to Mr. Cummings, I think it probable that Mr. Cummings would have thought it did not make much difference to him, whether it was the ballot he gave him or some other—he simply took it, folded it up, and put it in the box. If he had been intending to put up a fraud, or stuff the ballot box, if he were a man corrupt enough to practice such a trick, would he have left open so plain and obvious means of detection, as that of marking these thirteen ballots and only these in ink? The very fact that my hon. friend (Mr. Haggart) has mentioned, is one of the strongest indications of there being no pre-arranged attempt on the part of Mr. Cummings to stuff the ballot box, and no conspiracy on his part. Such a means of detection, even the veriest fool or imbecile would not have left open, if he had been attempting a fraud.

Now, as to the micrometer, the allegation is, that by means of a little steel machine, an expert can tell, by the pressure he puts upon it, and by the indications he gets after the pressure, to distinguish a difference of the thousandth part of an inch between the thickness of the ballot and that of the stub. If this micrometer tells the truth, if it has been made

to tell the truth, then, of course, it is undoubted that the ballot that was put in the box was not the ballot that was given to the voter by the deputy returning officer; but it does not at all follow that it was not the ballot given by the voter to Mr. Cummings. All that follows is that this very common and ordinary trick, which is put up frequently in elections, was put up in this case, namely, that the voter, for some reason or other, preferred to hand to the deputy returning officer a ballot which he himself had been previously furnished with. That is all it proves. It is not very important whether it is conceded to be true or not. All I am going to say about the matter is this, that in regard to that micrometer you have to draw two conclusions before you can be certain that the micrometer is telling us the truth. First of all, it is an instrument of extreme delicacy, although it did not look like an instrument of extreme delicacy, it is only a small piece of machinery which I would have supposed would hardly have been adequate to the measurement of such infinitesimal differences of thickness as that of a ballot paper. The thousandth part of an inch is a very extreme fractional dimension, the one-tenth part of an inch is very small.

Mr. McALISTER. Did Harvey not say that the paper was so thin that he could tell from its appearance that it was not made on the same machine?

Mr. RUSSELL. That would prove absolutely nothing.

Mr. DAVIN. May I ask one question?

Mr. RUSSELL. No, I am 'slow of understanding,' and I can only absorb one question at a time. Now, the circumstance which the member for Restigouche (Mr. McAlister) has referred to has absolutely nothing to do with it. The fact that there were two different kinds of ballot papers proves nothing. Because it was demonstrated beyond any possibility of doubt that among the genuine ballots there were two different kinds of ballot paper, and that among the genuine ballots which were handed to the deputy returning officer and actually used for the purpose of voting, there were ballots exactly the same as those thirteen ballots that were called spurious in polling division number 4, Colborne. There is no doubt also that ballots of that kind were mixed up with ballots of the other kind in the same polling booth. And there were the same differences in the dimension, the same differences in the appearance, the same differences in the type, the same differences in the dye from which these were struck between the admittedly genuine ballots that there were between these so-called spurious ballots—I call them spurious for the purpose of argument only—that went into the box in number 4 and the ballots that were admittedly genuine. The explanation is a very

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simple one, that they had two different dies, both of them official, in order to save press-work in the office where they were printed and in order to do the work more cheaply than if they made all the ballots from one die.

Mr. POWELL. But was it not proved conclusively that all the ballots in that booth, so far as the stubs were concerned, were identical in thickness?

Mr. RUSSELL. I say the proof of that depends upon the micrometer. If the micrometer tells us the truth, then undoubtedly they were different from the stubs, and the conclusion is inevitable that they were not the ones that were given to the voter by the deputy returning officer. I say that has absolutely no tendency in the world to prove that they were wrongly put in the box by the returning officer; all it proves is that, for reasons that we can well understand, for the purpose of a little trick, which we have seen perhaps perpetrated, a little trick which many of us have heard of, and about which I am afraid some of us know more than we ought to—the voter may have desired to put in the ballot box a paper different from that which was given to him by the deputy returning officer, but which implies no fraud at all on the part of the deputy returning officer.

Mr. DAVIN. How will he account for Mr. Cummings's initials being on these ballots?

Mr. RUSSELL. I will not answer that question, for the reason that if the hon. gentleman chooses to treat this House in the same way he treated the Election Committee and to absent himself when matters are being discussed, I do not feel bound to go a second time over the ground already covered. The parties, however, assuming these to be spurious ballots and desirous of having these ballots used, of course, would take care to make the initials such that they would deceive Mr. Cummings and make him think these were the same ballots which he had given to the voters.

The reason why I say there is some doubt about the micrometer is this: None of us were experts, we were entirely at the mercy of the man who brought the micrometer there. He could tell us whatever he pleased, we had no means whatever of checking him. I do not understand the micrometer; I do not know whether the member for Westmoreland or any of us understood to what tricks the micrometer itself might be open. If I were a witness and had the manipulation of a machine like that it might be possible for me by the amount of pressure I placed upon the screw, by the amount of purchase I gave, to show there were one thousandth or two thousandths or three or four thousandths of an inch of difference. The only difference we have to account for

is a difference of a one-thousandth part of an inch in the thickness of the ballot paper. I say that difference may have existed, and if so it proves the spuriousness of those ballots, not that they were stuffed in by Mr. Cummings, but that they were different from the ones that he gave to the voter. But I say first of all, it is written down in the books that the micrometer is not a machine which can be absolutely depended upon, but that on the contrary very important and very great mistakes have been made in astronomical calculations by placing dependence upon the micrometer. It is not a machine of absolute accuracy in the first instance, and in the second place, nobody knows whether the witness was able or was not able so to manipulate it as to make it tell whatever story he chose to have it tell to the committee. We have no means of knowing whether the micrometer spoke the truth, or whether, in fact, those ballots were really the very same ballots which were given to the voters by the deputy returning officer. All I say is that it proves nothing whatever to grant that they were spurious ballots, it proves nothing whatever against Mr. Cummings's integrity, nothing against his honour, nothing against his honesty, to prove and to admit that these ballots were different from, and could never have been taken from the stubs which were produced before the Election Committee. The only inference we can draw is that they came in from the outside, and for some reason or other the voter preferred to keep the ballot paper which he had given to him perhaps as a voucher, or to show it to somebody else, or to destroy it, for some reason that we may be able to conjecture, and to deposit in the ballot box a ballot different from that which he received from the deputy returning officer.

Now, I do not think I need spend much time on Farr's case. There was no instance before the Election Committee in which any statement was alleged to have been made by Farr under circumstances when it was possible to check it by the evidence of some other person, that his story was not proved conclusively to be a gross fabrication. A witness was called to say that Farr had alleged that a man named Horton had taken him down to Craig's, wherever that was, and put him through his facings; and that Yates had tried to get him to give up the ballot box because he was not equal to the job. That was a statement attributed to Farr. Well, the facts were that these men knew that Mr. Farr, as some expressed it, had been on a spree, and that he was really incompetent to take charge of the box, that it would be discreditable to the subdivision that he should be the presiding officer there at all. He had been the presiding officer on various occasions appointed by municipal councils of both parties. He had before this, without complaint, conducted election contests in that

subdivision. He had had charge of the poll in the plebiscite campaign, and no complaints had ever been made against him, and he was appointed as a mere matter of routine, as a sort of permanent presiding officer, so that, whenever an election came on, I fancy, that every one knew that Jim Farr was a man who would conduct it. The returning officer selected him because he had always been the presiding officer on these occasions. But these prominent Liberals knew that he was not fit to conduct that poll, and they went to him to induce to him to give back his poll books, to give up the box, and to allow the returning officer to select some one else more competent to discharge the duties assigned to him. He did not choose to do so, and the very things that it was thought might happen did happen in that instance. He was on a drunken spree, and may have put wrong ballots into the ballot box, he may have put some ballots in that had no names upon them at all, and some that had no initials upon them. It may be that in his clumsiness, he handed two ballots to a voter so that when the ballots were produced, it was found that some of them came out with initials on the back, but no cross on the face, and others with a cross on the face, and no initials on the back, which was exactly what would happen. How it happens makes no difference so far as the Liberal party is concerned, and so far the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes) is concerned. It does not make any difference what you think about Farr. The hon. member for West Huron, who has been called upon to resign his seat because of these irregularities did not appoint him. He had nothing to do with his appointment; the man had been previously appointed and he had frequently conducted elections before. Some of the prominent Liberals of the subdivision desired to get rid of him, that he should be replaced by a competent officer, and more than that, he voted for Mr. McLean. There is not the slightest evidence to attach any responsibility to the hon. member for West Huron. Why the hon. member for West Huron should be called upon to resign his seat, why he should be called to account for the vagaries of this poor drunkard is something that it is absolutely beyond any capacity I have to understand.

Now we have a new element which has been imported into this matter which was not before us last year, and it is the affidavits made by Pritchett. Mr. Pritchett seems to have the same facility of making affidavits as the immortal Titus Oates. He can always produce an affidavit. There is no limit to the number he can make. There are three affidavits, and they all seem to be made on the same day. Why he should not separate them by a little time and give himself a little rest is something that it is not easy to understand, but this is the kind of evidence upon which we are asked to

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reopen this case. This man who makes these affidavits, some of which were read in the Ontario assembly a few weeks ago, is a man who himself, confessed on oath that he allowed himself to personate a man by the name of Marshall P. Johnston, that he had accepted the poll books as Marshall P. Johnston, that he had signed a paper, forging the name of Marshall P. Johnston to that paper, and after admitting personation and forgery he went on to tell of a number of other rascalities that he had perpetrated, as described in the affidavit which the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) read to us the other night, or rather he read one paragraph of it. Why he did not read the whole of the affidavit is something that I do not understand. Why he gave it to us in such homœopathic doses is something that he must have reason for, but which no fellow can understand unless he is in the secret. Whether it was to give the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) an opportunity of making the grand spectacular display that he made on a later occasion, I do not know. But, I think it would have been only fair and just, if, on Friday evening, he had given us the opportunity of knowing what was contained in the affidavit instead of doling out a small portion of the affidavit and leaving the rest to be given by the hon. member for Westmoreland on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I stated—

Mr. RUSSELL. I have not finished.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have the right to raise a point of order.

Mr. RUSSELL. I will ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) to allow me to finish my statement, and I will yield the floor. I was going on to say that I was not in the House when the affidavit was read by the hon. member for Westmoreland, and I do not know whether it was the same affidavit from which the hon. member for Halifax read an extract on Friday evening. There may be a different one. I was unfortunately obliged to deny myself the luxury of listening to the hon. gentleman having been engaged at another duty upstairs. But if it was the same affidavit from which the hon. member for Westmoreland and from which the hon. member for Halifax also read, then I say that he should have given the whole of the affidavit and not have doled it out to us in fragments.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I read one paragraph of the affidavit and I stated the effect of the rest of the affidavit.

Mr. RUSSELL. My learned friend (Mr. Borden) did not give any names.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I said that the names were given.

Mr. RUSSELL. You did not give the names.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would have given them if they had been asked for.

Mr. RUSSELL. The hon. gentleman did not give us the names.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will explain the reason why I did not give the names. There has been complaint made in this House about giving names, and I thought it was better to state the effect of the affidavit unless the names were called for by some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House. But, I stated the effect of the affidavit.

Mr. RUSSELL. I have such absolute and unbounded respect for the hon. member for Halifax, and such absolute and unbounded belief in anything he would state that I accept his statement as being absolutely true, as to the reasons why he did not give the names, but, if almost anybody else had made that statement, I would have been inclined to have doubted it. Anyway this affidavit maker has been already pilloried in this House, on the strength of the statement made by a learned judge, 'as a self-convicted liar.' He is not only a self-convicted liar, but he is self-convicted of perjury, self-convicted of personation, self-convicted of forgery and almost every other crime in the calendar. He is like the man who desires to abolish the ten commandments. Now we cannot have the opportunity of meeting his affidavit which we would have had if all the facts had been given to us at length on Friday evening, yet we are able to read some affidavits which nullify very largely the effect of his statements, although, to my mind it is absolutely and entirely unnecessary to do so. It is simply preposterous that any action of this House should be based on the statement of a self-convicted scoundrel of such a character as is the man whose affidavit has been brought before the House. If it is necessary to produce affidavits in reply, I have affidavits which I will read to the House. Here is one :

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, Frederick A. Bates, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, insurance agent, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 1 for the North ward of the town of Brockville at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that, as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have resided in Brockville for many years. And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) F. A. BATES.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 16th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) ELMER W. JONES,
A Commissioner, &c.

That is from Mr. Bates, one of the persons who was not named by my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) on Friday night.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, but I understand, though I did not hear the solemn declaration read, that his name was used in that by Mr. Pritchett. Here is the solemn declaration of James Robertson :

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, James Robertson, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, auctioneer, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 1, for the West ward of the town of Brockville, at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that, as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner, and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have resided in Brockville for the last twenty-seven years, and have frequently been a deputy returning officer.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) JAMES ROBERTSON.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 15th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) E. J. REYNOLDS,
A Commissioner, &c.

I did not hear the affidavit read, I must say again; but that is another of the persons who is referred to and named by Mr. Pritchett in the affidavit read to the House the other night.

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, Brock Cowan, of the township of Elizabethtown, in the county of Leeds, farmer, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 1, for the township of Elizabethtown at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that, as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner, and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have lived all my life in the township of Elizabethtown and town of Brockville, and have frequently been deputy returning officer.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) BROCK COWAN.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 15th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) E. J. REYNOLDS,
A Commissioner, &c.

That is another of the men who is named in the affidavit of Mr. Pritchett, as my instructions are:

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, Elmer Watson Jones, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, barrister-at-law, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling district No. 1, for the East ward of the town of Brockville at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that, as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

Mr. RUSSELL.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner, and I know of no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have resided all my life in Brockville, and have frequently acted as deputy returning officer.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force an effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) ELMER W. JONES.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 15th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) W. S. BUELL,
A Commissioner, &c.

That is another of the parties referred to and named by Mr. Pritchett in the affidavit read the other night.

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, William King, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, book-keeper, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 2, for the Centre Town of the town of Brockville, at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that, as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner, and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have resided in Brockville for fifty years, and have frequently acted as deputy returning officer.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM KING.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 15th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) E. J. REYNOLDS,
A Commissioner, &c.

That is another of the men referred to and named by Mr. Pritchett.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Did the hon. gentleman read the whole of the last affidavit?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes, substantially. It is exactly the same affidavit as the other.

Dominion of Canada, province of Ontario, county of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, Rufus W. Smith, of the township of Elizabethtown, in the county of Leeds, farmer, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 5, for the township of Elizabethtown at the said election.

2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that as far as I am concerned, and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers, the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.

3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.

4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.

5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner, and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.

6. I have resided in the said township of Elizabethtown all my life, and have frequently acted as deputy returning officer.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) RUFUS W. SMITH.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 15th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) E. J. REYNOLDS,
A Commissioner, &c.

That is another mentioned in the affidavit, and I have no doubt that if the names had been given to us on Friday night, we would have half a dozen more solemn declarations from the persons named.

Mr. BRITTON. They will all come.

Mr. RUSSELL. I have no doubt in the world that Mr. Pritchett will be contradicted, in so far as he has not taken previous good care to make his statement in such form that he cannot be contradicted. I have no doubt that he has been instructed to make his declarations in an astute way, so as to try and avoid responsibility. So far as he has made statements affecting the deputy returning officers in the town of Brockville, I believe he will be as flatly contradicted in regard to all as he has in these affidavits now before the House. Now, all those affidavits, so far as I have been able to ascertain, were sworn in Detroit, in the state of Michigan.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Not these affidavits.

Mr. RUSSELL. Not these affidavits, of course. I refer to the affidavits of Prit-

chett, and so far as I have been able to ascertain they were all sworn in Michigan.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Six o'clock.

Mr. RUSSELL. As it is six o'clock, I do not wish to detain the House longer, and I shall conclude. All I have to say in conclusion is: That under all the circumstances; seeing that the law of the land gives such a perfect and adequate remedy; seeing that the tribunal of the House of Commons is confessedly such an entirely inappropriate tribunal for the trial of questions of facts such as these; seeing that any committee which this House can select is bound to be biased by its political complexion; seeing that from the experience of last session the members of this House cannot possibly attend to the proper duties of their constituents, if while this House is sitting they are investigating matters upstairs which can be far better investigated by the courts of the land; seeing that there is grave doubt as to whether this House has any power at all to punish the deputy returning officers who may not be officers of this House and who may not be under its jurisdiction and control; and seeing that any punishment which this House could impose is absolutely and entirely farcical; seeing all this, I for my part am prepared to vote that it is not expedient for us to waste any more time upon an inquiry which could have been, and can now be, so much better conducted before the regular tribunals of the land.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 159)—from the Senate—for the relief of Gustavus Adolphus Kobold.—(Mr. Bennett.)

SUPPLY—BROCKVILLE AND WEST HURON ELECTIONS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Ross-Robertson) has spoken to me since recess, as he is very anxious to go to Toronto to-night, and would like to interpose to make a brief speech in this debate before going. I myself have no objection to his doing so, if it is with the unanimous consent of the House, so that I shall not lose my right to speak after him, as I propose to do.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Certainly.

Mr. JOHN ROSS-ROBERTSON (East Toronto). Mr. Speaker, I am much obliged to the House for the courtesy extended to me. I have not very much to say. I have

been trying to size up the situation, having regard to the position of the government in this election business. The fact is that the more I look into the matter, the more convinced am I that the government is not only in an unsatisfactory but awkward position, and I am certain that the country will regard it in the same light. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), by his speech yesterday showed all the signs of a first-class scare. He is evidently afraid that if these charges went to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, that committee might, perhaps, be overworked; and I can tell the government that it is a pretty black outlook when one of its members is afraid that a committee might have too much work to do, if it had to inquire into all the crimes that are committed on behalf of the government. I would suggest to the government, and to the leader of the government, who has just entered the chamber, that the best way to stop the demand for inquiries, is to stop the supply of crimes. But it looks very much as if the government will neither prevent the crimes nor order an inquiry. I am not a lawyer; I cannot, therefore, enter into the legal quibbles in this case; but it seems to me that this parliament has no higher duty than of exposing the crimes charged in those terrible affidavits which have been produced and read in this House. I grant you that the maker of this affidavit may not be an archangel. It must not be forgotten, that this man Pritchett was a good enough man to do election work for the government, and why then, should he be too bad a man to give evidence for the opposition? If this man Pritchett could travel from constituency to constituency on behalf of the government, why should not the opposition be free to put him in the witness box on behalf of the country and the electorate which has been so gravely wronged by his misdoings? There is an old saying, that when thieves fall out honest men get their own. But, according to the policy of this government the election thieves have only to hang together until it is too late to get at them in the courts, and honest men may then look in vain to this parliament for redress. There seems to be no chance of getting at the truth in these election cases till there is a row, and the row seldom comes until it is too late to use the evidence in the courts. It is clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that the government does not want the truth to come out, either in the courts or anywhere else.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picton). Mr. Speaker, it is only polite, in replying to the junior member for the city of Halifax (Mr. Russell), to make a passing reference, at least, to that portion of his speech with which he opened, consuming fifteen minutes of time exactly by the clock in dealing with what he considered, and described himself at the conclusion of his

Mr. ROBERTSON.

statement, as trivial considerations in regard to this question; because, while the hon. gentleman showed some dexterity in the manner in which he could present a portion of a record to the consideration of the House, he took gross liberties with the facts in dealing with what he pretended and boldly asserted had been an attempt on the part of the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) to burk an inquiry into the frauds connected with the West Huron and Brockville elections. The extent of the hon. gentleman's audacity throughout that speech can be gauged by a reference to the records of this House in that connection: and since the hon. gentleman devoted so much time in that vain effort, I venture to ask the House to bear with me while I recall to the minds of hon. gentlemen the extraordinary efforts that the senior member for Halifax was compelled to make in order to have a full inquiry at a comparatively early date in this session, and the extraordinary and unparalleled combination, which the record shows, of hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches, with their supporters, to prevent the hon. senior member for Halifax from having his motion considered. And bear in mind that the hon. gentleman was perfectly willing, as the record shows, to bring that question up at a time when the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) could not put forward that impotent answer, that there was no opportunity for the government to propose an amendment. The hon. gentleman was thwarted in bringing his motion on at such a time. The facts shortly are these: Parliament opened this year on February 1; the Committee on Privileges and Elections was appointed on February 9, but not organized; the notice of motion was given by the hon. senior member for Halifax, that he would move on the following Tuesday to have this matter referred again to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, so that the inquiry, begun with the sanction and approval of the Treasury benches last year, could be completed this session. The motion was attempted to be made on February 14, but an objection from the government side of the House, sustained by the Chair, made it necessary for the senior member for Halifax, to put a notice of his motion on the Order paper, which he did on the same day. The Committee on Privileges and Elections was not organized, and not ready for business of any character, until February 20. When the motions were reached, and the unopposed ones were being first gone through, this motion, by request of the government, was, on February 26, allowed to stand. The government took Thursdays on February 27 as government days, exclusively for government business, and an appeal was then made by the senior member for Halifax to the government to enable him in some manner—and a manner

could have been easily devised by the government, if they had the slightest desire to, push the inquiry—to expedite the motion, to inquire into this subject. On March 19, for the first time, I think for years in this House, the government declined to allow the unopposed motions to be gone on with as a matter of course. This action on their part compelled the senior member for Halifax to drop his notice on the Order paper, so that he could, on the motion to go into supply, take advantage of his right, and move it; for if his notice stood on the Order paper, he would have been prevented, under the rules of the House, from bringing up the subject any other time than when his motion was called in due course. But the government were equal to the occasion. The hon. the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), who figures largely, in one connection or another, in all these unpleasant and unsavoury matters, whose name—whether rightly or wrongly, does not concern me at present—was connected with these elections, who was connected undoubtedly with the West Huron election, and that he will not deny—

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). What does the hon. gentleman mean by saying that I will not deny?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That the hon. gentleman was in the West Huron campaign.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I will not deny that I addressed public meetings in the West Huron campaign.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is sufficient for me. Later on I will make some further reference to the hon. gentleman.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman will have full opportunity.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Thank you.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. But he will understand that he need not indulge in insinuations. Let him say what he desires to state, openly like a man.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Before I get through, we will see whether hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches are prepared to act like men, or are going to shelter themselves behind their majority in this House, and compel their supporters to take a position the reverse of that which they took, with one accord, last year, in order to shield, not only these criminals whose names have been mentioned in the evidence time and again, but the government of the day, from the light being cast on their course of action in these matters.

But the Postmaster General, apparently one of the interested parties, who has admitted that in this extraordinary campaign

in which, according to the evidence, it would appear, that a seat was stolen, addressed meetings—that hon. gentleman seeing what the senior member for Halifax was about, and the light that would be let into all the doings in that campaign, whether by him or by men working for him, and under his instructions, and in his interest, jumped into the breach, and came on with a motion that has been since relegated to a back shelf on the Order paper among government orders. And, so we find him occupying the attention of the House, and preventing the senior member for Halifax going on with his motion, by prevailing on the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), not to take up supply, but to let him move this meaningless resolution on March 22. Then on March 23, these charges having been for the time prevented from being ventilated, the Minister of Finance came on with his budget speech, the discussion and consideration of which occupied all the time of the House from March 23 until May 4. After May 4, there was an opportunity to invite, if the government dared, the debate that is now on. There was ample opportunity for them to invite the discussion at an earlier day, if time were of the essence, by making their motion that the House go into Committee of Supply when, as they knew from the personal notice given by the senior member for Halifax to the government, that hon. gentleman would at once bring his motion before the House. But no supply was asked. The Minister of Finance took good care not to ask for supply, and give this opportunity from May 4 until May 11, and then the present motion came on. In the face of that record, Sir, I was amazed at the junior member for Halifax having the audacity to take up fifteen minutes of the time of the House in the vain and fruitless attempt to make it appear that the senior member for Halifax had himself been guilty of an attempt to burk an enquiry into these two elections. But such are the facts.

Let me make another reference to the speech just delivered by the junior member for Halifax. A most extraordinary allusion was made by him across the floor to a gentleman for whom he professed to have the highest consideration. After hearing the encomium, he then gave and the remark which followed, trust that I do not myself stand very high in his estimation. When, for instance, the senior member for Halifax, with characteristic sincerity told the junior member for Halifax, who charged him with having suppressed information and names, that he did not disclose them for certain reasons which he gave, but was ready, if any hon. gentleman asked him to do so, to give the fullest information, the junior member for Halifax replied that out of his great personal regard for him, he would accept his statement, but he followed that encomium with this remark—and I shall not dwell upon it, or characterize it—

that if that statement had been made by any other hon. gentleman, he would not have accepted or believed it. Knowing the junior member for Halifax as we do, and after listening to him for some time to-day, we must believe that he was thoroughly conscientious and sincere in his speech, but to paraphrase the remark of the junior member for Halifax concerning the senior member for that constituency, I would say that if that speech had been delivered by any other hon. gentleman, we would have supposed that he was insincere, and that he really believed there had been gross wrongdoing which should be investigated, and investigated promptly, and that he was after all devoting his ability for party purposes to the uncongenial work of shielding criminals in wrongdoing.

The hon. gentleman then dealt at considerable length with the record of evidence. I shall not follow him very far in connection with the examination of the evidence, or such parts of it as he has adduced; and, for a reason which, I think, will commend itself to the intelligence of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House. First of all, if I followed him correctly, he devoted a great deal of time, he quoted copiously, to prove that Cummings was a perjurer; that Cummings did not know what he was talking about; that Cummings, when he swore the initials on the back of all these ballots were in his handwriting, and that there was no question about it, and when asked to account for it, said that he could not say, was stating under oath that which was untrue. And, after having demolished that statement of Mr. Cummings, I understand the hon. gentleman to have come to the conclusion that Mr. Cummings was a much maligned gentleman on the part of hon. members on this side of the House. Incidentally, I might ask the junior member for Halifax—taking that portion of his argument as serious—whether it would not weaken largely the effect of the affidavits that he produced later on for the consideration of this House (ex parte affidavits not to be referred to a committee, not to have the advantage of cross-examination upon them), when he says himself that a witness who stands high in his estimation when asked by some gentlemen certain questions, stated what was incorrect, and, on further examination explained that all away. The hon. gentleman also, though he approached this question, or attempted to do so, in a judicial spirit, referred to great favours shown by Beck to some of the witnesses, and, of course, drew a conclusion from that. It occurs to me that, if the hon. gentlemen were on the bench of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, and were examining and reviewing this evidence, he would not have mentioned that without having also mentioned that Mr. Holmes was exceedingly attentive to the gentlemen who attended to give evidence regarding the elec-

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tion of Mr. Holmes before this committee. I think the hon. gentleman attempted to prove also that Farr was an imbecile, that he handled himself in such a weak and helpless manner before the committee as to warrant very severe criticisms—

Mr. BRITTON Farr was not before the committee.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It does not matter as to the name, he was speaking of one of the deputy returning officers. And what occurred to me when listening to the hon. gentleman was that this man whom he described was one whom this government were responsible for appointing to take part in that election. But I feel personally relieved from the necessity of following the hon. gentleman through the evidence, for he was frank enough to make confession at the outset as to how he proposed to deal with it. He argued, to his own satisfaction, and from his own experience, that the members of the Privileges and Elections Committee were not competent to deal with matters of fact; that they were blind partisans; that they approached these questions with partisan zeal; that they were incapable of fairly weighing the evidence or reporting the results to this House. He wound up his argument largely with the same conclusion. And I think that, so far as he himself is concerned, we will do him the justice to say that he made out his case—that he convicted himself of possessing a great deal of that spirit to which he so often referred. And is it not an extraordinary thing, Mr. Speaker, that that hon. gentleman who has a fair and legitimate ambition in connection with his profession, through whose mind are now going calculations as to how many gentlemen in this House will return after the next election, who undoubtedly has his eyes fixed on the bench of Nova Scotia, and who no doubt believes that he is just as much entitled, for his advocacy of the policy of the Treasury benches as gentlemen who have preceded him, to a judicial reward, to be paid for these arguments—is it not wonderful that not only that hon. gentleman—we can understand his reasons for the extraordinary change of attitude from last session to this—but also as we shall see, not all, I hope, but the bulk of hon. gentlemen sitting behind the Treasury benches, equally ready to answer the beck and call of the leader of this government, in order to burk this inquiry and prevent it going on as they were ready, all of them, last year, to help it on by sending it to the Privileges and Elections Committee? An hon. gentleman suggests that it was due to the fact that they found it a much more serious investigation than they expected. That might be the reason for this volte-face, that might be the reason for the change of attitude. I

rather think it is; but hon. gentlemen opposite, not admitting that, must give some other reasons to the people of this country, altogether independently of this House, for the celerity with which they had decided that the action they took with one accord last session was wrong constitutionally, was wrong from a common-sense point of view and involved an enormous expenditure of money. On these reasons the hon. member for Halifax based his so-called constitutional argument, or argument relative to jurisdiction. Every one of these arguments and suggestions must have been before his mind as a member of the House and a member of the legal profession last year, yet he brushed them aside, and supported the leader of the government in sending this to the Privileges and Elections Committee. But, with the same knowledge, with no new light—he does not profess that he has made any discovery of a radical nature—he is just as ready to turn right-about-face at the suggestion of the leader of the government, and bring forward all this artillery in order to prevent an inquiry being made into these extraordinary cases.

Then, I wondered too, when the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) decanted at some length on the unreliability of affidavits, the great danger involved to all concerned, the encouragement of perjury, the encouragement of even blackmail. For instance, affidavits or solemn declarations, as he explained, are taken privately, ex parte, and then the deponent or declarant is forced on from stage to stage. He is told: You swore so and so in your affidavit to me; you are to go before a committee, and you must stand your ground, or you will be put in a very awkward position. I wonder when the hon. gentleman elaborated that idea.

Mr. COCHRANE. Fabricated it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. 'Fabricated' is the word suggested by an hon. gentleman. At any rate, he gave that explanation to the House. I wonder if he has forgotten a transaction for which the government he supports is responsible and which he has never denounced, in which the so-called 'Manitoba election frauds' were dealt with in precisely the same way? On that occasion, at public expense, not as in this case by private expense, a secret commission roved round the province of Manitoba obtaining these affidavits on the sly and on the quiet; and how was it that, when that so-called nefarious work was being exposed, the hon. gentleman did not suggest that these men were forced from point to point and finally brought into court and confronted with these affidavits, these gentlemen dare not qualify them, dare not recede, but were in fact compelled to take a very extreme position. The hon. gentleman's position is extraordinary. No man can play these pranks in this legisla-

ture, taking such an attitude as he was responsible for last session, and then posing as he did to-day and give these reasons for the exact opposite without finding himself in a very sorry plight indeed. The hon. gentleman was driven to that ridiculous argument that I think some other hon. gentlemen suggested, that these affidavits of Pritchett were worthless, that they were not statements really made under oath, that is, that the man who made these statements in the affidavits took care to make them outside of this country, and therefore could not be made responsible in a court of law in Canada. Now, consider the absurd position in which the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) is found in that connection. Here is this man in Canada saying through the hon. members of this House: I am ready to go into a court of Canadian jurisdiction and swear to every statement in that affidavit. And hon. gentlemen opposite who say that they cannot prosecute him for perjury are frightened lest this committee should be seized with the case, and the man be put in such a position that he could be prosecuted for perjury. They are fearful lest this man be given an opportunity to swear to every word of that affidavit, as he stands prepared to do, and become responsible, so as to meet that objection. Does not the hon. gentleman know that in Canada that man has already sworn to statements very similar to these? Does he not know that this man is now under Canadian jurisdiction and responsible for all that?

But the same hon. gentleman again found himself in another extraordinary position. Having argued for some two hours on the utter futility of bringing affidavits before this House, the utter want of jurisdiction in this House or in the committee to inquire into this matter, supporting his leader, supporting the government in their desperate attempt to prevent the full light being shed on all the transactions connected with these elections, the hon. gentleman actually asked this House as a conclusion to that argument to listen to him while he went into the inquiry from his point of view. The hon. gentleman who says that we have not Pritchett here to examine him under oath, to be cross-examined by even the junior member for Halifax so that his whole story may be sifted thoroughly, asked the House to sit and listen, to inquire, to investigate, into these ex parte affidavits and the statements contained in them, by hearing read some other ex parte evidence. Well, no one in this House pretends that because a man makes an affidavit on one side or the other every word of it is capable of actual proof. No one pretends, for instance, that any member of this House is ready to guarantee the statements in any of these affidavits, either those read by the junior member for Halifax or those read by the senior member for Halifax. If you are going to inquire at all, why not inquire thoroughly? Why not

bring these men face to face instead of keeping them away from testifying under oath before the committee? Why not bring them man-fashion and openly, let them be confronted before the committee and let us then see who is telling the truth, let us see who will stand the cross-examination, instead of arguing one moment that we have no right to inquire, and then asking us to accept these ex parte affidavits.

Now, I know nothing of these people. I myself, of course, know nothing of Pritchett, and nothing of the gentleman whose declarations were read by the junior member for Halifax. But I put this to you, Mr. Speaker: In all fairness, which statements would you consider the most reliable or the most open, the statement of a witness who was seeking to come before a committee of this House to be cross-examined, a witness who does not content himself with making a general statement, but who gives dates, and names of a series of witnesses, on different occasions, and makes a statement that the most ordinary cross-examiner could test, and makes it with the view of having the whole matter thoroughly investigated—or the statements of these witnesses referring to statements of the hon. member for Westmoreland, but attributing them to the hon. member for Halifax, and who make them knowing that the government, backed by a very convenient and docile majority, propose to prevent their being given an opportunity of being cross-examined on those affidavits?

Then, in connection with the jurisdiction or powers of this House, the junior member for Halifax devoted a great deal of time to the disposal of questions, no doubt important in themselves, but questions as far removed from the subject of the resolution of the senior member for Halifax as they well could be. Let me call attention to the motion which is in your hands. What is asked to be referred? He asks that the poll-books, voters' lists, and all other papers, letters, documents, &c.:

--be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections during the present session of this House for further consideration, and for the purpose of inquiring into and investigating the conduct of the respective returning officers and of the several deputy returning officers and other officers at and in connection with the said several elections respectively, and of reporting thereon with all convenient speed.

Now, in the consideration of that resolution the Solicitor General will not in this debate, as a law officer of the Crown, venture to deny for a single moment our right to act: I venture to say, knowing that hon. gentleman and his standing at the bar, conscious of the responsibility that rests on him, different from that which rests on the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, different from that which rests on any member of the government, recognizing his duty to this House as well as his duty to the govern-

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ment, I venture to say that he will not question the authority and jurisdiction of this House or of a committee to give the fullest consideration and action under the terms of that resolution. I say more, that there never has been a member in this House, Sir John Thompson, Sir John A. Macdonald, or Mr. Blake, or any of the gentlemen referred to in the debates, who ever threw doubt on our right to pass a resolution of that kind, and to send a matter of that kind to a committee to inquire into. It is significant that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) knew it. It is significant that while the hon. gentleman discussed a lot of other interesting questions, expressed his doubt upon some nice points as to whether the returning officers were our officers or whether they were not, discussed the question of pains and penalties and punishments and the imprisonment of them even, the hon. gentleman, in the intense zeal that he has demonstrated ever since he has been in this House to support the government of the day in any position in which they may find themselves, dared not say as a man, as a lawyer, as a member of this House, or as anything else that it was not the right of this House to pass that resolution, and of the committee to act upon it. He went on to deal with questions not connected whatever with any power embraced in the terms of the resolution. He discussed our right to question the seat of a member, with certain exceptions, I think he mentioned the question of disqualification, and that sort of thing. He discussed the Baird case, to which I will make reference later on. I stop here to say that when he spoke of such a resolution, and said that even in that it was shown that there was no jurisdiction to make an inquiry, he forgot that Sir John Thompson moved, and that the House, I think, unanimously,—I will not be sure, as other points came up—but, that Sir John Thompson moved, and that this House carried a resolution in almost, in so far as the empowering words are concerned, identically the language of this resolution to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections with no instructions beyond the instruction to inquire and report. Then, the hon. gentleman spoke of punishment. Who is asking for punishment? Does the resolution, Mr. Speaker, in your hands, suggest that the committee shall even recommend punishment? Does the resolution, Mr. Speaker, in your hands, suggest that punishment is the only object sought to be obtained? Is it not idle to discuss the extent of our power in that connection? Here let me tell the hon. member for Halifax that he has not been as keen, or as close, an observer of the proceedings of this parliament as one might imagine. Has he forgotten that although we cannot do directly certain things we can do them indirectly? Take the case of the Manitoba election

frauds. Was there not punishment inflicted at the expense of the exchequer of this country? Was there not punishment inflicted in one case at a cost, I think, of \$20,000, \$10,000 of it being public money? Cannot this parliament inflict punishment on returning officers just as freely and amply as gentlemen on the treasury benches? Are they greater than this parliament, or is not parliament greater than the government? Cannot it make and unmake governments? Yet the hon. gentleman seriously discusses this as one of the matters we ought to consider before presuming to have an inquiry into the conduct of these officers, whether officers of this House, or officers independently. Then, he came to the position of the returning officers and apologized, if I remember correctly, for differing from Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Blake in that regard. Whether he is right or wrong, or whether these two distinguished gentlemen were right or wrong as to whether these men are our officers, I do not think that that should be introduced into the consideration of so serious a matter as there is before us in dealing with this question. If it is an important matter to decide, if an inquiry is ordered he can bring forward at the committee, as was done in the Baird case, many interesting questions, many interesting authorities and ask the committee to report in regard to the position that has been held. Then, I come to the speech of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, for, after all, he gave the lead to the hon. junior member for Halifax, and marked out the course that he should follow, and like an obedient supporter the hon. gentleman followed. I remember an old member of this House, some years ago, speaking of the wonderful discipline of the Reform party, and of the manner in which they had for a long time back been accustomed to a sudden turn, whether they thought they were right or wrong, as their leader desired. He referred to the statement made by a youth who was very positive of certain things, and who said of a certain statement: I say it is so because mother says it is so, and if mother says it is so, it is so, even if it isn't so. So, the hon. junior member for Halifax, following the position marked out by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has backed him up as far as he possibly could. That hon. gentleman is an adept in swinging from pillar to post, just according as the interests of his party suggest. For instance, he has told us, that, in the Baird debate, a case that could not be defended on its merits could be saved on a question of jurisdiction and on that one the hon. gentleman apparently has based his argument. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries referred to the ballot box. He spoke of the sanctity of the ballot box—the people's citadel. I believe the time has arrived when the people will consider, that, whatever kind of a citadel the ballot box is, this govern-

ment is rapidly becoming a citadel for Yukon scoundrels and corrupt returning officers, and that what is far more serious than even that is that there are others behind these corrupt returning officers and Yukon scoundrels. There are, besides the citadel, outlying trenches, and these poor officers, in one case, or the other, are often so essential to the government, who are participating in their wrong and who are really as guilty as these men, force the government of the day to stand by them lest the citadel itself will be taken and destroyed. The hon. Postmaster General said what, in some instances, would be a reasonable thing, even from the hon. Postmaster General, and that was, not to make insinuations but to talk out man fashion. Let us talk over this thing in a manly way, let us leave insinuations. Let me put a case to him, and if the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) were here, I would like to couple them both together in putting that question. I was beginning a little while ago to say, that, right or wrong—I have no evidence or information myself that would warrant me in making this charge—but, right or wrong, these two gentlemen, one of them, I think, admitting to-night, took part in the campaign in West Huron on the public platform, and I think, also in Brockville where they took part in the same manner. Now, it has been said that these two hon. gentlemen did a great deal more than take part in the election from the public platform. If the hon. gentleman says, do not insinuate, but speak out boldly I will do so. This is what is going through the air. It is, so far as I know, wholly unsubstantiated by testimony, but it is that these scoundrelly officers, these men who are worse than scoundrels, if the charges made by Pritchett, that he is ready to swear to and be examined upon, are true, are being protected because the government of the day and these two hon. members of the government are so far involved in that election that most damaging information might incidentally come out. I think it due to the hon. Postmaster General and to the hon. acting Minister of the Interior, that they should not be under a suspicion of that kind, cruel as it may be, and which is hovering about, but, that they should be most anxious to expedite an inquiry, that they should be anxious to vindicate the whole of their party traditions in regard to the powers of parliament to fully investigate such matters advocated so earnestly in the past, and that it would be in their interest to court the fullest inquiry. Would it not be in the interest of the government to court the fullest inquiry, and even to hunt down the men against whom these affidavits have been made, as they hunted down the men in the province of Manitoba who were supposed to be working in the Conservative interest; by detectives, by lawyers, by solicitors by the score, and by secret inquiries extending over

months? What a contrast between the conduct of the government in that case and their conduct in this? What an extraordinary contrast between the treatment of their officers working in the interests of these two important and influential ministers, as is alleged, and their treatment of the officials alleged to have been working in the interests of their opponents! I say that the conclusion will be irresistible over the land, that the ministers of the Crown connected with these election campaigns dare not have further inquiry, and so have dragooned their supporters into pulling them through this ordeal, by preventing a full and untrammelled inquiry by a proper and ordinary committee of this House. It is absolutely unparalleled I believe, with the exception of certain cases that have occurred in the time of this very government that an inquiry of this kind once begun has been suddenly closed. One was the Yukon inquiry, and the other, that conducted by myself, with the assistance of the Prime Minister, into the causes of the resignation and retirement of Major Walsh from the public service. Those two inquiries were begun, and those two inquiries were stopped. This present inquiry which we are discussing was begun and this is also stopped. These three inquiries were all in the time of this government, and they were all stopped when the information elicited became damaging and dangerous. When the Yukon inquiry was begun, as shown by the report of the Minister of the Interior to council, no limitation with regard to August 25 was inserted, but, when the order in council was passed, the language used in it showed that Mr. Ogilvie's commission was to be limited as to time. That ruling came in the middle of the commission, when it was found that men were ready, at great cost to themselves, to come forward and give evidence. That inquiry was practically stopped, notwithstanding the promises made by the ministers. The Minister of Marine in this House, on April 14, 1899, speaking as to the Yukon inquiry, said:

There will be no skulking behind any law points. There will be no attempts to evade investigation on the ground that the commission had no authority. If that commission does not give authority another can.

Was there skulking behind law points today? Was there an attempt to evade the investigation on the ground that this House had no authority? Why, that is the only case the government has set up. The Minister of Marine said, with regard to the Ogilvie commission, that the time would not be limited to August 25. Mr. Ogilvie wrote to this government, when he himself was seized with the unfairness of it, when the injury to the government in consequence of such a contention being upheld became apparent, Mr. Ogilvie wrote to the govern-

ment at the very beginning of that commission, namely, February 20, 1899:

I regret to inform you that the royal commission for the investigation of charges against officials has, to an extent, fallen through. Mr. Armstrong, chairman of the miners' committee, who drew up the memorial which led to the issuance of the commission, and Dr. McDougall, the secretary, withdrew from the investigation when they learned that the scope of the commission only included what occurred previous to August 25, the day of the memorial. I would have been quite willing to go on taking cognizance of everything up to date, but the question was raised and could not be avoided. There is no doubt, from the wording of the document, that only such things as were related to or came within the scope of the memorial could be investigated under the commission.

Now, here is his recommendation:

If you can see your way clear to renewing the commission and extending it, please do so at the earliest possible date. I think it would be politic to do it, and I would urge you, as far as lies in my power, to grant this, for the reasons I have above stated.

Notwithstanding the facts I have mentioned, be it known that that document was in existence when the Minister of Marine made the speech which I have quoted. Be it known also, that although that document was asked for it never saw the light of day outside of the department until this year, and that investigation, and that request of Mr. Ogilvie, was denied. Too much had already come out, even though the tribunal was wholly unfit to satisfactorily cope with the subjects referred to it. Then, in regard to the Walsh matter, a most extraordinary thing occurred. After having received from the Prime Minister a great courtesy—permission to look at a public file in connection with the retirement of Major Walsh from the public service, on discovering that that file had been burned in the West Block, I received permission from the Prime Minister to interview the Comptroller of Mounted Police who was familiar with all the facts connected with the investigation that had taken place into the accounts and transactions of Major Walsh as an officer of the government. I received authority from the Prime Minister to use a memorandum from the Comptroller of the Mounted Police, after it had been submitted to the Prime Minister. The facts evolved from the Comptroller of the Mounted Police were so serious that the Prime Minister told me he would recall that permission and would not permit me to use as an official document, the memorandum recorded by his own officer, after the conversation to which I have referred.

Now, Mr. Speaker, those are the only cases I know in which an inquiry of public or semi-public, of a formal or semi-formal character, have been begun under the authority of the government or of the parliament here, and stopped just when the evidence was damaging to the character of

some one, or to the government responsible for it. But, these gentlemen who have brought up in grand array this challenge for precedents, this interrogation into our powers, these ingenious suggestions as to whether what we are doing is fair or unfair; what do these gentlemen do when the men who are aimed at are their political opponents? Why, on the smallest evidence—they talk of a self-convicted liar—on the evidence of a man whose character was denounced in the investigation by the bench itself as a self-convicted scoundrel. These hon. gentlemen never questioned the powers of parliament; but behind the back of parliament, stealthily, quietly and secretly, the government began to spend our money by the hundreds and the thousands in order to fasten, if they could, charges of ballot-stuffing, if you please, on the shoulders of Tory returning officers in the province of Manitoba. Criminal prosecutions, says the junior member for Halifax, are for local governments, not for the Federal; this government cannot appear in the courts and take charge of criminal prosecutions. No, but when their opponents are involved, they can go in at the back door, after taking the money out of the treasury of this country, and pay the men in the provinces. They can work and co-operate with friendly Grit governments throughout this country to ferret out all they can against their opponents, and then prosecute them at the public expense. But to-day, says the Minister of Marine, look at chapter 10 of the Revised Statutes of 1886; that is sufficient; it provides for a full and unlimited inquiry. Just put up your money and bring on your evidence, and you can obtain nearly all you could hope to obtain in the Privileges and Elections Committee. Why did not these gentlemen in July, 1896, just after they got into office, think of chapter 10 of the Revised Statutes of 1886? Why did they not write to 'my dear Sifton,' and tell him, when he asked them to supply the money to bring over Pinkerton's detectives, when he asked them to fee half the bar of Winnipeg at the expense of the public exchequer: Look at chapter 10 of the Revised Statutes of 1886. What was the result? The expenditure of \$10,000 of the public money of Canada on the sly, and the conviction of one man charged with ballot-stuffing; but so far as the evidence goes to show, convicted really because he had admitted that he was a blackmailer and had blackmailed the Conservative candidate in the riding. Let us look a little at the circumstances for the purposes of comparison, to see what sort of a case you require to get the power of the great Grit government to move, when they refuse to consider this case as of great importance. Now, the evidence which I hold under my hand, and to which I will only briefly refer for the purpose of comparison, is as follows: Mr Sifton—and I refer to him as Mr. Sifton, because he was

not then a member of this House, but a member of the local government—knew something better than spending his own money or his friend's money in prosecuting election petitions, and bearing the very heavy expense of supporting charges against his political opponents. Before the petitions were filed, according to the language of Mr. Howell, he was put onto a scheme to educate deputies to defraud the electors. As Mr. Howell says, that was the initiation of this business, and let us see the connection of the gentlemen now on the Treasury benches with it. Let us see whether their answer to Mr. Sifton was as summary as the answer we are now receiving from them—whether it went into constitutional questions and questions of criminal jurisdiction. Here is a letter of July 17, 1896, marked confidential, and addressed to the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Ottawa:

Dear Mr. Laurier,—The result of the late elections in some of the constituencies in Manitoba indicated to me that a fraud of some kind had been perpetrated in the interest of the government candidates.

We have heard a great deal in this debate about being specific. We are told, make your charges, give the names of your witnesses, let us see all the proof, and then, forsooth, there is not to be any prosecution of this kind with an expenditure of public money for the purpose; but then we may be permitted to go to some committee. Then, says Mr. Sifton:

I at once placed several detectives at work.

Again:

As I have said above, detectives are now at work, and my purpose is to promptly but secretly push the inquiry, and secure evidence upon which to convict the guilty parties. It is also important—

Now, mark, Mr. Speaker, how wide a range of vision, not confined to the province of Manitoba, had this gentleman of detective proclivities with regard to his opponents:

It is also important that no means be left untried to unearth these frauds in the province of Ontario, and punish every one guilty of complicity.

Now, the hon. junior member for Halifax referred to the waste of public money in pushing an inquiry into the conduct of the deputy returning officers in two counties of Ontario; but Mr. Sifton would rebuke him if he were here, because he thought it necessary to ransack not only the whole province of Manitoba, but the province of Ontario as well. Then promptly came an answer from the Prime Minister, not referring him to any chapter of Revised Statutes or to the fact that the responsibility for the administration of criminal law was upon Mr. Sifton's government and not on his; but a telegram as follows:

I feel confident that you will unearth the most odious conspiracy which has taken place for many long years, and we will most willingly

furnish the necessary funds for the service, in order to carry on the work in which you are engaged.

No authority of parliament. Not a man of them dared to come to the House, though it sat the next month, and tell the House what they were doing with the public funds of this country. Nor did they tell the House the next year what they were doing with this money. It was not until the Auditor General, in connection with the various financial and liting operations conducted by Mr. Sifton and Mr. Howell to the extent of \$10,000 in the end, ventilated the matter a year after the whole thing had been going on in this secret manner. Not a man in the Manitoba legislature knew of the co-operation of this government. Now, let us see what the evidence showed, and what warranted this extraordinary course on the part of hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. They did not dare, at any time, to ask this parliament for the whole \$20,000 which had been expended. They were caught red-handed, and after the matter had come before parliament, though they had taken \$10,000, they dare not ask parliament for the balance, and had to get it out of private pockets. But, in connection with this matter, is it not important to know on what information the mills of the gods began to grind? Is it not important to know what started the whole machinery of the Federal government and the local government on the tracks of these people? Mr Howell told the committee that from June, 1896, before these gentlemen got into office, until December of that year, he was fishing for evidence all over the province of Manitoba. With Pinkerton's detectives by the score, with his little army of Grit lawyers of Winnipeg, this gentleman was fishing for evidence to expose this 'most odious conspiracy' to defraud the people by tampering with the ballot boxes, and their efforts resulted in the conviction of a man who admitted that he had tried to blackmail the Tory candidate. On mere suspicion, the gentleman at the head of the government here, started this expensive machinery. But, says the junior member for Halifax, following in the wake of the others who are attempting in this debate to burk this inquiry, this man Pritchett, this self-convicted liar, was actually paid for his affidavit. This man, he said, whom we are asked to accept as a witness, actually received money for the information that has been used by the opposition. Well, some of the money that those gentlemen gave on the sly to the province of Manitoba and Mr. Sifton—quite a portion of it went to buy Mr. Freeborn and keep him comfortable—went to pay his bills, and to pay for the evidence given by him.

One of those gentlemen came to court, and the other is only too ready to come and make a statement, but these hon. gentlemen

say that men of that kind are always ready to make such statements, that they are always ready to admit that they have done wrong. But there are facts to which they can testify, and in the case of Pritchett, the public knows that it would be impossible for him, unless he were stating the truth, to injure any man by his statement, and his statement is credible because of the circumstances, the details, the names he gives and the days and the dates to corroborate his story. We have heard what has been said of Pritchett, who has not been examined and cross-examined, who has not had the opportunity of confronting those to whom he has referred. But what was said of Mr. Freeborn by the Chief Justice of Manitoba, from the bench? This, he said, in his charge to the jury:

Now, you saw Freeborn—

After they ransacking the province of Manitoba for six months, as Mr. Howell has said, this is what the chief justice said of the chief informant:

Now, you saw Freeborn and heard him give his evidence, and I must say there is nothing about his character to be commended. The only thing about it is that he frankly owned up to having been engaged in crooked work and in a number of transactions which were far from creditable to himself. . . . Now, it is very often necessary to use such persons in connection with such matters. Frequently criminals who have been engaged in such matters and who split on their associates, come forward, and the Crown has to use them for the purpose of bringing other criminals to justice.

As the saying is: 'When knaves fall out honest men get their own.' We want to know who are the other knaves besides Pritchett. We want to know if those returning officers, or men in power, were implicated in the knavery. We want to know if such men enabled those other knaves to perpetrate such a bold and audacious crime as has been laid at their door. That is a subject into which all parties in this House ought to be ready to inquire, but which the government are making such desperate efforts to prevent being investigated. What was Sir Oliver Mowat's opinion, who, when Minister of Justice, used to be quoted with great respect, as to what was proper as well as legal, and his opinion applies to this case, as well as to the Manitoba matter? This is what he says, and the information upon which he acted:

I did, as a law officer and a member of the Dominion government, consider it proper, under the circumstances, that the expenses attendant upon the prosecution of the persons charged with fraud in connection with the Manitoba federal elections, should be paid out of the Dominion treasury. In the British North America Act—

And I would ask the attention of the junior member for Halifax, to this, but I find he has become a degenerate, and is not in the House:

In the British North America Act there is nothing specific as to the expenses of criminal proceedings, and the question depends in each case on what is reasonable.

He says further :

I did approve of the previous proceedings heretofore taken, so far as I was aware of them. The instructions we gave Mr. Howell were to proceed with the investigation and to prosecute such of the guilty parties as he had or should get sufficient proof against to entitle him to verdicts. A great deal had to be left to his discretion in the matter, if the investigation or prosecution were to be effective. We had confidence in his prudence and judgment. The frauds which were ascertained or were believed to have been committed were of great magnitude and accomplished by novel and dangerous devices, and it was—

I ask particular attention to this :

—in the public interest to expose and punish the perpetrators, if possible, notwithstanding the expense might be considerable.

One would suppose that Sir Oliver Mowat had anticipated the statement of the junior member for Halifax, and desired to condemn it with all the weight of his experience, when he penned those lines, for the statement I have quoted was a written answer to a written question. Further on Sir Oliver Mowat said :

I think that where a crime has been committed, or is believed to have been committed, in respect of Dominion elections in the province of Ontario or any other part of Canada, and the public interest requires its investigation and prosecution on the part of the Dominion, it would be proper for the Dominion to undertake such proceedings and prosecutions, having regard to all the circumstances. It would seem to me unpardonable that in such a case the criminals should escape exposure and punishment unless the provinces should undertake the expense. Every case should be determined on its own circumstances, on the responsibility of the government having the confidence of parliament.

Could there be a more complete answer to all the miserable quibbles suggested on the other side, as to our authority and right to investigate into these matters in order to find out the guilty parties and obtain and have proper punishment inflicted on them ?

But on this subject, I want you, Mr. Speaker, to listen to words, of greater wisdom, perhaps, that fell from the mouth of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). When the subject came before this House, that hon. gentleman gave expression to these views :

If ever there was an incident in the history of this country—

And this was before the investigation was concluded. It was on May 16, 1899.

—where we enjoy the privileges of responsible government, and where every man is entitled to the free, untrammelled and sacred exercise of his franchise, if ever there was an incident that deserved the most exhaustive investigation at the hands of the government, in which every effort could be put forward to try and catch the individuals that were guilty of the offences

which were perpetrated in that province, I say, it was in connection with the election of Mr. Macdonald in Manitoba. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) says that there was no evidence before the government and before Mr. Sifton, to rest any charge, but that he started on a fishing expedition. It is a well known fact, it is on record in 'Hansard,' it was proved before the committee in 1897 and 1898, at least in one polling subdivision—

Listen to this, if you please :

—in at least one polling subdivision, thirty-four men came forward and actually swore that they had voted for the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford), when there were only twenty-three ballots in the ballot box.

One would suppose he was referring to the very case which is now under consideration.

There were other cases of a similar character, under similar conditions. If these things—

Mark this, too—

If these things came to the notice of the hon. Minister of the Interior he undoubtedly did what he ought to do, what any patriotic man would do, what was right for any man to do, and what the people of this country gave him credit for doing—he took immediate steps to try to catch and punish the men guilty of these transactions.

There was a case where their efforts to catch these men involved no risk to the government or their friends. Only in that respect does it differ from this case. No one will deny that in this case there was a possibility of some very awkward evidence being given implicating others than those whose names have been so frequently before us. But we have the language of another statesman who last year agreed in directing the course of this House in one direction and who now is endeavouring to direct it in another direction—the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. This is one of the occasions when they called in the weight of Sir Oliver Mowat's name to protect them. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, referring to the Minister of Justice of that time, said :

That experienced statesman advised the Premier—

But that experienced statesman takes great care to say that all the information he had on the subject was from the Premier, and I have shown what the Premier had.

That experienced statesman advised the Premier in the course he should take, and the course the Premier took was taken with Sir Oliver Mowat's sanction. Sir, on what did he advise him? He found there had been committed one of the greatest crimes of the century.

The same crimes as are charged to have occurred in these two Ontario constituencies.

One of the greatest crimes of the century—a conspiracy having for its object to defeat the will of the people in the elections of 1896; a conspiracy which, if it had succeeded, might well have defeated the will of the people throughout Canada; a conspiracy so vile that hon. gentlemen opposite might, by means of it, have been returned to power; a conspiracy to stuff the ballot boxes of every constituency in the pro-

vince and to return the minority candidate where necessary. The hon. gentleman boasts that the prosecution were unable to succeed in convicting the parties who were charged. Sir, it is true that in many cases they were unable to succeed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There was not a man indicted.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think that proves very much. One man, at any rate, was convicted, and was sentenced to his term. But, whether they succeeded or not, that such a conspiracy could be carried out, would render popular government unnecessary. It would place a dictator in the Premier's chair, and leave him there as long as he pleased to remain, irrespective of the will of the people. If an hon. gentleman—

I ask particular attention to this :

If an hon. gentleman, standing in the position of my hon. friend the Premier, and having the prima facie evidence before him of this conspiracy refused to expose the conspiracy, would be derelict in his duty. There is no use in arguing it now; there will be a time when it can be argued.

I could refer, but I hesitate to do it, being in the highest degree derelict in their duty. I say they are in possession of far stronger evidence than the mere suspicion of Mr. Sifton. They are seized of evidence which not only suggests but proves that in many cases gross frauds were practised in these two ridings, West Huron and Brockville. And, in the language of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in dealing with the case in which he thought his opponents were affected, the government will be derelict in their duty, if they do not go—not as far as he suggested they should go, I do not say or ask that, but I ask at any rate they go as far as proposed by the resolution of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) and refer this matter for inquiry to the Privileges and Elections Committee.

Now, I said I would refer to the case of Baird. It is only necessary for the purposes of my argument to point to the distinction that all agreed upon. So far as my recollection of the discussion goes, on both sides there was a distinction which was seen then and is easily seen now, and to which I have already adverted—the difference between a proposal to act and a proposal to inquire. As to the proposal to act, there are authorities, and they were mentioned in the debate, though disputed by hon. gentlemen opposite, who declared that the return of a member, except in certain circumstances of disqualification, could not be questioned. For instance, a petition challenging the seat of a member could not be received in this House while the legislation similar to that in England, which is mentioned in this debate, existed. So far as I recollect, and I have refreshed my memory by looking over the report of the debate, no one denied our right to inquire into any subject, the elections, the returning officers, or anything that the mind of man can conceive of.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Would it not be ridiculous to say, that because we had temporarily denuded ourselves of certain powers, we would not institute an inquiry into the very subject that we had so dealt with in order that we might consider whether other legislation was necessary, in order even that we might consider whether the legislation passed should not be repealed. I need not, however, dwell on that, but I will refer to *May's Parliamentary Practice*, which bears upon the point I am at the moment dwelling upon :

A few words will suffice to explain the proceedings of the House, so far as its judicature is still exercised in matters of election. It being enacted by section 50 of the Election Petitions, &c., Act, that 'no election or return to parliament shall be questioned except in accordance with the provisions of this Act,' doubts were expressed whether this provision would not supersede the jurisdiction of the House, in determining questions affecting the seats of its own members, not arising out of controverted elections. It is plain, however, that this section applied to the questioning of returns by election petitions only. Under the procedure in force before the Elections Petitions Act, 1868, when returns were questioned by petition, the matter was determined by the statutory tribunal; otherwise the House uniformly exercised its constitutional jurisdiction. And such continues to be the position of the House, after the judicature of its election committees had been transferred to the judges.

I could refer, but I hesitate to do it, taking the view I do of this question, to Sir John Thompson, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the present Minister of Justice, in order to show that, so far as Sir John Thompson was concerned, he neither directly or indirectly challenged the right to refer matters to the Privileges and Elections Committee, but, on the contrary, he moved a resolution to be referred to that committee without limiting the powers of authority of the committee. But, the present Minister of Justice went a great deal further in regard to the law of the land. And the language of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was as positive in support of the view he expressed then as his language now is positive in support of the contrary view. But that, of course, will surprise nobody. That hon. gentleman can change his views with unexampled rapidity. The function of parliament to inquire, I submit, is absolutely unlimited. It can recommend legislation, or institute a prosecution. Take the case of McGreevy and Connolly: It was by virtue of the inquiry into that case conducted in this House that this government took proceedings by proper authority in the Ontario courts; and we have also the cases in Montreal, and all the expenses of these prosecutions were defrayed out of the federal treasury. So that no point can be made in that connection. But it is interesting to recall to mind a statement made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries who has been suggesting our narrow powers :

There are higher considerations involved in this matter than those which would govern a court of *nisi prius*.

I need not refer to the more recent authority, which is amazing, at least the contradiction of it is amazing, approaching rebellion. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries referred almost contemptuously to the statement of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Well, the Minister of Trade and Commerce has not followed his profession. But, the Prime Minister of this country is equally subject to that contemptuous reference by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; for these gentlemen last year took part not only in inviting in the fullest manner this investigation, but they took it for granted that the position I have myself been generally supporting in regard to our right to refer, was unquestionable. So there is that extraordinary condition of affairs, not so extraordinary of late, because the disagreement between the members of the government is not only observable in matters of this kind but in other matters of government. Now, it is not necessary to refer the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to his speech in that Baird case where he said there were other questions involved than the simple question of an assize. With all the ingenuity that hon. gentleman may possess, he could not conceal one of the happy ideas that had occurred to him and no doubt to his colleagues, why it would be safer for the government and these returning officers that this matter should be dealt with by a court. He satisfied himself that if there were fraud the question for whom a witness voted could not be put to him in a court of law, and therefore, says the minister, this matter should be referred to the courts where the facts could be probed to the bottom, although a few minutes before he had shown that undoubtedly the courts, according to their machinery, and rules, and the rules of *nisi prius*, would be powerless as compared with our committee to probe this matter to the bottom. So it is clear that that broad view of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is based on a very narrow wish and a very narrow desire.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did not intend to occupy so much of the time of this House as I have done, and I have hurried as fast as I could over the various questions that have come up. But I warn the government, in concluding these observations, of the consequences of this the third attempt to burk a proper inquiry. I warn the government that the public mind of this country is already disturbed in connection with the open corruption and fraud that has been committed at elections during their regime. For almost the first time in the history of the country religious bodies and non-political men are adverting to these matters, and if they find a disposition on the part of the parliament of Canada to prevent a full and thorough inquiry into such questions as are

raised by this resolution, there will be consternation over the land. The position of the government in regard to the Yukon, I am satisfied, is not satisfactory. I believe throughout the west of this country, at any rate, there is most intense dissatisfaction with the government's evident cowardice in that connection. I say that when we find the names of ministers of the Crown connected with these matters now under consideration, recognizing that an inquiry had been begun, that a most serious affidavit has been produced, involving the most serious consequences on all who were guilty of crime, and that at that particular juncture an inquiry should be stopped at the request of the government, the conclusion will be that the government are equally guilty with the parties charged.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I must confess that I did not originally intend to take any part in this debate. Unfortunately I was absent last year when the reference to the committee was ordered, and I was also absent at the time the witnesses were being examined before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. But I have read carefully the speech made at the time that the reference was ordered by the hon. the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden); I have also read at intervals the evidence given before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and I have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate that has taken place here on the application now made for a renewal of the inquiry. I must confess that while I was much struck with the calm and deliberate statement of this case, made in his usual able manner, by the senior member for Halifax, I could not help feeling that that speech was very much more suggestive than it was conclusive. It seemed to me it suggested many things, but it proved little. I might say, absolutely nothing. Now, I mean to be very brief; and at the outset I would like to put this question: What are the facts which we are called upon to deal with? What are the facts connected with the inquiry at its inception? What is the present position of this case which we are called upon to deal with, practically, as a court of parliament? The West Huron election took place on the 21st of February, 1899. All the facts connected with the alleged wrong-doing were known to hon. gentlemen opposite within ten or twelve days after the election took place. They certainly were known to them previously to the 30th of March, because on that day several affidavits were sworn to. The Brockville election took place on the 20th of April, 1899. Many facts revealed in the course of the investigation so far, were also known to hon. gentlemen opposite within a few days after that election took place. Now, what was the position of hon. gentlemen opposite when these facts were brought to their knowledge? As the Minister of

Marine and Fisheries pointed out in his able speech yesterday, they might have proceeded by way of a contestation of the election, they might have proceeded by way of a petition under chap. 10 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, an Act respecting corrupt practices; they might have proceeded by way of an information laid before a police magistrate charging an offence against those parties under the section of the Criminal Code; and, finally, they might have adopted the proceeding that has been adopted here of referring the matter to a committee. They chose the latter, and I put to myself the question: Why have they chosen this latter procedure?—the most unsatisfactory. It seems to me, the most inconclusive, if they are really desirous of finding out the truth, and, having ascertained what the truth was, of really punishing the culprits. They chose a method which was unreasonable, which would inevitably result in absolutely defeating the object they pretend to have in view. I say that it was the most unsatisfactory method they could adopt. When I listened to-night to the speech made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), I was amazed. He will pardon me for borrowing an expression from a vocabulary that is well known to him. I was amazed at his remarks when speaking of the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), having said that the Committee on Privileges and Elections was not such an impartial tribunal as should be charged with the duty of investigating of a judicial affair of this sort, because, I find, that the hon. member for Pictou, on a previous occasion, used language almost identical in every respect with the language used by the hon. member for Halifax this afternoon, and which appears to have startled him so much. In connection with the Queen's County case, the hon. member for Pictou spoke on the subject of having the investigation referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and what did he say, among other things? He said:

Surely no one but a hypocrite would say that we can enter into this case utterly devoid of partisan feeling and political bias. If that is the case, is it not wise to follow the letter, or, at all events, the spirit of the Act which relegated all these political or quasi-political questions to the legal tribunals? I think such a reference would be a result which every one should strive to reach, a result that would take from us the responsibility of dealing with what I have pointed out to be a question in which we are all personally interested.

In what respect does this language differ from the language used by the hon. junior member for Halifax this afternoon, and which appears to have so violently startled the hon. member for Pictou?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) allow me to say a word here, because he has misapprehended my remarks to-day?

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Certainly, go ahead.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did not question the statement made by the hon. junior member for Halifax, that a committee of this House was necessarily partisan, or to some extent partisan, and was composed of strong party men on each side. The only reference I made was to the manner in which he had dealt with the evidence or examined it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Of course, I accept the correction of the hon. gentleman, but, I understood him to challenge the language used by the hon. junior member for Halifax, and which, in my judgment, was almost identical with the expressions used by the hon. gentleman himself. The hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House chose the most ineffective procedure of all the five methods that they could have adopted of dealing with this question, and I am now going to state my deliberate opinion, so far as I am concerned, as to the right to refer a matter of this kind to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. In my opinion, the trial of controverted elections by the courts does not in any way deprive the House of Commons of the powers it possesses generally in respect to the qualifications or disqualifications of its own members, or the conduct of officers in its service, whether permanently or temporarily. Formerly the parties complaining of an undue return were heard at the Bar of the House, and this having been found an exceedingly cumbersome practice, was superseded, in the early part of this century, by the appointment of a committee of inquiry, to inquire into and report upon a controverted election, under the Grenville Act. This Act was amended by Sir Robert Peel's Act, and ultimately, investigation by the committee was superseded by investigation of the courts. The judges report the result of the investigation and trial to the Speaker, and that report is treated by the House in some respects as the report of the committee was under the former system. So that, to that extent, but to that extent alone, the House divested itself of its authority, and I have to say now, that it is without precedent that the House should undertake to conduct an inquiry which appropriately falls within the provision of an election petition. If that be the case, in this case, the most effective method would have been, with the knowledge that the hon. gentlemen had, to have contested this election, and under the Controverted Elections Act to have made the returning officer a party to that contestation. The result would have been that the returning officer would have been brought before the court as also the deputy returning officers connected with the elections and dealt with summarily by the judge charged with the conduct

of the trial. That would have been an effective method of disposing of the whole matter, but what would necessarily be the result of an inquiry, no matter how full, no matter how complete, conducted by this House. It is undoubted, and I challenge the hon. member for Pictou to point to a single expression of opinion in any quarter which would sustain the contrary, that the only result of an investigation before the Committee on Privileges and Elections would be, in so far as effective punishment is concerned, a report of the proceedings of the committee made to this House, and an order given by this House to proceed against these persons before the courts, so that with this inquiry conducted before the House, when everything would be completed, you would have to go to the courts, or the tribunal to which you should have gone at the beginning. Now, dealing with the matter we have in hand, what is the position of this investigation? What are we asked to do? Last July the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), moved to refer the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. At that time he was in possession necessarily of all the facts upon which he could base the serious charges he then made. He was then, as I pointed out a moment ago, in possession of all the evidence upon the subject into which he wanted an inquiry. Dealing with the West Huron question, what is the question into which he wished to inquire at that time? He wished to inquire into the conduct of deputy returning officers at poll No. 4, Colborne, and poll No. 3, Goderich. He wished to inquire into the conduct of two men who had acted in connection with the election in West Huron in reference to the placing of ballots in the ballot box. At that time there were present in the polling booth the two men incriminated, the two poll clerks, and there also were present, at the outside, four scrutineers at each polling place. That would mean six men in each polling place, or, in the two polls, twelve men who would be supposed necessarily to have an intimate knowledge of the grievances of which he complains. We had that inquiry held, the hon. gentleman summoned ninety-nine witnesses before the committee, we had these ninety-nine witnesses examined, the committee held twenty-five sittings occupying seventeen days, over 500 pages of printed evidence were taken, and when the hon. gentleman has done all that, he comes here and says he has not completed his inquiry, and asks leave to begin again. I ask you, after all this has been gone into, is it a reasonable request, or is my hon. friend in such a position that he is obliged to admit that he was fishing for evidence, that he had no foundation for the charges he laid in July, 1899, and that he was not able, with all the valuable legal assistance he had at his disposal, to make out his charges, notwithstanding that he has examined these ninety-

nine men, had all these sittings of the committee and taken all this evidence?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will my hon. friend permit me; perhaps he does not understand. There were nine witnesses that the committee refused to hear for want of time. He is also possibly not aware that the cross-examination of one of the deputy returning officers, Mr. Cummings was not completed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Of course in this instance, as in many others, those who trust to the official records of the House are sometimes at a disadvantage.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That appears in the report.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will read the report:

The Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections beg leave to present the following as their third report:

Your committee under the order of reference made on the 9th day of July, 1899, have partially inquired into and investigated the conduct of the returning officer and of certain of the deputy returning officers at the last election for the electoral district of the west riding of the county of Huron.

That in so doing they have heard the testimony of ninety-nine witnesses, and have submitted interrogatories for the examination of the county court judge of the county of Huron of four witnesses; that twenty-five sittings have been held for the purpose of taking evidence, covering seventeen days, and comprising seventeen morning sessions and eight afternoon sessions; that the committee determined to hold the last session for the examination of witnesses on Monday, the 7th day of August, 1899, and for that reason nine witnesses then in attendance for the purpose of giving evidence were discharged without examination; twelve witnesses also failed to attend, and the attendance of three was countermanded. The proceedings of the committee being thus incomplete, the committee do not feel warranted in reporting any conclusions.

Your committee therefore report herewith the evidence given by the witnesses who were examined, that the House may take such action thereon and as to continuing and completing the inquiry and investigation as may be deemed best, and they recommend that the said evidence and exhibits be printed for the use of the members of the House.

Therefore, I find that notwithstanding that I was not present at the inquiry, apparently I know more about it than my hon. friend, Mr. Borden.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Not at all. I suggested to the Solicitor General what he has just read. There were nine witnesses in attendance whom the committee did not examine.

Mr. COWAN. You said nine out of the ninety-nine were not examined.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Not at all. I said there were nine witnesses in attendance who were not examined on account of the

want of time, and I say again that if the hon. gentleman will examine the evidence he will find that Mr. Donald Cummings remained in attendance to the end and was not discharged; and that his cross-examination was not concluded.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am dealing with the report, and I see no suggestion in it that Donald Cummings was not discharged. At all events that is not very important. As I have said, the committee examined ninety-nine witnesses, ordered four others to be examined under commission, making in all one hundred and three witnesses; and all this to investigate the fact as to whether or not the returning officers in two polling booths had been guilty of fraud in connection with the election, when in each booth there were six persons present, twelve in all, and it took one hundred and three witnesses for my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) to say he has made out a prima facie case, and that he wants an opportunity to prove further in connection with the matter. My hon. friend said the other night (as will be found at pages 5341 and 5342 of *Hansard*), that substantially he had proved his case. It is either one thing or the other. Either, with the examination of all these witnesses, and with the assistance of all the legal talent which surrounds him on the other side, he has failed to make out his case, or, as he argues now, he has made it out in its entirety. In either event, what is the necessity to go further into this investigation? Has he shown by his speech, that he has now any evidence that was not available to him a year ago? What evidence can he produce now to enlighten the House which he could not produce a year ago, and if it was available to him then what justification would there be after the expenditure of all this money amounting to, as was stated this afternoon, \$10,000, or \$12,000; what justification would there be for this House to open up an inquiry again which would entail an additional expenditure, amounting, I presume, to the sum already expended. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) has nothing new to offer the House now except the evidence of this Mr. Pritchett. Let us deal with Mr. Pritchett. We have got Mr. Pritchett's evidence contained in these affidavits, and let me say a word about the circumstances surrounding the obtaining of these affidavits. Mr. Pritchett was a fugitive from justice; he went to Detroit to evade the laws of his country. After he reached Detroit, a Mr. Barker, of Hamilton, and a Mr. Fleming, of Windsor, crossed over to Detroit to interview Mr. Pritchett. They were then the bearers of a warrant against Mr. Pritchett. A warrant had been issued in Ontario calling for the arrest of this man and they were the bearers of that warrant. Having that warrant in their possession, they exhibited it to Mr. Pritchett, and the condition upon which they obtained these affida-

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

vits was that they should not execute the warrant; that that man Pritchett should be free to come back to this country and that they should compound that felony with this felon. The other night an hon. gentleman opposite said that Mr. Pritchett agreed to come back if the leaders of the Conservative party would undertake not to prosecute. Why would they undertake not to prosecute? What authority had they to do it? Being in possession of that warrant, why should they undertake to deal with that man otherwise than as he should be dealt with? Why not bring him back to this country and deal with him as all criminals in this country are dealt with, leaving it to the authorities if it were necessary to deal with him as an informer, and to treat him as a man in his position should be treated. But no, they make this bargain with him and they bring him back to this country. Now, what do we find? This is something more serious, because, if what I have pointed out is true, and I have reasonable cause to believe it is true, it is more serious for Mr. Barker and more serious for Mr. Fleming than it is for Mr. Pritchett.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I suppose the hon. gentleman will give his authority for making these statements?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. All the circumstances I have pointed out, with the exception of the bargain with reference to the criminal prosecution were obtained from the lips of Mr. Pritchett himself, examined as a witness. As to the authority with reference to the bargain I am not prepared to give it, but I am credibly informed of it and I have corroborative evidence from the lips of the member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), who said this man came back on an understanding with the leaders of the Conservative party that he would not be prosecuted. There is the evidence I have in support of it. Therefore, I say that when hon. gentlemen opposite sent this gentleman named Barker, their chief organizer in Ontario, over from that province, to Detroit, to make this corrupt and illegal bargain, which I say puts those who made the bargain within measurable distance of the jail—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has made a very strong statement, which, so far as my information goes, is entirely inaccurate. But, I would like to ask him this: What undertaking could Mr. Barker, or any living person give to this man, that he would not be prosecuted? The hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that he could not give any. This man was invited to come back here by persons belonging to the Conservative party, he would not be prosecuted by them if he came; but here is a man who had put himself in jeopardy, and no man living could give him the slightest assurance that he would not be prosecuted by the Crown, or by any person at the

instance of the government; and the confidence with which he was enabled to return, was due to the fact that he knew too much, that he was not afraid of being prosecuted by the Conservatives, and that he knew that the Crown, directed, as it is at the present, would not dare to prosecute him with the information he had in his possession.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In answer to the leader of the opposition, I would say: That they could give him the assurance is undoubted, and that it is not a valid assurance is equally undoubted. They could give him the assurance for the purpose of decoying him back to this country, while knowing that it would have no effect, and would not be binding upon them. There is the answer. If my hon. friend wishes for more information, let him inquire of the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), what he meant when he said that this man got the assurance of the leaders of the Conservative party that he would not be prosecuted.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I listened to the hon. member for Westmoreland, and I heard no such statement from him. I heard the statement that he understood that he had the assurance that he would not be prosecuted so far as the Conservatives were concerned, and Mr. Pritchett then stated, 'I am quite safe, then, because the representative of the government would not dare to prosecute me.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He did not require any assurance from Mr. Barker that he would not be prosecuted by the Conservative party. I think I can fairly ask the leader of the opposition to give one case since confederation, out of the many iniquities perpetrated by the Conservative party, wherein a man was prosecuted.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend has made a very daring and a very unsafe challenge. I can point to a number of cases in which Conservative supporters of the Conservative government were prosecuted by that government. Persons were even expelled from this House by the Conservative party, although belonging to that Conservative party, and subsequently prosecuted in the courts under the auspices, and at the expense of the Conservative government.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is one case, no doubt, the case of Connolly and McGreevy.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That was not the only case.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I speak subject to the hon. gentleman's better information on the subject.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The Curran bridge case was another, in which the Conservative government prosecuted St. Louis, and followed up the case to the best of their ability in the courts.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have the Connolly and McGreevy case in mind. That is a case which I do not want to speak very much about, because one cannot always distinguish between what one knows as a public man, and what one knows as a private individual—between what one knows as a member of parliament, and what one knows as having advised his clients. But I ask, who would have ever heard of Connolly and McGreevy and their peccadilloes at Quebec, had it not been for the Liberal party? Who would have heard of the stealings that went on at Quebec, or of the expulsion of any of the men concerned from this House had the government of the day not been forced to take action by the Liberal party? With regard to the Curran bridge, there was an investigation at Montreal in connection with that matter.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me a single moment, before we depart from the subject of the statement made in the speech of the hon. member for Westmoreland. This is what he said, as it appears in *Hansard*:

I challenge the right hon. leader of the government to proceed against Pritchett. Pritchett is in the Dominion to-day. He gave evidence before the commission the other day; and if his evidence is false, he is a perjurer. I challenge the government, now that they have the power, to arraign this man before the courts of this country and have him indicted for perjury. I will go further and give them further incitement to inaugurate a prosecution. It is reliably reported to me Pritchett says they dare not. He says it is the last thing on earth they would dream of. He told Conservative gentlemen to whom he spoke about coming back: If you fellows do not prosecute me, I am not a bit afraid of the others, for I know too much about them for them to attempt any prosecution of me.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is what I had in mind, when I made the statement, which statement I now repeat in order that there may be no doubt about it. This man was approached in Detroit, by Messrs. Baker and Fleming. Of that I am absolutely certain. I am credibly informed that they had then in their possession a warrant against him.

Mr. POWELL. That is twaddle. How could they serve a warrant in the United States?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am credibly informed that the bargain was, that he would come back, provided that warrant should not be put into execution against him, and he was not arrested under it. That is not a matter on which I can speak with as great precision as on the other matter; but I am so credibly informed, and my information is corroborated, I say again, by what the hon. member for Westmoreland said.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman not know that Mr. Pritchett is

prepared to swear before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, that he was approached on behalf of hon. gentlemen opposite with a bribe, that if he would swear that he was not at Brockville, they would pay him a large sum of money, and that he refused to be bribed to perjure himself at the instance of the parties who were interested in protecting themselves now?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am quite aware that Mr. Pritchett was supposed to have said in his affidavit, that he had done those things; but is the leader of the opposition aware that Mr. Pritchett gave an affidavit in connection with the West Elgin election and that when he was examined as a witness, before the commission and was confronted with that affidavit, his answer was: 'That affidavit does not contain the statements I made to those men; they have misrepresented what I said; I never swore what is contained in that affidavit'; and it was that that one of the commissioners said that this man was a self-convicted liar. Now, the leader of the opposition said a moment ago that this man came back and said that he would not be prosecuted, that he defied the Liberal party to prosecute him. The leader of the opposition knows full well, that for the majority of the offences with which this man could be charged, there is a limitation. He knows full well, that under the Elections Act, for the majority of the offences, there is a limitation of one year; and when this man says that the Liberal party can be defied, and that he cannot be proceeded against, he knows that he is safe, because the only people who can prosecute him, are the gentlemen who have possession of the warrant that was sworn out within a year. He knows full well that he could defy the world, because he has the Conservative party at his back, with this weapon, which they keep in their pockets, so that they can protect him. I would say this, Mr. Speaker, that it is a question whether this man is going to be allowed to go on continually defying public justice in this country. It is a question as to how far it is going to be possible to allow that man to come into this country and to say that he is a forger and a perjurer, and a manipulator of ballots, and that the arm of justice of Canada is not long enough to reach him. It is a question to be considered how long that sort of thing is to be tolerated.

Mr. DAVIN. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? I have the evidence here, and I would ask the hon. gentleman to point out where the judge said Pritchett was a self-convicted liar.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend will realize, I am sure, that it is impossible for me to take up a newspaper and go through all the evidence and show where the judge made that remark. I read it in the *Globe* on Saturday or Monday last; and

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

if my hon. friend will permit me to give him this further undertaking, I will undertake to get the reference in the *Globe* for him before this debate closes. I am sure that he, who, I know, is a persistent reader of newspapers, must have seen it and forgotten it.

The hon. the leader of the opposition said something about the prosecution by the late government in connection with the Curran bridge. What occurred in that case? Why, Mr. Speaker, there was an investigation held by three employees of the government down at Montreal. As the result of that investigation, criminal proceedings were instituted before a magistrate at Montreal, and that magistrate looked upon these proceedings as being so admirably well conducted, so sincere and honest, that after the investigation was complete, he rejected the whole affair. He knew it was all a farce. He did not even consider that they had made out a prima facie case which would warrant him in committing these persons to stand their trial. After the matter came before the court, we had the solemn farce proceeded with of employing counsel to assist the Crown prosecutors. Indictments were prepared, and submitted to the grand jury, and the grand jury refused to take cognizance of them and threw them out. And the only result of these criminal proceedings taken by the late government, in connection with the Curran bridge, was a large bill of costs which the government had to pay for this farce now characterized as criminal proceedings.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not think the hon. gentleman would willingly reflect indirectly on the officers of his own department, but I say this which I can prove by the record. The instructions from the Department of Justice (now on record), to reputable counsel in the city of Montreal—and if my memory serves me, Mr. Sharpe was the junior counsel, and the firm of Mr John S. Hall and Mr. Bissailon were the senior counsel—the instructions were to these gentlemen to do all they could to secure conviction. That subject was once discussed in this House as to whether these men had done their duty, and the right hon the Prime Minister, if my recollection is right, withdrew a somewhat similar reflection made upon a member of the bar of Montreal, who had these instructions from the Department of Justice.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not dealing with the instructions of the Department of Justice, and have no recollection of what they were, but am absolutely certain that they must have been in the sense indicated by the hon. member for Pictou. I am not disputing that or suggesting any action on the part of the lawyers which was not quite up to the level of what they ought to do, but I am simply stating the facts. I am simply giving the

obvious result of this Curran bridge prosecution which took place, within a stone's throw of the city of Ottawa, and there can be no disputing the facts I allege. These men were proceeded against in the police office, and there can be no doubt that the magistrate threw out information.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The case was proved to the hilt.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not dealing with my hon. friend's opinion, but simply stating that the magistrate threw it out. He held the case as made out to be such a flimsy one that it was not worth his time to attend to it. What is worse than that, an indictment came before the grand jury, and the manner in which the case was presented was such that the grand jury threw it out.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that the manner in which the case was put before the grand jury induced them to throw it out? Does he mean to say that the counsel in charge of the case for the Crown courted this result?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, what I said was that the manner in which the case was put before the grand jury led to its being thrown out, whether on imperfect evidence or for any other reason. I have nothing to do with. If it was thrown out on imperfect evidence, the counsel had nothing to do with it. A steal certainly took place. Hon. gentlemen opposite appeal to this Curran bridge matter as evidence of their desire to prosecute guilty parties, and what did their prosecution amount to? It amounted to the whole proceedings being treated as a farce, so far as results were concerned. It went before the magistrate and the grand jury and both threw it out, and when it came before the full court, on a question of costs, the Crown was condemned to pay all the costs. That was the result of the Curran bridge inquiry.

Dealing with the application made by the senior member for Halifax, I say that when he made his application last year the government then, without a moment's hesitation acquiesced in the reference to the committee, that he had his opportunity to go before the committee, with all the advantage of his own skill and knowledge, and the skill and knowledge of the hon. member for Westmoreland, and the hon. member for Picton, and all the other legal lights on the other side. They examined ninety-nine witnesses and expended the public money as lavishly as they chose and the result was that the hon. gentleman comes before the House this year and says: I did not succeed in accomplishing any thing last year, but ask you another opportunity to begin again. I say that the circumstances are such that the government would not be warranted in adopting my hon. friend's sug-

gestion. Nothing new has been shown. The conditions are the same as they were last year, and we are warranted in saying that the result would be absolutely the same as it was at the last investigation.

Dealing with Pritchett's declaration, if what I have said of him is true, it would be beneath the dignity of this House to attach any credence to what he may have said, and the only thing this government has to consider is the question whether or not that man should be allowed to go on much longer defying public justice as he has done. The other question to be considered is, if that warrant that I spoke of a moment ago is still in existence, in the hands of Messrs. Barker and Fleming, it is the duty of hon. gentlemen on the other side to co-operate with the government, to produce the warrant and initiate proceedings, and then see how far the government will go in supporting them and making an inquiry.

My hon. friends on the other side have spoken of the carnival of corruption inaugurated by the Liberal party, and that exists in the whole Dominion as the result of the Liberal party coming into power. The hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) was especially loud in his denunciations of the Liberal party in that connection, as is his custom. He was not the only one, because, if I may use this expression, 'as the old cock crows, the young one learns.' Last year, the leader of the opposition referred to—

The circumstances attending the West Elgin election, where have been brought to light these frightful election frauds that have been the staple commodity of gentlemen opposite for years in carrying elections, these indecent attempts, almost open and undisguised, at corrupting the electors of this country, of carrying elections by gigantic bribery, both public and private.

He goes on to speak of:

This gigantic corruption that has for years been stalking and rioting throughout this land, and has finally culminated in one of the most frightful exposures of electoral fraud and rascality that has ever been witnessed, and which has been carried on under the auspices of hon. gentlemen opposite for a long period. They boast of carrying by-elections, and how did they carry them? Did they carry them by honourable and just means? No. They carried them by the influence of the operations of this same machine, invented and manipulated by W. T. R. Preston, an officer of this government.

But, since the Liberal party have come into power, what have we seen? In the general elections, we had 117 Liberals returned, that is exclusive of Independents, Patrons and vacant constituencies. We have had 48 by-elections, in which 45 Liberals have been returned. In all these elections of Liberals, what evidence is there that there is fraud or rascality connected with any of them? Was any of them ever successfully contested in the courts? Has any attempts been made

to prove corruption or rascality such as the leader of the opposition spoke of in connection with these elections? Hon. gentlemen opposite know well enough that the only elections contested successfully have been those of members of the opposition and the only members driven from this House as the result of electoral fraud since this party came into power have been members of the party opposite. The whole thing is narrowed down to the West Huron and Brockville elections. It is the old story—they wish to go before the country and say: The Liberals have been for years preaching purity in elections, and they are no better than we are, because in the Brockville and West Huron elections they refused to allow us to make an investigation after we had exhausted all the evidence obtainable and had proved nothing. These hon. gentlemen cannot point to a single instance, except Brockville and West Huron, where there has been even a suggestion of fraud. What is the result? They are forced to fall back on what has taken place in the provincial elections in Ontario; they have nothing else to speak of except what took place in West Elgin in the Ontario elections. However, bad they may have been in local politics, that in no way concerns us. But, so far as the two parties are concerned, what is the result? Count the number of men who have gone to jail or who have paid penalties and see whether the majority is on the Tory or on the Liberal side.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the reason of that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I presume the reason is that they have been schooled so long in iniquity that it has been impossible to trace more than a small portion of the Tory frauds.

Now, I said a moment ago that our friends opposite had the option of proceeding in the courts. They were not anxious to do so. Why? Because they have had a wholesome experience in the courts. They know that in the courts they would not be allowed to waste the time as they wasted the time of the committee, producing these useless witnesses in the manner they did. And they know, that in the case of the Brockville election they tried their hands in the courts—and with what success? They brought a charge against Empey, and the jury acquitted him almost without leaving the box. They tried to prove a charge against the other man, Wendling, but, after several postponements, after having delayed the case from day to day, the magistrate dismissed the case and they were obliged to withdraw all proceedings.

Mr. POWELL. The witnesses absconded to the States.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Supported by hon. gentlemen opposite.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. So far as the witnesses who absconded to the States

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

are concerned, I can say to my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) that the two men, McIntosh, who absconded to the States were not Liberals; they were the two gentlemen who were engaged in the attempt to blackmail this Mr. Wendling, a respectable hotel-keeper at Brockville to whom a lady was sent to demand five hundred dollars from him. Why have they not come back? And, in connection with the Brockville election, I have this further information—I was not in Brockville myself and I give the information for what it is worth—in every polling booth on election day, the Conservatives were represented by a lawyer who surely had his eyes open enough to prevent fraud. That is not all. After the election there was a recount before the county judge, and, at that recount, there were three lawyers present, beside Mr. Stewart, the agent of the Conservative party. There was no suggestion at the recount of wrong-doing, no suggestion of fraud, no suggestion of anything having taken place such as took place in one of the Northumberlands, where, as a result of the investigation on the recount, one of the judges refused to count the ballots in the box, because they were so apparently fraudulent. And hon. gentlemen opposite had better remember this also—that they know what the result of the last general election was, and they know better than any one can suggest the organized frauds perpetrated throughout the length and breadth of Ontario. They know very well what was said after the election by their friends in Quebec—that if their manipulators in the province of Quebec had been schooled up to the same standard as those in Ontario, the Liberal party would not now be in power. Now, in one of the boxes used in the plebiscite—

Mr. BENNETT. Is that the one that the whisky bottle was found in?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot help admiring my hon. friend from East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett)—

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is flattering me.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am sure the hon. gentleman must feel flattered. But I cannot help admiring him; I cannot help admiring the technical knowledge he has of all these frauds, no matter which one may be suggested.

Mr. BENNETT. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) will allow me, I may say I intimated to the House the other night the kind of work that was going on in East Simcoe in the by-election, and so hon. members can understand what I saw and was personally cognizant of.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I did not impute to my hon. friend personal knowledge acquired otherwise than by observa-

tion. But, as to this ballot box used in the plebiscite, there were eight ballots found in the ballot box of subdivision 35, East Northumberland, marked for the Liberal candidate. How did they get there?

Mr. WALLACE. Explain.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The explanation is perfectly obvious to those who wish to understand, and for those who do not, I do not wish to waste my time. Now, reference was made a moment ago to the Manitoba election. It strikes me as one of the peculiarities of my hon. friends opposite that they do not appear to be afraid of skeletons, they appear to be rather fond of them. The idea of the Conservative party bringing up this question of the Manitoba elections and having the audacity to talk of them in this House as something of which they might well be proud! What are the facts connected with the Manitoba election? A man named Birmingham, the Tory organizer for the province of Ontario, sends this man Freeborn to Mr. Boyd, a candidate for one of the counties of Manitoba, with a telegram in which Birmingham, the Conservative organizer, tells Mr. Boyd that this is a good man and that he has proved his worth in North Bruce. The Tory organizer sends this man up to Manitoba for what purpose? Freeborn himself says that the purpose for which he was sent there was to educate the people of Manitoba up to that high level which we were told a moment ago existed among the Tories in Ontario, so as to enable them to manipulate the ballot boxes in Manitoba in such a way as to bring about a Tory majority. And they did it, and the hon. gentlemen opposite boast of that, and appeal to it as something of which they are proud. Now the member for Pictou says: Why do you suggest that there is anything wrong in the present procedure adopted by us in view of the proceedings you adopted in Manitoba, but why do hon. gentlemen opposite not do in Ontario in connection with these two elections what we did in Manitoba? Why do they not do what we did in Manitoba, bring these men before the court and there prove up to the hilt what I have stated, that an organized system of bribery, and corruption, and manipulation of ballots was in existence throughout Manitoba, which system was inaugurated by the Tory organizer with the knowledge of Mr. Boyd, one of the Tory candidates, and with the aid of this man Freeborn? That is something of which they appear to be proud. We prosecuted this man before the courts, and caused him to be punished. Hon. gentlemen opposite did not seek to imitate us in that respect, they are careful not to do it, and don't want to do it because they know the result would be, if they initiated this prosecution

the same as it was in a few cases in which they tried their hands at Brockville. Then what happened in the Manitoba elections? Mr. Boyd's seat was contested and he had to go. What happened in Winnipeg? The election of Hugh John Macdonald was contested and he had to go, they both had to go.

An hon. MEMBER. But he is back again.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He has come back on a side wind, I admit, but after going out through the main door he apparently is coming in through the chimney.

Mr. CASGRAIN. He has come in to stay.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Well, I am satisfied that the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) should look to Manitoba for a ray of sunshine and of comfort; he can see nothing but icebergs in the near vicinity of the place he comes from. Now, I will not take up the time of the House any further with this matter. So far as I am concerned the position I take substantially is this: The right to inquire exists undoubtedly in this House in a matter of this sort, but to have an inquiry under the circumstances of this case, in view of all that has taken place, I say is perfectly unjustifiable.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). I am surprised and I am sure the House is surprised, at the very weak defence which has been put up by the government against the amendment which my hon. friend the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) moved the other evening. We have had a speech from the Solicitor General, who certainly is one of the most able lawyers in this House. He has defended many criminals, and has got many criminals off. He has had such influence with the jury, his power of speech and his abilities have been such that he has got criminals off in many instances when public opinion pointed to their guilt. To-night he has defended this great criminal that we have before us, the government. But I think I may say with certainty that he has failed to prove that the guilty parties in this matter are not guilty and if an independent and impartial verdict could be given by this House, I have no doubt they would return a verdict of guilty upon the indictment which was made against them by the senior member for Halifax. The hon. the Solicitor General has travelled a good deal outside of the record. This is a scheme generally adopted by lawyers when they have a bad case to argue. I cannot find in his speech much which touches the question before the House. He has spoken to us

about the McGreevy trial, he has spoken about the Curran bridge, and he has spoken to us about the frauds in the Manitoba elections which he says were perpetrated in 1896. Now, I will ask any impartial hearer of the hon. gentleman what all that has to do with the question before the House?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. For an answer to that question, I would recommend the hon. gentleman to ask the hon. member for Pictou, who started the inquiry.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The hon. gentleman found it very convenient to travel outside of the record because, not finding anything to say in this case, he had to fall back upon the public history of this country in order to say something to the House. Now this motion was made by my hon. friend for Halifax on Friday night. The House knew it was coming, the government knew it was coming. The government was well aware that at the very first opportunity my hon. friend would bring this motion before the House. It was known by the House from the beginning of this session that this motion would be brought before it, and that the House would have to pronounce upon the reference which was asked for by us to the Committee of Privileges and Elections of that important question. This amendment was moved on Friday night. The government had all Saturday, all Sunday and all Monday to prepare their defence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not Sunday.

Mr. CASGRAIN. No, the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is not yet in the cabinet; still I think that the hon. gentlemen who now form the administration are not so scrupulous that in a question of this kind they would not work upon Sunday. Now, the work they had before them was not only to decide upon the defence that they would put up, but they had to decide the other important question in the eyes of the country, whether they would oppose this motion or accept it; whether they would burk the inquiry, whether they would prevent this House from empowering the Committee on Privileges and Elections to investigate the new charges which have been made, or whether they would simply accept the motion and relieve themselves in the eyes of their own supporters of the imputations which were cast upon them as leaders of public opinion in this country. I have no doubt that a great many of their supporters, those who in the old times made the welkin ring with denunciations of Conservative corruption, urged the government to accept this motion and to refer again this question to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

I have no doubt that many members of this House, remembering well what they had

Mr. CASGRAIN.

said when they were on this side, remembering their denunciations of the Conservative party in regard to these questions of corruption and bribery, urged the government to again allow this question to go before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The great question for these hon. gentlemen to decide was whether or not, in the face of the accusations brought against them by the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), they would allow this question to be referred back again to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, or whether, in the face of what they heard from all parts of the country, from their supporters, they would not rather say: These accusations are not only serious in the eyes of the party to which we belong, but they are just as serious in the eyes of the country, and we will allow this investigation to go on so as to prove that the accusations and the indictment which are brought against us are not true, but that these accusations and this indictment are completely false. That, it would seem to me, was one of the reasons and probably the greatest reason why these hon. gentlemen took so long to decide what they were going to do, but, yesterday, we had the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) get up and try to make the defence of the government. It was said often that it was strange that the hon. gentleman who represents here the Minister of Justice, the hon. gentleman who represents the Crown law officers should not be the first to rise and discuss the question from a legal standpoint and prove that the time to refer the question back to the Committee on Privileges and Elections was passed and gone and that the House had no right to refer it back. But, we have to take the defence put up by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The hon. minister is certainly one of the lawyers of the government who is the most capable of making the defence of the government in this instance, but what did we have? I may say, and I think the House will bear me out, that the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries made one of the weakest defences that could be put up on a question of this kind, and that although he is skilled in the law, although he is an able lawyer, we fail to find one single reason given by him why this question should not be referred back to the committee. The government says: We have heard your charges, we have heard the indictment which has been alleged against us, but we refuse to investigate these accusations; we refuse to allow them to go back to the Committee on Privileges and Elections and we will not hear any witnesses in our defence. What are the reasons given for this? There are five reasons given. First, it is said that the hon. member for Halifax was neglectful in the manner in which he brought the question before the House; secondly, it is said that it is too late in the session now to have any kind of

an investigation ; thirdly, it is said that the House has divested itself of the right to inquire into these charges ; fourthly, it is said that the motion which is moved is one of want of confidence in the government because it is brought up in amendment to a motion to go into Committee of Supply, and that the questions of the Brockville election and of the West Huron election, being joined together, hon. members who would probably be willing to investigate charges of fraud in connection with the West Huron election, would not be ready to vote for an investigation into the Brockville election in which no charges have been proved and no prima facie case made out ; and, fifthly, the argument which has been made by the hon. Solicitor General is that Pritchett's evidence is not to be believed, that it is insufficient and as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) said : no man in the country would hang a dog on the evidence given by Pritchett. Let us examine these reasons which are given as a defence for the government. These are the only reasons, as far as I could gather from the speeches of hon. gentlemen opposite, which are given, why the accusations, which certainly affect the honour of the government, which certainly affect the honour of the other side of the House and of the Liberal party, and which affect the honour of Canada, should not be referred back to be investigated by the committee. The question last year was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections as a matter of privilege. When the hon. senior member for Halifax got up and made out his case it was called by the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) a prima facie case, and he was not required to give any notice of the motion he was then making. He was not required to follow the ordinary rule of the House and give notice that on such a day he would move that the question be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The matter seemed to be so grave and so serious, a prima facie case was so well made out that the right hon. leader of the government got up and acquiesced in the motion of the hon. senior member for Halifax, and said : We will grant an investigation immediately. If it was a question of privilege last year, if it was a question that could, without notice, be brought before the House and referred to the committee, what has intervened between this session and last session to convince us that it is not a question of privilege which should be referred to the same committee without any notice and upon the same rules which guided the hon. leader of the government when he so readily acquiesced in the motion of the hon. senior member for Halifax ? There has not been one solitary reason offered by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, or the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), or by the hon. Solicitor General, this evening, why the nature of the

question has been changed, and why, if it was a question of privilege last year it is not a question of privilege this year. So that, Sir, this year the refusal of the government comes without any reason whatever, without any justification except the fear in which these hon. gentlemen are that some further proof may be adduced by which not only the members interested in the two particular constituencies upon which we are here deliberating now, but the members of the government themselves will be involved in such serious charges that their honour and their dignity in this House and the country will be imperilled. But, my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) has not been at all negligent in the way in which he has brought the matter before the House. Upon the first opportunity that was given him he brought the question up and asked for a continuation of this investigation. He naturally thought and believed and he was convinced, as we were on this side of the House, that the rule which had been followed last year would be followed this year, and that immediately after he had asked for that investigation the Prime Minister would adopt the same course as he did last year and would acquiesce in the motion which was made. Therefore, being under this impression, being convinced that this would be the rule followed this year he moved, as soon as he could, to have the matter referred to the committee. But the motion was refused for the reason I have just indicated ; because of the fear that new evidence might be brought forth if he was allowed to continue the investigation before the committee. Therefore, the right hon. gentleman who leads the House opposed the motion. What course was left to the hon. senior member for Halifax ? The only course which was open to him then to follow was to give notice of his motion. Did we find the government willing to acquiesce in the procedure which the hon. gentleman had taken ? Did we find the government ready to favour for a single instant the procedure which he had taken and which he thought was the natural procedure which he ought to take after the refusal of the right hon. leader of the government ? We had the motions called and we saw the studious conduct of the members of the administration to make this motion stand from day to day until it become too late to bring it before the House this session. If hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House had, at any time during the session, been willing, or ready, or anxious, to bring this matter before the House they would have consented immediately to allow my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) move his motion when the order was called. But, we heard the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries say the other day that the right hon. leader of the government has no control over the Order paper. We all know that if the hon. leader of the government had got up and

said: Here is a motion asking for the continuation of the investigation into these frauds; here is a motion which I desire the House to pass immediately so that we may clear our skirts of the accusations which are brought against the Liberal party and against the hon. members from West Huron and Brockville, can it be supposed for an instant that the right hon. leader would not have led this House as he leads it on all important questions, and would not have got his followers to adopt that motion?

Mr. COCHRANE. He did not want to.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Sir, if what I am saying is not correct, then it is evidence of what we have heard time and again in the House and in the country, that the right hon. gentleman has lost control of his party. Either he did not want this investigation to be continued because he was afraid of it, or he has so completely lost control of his supporters that he could not get a motion of this kind passed, because he was afraid, forsooth, that some back bencher would get up in the interest of the member for Brockville (Mr. Comstock), or the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes) and say 'stand,' and the motion would have stood accordingly. It seems plain, in view of what has taken place within the last few days, that the government have resolved to burk this inquiry, because they are afraid that such revelations will be made as will not only imperil the seats of the two gentlemen immediately concerned, but which will imperil the honour and dignity of some of the gentlemen who occupy a high standing in the Liberal party and in the government. Not only that, but it is known all over the country, as it is known in parliament, that for days and days and for weeks and weeks, the motion to go into supply has been delayed simply because the government knew full well that the moment that motion was made this amendment would be moved. That is the reason why we have been here for three and a half months, an unprecedented time, before the motion to go into supply has been moved by the Minister of Finance. Sir, for the last seven or eight years, and probably the last ten years, it is well known that within a few weeks after the House meets the motion to go into supply has been made so that members will have an opportunity of discussing the estimates, but this year the government has deliberately postponed this motion from day to day and from week to week, against the interests of the country, keeping the members here now for almost four months whose business require their presence at home. We have all this delay for the simple reason that the government knew that the moment the motion to go into supply was made, some gentleman on this side of the House would move that these questions would be referred back

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to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Now, Sir, in the face of all this, the excuse given by the government is, that it is too late in the session to hold this investigation. Why too late? Simply for the reason that the government have wilfully retarded public business for the reasons I have mentioned. If it is too late, then it is the fault of the government, and they must bear all the responsibility for the delay. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has argued, as the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) argued before him, that this House has divested itself of the right to investigate such matters.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to correct my hon. friend. On the contrary, the Solicitor General, speaking for himself, said he could not say that.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I did not hear the learned Solicitor General take that position, but I am glad to say that in this instance, as in a great many others, his law is correct. On the other hand, however, I must point out that if his law is correct, the law of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is all astray. Here, then, are two members of the administration speaking in this House, speaking with the responsibility which rests upon them not only as ministers, but as eminent lawyers, differing one from the other on this important point. And what as to the argument of the Minister of Marine: That this House has divested itself by statute of the right of inquiring into these frauds. I know that in questions of protested elections these are generally left to the courts. I know also that by chap. 10 of the Revised Statutes, when general fraud is alleged in any constituency, a commission may be appointed to inquire into these frauds. But that is not the case we have before us. We know very well that at the time of the Brockville and West Huron elections, although we had a grave suspicion that corruption had taken place on a large scale, we had not in our possession anything like the evidence of it which is now before the House. But the Solicitor General says: Oh, you had Conservative lawyers or you had Conservative scrutineers who are well versed in the art of looking after the deputy returning officers, and they did not discover that these officers were not doing their duty. Sir, my answer to that is: That these fraudulent inventions were so new to the people of Canada, that this plot was so deeply laid, and the fraud carried out with such skill, that even our scrutineers, and even our lawyers who watched these men, could not detect it. The putting of the marked ballot under the left hand and abstracting the good ballot and putting it in the pocket of the deputy returning officer, was so new

and so skilfully accomplished, that it was not detected at the time. This fraud was all perpetrated with a great deal of skill; it was done by men well versed in it; it was done by men who had practised it for a long time and who instructed other men to do it in such a skilful manner that it could not be detected. We have not before us to-night a question of ordinary frauds; we have not a question of corruption being practised in one county or in two counties; we have not a question of an election being carried on by bribery or corruption in one constituency or another, but we have to deal with an organized fraud; we have a fraud which has been practised from 1896 to the present day in every by-election that has taken place in the province of Ontario or in the province of Quebec. And, Mr. Speaker, as to this being taken out of the statute, there is no statute which has been passed yet which contemplated or provided for such organized frauds as these we have evidence of to-day. There is no statute which provides for it, because until the Liberal party came into power in 1896, we never had such organized frauds as these that have been practiced in the by-elections since that date.

Now, is it true that under the law, or under the procedure or under the parliamentary practice, an investigation begun before a committee of parliament in one session cannot be continued during another session? That proposition laid down by gentlemen opposite cannot be maintained for an instant. The precedents cited by the member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) show conclusively that parliamentary practice is absolutely to the contrary. I will quote one instance. In 1854, there were frauds perpetrated in England in connection with the carrying of the mails between Dover and Calais, and the celebrated Churchward case came before the English House of Commons. This case was investigated during one session, and at the same time the carrying of the mails and the contracts in connection with the telegraph lines were investigated, and the committee reported to the House, and the next session of parliament this very same investigation was continued. It may be said that that is a very old case; but, I may tell the House, ever since that case, this very same practice has been followed in the Imperial House of Commons, and year after year and session after session, the investigations which have been begun in one session before one committee of the Commons or another, have been continued during the next session. Therefore, if hon. gentlemen opposite rely upon the law or upon parliamentary usage, they have not a leg to stand upon, and so, the defence which has been put forward by the most eminent lawyers on the other side falls to the ground. These gentlemen cannot give us one single reason either, in law or in par-

liamentary practice, why this investigation should not continue this year. But, there is something more. If a prima facie case was made out last year, upon the speech of the hon. member for Halifax, which was sufficient for the leader of the government to say: We will refer this question to the Committee on Privileges and Elections immediately; how is it that in face of the frauds which were proved before the committee last year; how is it that in face of the frauds that have been proved this year, or at least in view of the prima facie case before this House, this is not a fit question for investigation? I believe, I speak not only as a member of the party sitting on this side of the House, but as representing the general views of the public of Canada, when I say that it was the bounden duty of the government this year, when this new indictment was laid, to stand up and say: 'We will court this investigation; bring on your accusations and prove them before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and if you do not prove them, you stand as a dishonoured party in the eyes of this House and in the eyes of Canada.'

I spoke a moment ago of the general system, and it has been proved to be a general system. It was proved before the committee last year to be a general system which has pervaded the whole province of Ontario; it has been proved by the affidavits which have been brought before this House, and by the investigations now going on in Ontario. My hon. friend the Solicitor General cannot advance here with any degree of plausibility the argument that the evidence given before the investigating commission in Ontario has nothing to do with the investigation which we are seeking to have made before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Why, Sir, the men who acted in Brockville and West Huron are the very same men who acted in the elections which are being investigated in Ontario to-day. They are the very same gang of men who went around from constituency to constituency in the Ontario elections, and the very same men who have acted in every Dominion election which has taken place in the last three years. This system of corruption has been so general as to be taken altogether out of the statute, and out of any contestation before the courts or before a committee of investigation as provided by the law.

Now, I come to the last point urged before the House why this amendment should be voted down. It is that the affidavit made by Pritchett is not one to which credence should be given—that it is an affidavit devoid of truth. I ask any hon. member of this House who is familiar with legal procedure—I go further, I ask any hon. gentleman of common-sense, who has seen this affidavit, and has noted its circumstantial character, giving dates, places,

times and names, not omitting any point, whether it does not bear upon it the stamp of veracity, and whether this man could give such circumstantial evidence if he were afraid he could be tripped up on any of the accusations made. Why, Sir, anybody who is at all familiar with the practice in the courts knows that if an affidavit that is untrue gives dates, places, times and names, it is easy to contradict that affidavit. Now, have we any counter affidavits touching those of Pritchett's? We have some which are general in their character, but which do not deny the specific allegations. Have we any letters produced from those who are incriminated not only by this affidavit but by other affidavits and by the evidence which Pritchett gave before the commission in Ontario? If letters are too long in coming, have we any telegrams from any of those parties?

Some hon MEMBERS. Yes.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Not one has been produced before this House. These men are friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, and if they were not guilty, and if this affidavit of Pritchett's were not true, we would have telegrams from all parts of those constituencies saying that this man had lied and perjured himself. But nothing of this kind is forthcoming.

Mr. FROST. There are a dozen telegrams to-night from the parties in West Huron, who have been accused by Pritchett, denying his statements.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Let us have the telegrams, and if what Pritchett says is not true, bring him before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and put him face to face with these men whom he says he instructed in the art of stealing and forging ballots. Bring him and these men face to face before that committee, and see if they will say under oath what they say in their telegrams. That is what we want. We do not want telegrams which may be sent by anybody. If these men were able to do what they are accused of having done in West Huron and in Brockville, they are able to forge telegrams; but we want them brought face to face with their accuser, and then we shall see who is telling the truth and who has perjured himself. It is said that this man Pritchett cannot be prosecuted for perjury because his affidavit has been made in the United States. But there is one way in which he can be prosecuted. He has accused these men, giving times and circumstances and names, of having stolen and forged ballots, of having committed offences against the election law, for which they could be prosecuted and sent to jail. Why do they not prosecute Pritchett for libel? Why have they not had him arrested for criminal libel and brought before a jury to see whether or not he is

telling the truth? That would be a good test; but nothing of this kind has been done. I take it that there is not a man on the other side of the House who does not believe that Pritchett has told the truth, and that the reason why this inquiry is refused by the government is that they know that Pritchett is telling the truth, and that these frauds were perpetrated.

Now, the objection made by my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries as to this motion being a motion of want of confidence, and also that it cannot be accepted because it has joined the Brockville and the West Huron elections together, is not a serious objection. It is not a serious objection, first, because it is well known that if the government chose to say that they did not take this motion as a motion of want of confidence, it would not be considered as such. Parliamentary usage is well known to hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and if a motion does not imply in its terms a want of confidence in the administration, it is well within the power of those who sit on the Treasury benches to say, we accept this motion, and from that time it is not considered a motion of want of confidence. It is not any more a motion of want of confidence than the motion proposed by the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) the other day. It is not a motion of want of confidence from the simple fact that it is proposed as an amendment to going into Committee of Supply. That does not make it a motion of want of confidence. Time and again this House has sanctioned the procedure under which an amendment is moved to the motion to go into Committee of Supply without being considered a motion of want of confidence if the government does not declare it to be such.

But, Sir, answering the other objection, that it was unfair to couple together the elections of West Huron and Brockville, has any offer been made by the government to sever this motion? Had the government said: If you propose an amendment only with regard to West Huron election, we will accept it, very probably such an offer would have been accepted. But, no, they stood on their dignity, and insisted on rejecting the motion in its entirety. Had they come forward and offered to accept an amendment, dealing only with the West Huron election, there would be something in the argument put forward by my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, but they did nothing of the kind.

History, Mr. Speaker, repeats itself. In the declining days of the Mackenzie administration, we had just such a scandal as those which were divulged to this House in the West Huron and Brockville elections. I am alluding to what is known in the political history, especially of the province of Quebec, as the St. Ann's trap. Everybody who is familiar with the political history of this

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country, knows what happened in the county of Jacques Cartier, when my late lamented friend, Mr. Laflamme, was returned, and I am making no reflection on his memory, when referring to this matter, because I have too great respect and always had too great respect for him, to think of doing anything of the kind. But everybody remembers what happened in that election. It is true that the trick was the same as that which was practised in West Huron and Brockville, and what was done? At a certain time of the day, in the parish in which the Conservative candidate had a large majority, the deputy returning officer, who was a good Liberal, found himself suddenly unwell, and obliged to leave the polling room, and for safe keeping he put the ballot box into a sideboard. While he was away, a trap under the floor was opened, the ballot box was taken out of the sideboard and the Conservative votes were taken from it and Liberal ballots substituted. The election was carried for the Liberal candidate by virtue of this fraud. That scandal is known all through the province of Quebec, as 'la trappe de Ste. Anne.' The Mackenzie government, knowing that they could not face the electors in any open, fair and square election, invented this scheme to carry elections in the face of public opinion. Similar frauds are being committed by this government, because they know well that they cannot face an honest electorate in a square fight, but must resort to corruption, forgery and stealing ballots, in order to have their candidates returned in the by-elections. They probably can boast of having carried a great many by-elections since 1896, but we know now the corrupt devices by which they carried them. We know now that the by-elections they carried did not represent the sentiment of the country at all. The same devices were tried in Sherbrooke, where, I believe, minions of the party opposite, were stealing and forging ballots, and perpetrating all the frauds that were committed in West Huron and Brockville, but all their efforts were of no avail. The men of Sherbrooke, instructed by the past, were too wide-awake; and in that election, in which all nationalities and sections of the country were represented, the Conservative candidate gained the day, notwithstanding the \$30,000 which these gentlemen poured into that constituency.

In view of what has been said on this side, in view of the very serious indictment laid before the House, it seems to me that it is the duty of the government to grant this investigation. It seems to me that there is no plausible reason, no real or legal reason, no reason founded upon any practice of this House or any parliamentary usage, why this reference should not be granted again this year. The government is bound in honour to grant the inquiry asked for. It is bound, if it has any respect for itself, to clear its skirts of the accusations brought

against it, because not only are men outside this House accused, but men in this House, on the government side are accused of sitting here, not representing the majority of their electors. It is a surprise to me and everybody, that the two members in question, have not seen fit to resign their seats. When we saw even the principal organ of the Liberal party in this country, calling upon one of these gentlemen to resign, it is a surprise to me that he should still hold his place in this House. It seems to me that they themselves, should go to the government and say: Give us an investigation, give us an opportunity to clear ourselves of the degrading charges brought against us, so that we may be able to show that we were legally elected to represent our constituencies, and are not sitting here under false pretenses, and representing only a minority of our electors. Not merely is the honour of these gentlemen concerned, but the honour of the whole Liberal party. If that party had any sense of dignity, it would put itself into a position of being able to say to the electorate: We have given our opponents every opportunity to prove their charges, and we have proved that we were not guilty of the frauds alleged. But there is something else that we ought to consider. These accusations are not only known all over this country, but outside of it. We are gaining the reputation of carrying elections by bribery, fraud, forgery, stealing ballots, and all kinds of corruption, and it is due to the honour of Canada, either that these accusations should be proved false, or that those who perpetrated the frauds should suffer the full penalty of the law.

Mr. J. H. BELL (East Prince, P.E.I.) As a member of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, this matter has been forced ad nauseam upon my consideration. I desire now to give reasons for the vote I propose to cast upon the motion before the House. There is one point which was brought out prominently before the committee, but which has not been sufficiently emphasized in this House, and that is that it was demonstrated that the Liberal member for West Huron has as good a right as any other hon. member to sit in this House. He was elected by a majority of 140 votes, as declared by the returning officer. The Conservative party in the Riding went deliberately to work to ascertain how many bad ballots they could find had been cast to warrant them in impeaching the validity of the election. They discovered two polls, namely, that at Colborne, where they allege they were defrauded out of 13 votes and the poll at Goderich, where they allege they were defrauded out of 15, making in all 28 votes. If we give the Conservative party the benefit of all the votes that they claim were fraudulent, and if we subtract them from the Liberal candidate's vote, we find that Mr. Holmes, has, after all, been elected

by the substantial majority of 84 unquestioned votes. The Conservative party, having ransacked the riding of West Huron, have only been able to call in question these 28 votes; and thus they have established the fact, which is unquestioned and unquestionable, that the Liberal candidate has been returned by a substantial majority of the popular vote. And this, Mr. Speaker, is the great fact, the main fact, which the people of this country are interested in knowing and being certain of viz.: that the will of the people has been respected, that the people of this constituency have not been cheated out of their representative; and, satisfied of that, the people care little for the technicalities with which some hon. gentlemen attempt to surround and obscure this case. Sir, I was pleased to hear the remarks of hon. gentlemen opposite with regard to purity of elections and the recognition of the sovereign will of the people. I recognize in the expression of these sentiments the dawn of a better state of political morality. Let me recall an occurrence that happened in Prince Edward Island. A contest was held in the county of King's. The Liberal candidate received a majority of 84 votes. The returning officer made what is called a double return, on the allegation that the Liberal candidate had not effectually resigned his seat in the local legislature. The matter came up before this parliament and was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and that committee demonstrated its peculiar capacity to deal with a question of this kind, in what manner? By reporting that the man who had received the greatest number of votes should have the seat in this House? No, but by recommending that the man who had been rejected by the people, against whom stood an adverse majority of 84 votes of the honest electors of the county, should have the seat. This was a deliberate attempt to ignore, to despise, to over-ride the will of the people as expressed at the polls. And, Sir, when I hear these hon. gentlemen now shouting about purity of elections, about respecting the voice of the people, I am glad to welcome such sentiments; and I only hope that the Conservative party will redeem its past and carry its professions into practice. These hon. gentlemen denounce the crime involved in the manipulation of ballots. I recognize and admit that it is a crime, against law and morality. But, Sir, there are greater crimes. Let me recall what took place in 1882, when the Conservative party in this House made a deliberate attempt to gerrymander the province of Ontario. There was a substantial equality of votes in the province. The design of the Tories was so to arrange the constituencies that they should return a large majority of their representatives to this parliament. That design was carried into effect, with the result that these poli-

tical purists actually stole eight seats that belonged to the Liberal party, thus giving a majority of 16 to which they were not entitled. It is a crime to stuff the ballot box, but it is a greater crime to stuff and steal the constituencies. Sir, when these hon. gentlemen shout that parliament should always represent an honest and untrammelled vote, I call on them to remember their past record and repent of their own iniquities before they venture to charge the like offences against their opponents.

The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has raised a question with regard to the power of this House to refer this matter to a committee. I do not propose to argue that question. I incline rather to admit the contention. There is no doubt that a certain power has been granted away by Act of this parliament. By a certain Act, we have relegated to the courts power to deal with questions of this kind. Insofar as the courts have been invested with power, and insofar as parliament has denuded itself of this power, there can be no question as to jurisdiction. All that has not been granted away remains in this parliament. A case happened in Ireland where a candidate for parliament had been convicted of felony. No one presented a petition against him, he came and took his seat in the British House of Commons. The British parliament came to the conclusion that they had the power, notwithstanding the act for the trial of election cases to deal with the qualification of the member. They resolved they had the right to purge parliament of the presence of this felon. I can imagine a case where, if a candidate is properly elected and takes his seat in this House, and afterwards enters into a contract with the government, and if the matter is brought clearly before the House, it is the manifest right and duty of parliament to take that matter up and deal with it and expel the member. Therefore, there are exceptions to the general rule. By passing the Act this parliament has not entirely denuded itself of power. Under certain circumstances it has power to deal with the seat of a member, and to refer such a matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. But, the question of expediency and policy is an entirely different matter. Parliament may have the power, but it is a question as to whether it should exercise that power. This parliament has constituted a court before which all cases can be tried affecting elections, more satisfactorily, more economically, and more efficiently than before a committee of this House. We cannot point to one case where, since the statute has been passed, the validity of an election has been inquired into and determined before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. The House has always said: Go to the court, that is the proper tribunal to try the case. In the present case the question

is simply whether this matter can be more conveniently, more economically, and more satisfactorily tried before a court.

Mr. HAGGART. What is being tried ?

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) The charge against the deputy returning officers. The question is : Is there a forum open to the public, open to any contestant, where this complaint can be more efficiently, more economically tried ? If there is, then the policy of this parliament is, and should be, to relegate it to that court. It is conceded that the court has power to try these cases. You have an Act concerning elections, which defines the crime ; all you require is to lay an information based upon the Criminal Code, or a section of the Act respecting Elections. Have the information laid before a magistrate, and have the matter tried before a judge and jury. If the charge be preferred and prosecuted under the Criminal Code it will be tried at the expense of the country. The expense is not thrown upon the individual who initiates the proceeding. Does the Statute of Limitations now operate to avoid your process ? In a matter which affects the seat of a member, a statute of limitations does apply. If you do not present your petition within thirty days you cannot present it afterwards. But in this case, there is no statute of limitations to forestall your action. The matter was open to you a year ago, it is equally open to you to-day, it will be open to you a year hence.

Then look at the consideration of public convenience. Is there any doubt that the public convenience would be best consulted by bringing the case before a court ? The case could be tried in Goderich. There are 100 or more witnesses to be subpoenaed. They need not be absent from their homes more than two or three days. But, bring these witnesses to Ottawa, what is the result ? During this investigation sometimes forty or fifty men could be observed lounging about the grounds or corridors for days, yes, for weeks. Is there any question that the public convenience would be best served by having the trial at Goderich, where the cause of the complaint arose, instead of bringing it here ? Then look at the question of expense, an important consideration. A charge against one of these deputy returning officers could be tried at Goderich at an expense to the country of probably \$500, whereas, if you bring the case to Ottawa the expense would be enormously greater. We have already spent \$12,000 in this investigation, and that with no result, and we are only, as it were, on the threshold of it. I submit that the consideration of economy should induce every member of this House to send this matter to Goderich to be tried, rather than to bring it to Ottawa. Then, there is another consideration ; there is another matter, and it is the matter of an independent tribunal.

Mr. HAGGART. After the investigation, cannot we order it to be tried at Goderich ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. HAGGART. Yes, the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) knows it.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.). That is apart from the question. That would involve a second prosecution for the same offence.

Mr. HAGGART. We are not trying the men.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) If we are not trying the men there so much the worse. We are spending the people's money, and that without attaining any result. Consider now the question of the tribunal and the independence of the tribunal. What is it that hon. gentlemen want ? They want to investigate the case. They want to reach a conclusion that will be acceptable to the people. They want that, if they want anything. You go before the court, take the case before the judge, place it before a jury sworn to do right between the parties and you will reach a verdict in which the people of the country, from one end of the country to the other, have confidence. The people will respect it and accept it as final and conclusive, but, Sir, if you bring the matter before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, what will you arrive at ? The probability is that you will not reach a conclusion at all, but, if you do your verdict will be despised by one-half of the people of the country. They will regard it simply as the decision of a partisan majority. Then, take the other consideration, that of enforcing your verdict. You bring the matter before the court. You have the matter tried. If the party is found guilty the judge has power to send him to jail or fine him or mete out other appropriate punishment. But, take the matter before the committee. Its hands are tied. There is no power to mete out to the returning officer any punishment even supposing he should be found by this committee to be guilty of the offence charged. Now, these are grave considerations which ought to influence us in coming to our conclusion upon this matter. When we find that we have an open court properly constituted to try these cases, when we find that the case will be tried at the expense of the country, and not at the expense of the complainant, when we find that no statute of limitations prevents that complaint being presented, when we find that all considerations of public convenience and economy, the consideration of an independent tribunal and the consideration of enforcing the verdict are furthered by a reference to the court, I appeal to hon. members on both sides of the House, if, under these conditions, a matter of this kind should not be sent to the courts to be tried, rather

than to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is on these reasons that I base the opinion that this matter, in the beginning, should not have been referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections at all. In that respect, I say the government made a mistake, which I trust they will not now repeat. Further, I think that they made another mistake. Last year when the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), proposed his motion, he produced forty-three declarations, which he alleged were the declarations of voters in the poll at Colborne, that they had voted for the Conservative candidate. The right hon. leader of the House said, that, in his opinion, the presentation of these declarations made a prima facie case against the deputy returning officer. In my opinion these declarations made out no case against the deputy returning officer, because, in the first place, even supposing that the declarations were true and represented the facts, yet, nevertheless, it did not follow that the manipulation of ballots was traceable to the deputy returning officer. It might have been, and probably was done by the voters themselves who, for purposes best known to themselves, substituted false for proper ballots. It might have been caused in some other way which it is not necessary for me to suggest, but, at any rate, it formed no element of proof of guilt in the deputy returning officer. Therefore I say that this House was wrong in coming to the conclusion that a prima facie case had been made out. More than that, I say this House erred in coming to the conclusion that these declarations were any evidence of how the voters voted. Why do I say that? They were merely secondary evidence at the best. The primary evidence was in the ballots. The primary evidence was the cross made by each voter on his ballot. What did the law say and do in regard to this primary evidence? The law declared that you have to tear off the counterfoil. The law declared that there should be no number on the ballot. The law declared that every means of identifying that ballot must be removed. The policy of the law prevented you from making that ballot evidence in any respect before the court. Now, you are proceeding by a subterfuge to evade the law by giving secondary evidence of that which the law says in regard to primary evidence shall not be given and cannot be given. Under these circumstances, the declarations produced were no evidence at all—even of who the men voted for. I say more, that it is bad law and bad public policy to allow a man to testify in regard to any point upon which you cannot cross-examine him and test by independent evidence whether he is swearing truly or falsely. Here is a man who declares that he voted for Mr. McLean. How are you going to test that? Have you any means of cross-examining. Have you any independent proof to offer? The secret is locked and

locked for ever in his own breast, and yet you propose to allow that man to swear as to how he voted when at the same time you have no means of telling whether he has sworn truly or falsely. Sir, take a poll and ask yourself if you can determine how a hundred men in that poll voted? How are you going to do it? You say in the first place that you know how these men promised to vote. Well, any man who has anything to do with the conduct of an election will know that there is a vast distinction between a promise to vote and the vote itself. You can get the promises to vote much more easily than you can get the votes. That is the experience of all of us. You go to a man and you ask him for his vote on the ground, perhaps, that he is a personal friend. He says he will vote—he goes into the polling booth and there the consideration of personal friendship is removed by the secrecy of the ballot,—the man votes as he pleases. Another promises to vote because he is indebted to the candidate or to some friend of the candidate. He goes into the polling booth and there the law has removed the debt temporarily, and the man votes as he pleases. Another man is paid \$5 for this vote. He goes into the polling booth, and the same want of principle that he manifested in taking the bribe accompanies him there, and he may vote against the man who bought him. Another man may promise to vote, on the ground of party. You appeal to him that the party is in danger, and he says he will vote as he always has done, but when he goes to the polling booth he begins to reflect; perhaps he thinks that the Conservative party has been long enough in office and that there is a possibility of a purer and more economical administration, and so he gives his vote for the Liberal candidate. Another man is an ignorant voter, and too proud to confess his ignorance, and he goes into the polling booth and thinks he votes for McLean when in reality he votes for Holmes. If you take all these considerations into account you will find that in every poll you will have a discrepancy between the promises to vote and the votes themselves. But gentlemen opposite may say: We have got the solemn declarations of these men. I would ask you to reflect a moment, upon the manner in which these declarations were obtained. Take one example from the many. One Kirkpatrick in his evidence, which is to be found in the report, swears that his declaration was not read over to him, that it was not explained to him as being of the same nature as an oath, that the book was not presented to him upon which to make oath, and that the paper was obtained under the pretense that the Conservatives simply wanted to know how many men voted on one side and how many upon the other. I say that when you have got declarations obtained under these circumstances, you have no better or more re-

liable evidence than you had in the promises. What position do you put a man in when you ask him to sign a paper and declare if he voted for the Conservative candidate? Whether he voted for the Conservative candidate or the Liberal candidate, he is likely to put down his name because by merely asking him you put him in a hole, out of which there is no escape except by signing the declaration. Therefore, when, under these conditions you have got your declaration, you are no better off than you were before, so far as the truth of the case is concerned. It is the same consideration when we consider the evidence which these gentlemen gave. I say that when you have got from these men a promise and a declaration, there is no escape out of the dilemma, except as the expression is, to go the whole hog, and to swear upon oath that they voted for the man for whom they promised to vote and declared they had voted, and this is made all the easier when no man can tell whether the declaration or the evidence is true or false. What I mean to say is this: That where you say that you have laid the foundations of this case in that you have proved that forty-three men voted for the Conservative candidate, I say you have proved nothing of the kind. There is no man acquainted with the manner in which declarations and promises are signed and obtained, who will say that he can be legally sure that these forty-three men voted for the Conservative candidate. What you can be sure of is, that the majority, perhaps a large majority, voted as they promised and as they declared, but so far as the minority is concerned, no man can tell how they voted or be sure the statements they made or the declarations they signed are true or false. Then, there is another matter in which, I think, the government made a mistake, and that is in placing too much confidence in the promises of the Conservative party as to what they intended to do with the evidence to be elicited before the committee. What was the condition under which this whole matter was to be investigated? Why, Sir, it was definitely understood in this House that this matter was to go to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with the understanding that no portion of the evidence adduced should be used against the reputation or the seat of the sitting member. That matter was again discussed in the committee, not once, but half a dozen times, and it was there clearly and distinctly understood that no evidence should be taken to the prejudice of Mr. Holmes. For that reason the rules of evidence were thrown to the winds, for that reason the ballots themselves were produced and examined, and for that reason hearsay evidence was allowed. For that reason witnesses were allowed to testify contrary to the law and the policy of

the law for whom they voted. But, how did the Conservative party fulfil their promise?

Mr. TAYLOR. They made no promise in the House.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) They made a promise both in the House and before the committee.

Mr. TAYLOR. Not a bit of it.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) Yes, this was the clear and precise condition on which the case was sent to the committee. How did they fulfil their promise? The very moment they got the slightest information which they supposed cast suspicion upon the conduct of the election, they used that evidence, not against the deputy returning officer—they were after higher game—but they used it against the sitting member. They proclaimed: The seat had been obtained by fraud, and that the man who occupied it, if he had any sense of honour, would forthwith resign his seat. Not only that, but the Conservative newspapers took up the cry along the same line, and they tried to hound Mr. Holmes out of his seat by creating public sentiment against him. They were not satisfied even with that. They said through the members of the House, that it not only proved that the seat in West Huron was obtained by fraud, but that there was a conspiracy that extended all over this country, that the Liberal party, everywhere, were brought into disrepute, that they had obtained office, and now hold the same by having stuffed the ballot boxes in the several constituencies. That was the manner in which the Conservative party in this House fulfilled their promise. You call that fair-play; I call it striking below the belt. You call it proper politics; I call it denying and ignoring and violating the obligations that honourable men take upon themselves. I say that the Conservative party have falsified the promises which they made when this matter was relegated to the committee and proceeded with before the committee. Sir, I have read of the manner in which the Boers conduct their war in South Africa. When the English are storming a kopje, and the Boers are driven to extremities, they hoist the white flag. The British, relying on the sacredness of the white flag stand up to receive the surrender of their foes, whereupon, the Boers take advantage of that, and shoot down the English soldiers. Sir, if I were one of the members of a brigade storming a kopje under these circumstances, what would I do? I would shut my teeth, and make a resolve never again to allow these Boers to perpetrate their fraud. Sir, I feel very much in that spirit with regard to this very matter. I feel that the Conservative party in this House have abused the confidence which the House placed in them with regard to the

object for which this investigation was to be had, and for which the evidence was to taken; and because they have abused that confidence. I do not feel personally like giving them an opportunity to do the like again. I feel like saying, never shall I, as a member of this House, either by vote or otherwise, enable them to commit a second fraud and deceive me and other members of the Liberal party a second time. For that reason, as well as for the other reasons, I have indicated, I am prepared to vote against this resolution, and to take the full responsibility for that vote.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). Mr. Speaker, the hour is late, and but for the fact that I do not trespass very long on the time for the House when I do address it, I would not speak to-night. What a wonderful array we have had of technical defences of fraud. It is perfectly marvellous to find one lawyer after another on the government side, getting up and quoting from law books and law cases, as if they were arguing to defend a criminal. They are arguing to defend not merely one criminal, but many criminals; these criminals are having very strong and very able advocates in the members of the government and their supporters. We are not here, I take it, to discuss mere technicalities, or how one man can protect another man from the penalties of his fraud. We are here, I take it, to bring criminals to justice. All the speeches of members of the government and their supporters have been for the purpose of whitewashing criminals; but they are not succeeding. That there has been election fraud committed, not one member of the government nor one of their followers will deny. All they are trying to do is to shield these criminals and to shield themselves from the penalty they will have to pay at the next election, for having aided and abetted these criminals. Last year the Premier and the government allowed the Committee on Privileges and Elections to inquire into certain election corruption. I was not a member of that committee, but I took some interest in the inquiry; I attended it on many occasions; and the opinion I formed—and I think I formed it without political prejudice—was that the chairman and the members of the government on that committee found that they were going to unearth a nest of corruption, and they deliberately tried to prevent a proper and honest inquiry. Now, if a great fraud has been perpetrated, as a great fraud has been perpetrated, it will not excuse the government to say that for technical reasons this is not the way to bring these criminals to justice, and you should have proceeded otherwise. The government can only justify themselves by saying, this fraud has been perpetrated, and we will use our best endeavours to bring the criminals to justice. But one lawyer after another gets up and argues as if he were in court, quoting from cases and giving

reasons why these men should not be brought to justice at the court that has been opened. I say nothing about that; I say at once that I do not know whether or not it was the right way to proceed; but the court having been opened for the trial of these criminals, their trials should be concluded. The government know they are criminals, the country knows they are criminals, we all know they are criminals. You may try to shield them if you like. From what I saw of the operation of the committee last year, speaking for myself individually, if I had been an outsider, observing a case in which I had no interest, I would have come away saying that the government advocates were trying to shield the criminals and burk the inquiry; and the action of the government now, in saying that they will not carry on that inquiry, but will refuse it, justifies, I think, to the fullest extent my impression of what I saw. No amount of special legal pleading can justify them in the eyes of the people. The hon. the Minister of Marine made what he considered a magnificent case to show why this was not the proper mode to catch a particular sort of criminal. He tried to show that the men who gave evidence against the government's friends were of bad character. He attempted to show that the government's friends who had committed frauds were wonderfully straight and honest, and could not by any possibility have committed these frauds. He argued that the old farmer, whose hand was all knuckles and warts, had been brought before the committee to show how he could manipulate the ballots, and had shown by his clumsiness that he could not possibly have done the sleight-of-hand work attributed to him. But if that old gentleman had sense and cunning enough to manipulate the ballots in private, as no doubt he had, he certainly had sense and cunning enough to appear very awkward when before the committee. The man who puts a pea under one thimble appears a very awkward man to a country green-horn when doing it, but is one of the cleverest manipulators in the country. And the men who manipulated these frauds were as cunning and well educated in that particular line as the thimble ringer at the fair.

I was very much surprised at the claim of the last speaker (Mr. Bell), that because the hon. member for West Huron had, even rejecting the ballots discovered to be fraudulent, still a majority of seventy or eighty, consequently the fraud did not effect his election at all and was not of interest to the House. Well, I claim that if there had been fraud to the extent of only one ballot, that affected the whole election, no matter even if the gentleman elected had 400 ballots of a majority in his favour. I say that the man who sits here representing that constituency is sitting here fraudulently, and I

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.)

should be very sorry to think that I could bring myself to realize that an honourable man could retain his seat in this House and vote under the conditions that hon. gentleman does to-day.

The province of Ontario was described by the Prime Minister, when he came in to power, as his right hand. Ontario, he thinks, is still his right hand to-day, but that province has shown to this country such a mass, and such a system of scientific corruption as has never before been exhibited in any other part of the Dominion. There is not a man in this House, there is not a member of the government, that is not ashamed when he thinks of the iniquity and the corruption and the low baseness enacted in the Ontario elections. The ballots in connection with one of the elections, which were very important for the trial and bringing to justice of the men who had stolen that election, were required when the investigation came before the courts. But unfortunately the ballots had shared the fate of the city of Hull; they had been burnt. There was no moral insurance upon them. If it had been possible for honest men to take out a policy to insure protection of those ballots, the insurance company would have required a premium of many hundred per cent if they knew the ballots had been in the custody of the men implicated in these frauds.

This is one of the things that I feel very keenly about. I feel that the election frauds affect my own individual honour and the honour of every man in Canada, and I say that there has been such a wave of corruption passing over this country since the present government have come into power—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. OSLER. I will not take back anything I say. I was not in politics before 1896.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. You did not know anything about politics before that?

Mr. OSLER. I did not, and if there was in politics before that time the amount of corruption that the politics of the present day disclose, I am glad I was not then in politics; and that the men who were in politics then have been turned out. I hope that this country will not be so demoralized as to condone what has been done to-day because of what may have been done in the past, but I would say to the party in power that if the Conservative party were guilty in the past of the corruption which these hon. gentlemen denounce, they have improved upon that corruption and are now keeping themselves in power by means of it. I am prepared to say, without any hesitation, that I had a great deal of sympathy with the Liberal party before the last election. I felt that the other party had been perhaps too long

in power, and I had a sort of half belief that the promises and professions of honesty and honour which the Liberal party made before they came into office would more or less be carried out. But have we seen one single solitary instance of this? Certainly not since I have been in this House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You have seen honest government ever since.

Mr. OSLER. I have not. I have seen a government that has made me ashamed of my country. I have seen an attempt to put through the Yukon Bill which was simply a gigantic steal. I have seen the Drummond deal put through, which was a most iniquitous transaction.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Talk sense.

Mr. OSLER. I am talking sense, and the hon. gentleman knows it. If the Minister of Railways would try to carry out the promises which his party gave before they came into power, he would be very much more respected in the country than he is. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), in talking about this corruption, said that it was a small matter not worth bothering about. Well, if the hon. member for Kingston and the other followers of the government, and the members of the government itself, think that this is a small matter, I do not, and I do not think that the country does. I think that it is the most important matter that has come before the House since I have been a member. If we are going to have the country that we ought to have, and deserve to have, we should have the members of the government honest. I am not cavilling about a little bit of extravagance. We may differ about the expenditure on one public work and another, the country can stand it. But there is one thing we cannot stand.

Mr. FROST. You say you would like to have the members of the government honest. Has there been any member of the opposition who has stood up in his seat and impeached any member of the government since the government took office in 1896?

Mr. SPROULE. What about the Yukon scandal?

Mr. TAYLOR. There are two ministers fugitives from justice in this House to-day.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. That is a cowardly statement to make.

Mr. OSLER. I am not going into the question of the honesty of any members of the government, or about any member of the government putting money into his pocket.

Mr. FROST. You are making the statement that they are not honest.

Mr. OSLER. I am not going into the question of individual members putting money into their pockets.

Mr. FROST. You make that statement.

Mr. OSLER. I beg pardon. There is a greater dishonesty than stealing money from the treasury of the country—the dishonesty of stealing the franchise from the people. This country can stand the stealing of millions of money, humiliating and degrading as that may be; but this country cannot stand the slightest attempt on the part of the government or of any man to shield election corruption.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Who does that?

Mr. OSLER. The government. I say fairly and squarely that the government have tried for the last two sessions to shield corruption such as has never been unearthed before—it may have existed, but it never before came to the surface where the government could grapple with it and check it. England is fighting to-day, and we are fighting to-day, for what? We are sending our sons to Africa to defend the right of suffrage, the right of proper representation of the men who own property. The government to-day are trying to suppress the honest opinion of the people, they are trying to do that as effectually as Kruger and the Boers tried to suppress the voting of the men who by their money and their work have made South Africa.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am prepared to make every allowance for the violent and extreme political opinions that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) holds. But, having made the extraordinary declaration he has, I would ask him to specify one act of political corruption that this government are defending.

Mr. OSLER. I simply state here, that, in my opinion, the government, in trying to suppress this inquiry into fraud so great that the whole country feels degraded by it, is defending corruptionists. As a question of moral wrong, it is greater than the Yukon deal or the Drummond county deal.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the hon. gentleman will excuse me, he has not answered my question. What one act of political corruption has the government defended? Name the culprit.

Mr. OSLER. I am not here to go into technical matters—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. OSLER. You may laugh if you like. The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) laughs. But the government last session appointed a commission to inquire into corruption.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. OSLER. The government did not?—

Mr. FROST.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If the hon. gentleman will permit me, the government appointed a committee last session to inquire into the conduct of certain election officers.

Mr. OSLER. Put it in any way you like—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Now, will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) condescend to say which deputy returning officer he says was guilty of fraud and that the government is defending.

Mr. OSLER. May I suggest to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) that all those accused of corruption have had most magnificent defenders in the minister himself and others behind him. If these men had been here to hear the defence made for them, they would have gone out of this House as the murderer who had been acquitted went out of court, saying: I never knew I was as good a man. I may be quite wrong in my premises as to technical matters, as to whether this is a proper tribunal before which to bring this question or not. But I say that all these difficulties were swept away by the one act of the government last session in agreeing to the reference to the committee. I saw these men come down last session, forty or fifty of them, and those of them that were accused of wrong-doing I heard defended by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries and others as though they were paid defenders, using all their skill in cross-examination and the raising of technical points to prevent evidence being given. I am not concerned with the question whether it was right or wrong technically; but I am concerned with the broad fact that the impression left on my mind was that there was a desire on the part of the members of the government to shield and protect those who were doing wrong.

Now, I have spoken a great deal longer than I intended to speak, but this is a matter upon which I feel very keenly. It should not be made a technical matter at all. If these men have done wrong, or if wrong has been done the government should at once take the initiative and have them punished.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. What men do you allude to?

Mr. OSLER. Nonsense! You know what men. If the government do not take the initiative and use every effort to bring these men to justice, they are shielding these men. Like the ostrich which thinks to hide itself by thrusting its head in the sand, the government are trying to hide behind the special pleading of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), and the hon. member (Mr.

Bell, P.E.I.) who has just sat down, and who gave us an awful specimen of this kind of oratory—

Mr. TAYLOR. And the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick).

Mr. OSLER. Well, he was in good humour anyway, and had not much to say. But, though the government try to hide themselves in this way, they are not deceiving parliament, they are not even deceiving the men behind them. The men behind the government are feeling humiliated with the knowledge that they have to back up the action of their leaders. Nor are the government deceiving the country. Sweeping aside all technicalities, the country, knowing that wrong-doing has been perpetrated, believe that the government should prosecute and punish the wrong-doers. We cannot shame you; we cannot make you other than you are. But I should despair of my country if the people condoned the action of this government going hand in hand with the Ontario government to shield corruptionists—if it had been necessary, they would have burned the ballots, as the Ontario government burned ballots to shield their friends. If the country, at the next election, does not express its opinion of these gentlemen, then I shall be sorry to think that the poison of corruption has affected more than the members of the government, that it has even affected a section of the people, and has degraded and disgraced the whole country.

Mr. McCLURE moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.50 a.m. (Thursday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, May 17, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 157) to incorporate the St. Lawrence Terminal and Steamship Company.—(Mr. McIsaac.)

Bill (No. 158) for the relief of Gertrude Bessie Patterson.—(Mr. Richardson.)

Bill (No. 153) respecting the Western Alberta Railway Company.—(Mr. Oliver, by Mr. Richardson.)

Bill (No. 160) to amend the Act respecting interest.—(Mr. Fielding.)

EXPROPRIATION ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 161) to amend the Expropriation Act. He said: This Bill deals only with the question of the rate of interest where 6 per cent is mentioned as a rate that may be paid under the Expropriation Act, and it is proposed to change that to 5 per cent. I have also a general Act of the same character relating to interest which I shall ask the House in a moment to read the first time. Under this Bill 5 per cent will be the standard rate of interest rather than 6 per cent, in the absence of agreement.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PUBLIC WORKS AT MEDICINE HAT.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

1. Who is the clerk of works at Medicine Hat?
2. When was Mr. Knox employed?
3. Is he paid monthly?
4. How much?
5. To superintend what buildings is he employed?
6. When was the building of the court-house finished?
7. What yet remains to be done?
8. What work has Mr. Knox done since January 10 last?
9. Does he draw \$150 a month?
10. Is he free, while in the pay of the government, to enter into contracts on his own account to put up buildings?
11. What was the cost of the erecting of the court-house at Medicine Hat?
12. On what date was Mr. Knox employed to superintend the work?
13. How much, up to the present, has the superintendence of the court-house cost?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. William Knox. 2. Since August 31, 1899. 3. Yes. 4. \$100. 5. He is employed to superintend the erection of a court-house. 6. Final estimate was passed February 17, 1900. 7. The heating apparatus and the fittings are not yet completed. 8. Since January 10, Mr. Knox has been supervising the fitting up of the heating apparatus in the court-house, the arranging for and supervising the construction of the fittings and arranging for the purchase of furniture and preparing the final estimate for the contract, &c. 9. No. 10. Yes, if it does not interfere with the full performance of his duties under his instructions from this department. 11. \$7,688.38. 12. Same reply as to question No. 2. 13. \$800.

THREE RIVERS HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. TAYLOR asked:

Were the harbour commissioners of Three Rivers authorized by the Act of 1892, 55 and 56 Vic., chap. 10, to purchase or construct wharfs and to erect other works?

What amount were they authorized to expend from June 1, 1896, to January 1, 1900, and for what purpose?

How much was expended for building wharfs between the above dates, and what was the cost per cubic yard for said work?

Are the harbour commissioners in debt over and above the amount they were authorized to expend? If so, why and for what amount?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. \$55,000 to purchase and construct wharfs. 3. \$43,644.50; cost per cubic yard. \$1.77. 4. The Harbour Commissioners have not exceeded the authority given by order in council.

BINDER TWINE—KINGSTON PENITENTIARY.

Mr. CLANCY asked :

(1) What was the date of the advertisement calling for tenders, and (2) the date fixed therein for receiving such tenders for the sale of binder twine, being the output of 1895-6 at the Kingston Penitentiary?

(3) Who were the tenderers for such twine ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. August 7, 1896. 2. August 18, 1896. 3. The Continental Twine and Cordage Company, of Brantford, and Coll Bros., of St. John, N.B.

SUBSIDIES TO RAILWAYS.

Mr. WILSON asked :

What are the names of the railway or railways that have received subsidy or subsidies on condition that they pay interest on the said subsidy or subsidies at 3 per cent per annum or at any other rate of interest?

When was such subsidy or subsidies granted to said railway or railways, and how much interest has been paid by the said railway or railways?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I would thank the hon. gentleman if he would be good enough to call my attention to the Act of parliament which he has in his mind, and which is, evidently, the basis of this question. If he will send me a memorandum in writing of the particular statute, I will answer the question the next day.

COURT OF APPEALS.

Mr. J. G. H. BERGERON (Beauharnois). Before proceeding to the Orders of the Day, I desire to ask the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if he has any news to give me about that Court of Appeals concerning which I put him a question some time ago, and he said he would give me an answer as soon as he could get the papers from Montreal. This was eight or ten days ago.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have not the answer, but I will make inquiries immediately.

Mr. TAYLOR.

THE INTERCOLONIAL WORKSHOPS AT RIVER DU LOUP.

Mr. C. A. GAUVREAU (Temiscouata). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the government, and more particularly that of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) and of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to a correspondence from Fraserville, which appeared in the columns of the *Soleil* last Saturday, and which deals with a subject which I consider of the utmost importance, as it affects the interests of the county of Temiscouata, which I have the honour of representing in this House, and particularly those of the city of Fraserville. I may even say that the province of Quebec is, to a certain extent, concerned in that question. As I intend to offer a few remarks in this connection, in order to put my remarks in order, I shall, before resuming my seat, move the adjournment of the House.

Let me now read to the House the correspondence referred to :

The Intercolonial Workshops at River du Loup.

If the present state of things goes on much further, there will be no competent men left at the shops. Within a year, six at least of the best machinists have left the service, and it is not unlikely at all that before long, others will have also left, in order to better their conditions. Now, the reason why these men leave the service is not far to seek; and it is because their pay is not proportioned to their work and skill.

Since the Drummond Railway was purchased by the government, there is no denying it, the repair works have increased at least by 25 per cent, and with a mechanical foreman more or less well-affected for the men, their working hours have increased out of all proportion to the wages received.

What is going to be the inevitable result of such a condition of affairs? To put it in a nutshell, it will result in our workshops losing their importance and in the work being sent to Moncton where the staff and machinery will be increased, to the great prejudice of the town of Fraserville, which from its position and the future which is in store for it, deserves a better treatment.

Still, this evil could be easily remedied; let the government raise the wages of their employees. The men who left the service were paid from \$1.25 to \$1.45 per diem. With such starvation wages, all they had to do was to leave and to seek employment in the shops of the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, where they receive from \$1.80 to \$2 a day. Is it not a fact that we have now, in the Intercolonial shops, most competent machinists who, after fourteen or fifteen years service, are paid the paltry wages of \$1.80, while they should receive from \$2 to \$2.50?

We draw the attention of the member for Temiscouata to this most serious condition of affairs, in the interest of Fraserville and of the whole county and we hope he will be able to induce the Minister of Railways to redress the wrongs which most deserving mechanics em-

ployed at the Intercolonial workshops here are suffering at the hands of those higher in office.

Now, Mr. Speaker, from the very first session during which I sat in this House, in 1898, I called the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals to the fact that the staff of the Intercolonial workshop at River du Loup was not proportioned to the amount of work carried out there, and I made a very strong appeal to the government for an increase of men, showing that the employees were working day and night, and that, as another result, the work was going to Moncton, thus involving a great loss of time and money for the country, and depriving the establishment at River du Loup of a large amount of work which the people there are entitled to have. If my memory serves me, the hon. Minister of Railways, who has invariably treated me with kindness, told me that in any railway shop it was impossible to avoid overtime and night work occasionally, and that owing to the pressure of work, private companies had sometimes to give out work and orders to other companies.

I have this to say, Sir, in reply to that, year in and year out, there is always a certain amount of overtime which is being worked in the shops at River du Loup. I know whereof I speak, as I am just back from a visit to that town, and I was in a position to obtain the fullest information on the subject. Why, Sir, I found that ever since the 1st of January, the men have been kept busy, day and night, even on Sundays, doing repairs; and yet, in spite of all that, they cannot catch up with the work. To give one instance, engines Nos. 9 and 68, which had been wrecked, were entered for repairs into the workshops at River du Loup; but owing to the insufficient number of hands and to the want of proper machinery for those repairs, they had to be taken out and sent to the Moncton workshop.

If in 1898, the staff was insufficient, it stands to reason that it is altogether inadequate now that we have acquired the Drummond Railway and that, as stated by the correspondent, the repairs to engines and cars have increased by 25 per cent, and I may add that as those repairs concern the province of Quebec, they ought to be done in the province itself and at River du Loup, which is the most central point.

But have they increased the number of hands? As a matter of fact, I must say that the force of employees at the workshops has been increased, but in such a small proportion that it is hardly worth mentioning; and for every ten men added to the staff—and God knows with how much trouble—an equal number have left the workshops.

Last year I obtained from the railway department that an investigation should be made by Mr. Joughins into the efficiency of the staff, and, of course, it was reported to

the department that there was a sufficient number of hands, and that the staff was fully able to cope with the work done or to be done at the workshops. But that did not prevent the wrecked engines from being sent to the Moncton establishment, owing to the lack of hands and for want of proper machinery for such repairs, and the consequence was that the workmen at River du Loup lost that work.

But there is still more, Sir. Railway hands and mechanics may be found anywhere, when needed; but skilled machinists, and competent engineers with fourteen or fifteen years' experience, who understand how to rebuild and repair locomotives, are not to be found so easily. Now, whenever private concerns have in their employ competent and efficient employees, they do all they can to keep them in their service and to prevent them from seeking employment with other rival companies, which would thus benefit by their skilled labour and their experience. But apparently it is quite different with government employees, so far, at least, as the workshops at River du Loup are concerned. As a matter of fact, our best and most skilled machinists, mechanics, helpers, boiler-makers, are leaving the service and find employment either across the line or in the shops of the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific Railways, and those companies are very glad to secure the services of experienced shopmen and to pay them higher wages.

Now, in order to show that I am not drawing upon my imagination for my facts, but that my statements are borne out by actual facts, let me say that within the last twelve months a dozen at least of the best and most skilled employees have left the service and that many others have made up their minds to follow them, if their salary is not increased. Why so? Because alluring offers from the outside have been made to them, and they have only been too glad to accept them. Let me give an instance out of a score of similar cases. I could quote names which are familiar to me, such as, for instance, Messrs. Michaud, Roy and Bélanger. Mr. Roy, who is a skilled turner, after seven or eight years' experience in his trade, was paid only \$1.35 a day; he asked for an increase of salary, and I supported his demand, but we met with a blank refusal. The consequence is that he leaves the service, to enter the workshops of the Canadian Pacific Railway, where he gets at once \$1.80 a day, with the prospect of getting before long \$2.00. Others have followed him, and now Mr. Ouellet, the mechanical superintendent, is looking everywhere for good mechanics, without being able to find any. This goes to show that the correspondent was right when he said: 'We have employees with 14 years' experience who are paid \$1.80 a day when they should receive from \$2.00 to \$2.50.'

After these men had left the service of the Intercolonial they either went to the United States or on the Temiscouata Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, where they are getting \$2.25 a day.

Who is to blame for the fact that these men are not receiving fair wages? Are some of the high officials at Moncton interested in thus ignoring the claims of the establishment at Rivière du Loup, so as to benefit by the work which cannot be done there? Is the mechanical department acting in connivance with the interests of the town of Moncton? I cannot say. At all events, wishing to unburden my mind once for all, I asked the department, last year, to hold an investigation into the whole matter. I may say that my request was acceded to without any delay. Of course, we had to pass under the caudine forks of the superintendent of the Moncton workshops, Mr. Joughins. That gentleman, as directed by the Minister of Railways, came down to Rivière du Loup and once there, I am told, he closeted himself with the mechanical foreman, Mr. Ouellet, and it was decided upon that it was not necessary to make any general raise of pay at Rivière du Loup, as the men were receiving fair wages for the work performed. A report was sent to Ottawa that the men at Rivière du Loup were receiving as high wages as those paid to the men at Moncton, and that it was not necessary to grant an increase of pay.

Later on, I met Mr. Joughins and I asked him why he had not raised the wages of the machinists at Rivière du Loup. To my amazement, he told me that he did raise the wages from time to time, according to Mr. Ouellette's suggestions. I then saw Mr. Ouellette and I said to him: 'You agree that some of your men are entitled to higher wages; then why, in all fairness, don't you advise the Moncton authorities to do so, seeing that matter of raising the wages is under your control?' His reply was still more characteristic than Mr. Joughins's statement. 'Why,' said he, 'look up my correspondence at Moncton and you will see that I have urged the authorities to raise the wages of the men and to increase the number of hands, but all to no avail.' That is how matters stand for the present, and there is nothing yet in sight. Such is, Sir, the awkward position in which I have been placed for over two years. It is high time, I should think, that some issue should be found out of that vicious circle. But by what means? Here is a suggestion which might perhaps prove acceptable. Let the government hold an investigation at Rivière du Loup, but the committee of inquiry should not be presided over by any of the Moncton officials, as, for the most part, those gentlemen are still too closely connected with the Conservatives who appointed them to their present positions for us to be able to place any trust in them or to ex-

pect fair-play from them. I have not the least hesitation in making that statement, with a full sense of the responsibility which I assume, knowing that my statements are borne out by the facts. Let the government appoint as investigators an impartial and disinterested man like Mr. Dubé, the Lévis superintendent, conjointly with two competent machinists, having no connection with the government shops; let them visit the shops, examine the workingmen and make inquiries about the character of their work, the number of years they have been in the shops and the wages received. I am ready, with all the workingmen, to leave it to their decision, and I pledge my word that I shall never bring up the matter again before the House. We have been told that the rate of wages paid to the men at Rivière du Loup was fully up to the rate paid at Moncton. Well, I shall not go so far as to say that such a statement is a falsehood, as it would be unparliamentary. But I may just as well point out here the double-dealing and the trick to which they have recourse and which can easily be ascertained. At the Rivière du Loup workshops, many workingmen who have already served their apprenticeship as machinists, are kept on the staff as common labourers at the rate of \$1.05 a day. At Moncton, on the other hand new-comers are no sooner able to file a piece of iron or to fit a bar to an engine than they are forthwith trumpeted as fitters, helpers, boilermakers, machinists, &c., and they are given the wages of the class they are taken in. This is a point well worth considering.

Mr. Speaker, it was suggested one day—I could not say by whom—that the repairs of the province of Quebec should be done in the province itself, and I think the suggestion thus offered was a wise one, and should be carried out. So far it has been ignored, and to carry it out, it will be found necessary to enlarge the workshops at Rivière du Loup, to increase the staff, to equip the shops with proper machinery for the repairs to the new engines which we have bought for the Intercolonial, and to give the men fair wages. In so doing, the repairs will not suffer any delay; the government will save time and as in railway matters, time is money, they will also save money, and Fraserville will have its fair share in the increase of population and labour resulting from that broad and generous policy.

The working classes have always had the sympathies of the various administrations which have succeeded each other on the Treasury Benches; but this government have proclaimed themselves the friends of the workingmen in a very particular manner. Things being so, I think it most unfair for anybody, even for a stump-speaker like Mr. Charles Thibeault, to stand up and denounce this government, as he did recently in Montreal, for having done nothing

for the working classes. Such a statement is at variance with truth and clashes with the actual facts, as revealed by the expeditious and easy way in which the Prime Minister settled the troubles between the railway companies and the telegraphists.

At all events, whenever the working classes prayed for the redress of well-founded grievances, their wrongs have been righted. Well, Sir, if I rose in my seat to-day to address the House, it was in order to claim justice for the workmen at River du Loup. Those employees for the most part, are creatures of the old government; but when the interests of labour are at stake, and when the question of paying workmen fair wages in proportion with their skill and the work performed, I do not trouble myself about their political complexion, but I only mind the justice of their cause.

I am afraid, Sir, that I have occupied the time of the House at too great length, but I hope it will not be time spent uselessly, and that from what I have said there will result some practical good for the workmen at River du Loup. The government, I hope, will take my request into their most favourable consideration, and will see to it that justice be done to whom justice is due.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Demers) the adjournment of the House.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, I regret that I have been unable to follow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gauvreau), but, I will take the means to inform myself fully, as to the matters to which he has referred, and will give my personal attention to the subject.

Motion (Mr. Gauvreau) to adjourn, negatived.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). Mr. Speaker, I am reported in the *Herald* to have said that on the occasion of an election in East Simcoe, the returning officers exhibited a list of the deputies, and I taking exception to the list, he changed it and made an entirely new list. What I did say was, that I took exception to two names on the list, and that two names were changed, that two names were dropped from the original list, not the whole.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. G. W. GANONG (Charlotte). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the hon. acting Minister of Public Works (Mr. Mulock), if there is any probability of my getting the returns asked for on February 26, some eleven weeks since?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). That date is prior to my taking charge of the department, and, therefore, I have no recollection of the motion in question. If my hon. friend (Mr. Ganong), will be kind enough to indicate in a note across the floor of the House, what the returns are, I will see the order of the House is promptly complied with.

SUPPLY—BROCKVILLE AND WEST HURON ELECTIONS.

The House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Fielding:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go into Committee of Supply, and the motion of Mr. Borden (Halifax) in amendment thereto.

Mr. **FIRMAN McCLURE** (Colchester). Mr. Speaker, the subject that is brought before the House by the amendment proposed by the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), is one of the most important that could engage our attention. Like most important questions it is one into which party feeling is almost certain to enter. It is one of the incidents—I do not know that I can say that it is one of the defects of our system of government—that party feeling is almost certain to enter into every question of importance that is discussed in this House, but, if it is a defect, then it is one for which we have many compensations. As I understand the question submitted to the House, it is this: Last session the hon. senior member for Halifax, proposed a motion here to refer all the papers and documents relating to the elections in the ridings of Brockville and West Huron, to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, for a certain definite and well-defined purpose. That purpose is set out in the resolution proposed by him; it is 'to inquire into and investigate the conduct of the respective returning officers and of several deputy returning officers in connection with each of the said elections respectively, with powers to send for persons and records, and to report thereon with all convenient speed.' That motion was adopted by this House. The subject-matter referred to in the resolution was referred to the committee; it was investigated by them, and we have their report. They report to us that they have no conclusion, or finding, to make on the subject, but they refer the evidence which they took to this House that such action may be taken as this House deems wise. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say, in the first place, that, in my humble opinion, as one member of this House, every object which the House sought for in making the reference to the committee which it did make, has been accomplished and fulfilled.

Mr. **SPROULE**. Was Brockville ever touched?

Mr. McCLURE. The statement was made in this House that certain irregularities, or frauds, or call them what you will, had been committed in connection with these elections, and that the returning officers, or the deputy returning officers had been implicated in these irregularities and frauds. This House referred the question to the committee to ascertain if there was any evidence upon which we could fasten the charge of irregularities and frauds upon the returning officers, or the deputy returning officers in these ridings. The committee heard a large amount of evidence. I do not propose to go into any of the details of the evidence, but, having been a close listener, having heard nearly all of the evidence given, and having read what I did not hear, I have no hesitation in saying that I do not think there is a member of this House, no matter what his political views may be, who will hazard the statement, that one particle of evidence was produced there which connected, directly or indirectly, any deputy returning officer, or returning officer, with frauds or irregularities, providing even that frauds and irregularities had existed. What did we have? The election was conducted in the ordinary way. We had all the officers which the law requires present in the polling booths. We had all the safeguards that the law provides and throws around elections, to prevent irregularities and frauds. Prima facie everything was regular. The committee called in evidence the deputy returning officer, in the cases where fraud was charged, they called in evidence the scrutineers of the Conservative candidates. The deputy returning officer positively, on oath, declared that he had conducted things regularly, the scrutineers of the opposition candidate were not able to give one particle of evidence that pointed to any irregularity on his part. They called scores of witnesses, voters who came to the poll and voted and in case after case, these witnesses came forward and swore: We received the ballot from the hands of the deputy returning officer, we took the ballot, we marked it in the regular way, we returned it to the deputy returning officer, and that ballot which we gave into the deputy returning officer's hands, was, in our presence, placed in the ballot box. In other cases, where the witness did not swear that, he had, at least, to admit that he had seen nothing irregular in the conduct of the deputy returning officer. After all this, and there is no hint of any other evidence being available, am I not justified in coming to the conclusion that the prima facie case, made out in this House against the deputy returning officers, absolutely and completely failed, and that the reference, the object of the reference to the committee has been absolutely fulfilled? Now, what is the proposition? That we should refer this matter back to the committee for further investigation. In answer to that, I want to say, in the first place, that

Mr. McCLURE.

the Committee on Privileges and Elections is no doubt an important body, and one that has imposed upon it responsibilities of a grave and important character, but, I think that it will be in accordance with the views of the most experienced legislators here and the views of the politicians who have had the most experience of election contests, and of investigations in this House, that so far from being a desirable tribunal to conduct an examination, in such a case as is spoken of here, it will be hard to find, within the limits of the constitution, a body less calculated, by its constitution, to properly conduct an investigation into a case of this kind, than the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I do not say this from any spirit of hostility against, or because of lack of faith in the soundness of the principles that govern committees of this House, but I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that matters before this House and before its committees, whether we wish it or not, are bound to be more or less biassed and controlled by party feeling. In a question like this that affects the rights of the electors of the country independent of party, surely it was a wise provision of our laws, that such questions should be as far as possible taken from partisan bodies and entrusted to judicial tribunals. Wherever it is possible that a case of this kind can be conducted before a judicial tribunal, surely, in the interest of good government, in the interest of the parties themselves, in the interest of purity of elections, in the interests of everything we hold dear as citizens; it is desirable that these matters should be conducted before our judicial tribunals where no partisan bias can enter into their consideration. And, Mr. Speaker, this is especially more true to-day than it was when we had this matter before us last session. At that time there were questions in regard to the conduct of parties who in a sense might be regarded as officers of this House. I do not discuss the question whether legally or strictly they were officers of this House, but there might be ground for such a supposition, and consequently ground for referring this case to a committee of this House which would be supposed to have a peculiar jurisdiction over its own officers. But that phase of the case presented to us last session has disappeared to-day. There is no longer any prima facie case against officers of this House. The charges, the accusations, the evidence—if evidence there be—goes to show electoral corruption, bribery, stealing if you will, but not necessarily committed by officers of this House or of the government. It is purely a matter for the courts to deal with; a matter over which this House has no jurisdiction; a matter where there is no ground for dispute between the jurisdiction of this House and the jurisdiction of the courts; a matter which never should and never can be properly brought before this House or be-

fore a committee of this House. Further than that, we are justified in taking this position because of the peculiar character of the evidence which is now presented to the House on the new charges that are made. And what is that evidence? We have a number of affidavits read here, made by a man named Pritchett. I do not know who he is, I never heard of him until his name was mentioned in connection with these frauds, and if he is as bad a man as he himself says he is, I hope I will never hear of him again. There is upon the evidence and upon the record which he himself has made, such marks as would indicate that he is not a man upon whose unsupported word the character of any honest, right-thinking official of this country should ever be placed in jeopardy. I say unhesitatingly that life in Canada would not be worth living if officials of this government or any other government, if men entrusted with responsible duties, men with good characters, men standing well in society; are to have their characters blackened in this House and placed in jeopardy by the unsupported affidavits of a man who, according to his own confession, and the judgment of the courts before which he has come, is a self-confessed liar. Is it desirable that men whose character has been heretofore unimpeached should have their reputation jeopardized in this House (where they can have no redress and where they can make no answer) by the unsupported statements of a character of that kind? Bad as the case was upon its face, it was made worse yesterday by the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) when he read affidavit after affidavit from the men whose characters had been blackened by this Pritchett, absolutely and emphatically denying the statements he has made. And as the days go by the denials and the contradictions are coming in faster and faster. If Mr. Pritchett is telling the truth, then I would hope that somebody would send missionaries into the province of Ontario pretty soon to inculcate into the people of that province some idea of honour and truth. But, Sir, I cannot believe it. Am I going to believe this man Pritchett in preference to the hundreds of men who upon oath are prepared to contradict him. Am I to believe a man like Pritchett, whom even the men who presented his affidavits in this House will not dare to say is honest or truthful; am I to believe him in preference to the sworn statements of men who heretofore have had reputable characters in this country? To supplement somewhat the statements made by my hon. friend (Mr. Russell) I hold in my hand three telegrams. They are only telegrams no doubt, but under the circumstances under which this matter was brought before the House there has not been time to get affidavits. They are from men who are charged by this man Pritchett with most serious crimes, and they contain the most emphatic contradiction of the state-

ments made by him. I have in the first place a telegram from Mr. W. L. Horton, of the township of Goderich, who is the treasurer there, a man who is thought enough of by his fellow-citizens to be entrusted with that position.

Mr. CLANCY. Then why do you not vote to give him a chance to come and clear himself, rather than read a telegram.

Mr. McCLURE. I propose that he shall clear himself, but I hope to goodness the time has not come in this country when men have to be put on oath to clear themselves from charges made by blackguards like Pritchett. I hope the time has not arrived in Canada when every honest man has got to get up and swear a contradiction of statements made by self-confessed scoundrels. This telegram says:

Goderich, Ont., May 16.—Don't know Pritchett. Never spoke to him at Craig's Hotel or elsewhere. No one suggested tampering with ballots. Pritchett's statement untrue as to me.

You can believe either one you like. For my part I prefer to believe a man whose evidence has never been impeached, a man who was trusted by his fellow-townsmen, and not a man who is a fugitive from justice. I have another telegram from Mr. B. D. Grant, who is a teacher in the Collegiate Institute at Goderich and which reads:

May 16.—Never heard of or spoke to a man by the name of Pritchett in connection with the West Huron election. Never took any one, deputy returning officer, scrutineer or other, to see any person at Craig's Hotel or elsewhere. Never saw Farr or Cummings in said hotel. Never heard any one suggest fixing ballots. Pritchett's story wholly false so far as I am concerned.

I have also a telegram from W. H. Gundry, deputy sheriff of Huron, one of the men charged by Mr. Pritchett. He says:

Just say 'Mail' to-day. Absolutely untrue what Pritchett says about me.

Mr. DAVIN. To whom are these telegrams sent?

Mr. McCLURE. They are sent to Mr. Holmes, the member for West Huron.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, oh.

Mr. McCLURE. To whom else would they send them? Did the hon. member (Mr. Davin) expect they would send them to him? They sent them to a man who had a good majority behind him, not a man who got in by the casting vote of the returning officer.

But, we were told last night, and told with a great deal of unction, by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler), that the objections which we were raising were all of a technical character, and that by raising these objections we were defending a lot of criminals. I regret that hon. gentlemen opposite have got into the habit of throwing that word criminal across the floor of the House with such great freedom.

I think it would be more becoming in these hon. gentlemen if they would be a little more specific as to whom it is they mean. I do not admit that these are technical objections; I say they go to the very root of the matter. But, it sounds strange to hear leaders of the Conservative party talking about technical objections in cases of this kind. Why, the whole history of Conservative politics in this country goes to show that nothing ever saved that party so long from the righteous judgment of the people but the technical objections which they threw in the way of honest investigation into the frauds which they committed. While the hon. member for West Toronto was speaking last night, I was struck with a recollection of an incident in the life of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. It may be an interesting fact to this House, and probably it is within the knowledge of many members here, that the first speech ever made in parliament by that hon. gentleman was a speech in which he prevented an investigation into frauds at an election by raising what the hon. member for West Toronto would call a technical objection. It was away back in the year 1844. Two men were elected in the city of Montreal admittedly by corrupt practices. It seems that the government of that day was rather weak and hesitating, and did not know how to deal with the matter. In the course of the debate on the question, we are told that Sir John, then Mr. Macdonald, made his first speech in parliament; and what do you suppose the speech was? If the hon. member for West Toronto had been there, he certainly would have accused him of defending criminals by raising technical objections. It seems that after the debate had proceeded a considerable while, Mr. Macdonald rose in his place and took the objection that the petition could not be entertained, because the man who made it had not been a resident of Montreal at the time the election was held. He, therefore, made a motion to give the six months' hoist to the whole business, and that motion was carried, and no investigation into that election ever took place. Mr. Collins, in his *Life of Sir John A. Macdonald*, which I think is fairly friendly to him, makes this comment:

It is doubted by no one now that both Mr. De Bleury and Mr. Moffatt won their seats through fraud and perjured instruments, but it was not Mr. Macdonald's aim or concern to shield them in their ill-gotten places. To reach that was made impossible by a fatal informality in Dunn's petition.

A technicality of the grossest kind. I do not blame Sir John A. Macdonald. I say he did perfectly right. He was defending the laws of the country; but when we get up and make objections five times, yea, a thousand times more fatal, because they go to the essence of the case and question the manner of procedure proposed by hon.

Mr. McCLURE.

gentlemen opposite, we are told that we are raising technical objections to protect criminals. I want to insist that these hon. gentlemen be more specific. The hon. member for West Toronto says there have been a lot of speeches made on this side of the House in defence of criminals. I want to ask him—he was asked last night, and he gave no answer—who are the criminals? Are they the deputy returning officers? If so, and if the hon. gentleman listened, as he said he did, to the evidence given before the committee last year, I call upon him, as an honest and honourable member of this House to admit that the case against them absolutely broke down. The hon. gentleman would place himself in the position of uttering a foundationless slander who would dare to say that that evidence fastened upon any deputy returning officer the slightest evidence of guilt. It may be that in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite there is a belief that these men are criminals. If so, they are, at least, entitled to the justice and fair-play accorded to every British subject of being considered innocent until they are proved guilty, or, at least, until some suspicion has been thrown on their conduct. Is it the members for the two ridings of Brockville and West Huron whom these hon. gentlemen stigmatize as criminals? If so, I tell them that there is not a man among them bold enough to get up in this House and make a charge against either of those hon. gentlemen. There is not a man among them bold enough to say that either of these hon. gentlemen knew anything about the crimes and rascalities which they allege to exist, but which they have not proved up to this hour do exist. Then, is it the government whom they charge with being criminals? If so, they are recreant to their duty in not making that charge specifically, and bringing forward the evidence to prove it. I say it is a duty incumbent on the members of this parliament to prove charges of this kind just as much as it is to discharge any other public duty; and if they know, as they allege they do, that the government are behind any rascality, or are implicated in it in any way, I call upon them to bring down their charges and let us have them investigated. There was a time when that was done in this House. There was a time when members of the government were charged in this House with corruption and when those charges were proved and the guilty men were driven from the government and from their seats in this House. If these hon. gentlemen have any charges against the government, let them make their charges specifically, and not in the empty phrases used last night, and they will be answered. So, I say in regard to this wild charge that criminals are being defended, hon. gentlemen opposite have absolutely failed to show where the criminals are. If they have any case, they have failed in their duty in not bringing it forward. We would have very

short memories if we did not recollect that this is not the first time that these hon. gentlemen have made charges against this very government. We recollect when, a few sessions ago, members rose in this House and gravely insinuated, not to put it more strongly, that gross frauds, rascalities, villainies of an abhorrent character had been committed in connection with the purchase of the Drummond County Railway. They got what they pretended they wanted, but did not want, a committee to investigate. They did investigate; and after the investigation was over, they calmly got up and said: 'We never said there was anything wrong.' That was the history of that charge. Then, we had numerous long speeches, very long drawn out, in regard to the Yukon scandal—fearfully long speeches—but, I noticed we have never had anything but such speeches on that question, and we are likely to have more speeches, more wind, more of the same empty charges, but nothing specific, never an honest attempt to investigate, only talk to the gallery and the country in order that if they make a great noise and keep up that noise long enough, some people will believe that there must be something at the back of it all or otherwise they certainly could not have yelled so loud and so long.

I do not know what the feeling may be in the west, but I do know what it is in my province, and that feeling is, as I am satisfied this hon. gentleman will find to his sorrow, that he could not get anybody in Nova Scotia even to listen to the long speeches he made here on that subject.

And so it will be in these particular cases, they will continue to make their charges, they will continue to orate, they will continue to read affidavits, they will continue to drag to the front their Pritchetts and anybody else they can bully or bribe into coming here, but will never come to the point and attempt to prove the charges that they make. If these hon. gentlemen have failed in all these previous cases, if they have up to the present failed in this case, it is not, I am satisfied, because they are not the right kind of gentlemen to look up matters of this kind. For if there was ever any class of men who, by a long and patient experience during many years, have had opportunities to become thoroughly acquainted with the ways of hoodlers, ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, it is hon. gentlemen opposite. They are peculiarly qualified for that task; and if they have failed, it must be because of the weakness of their case, and not because of the lack of ability of the men that are conducting it.

I would like to call the attention of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) to this fact. He is very severe upon this government for having, as he says, let loose upon his country such a carnival of corruption as never prevailed before, and I notice that he said—and it is well that he did—

that, previous to 1896, he knew nothing about the politics of this country. He must certainly have known nothing about them or he would never have spoken as he did. If he had known something about the politics of this country previous to 1896, he would have known of the McGreevy scandals, he would have not forgotten that a minister of the Crown was, by charges made and proved on the floor of this House, in connection with these scandals, obliged to resign his seat as a minister and go back to his seat as a private member; and the country is not shutting its eyes to the fact that that very man, who was expelled from office for corruption, proved in the light of day, has been taken back to the bosom of hon. gentlemen opposite, and is one of the leaders of the Tory party to-day.

And I call attention to the fact that when to-day the hon gentleman is backing up the Conservative party in this country, he is not backing up that party as it was when led by the late Sir John Macdonald, but is proposing to put in office the same men who in 1896 were turned out on account of these charges, and who to-day are unrepentant and prepared to carry out the same carnival of corruption, to use the hon. gentleman's expression, that they always did.

It was rather singular that the fact should have aroused no suspicion in the mind of the hon. member for West Toronto, that these charges of corruption, ballot-stuffing, and other rascality, comes from hon. gentlemen whose skirts are far from being clean in such matters. We were told that if such iniquities did exist before the advent of the present administration to office, they were certainly never unearthed. Well, I am not as old as many hon. gentlemen opposite, but have some recollection of the political experience of this country, and can speak of my own knowledge of certain unsavoury facts. I have the honour to represent a county which once was represented by a minister of the Crown of the Tory government. I stood in court myself and heard the partner of that minister swear under oath—and this is on record in print to-day—that he, out of his own means, paid out in his own county thousands of dollars to purchase votes to put that minister into a seat in this House. But if these hon. gentlemen say that that is ancient history, let me give them a case a little more modern. We had an election in that county in 1896, and, as often happens, there was a little difference of opinion over the choice of a candidate, and the man who wanted the choice did not get it. He got mad and proposed to leave the country. He bought his ticket for the West Indies, and took the train to start to catch the steamer, but before he reached the steamer he had an interview with the present leader of the opposition. What took place I do not know, that is a matter within the knowledge of these two gentlemen, but I know what happened afterwards. This man did not go to the

West Indies, but came back to our town and went back to his own office, and I can produce sworn evidence that day after day he had paid out money and given orders for free liquor, and given passes over the Intercolonial Railway to carry voters to the poll. All that was entered in the records of the court to be proved, and these are the gentlemen who charge us with corruption, and exclaim at the same time, that their hands are clean. I do not say that the hon. the leader of the opposition knew anything about it, but I only state the facts, namely, that this man declared he would have nothing to do with the elections, but that since then he has been given a certificate of character by the leader of the opposition, and is a strong supporter of the party; that he intended to leave the country, but had an interview with the leader of the opposition, which changed his mind, and that he came back and did the things I have stated.

I could cite for the benefit of the hon. member for West Toronto further suspicious practices in the province of Nova Scotia. And I think that the mere fact that these charges of corruption are made by a party led by such men as these, especially charges based on such evidence as we have had offered to us, ought of itself to raise suspicion in the mind of any honest, honourable member of this House.

But the hon. member for West Toronto said this was a matter which he felt affected his own personal honour. No doubt that hon. gentleman has a very fine and delicate sense of honour, but does he think that it is absolutely consistent with honourable manhood, to say the least, that he should assume that his fellow members in this House, who differ from him, are wanting in conscientious conviction? Does he think it right and fair to say that the members of the committee who investigated this case and the members of this House who differ from him, have not as keen a sense of honour as he, have not characters to defend just as well as he has, and does he think it manly on his part to stand up here and charge that they are doing anything dishonourable because they happen to differ with him?

He told us that he knew nothing about politics previous to 1896. I do not know what he was doing previous to 1896, but I am bound to say that if the speech he made last night is a fair sample of the lore he has absorbed since then, he must have been cultivating this fine sense of honour at the expense of his intellect.

I notice that the hon. gentleman was careful to tell us that he did not object so very much to extravagant expenditures on the part of the government, if they would only stop stealing the franchise of the people. Now, I hope the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) will not think I am offensive, I trust I am not, when I venture to suggest to him that

It is barely possible that his sensibilities upon this point of extravagant expenditures have been dulled by the consideration for the pockets into which some of that extravagant expenditure found its way. Perhaps, that is not a proper way to put it; but still I think it ill becomes the hon. gentleman who has been the recipient, not personally perhaps but in a business capacity, of large favours at the hands of the government of this country, to rise in his place and say: I have no objection personally to extravagant expenditure—we can stand that, but I do object to stealing franchises. Well, if we can get proof that franchises have been stolen, he is right to object; but he has no right—though he comes here with the prestige of an honoured name, though he stands high in financial circles—he has no right to come here and charge men who are as good as he is, who have consciences as clear as his, who have reputations as good as his, with being boodlers and with stealing franchises, simply because they do not happen to agree with him.

In conclusion, I consider that the object of the reference to the committee, if there ever was any, has been absolutely and entirely fulfilled. If wrongs have been committed, the courts are open to investigate them. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler) said that we were here to bring criminals to justice. I deny that. Surely parliament is not assembled to deal with criminals. What are our criminal courts for, if we are to spend our time in bringing criminals to justice? We have no more to do with criminals who steal ballots than we have to do with those who steal dry goods. They are all criminals in the eye of the law, and if hon. gentlemen opposite have evidence that will convict men of these offences, it is their duty to place that evidence in the hands of the proper officials and have the case investigated before the tribunals established for that purpose. And it does not become the dignity of this parliament, and it is not going to promote purity of elections, it is not going to raise the standard of public morality, for hon. gentlemen to come here day after day and make long-winded speeches full of partisan bias with the object of making capital against their political opponents. They could not in this way, though the combined forces of parliament should unite to assist them, bring these criminals to justice. But, if they have the evidence that they say they have, the courts are open to them. Upon the men who have the evidence and refuse to use it, who have warrants and refused to execute them—upon them lies the responsibility for a failure of justice and not upon this House.

Mr. N. F. DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) made a reference to the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) and seemed to think it was a good thing for him to call the attention of the House and

the country to the protagonists on both sides. The hon. member for West Toronto advocated inquiry into matters which the hon. gentleman (Mr. McClure) objects to being called criminal—but what word will he suggest to me that will designate those dreadful and disgraceful transactions, but the word 'criminal'? Well, Sir, I will leave it to the people of Canada to judge between the hon. gentleman and the hon. member for West Toronto, with his standing in the community, his weight of character—I must not say his intelligence, because the hon. gentleman says he is a man of honour at the expense of his intelligence. I think we may leave both combatants to the judgment of the people.

I wish, very briefly, to direct the attention of parliament to one thing. I am not going to reply to vermicular apologies for political assassins. I am not going over the speech of the hon. gentleman (Mr. McClure). Is it necessary for me to refute the mere technicalities on which he rested his argument, when we have the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) telling us that there is no doubt whatever—this was the last word as well as the first word of his speech—that there is no doubt whatever that this House and a committee of this parliament would be properly seized of this matter? But, Sir, why talk of precedents? Have we not the best precedent of all, the precedent set by the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) himself last year, who, when the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) brought forward his motion, got up and covered himself with glory by a speech that was hailed throughout the Dominion and which has since been again and again referred to? He told the House and the country, first, that what the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had called attention to was the most important question which could engage the attention of parliament; second, that the purity of elections must be guarded at all costs; third, that a prima facie case had been made out in the case of West Huron and that it must go to the Committee on Privileges and Elections; fourth, that while he thought that the case made out with regard to Brockville was more than weak, such as it was—I call the attention of the House to the language of the Prime Minister:

Such is the sanctity of the ballot, such is the sanctity of the rights of the people which they must exercise whenever they are called to the polls that though, in my opinion, speaking here on behalf of the government, the case made out in regard to Brockville is more than weak, still, the government will not offer any objection to this case also being referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Fifth, that there was no question which could with better advantage occupy the time of the House; sixth, that if a wrong had been done, nobody should be shielded; seventh, that we must know now—and I call the attention of the House and the country to this—we must know now, here-

after and for ever, that the will of the people must be expressed as the people wish to express it.

Why, what has come over the right hon. gentleman? Was the thought drunk in which he dressed himself last year? And now, has it waked up to look so green and pale that he is afraid of the resolve he then took? The *Globe* on the following day, 8th of July, 1899, speaking of the right hon. gentleman's action, said:

An admirably illustrative example of the situation is afforded by the proceedings of the House on Thursday. Charges were made with regard to the conduct of the recent by-elections in West Huron and Brockville. In this case, of course, it is not the administration of the public service which is impugned, but the constitution of the parliament, which is the ultimate governing authority of the country. A good deal might be said on the subject of procedure; the method of investigating such charges which for years has been chiefly favoured, is that of sending them before the courts. But the very life of the House of Commons is at stake in the conserving of the purity of its mandates from the electors, and it is not well that there should be hesitation in yielding to red tape in the proving of charges of corruption in elections. Mr. Borden made definite charges, and within five minutes from the time that he had taken his seat he and all of the House of Commons knew that the investigation for which he had asked was granted. More than that, it was granted in the precise form in which he had asked. One is tempted to dwell upon the fact that investigation has been accorded so instantly, with such an absence of cavilling or of debate, not because there is special merit in showing solicitude upon a point so vital to our political life, but because instances leap to mind of days when such solicitude was not to be found upon government benches, when charges far graver, supported by far weightier evidence than that in the West Huron case, let alone the much weaker Brockville case, were received with impatience, were subject to every delay which tactical expedients could provide, were actually granted, and in the end had to be pronounced unproved by the mere weight of a party majority.

What is the position of the government to-day, and what is the position of the right hon. gentleman? Last year he at once accedes to the motion of my hon. friend, and he does it with a flourish of high principles, and the country was glad to hear. The committee met, and what happened? I will not say the right hon. gentleman is responsible for this, but it may throw light on what has taken place this session. When we went into the committee and began to prosecute the inquiry, ministers of the Crown, one of whom is before me, and one of whom is away in Europe, threw every difficulty they could in the way of inquiry; and prominent supporters of the right hon. gentleman, such as the junior member for Halifax, and the member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), resorted to all the arts of advocacy to protract and mar the inquiry. What was the result? The inquiry was not finished last year. The present situation is a striking instance that in poli-

tics, as in other matters, honesty is the best policy; for if they had gone honestly to inquire fully into that matter, and no hindrance had been put forward, it would have finished; and if the theory put forth by the Solicitor General and by the member for Kingston be correct, that the nine witnesses who had not been examined could add anything new, why the thing would have been all over last year, and the right hon. gentleman would have had all the kudos that belonged to the course that he had taken. But they did not carry out that inquiry with bona fides, and what is the result? When we met here this year, and my hon. friend, the senior member for Halifax, proposes to continue the inquiry, as the committee contemplated—the closing words of the chairman's report being 'that the House may take such action as to continuing and completing the investigation as may be deemed best,' he is met by the right hon. gentleman himself with a blockade, and in this House we have quibbling arguments and pettifogging ratiocinations to bar us out from that inquiry which the right hon. gentleman said was of the utmost importance, and involved the sanctity of the ballot. Why, Sir, what has happened? Last year it was a matter of the first importance, this year it is not worth taking up the time of the House. Last year the sanctity of the ballot must at all hazards and at all costs be safeguarded; this year the sanctity of the ballot spoiler and the saintship of the ballot thief must at all costs be guarded, even at the hazard of political infamy. Last year everything should be done that could be done to secure that the expression of the will of the people should be free; this year any attempt to secure such an expression is to be frowned down. What has happened? Is it the right hon. gentleman who has turned back on himself? This we cannot get over, that he is enacting a diametrically opposite part from what he enacted last year; and his face is turned this year to a directly opposite pole to that of last year. Last year he led us and he led the country on to a road of honour, on to that road that is pointed to by political honour, and by a proper regard to the constitution and to the rights of the people; this year he turns us back, and he is in full retreat from that position taken then with so much applause. What has happened, I say? Is it that the right hon. gentleman has turned his back on himself, or is it that when he was about to encounter the monster of corruption, when he was lifting his spear against that execrable shape, is it that his own colleagues and his friends took hold of him and asked him what he was about to do? Was he about to commit the fratricidal act of striking at the paternal author of his being—as a statesman and politician? Is that what happened when he was in act to strike corruption? Do we now see him chained to the car of a rabble, who

have all their own way, and who can jeer him in this very House? Why, Sir, in his absence here last night, one of the humblest of his followers, the member for East Prince, P.E.I. (Mr. Bell) attacked the course taken by the right hon. gentleman last year, and said he hoped such a course would not be taken again. Last year the whole country, with the *Globe* leading, was cheering the right hon. gentleman in his course of honour; this year he is bound to one of the cars of this rabble, of this unholy and criminal rabble, going on its criminal way, and one after another of the camp followers and stragglers jeer at the leader, jeer at the Premier. The Laurier of last year is attacked, and to-day he is perfectly helpless in those sinister hands. That is the situation to which I call attention, and on which the eyes of the country will be fixed.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. McClure), has read some telegrams. But what do they amount to? Would the men who are ready to commit such crimes as these men are charged with hesitate to send a lying telegram? Men who would spoil a ballot, commit fraud, slip and switch ballots, take money for their votes, would they hesitate to send lying telegrams? You can go to the St. Lawrence Hall in Brockville, and find Pritchett registered there; you can go to the hotel in Goderich and elsewhere and can find these men registered. And surely, Mr. Speaker, we, in this parliament and the country to-day, are not concerned to regard the question merely whether a criminal should be punished for his criminal conduct. The right hon. gentleman saw the real issue. The real issue goes to the life of this parliament; it goes to the foundation of the constitution; it goes to the strength of this Dominion of Canada. That is the real issue, not the little petty issues brought forward by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat, whether we are going to punish certain criminal persons or not. What we want now, is to take the first step towards ridding the body politic of the danger which menaces it, towards tearing out the ulcer of the new Liberalism that is eating into its vitals. The first thing we want now, is to have a thorough diagnosis of the extent to which this terrible corruption has extended; and then we want to add clauses to the criminal law, we want to add clauses to the Controverted Elections Act, so as to try and bring within the grasp of public justice the men who are much worse than the brigand, much worse than the burglar, and much worse than the thief, who are serving sentences in our penitentiaries.

The hon. gentleman has confined himself to the technical standpoint. Not one word has been said about the broad question: How we are to rid the country of the terrible plague, this white political plague, that now is proved to exist? One of the hon. gentlemen, I think it was the Solicitor

General, objected that we should refer to the local elections. Why, Sir, the evidence is cumulative that all over this country now, there are trained men in the employ of the leaders of the Liberal party, of which Smith, the organizer, is the head. And we find certain ministers in close touch with Vance, Smith, Preston, Pritchett and others, when their nefarious ends are being accomplished. What do we find? We see Organizer Smith, who is again and again mentioned in these affidavits, steal quietly from Room 16 to the room of the hon. acting Minister of the Interior, and from the room of the hon. acting Minister of the Interior back, and the presiding genius of all this infamy has been haunting, with his evil shadow, the corridors of this parliament ever since it has been in session. It brings it very close. Is it to be supposed for one minute, when we read in these affidavits that money is paid by Preston, that money is paid by a man named McDonald, who is in the employ of the government of Ontario, that money is paid by Smith, or by Smith's lieutenant Vance, that the all-seeing eye of ways that are dark, politically, and tricks that are vain of the hon. acting Minister of the Interior does not know what is going on? Is it to be supposed, for one minute, that, when Smith almost sleeps with the hon. acting Minister of the Interior, the Minister of the Interior does not know of all this infamy which has been going on. What we say is that there is a banditti established in this country. I believe myself honestly, that last year, the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) did not know it; it was only after he had granted this inquiry that his ministers came to him and said: Do you know what you are doing, do you know how you got into power, do you know how we have been returned in the by-elections? It has been by these rascals; they are our colleagues, they are our friends and workers together with us in the unrighteous cause. Then came the turning back, and when my hon. friend from Halifax tried to move his motion we had the lamentable spectacle of the right hon. gentleman going back on his past, going back on the just position which he had taken up. I have another affidavit, which I am going to read for the reason that it is full of detail. Like the rest, it is full of detail, it is full of particularity, and as hon. gentlemen are accustomed to refer to their legal knowledge in this House, I say, as a man who has had some legal training, that nobody can read that affidavit without saying this—it may be the affidavit of a ruffian—how could he be a colleague of Preston, of Cap Sullivan, and of Farr, an imp of Vance, or a confidant, an acolyte and an apostle of Smith, without being a scoundrel and a ruffian. He could not help but be so. I fling him aside. I am not going to defend this man's character. How do

honest men come to their own except when thieves fall out? We know that he is a bad character by his associates, but now he has turned Queen's evidence, and light is shed on the rascaldom on which the new Liberalism is built:

State of Michigan,
City of Detroit.

To wit:

I, John G. Pritchett, of the city of London, in the province of Ontario, contractor, presently of the city of Detroit, make oath and say:

1. I have for several years taken part in municipal affairs and in politics in the said city of London, and have acted as deputy returning officer in the municipal elections, and also in the elections for the legislative assembly. I always acted with and on behalf of the Liberal party. In 1893 I was elected an alderman for Ward No. 6 in the said city.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. That is easily tested:

2. In the general election for the legislative assembly of 1898 I took an active part as a canvasser for votes on behalf of Col. Leys, and was appointed by Sheriff Cameron his deputy returning officer for the said election at polling division No. 3, in the Sixth ward of the said city of London.

3. From my experience, obtained in the various elections, I had formed the opinion that elections could be more easily and surely won by manipulation of the ballots than by buying votes; and after the said election I, in conversation with friends, used words to that effect.

You see what this man is doing, and has been doing, and has been training the Liberal manipulators to do. When they found that they were imperilled in their positions, even after taking the money they got here, there and everywhere—from Yukon deals and Drummond County deals—to spend in buying the corrupt voter, they say: The corrupt voter alone will not keep us in power. We must destroy the honest voter, too. We must steal the ballot of the honest voter. After the honest voter has put in his ballot and has, so to speak, in his own person, registered the will of the community, we will go and steal the precious diadem from the shelf and put in a corrupt ballot.

4. In the fall of the year 1898 a by-election was about to be held in South Ontario, the Hon. John Dryden being the Liberal candidate, John O'Gorman, of London, came to me and—

Now, let me say that you will find this John O'Gorman taking part in at least three other elections. This John O'Gorman takes part in the election in West Elgin, in West Huron and in Brockville. You will find that they are all dovetailed together, and that you have an organized and trained banditti throughout the country.

John O'Gorman, of London, came to me and asked me to go to South Ontario to instruct the deputy returning officers.

To instruct the deputy returning officers! He does not need to explain to him; they know what his profession is.

He said he had been told I could instruct the deputies how to manipulate ballots. I said, 'Where did you get your information?' He replied that did not matter, and asked me was I willing to go to South Ontario and help to elect Mr. Dryden. I asked him how much there was in it. He said \$100 and expenses. I agreed to go. He said anything he promised would be carried out. He told me to meet him at the Walker House in Toronto.

You may get the register on that day and test that statement.

I went to Toronto and to the Walker House on the evening of the second Saturday before the election and had supper there. I met O'Gorman there, and he gave me \$20. I also saw there Alexander Smith, the chief organizer of the Liberal party. He said he would be in Whitby in a few days, and he asked me to meet him there. He told me to stay at the Royal Hotel at Whitby, as that was the Conservative house. I went that Saturday night from the Walker House to the house of my brother-in-law in Toronto (Wellington Brock), and I slept there on that night and Sunday night.

You see how particular this man is.

On Monday morning I went to Whitby and stayed at the Royal. On nomination day, Tuesday, I saw Alexander Smith at the Commercial Hotel, after the nomination. I went upstairs with him to his room. He gave me some more money, \$30, I think. He told me to go to Port Perry, where I would meet Mr. Threlkeld, who, I understood, was an assistant organizer under Smith. He (Threlkeld) would introduce me to the deputy returning officers. I had not said anything to Smith about such officials; he seemed to know that my business was to be with them.

You see that these things are thoroughly understood. Organizer Smith does not want to talk with him at all. He knows why the man came there; he knows that his class of work is to instruct the deputy returning officers.

I saw Mr. Threlkeld at Whitby that afternoon. Some one made us acquainted at the bar. On Thursday morning I went by train to Port Perry and stayed at the Oriental Hotel, another Conservative house. Then I walked to the Liberal committee rooms and there met Threlkeld. I told him I had come by Alexander Smith's orders to help him out, and that he was to introduce me to the deputy returning officers.

If a man came here as a lobbyist, and if he began to interfere with members of parliament, you know very well that some of us would rise up here and call attention to the fact; but is there any comparison between the dreadful danger to the community of a mere lobbyist compared with the danger of a man like this Smith, who is at the head of all this organized scoundrelism, and who is hand in hand with the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland)?

Mr. TAYLOR. And the Postmaster General.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, and the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock).

He said that they were not yet appointed. I told him he would have to get a hustle on, as I had only a short time to work with him.

Mr. DAVIN.

He said he was waiting for the sheriff, who was to be up next day to make the appointments. He went out. I remained in the committee rooms. In a little while he returned and said he had seen the chairmen of some of the divisions, and they had given him the names of one or two men who were to act as deputy returning officers. I then arranged with Threlkeld to have these proposed deputies meet me that afternoon, but they did not turn up. On Friday one of them, an elderly man, a grain buyer, whose name I, at this moment, cannot recall, came to me at the committee rooms. I talked to him for some time, and showed him a few things in the way of manipulating ballots. He said he was willing to do all he could to help the election, but seemed nervous or timid about trying the manipulation. He promised to try the spoiling of ballots. He practised it for a while, and said he would try it again at home. The other thing, slipping a ballot, he was afraid he could not do; but he became quite handy at spoiling. He left me, saying he would do a few.

This man was an instructor in 'spoiling' ballots as well as in 'switching' them.

Threlkeld had promised to send some more deputies to me, but he got drunk and did not do so. I saw him at his hotel, opposite to the Oriental, that evening. He was then drunk. A man whom I knew as Macdonald, and who afterwards told me he was an employee of the Ontario government, had arrived to meet Threlkeld. Macdonald went up to Threlkeld's room, and was there about fifteen minutes. Threlkeld had then been drinking, but was not so drunk as he afterwards became. Macdonald told me some days later that when he went up to the room on that occasion he left \$200 with Threlkeld.

This, of course, brings the whole work home to the Ontario government. Where did he get that \$200? A clerk in the employ of the Ontario government; we know very well he could not get away without the sanction of the Ontario government, and it is a fair inference that leave to depart as well as this money, had been furnished him by the government.

Macdonald did not speak a word to me at Port Perry. Some time after Macdonald came downstairs the landlord went up, and when he came down he said to me, 'That damn fool is as drunk as a fiddler; he has considerable money on him, and you had better look after him.' I was then with a man who was to act as a deputy. I asked him to go up with me to Threlkeld, as I wished to ask him about this man's appointment. We went up. Threlkeld was so intoxicated that he could not talk business. I asked Threlkeld did he know this man. Threlkeld was lying on the bed.

I may say this as a critic: That all these details have the stamp of truth, no matter what Pritchett's character is. Look at the picturesque expression that only the memory of truth can give.

He grunted something which was not intelligible, and we both left the room at once. I am not sure about this man's name. I think it was Craig, of Craig Bros., carriage-makers. He said, 'I don't see why they trust such things as that in elections. They do more harm than good.' We talked together for some time, but

he had no evidence of his appointment, and I did not talk about ballots. I went back to my hotel.

On Saturday morning I went by the early train to Brooklyn, as Smith had directed me to do. There I saw Mr. James Vance at the hotel. Smith told me I would meet Vance there. I had met Vance on nomination day at Whitby, and we then became acquainted. When I saw him at Brooklyn he asked me to drive out to Myrtle to see a young man there who was to act as a deputy returning officer. Jack Brant, a newspaper man of Whitby, drove me out to Myrtle. He knew the young man and introduced me. I took the man aside, and told him my mission was to see him about his duties as deputy. He was then working in a field with another man. He said he had no notice of his appointment, and did not want to talk about it until he should get notice. Brant and I then returned to Brooklyn. I remained there until evening. Vance took me that afternoon to an office in the town hall, and there introduced me as Mr. Garrett to Mr. Halliday, the township clerk, who was to act as a deputy.

He was Johnston in another place, here he is Garrett, introduced by Vance as Garrett, so that the change of name and the fraud running through the whole man's action is sanctioned by the first lieutenant of Smith the Liberal organizer.

Vance left us together. I talked to Mr. Halliday, but said nothing about manipulation. I did not think it prudent to approach him. I hired a livery horse, and that evening drove to Whitby and put up at the Commercial Hotel. After supper Charles King drove me to Pickering. There was a Conservative meeting there that night. My object in going to Pickering was to meet a Mr. Richardson, township clerk and issuer of marriage licenses, whom I had seen in Whitby on nomination day, and to whom, as he used to be a deputy returning officer, I had explained the meaning of manipulation. I had then promised to see him again. At Pickering I was in his office with him about half an hour. He said he had practised what I had shown him at Whitby, and was pretty good at it. Neither of us did any of the work or practised on this occasion. We talked about the prospects, and as to how many ballots he thought he could fix. We agreed he could easily handle ten in his division. Charles King had taken me to Richardson's office, but remained either below or in another room. That night at Pickering I met Sim. Hewitt, of Brantford, who was working for the Hon. Mr. Dryden. He told me a lot of the farmers were out for the money, and that he had good luck with them. Charles King drove me back to Whitby. I slept at the Commercial Hotel that Saturday night. On Sunday morning the proprietor of the hotel drove me to Oshawa, and I remained at Oshawa until the morning of Tuesday, the election day. On Sunday morning I saw Vance at the hotel. He said he had arrived that morning from Brooklyn, and that the young man I had been out to see at Myrtle would be down to see me. Shortly after that the young man drove in. He said to me, 'I suppose Mr. Vance told you I was coming.' Then he and I went to my room. He said he had now got his commission and if I had anything to tell him I could do so. I showed him how to spoil and slip ballots. He practised and succeeded very well. He was with me about an hour. He said he would keep at it until election day, and would do all he could and use his own judgment.

Now, I call the Prime Minister's attention to this: That the evidence given before the commission, and the evidence of the other affidavits is to the effect that young men in ones and two and threes were brought to this man, so that what we have is a horrible spectacle of this man instructing the youth of Canada how to destroy the foundation of political liberty. Mr. Speaker, it is most serious thing, and I put it to parliament, must we not find means to destroy this plague?

On Monday, the day before the election, Mr. W. T. R. Preston arrived in Oshawa.

You see, how all the leaders and organizers come together. Just as where the carcass is there will the eagles be gathered together, and just as vultures swoop down on the battlefield, this man Preston, while he was in Canada, wherever there was evil work to be done in an election, was to be found. And the wretched man, the unhappy and abandoned man, the other day, when in the witness box, when asked why he took the ruffians from outside into these election fights—what is the meaning, Sir, of taking outsiders, men who do not belong to the constituency, into an election contest?—what does he say? 'Because I find I can get better work out of outsiders.' Can it be honest work that he could get better from outsiders? Would a stranger have more influence with a voter? It is the voter's neighbour who has the influence with him, if it is honest influence. The abandoned man, in another part of his evidence, says he took these reptiles in to put down the bad, to put it out of the way, to frown it down. These men—why, Sir, Cap Sullivan, Farr, Pritchett, the whole gang, with one or two ministers—they are like eels in an eelhole, all rolled up together. You look down into the eelhole and see a head move, and it is the head of Cap Sullivan; then another head, and it is the head of Preston; then another head, and it is the head of Pritchett; then another head, and it is the head of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock); then another head, and it is the thoughtful brow of the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland). There they are, a lot of eels in a mud-hole of such corruption as never disgraced this country before.

Monday, the day before the election, Mr. W. T. R. Preston arrived at Oshawa. He told me he had come from Whitby. I had seen him at the nomination, and we knew each other when we met at Oshawa.

I should think they did know each other. They were birds of a feather—men of the same kidney. I do not know whether Pritchett sings psalms or not; but the other sings: 'My soul is full of sunshine to-day.' I do not know whether Pritchett has another line simply to express his devout aspirations after spoiled ballots to corrupt the electors of Canada.

Jack Brant and he had driven over from Whitby. As I stood in the hall at the foot of the stairs, Preston said to me: I want you to go down to Whitby. I want some help there to-night.

Why did Preston say this to this man who you now all say is a ruffian? Preston knew him as a friend and a brother.

I said I would go. That evening I drove to Whitby and met Preston in his room at the Commercial Hotel.

Not in the parlour or in the rotunda of the hotel, but in his room. Probably it was to have a word of prayer. Perhaps the two pluggers went down on their marrow-bones and thanked God for the apostle of purity, in the shape of Jim Sutherland, and for the charming embodiment of political holliness, in the shape of Organizer Smith. He went to Preston's bedroom in the hotel. It shows the intimacy, at any rate.

Brant was in the room. He had gone up either with me or just before me. Preston said: 'I will be ready for you in a minute.'

You know, these men have a language of their own, as thieves have. 'I will be ready for you in a minute'—they knew what that meant.

Brant and I went into a room near-by. In a few minutes Preston came into that room, and handed me \$50 in \$2 bills. He said nothing and went out again.

That silence is significant.

Then Brant said there was a party we were to meet. We went downstairs and out into the yard. As we did so, Brant said: 'Here he is now.' I did not know the man. I handed him the \$50. We made some apology for keeping him waiting. He said, 'I am damn near frozen.' Another man was with him. Brant said this was a party worker to take the man with the money to the right people.

Mind, to the right people. Please note that.

Brant and I returned to the same room. In a little while the man called McDonald, Ontario government employee, came in. He handed me another \$50 in twos. He did not say anything. You see, he also observes silence. With these gentlemen speech is silver, and silence is golden—they are students of Carlyle.

Brant and I went downstairs again. Brant introduced me to a young fellow to be my guide. This young fellow told me he was a delivery boy on a grocery wagon. The boy had a list of persons to be seen. He took me to the houses and told me how much I was to pay at each place.

Another boy corrupted; another boy debauched by those acolytes of the new Liberalism in behalf of which the right hon. gentleman has turned his back on the Laurier of last year, the Laurier that the *Globe* praised. Oh, the pity of it!

I went in and paid the money; the arrangements had already been made. The highest sum I paid was \$6, the lowest \$4.

You see again the system. These have all been arranged by somebody else.

I went to six or seven places. Only one man was absent. I paid each of the others. I

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returned to the hotel about midnight and met Brant. I said I was tired and had to return to Oshawa, and wanted no more of that.

I may say that this remark seems to me, from a careful study of the affidavit, to show that in this army, just as soldiers are proud of being hussars or mounted riflemen or infantrymen, this man is proud of his superior function. This man seems to take special pride in his own wing of the army of scoundrellism, and he regards mere direct bribing as beneath his artistic mind.

I gave the boy \$4, and handed the remainder of the money to Brant, telling him he could see the few names still on the list. I got to Oshawa at two o'clock in the morning of the election day and went to Toronto by that morning train. That was the only occasion on which I used money for votes. On the Saturday night before the election I met Alexander Smith at the Commercial Hotel, Whitby.

Again the organizer.

I showed him the items of my expenses in my memorandum book. He said that was all right, and gave me between \$70 and \$80, which was the balance due to me under the arrangement made by O'Gorman, after deducting what had been paid to me on account by O'Gorman and by Smith.

Showing that Smith pays the debt incurred by O'Gorman. Fancy the amount of money that these people must have been dispensing when all this money goes to one man. How much was paid out to the others acting in a similar fashion?

Mr. TAYLOR. And, where does it all come from?

Mr. DAVIN. It comes, in the end, of course, from the pockets of the honest farmer, the honest mechanic, and the honest storekeeper.

The method of spoiling ballots which I was employed to explain, and did explain, to deputy returning officers in elections for the local legislature, is worked by the deputy himself, and at the time of counting ballots after the close of the poll. When the ballots are turned out of the box upon the table, it is usual for the scrutineers to assist the deputy in opening out the ballots and laying them face downwards in a pile upon the table. The deputy then takes up one with his left hand, looks at the cross, and holds the ballot paper at one end with the finger and thumb of his left hand, and at the other end with the finger and thumb of his right hand. If the ballot is properly marked and if he does not wish to spoil it, he lays it face downward on the table and calls out the vote. He proceeds thus with each ballot in succession. But he places ballots spoiled by the voter in a separate pile, also face downwards, until he has so examined all the ballots. So often as a deputy wishes to spoil a ballot, he selects one properly marked on behalf of the other parties, and while looking at it and holding it as described, with finger and thumb of both hands, he makes a mark or scroll upon it with a bit of lead secured under the thumb-nail of his right hand. Any mark will answer his purpose, for he himself is to be the judge whether or not it spoils the vote. He places each one thus spoiled by himself with the pile of bal-

lots spoiled by careless voters. At the conclusion of his examination, all the spoiled ballots are exhibited in rotation to the scrutineers, the objections are discussed, and of course the deputy decides that the votes spoiled by him cannot be counted. He can thus take from the other party as many votes as he chooses to spoil. A deputy, with little practice, can spoil a ballot without danger of detection. The danger is rather that he may overwork the scheme.

Last night we had the hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) make what, in the light of these revelations, was an impudent argument. He quoted the number of Liberals elected at the general elections and the number of by-elections that the government had gained, but is it not marvellous that we should have gained a single by-election when we had a regular army of scoundrelism, such as this, working against us? Those electors who could not be debauched by bribery—a sufficient percentage of these honest voters had their ballots stolen to destroy the election. Is it not a wonder that we carried any election?

A deputy officer, with a little practice, can spoil a ballot without danger of detection. The only danger is that he may overdo the scheme.

9. The slipping of a vote is, in elections for the legislature, accomplished thus: When the deputy is calling off the good votes he does not permit the scrutineers to look at the face of the ballot. He contends that he, as deputy, is alone entitled to examine the ballot, for, if a scrutineer could examine it, he might also discover the numbers, and so trace the voter. Therefore, he decides that he alone can look at the ballot counted. When calling off the ballot vote to one or other of the candidates, he from time to time calls to his own side a vote really given to the opposite party, and thus changes or slips the vote and refuses permission to check what he may be doing. This does not require an expert, but it does require a little nerve, and the selection of some men as deputies who at need can be daring and take some risk.

(Sgd.) J. G. PRITCHETT.

The above-named deponent, John G. Pritchett, being duly sworn, says that he has read the foregoing affidavit by him signed and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true in substance and in fact of his own knowledge. Subscribed and sworn to at the city of Detroit, in the state of Michigan, one of the United States of America, this 29th day of December, 1899, before me,

(Sgd.) WILLIAM L. CARPENTER,
Circuit Judge,
Third Judicial Circuit, Michigan.

(Seal of the Circuit Court.)

If you take that affidavit alone, it discloses a state of things perfectly alarming. You cannot get over its substantiality. To say that Pritchett is a scoundrel does not affect it at all? If he was not a scoundrel, would he have done the things he says he did? Is the man who turns Queen's evidence, and thus enables conviction to be brought home to criminals, not to be believed when his evidence is corroborated? Take the other affidavits, take the evidence which was

given before the committee, and we are face to face with one of the most fearful conditions of things that any free community could contemplate.

The *Globe* newspaper, on August 4 last, after the evidence was taken before the committee, thus spoke of this West Huron election:

Although the inquiry is not yet completed, enough had been elicited to cast very grave doubts over the manner in which the election was conducted.

Was the election a fair election, or was it carried by fraud? If the latter, there ought to be no hesitation about resigning the constituency, and thus effecting the same result as if the sitting member had been unseated by the court.

I do not want to say anything against the character of one of our colleagues in this House, but an argument has been based on his reputation. Let me read, in this connection, the evidence of Mr. Holmes, examined by Mr. Russell:

Q. Mr. Hoimes, a statement has been made here at second-hand about some conversation you had with Farr, the deputy returning officer at No. 3, Goderich, after the election; did you meet Farr?—A. I did.

Q. Just relate the circumstances?—A. I was in Goderich a day or two after the elections—I don't remember exactly how long, but not long—I was in Goderich a day or two after the election, and as I was passing along with a friend he said: 'That is Farr, the man they are talking about,' or words to that effect, and he said, 'I will introduce him to you,' and he introduced him to me.

I think it very extraordinary that at that time, when the people were saying that Farr was one of the men that plundered the ballot boxes in the town of Goderich, this hon. gentleman was quite ready to meet him. The only witness who would dare to face the evidence of Pritchett is a man named Lewis, and he traversed the statement made by Pritchett. But, here is what Chief Justice Meredith said of this man Lewis in the Waterloo case:

That the witness Lewis was a party to it is also established—notwithstanding his denial by oath—by an overwhelming weight in quality as well as quantity of evidence. After hearing his own evidence, one is not surprised to hear of his being engaged in bribery and other corrupt practices.

I would like to have time to go further into this matter, but I have to go away; but, we have now such a state of things revealed that unless the government will inquire into the charges made and probe them to the utmost, it will stand condemned before the people. It will not do for the government to set up a clever lawyer, such as the hon. junior member for Halifax, to make a nisi prius defence of these scoundrels; it will not do for the government to have a clever lawyer, like my hon. friend the Solicitor General, get up and make a kind of defence of Pritchett, as he did last night. Of course, he did not actually take

a brief from Pritchett, but he made a kind of defence of him. That will not help him at all, and certainly it will not help the government.

Let me call attention to this fact, that as soon as the Committee on Privileges and Elections met last session, for some reason or other the government appeared to have come to the decision that the men who were accused of these corrupt practices were persons who had to be shielded by prominent Liberals and ministers of the Crown. The proceedings of these hon. gentlemen in the committee at once revealed that course of action, and why was such a course taken? No doubt because these men were workers in the interest of the Liberal party. That is the only inference that can be drawn, and we find that the leaders of the Liberal organization, such men as Smith, were here in close consultation with one of the ministers of the Crown, and we can readily conceive his exclaiming: What are you doing?

Cummings! Why, this man Cummings is a worker for the Liberal party; why are you going to level the thunders of inquiry, the thunders of parliamentary reprobation at him? So, we had the spectacle of ministers of the Crown and leading Liberals trying to burk that inquiry when it was going on; and now we have a government taking its stand on a position which can never get the approval of Canada. For Canada is sound at heart; the mass of the Liberal party are sound at heart; and, Sir, you will never get the old Liberal party, the party whose heart found expression in that leader in the *Globe* that I have just quoted, and the leader in the *Globe* that I quoted, to back up the government in the stand it takes with the Pritchetts—for Pritchett was driven out by accident from the ranks of the party—the Vances, the Smiths, the Farris, and the Cap Sullivans. And, as I say, what we are face to face with to-day is that what should be the proud government of the greatest of England's colonies is so closely associated with these electioneering scoundrels that they are like eels in that mudhole I described. There they are in that mudhole of political corruption. And their conduct will meet with the condign punishment and reprobation of the people of Canada.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the House will agree with me when I say that the dramatic effort to which we have just listened has seldom been equalled in this House. When Dante in his old age used to go through the streets of Florence, the Florentines would say: 'There walks the man who walked through hell.' When I heard the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Davin's) dramatic effort in reading that affidavit, I felt: Ah, you have been there; you have been through it all. And I will show, before I sit down—and I trust the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin)

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will not leave—by witnesses from his own constituency, that he is here by purchased votes. It is a well-known maxim, that the man who goes into court to seek equity must have clean hands. Now, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) may want to go away, I will refer to the matter first.

Mr. DAVIN. I will stay until six o'clock to oblige you.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I will not detain the hon. gentleman. This is a late revelation. Two days ago, the hon. gentleman insisted that certain papers should be brought down. As they related to a Nova Scotian, I was curious to see what they contained. They related to the case of Mr. Gass, a native of Nova Scotia, and a man of very respectable family, who was postmaster at Moosejaw, in the constituency of the hon. gentleman.

Mr. SPROULE. What has that to do with the question before the House?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) will listen—well, no, I should not. The papers were brought down, as I said, relating to the dismissal of that postmaster. For the reasons I have explained, I wanted to know why he was dismissed. I discovered, on reading the papers, that he had been dismissed for partisanship of a very reprehensible character. And, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), in place of protecting this man, has brought attention to himself, and so, to these matters, he will understand why I refer to the case. Mr. Gass was accused of having done certain things—for example, celebrating the withdrawal of the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Davin) petition against return; canvassing; being chairman of the Conservative committee; and lastly, writing for 'the stuff' on behalf of the hon. gentleman. All I need refer to is one letter written by Mr. Gass to Mr. Hamilton, a barrister in Regina, who was a friend and supporter of the hon. gentleman, to see a Mr. Hamilton, who, I understand, is the chairman of the Conservative Association in that district. The letter is as follows:

Moosejaw, June 17, 1896.

Dear Sir,—We received word from Wood Mountain to-day by a man from there who said there was only about four or five there going to vote for Mr. Davin, and the rest was for McInnis; you had better wire Thompson, also send what we were speaking about by morning's mail, or lend some.

Yours in haste,
(Sgd.) C. A. GASS.

Mr. Hamilton,
Barrister, Regina, Assa.

I took the trouble to look up the Wood Mountain polling district. There were twenty-nine voters there. Of these, twenty-seven voted. One ballot was rejected, leaving twenty-six votes to be counted. I

discovered that not four or five, but sixteen in that election voted for the hon. gentleman, leaving only ten for his opponent, and putting the hon. gentleman in the constituency equal with the man who opposed him. Now, I draw the inference, a much clearer inference than any the hon. gentleman drew, that 'the stuff' went into that district, and that the difference between five votes and sixteen, that is eleven votes, represented the effect of it; in other words, that eleven votes were purchased with 'the stuff.' And this man rises here and talks like a moral cyclone! He would give us to suppose that in him was contained all the morality of the world. But, the inference is clear, clearer than any inference he drew from the affidavit he read, that 'the stuff' that went into Wood Mountain polling subdivision, had its effect, that flagrant corruption was practised, that this is a purchased community, and that he sits here as the representative of purchased votes.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I appeal to hon. gentlemen on this side if that is not much clearer than the wild declamation we heard a few moments ago. As the hon. gentleman closed his hands like a saint in prayer, I said to myself: What an exhibition? You would think that this man never had any 'stuff' in his elections, and that a Hamilton and a Thompson never had anything to do with his election. Now, all that I am going to say about that is, that I am not in favour of corruption, but I am not going to be a hypocrite and say that this country is so pure that corruption is a new and almost unknown thing. The truth is, and a man will admit that if he is honest, that, unfortunately, there is not an election run in Canada but there is something wrong about it.

Mr. DAVIN. There never was a cent improperly spent in West Assinibola.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). How does that statement compare with this letter by Mr. Gass? He says that they were talking about the money and begs Mr. Hamilton to send it; but, if it had all gone out of his hands, if it had been all paid over to the man who was running, he should lend more. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) says that there never was a cent improperly spent in West Assinibola, I will not accept his statement or that of any member of the House of Commons who says the same thing. I can understand the case of the man who has fifteen hundred or sixteen hundred majority, but there is no man who runs in a close constituency but, at times, his friends do things that are wrong. And the man who says that not a dollar has been spent improperly in the constituency, will not be believed in this House or in his constituency, because the facts are against him. I am only showing

how easy it is to talk morals when a man does not take his own conduct into consideration; how easy it is for a man to pose as a purist when he has so short a memory as to forget his past, or so dull a conscience as to ignore it. I only show the consistency of the man who, as I say, with the fury of a moral cyclone, thunders his philippics against corruption in this country. If he is satisfied with what he has brought upon himself, I think the House is. Now, where do we stand as regards this investigation? I want first of all to emphasize what my hon. friend the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) has said. He threw out a challenge. Every student of English history knows that the English parliament was at one time a court as well as a parliament, and that when the functions were divided, the one went to the judicial and the other to the legislative body. Now, my hon. friend the junior member for Halifax said that we could inquire into anything, but the result would be inoperative because we could not put it into execution. Suppose, for example, the case of the member for Assinibola West (Mr. Davin), this House could inquire into the fact that he received \$175 of money that he never gave any consideration for; we could inquire into that, but our trouble would be that we could do no more than inquire and show it was wrong. We could not get the money back, there is no method of execution by which we could get it by civil process or criminal process. Therefore, the whole thing would be inoperative. The hon. gentleman does not seem to understand the functions. I suppose he might be prosecuted for \$400, but I am sure of this, that he is thankful there is no power in his parliament that can collect it or enforce a verdict, should such a verdict be given. Therefore where do we stand? One year ago we were asked to investigate the case of two returning officers.

Mr. DAVIN. I want to ask the hon. gentleman a question. Does he say here that I received \$400, for which I gave no value?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I said no such thing. I stated a supposititious case,— 'supposing the hon. gentleman.' I know a little too much to refer to what has taken place before a committee in another place, you will not catch me on that. I was stating a supposititious case, and I would make it \$200, or I would make it \$403, but I took \$400 in place of \$403. Now a year ago we were asked to investigate two cases in West Huron and two cases alone, and only as against deputy returning officers. We were asked to inquire into the Brockville election without any specification of any officer. We did inquire, and in reply to any charge that may be brought against this side of the House or against the Premier, the Premier distinctly said: Yes, inquire into that. Now we can inquire

into anything. There is nothing to prevent this parliament from inquiring into the debts due by every man in Canada to another man; there is nothing to prevent this parliament from inquiring into a case of murder, nothing at all. We can do what we like; but when we have done it we cannot give any kind of force or execution to our work. Hon. gentlemen opposite are forgetting that distinction, which was pointed out by the junior member for Halifax.

Well, we went into that investigation, and we spent many days over these two cases. I thought this year we were to have something new. I thought this year there were other deputy returning officers who did not do their duty. The hon. senior member for Halifax and his friends had the whole year to find out if there was anything else wrong in West Huron, and the whole year to find one specific charge in Brockville; and I thought this year we were to have a specific resolution setting out new things and asking this committee to inquire. But when I found it was the same old resolution that we had to inquire into, the same resolution that we had already spent days inquiring into, I said to myself: What, we did inquire into this, and nothing was proved; and now we are going on to spend the time of members of parliament inquiring into a thing that the fullest opportunity was given to inquire into, and nothing was proved. So far as the evidence that was given before that committee was concerned, I want to refer to what the member for Colchester (Mr. McClure) said, namely, that not only every voter got a ballot from the returning officer, went into the room, marked the ballot, came out, delivered the ballot to the returning officer, saw it in almost every case deposited in the box, and both the Conservative and Liberal scrutineers were there looking closely at everything that was done. But that was not all. When the poll closed the box was opened and counted in the presence of the Conservative agents, the result was totted up and returned to the presiding officer for the riding, and, he took away that list, and that list stands to-day. Now I ask any man in his senses, supposing himself to be a juror, and throwing aside for the moment all his political views, what conclusion would he come to on those facts?

Mr. DAVIN. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him for a moment? I think the hon. gentleman won't object to the fairness of my asking him to read the report of the inspector. I think he ought to read Inspector McLeod's report.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I will before I sit down. As I was saying, the ballots were all counted, and all parties agreed as to the number, the box was closed, the ballots put back again, and the number as found then is the number to-day. I ask any man, if he can throw aside his political pre-

judices for a moment, whether he would not come to the conclusion that so far as that deputy returning officer was concerned there was no wrong-doing.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Did not all that take place in West Huron? Were there not scrutineers, and were not the ballots put in in presence of the scrutineers?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I know nothing about West Huron, it was not before the committee, and I prefer not to go into a discussion of a subject that was not before the committee. I do not need to find any explanation at all for those men who gave testimony, that is not the business of this House. I want to emphasize that this committee had to do with Mr. Cummings, and I ask any honest and honourable man in this House to put himself in the place of the man that was watching the box in the interest of the Conservative party, who swears that he saw all that was done right up to the time the last vote was polled, saw every ballot counted, saw the returning officer take away the list, which list remains to-day; and I ask any hon. gentleman if he could listen for a moment to anybody telling him that he was either blind, or careless, and that the polls were manipulated. I can understand that if the same ballot that was given was not shown to have gone into the box, there might be something. And remember, Mr. Speaker, we were only trying this one thing—the wrong-doing of the presiding officer. There was nothing else beyond that. I know that hon. gentlemen opposite did not start out for that. I think there is no lawyer on the other side of the House but will admit that when a case is specifically stated, if he wants to go into that he is confined to it, and I feel pretty sure that the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) never intended anything except looking into these two cases. I believe that he did not, but moved by the forces from behind who wanted either to cover their past or to lay the foundation to work themselves back into power, and they will have to do that if they ever expect to get in, he was shoved forward, and he tries to make out by his speech an entirely different case from that which he made out before and he makes an entirely different case from that which he specifies in his resolution. I may be asked: What about these voters? Well, if I have to say anything, I will say, that, as a juror, I come to the conclusion, as was said before, that these men are mistaken. I will not say deliberately mistaken, but, there is not a lawyer who tries a case in a court but finds this to be true that a witness begins by saying that a certain thing took place; he repeats it to a neighbour, and he goes on repeating it until what did take place may be entirely different from what he honestly thought did take place. He will go into court and swear that what he has stated is

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true, and if he is dishonest, he will do it all the more willingly. You must remember, as was pointed out, that these voters were men in an ordinary condition of life. They did not understand, in the first place, what they were signing, and there is always, in a man's positive statement a fear that his neighbour will find out how he voted. Consequently, after having made the statement, he must swear to it. It is a common expression, 'I will swear.' Once he has made a statement, he says, 'I will swear to it,' and he does. It happens every day in court. There is not a lawyer in this parliament to-day but has had the same experience again and again in court. Our minds are deceptive. Our minds take in certain ideas, and after a couple of days, or weeks, these ideas become to us realities, which, at first, were only shadowy things. But, added to that, is the fact that there is the reason that they should swear as they sign. They felt that their honour was at stake and they feared that they would be the laughing-stock of the community. Men could say to them: You signed a paper, but you did not swear to it. And I can understand how it is that these men say: Perhaps, after all, it is the case. At least, it is the safest thing for us, all around to do. They are like a Scotchman who one time amazed even his confederate in crime by swearing distinctly that his confederate was not there. He said, knowing the judge, who was a fearful man in his punishments—and these men have the fear of public opinion as the Scotchman had of the judge—that he had sworn as he had because he said: 'I would rather trust my destiny with a merciful covenant-keeping God than you judge.' We, who have practised in the courts can appreciate how these things come about. The hon gentleman said that there were two things required. First, we ought to inquire into a system of corruption, and secondly, we ought to amend the criminal law. This parliament cannot inquire into a system of corruption. The courts are for that, or a commission. This parliament, as I said, has the inherent power to do it, but you might as well expect that the power given to the courts in other things would be exercised by this parliament as that jurisdiction should be exercised in this case. My second point is that if the hon. member for Western Assinibola (Mr. Davin) is not very busy he can frame, in a few minutes an amendment to the criminal law, submit it to parliament and it can be passed. If he does that I will promise him my support, and if he mentions in that change anything about this Mr. — I forget the gentleman's name whose affidavit he so dramatically read—Pritchett, I would suggest that he might strike at him too. It struck me that the very circumstantiality of that affidavit of Pritchett is the best proof that it is a lie. Any person who has read what has been said in regard to the affidavits of Titus Oates will remember that there it was

said that there never were any written papers that went into a matter with greater circumstantiality than these did. They were so circumstantial and they went into such detail that actually the judges could not conceive that any man could lie as the affidavits of Titus Oates did. Not only that, but the affidavits of his confederates were of the same character. Let any man read the accounts of these trials. I am sure my hon. friend must have read them. He must have forgotten a strong point brought out in them, and it was that their very weakness was disclosed when it was discovered that the affidavits were so precise and so circumstantial in every detail. An honest man does not go minutely into details. It is only a man who has studied who does that. I wish that this affidavit of Pritchett had been taken in Canada. I am not acting as counsel for any of the men that he speaks about, but I will guarantee to the hon. member, or to any hon. member on the other side of the House, that, if Pritchett's affidavit is made before a competent authority in Canada, where he can be prosecuted I will resign my seat, if not less than a dozen of these people cannot have him in jail and prove him to be a perjurer.

Mr. BENNETT. Will the hon. gentleman allow me a question?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Yes.

Mr. BENNETT. Is the hon. gentleman not aware that a week ago this same man Pritchett, in the town of St. Thomas, gave evidence of a similar character against a large number of men, and furthermore, is he aware, or will he not agree that having given that evidence under oath he is now liable to prosecution in the province of Ontario by the provincial government, who have the conducting of criminal prosecutions?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman is attempting to run away to another county. I am talking about these two counties. I am not going to turn aside and go into Ontario government matters. The hon. gentleman thinks that when a man is speaking of Dominion matters he is going to introduce local elections on the same ground. I am speaking of an affidavit which is made in reference to an election held in Brockville, and if that affidavit is made in Canada I will guarantee that he will have enough of it. The strange think about it is where the affidavit was made. I want to say further, that it was stated and not denied—I make the exact statement which was made and not denied—that there does exist a warrant issued by hon. gentlemen opposite or their friends for the arrest of that man, and they have it or they have destroyed it. Now, is that the kind of men who want to bring criminals to justice? Put that one fact alongside of all their vaporings and moral

ravings that we have heard this afternoon, and where do they stand? It was very strange indeed that the affidavits of this man Pritchett were got in the United States.

Mr. TAYLOR. He was over there working for the Liberal party.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Indeed. Why does not your party take an affidavit from Pritchett here, where he could be indicted for perjury. Oh, no, the Conservatives took very good care to follow the man to the United States, and not to get his affidavit in Canada.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). The Liberal party paid him to stay there.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Then the Tory party must have paid him more to induce him to come back.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock, I reached a point in discussing the motion of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), where I was attempting to show that the result of our investigation last year proved clearly, that in the two cases specified there was nothing to indicate that the two deputy returning officers were guilty of any wrong-doing. I have mentioned, that acting as a jurymen on that occasion. I could only come to one conclusion, and that is, that so far as they were concerned they did nothing that was wrong. Whatever might be said about what happened in West Huron, I believe that the two specific cases that were referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections were not proven. Therefore, if I am correct, there was an absolute failure before the committee last year to prove the charges specified. I had hoped this year, when the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) spoke about bringing up this case, that he would have acted as he would in court, and have consented to a non-suit upon the cases he laid last year, and then specifically made new allegations and a new case this year. I can understand very well how, after the investigation made during the year, he might have discovered new evidence (if there was any to discover) and if the affidavit he read this year were true, it gave him sufficient basis to make out an entirely new case this year to send before the committee. I am bound to say that had he specifically made new allegations this year, and dropped those of last year, that we would feel on general principles that, following the precedent of last year, they ought to go before the committee. But even with that affidavit, the hon. member (Mr. Borden) did not feel that there was one new statement in it, that would warrant him in making one other charge so far as West Huron was

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concerned. He either must have felt that the affidavit did not contain in itself any evidence on which he could formulate a charge against any other returning officer in West Huron, or—and this is what probably occurred to him—he felt that the affidavit was of such a character that it could not be believed, and that no charge could be made on it. There was another course that I thought perhaps the hon. gentleman might take. Failing to make a new statement on the lines laid down by last year's motion, then if the statement is correct that there was widespread corruption, so ruinous in its tendency, it would seem to me that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) would have made a motion calculated to stop this corruption that is stalking all over the Dominion, and that he would have put the government to the test by asking them to appoint a commission of judges to inquire into it. He would have at least the action of the Ontario government to quote in favour of that course. Not that such a commission would as a matter of course be granted; but it would at least put him upon the ground that would appeal to both sides of the House and, I think, to the country, as indicating, first, his belief in the existence of widespread corruption, and, secondly, his earnest and prayerful desire that it should be put down. But what does the hon. gentleman do? With that shrewdness for which he is noted, he says: 'I will do just what I did last year; I was safe in doing that; I did not prove it last year, and I will be limited by the narrow bounds I laid down for myself before the Committee on Privileges and Elections last year; and I will make it appear to the country that when we went before that committee, we had no opportunity.' The country would not understand until the explanation was given, that the inquiry was limited to the very words he chose himself to attach to that inquiry, and consequently no House, as no court that consulted its own dignity, would for a moment permit this motion to go beyond it. We stand, therefore, just where the hon. gentleman's motion now puts us. He moves just as before:

That the poll books, voters' lists, and all other papers, letters and documents and memoranda relating to the last election for the electoral district of Brockville and the last election for the electoral district of the west riding of the county of Huron, which were referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections during the last session of the House, and also all proceedings and evidence had, given, taken or received by or before the said Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections during the last session of this House respecting the matters aforesaid, be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections appointed during the present session of this House, for further consideration, and for the purpose of inquiring into and investigating the conduct of the respective returning officers and of the several deputy returning and other officers at and in connection with the said several elections respectively, and of reporting thereon with all convenient speed.

This limits the inquiry in the same way as before ; therefore, we cannot go beyond that just now ; we are bound by that. Now, is it worth insisting on what the result would be, if we went into an inquiry into the conduct of every returning officer both in West Huron and in Brockville ? I was amazed when my hon. friend the junior member for Halifax, asked the opposition, what would you do, provided you inquired and discovered that there was a wrong ? He said, what I thought was not only good common sense, but good law. 'The most you could do, would be to imprison, and your imprisonment would end with the termination of the session.' Now this is a remarkable thing, and I call the attention of the House and the country to it. Was there an hon. gentleman opposite, who ever attempted either to find out that we could do that, or to support their position by showing when it was ever done ? And there are abundant opportunities for them to find out what has been done from time immemorial in this respect. Previous to confederation, all election petitions in Canada were tried by parliament ; and previous to fifty years ago, I believe, every election petition in England, was tried before the House of Commons itself. So that, there would be many cases tried and decisions had, and if any case could be found to support the contention of hon. gentlemen opposite, there would be no difficulty in finding it—that a returning officer had done something wrong, and parliament had dealt with him. As a matter of fact, they could not find a case, because parliament would not put into effect any punishment outside of construing the party's conduct as a contempt and imprisoning him. What end would be gained, then, Mr. Speaker ? What end is desired to be gained ? It does seem to me that the whole purpose of this is not the purifying of the electorate of this country, but attempting to find, in the present bankrupt condition of the Conservative party of any issue, some little matter which they could bring before the electors to show that something was wrong with the government. Need I repeat, Mr. Speaker, what has been said so often, that if this widespread state of corruption had prevailed, why did not the hon. gentleman go into court ? Why did not the party as a whole, do so, in the interest of the purity of the electorate, in the interest of themselves, if their statement is truthful, that the party now in power are debauching the electorate of this country, in order to maintain themselves in power ? Might I suggest that if they were honest, and if that was the state of things, they would have conduced much more to their further advancement as a party, if they had taken that course, instead of simply speaking here without taking any action ?

I was very much amused at the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler). For a gentleman who has on more than one occasion proclaimed himself as independent,

he is the strangest exhibition of independency I ever saw. Here is a man who says he is so independent, and before he was done he made a more bitter speech than I have heard made even from the oldest sinners on the other side, who have lived in their—

Mr. CASGRAIN. Their juice.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I would not speak of the hon. gentleman who has just spoken in that way, though I believe he did take a hand in local politics in the same direction, and I do not think he has been here long enough to learn all that he will learn from his associates around him. But fancy a man rising in his place to proclaim himself independent, and making this bitter speech. Was it fair for him to indicate that there was something wrong, for example, in connection with the Drummond road ? These were his words : 'The Drummond deal,' he called it, 'an iniquitous transaction.' Fancy if you can, Mr. Speaker, an hon. gentleman of his ability, surrounded by other hon. gentlemen of great ability, moving and having a being with such a brilliant man and lawyer as the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), and coming from that province, and not a single step taken to bring that iniquitous transaction to light ? Just fancy, for example, a man saying, crime is everywhere, I saw it committed,' and standing by and making no effort to prosecute it ? And fancy the condition of this independent member who sits in this House and permits an infamous transaction of that kind to be committed, which only means that this country has been robbed, and not having the manliness to push an inquiry and see the parties brought to justice ? Does he think that the country is going to accept a statement so sweeping and strongly put, and which is contradicted by his own conduct in sitting in this House in silent and slavish inaction ? Might not he himself be charged with criminal conduct in that regard ? One would suppose that the hon. gentleman would have been careful to guard himself against admitting that any such transactions occurred while he sat in this House and drew no attention to it. When I heard him make that statement, I could not understand what was the matter with him. I felt that he was not himself at all, and that somebody must have provoked him into forgetting himself. I would not, I trust, bring charges like that across the House and then confess that I was imbecile enough and helpless enough to sit here during five sessions, without having had the manliness of endeavouring at least to have some action taken to bring the perpetrators of the wrongs now complained of to justice. It is very curious, when one comes to sift these things down, to find how easy it is to make statements, and how easily hon. gentlemen will content themselves with making general statements. Here we have hon. gentlemen op-

posite making such wild statements, and not one of them with sufficient manliness to take his political life in his hands by rising in this House and making a direct, specific charge. I should think that when guilty of such want of manliness, of such imbecility, to remain silent would be their best course. For, after all, is it not more manly to act well than to speak ill? Is it not rather an indication of the pluck and ability of a man that he should bring to justice the wrong-doers, than that he should simply content himself with vague and general allegations of wrong-doing? I see very little difference between making a general statement about one man and making it about a whole party. Suppose, for example, I were to say that all hon. members on the opposite side were corrupt, and yet was not manly enough to stand up in my place, and make a direct specific charge and attempt to prove it—

Mr. CRAIG. You did say that we were all corrupt a while ago. The hon. gentleman said that there was not a member in this House who was elected except by corrupt practices.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I did not say anything of the kind, but I did say this, and this even the virtuous member for East Durham (Mr. Craig) will not deny, that there is not a member elected for this House, in whose election some of his friends did not do something to contravene the law. I make that statement and let there be no misunderstanding about it, and let not the hon. member for East Durham draw his cloak of political morality around it. I would venture to say that even in his county, in his election, there were violations of the Act committed by his choicest and best friends.

Mr. CRAIG. You would venture to say anything at all.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I will not only venture to say that of the hon. member's election, but will venture to say it concerning the election of any member of this House. I would not charge any hon. member with violating the law. I never said that a member of parliament would do that.

Mr. CRAIG. The hon. gentleman has spoken about other hon. members making general statements, and all that sort of thing, but what is he now doing? No man has the right to venture to say anything unless he knows it.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Let me, first of all, draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that I am not uttering a single word against any hon. gentleman on that side. I am simply making the general statement, which applies to any county in the Dominion of Canada—which

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applies to myself as well as every other hon. member in this House—namely, that no member of parliament ever ran a contested election in which some violation of the law relating to elections was not committed by some of his friends. And when the hon. member for East Durham poses as a virtuous man, seized with righteous indignation on hearing such a statement, he only brings himself into contempt. Such is the state of things in this world that you cannot have it otherwise, and I only made this statement to show this House what little value we can attach to these general charges of corruption. Let me make this further statement to show that I am not actuated by any personal animus. I had an election petition over my head, on which 120 witnesses were heard, and I was sustained in my seat.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
By a close shave.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not at all. The chief justice and Justice Maher, who tried the case, were two as good justices as we could desire to try any case, and they had no possible sympathy with me or my friends, and I mention this to show that I am not talking about any man in particular, but about all members of parliament—and I have no doubt in my election, some of my friends did things—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Oh, no.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Oh, yes, and the hon. gentleman knows very well of a great many things that are done in elections. What else could be expected? All I have to say is that the Act of parliament relating to elections is so drawn that it is as impossible for a man to run an election contest and keep exactly within the law as it is for any man in this House to keep within the moral law as there laid down.

Mr. CLANCY. That would be a very convenient thing for the hon. gentleman to announce to his constituents.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). There would be nothing inconvenient at all about it.

Mr. CLANCY. I said convenient.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Or convenient. No doubt the hon. gentleman who interrupts me would not make such a statement concerning himself, for fear he might be called upon to account for it. But let us understand the position I take. What I have said was not intended to cast a reflection on that side or this, but simply to show that what occurred in West Huron, even as indicated by hon. gentlemen opposite, is not beyond what occurred in hundreds of cases not inquired into. Let me

give you, Mr. Speaker, one case down in the county of Cape Breton. This is what happened in that particular case. Two cargoes of oats were bought, one of which was paid for by the then member for the county—I do not know whether its present representative was then the member or not—and the man who paid for it got his money back. But the second cargo was shipped direct to the hon. member, and was distributed for nothing among his electors, and the poor man who sold the cargo said he never got a dollar for it, although the party opposite got the benefit. But will it be said that corruption was rampant in the province of Nova Scotia because of that individual case? And even admitting that all that is alleged to have occurred did occur in West Huron, and even supposing that wrong was committed in Brockville, are we therefore to conclude that this country is corrupt from end to end? I only mention these things to point out to hon. gentlemen opposite that when they make the wild statement they do, they show simply that they do not understand the conditions that will be found to exist in every country, or are simply wilfully misunderstanding them in order to try and be effective.

We ought not to go into this matter because we went into it last year and the case failed completely, and because there is now before us no new statement which would warrant our bringing the case again before the committee. Because, I agree with the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), that this was not the proper tribunal before which to try such a case. I am ready to maintain that this House is as good as any House of Commons or any House of parliament in the world. Yet, I will venture to say that there is not a member here, not even excepting the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler), who is absolutely free from party bias. There are hon. gentlemen opposite who are apt to think that nothing outside of their own party can be good. The way in which hon. members on both sides fly at a question indicates that we are not of the character of independent judges. So long as we are in politics, we cannot try a party question in this House free from party bias. Any man in this House who said we could would be laughed at even by his own friends. If a question relating to an election comes here, you cannot have it treated from an independent point of view, no matter what party is in power. Hence, the wisdom of this parliament delegating this work to the courts, which were absolutely outside of politics and can take an independent view. Does any man deny that that was a proper course to take? I did not object to following up the question so far as the conduct of these officials was concerned, though I cannot subscribe to the doctrine that these were officials of this

parliament. But, I am not going so much into that question; but when I hear such speeches as I have already heard from hon. gentlemen opposite and as will probably be repeated, I cannot but feel that party feeling prevents this from being a proper court in which to try such questions as are involved in these cases. It is difficult for a man in politics to forget his party, just as it is difficult for a man to be uninfluenced by the fact that he was brought up a Baptist, a Methodist or a Presbyterian.

I oppose this motion also because I think it would not be wise for this parliament to spend more money and occupy more time with those matters that should be devoted to other purposes. Do hon. gentlemen opposite think that they are going to help their cause simply by making these general statements and using hard words? I ask, in all candour, if these general charges of bribery, criminal acts, dreadful corruptions, ulcers of corruption—if all these charges and hard words are going to serve any useful end? Do these hon. gentlemen think that the people of this country are so ignorant as to believe that, even admitting, for the sake of argument, that there was wrong-doing in West Huron—none has ever been shown in Brockville—this shows universal corruption throughout the country? If hon. gentlemen opposite think that they are furthering the good of this country, the purity of election or their own advantage in making these general statements, I can only say I do not agree with them. If I were unkind enough, I might retort in kind. I might show wrong-doing in various counties represented by hon. gentlemen opposite, giving instances from every province of the Dominion, and might infer from that that there was general wrong-doing throughout the country. But, I forbear from that for two reasons—first, that that would not be an excuse for wrong-doing by others; and, second, that it would not prove any general corruption. But the people know that, even if the two cases brought forward had been proved to the hilt, that is not sufficient reason for putting in a party with such a record as that of the party of hon. gentlemen opposite. But, I will not go into that. I say they have not made out a case, and, therefore, I believe we should not enter upon it. Hon. gentlemen opposite may think differently; that does not make my position right or theirs right. But, holding the views I do, I shall oppose the motion in favour of sending these cases again to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, where they failed so ignominiously last time. I suppose we must bear these general statements and these violent charges. For my part, I am perfectly content to do so. But, I maintain that I can make out a stronger case against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) who preceded me than he has made out against those whom he has attacked, even if his strong language was all sup-

ported by testimony. I do not say for a moment that, strong as that case is, the hon. gentleman was elected by corruption, but only—

Mr. CLANCY. Order.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). What is the point of order?

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) is referring by innuendo to proceedings in a committee of this House.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) is mistaken, I made no such statement. If he had been here he might have understood what I said. A little more attention and discretion would save us time. I said that I can establish a much stronger case to show that the hon. member for West Assiniboia was returned by corruption than any statement he made, even if it had been supported by evidence. But, had I the right, even though I had the evidence there, to say: You were returned by corruption? I have ten thousand times a better case and a better right to make that statement than has any hon. gentleman to make the statement about the state of things that exists with respect to elections. Therefore, in that view of the matter, having regard to the best interests of this country, we will not any further proceed in this matter. The courts, as I said, are open. I said to the hon. gentlemen opposite that it was a strange thing they did not have the evidence of that honourable man who they say made that affidavit, sworn to in this country. I pledge myself if they got a new affidavit exactly like that sworn to in this country, that every man he has lied about will see to it that he will soon find himself behind the bars. I am talking about the affidavit he made relating to the matter under discussion, and I pledge the hon. gentlemen opposite that if they will get this man to repeat that affidavit in so far as West Huron and Brockville are concerned, he will be behind the bars in twenty-four hours. But they dare not do it. Let them put in our hands the evidence they can give, they seem to be able to get an affidavit from him, and an honest man should not be ashamed to make a second affidavit to confirm his first one.

Mr. SPROULE. Bring him before the committee and make him swear to it.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Bring him before the committee? Why didn't the hon. gentleman have him up last year? And so they expect that upon an affidavit made by a confessed perjurer and swindler they will show such corruption in this country as will arouse the people. Well, if they can do nothing better than that, I wish them God-speed, and even that speed won't save them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I trust that we should

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soon get to an end in this matter, and that we should proceed to do the business of the country which we were sent here to perform. If any end could be served, any good purpose gained, any punishment inflicted on the guilty by the proposition of the senior member for Halifax, I would assist him. But this whole thing will be abortive, and I refuse to be carried away to spend my time in investigating that which never can amount to anything. I refuse to do it just as much as I would refuse to attempt to try a criminal case in a court that had no jurisdiction, or try a civil case in a court of criminal jurisdiction only.

I promised the hon. member for Assiniboia to read, as I did in his absence, what the committee said about Mr. Gass's statement. I went on to show that the case was stronger than even the untrammelled statement made by the hon. gentleman himself, and on which I might found, if I were so inclined, a strong case showing that the hon. gentleman was returned by corruption.

The charge that Mr. Gass wrote a post card to Mr. Davin at Regina asking for 'more stuff' was, in the main, sustained. The communication was not by postal card to Mr. Davin, but by letter card, asking for 'what we were speaking about' to a Mr. Hamilton, barrister, who, it is understood, was chairman or president of the Conservative Association at Regina, the card itself marked 'Exhibit B.', was produced, and is herewith sent you. Previous to its production, Mr. Gass, whose evidence regarding the part he took in election matters was not as open and frank as it should have been, swore, as will be seen, as follows:

'I did not have any communication with Mr. Davin or any party in Regina in connection with the running of the election. I do not know who Mr. Davin's representatives on the committee in Regina were. Mr. Hamilton may have been one, but I did not write him or any other person on the subject, to the best of my knowledge.'

Upon being shown the card, he recognized the writing as his, admitting sending it, and that it was upon election matters, and stated that he had nothing to say in explanation except that he had forgotten about it.

That was the statement which the member for Assiniboia asked me to read, and I do so with the greatest pleasure, because I wanted it to become part of the record. I regret that a good friend from Nova Scotia should have been put in that position, and I regret all the more that the member for West Assiniboia should have insisted upon the production of a paper which I think, to say the least of it, would be better kept back, and which the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) did not want to bring down. If such friendship as that is exercised by hon. members on behalf of their constituents, I do not think it results very much to their advantage. Having these views which I have just expressed on the question before the House, I need scarcely say that I should vote against the resolution of the hon. the senior member for Halifax.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I have been rather struck with the fact that in these serious charges made against the government by the hon. the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and endorsed by other members of the opposition, the defence has fallen, not upon the members of the government because we only heard one of them attempt to defend the course that they are taking—but upon a number of gentlemen who, it is asserted rightly or wrongly, are looking for the ermine to be placed upon their shoulders. I think, Sir, I would have had more confidence in their integrity, and in their good judgment, and in their knowledge of the law, if they had not spoken as they have on this question now before the House. What does the member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) tell us? What does the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) tell us, when confronted with the statements of this man Pritchett, one of their colleagues, one of their servants, one of their trusted agents in the past? The member for Guysborough says: Why don't you bring him here, why don't you get him to make these affidavits on this side of the line, and if he does, within twenty-four hours we will have him locked up in jail. Sir, it was pointed out that he is in the country now, that he had appeared in St. Thomas and gave his evidence, which they say was untrue. Why not lock him up in jail? The answer of the member for Guysborough is: Why did not they bring him before the committee last year? A nice answer to give. Don't he know that last year we had not this information, that this man Pritchett had not turned Queen's evidence then, that he was in the pay of somebody at the rate of \$100 per month hiding in a foreign country, and that we could not get him here. But when the member for Guysborough pledges himself that before twenty-four hours they would have him locked up in jail if he makes certain affidavits, we refuse to accept the pledges of those hon. gentlemen. They have made pledges before which they have not redeemed, and therefore we refuse to accept their pledges until they redeem some of those that they have already made. In this very case what did they pledge themselves to do? They pledged themselves that they would have this matter investigated. The right hon. First Minister tells us what? He came before the House and earned the plaudits of the country by telling us that he was going to see that justice was done if the very heavens should fall. He said:

The purity of elections must be guarded at all costs. Such is the sanctity of the ballot, such is the sanctity of the rights of the people which they must exercise whenever they are called upon at the polls. . . . If wrong has been done at these elections, nobody ought to be shielded. If any one has contravened the law, it is fair and right that this should be investigated, and that we should know henceforth and for ever that the will of the people must

be expressed as the people wish to express it, however severe the consequences may be on one side or the other.

There was the pledge made by the right hon. leader of the government himself to the parliament and to the people of Canada. How has that pledge been redeemed? To-day they utterly ignore it. As the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) says, that was a too hasty conclusion; that was a wrong conclusion. They must come to a different conclusion to-day, and the conclusion they have come to to-day is that no investigation shall be permitted. Why? Because the investigation last year showed the rascality that has been perpetrated. The investigation showed last year that the ballot had been tampered with. I say, Mr. Speaker, that there is no crime greater than interfering with the free judgment of the people. You may steal a man's money, you may steal his property, but in stealing his ballot and substituting another of an opposite kind you steal something that he cannot replace and for which he has no redress if the parliament of Canada, being appealed to, as it has been appealed to, refuses to give him satisfaction or redress. The parliament of Canada is appealed to to-day. The government have been appealed to since almost the first day of the session, since the 13th of February. By various means they have burked inquiry up to to-day, and the people of Canada will hold them responsible and charge them with the responsibility if this investigation is burked and prevented. Why is it burked and prevented? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, before I am through. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) says: This is not a very serious matter after all. We are all poor, fallible mortals; we all do wrong. If you investigate men's careers politically you will find that there is no election in which some wrong-doing cannot be detected, and therefore we should not pursue a case like this. But, Mr. Speaker, we shall prove, and as we have proved, that this is a most widespread conspiracy, a most skilfully concocted plot by which the rights, the liberty, and the freedom of the people have been taken from them by a band of thieves, a band of robbers, and we shall connect that band of robbers with the ministers of the Crown and with the hon. First Minister himself. Have we not seen the First Minister and the sinister-looking Alexander Smith in this building in close communion during the present session? Have we not seen all these things? Cannot we connect them with the ministers of the Crown that I see here to-night and with some who are not here? We can connect the other ministers of the Crown with this band of thieves in the closest way, so that the conclusion is irresistible why these men are refusing an investigation. The hon. member for Guysborough says that there are strong party feelings in this House, and that this House

is not a competent judge in such matters. He says that where these men commit crime it is to be regarded as a political question. I say that where a man commits a crime it should not be regarded as a political question, but that the people of Canada will expect that their representatives in parliament will rise above party prejudices, will rise above party strife and will pursue, as the right hon. First Minister pledged himself that he would pursue these men no matter what consequences might result. They did permit the investigation to be pursued up to a certain time. Last year 99 witnesses were summoned, they were brought before the committee, particularly for one thing—to show how they had voted in the election so as to confirm the affidavits that 43 men had made that they had voted for Mr. McLean. I remember the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) getting up and protesting against the hon. member for Kingston taking up the time of the committee and protesting that he was simply killing time by the examination of witnesses, not for the purpose of eliciting evidence, but for the purpose of blocking the investigation, and that was evidently his purpose just as the purpose of the hon. gentleman to-day is to block any further investigation. He has declared so, and other hon. members who have spoken have also declared their intention to prevent further investigation. The hon. member for Guysborough told us that we should not spend any more time over it, and that we should not spend any more money over it. He said that we would not be justified in taking any further notice of it. Let it go; it is only a trivial matter anyway; we have devoted a good deal of time to it, and we should not devote any more. The hon. member for Guysborough and the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) asked: What about this warrant that was taken out by Messrs. Fleming and Barker? And they asked: What was done with that warrant? I am not a lawyer, but I think I know enough of law to say that these hon. gentlemen do not display very much knowledge of the procedure in the case of a criminal charged with any crime. So far as I know the law, when a man is charged with a crime, the charge is made against him, and the whole case goes into the hands of the officers of the Crown. The prosecuting attorney, or the county crown attorney takes charge of it, he puts the warrant into the hands of the sheriff, or the bailiff, or their officers, and they have full charge of it.

Mr. COWAN. The county crown attorney never sees the warrant.

Mr. WALLACE. The county crown attorney has charge of the proceedings which are under his direction. In Ontario the Liberal government are in power, and in Ontario the Dominion government have con-

trol of whatever justice appertains to the Dominion government. The whole machinery of the law is in the hands of the Dominion and local governments, in the hands of the Liberal party, so that they have the control and management of the men who have charge of the warrant. The warrant, if any such warrant was issued, is in the hands of their own officials and we might ask them: What has become of the warrant? What have you done with this warrant, because you have it? Your officers have it and therefore we want to know what was done with this warrant by yourselves. The hon. member for Guysborough said that there was no wrong-doing in Brockville and that wrong-doing cannot be proved. How does the hon. gentleman know that there was no wrong-doing in Brockville? Was he there? Had he control of the forces? Does he know everything that occurred in Brockville during the election? Here, we have the declaration of Pritchett, one of themselves, their trusted agent up to a certain period, and what does he say? He makes a string of affidavits, making specific, definite and particular charges, not beating around the bush, and here is something to investigate. He says:

O'Gorman also brought to me a Mr. King, who, as I understood, was a book keeper in Mr. Comstock's employment. He was to act as a deputy returning officer. O'Gorman introduced him and left. I had only one interview with King. I instructed King how to substitute false ballots, and showed him four or five times how it was done. He did not try it in my presence. I gave him fifteen false ballots. He initialled them in my presence. I removed the counterfoil, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them up, and gave them to King. I did not mention money to King, and did not see him again.

14. A man named Smith, who was to act as deputy in Elizabethtown, was brought to me by O'Gorman. I instructed Smith as I had done with the others. He practised the work in my presence and agreed to do all he could. I agreed that he should be paid \$5 for every ballot he substituted. He asked for twenty ballots and initialled them. I took off the counterfoils, marked the ballots for Comstock, folded them and handed them to Smith. The night of the election he returned the whole of them to me. I was so busy that I had no time to get his explanation. He promised to see me again. I have not seen him since.

And so on, with a whole string of definite statements as to the rascality perpetrated in the constituency of Brockville, which was stolen from the Conservative party, and handed over to the Liberals. We know that there was a regular brigade of these men, and that they went from one constituency to the other. They started their career in the first by-election at North Grey. I would like the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), to tell us all he knows about North Grey. I would like the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), to tell us all he knows about North Grey. Our friend from East Grey

Mr. WALLACE.

(Mr. Sproule), was there, and I was there for a week myself—

Mr. McMILLAN. Tell us all you know about it.

Mr. WOOD. What did you go there for ?

Mr. WALLACE. I went there and addressed a meeting every night, and the Postmaster General went there and he did not address a meeting every night, and the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Sutherland) was there, and I can assure you that he did not address a meeting every night. Well, Sir, after they had finished at North Grey, the whole of the gang went to Cornwall, and from that to East Simcoe, and from thence to North Ontario. The Postmaster General was in these two constituencies, and he was devoting his attentions between them, lying as they do side by side. He denies that he met with a Mr. Hanna there, but the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), says he knows he did, and he made that statement outside of parliament, and is amenable to the law of the land, but that law has never been invoked against the hon. member for East Simcoe, and there is no danger that it ever will. I think the gang divided their forces then, and the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland), went up there. Then came West Huron and Brockville, and the history of these two elections, if it were written, would astonish the world. Well, Sir, it will be written, and it will be investigated, and if the government think they are going to burk investigation. I tell them there is a stronger power than they are, and that face to face with the electors of this country, they will have to justify their refusal to grant an inquiry, after the First Minister had pledged his sacred honour, and the honour of his party, that there would be a thorough investigation, no matter who was hurt. They were quite content so long as Mr. Boull and Mr. Pritchett and Mr. Cap Sullivan should go to jail, but when it came to the ministers themselves, and their scalps were in danger, then they must be protected, and the investigation must be burked, and the majority at their back must be called upon to say that the pledge given by the First Minister last year shall not be redeemed, that no investigation shall take place, and that the rascalities, such as were never before heard of in Canada, shall not be exposed. Who are these men anyway, Mr. Speaker? The first of them is Mr. W. T. R. Preston. And who is Mr. W. T. R. Preston? He was the parliamentary librarian in Ontario, then he was the Liberal organizer, and then the parliamentary librarian again. He is a man with not a very good record. His uncle, Mr. John Rochester, for many years a member of this House of Commons, was forced to swear in court, that he would not believe W. T. R. Preston on oath. That is the sworn statement of his uncle in the city of

Ottawa. Preston brought in this whole gang into the elections, and here is what he swore in St. Thomas, the other day :

Q. Where did those men you brought in get their money?—A. I gave it to them.

Q. Where did you get it?—A. Collected from friends in St. Thomas some two or three hundred dollars.

Q. What did you do with this money?—A. With the exception of \$5 or \$10 to pay the band, it was given to these men for purely legitimate work.

Of course. Does any man on the other side of the House believe that this gang were brought from the four corners of Ontario for honest purposes? These men who were condemned and reported by the judges. Here is what Preston said in a speech he made in St. Thomas, not long ago :

They speak of the men who are here, as if they were gamblers and blacklegs. Not a man of them but has come here openly and at his own expense, and only out of love for the cause of good government.

That is the statement made by this man in a speech in St. Thomas, and then he swore the other day in court, that he gave them \$200 or \$300 to pay their expenses, so that they would see that there was an honest election. It reminds us of that memorable saying of John Maddiner, of London : 'Come along John, we have lots of money, and we are going to put down bribery and corruption.' This same man, this Preston, is swaggering around the corridors of parliament to-day, and why? We know, Mr. Speaker, if you do not know. It is because he has told the members of the government that they dare not prosecute him, for he knows too many of their secrets. And so they dare not put a finger on W. T. R. Preston, and they had to give him the office he demanded, with his \$3,000 a year and his travelling expenses, and his trips across the Atlantic, and his good time generally. That is the punishment the government inflicts on this man, who has been proven in the courts to have committed wrong, and who we only want an opportunity of proving was with Pritchett, was the man who manipulated all these things, and was the mouthpiece and the organ of the government of the day, for carrying on these nefarious proceedings. The next man is Mr. Alex. Smith, the organizer of the Liberal party to-day, and a man who is standing in close consultation with the government to this very hour, and a man who was spoken of by the judges in the strongest condemnatory terms. Who are the others? James Vance, McDonald, Hoppins, Thompson, Cap Sullivan, Lewis, the whole crowd. There is one man of the gang who has been brought up to contradict the statement made by Pritchett. Tom Lewis, of London, has gone into the box and has sworn that the statement of Pritchett is false. Well, Sir, Tom Lewis has been engaged in other ventures. Tom Lewis

was in the Waterloos, and what does the evidence say about Waterloo and Tom Lewis?

A. R. Shantz deposed, in substance, the following:

I was poll clerk at No. 2 division, Berlin, for the election. Wildfong came to see me previous to the election, and wanted to know if I was still a good Grit, and said he wanted a lot of young men to act as deputies, and that there would be a very good thing in it for me if I would act. He told me to meet him that night, and he would take me to one of the men who was here to instruct me about it. Next night I met Wildfong, and he told me to go to a room in the Walker House, No. 3 or 38, and he followed with Tom Lewis, of London. Wildfong introduced me to Lewis, and said Mr. Lewis would give me instructions.

Lewis sat down and proceeded to tell me what was to take place. He said they proposed to pay \$5 apiece for every ballot spoiled or switched. He took a piece of paper and put a piece of lead under his thumb, and showed me how to pick the ballot up, so that when seen it was a spoiled ballot. He showed me how to switch the ballots also, and said they would be worth the same. He said he should get all in the room to handle the ballots, so then all might be said to have a hand in what was done if there was any trouble. He said he would not pay for any more than twenty, so that \$100 was the limit a man might make in this way.

This is Tom Lewis, the only man they could get to swear that Pritchett was not telling the truth. I could quote further evidence about his man, but I will just quote the evidence which the judge, Chief Justice Meredith gave in the North Waterloo case:

That the witness Lewis was a party to it is also established—notwithstanding his denial by oath—by an overwhelming weight in quality as well as quantity of evidence. After hearing his own evidence one is not surprised to hear of his being engaged in bribery and other corrupt practices.

This is Tom Lewis, one of the precious gang who went to every local election in the province of Ontario and to every Ontario constituency in the Dominion that was opened. And, Sir, after they had stolen the ballots, after they had been guilty of every crime in the calendar, they turned round and said: 'Look at what we have done, the whole country is with us; we are sweeping the country;' and we were told the other night how many constituencies they had carried since the general election. Here is the reason why they carried them; here is the exposure of the nefarious practices by which they carried them; and yet the majority of this House are to be asked to vote to prevent any inquiry being made into the rascality that prevailed, and the wrongs done to the electorate of Canada.

Now, we are told that Pritchett is a scoundrel of the lowest type. Well, Sir, we are not going to dispute that. He was with that crowd. He was taken into every constituency where rascality was to be done; he was one of them; and the worst

character they can give him we are not going for a moment to dispute. We will accept their statement of their confrère and colleague. But Mr. Pritchett had an invention for which he could not take out a patent. He discovered a plan, which was cheaper and more certain than the old plan—a plan that was absolutely certain. He knew that when he took out twenty Conservative ballots and replaced them with twenty ballots marked for the Grit candidate, there would be a difference of forty votes in a polling subdivision; and that was easier and cheaper than buying up voters, hustling them to the poll and all the laborious work attendant on that procedure. So he made an invention; and you know, Mr. Speaker, that every inventor, in order to be successful, has to associate himself with a capitalist. The inventor is a poor man, and he associates himself with a rich man in order to succeed. Who was the rich man in this case? Was it some member of the Conservative party? Was it my friend the leader of the opposition? Was it our friend from Glengarry (Mr. McLennan)? Not a bit of it. Those gentlemen had never seen Mr. Pritchett, did not know him, had not heard of him until recent disclosures had been made. But there were some in this House who did know him. Our friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is reputed to be a man of great wealth. I wonder whether he was the capitalist that Mr. Pritchett associated himself with so as to utilize his invention. I wonder whether the Postmaster General took any of his own money for the purpose, or whether, acting as a trustee and an agent for the people of Canada, he used his trusteeship in order to make the best use of this new and valuable invention of Mr. Pritchett's? Will the Postmaster General tell us all the particulars about this? We will rely upon him when he gets up to make his statement, to unbosom himself, not to leave anything untold, but to tell us the whole story; and if he does, it will be a very interesting story indeed. But, Mr. Speaker, here is a list of men who went all over this country; they were the machine; they were the brigade who went wherever there was a by-election: Preston, Smith, Vance, D. F. McDonald, Hoppins, Thompson, Cap Sullivan, prince of pluggers, reported for corrupt practices in South Ontario; Tom Lewis, of London, who shares honours with Sullivan, reported in North Waterloo; J. G. Pritchett, ex-alderman of London, who prefers the name of M. B. Johnston, a reputable St. Thomas citizen to his own, labouring for honest government in North Waterloo, till the Conservatives, to use Mr. McNish's complaint, pursued him with a persistence worthy of a better cause. Then we have Croden and Duncan Bole. Who is Duncan Bole? One of the most finished and accomplished artists of the whole gang. Mr. Duncan Bole was a government immigration agent,

fishery and fur inspector, with a good salary and every chance of promotion until the exposures were made, until he was arrested, until he absconded on straw bail, and went to the other side; and he is drawing his salary to-day from the Grit government while he is an outlaw and a fugitive from justice. But they say Mr. Pritchett is a scoundrel too; he is an outlaw and a fugitive from justice. What did he do that he had to be a fugitive from justice? What wrong has he committed? We do not hear of his having been a burglar or a sheep stealer?

Mr. WOOD. What was the warrant you got out for him?

Mr. WALLACE. Who got out the warrant?

Mr. WOOD. Why, you did.

Mr. WALLACE. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon, I never got out a warrant for anybody in my life.

Mr. WOOD. The Conservative party did.

Mr. WALLACE. It must be an individual who gets out a warrant, and the warrant, as I explained when the hon. gentleman was not here, I presume, goes into the hands of the officers of the government. The man who swears out a warrant has no control over it. It is the officers of the Crown, who are all Grit officials, who have control over it to-day.

But, to come back to the question. This man, these hon. gentlemen say, was a fugitive from justice. What did he do? They told us that he was a fugitive from justice. Then, what did he do? Something wrong, something criminal, some crime against the laws of Canada—let them tell us what it was. They must tell us what it was. He violated the laws of the land, he stole the ballots of men entrusted with the franchise. We know that every crime in the calendar—fraud, personation, forgery, theft and arson—were committed by those gentlemen in order to shield themselves and to elect their supporters to parliament. Mr. Pritchett was guilty of those crimes on behalf of the Liberal party. They furnished him with the money to get out of the country. They furnished him with \$100 per month while he was out of the country. They had him under control, he was their agent, and they say he is a villain of the deepest dye. We will accept their statement, but he was one of this crowd that they employed. Roughly, you may divide this crowd into three parts. There was the Cap Sullivans and the Pritchetts and the Duncan Boles, and all of that crowd—all men who were clever manipulators of ballots. Our friend Pritchett was a famous inventor, as I have pointed out. The others of that crowd were clever manipulators, who assisted the government to carry many elections—to carry every election in the province of Ontario. Then, we come to the

next class—W. T. R. Preston and Alexander Smith. These are the known and recognized agents and organizers of the Liberal party in the province of Ontario. They get salaries for the performance of their work, and it is their duty to organize the party, and this crowd I have referred to was a crowd that they organized. What were these men doing this for? Where does Preston get his salary, and Alexander Smith? From the Liberal government of Ontario or the Liberal government of the Dominion—evidently from the ministers, evidently from those who subscribed certain sums in order to pay these organizers of the Liberal party. These men were paid large sums of money. They went into the constituencies, they organized this crowd of personators and pluggers and practitioners of all sorts of deceit. They required a large amount of money for that purpose. That money did not come like manna from heaven. It was furnished by somebody, the work was done in the interests of somebody. By whom and for whom? Take our friend, the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes), I do not know his circumstances, but I assume that he is not a millionaire, that he could not pay the hundreds and thousands of dollars required to carry out the scheme outlined for those men to do, and I assume that he would not. He was the beneficiary to a certain extent, but the gentlemen across the floor are the principal beneficiaries in the rascalities practiced. They are kept on the Treasury benches by the work of these men. Well, take the three classes. There was the lower crowd—this dozen or two of men who came in and swarmed over the constituencies. There were the two organizers, Preston and Smith, both salaried officers of the Liberal party and the governments of Ontario and the Dominion. Who was behind these two classes? Last session we proved right up to the hilt that the ballot boxes were manipulated, we proved up to the hilt that these ballots were taken out and others substituted, we proved conclusively that the greatest fraud and villainy prevailed in those constituencies. Who are the beneficiaries of this fraud and villainy? Who are the men who supplied the capital to accomplish these villainies, because capital was required? Thousands of dollars were required to accomplish what was done in any one of these constituencies. Point out to us who it was. In West Huron it was not Mr. Holmes, I am quite satisfied, but somebody else. Who was that somebody else? That is what we want to know, and what we are going to know. We know it now, and the people of the country will know it. Point out to me anybody else it could be other than members of the government. Why, the *Globe* says that the Postmaster General is the prince of canvassers and campaigners. He goes into a constituency, and it is sure to be carried for the Liberal

party. Success crowns his every effort, and the *Globe* dubs him the prince of campaigners. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, this, that there must be somebody on whom the responsibility rests. Who employs Mr. Smith and Mr. Preston and the rest of the crowd under their care and manipulation? There must be some men who pour out the tens of thousands of dollars requisite. Who are those men? It is not anybody on this side. It is not the rank and file on that side, for they have enough to do looking after their own constituencies. There is something rank about all this business. The responsibility must rest on the members of the government. The members of the government from the province of Ontario cannot get away from their responsibility. If it is not the members of the government in that province, then let those gentlemen say who it is. These men are employed by them. Smith and Preston are in their pay and under their orders and control. These men are instructed, regulated and managed by the members of the government, and the members of this government must take the responsibility for all that they themselves and those under their control do. You have the chain, the incontrovertible chain, from the ministers of the Crown down to those men who commit those rascalities in the various ridings. You cannot get away from it. You cannot place the responsibility on anybody else, and you have to place it on those ministers. If they deny that responsibility as they will, they cannot get away from the responsibilities of being the men who have benefited by those rascalities, commencing with North Grey, where in Owen Sound, they bought it right out, and going to other constituencies, where, if they could not buy, they manipulated, fixing the ballot papers and resorting to practices such as Pritchett tells us he taught to so many people as we know he did. And Pritchett is prepared, if he gets an opportunity to go before the Privileges and Elections Committee, to tell the whole story of the proceedings in the West Huron and Brockville elections. But, this is the thing that has alarmed hon. gentlemen opposite. They dare not permit Pritchett to come here; they will not permit their own servant, their own agent, one of their trusted employees who taught them all the tricks—no, I will not say that, for I am of opinion the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) and some other members of the government knew several tricks before they met Pritchett at all, so he did not teach them from the alphabet up. What we want and what we are going to have is an investigation. If these hon. gentlemen are going to prevent the Privileges and Elections Committee from investigating, we will have an investigation of our own. These men are like the Boers to-day—they are on the run; they are prepared to turn Queen's evidence;—and we will have the whole crowd, those who have been the manipula-

Mr. WALLACE

tors, those which have furnished the money, those who have been directing these vile men and are as guilty as the others—worse because as between the man who procures these things to be done and the poor tool who does them, the greater culprit is the man who plans it out and furnishes the means to corrupt these men and lead them from the paths of virtue if they were inclined to walk in them. I say that if the parliament of Canada will prevent an investigation before the Privileges and Elections Committee, the investigation will still go on and the culprits will be brought to justice before the great jury, the electors of the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker—

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. RICHARDSON. I only propose to take a short time, if the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan) will allow me.

Mr. COWAN. I do not propose to take much time myself.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) has the floor.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I express my thanks to the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan) for giving place to me for a brief time. I shall not speak at length, though I regard this question as one of the most profound importance. As to the question whether this is a vote of want of confidence or not, I do not suppose that any observations need be offered by me. That is a question that was settled by precedent, when the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) moved, in amendment to supply, his resolution with respect to the preferential tariff. It is a mere matter, so far as I can judge, of how the government regards it—if they choose to accept the amendment, it is not a motion of want of confidence; if they choose to reject it, it is. It does not appear to me that the House need be specially concerned over the question whether or not the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) moved in this matter as soon as he should have done. He tells us that he moved at the earliest possible moment. Some speakers on this side have intimated that that is not correct. So far as I am concerned, I take no stock in the importance of that point. So far as I can see the question for a layman and for all the members of this House is whether or not there should be an investigation into these very serious charges that have been made. Speaking as a young member, I would not like to be guilty of the bad taste of criticising the conduct or utterances of any member of this House; but it does seem to me that we have wasted a great deal of valuable time in discussing this question. It seems to me that there ought to be no question in

the mind of any hon. member in this House, or of any citizen of this country, as to the desirability of holding a thorough investigation and bringing the guilty parties to justice. I do not see that we are bound to inquire whether Pritchett is a scoundrel or whether he is an honest man. He makes these charges under oath; and the charges are so serious, they are so circumstantial, giving dates, names, and amounts of money involved, and so on, that it seems to me absolutely undesirable that we should not go into the most thorough and searching investigation in regard to this matter. It would seem to me rather inconsistent for members on this side of the House to say that an investigation should not be held, for we had the promise of the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), last session when the charges were originally made, and which were certainly not more serious than these read by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), that these charges should be investigated, accompanied with the declaration that the ballot box should be held sacred and should be protected to the furthest limit. I may say that, as a Liberal, I accepted that prompt offer of investigation with the keenest pleasure; and I do hope, even yet, that before this debate is concluded, we shall have such a statement and such a promise as will satisfy the House that a thorough investigation will be held. Now, as I say, I do not propose to discuss the merits of the various speeches made on this occasion. If the inquiry was deemed desirable or good when the charges were made, it seems to me, speaking for myself, that it is equally desirable that an investigation should be held now, or rather, that the investigation which was then held and was not concluded, should be continued. I entirely disapprove of the policy of using the tu quoque—you're another—argument. I do not think that Liberals should take as their criterion of political ethics, the standard that was set up by the Conservatives in the old days. Speaking for myself, the standard which I set, and which, I think, every good Liberal should set, is what the Liberals in opposition promised they would do when they got into power. I may say that I took the deepest interest in the inquiry held last session before the Privileges and Elections Committee. I did so largely because of the corruption that had been unearthed in Manitoba during the general elections, and previously. I may also observe that for doing my duty as a journalist in exposing the corruption then perpetrated, I was placed under arrest several times. However, I did not mind that. When the facts came to be inquired into the police magistrate promptly discharged me, believing I had done nothing more than my duty in exposing the frauds and corruption that had been practiced. In one case in Winnipeg we had a man named Chamber-

lain arrested in the act of personation; if I remember rightly he personated no less than four or five men in the course of an hour. He was an adept in changing his clothes, and certainly he acted in such a manner as to deserve the severest punishment that could be meted out to him, and he was condemned to the penitentiary for three years. Since that day we have had no personation in elections in Manitoba, so far as I know. I think there can be no more effective remedy applied to stamp out corruption and scoundrelism than severely to punish the men who have been guilty of it. Unless we as a parliament see to it that this scoundrelism is stamped out with a strong hand, how can we hope to have better methods prevail in this country?

Mr. CAMPBELL. In whose interests did Mr. Chamberlain go to Winnipeg?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I may say that Chamberlain came to Manitoba from Toronto, and he was convicted of personating in Winnipeg in the interest of the Conservative candidate.

Mr. Speaker, in discussing this matter I propose to be perfectly frank. I took a prominent part in denouncing the corruption that was practiced by the Conservatives, and to be consistent I do not propose to-night to defend corruption that has been proved to have been practiced by the Liberals. After the Winnipeg frauds, came the frauds practised in the electoral division represented by my hon. friend from Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford). I think, Sir, that the history of political corruption would be searched in vain—even if the Pritchett affidavit in regard to Brockville is correct—for a parallel to the scoundrelism and scallawaggery that was practiced in the electoral division of Macdonald. We had there a man named Freeborn, who came to Manitoba recommended by no less a personage than Mr. Robert Birmingham, the organizer of the Conservative party at that time. I myself had in my possession for a year or more a telegram furnished me by the counsel for the prosecution, signed by Robert Birmingham, saying that Freeborn was a good man in North Bruce, or that he did good work in North Bruce. I am not exactly sure of the words. But we had this man Freeborn there who, like Pritchett, turned Queen's evidence, and he exposed an amount of fraud that was simply appalling. We had card sharpers sent into that constituency hired in Winnipeg, for the purpose of destroying ballots and manipulating ballots. I think 15 or 20 arrests were made in that connection. Freeborn gave all the information possible to the Liberals which would lead to the discovery of the guilty parties.

Let me explain that the then legal representative of the Crown for the provincial government communicated to the right hon. leader of this government that a conspiracy had been unearthed against the liberties of the people in that constituency, and he ask-

ed that this government should bear the expense of exposing those frauds. The present government promptly accepted the responsibility, and engaged to pay for the exposure of those frauds and for the punishment of the parties guilty of perpetrating them. I speak subject to correction, but I think I am within the limit when I say that \$20,000 of the people's money were expended for the purpose of bringing to justice the men who were guilty of these crimes. Now, I take this position, that if the money of the people of Canada is to be used for the purpose of bringing to justice men who commit crimes in the interest of the Conservative party, surely no reasonable man can object that in the present case the money of the people of Canada should be used for the purpose of bringing to justice frauds committed in the supposed interest of the Liberal party. In the Macdonald cases success did not always attend the efforts to bring these men to justice. I think a conviction was secured in only two cases, and one of the criminals made a confession. In other cases the juries divided on partisan grounds, the Conservative members of the jury taking the view that they were not going to sit there for the purpose of making political capital for the Liberal party, and in that way justice failed to a considerable extent.

In the prosecutions that took place in Manitoba, I may mention that the evidence of men who had voted was regarded as good evidence in securing convictions. For instance, a certain number of witnesses, far in excess of the number of ballots that appeared in the box as cast for the member for Macdonald, swore that they voted for the present member for Macdonald, and we took the view then that that was perfectly good evidence. Now, having taken that view as a Liberal in Manitoba, I absolutely decline as a representative from Manitoba and as a Liberal, to say that precisely similar evidence should not be considered good in the present case. Time and again some of my friends have said to me: Are you going to believe these men who swear that they voted for McLean in the late election? How do you know that a man who received a dollar or two dollars for his vote will not perjure himself in the box? Well, I am not prepared to say whether they did perjure themselves or not. My own opinion is, having watched the proceedings carefully, that they did not perjure themselves. They looked like a lot of very respectable men, and inasmuch as I assumed that these men in Manitoba who gave evidence as to their votes spoke the truth, I assume that the men who gave evidence last session before the Privileges and Elections Committee as to how they voted, equally spoke the truth.

It seems to me that it is a mistake to palliate any of these crimes. I regretted to hear the statement of my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) when he said, and I took his words down, that there was

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something wrong about every election. I am prepared to believe that probably that is true, but I do not think any member of this House should use that argument for the purpose of excusing frauds when they are discovered, or for the purpose of palliating the act of the criminal. Now, as to the evidence given last year before the committee, I repeat that I took the very deepest interest in it largely in consequence of the fact that I had taken a deep interest in similar scandals exposed in Manitoba. I attended almost every session of that committee and for my part I was absolutely satisfied that the grossest corruption was practiced in connection with the election of West Huron. I examined for myself that ballot pad off which the fourteen bad ballots were supposed to have to have been taken—I forget the name of the polling booth. Would some hon. gentleman be kind enough to give it to me?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No. 4, Colborne.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I examined that ballot pad very carefully, and I claim that the conclusion was irresistible that these fourteen ballots never came off that pad at all. If my memory serves me correctly, there were some 150 ballots on the pad, and the majority were torn off, but these fourteen ballots—and I took the trouble to compare them very carefully—were a shade wider at the perforated line than the good ballots, about which there was no dispute. I made that examination two or three times and perfectly satisfied myself. If there was any possible dispute as to these stubs and ballots, surely a silent instrument could make no mistake in its register. We had an expert from the Eddy mills, who came there with his micrometer. He tested every stub left on the pad, some 150. I think.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). One hundred and twenty-five.

Mr. RICHARDSON. And if my memory serves me correctly, there was not the slightest variation with regard to these stubs. Am I right?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That is right.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Then he took the ballots that had not been torn off and we found that these ballots corresponded exactly in thickness with all the stubs. Then he took the ballots about which there was no point raised, that they were not good ballots, and he found that these ballots were identical in thickness with the possible exception of one with those on the stubs. Then, in reference to the fourteen ballots, about which there was a dispute, and that I have satisfied myself never came off that pad, he found that they were 4-1000ths of an inch in thickness, while the others were 2-1000ths in thickness, so that the fourteen ballots were double the thickness of the other ballots. Is any man going to ask me

to say, or can I be expected to say that these fourteen ballots were good ballots, and that they came off that pad? It is flying in the face of reason, of honesty, and I might almost say of decency, to expect me to believe anything of the kind, and I absolutely decline to do so.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I might also say that this expert proved that the paper was made on a different machine.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes, I had forgotten that point, but he doubtless stated that.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Who was the expert?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I do not recall his name, but he was an expert from the Eddy mills.

Mr. POWELL. Mr. Harvey.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Was it Mr. Ames?

Mr. RICHARDSON. Then there was the other point as to the initials on these fourteen ballots. I think, and I speak subject to correction, that Mr. Cummings swore in the first case, that these initials were his. I think in cross-examination he said that they looked like his. The conclusion is irresistible that if these initials are his, John Cummings could not possibly be an honest man. If these initials are his, and the ballots never came off that pad, then, the irresistible conclusion is, that Cummings initialled these ballots before he went to the poll. And if the affidavit made by Pritchett, in regard to the wholesale initialling of ballots by deputies in the electoral division of Brockville, is correct, this furnishes the sequel that the ballots were initialled in advance in West Huron. I want to say a word in regard to the general corruption that seems to have grown up in the country. I believe the time has come when parliament should act, and act promptly, in regard to it, and should wipe it out altogether. I quite realize the force of appeals that are always made by party leaders and party men, that it is only affording capital and comfort to the opposite party to facilitate any exposure of wrong-doing committed in the supposed interests of party. While realizing the force such appeals are sure to have, I am strongly persuaded that they are unsound, even in the interests of party, and certainly in the public interest. I am convinced that all rational, fair-minded and independent-thinking men of both political parties, who have, say for the last decade, followed closely the exposures of frauds and corruption in connection with the politics of Canada, will agree that 'honours' appear to be pretty evenly divided, and that it is hardly consistent for either party to attempt to make too much political capital against the other in connection with more recent developments. Even in politics, we should not forget the force of the scriptural admonition: 'My brother, first take the mote out of

thine own eye, and then thou shalt see clearly the beam which is in thy brother's eye.'

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson), has misquoted scripture.

Mr. RICHARDSON. It is no point of order. Sir, it is not an abstract question of political ethics with which we have to deal at present. We are face to face with a concrete issue. Election corruption has, in my mind, been fully proved, and such charges made under oath, have been presented to this House in connection with this issue, as are sure to shock the country. I knew it would be said that Pritchett is a scoundrel and probably a fugitive from justice, but that is not a sufficient answer to the charges which he makes under oath. The affidavits contain the names of a score or more deputies, and others alleged to have participated in the crimes. Most of them have doubtless, up to the present, enjoyed a good reputation amongst their fellow-men. They are all available and can be called upon, either to affirm or deny, under oath, the charges laid at their doors. If guiltless, a fair-minded public will expect them to demand the fullest inquiry. Failing such action on their part, will the public not naturally assume guilt? If guiltless, is the government not doing them an irreparable injury by not pressing for an immediate and thorough investigation. And now a word as to the duty of the government and parliament under the circumstances. For my own part speaking as a Liberal, it would afford me especial pleasure to see a Liberal government effecting expose and deal with the corruption that has recently manifested itself in our midst. Thinking as I do, it afforded me the keenest pleasure last session, when, in response to charges of corruption in West Huron and Brockville—certainly no more grave or specific than those presented by the member for Westmoreland—(Mr. Powell), the First Minister, and leader of the Liberal party, promptly accepted the motion to investigate, declaring that the ballot box must be protected at all hazards, and held sacred. I can now see and appreciate the difficulty and sensitiveness of the government's position. When it took the ground the other day that it was unwise and unnecessary to continue the investigation, it was not aware of the further revelations contained in the Pritchett affidavits read to the House Tuesday. I suspect that the opposition, for the purpose of attempting to score a point for that accursed political effect, purposely held the affidavits back with the hope that the government would refuse to continue the inquiry. This conclusion, if correct, leaves the opposition in the position of subordinating the suppression of crime to the accumulation of political capital

against the Liberals. It seems to me that the production of the new affidavits affords the government an opportunity of making a proposition which would, I think, be generally acceptable. We all know that inquiries before committees of this House are always more or less unsatisfactory and inconclusive, owing to the partisan nature of the committees. If the government will declare its willingness to appoint forthwith a commission composed of say three Queens Bench judges of Ontario with instructions to conduct a searching and thorough investigation into the charges made and into the conduct of the two elections named, and will allow the Liberals to nominate the counsel for the defence, and the Conservatives the counsel for the prosecution, the entire cost to be borne by the public, I for one will vote against this motion, as I much prefer an investigation by the courts to one before a committee of the House. Inasmuch as it is public liberties that have been assailed, and public liberties which we desire to have protected, I think the funds to accomplish this purpose should be provided by the public, and not by any party. In conclusion I would like to ask if it is not the highest function of parliament to protect the liberties of the people, the liberties for the acquisition of which our forefathers spent their substance and laid down their lives. The giant of corruption has been stalking over this continent; he has not overlooked our own Dominion, and if we are to be true to the traditions of our forefathers, and to the interests of our fellow-citizens as well as our own, we will bend every energy to slay the monster now. Why do we send our children to Sunday schools, and why do we maintain churches and day schools, if it is not that we hope thereby to train the rising generation along lines of moral and intellectual development? I would ask if there is any use continuing the work, unless we, the parliament of Canada lead the way and set the example? The gospel of public morality must be preached by the body that represents the public. It is surely inconsistent with the best traditions of Liberalism that we should fail to pursue and punish these crawling creatures, these slimy assassins of our liberty, together with the greater criminals who inspire, lay the plans, and pay for the execution of these crimes. Unless we throttle the monster, he will assuredly throttle us and we will deserve the fate which is sure to overtake us if we fail in what the people of Canada will regard as our clear duty. Let the parliament of Canada strike and strike with deadly intent at political corruption, and its action will meet with the hearty approval of a grateful people who would welcome such a course. That in my mind would be the best political move and the best political tactics which any party could adopt in this country. For every heeler

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whom it would alienate it would gain scores of friends. What the people most need is to be honestly led, and to the party which so leads, their gratitude, when they realize the results, will not be in stinted measure. For these reasons, unless such a judicial investigation as I have outlined is promised, I shall feel compelled to vote for the motion of the hon. the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden).

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). Mr. Speaker, I have listened, and listened with considerable interest to the essay which has just been read by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson). I would have thought that any gentleman rising in this House to speak upon a great and important issue; upon a matter of such vital importance to the electors of Canada as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) told us this is, upon a question in reference to which the public morality of this country has been stirred, as he states, from its lowest foundation; I would have thought that he would have at all events endeavoured to accomplish some results by reason of some inquiry. There must be two things which every man in this country should want: either that the seats which are held by Brockville should be vacated, or that, if those seats were stolen, then the culprits who stole them should be brought to justice. As one member of this House, I desire to go on record as objecting most strongly to being a party to any fake proceeding, or any abortive inquiry, that will not get to the root of this matter. If the hon. gentlemen from West Huron and Brockville hold their seats in this House by reason of fraud perpetrated by any men on their behalf, then I would like to see these men put out of their seats. On the other hand, I would like to see the men who actually did steal these seats—if such men there be—from the actual owners punished as they should be. I say that any man who is responsible, or who connives to defeat either of these two propositions, is not the man who should stand up in this House to lecture any one on political purity or political morality. If the hon. gentleman from Lisgar is sincere, and if he wants an investigation that is going to be effective then he should stand upon that ground, and support an investigation of that character.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I may just tell the hon. gentleman that it is just such a judicial investigation as he contemplates that I have suggested.

Mr. COWAN. There is no attempt made in this investigation to declare vacant the seat of the hon. member for Brockville (Mr. Comstock), or of the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Holmes). I turn to the speech of the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) (page 5487, *Hansard*), and speaking of Sir Louis Davies, he says:

The hon. gentleman says that this House, according to his view, has denuded itself of the power of investigating the legality of the return of members to this House except under one set of circumstances. I know not what pertinence any hon. gentleman can see that has to the discussion of this question. But I am sure that there is not a member in this House besides himself who ventures the opinion that it has the slightest connection with the matter that we are discussing. If the object of the hon. member for Halifax was to refer this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for the purpose of contesting the legality of the election of the hon. gentleman who sits for West Huron and of the hon. gentleman who sits for Brockville, then this inquiry might be pertinent; but there is no such attempt on the part of the hon. member for Halifax, and there is no such intention on the part of the hon. gentlemen who are associated with him on this side of the House.

There is the bold declaration by one of the framers of the charges, practically the seconder of the charges: that there is no attempt to attack the seats of these gentlemen, and the hon. member (Mr. Powell) admits that this parliament, under the form in which this charge is made, has no jurisdiction whatever to affect either of these seats. That being settled by no less an authority than the hon. member for Westmoreland, what does the hon. gentleman say that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) wants to pursue this inquiry for. He says:

The object of this investigation is entirely foreign to the matter which is raised by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the simple object of this investigation is to investigate the conduct of the returning officers and of what I may call the condition of politics in the country generally.

Therefore the only reason this investigation is to be held, is for the purpose of investigating the state of politics in this country generally. Then as to the men who are alleged to have committed these frauds, it was shown by the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) that if the Privileges and Elections Committee sat until the last day of the session, and if they found that every word in the affidavits of Pritchett was absolutely correct, then this parliament has no power to imprison the culprits (no matter how great the crimes they may be guilty of), beyond a day after the close of the session of this parliament. That has not been contradicted by the ex-Minister of Justice (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who followed him, nor was it contradicted by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain). No gentleman opposite can contradict it, and therefore if this investigation were carried on it must come to naught, for the reason that parliament cannot vacate the seats, and for the further reason that this parliament cannot punish the culprits even if they found that wrong had been done.

Therefore, I would like to know what this investigation is for. The hon. member for

Westmoreland says it is to investigate the state of politics in Canada. If there is anybody who is responsible for the bad state of politics in Canada, if there is a bad state of politics in Canada, it is the hon. gentlemen opposite who, knowing as they say they did, that these gross acts had been committed, that the grossest violation of the election laws had been carried on, that these culprits had stolen two seats, sat in their places in this House, and never said a word, or took one step for the purpose of punishing the guilty parties, or placing us in such a position that they could be punished, until the last hour had passed. Hon. gentlemen swore out an information in West Huron, upon which a warrant against Pritchett was issued. They know that another warrant could not be issued on that information. They know that the statute of limitations stepped in, and that the crimes which Pritchett himself says he was guilty of, were practically outlawed in one year.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? The crime is outlawed unless the criminal absconds from the country. If the hon. gentleman will consult the statute, he will find that.

Mr. COWAN. The hon. gentleman knows that the warrant was issued, and the warrant was over one year old.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is not the question.

Mr. COWAN. The hon. gentleman knows full well, that that warrant was in the hands of the constable, and that it was got out of the hands of the constable by Mr. Samuel Barker, the organizer of the Conservative party. He knows full well that that warrant was in the possession of Mr. O. E. Fleming, a Conservative lawyer in the city of Windsor, and the chief organizer of the Conservative party in the county of Essex; and he knows that Mr. Barker and Mr. Fleming had that warrant in their possession when they made the contract with Pritchett that they would keep it and would not punish him provided he would make this affidavit.

Mr. CASGRAIN. That is not the question, however.

Mr. COWAN. I am quite free to admit that in one sense it is not the question. The hon. gentleman must have gone asleep while his worthy confrère, the hon. member for West York, was trying to explain a procedure in law, which had not a particle of existence. The hon. member for West York said that the warrant was handed to the county crown attorney, something that is never done. The county crown attorney is the man who prosecutes after the man is under arrest. The hon. member for West York need not rise to contradict that statement, because he repeated it twice.

Mr. WALLACE. I did not make such a statement. I understood the hon. gentleman, when he interrupted me, to make that statement himself. What I stated was that when a person laid an information against another person for criminal act, the whole proceedings went out of his hands and into the hands of officials of the Ontario government; and I say so yet.

Mr. COWAN. There again is just where the hon. gentleman, when he opens his mouth, puts his foot in it; but I did not think that the hon. member for West York would have put his foot in it quite as deep as he has in that statement. The hon. gentleman ought to know that an information is sworn out before a magistrate, who is an appointee of the Ontario government, that upon that information the warrant is issued, and that that warrant is handed to a constable, who is an appointee, not of the Ontario government, but of the county officials. But the hon. member for West York went a step further, and, as the records of *Hansard* will show, repeated the statement twice, that the county crown attorney got the warrant afterwards. He says this warrant was in the hands of officers of the Ontario government. Well, let me tell him that every man who has risen on that side of the House in this discussion, has declared that Pritchett told the truth. If Pritchett told the truth in that statement, then the hon. member for West York is very far astray. I have before me the evidence of Pritchett; I have before me his own bald, bare statement on oath, as to the consideration he got for making that affidavit. Let me tell the hon. member for West York, what Pritchett himself has sworn to, not in an affidavit drawn by the Conservative organizer, who, Pritchett says, afterwards inserted clauses which he never swore to at all; but I am reading Pritchett's evidence, question and answer.

Mr. SPROULE. What are you reading from?

Mr. COWAN. I am reading from the *Toronto Globe*.

Mr. SPROULE. Oh, oh.

Mr. COWAN. I can well understand that that is not an authority for the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and I can say, as a compliment to the *Toronto Globe*, that I would be extremely sorry if it were. This simply shows that to the hon. member for East Grey, in a matter in which the honesty or the honour of the Liberal party is concerned, even the mention of as fair a newspaper as the *Toronto Globe*, which reports fully both sides of a case, is like shaking a red rag before an animal whose name or kind I will not mention. I will read it all for the benefit of the hon. member for East Grey, if he will only possess his soul in peace:

Mr. COWAN.

Mr. Watson next introduced the question of the Detroit affidavits, read by Mr. Whitney in the legislature. The first one was, the witness said, made by Judge Carpenter on December 29 last. It was prepared by Mr. Barker.

Mr. Barker is the paid organizer of hon. gentlemen opposite.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I desire to say here, in the presence of this House, that the statement that Mr. Barker receives one farthing from the Conservative party, is untrue.

Mr. COWAN. I accept, Mr. Speaker, so far as the hon. leader of the opposition apparently knows, the statement which he has made. But will the hon. leader of the opposition, a man who has been in public life for the number of years that he has been, a man who has been associated with political partyism as long as the hon. leader of the opposition has been, a man who knows as much about organization as the hon. leader of the opposition does—will he stand up in this House and let the statement go forth to the country, that Sam Barker is parading up and down from one end of this province to the other at his own expense?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say, Mr. Speaker, in the presence of this House, that Mr. Barker, while consenting to assist me at my request, in the organization of the province of Ontario, placed his services unreservedly at my disposal, but on condition that he was not to receive one farthing, directly or indirectly.

Mr. COWAN. I commend the hon. leader of the opposition to the pupil that he has got in Mr. Barker; I commend the hon. leader of the opposition for his childlike and bland innocence; and I want to go one step further, and tell the hon. leader of the opposition, that if he has made that statement and argued it out to his own satisfaction, he is a very long way from arguing it out, or making it clear to any other member of this House. Why, Sir—I say it in all candour, in all sincerity, and in all honour—a more ridiculous statement never emanated from the mouth of a politician, than to say that a man like Sam Barker, who has been in different lines of business, as he has been, who has abandoned the legitimate practice of the law, parades up and down this country organizing for the Conservative party, a party out of power and with no chance in the immediate future of coming back—and we are told that that man is doing this out of pure love and affection for hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. SPROULE. I rise to a point of order. I wish to know, Mr. Speaker, if it is not the duty of the hon. member to accept the statement of the hon. the leader of the opposition, and whether he is not out of order when, after accepting it, he declares

that a more ridiculous statement never was made in this House.

Mr. COWAN. I have already said that I accept the statement of the hon. the leader of the opposition, and have even complimented that hon. gentleman on his bland-like credulity. I am not an old member of this House, but I sincerely hope that I have sufficient common sense to know that when a man rises in his place and makes a statement concerning something of which I have no personal knowledge, and asserts that he makes it on personal knowledge, I must accept his statement. I do accept it, and accept it unreservedly. But I say, at the same time, that I leave this House to judge how much reliance they can place on that statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think that the hon. member should not have made use of that last phrase.

Mr. COWAN. What phrase?

Mr. SPEAKER. How much reliance can be placed on the statement made by the hon. the leader of the opposition. I think that is hardly fair to that hon. gentleman.

Mr. COWAN. I most cheerfully withdraw that phrase, because I can very readily imagine the reliance that the hon. members of this House will place on that statement.

But, Sir, I want to ask another question. When hon. gentlemen have stood up on that side of the House, not by one or by two, but by the half dozen, and said that Mr. Alexander Smith was the Liberal organizer, under a salary, nobody, I fancy, is going to dispute that statement. I certainly am not, although I do not know whether he has a salary or not. But I have sense enough to believe that he has. I do not believe that the chief organizer of the Liberal party is travelling up and down this country, paying his own expenses, wearing out his own shoe leather and clothes, without any remuneration, as the good, virtuous, charitable Sam Barker, of Hamilton, is doing for the Tory party. But I would like to ask one more question. The hon. member for West York, and the hon. member for West Assiniboia, and the hon. member for Montmorency, and the hon. member for Westmoreland, all spoke about the different gentlemen whom Pritchett named, and I would ask them what is their idea of the position of Mr. Samuel Barker? They scorn the idea of a Liberal doing anything out of affection for his party, but I would ask them whether they believe that the chief organizer or the second organizer of the Conservative party, out of the four in Ontario to-day, Mr. Samuel Barker, is doing what he does for the Tory party out of pure love and affection. I do not want the hon. the leader of the opposition to

misunderstand me. I do not deny, for one instant, that the conversation he mentioned did not pass between him and Mr. Barker. I have never made any such denial. The hon. leader of the opposition says it did, and I accept his statement, and accept it unreservedly; but I want to tell him that if Mr. Sam Barker has imposed on him in that way, he has not imposed on the hon. member for West York, and the other gentlemen from Ontario, who could give the leader of the opposition a very good idea of where the funds come from, out of which Mr. Barker is paid.

A few moments ago I was discussing the question of the warrant which hon. gentlemen opposite had in their possession, when I was diverted from that subject by being taken to task by the hon. leader of the opposition. I had said that the Conservative organizer—for now Mr. Barker is the admitted Conservative organizer, admitted to be hand and glove with the leaders of that party, and whose services the hon. the leader of the opposition tells us are given solely out of love and charity—was the man who got that warrant and who took with him Mr. O. E. Fleming, of Windsor, who is practising law in that city—and with reference to whom I have nothing more to say than that he is the leading Conservative organizer in that city, that he is a strong and life-long Conservative, that there is no man in Essex, not even excepting the candidate, who takes as strong an interest in politics as he does—and now I am going to proceed with the history of this matter:

It was prepared by Mr. Barker, a lawyer of Hamilton, a tall, thin man. The document was written in the Hotel Cadillac.

That is Sam Barker, their organizer.

The parties met by appointment, a note being left with Mr. Spence, with whom witness was staying, fixing the place of meeting. Mr. Spence went with him; they met Mr. Barker and Mr. Fleming, of Windsor.

Mr. Fleming, of Windsor, was with Barker.

In reply to Barker, witness said he would make an affidavit under certain conditions.

They asked him for an affidavit, and he said: I will make it under certain conditions. Like a man who has a bushel of wheat to sell, and who brings it to the auction market, and if he has to sell it he will do so at the best price he can get, but if not, he will barter and haggle about the price.

Q. Under what conditions?—A. That they would withdraw the warrant that was out against me; they would protect me.

Those two gentlemen, both lawyers and both Conservatives, said that they would withdraw the warrant against Pritchett and would protect him. Mr. O. E. Fleming, I am bound to say, is a good lawyer, one of the leading practitioners of Windsor,

and the head of a large firm there. And Mr. Fleming would not go to Detroit and tell that man that he would withdraw that warrant and protect him unless he was in a position to do it. Samuel Barker was there with him. Either of two conclusions the leader of the opposition must accept. Either that these gentlemen deliberately lied to Pritchett, or else Pritchett told the truth and they were prepared to carry out their promise. The hon. gentleman can choose whichever horn of the dilemma he pleases.

Q. How?—A. By allowing me to go home; have the warrant withdrawn and not prosecute me, or something to that effect.

The hon. leader of the opposition knows that that warrant was issued by a magistrate in the county of Elgin. I am not saying this to his detriment at all—who is one of the strongest Conservatives in the riding of West Elgin, and was put into the hands of a Conservative constable, who handed it over to the Conservative organizer.

Q. In consideration of what?—A. That I would tell them what I knew about the West Elgin election.

Q. Have the warrants been withdrawn?—A. So far as I know. I would not be here if they had not been.

Q. Have you seen the warrants since?—A. I saw them once in Windsor in Mr. Fleming's office.

What has the hon. member for West York to say to that? He stands up in this House and seeks to make party capital, tries to smirch a great political party, tries to settle on the Liberal party and on this side of the House the acts of every cut-throat who may chance to vote Liberal, or who may, by hook or crook, thrust himself into the Liberal ranks. This, that I have referred to, is not the case of an ordinary rank and file man of the party; this is the organizer of the Conservative party whom the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) accepts as the organizer. And he knows, and the hon. member for Westmoreland knows, and so does the hon. member for Montmorency know, aye, and the hon. ex-Minister of Justice knows full well, that if Pritchett's statement is correct and that act had been done in the Dominion of Canada that was done in the city of Detroit. Mr. Barker and Mr. Fleming became common felons under the Criminal Code, which forbids the compounding of a felony. Now, Sir, further on, he says:

It was Mr. Fleming made the promise that I should be allowed to come home if the affidavits were signed.

That was the consideration given. Now, what is the evidence on which this House is asked to grant an investigation? What is the ground on which the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) feels that an investigation should be had? I say that

if we were in a court of law where these men could be punished, well and good. But, these gentlemen know, and know full well, that if they had filed a petition against the return of the hon. member for West Huron and the hon. member for Brockville, that these charges could have been tried out in another form, that a commission could have issued, and these judges could have punished for bribery and corruption, and we could have got the trial away from all biased committees, and these men would have been punished as men were punished in South Ontario and elsewhere. And let me digress for a moment to note the fact that the hon. member for Lisgar said that in the province of Manitoba, when juries were got to prosecute for political crimes, those juries divided straight on party lines. Mr. Speaker, if that is the case among the laymen of this country. Conservative, Liberal and Independent, how much greater must be the political partisanship that would exist in a committee of this House? But, there was an opportunity offered to hon. gentlemen opposite. That opportunity was to have filed an election petition. Then there might have been a report for corrupt practises, and every one of the wrong-doers could have been punished, the trial being removed from political partisanship and carried on by the judges themselves. Or they could have taken the third course—they could have made the charge under petition as provided in the statute, as was stated by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, a point which I am not going to argue. Or, they could have taken a fourth course—they could have sworn out an information before a magistrate in the county in which the crime was committed, charging these men with the crime committed by them. There was the fifth course—this ineffective proceeding they now propose. They got the warrant, but the organizers of hon. gentlemen opposite got possession of that warrant and used that property, illegally, and wrongly acquired from the constable, for the purpose of making an illegal and criminal bargain with this man Pritchett. I am not here to stand as an apologist for Pritchett; I am not here to stand as apologist for any person or party guilty of political corruption. But you and I know, Mr. Speaker, and every member of this House knows, that no matter how clean or pure a candidate may be, he cannot do all the work that is to be done in his election, and, on election day, in thirty or forty different polls distributed throughout the constituency, he must be represented by agents. These polls may be miles away from where he is; and we know that sometimes political zeal carries men into actions that cannot be approved by honest men. No one knows better than hon. gentlemen opposite that sometimes party feeling runs high in localities, and large sums of money are wagered on majorities in different towns; and then, the men who have put

up their money put up more with it to corrupt the electorate and win the bets that they have made. No man can wholly stop that; but no Liberal, and no man who has a spark of manhood in him, will stand up and defend it. But, I say, if ever there was a class of men who deliberately and almost criminally set their faces against using the last opportunity of punishing those who were guilty of wrong-doing, they were those who had this affidavit in their possession on December 29. McNish's election, the election at which these crimes were supposed to have been committed, was not then a year old, and the alleged violators were all in this country except Pritchett. The point raised by these hon. gentlemen, that when a man gets beyond the jurisdiction of the court, the statute of limitations ceases to run, could not apply in these cases. But the organizer of hon. gentlemen opposite, with that warrant in his possession, gave forth no sound, did not place it in the hands of any law officer, did not even give forth one word to the public press until after the last hour had passed and the year was over, and these men were safe and could not be prosecuted. Then they draw forth the affidavit made by the cut-throat Pritchett and try to father on this side of the House and upon the Liberal party the responsibility of not prosecuting these men. The year had not expired when they got that document; and yet, they kept that document a secret and let the criminals escape. It is like the man who knows that the door of the felon's cell is unlocked and has the key, yet refused to lock the door—their sin is not a sin of commission, it is a sin of omission, and they know it. They sprung one affidavit the other night. We telegraphed to West Huron to contradict it. They saw the affidavits that were coming in in contradiction to Pritchett, and they knew very well that we could not get the affidavits from West Huron in time. And they kept the last affidavit and put it into the hands of the hon. member for West Assiniboia to-day to read, referring to South Ontario. It was too late then to prove Pritchett a liar in this case by securing the affidavits of responsible men from that constituency, as we have already done from the constituency of Brockville. Yet, Sir, these are the gentlemen who stand up and pose in this House and this country as political purists, as men who desire to put an end to corruption in public and political life, by permitting the guilty culprit to escape, and then conniving to get hold of the last document by which the culprit could be arrested, and then they bring him back into this country.

Now, there are one or two points I propose to analyse in connection with the Pritchett affidavit. I said last year that I was proud of the Liberal party, that I was proud of the leader of the Liberal party, that I was proud of the parliament of Canada, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that we must have

an investigation because these hon. gentlemen opposite had made some strong statements in connection with West Huron. But when we had that investigation, when we examined ninety-nine witnesses, when nearly every voter in the polling district was brought down here and put on his oath and asked how he voted—something which is directly contrary to the spirit of the Act which protects secret voting—then the hon. gentleman undertakes to say that because they were beaten in the battle therefore ballots were switched, and ballots were forged, or stolen. If there is an hon. gentleman on that side of the House who can tell me that he has not found more than seven liars in one polling subdivision in his constituency, I would like to know it. Now, Sir, who is this man Pritchett? We have not a single particle of evidence adduced in this case more than was adduced last session. Let us analyse these affidavits of Pritchett. I can readily understand that liars sometimes do tell the truth, but they are not often believed when they do, especially when they put their foot in it as often as friend Pritchett has done. Now, what is the position of this man Pritchett? I read his own affidavit where he says he was the deputy returning officer in 1898. In clause 3 of his affidavit, not placed on the records by us, but placed on the *Hansard* by the hon. member for Westmoreland, to make out the strongest case he could, Pritchett says:

From my experience in the various elections I formed the opinion that elections could be more easily and surely won by the manipulation of ballots than by buying voters, and after the said general election, I, in conversation with friends, used words to that effect.

There is the confession of a criminal. The heart and sympathy of juries and of judges on the bench goes out to the unfortunate man who, by reason of strong inducement, by reason of hire or hope of reward, passes from right to wrong and makes the first step in a criminal career. But here is a man with no inducement, nothing held out to him, sitting quietly as a deputy returning officer, and thinking the subject over in 1898, and he says: I formed the conclusion that elections could be won more easily by deliberately falsifying my oath as a deputy returning officer, by switching ballots and substituting others for them, rather than by the purchase of electors at the polls. That is the statement of the man himself. Now, what was his next step? Did he stop there? I find, on looking over the evidence, that he says this:

Q. Did you ever practise slipping ballots before?—A. No, I never had done it. I practised it quite often but never performed it.

Q. Then you had practised tricks for the purpose of changing votes or changing the count of votes?—A. For my own satisfaction, yes.

This preliminary practice the witness said he had done at his own house and alone. He did

not think it required very much skill. In actuality his tricks were done after the poll closed.

There is a man who stands up and admits that it occurred to him to break a law, unsolicited and unasked. And then he proceeded to carry his criminal thought into effect, and practised the fraud in order to perfect himself in that particular line. That is not the act of a man who had been approached by another. That is the confession of the criminal himself who originated the trick. Then what is his next step? His next step is to try to corrupt his fellow men with the scheme which he had devised; his third and fourth step carry that nefarious scheme into effect, and when he is found out he flies the country. In addition to that, he goes and makes three or four affidavits for a consideration, the consideration being that which is dearest to a man, his freedom. After he makes these affidavits and gets his freedom, he goes into a witness box in West Elgin and says that the affidavit that he had sworn to in the city of Detroit before Judge Carpenter, was wrong, and that Mr. Barker had written something into it that he had never said. What were those two statements? The first said that he had a conversation with Frank Hunt about it, and the second that he had a conversation with John Lyle about it. Why were the names of Frank Hunt and John Lyle put into that affidavit by Mr. Barker, if they had never been mentioned by Pritchett? How did Barker know this free gratis organizer of the hon. gentlemen? How did he know the names of Frank Hunt and John Lyle, in West Elgin? One of two things must be true: Either Barker deliberately inserted them, or else Pritchett did. I am inclined to believe that Pritchett did tell Barker, and there is where Pritchett and Barker made the first false step in this affidavit. He stood in the witness box and said: I never swore that Barker put that in himself in the state of Michigan,—because he was going to follow these affidavits by his evidence in West Elgin. Then it was that Judge Morgan says this man is a self-convicted liar. Now, what ground did he have to go on? He had the fact that Pritchett's freedom had been purchased by the organizer of the Conservative party for the purpose of getting this affidavit, and when one affidavit said one thing and he went into the box and stated deliberately another thing, then Judge Morgan said that he is a self-confessed and a self-convicted liar.

What was the reason? Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and none better than the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), and the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) know it. I will not, at this moment, discuss the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), for apparently, he did not know the law about perjury. Any legal gentleman on the other

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side of the House knows that in order to prosecute a man for perjury you must have corroborative evidence. If you read over the affidavit of Pritchett you will find that on every material point he had talked with a man alone. He had talked with a man alone, and no matter how low Pritchett may be you cannot convict a man except you have corroborative evidence. When Pritchett stated that he had talked with Frank Hunt and John Lyle, there was a case in which there was corroborative evidence, because there was the oath of two against the oath of one. Pritchett, or his legal friends, saw the position in which he had placed himself, and when the affidavits were read before him in West Elgin, he said: I did not do it. If he did not do it, he swore to it, and it was then that Judge Morgan called him a self-convicted liar. Notwithstanding these circumstances, hon. gentlemen opposite say that this man's oath should be sufficient to induce the people of this country to spend \$10,000, or \$20,000, for the purpose of investigating—what? Punishing anybody? No. For the purpose of investigating the state of politics in Canada upon the evidence of a man of that character. Now, I am not going to follow the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett). I do not want to discuss the matter in the way in which the hon. member for East Simcoe discussed it. The hon. member for East Simcoe, because Judge Morgan had made a remark on the bench, as judges frequently do, that a man 'was a self-convicted liar,' as Pritchett was, and a self-confessed perjurer, thought to throw dirty water upon no less a man than Judge Morgan, of Toronto. I knew Judge Morgan when I was a student at law in Toronto, and everybody knows that Judge Morgan practiced law in the county of York for years, and that notwithstanding all the applications for the junior judgeship of the city of Toronto and the county of York, Judge Morgan was singled out by the late Sir John Macdonald as a man who was fair and honest, and as a man who was capable of performing the duties that were assigned to him as a judge of that judicial district. Judge Morgan has occupied that position for over fifteen years, at all events, he has sat on the bench for over fourteen years, to my personal knowledge. Notwithstanding that fact, notwithstanding that he was appointed by the then Premier of this country, Sir John Macdonald, notwithstanding the fact that he was a strong, straight-line Conservative before he was appointed, but as fair a man as ever graced the judiciary of the Dominion of Canada, the hon. member for East Simcoe, to score a point for his party, got up and tried to smirch the character of Judge Morgan in connection with this investigation. Sir, if he had tried to smirch the character of a judge appointed by Liberals there might have been some chance to save a political point by say-

ing that his party politics had carried him beyond the line when politics should cease and judicial impartiality commence. This is not the first time that the hon. gentleman has been guilty of an act quite as unparliamentary—I was going to say—at all events, it is not the first time that he has been guilty of an act as unmanly as he was guilty of in endeavouring to smirch the character of Judge Morgan. Last year, he tried to smirch the character of Judge McDougall, a man whose name has only to be mentioned to be known all over Canada. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) rose in his place, followed the hon. member for East Simcoe, and told him in this House that Judge McDougall was a fair man, and one of the best county court judges that ever lived in Canada, that he was a man above such insinuations, and it caused the Prime Minister to reply that no man was above the insinuations of the hon. member for East Simcoe. Now, we are asked to believe this man Pritchett, who is advocated by a man of the type of the hon. member for East Simcoe. There is just one further point. In addition to the four crimes that I have mentioned, Pritchett goes further and says: I went to the returning officer and told him that I was M. B. Johnston. I told him that I was M. B. Johnston for the purpose of getting possession of the poll books and ballot box and ballots. He there committed an act of personation. That was crime No. 5. If he followed the ordinary line of the law he took the oath prescribed by section 65, form 8, of the Revised Statutes of Canada, page 207, which says that a man shall conduct the election fairly, honestly and impartially, and if he took that oath and then slipped the ballots he committed deliberate, wilful and corrupt perjury when he did it. Hon. gentlemen opposite tell us that he has sworn to this in Canada, and they say: Why do you not prosecute him? Hon. gentlemen opposite know the law, and if they do not know the law they ought to. They know that when a man makes two positive statements, one directly contrary to the other, of something that is within his own knowledge alone, you cannot convict that man of perjury because you cannot prove in which one of these statements he has committed perjury. That is a proposition of law that no man can dispute, and if any man does dispute it, Taschereau's 'Criminal Law,' which will be found in the Parliamentary Library, will tell him that that statement of the law is correct. (Hon. gentlemen were safe, then, when they challenged us to prosecute this man, because they had lost the opportunity, they had kept the information in their pockets, because they deliberately kept hold of the only document upon which punishment could have been meted out to this man.) It is upon the affidavits of this man that we are asked to spend the peoples money by thousands. I am

not even averse to that providing anything can be got out of it. But, hon. gentlemen themselves admit that you cannot take the seat, you cannot punish the criminals, but, with evidence like that given by Pritchett, they ask the people of this country to vote money for the purpose of having an investigation to discover how the politics of this country stand. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain), and different hon. gentlemen who have spoken, have said, as lawyers, that the mere fact that they have got down to the particularity of detail which this man gets down to in these affidavits, proves that his statements must be correct. If that proposition is correct in one instance it must be correct in others. We have another affidavit, that of Mr. Farr, and there are some twenty-seven paragraphs all paragraphed out. In it Mr. Farr makes two statements, and I am going to read them for the benefit of the House.

Mr. McALISTER. Did Mr. Farr make that declaration?

Mr. COWAN. This is the original I am going to quote from.

Mr. McALISTER. Yes, but is it a declaration made before a police magistrate?

Mr. COWAN. No, before a commissioner of the High Court of Justice of Ontario, Henry Meikle, I think, of the firm of Blake, Kerr, Lash, Castle & Meikle.

I tell hon. gentlemen opposite that he is still within the jurisdiction of Canada; I tell them that Farr was in Toronto, and is in Canada, and if this statement is false then they can arrest Mr. Farr. But they have not done it, and why? It is because the statement is true. It is because Mr. Mitchell, the town clerk of Goderich, a Conservative, a man appointed by the Goderich town council, swears that he saw Farr's ballot and that it was marked for Mr. McLean, the Conservative candidate in West Huron. I am not going to depend upon the evidence of a man named Farr; I am not going to ask this House to believe the uncorroborated statement of even Farr, even though he has not been proven a self-convicted liar and perjurer as Pritchett was. But we will see what Farr has to say:

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario,
County of York. To wit:

In the matter of the by-election in the constituency of West Huron, held on February 21, 1899.

I, James Farr, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, carpenter, do solemnly declare:

1. I am the James Farr who acted as deputy returning officer at No. 3 polling subdivision, in the town of Goderich, at the by-election held in West Huron on February 21, 1899.

2. For eighteen years prior to the month of April last I was a resident of the town of Gode-

rich, where I carried on business as a carpenter, and from about the year 1893 until the time I left Goderich, I acted as a deputy returning officer at the municipal elections for the same section of Goderich as the subdivision for which I acted as deputy returning officer on February 21, 1899.

3. A post card received by me from Mr. Lane, the election clerk, was the first intimation I had of being appointed deputy returning officer at the said election, and I had not been previously spoken to by any one about being appointed, though on account of having acted as deputy returning officer so frequently, I fully expected to be appointed.

4. I appointed Henry Armstrong, a friend of mine, and a Conservative, as my poll clerk.

5. During my residence in Goderich I had frequently done carpentering work for Robert McLean, the Conservative candidate at the said election, and had been well paid for it, and on account of my personal acquaintance with him, and having been canvassed by him personally, and having promised him to do so, I fully intended voting for him at the said election. I took no part whatever in the Liberal campaign, and stated openly that I intended to vote for Mr. McLean.

6. I remember James Yates coming to me the night before the election and advising me to resign my position as deputy returning officer, and to return the ballot box and papers, the reason given by him for asking me to do so being that I had been drinking and would not therefore be able to properly perform my duty, but I believed his real reason for asking me to resign was that he feared I was a supporter of Mr. McLean, and on that account I refused to follow his advice.

7. The night before the election, William Mitchell, the town clerk of Goderich and a prominent Conservative, interviewed me, and as a result of the arrangement then arrived at between us I, on the following day, when the said Mitchell came to the polling booth to vote, showed him my ballot, which was marked for McLean, and which I deposited in the ballot box in his presence.

8. I had no conversation with any body as to my duties as deputy returning officer and received no instructions in reference to the same from any one except the printed instructions in the ballot box.

9. I conducted the poll in a fair and impartial manner, in the best of my judgment, and every ballot handed to me by the voter was duly deposited in the ballot box.

That is the affidavit of Farr. I do not know whether that affidavit is true or not, but I do know, and every gentleman opposite knows that Mitchell swore in the box that he was a Conservative. Mr. Mitchell holds the respectable position of town clerk in the town of Godrich; he goes into the box and swears that Farr is absolutely correct because he saw his ballot, and yet hon. gentlemen opposite have risen in their places and have scorned at the idea that Farr voted for McLean. In making such a statement, these gentlemen opposite say that not only is Farr a liar, but that their own supporter Mitchell swore falsely when he swore to this circumstance which was within his own knowledge. Every man and every lawyer knows that when a fact is against the in-

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terest of a man, and he swears to it, then that can be given double weight because he is swearing against his own interests. Mitchell was swearing against his own interests and against the interests of his own party, for he knew he ought not to have seen Farr's ballot. But, Sir, when it comes to scoring a point against the Liberals of this country, hon. gentlemen opposite have no scruple in saying that Farr is a liar and that Mitchell is a perjurer, and that Farr was our special tool and voted for Holmes. Here is an affidavit with a minute particularity of detail, that must carry the conviction of truth, as gentlemen opposite argue. Farr swears:

Thomas Marshall and James Nelson, who gave evidence before the committee at Ottawa, were not correct in their statement as to when they last saw me before giving their evidence at Ottawa. I saw them on the same day as they left for Ottawa, and was told by Nelson that they had got some easy money from Mr. W. D. McPherson, the lawyer, on Sunday afternoon, and that the said McPherson wished them to make a statement of their evidence so that he could take it down and post them what to say at Ottawa.

That is what Farr swears. I do not know whether it is true or not. All I know is that he swears to it, and that it is set out in 29 or 30 paragraphs of the affidavit with minute particularity of detail, and if, as gentlemen opposite say, that an affidavit is to be taken as true because it is set out with minute particularity of detail, then that affidavit is true. And who is W. D. McPherson? He is a lawyer in the city of Toronto; he is the counsel of the Conservatives in nearly all their election trials, he is one of the most prominent Conservatives in the city of Toronto, and he is an ex-president of the Young Liberal-Conservative Association, and presides over the Conservative ward meetings in that city. According to that, these two men told Farr that they had got some easy money from W. D. McPherson, and that McPherson wanted to take down their statements so as to post them what to swear when they got to Ottawa.

I asked Thos. Marshall how much they had got, and he said \$26, with a promise to make it more if the evidence was good and strong. The said Marshall and Nelson have informed me since their return from Ottawa that they each got \$13.20 at Ottawa as witness fees, and as they were away ahead on the transaction they had each bought a new suit of clothes. Nelson also said that it had been a godsend for him, and he hoped he would get a chance to make another raise in the same way. He also told me that W. D. McPherson, just before bidding them good-bye at the train on the Sunday evening when leaving for Ottawa, had impressed upon them the necessity of telling a story that would look all right and that if they did that he would not forget them.

Now, gentlemen, I put in that affidavit of Mr. Farr for what it is worth.

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Mr. COWAN. 'Hear, hear,' says my good friend from Annapolis (Mr. Mills). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) is apparently afflicted with these words, because when the affidavit of Pritchett, the liar and perjurer, was read, and his friends said that because of its particularity of detail it must be true, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) said 'hear, hear,' and he says 'hear, hear' now when I point out the particularity of detail of this affidavit. I am glad to know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) agrees with me. Now Sir, this man Pritchett made the statement that Robinson, Cowan, Jones, Smith, Truesdale, Bates, with others, he had met, and posted how to switch ballots in Brockville. We have filed the affidavits of seven, flatly contradicting that statement of Pritchett's in every way. We have affidavits from every man who served in the town of Brockville with one exception, and that is a man who is lying at the point of death with typhoid fever. The rest were out in the country. By tonight's mail I received two more affidavits. Mr. Elmer W. Jones gave an affidavit the other day upon the mere statement that he had heard the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had made certain allegations on the floor of this House, but when he is able to read the declaration in the *Montreal Gazette*, he makes this statement:

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario,
County of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, Elmer Watson Jones, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, barrister-at-law, do solemnly declare that:

1. I have read in the *Montreal 'Gazette'* what purports to be a copy of the affidavit of John G. Pritchett, made in this matter.
2. I say that the statement therein made, accusing me of fraudulent and improper conduct with respect to the ballots at the said election, are utterly false and untrue.
3. I do not know the said Pritchett and have never seen him or spoken to him.
4. I performed my duties as deputy returning officer strictly and impartially.
5. I did not change or tamper with any of the ballots, and I did not put in the ballot box any ballots save the regular proper official ballots as they were handed to me by the electors.
6. The charge made in said affidavit by said Pritchett that I changed or substituted ballots is a deliberate falsehood and entirely without foundation.
7. I never told said Pritchett that 'I had got in twelve' or had substituted or changed any ballot, and said Pritchett's statements as to alleged conversations with me upstairs in the polling place are false and untrue.
8. The statements contained in said affidavit that I was promised \$5 for every ballot fraudulently substituted or worked in are false and untrue.

I never told Pritchett I had received any money for any such purpose, and the statement that I did receive such money is false and untrue.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

ELMER W. JONES.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 17th day of May, A.D. 1900.

W. S. BUELL,
A Commissioner, &c.

There is the affidavit of Mr. Elmer W. Jones, a respectable legal practitioner, who was born and raised practically in the town of Brockville. I now take up affidavit No. 9:

Dominion of Canada Province of Ontario, County of Leeds. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of the town of Brockville, held on April 20, 1899, at which William Henry Comstock and Hon. Peter White were the candidates.

I, James D. Truesdell, of the township of Elizabethtown, in the county of Leeds, farmer, do solemnly declare that:

1. I was the duly appointed deputy returning officer at polling subdivision No. 2 for the township of Elizabethtown at the said election.
 2. I have read the statements reported in the newspapers to have been made by Mr. Borden, M.P., in the House of Commons recently relating to the said election, and I say that as far as I am concerned and as far as I have any knowledge of the actions of the other deputy returning officers the statements imputing improper conduct to the deputy returning officers are false and unfounded.
 3. I do not know the man Pritchett referred to by said Mr. Borden.
 4. I received my instructions solely from the returning officer.
 5. I conducted the said poll in a fair and impartial manner and I know no such frauds as are alleged were practised there.
 6. I have lived in this riding for thirty years.
- And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

JAS. D. TRUESDELL.

Declared before me at the township of Elizabethtown, in the county of Leeds, this 17th day of May, A.D. 1900.

ELMER W. JONES,
A Commissioner, &c.

In addition to that, there was read to-day a telegram from Mr. Horton—not a scapegoat, not a crook, not a man who is living on this government, not a man who is drawing any government salary, but a man who is appointed by the residents of Goderich as the town treasurer. This man says that the statement of Pritchett implicating him is absolutely false. Does it strike this House as reasonable that a man occupying the position of Mr. Horton would ever sit down with this confirmed crook, and there and then, for five dollars a ballot, agree to go into a scheme that would land him in the penitentiary?

Mr. BRITTON. And he was on the stand, and was examined at great length.

Mr. COWAN. I am glad to be informed by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), that Mr. Horton was examined as a witness and I place the statement of a man of that character against the affidavit of Pritchett, sworn to in Detroit, got in the manner in which it was got, and kept in the secret pocket of hon. gentlemen opposite down to the present time in order to avoid a prosecution. I now come to the evidence of Mr. Grant—not a crook, not a slick aleck, not a man who makes his living by his wits, but a high school teacher in the town of Goderich, a man to whom I have no doubt the children of the Conservative candidate go to be taught. We are asked to believe that Pritchett took this man to the back room of a hotel in Goderich and approached him for the purpose of getting him to steal ballots. Then comes the statement of Mr. Gundy, the deputy sheriff, who also contradicts Pritchett's statement in regard to him. Notwithstanding the fact that Pritchett admits himself that he was a crook, that he had committed perjury by making an affidavit in Detroit that he would not swear to in the city of St. Thomas, notwithstanding the fact that his freedom was purchased for that consideration, and notwithstanding the fact that nine honest people in Brockville and three in West Huron have contradicted his statement and have said it is untrue, hon. gentlemen opposite say that this cut-throat Pritchett's evidence should be taken because it described everything with minute particularity of detail.

Now, Sir, if this matter had stopped where it was left with the hon. member from Halifax (Mr. Borden), I should certainly not be on my feet to-night. But hon. gentlemen opposite gradually widened the discussion. The next speaker, the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) widened it by reading the confession made by Mr. Donald McNish, the Liberal candidate in a local contest in West Elgin, which had nothing whatever to do with this government, and nothing to do with a single man who sits in this House. Would the hon. member for Westmoreland argue that because something wrong was done in West Elgin in a local election, that was evidence that crooked work was done in Brockville and Huron?

Following the hon. member for Westmoreland, the mantle fell as it generally does, on the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) and the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin). The hon. member for East Simcoe widened the scope of the discussion still further. He said that the hon. Postmaster General was up in West Huron, and was closeted behind a door with a man named Hanna, who, as I gathered, was a railway detective. The hon. Postmaster General denies that statement. Even if it were correct, how is there anything against the Postmaster General if he sat

down in a room with Hanna and others? The hon. member for East Simcoe had a motive, however, in this statement. The hon. member for East Simcoe, backing up, I have no doubt, the policy which was laid down by hon. gentlemen opposite in their political caucus, to widen this matter as much as they could in the hope of smirching the whole Liberal party of Canada by means of Pritchett's statements, every time he rises has something to say with reference to the Postmaster General. The hon. member for East Simcoe says: 'The Postmaster General can sue me for slander outside.' If a Cabinet minister pays attention to everything said about him, either in this House or outside, he will be kept pretty busy. If the hon. leader of the opposition had taken that position when he was described by the organ of his party as the prince of political cracksmen, as a man who was in the field of politics the same as a burglar after a man's goods after midnight, the hon. member for East Simcoe might have been able to point to an example. I do not say that the article of the *Mail* was correct, but I say that if the reasoning of the hon. member for East Simcoe is right it would tell against his own leader, and it would have been well for his own party to have purged their own skirts of charges that have been made against them before they come into this House and try to blacken the reputation of the Postmaster General because he has not commenced a slander action against the hon. member for East Simcoe for something he said in the back townships of Huron. But the hon. member for East Simcoe has a purpose and a reason for his attack. It came out in this House two sessions ago, that the hon. member of East Simcoe had a brother feeding at the public crib; and the Postmaster General, administering his department as he does wisely and well, reformed the service, and then found that there was no more need for the hon. gentleman's brother in that service, than there was for a dog to have two tails; but he said to him: 'Because you are a brother of the hon. member for East Simcoe, I will not dismiss you, but I will shift you down to where you can do some work.'

He would not be shifted, and the Postmaster General finally superannuated him, and he is drawing, I believe, \$600 to-day superannuation money. The hon. member for East Simcoe—I do not wish to burden this discussion with outside matters more than to show the motive behind these attacks—attacked the Postmaster General on that subject for hours in this House, and ever since he takes every opportunity to rise in his place and, as the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) once expressed his opinion of him by characterizing him as a squirt gun, and trying to throw dirty water on every one.

Then the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) addressed the House. So far as that hon. gentleman's statements are concerned, while I do not agree in his conclusion that the particularity of detail in an affidavit is guarantee of its proof, I must admit that he was honest and candid. He went back into the record of the Liberal party, and in so doing, let the cat out of the bag. He went back to 1876, in order to discover the first and only charge against any member of that party who ever held the position of a representative of the people in this House. He went back to the election of Mr. Laflamme in 1876, and said that in that election the ballot box was put into a sideboard, in the bottom of which there was a trap door, and that the box was stolen out of the sideboard by means of that trap door, and the ballots tampered with. However, while, in his anxiety to put up the best case he could, in going back to this election, he was honest and frank and candid and manly enough to say that he wished it to be distinctly understood that he made no charge against Mr. Laflamme in connection with the fraud in question, and that he did not believe that Mr. Laflamme knew anything about it. So that after going back over the record of the Liberal party from 1876 to 1898, the only thing which he could bring and put his finger upon and bring up against that party was the act I have just mentioned. I would, therefore, ask the ex-Finance Minister, who advised the young men of the city of Toronto to read the history of the Conservative party, to advise them to study that of the Liberal party, and they would then find in that history something which would give them better hope for the future of this country.

But the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) forgot to make one statement in connection with the election of Mr. Laflamme, and that was eight years afterwards, when the leading organ of the Conservative party in the province of Ontario, the *Toronto Mail*, came out and said that Mr. Laflamme had been a party to that criminal act, Mr. Laflamme went into the courts of this country and recovered in the city of Montreal a verdict of several thousand dollars against the Toronto newspaper for the slander they had inflicted on him. So that when these hon. gentlemen attempt to smirch the record of the Liberal party, we can well reply that the only man on this side against whom a charge of political corruption was brought, had that charge ventilated in the courts, and the parties convicted who made public that unfounded slander.

Before I sit down, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour and the length to which this debate has been prolonged, I must crave the indulgence of the House while I try to prove the statements I am making. Who next followed on the opposite side? It was the hon. member for

West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), and I am not going to say very much about him. My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) has dealt with that hon. gentleman. My hon. friend read a statement—not a statement brought out by us, in trying to prove our case, but a statement reflecting on that hon. gentlemen's political purity. The hon. member for Assiniboia asked the hon. member for Guysborough to give the evidence, and my hon. friend complied with his request. I am sorry that the hon. member for Assiniboia is not in his seat, but I am informed on most reliable authority that he was a man who associated himself, not with an unconvicted felon, not with an unconvicted crook, but with a convicted criminal. He consorted with Chamberlain, who had been convicted for personation in the Manitoba elections of 1896.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Excuse me, it was a by-election.

Mr. COWAN. Very well, thank you. The hon. member for Lisgar says it was a by-election. I am glad to see that the hon. member for West Assiniboia is back in his seat. Chamberlain was convicted of personation at a by-election. He was sentenced to two or three years in the penitentiary or the jail, and put in his time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Not his full time. He was sentenced for three years, and they let him out after two years.

Mr. COWAN. He was sentenced for three years, and then this man, who was a convicted violator of the election laws of Canada, was released by hon. gentlemen opposite, and after his release, he was associated and in close conversation with the hon. member for Western Assiniboia. That hon. gentleman was told by an hon. member of this House that he had associated himself with a political criminal, with a man who had done time for his criminal offences, and the hon. gentleman dared not deny it.

Mr. DAVIN. There is not a word of truth in what the hon. gentleman has just said. I never had any close conversation with the gentleman in question.

Mr. COWAN. Were you not in conversation with him in the presence of the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), and did not that hon. gentleman tell you, at the time, that you were arranging for a political trip with Chamberlain, and asked the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) for information about the running of the train through the west, and he then told you that you were associating yourself with a criminal?

Mr. DAVIN. The statement is entirely untrue.

Mr. COWAN. I give as my authority the hon. member for East Assiniboia.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Withdraw.

Mr. COWAN. I withdraw the statement, but I have given my authority, and I repeat now—

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am prepared to make the statement here, that on a trip on the railway south, from Winnipeg, during the provincial elections, the two gentlemen were in close conversation, arranging a political trip.

An hon. MEMBER. What two gentlemen?

Mr. DOUGLAS. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) and Mr. Chamberlain, the impersonator. I wish to give further details. At the time, I was in conversation with Judge Ryan of Portage La Prairie. The hon. member for Assiniboia and Mr. Chamberlain were both speaking so loud that it was not difficult at all to hear their conversation, and I was asked by the hon. member (Mr. Davin) for information as to the special train arrangements for certain districts in my constituency. I told him that I was not an authority upon the train arrangements, but that I had a guide in my pocket, and I was quite willing he should use that guide, even though he should use it against my political interests. And these two gentlemen arranged that he (Chamberlain) should visit certain districts in my constituency and in the constituency of Mr. T. O. Davis, and also that of Mr. Frank Oliver. When he returned me the guide, I said to the hon. member for West Assiniboia: Like some Conservatives that I know, you are quite ready to consort with jail-birds and impersonators: and he being caught in the act, he had nothing to say in reply. The conversation took place in the presence of another gentleman, who was seated beside me in the train. He also declared that this was Chamberlain who had been incarcerated for crooked work in the Manitoba elections.

Mr. DAVIN. So far as that statement relates to any Mr. Chamberlain, it is utterly untrue.

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker, in making the statement, I did not know that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) would deny it. I owe an apology to the House for having brought forward a matter leading to dispute. But, I felt that when I gave as my authority the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), a gentleman who, since he came into this House, has shown himself entitled to be regarded as one whose name would carry respect and whose word would be believed by all, I was stating that which would be accepted by everybody as true. And when the statement was challenged, I felt that I might so far strain the rules of the House as to seek to verify my statement. The hon. member for East Assiniboia has made the statement, the hon. member for West As-

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siniboia has denied it—I leave this House to judge.

Hon. gentlemen opposite have continually widened this discussion, and they have done that for a purpose, and that purpose not creditable to themselves. But, in the researches that have taken place, it has been shown that hon. gentlemen opposite—through their organizer, Mr. Barker, who has been given a certificate of character by the leader of the opposition—connived at defeating any attempt that might have been made to punish the criminals. They ask: Why do not the Liberal party punish them? Well, the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) read an affidavit from South Ontario. He read it in the dying hours of this debate, when it was impossible to bring out contradictions to it. He read it with all the dramatic expression of which he is capable. At the same time, he must have known, or ought to have known, that there had been two investigations by a commission of judges into these charges in South Ontario. These judges were not the appointees of the Liberal party; they were not county court judges; they were no less distinguished men than Mr. Justice Ferguson, one of the High Court judges of the Chancery division, and Mr. Justice Osler, of the Court of Appeal, two of the ablest jurists in this country. I was surprised, I may say in passing, that the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) did not attempt to smirch the character of these men. This investigation was carried on under commission issued, not by a Conservative government, but by the Liberal government of the province of Ontario. These judges found Cap Sullivan innocent—I do not, for my part, know whether he was innocent or not—at all events, they did not find him guilty. I want to be frank about it. It was said that Sullivan had been introduced under a name not his own. But the man who said that Cap Sullivan gave him \$15, when confronted with Cap Sullivan, said he was a blonde man with a red mustache, while Cap Sullivan was dark. As a result of that investigation, certain culprits were found guilty of wrong-doing in that provincial election. But, if hon. gentlemen opposite will look over the records, they will find that just twice as many Conservatives as Liberals were found guilty of corruption practises. It is true that even if the whole Conservative party was corrupt to the core, that would not justify one Liberal doing wrong. But, when you stand up, for the purpose of politics, and compare the record of the two parties, these are points that should not be forgotten. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) told the young men: Read the history of your party. When the hon. gentleman undertakes to study the question of purity in public life and politics, I ask him not to forget the history of his party as written by the two High Court judges in South Ontario.

Now, the hon. member for West Assinibola made an attack upon the hon. acting Minister of the Interior. I may have been mistaken, but I did not hear one tittle of evidence offered against that hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) has been in this House for a great many years. He has been through a great many election contests of his own, and he has been for years to the Liberal party—only, I am glad to say, upon a higher plane—what the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has been to hon. gentlemen opposite. As leading Whip of this party, he has been through many political contests. Search the records, and find, if you can, where any man has ever fastened, or even charged—or, if charged, attempted to prove—a single act of dishonesty or corruption on the part of the hon. member for North Oxford. Why, these hon. gentlemen talk about North Grey. I was in North Grey myself. I saw the hon. member for West York there. I saw the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) there. The hon. member for South Leeds was there, and he had the Conservative organization—or rather, I should say, he had a portion of it. There were reasons for that. It was immediately after the election of 1896, and the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) was not in such good odour with his party as he is to-day. The hon. member for East York and the hon. member for South Leeds had dropped the leader of the opposition as their leader. They were riding the Protestant horse with the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), and Orangeism was their cry. They took with them George Moir, who had a long history, having been organizer for the Conservative party. He has gone to his long rest, and I will not refer to him further. The hon. member for West York knows that for every man we had in North Grey, they had a man in North Grey. And I can tell the leader of the opposition something else that may be a small piece of secret political history of this country—that when a protest was filed against the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), it was not withdrawn at the request of the Minister of Customs. But, there is certain information which a certain bank could give as to why somebody on the opposition benches did not want that election protest to go on. It rested with the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) to perform the last act in the drama, it was for him to do the cleaning up process. There are depths to which certain men won't go in this House. The member for East Simcoe, the member for West York, and the member for South Leeds are sometimes called upon to make statements and accusations against men in public life which men—I was going to say more respectable in the party, but I will not—at all events, which other members of the party do not care to undertake. It was left to the hon. member for West York to

intimate that the Premier of Canada knew all about it. And why? Because Mr. Alexander Smith, the organizer for the Liberal party, had walked with the right hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier down to his room in the House of Commons. Well, that is the last straw. In Pritchett's evidence he says that he saw Alexander Smith, but because he saw Alexander Smith would these hon. gentlemen attempt to play upon the imagination of the people of this country as to argue therefrom that Smith was corrupt? They take the people of Canada to be greener than they are. But if that argument is correct which was made to-night in the presence of the hon. leader of the opposition, what has he got to say of his leader, who associates with Barker, whose gratuitous services he accepts, and therefore he is under a strong obligation to him, accepting the services of a man who connived at an act that would have placed him behind prison bars if it had been done in Canada? I am going to mention one more point. Last night the ex-Minister of Justice, the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) pointed his finger across the floor of the House at the Postmaster General, and he said: The Postmaster General and the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) are under a cloud. Why? Because these two gentlemen, as he states, appeared upon a public platform in Brockville and the only thing he has to connect them with that election was the fact that this man Pritchett had made an affidavit that corrupt practises had taken place in Brockville, although eight responsible men have sworn that Pritchett was a perjurer and a liar. Because these two gentlemen stood upon a public platform in Brockville and made a speech the ex-Minister of Justice argues therefrom that they must be corrupt. I might have expected that from some hon. gentlemen opposite, but I did not expect it from the hon. member for Pictou. I fancy he is ashamed of it himself, and that he would not repeat it again. I simply mention these facts to show the depth to which the hon. gentlemen will go in order to try to besmirch the Liberal party. If he believed what he said, then he must believe that every cabinet minister who stands up in a public meeting where some thief says political corruption existed, he must therefore be corrupt, or be under a cloud. Now, that being the case I propose taking up here and now some of the matters that were exposed in 1896, and in doing so I want to ask the member for Pictou what he thinks of his worthy sire the leader of the opposition. I want it to be understood that I am not opposed to investigating where the culprits can be punished. I will go further, and say I am prepared to support with my vote and my voice any inquiry that is likely to get at the foundation of ballot box stuffing, and find out how it happened, where it existed, and what remedy can be applied to

the disease. It seems to me that if the member for Lisgar had been sincere, as he stood up and read his essay, he would have said: Let us get to the bottom of this thing, and find out how it originated. Let us find out where it started, try to get hold of the men who did it, who first gave instructions how to perpetrate these frauds, find out where the disease is, and then apply your salve to the festering sore.

Now, I am not going to say anything about what was done in 1891. I am not going to take up South Wentworth, or North Middlesex, or West Northumberland, or South Grey, in every one of which constituencies ballots were stolen from the box after the election, and for some of which men sat in this House for years by reason of these tampered ballots, after they had been counted in the presence of the different scrutineers. And when it came to a recount before a judge, in the middle of the bunch they found ballots marked for both candidates in close constituencies; and these men sat for years as supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, and some of them are sitting there to-day. I am not going back to 1891, but I want to show what was done in 1896. In the constituency of Bothwell, whose representative (Mr. Clancy) I see in his place, in the city of Chatham, on election night, after the election was over, there were six good genuine ballots, all marked for the present member for Bothwell, found on the streets of Chatham. That was in the election of 1896. We had nothing to do with the printing, we did not appoint the deputy returning officers. Beyond that I can give this House no information; but I leave this House to draw its own conclusions as to whether they were ballots that fell from the pockets of the deputy returning officer who had them for the purpose of substituting them for ballots marked for Mr. Mills, and that he either had more than he could use, or he was watched so closely that he could not use what he had, and they fell from his pocket accidentally on the street. And these ballots are still in existence. Now, I will diverge here for an instant. Fortunately, Liberals who desire to make accusations of deliberate violation of the election laws in 1896 by hon. gentlemen opposite need not rely on the affidavits of a man like Pritchett. I am not going to say that a single man sitting on the opposition benches knew what was going on in 1896. If the Liberal party is to be held responsible for the wrong-doing of every culprit who may chance to vote Liberal in an election, if it is to be held responsible for every act that may be done, if that is the position of the hon. gentlemen opposite, then they must accept it for themselves, because what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander; they must relegate to themselves their own culpability for all the corruption and wrong-doing that was

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committed throughout the country in 1891 and 1896. But, when it came to 1896, hon. gentlemen opposite became so bold that they placed their instructions in print, and will go one step further and tell these hon. gentlemen that the man who stuck the type may yet be alive, and that the printing machine that printed these instructions, may not yet be broken. If we are going to investigate, let us come down to the fellows who wrote the instructions. I will read them for the benefit of this House. Where did they come from? I will, before I sit down, prove where they came from, and I tell the House, that this man Freeborn, who is just as good a man and better than Pritchett, because he originated nothing, and Pritchett did, says, they came from Robert Birmingham, the chief organizer then, and the chief organizer to-day, of the Conservative party. This is what they are:

We have the printing of the ballots, therefore a sufficient number should be printed extra to enable the deputy returning officer to have them marked for our candidate and ready to use after the count to replace those read out wrongly to the scrutineers. Or the deputy returning officer can have them marked and folded in his pocket to slip into the box in place of an opposition ballot if the opportunity happens. This, of course, will occur quite frequently if we have control of both scrutineers.

I am not surprised at the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), laughing. I am not surprised at the hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart). If that proposition stopped there I would laugh too, but, unfortunately, it does not. These instructions tell how to get control of the scrutineers:

To get control of both scrutineers have one of our men, not a prominent one, but a supposed kicker, for instance, apply to the opposition to be put on as scrutineer inside. They are generally short of workers, and a few plausible men will turn the election in a close constituency. Or the man can write to their headquarters for scrutineer papers if he lives in the country.

Efforts should be made to make these methods work in wards that give the heaviest opposition vote.

Having control of both scrutineers, a large vote can be polled—dead and absent voters, &c., can have their ballots marked—there is no redress; both scrutineers were present.

A friendly constable should be present to keep the poll clear of loungers and inquisitive people.

The deputy returning officer should be a reliable, sharp and plausible man, so that if we do not get control of the opposition scrutineer, he can, when the counting-time arrives, ask both scrutineers to take a piece of paper and record the vote of their candidate as he reads the ballots, which have been emptied on the table. He will then have a chance to read out wrongly, so that a majority can be secured for our candidate. The ballot should be put back into the box as quickly as they are read. The extra ones will do to fix things correctly when he goes home.

Spilled ballots can be made sure by a little doctoring. Opposition ballots can be spoiled by the lead out of a lead-pencil, fastened under the

little finger with beeswax, drawn across opposite our candidate's name in opening the ballot.

If you cannot get control of opposition scrutineers, have your deputy returning officer announce that he is against you, so as to lead him astray if possible.

Where did this statement come from? It was produced in 1896, it was produced in the province of Manitoba, it was produced by a man named Freeborn, who, to their knowledge, had done that nefarious work in 1891. He says: It came from Robert Birmingham, the Conservative organizer. I ask any House, I appeal to any jury, and I ask them, where did it come from—from a Liberal or a Conservative source? But, Sir, that was not all. I want to say that certain members, who were members of the Conservative party, knew of the existence of that kind of a scheme. They knew of these things that were being carried on, because when that man, Freeborn, went to Nathaniel Boyd, formerly the member for Macdonald, and at this time the candidate—and I am not taking Freeborn's word for it—Boyd sent a telegram to Birmingham about Freeborn. What do you suppose he telegraphed to Birmingham? Did he tell him that this man wanted to substitute ballots? Not much. I have no doubt that he wired, was Freeborn reliable, and the answer came back, and it is one of the things that we can speak about with certainty, because the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), said that he had it in his hands: 'He was a good man in North Bruce in 1891'—signed by whom? Signed by Robert Birmingham, the Conservative organizer, the organizer of hon. gentlemen opposite, the chief organizer of hon. gentlemen for years, their chief organizer to-day. So that, if hon. gentlemen want to investigate. I tell them that they do not have to go farther afield than the opposition benches, in order to find out what the position of affairs is, and there is the documentary evidence, a telegram from their chief organizer, to prove and back up the assertion. The hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill), is not in his seat. The majority of the hon. member for North Bruce in 1891, was 30. Freeborn, the expert ballot manipulator, ballot switcher and ballot box stuffer, at a time when it was not known, when nobody ever looked for that sort of thing—'He was a good man in North Bruce in 1891.' I do not know, but I leave this House to judge. How that majority was obtained? If the Liberal party hold the seats of West Huron and Brockville by majorities of over one hundred because the ballot boxes and the ballots were switched, how does the confrère of hon. gentlemen, that esteemed Britisher, the great man of British fair-play, hold his seat, and I do not say that he knew anything about it. I have not yet been able to ascertain how he holds his seat. Whether it is by virtue of this man, I know not. History does not tell. He has never denied that he knew

Freeborn. I never heard it. He may have. But surely some of the hon. gentlemen opposite have heard him if he has, and they apparently haven't or they would say so. Now, to come down to something definite, I know that in the constituency of West Kent, there was one of the biggest schemes that was ever organized to defeat a candidate. The hon. member for West Kent (Mr. Campbell), who sits in this House, tells me, that the returning officer, Mr. Lambert, of Chatham, actually got extra ballots, that he handed them to the deputy returning officers, that he previously marked them for Ball, and that he asked them to initial them and to substitute them in the ballot box, for the genuine ballots. I hold in my hand, not the hearsay of a man named Pritchett, I hold in my hand the ballots that were placed with a Conservative deputy returning officer for him to substitute, and if hon. gentlemen opposite want to see them, I will tear off the back which is marked, as an exhibit, with the man's name, and let these gentlemen see them. These are the bogus ballots that were made for Kent in 1896. Here they are:

Ball, William, city of Chatham, county of Kent, lumber merchant. X

Campbell, Archibald, of the town of Toronto Junction, county of York, miller.

There are the ballots—that is no fake, they are marked for Ball. These were ballots that were given to the deputy returning officer for him to substitute, and in order that there would be no doubt about it, they marked them previously for Ball. This deputy returning officer, to his credit be it said, refused to substitute them. There were over 100 such ballots used against the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), and if Kent had been a close constituency, Mr. Ball would have been sitting here instead of Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Ball would be feeling that he was honestly elected, because Mr. Ball is a decent man, I believe, a respectable man in Chatham, who would frown down that sort of thing. Mr. Ball never knew, but the returning officer, Mr. Lambert, a 'pop' manufacturer in Chatham knew. I have got his envelope with his writing on the back of it, in which the bogus ballots were inclosed. That was in 1896, and if gentlemen opposite want to investigate, why not start at the foundation of it. If it is possible to punish the culprits, let us punish them, and every man on this side of the House will vote for the money to do it, whether the culprits are Liberal or Tory. The hon. gentleman from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) laughs. I can understand him laughing. He cannot conceive a Conservative government willing to investigate itself, but the Liberal party can conceive a Liberal government doing such an act, and is the only party that ever did investigate itself.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. COWAN. Tell me the Conservative government that ever did vote one dollar to investigate itself? The Ontario Liberal government did. Now, Sir, in the matter of the election in the county of Kent, I want to read an affidavit, and I want to explain first to the House that I have scored out the name of the man who made it. I have the original declaration here in my desk—

Mr. GIBSON. Better not leave it there then.

Mr. COWAN. I do not want to give his name unless there is going to be an investigation, and if hon. gentlemen want it, then I will give the name. Here is the declaration:

ONTARIO: COUNTY OF KENT. TO WIT:

In the matter of the election of a member of the House of Commons of Canada for the electoral district of Kent, in the province of Ontario, held on the 23rd day of June, A.D. 1896.

I,
do solemnly declare:

1. I acted as deputy returning officer at the above-mentioned election.
2. Warren Lambert, of the said city of Chatham, pop manufacturer, was returning officer for the said electoral district of Kent at the said election.
3. Before I was appointed deputy returning officer for the said polling subdivision, I was asked by the said returning officer how many illiterate voters there were in the said subdivision, and I replied about ten. He told me that deputy returning officers would be expected to use marked ballots where the illiterate voters voted 'wrong' (meaning for Campbell), and that they would be of no use if they could not do so.
4. Afterwards, and within a day or two before the day of the voting at the said election, the said returning officer shoved an envelope under the blotting paper on my table, which envelope was endorsed with the word 'private,' but with no other writing.
5. The said envelope is now produced and shown to me and marked as exhibit 'A' to this, my declaration.
6. Upon opening the said envelope (exhibit 'A') I found within it eight ballots, each marked in pencil with a cross opposite the name of William Ball, the Conservative candidate at the said election.
7. Five of the said eight ballots so received by me are now produced and shown to me attached together and marked as exhibit 'B' to this my declaration.
8. The said five ballots exhibit 'B' and the said envelope exhibit 'A' have been continuously in my possession since the time I first received them as aforesaid, and are now in the same plight and condition as they were when I so first received them save for the creases caused by the folding of them and for some slight discoloration on the envelope exhibit 'A'.
9. The other three of the said eight ballots were delivered by me to three gentlemen after the said election.
10. None of the said eight ballots were used by me at the said election.

Mr. COWAN.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act 1893.

Declared before me at the city of Chatham, in the county of Kent, this 25th day of April, A.D. 1900.

There is the affidavit, and there are the ballots. That was done in 1896, under the printed instruction which I have read. Where did these ballots come from that were sent to the deputy returning officers? Did they come from the Liberal party?

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) has not given us the name.

Mr. COWAN. No, Sir, I expressly stated that this man says: I do not want you to give my name unless it is necessary.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) must know that he cannot read a letter in this House without giving the name.

Mr. COWAN. Does he? The hon. member for East Grey can know that the copy which I have here, and which I have read, I will put in *Hansard*.

Mr. SPROULE. Then I appeal to the Speaker for his ruling on that point.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Ask the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.)

Mr. SPROULE. I raised the point of order, and I ask the opinion of the Speaker, whether an hon. member can read a letter to this House without giving the name.

Mr. COWAN. Can the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) quote any authority in support of that?

Mr. SPROULE. I am asking the ruling of the Speaker.

Mr. COWAN. That, Mr. Speaker, has been decided before in this House.

The PRIME MINISTER. Again and again.

Mr. COWAN. That has been decided before in this House by the late Mr. Speaker Edgar, in connection with a letter read from the original document—not from a copy—by the hon. member for Algoma, and it was decided that he need not give the name. As I say, I am reading a copy, and I will give it to the *Hansard*, just as it is.

Mr. SPROULE. I want the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER. My recollection of the rule is that a minister who reads a document which is official, or in support of an official statement is required to produce that document. With reference to documents quoted by private members, my memory is they are to be taken for what they are worth.

Mr. COCHRANE. That is not much.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the House wants a ruling, I shall look into the matter, and give it officially.

Mr. SPROULE. I can only say—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. SPROULE. I can only say that the contrary has been ruled in this House time and time again.

Mr. COWAN. If the House undertakes an investigation into the matter, there will be no order necessary for me to produce the affidavit. I will produce the original, and the man who made it. Now, I will state something that is public history for the benefit of gentlemen opposite. The hon. gentlemen opposite know that in North Ontario in 1896, the county now represented by the respected gentleman (Mr. Graham), when it came to a recount before the judge, they found in the ballot boxes, ballots that had never been folded, that were perfectly uncreased, and that were marked for Mr. McGillivray, the Conservative candidate, and now an ex-member of this House.

Mr. Graham applied for a recount. Upon opening the envelopes containing the ballots, it was found the ballots in five different polling subdivisions had been tampered with. No. 4, Thorah, No. 18, Brechin, No. 19, Town Hall in Mara, No. 27, Bracebridge, and No. 33, Draper. In these polls twenty-one ballots marked for Graham were, after the election and before the recount, extracted from the ballot boxes and twenty-one marked for McGillivray substituted therefor. These twenty-one bogus ballots were unfolded, uncreased and perfectly smooth and in marked contrast to the genuine ballots in the same envelope, and it was impossible for them to have passed through the slit in the ballot box. His Honor Judge Burnham, before whom the recount was held clearly expressed the opinion that they were fraudulent and bogus and had been put in the box after polling day. Yet Mr. McGillivray sat in the House for a whole session with the hon. gentlemen opposite, supported them during the session, and drew his sessional indemnity, and no man on that side asked for an investigation; but we went before the proper tribunal, the election court, and proved our case. Now, as this is a case of public notoriety, I will give the hon. gentleman an affidavit in regard to it:

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario,
County of Ontario. To wit:

In the matter of the election of a member for the electoral district of the north riding of the county of Ontario, holden on the 16th and 23rd days of June, 1896.

I, Robert Moore Noble, of the town of Uxbridge, in the county of Ontario, barrister-at-law, do solemnly declare as follows:

1. That I was an elector in the above-named electoral district and voted at the said election.
2. That I was present at the declaration of the returning officer at said election.

3. That I attended at Whitby at the recount of the ballots cast at the said election, and I was also solicitor for Mr. Duncan Graham, one of the candidates at the said election, in the matter of his petition, to declare the said election void under the Dominion Controverted Elections Act.

4. That at the above-named recount, upon opening the envelopes containing the ballots marked for the said Duncan Graham, it was found that twenty-one ballot papers therein were marked for John A. McGillivray, the other candidate at the said election; these were found among the ballot papers for the following polling subdivisions, namely: Nos. 4 (Galloways, Thorah), 18 (Brechin), 19 (Town Hall, Mara), 27 (Bracebridge), and 33 (Draper).

5. That the said ballots presented the appearance of never having passed through the slit in the ballot box, but were unfolded and uncreased and smooth, in marked contrast to the genuine ballots in the same envelopes, as I was informed by the said Duncan Graham and the late Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who acted as counsel at the said recount for the said Duncan Graham, and as I verily believe.

6. That I have had conversations with one or more of the persons who were present at the counting of the ballots at the close of the poll in the said election at each of the polling subdivisions above-mentioned, and I was informed by the said persons, and verily believe that all the ballots put into the envelopes purporting to contain those marked for the said Duncan Graham were so marked for the said Duncan Graham.

7. That I have good reason to believe, and do verily believe that twenty-one ballots cast at the said polling subdivisions for the said candidate, Duncan Graham, were unlawfully extracted from the said envelopes after the said polling and before the said recount, and that twenty-one ballot papers fraudulently marked for the said candidate, John A. McGillivray, were unlawfully substituted therefor, and this was the expressed opinion of His Honour Judge Burnham, before whom the said recount was held.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

R. M. NOBLE.

Declared before me at the town of Uxbridge, in the county of Ontario, this 13th day of July, A.D. 1899.

V. M. HARE,
A Commissioner, &c.

There is the affidavit of the solicitor who was there. The deputy returning officers themselves swore that they had sealed up the ballots in the envelopes marked for Duncan Graham, that no ballots were in it except those marked for Duncan Graham, but when they opened the box they found twenty-one new ballots that had never been creased or folded, which is necessary to get them into a ballot box, in Duncan Graham's envelope. How did they get there? Did any Liberal put them there? There is no man on the other side of the House who will insinuate anything so absurd.

Now, Sir, I come down to the election in Lincoln in 1896, represented in this House by the respected whip of the Liberal party

(Mr. Gibson). We had a peculiar state of affairs in Lincoln, because we had a peculiar opposition candidate—a pastmaster of political corruption, a man who had been practically driven out of this House for it. The returning officer was a partner of the secretary of the Conservative Association, who with other Conservatives, performed the duties of returning officers. A number of shady characters, one of them an ex-convict were appointed to act as deputy returning officers at various points in the riding. The names of about ten of these deputy returning officers were not disclosed until after midnight of the night before election day and only then after repeated requests on behalf of the Liberals. About two days before the election these men met by appointment at a hotel in St. Catharines where they were instructed how to substitute ballots for the notorious J. C. Rykert in place of ballots honestly marked by the voters for Gibson, the present member and for that purpose were supplied with a large number of duplicate ballots previously marked for Rykert, to enable them to carry out the fraud. They were each paid a sum of money on account with a promise of a bonus to the man who would steal the largest number of ballots. The man who gave the instructions was imported from the United States for the purpose. Over three hundred duplicate ballots previously marked for Rykert were given to these deputy returning officers and a large number of them were used.

Let me deviate here for a minute and ask the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) if he is surprised where they got all the details for the declarations that were made by Pritchett, keeping in view the fact that those declarations were prepared by Sam Barker, the organizer of the Conservative party, who had been through this nefarious business in Lincoln. I have no doubt, following the printed instructions to pay for the work as it was done.

Mr. McCLEARY. Who made that statement?

Mr. COWAN. Wait a moment till you hear me through. I will answer the hon. gentleman. He wants to know the deputy returning officer who turned and told of the nefarious business. His name does not appear here. We have the original, however, and if there is any investigation, we will supply it before this House is prorogued:

Dominion of Canada. To wit:

In the matter of the election for the electoral district of Lincoln, held on the 26th day of June, 1896.

I, _____ of _____ in the county of Lincoln, do solemnly declare:

1. That I was resident in the city of St. Catharines at the time of the above election, and personally know of the matters herein referred to in connection thereof.

2. The returning officer for the said election was William J. Carroll, of the said city of St.

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Catharines, a member of the firm of Potter & Carroll, real estate agents, the said Potter being at that time the secretary of the Conservative Association for the said electoral district.

3. During the said election the said Carroll was intoxicated for a considerable part of the time, having been kept so by the said Potter and other members of the Conservative party, and the said Potter and other members of the Conservative party discharged the duties and acts relating to the said election that should have been done by the returning officer.

4. The ballots for use at the election were printed at the 'Star' office in St. Catharines, and a large number were printed in addition to what was required for the election, such extra number being of 500 or more, and these extra ballots, as well as the ballots for the election were left in the office of the said Potter & Carroll in their safe, both the safe and the office being unlocked and free to any one who might wish to enter.

5. About ten persons, residents of St. Catharines, were appointed to act as deputy returning officers at the various polls in the county and not in the city, and principally in the township of Pelham and Gainsborough. These parties, generally speaking, were not responsible persons, and in many cases were not at all qualified to act as deputy returning officers. The names of these ten or so deputy returning officers were not disclosed to anybody, but were kept secret, until late on the night prior to the election, and their names were then published only on the written order from Mr. Rykert, the Conservative candidate at the election.

6. About two days before the election these ten deputy returning officers were instructed to meet, and did meet, at the Breen House, in the city of St. Catharines, kept by one John McNulty, a prominent Conservative, now residing at the village of Merriton. They were told to go there by the said Potter, and they were met there by a man named Quackenbush, formerly of Port Dalhousie, then and now a resident of Lewiston. At that meeting the said Quackenbush gave instructions to the deputy returning officers how to substitute ballots marked for the said Rykert for ballots given to them by voters marked for William Gibson, the other candidate of the said election, and on the evening and on subsequent occasions, the said Quackenbush, Potter and McNulty gave to these ten persons who were to act as deputy returning officers a large number of duplicate ballots. Each deputy returning officer was to mark the duplicate ballots for Rykert, and to put his initials on the back, and when a voter known as a Gibson voter came to vote the deputy was to place in the ballot box one of these duplicate ballots marked for Rykert, instead of the ballot marked by the voter.

7. At the said meeting each of the said persons so appointed as deputy returning officer was paid the sum of \$10 to induce him to carry out this scheme, and the said Quackenbush promised a further sum to the one of the said ten who would have substituted the most ballots pursuant to the arrangement above-mentioned.

8. The said persons so appointed all acted as deputy returning officers in the polls where they were appointed, and a considerable number of duplicate ballots were substituted by them, as set forth above.

9. The names of the said deputy returning officers are known to me, and the facts hereinbefore stated are from my personal knowledge. The names of the said deputy returning officers, so far as I remember them, are as follows: James Flack, jr., Percy Nelson, Geo. A. Bauers, Richard

Newman, James A. Livingston, E. McGowan, Fred. House.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at the _____ this 14th day of July

There is the declaration, with sufficiently minute particularity of details; and I want to ask this House and hon. gentlemen opposite, especially one question, and that is: When you go back to Pritchett's affidavit, remembering what occurred in 1896, having the printed written instructions given in 1896 contained in these affidavits I have read, and having the knowledge of what these hon. gentlemen opposite did in the province of Manitoba, why was that paragraph inserted in Pritchett's affidavits, saying that it occurred to this man in 1898 that that thing could be done? Why, Sam Barker knew that that had been done in 1896. These gentlemen had the printed instructions in their hands, but in order to lend colour to their story and attempt to show that it was the Liberal party which had invented this mode of tampering with ballots, after this government were in power, they put that paragraph in the affidavit, that it originated with these men in 1898, in order to throw the responsibility if they could, on the Liberal party, while in point of fact it was their stock in trade in trying to carry the elections for many years.

I want to go back to the statement of the ex-Minister of Justice, the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). I want to ask him what he has to say in justification for his leader's going into the constituency of Lincoln and speaking for Mr. Rykert. The hon. leader of the opposition spoke, I have no doubt, in Kent. He spoke in Lincoln, and I have no doubt he spoke in Bothwell. I am also informed now that he spoke for Mr. McGreevy in the city of Quebec. I ask that hon. gentleman if I am wrong in that statement? Does the hon. the leader of the opposition deny it? No. Then, Sir, if that fact is true, what has the ex-Minister of Justice to say? He has told us that a cloud rests on the Postmaster General and on the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), because these men stood upon public platforms in Brockville where corruption is alleged by a confessed criminal, Pritchett, to have been practised.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman want an answer?

Mr. COWAN. I will listen to any explanation the hon. gentleman may give.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I say without hesitation that if the House were requested to pass a resolution, such as the one now before us, to inquire into the conduct of those officers who had acted

in that corrupt manner in a constituency, where the leader of the opposition or any of his colleagues had taken an active part, and he had refused to vote for and support a thorough and searching inquiry, I would not support the leader of the opposition.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. COWAN. I will take up the hon. gentleman where he left off. I hope I understood him, and do not want to misstate his case. I understood him to say that if an investigation were called for, until the charges were cleared up, any minister who spoke in the constituency concerned, is under a cloud?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am afraid I cannot make the hon. gentleman understand plain English. What I said was a direct answer to this question, and it is this. If the leader of the opposition had taken an active part in a constituency, in which the returning officers were solemnly charged on the floor of this House with having been guilty of corrupt practices, and a committee of investigation were asked for, and the leader of the opposition endeavoured to burk the inquiry, I would say that there was a strong suspicion that he was afraid something else than the corruption of the returning officer would come out.

Mr. COWAN. I appreciate the explanation of the hon. gentleman, and I think I thoroughly understand it, and that is, that wherever dishonesty is charged it should be investigated. That if there had been dishonesty committed by deputy returning officers, then that should be investigated, and that he would support a vote of censure upon the leader of the opposition if he refused an investigation into the conduct of an election where there was a corrupt returning officer, and in which it had been charged on the floor of parliament that that returning officer was corrupt. I think that is the position the hon. gentleman takes?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. COWAN. I am glad that the hon. gentleman assents to that. Then, if the ex-Minister of Justice is so jealous of the purity of a deputy returning officer, that he is ready to censure whoever will not investigate the charge of corruption against that officer in the conduct of an election, how much more jealous must he be of the honesty and purity of the candidate himself who was running in the interests of that party? If this is the case, the only thing the hon. gentleman wants to know is that, if there is crooked work, the hon. gentleman is the first to denounce it. Then, he censured the Postmaster General for speaking in an election in which it was alleged on affidavit that corruption had gone on.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Nonsense! I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. COWAN. Well, if he did not censure the Postmaster General he said he was under a cloud.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Never—not for speaking in the constituency.

Mr. COWAN. For speaking in the constituency and refusing to have it investigated. And, what must be the position of the leader of the opposition who goes into a constituency and calls upon the Conservatives great and small to rally around the standard of a convicted criminal in public life. I do not want to dig up this skeleton—but Thomas McGreevy was a supporter of hon. gentlemen opposite, and was a convicted criminal as a man who had trafficked in public money. So clear was it that a crime had been committed that his political affiliation could not save him, even though defended by most eminent counsel, when he got before the jury. He was tried, he was convicted and he was sentenced to imprisonment in jail. And these political purists are the men who asked their followers to rally around the standard of the criminal whom they themselves had prosecuted. If that is the standard of purity the hon. member for Pictou wants to raise, he is welcome to the position he has taken.

There was an election held in Parry Sound, three men ran there, W. H. Pratt, George McCormick, Conservatives, and Colonel O'Brien, McCarthyite. Mr. McCormick was declared elected. Some time afterwards over forty ballots were discovered in one ballot box which had been marked for Pratt and O'Brien and plainly tampered with. In some cases the crosses opposite Pratt's and O'Brien's names were erased, but done so clumsily as to be easily detected with the naked eye. In other cases a cross had been put opposite McCormick's name on the same ballots from which the crosses marked for one of the other candidates had been erased. The conspirators found that the work had been done too clumsily and substituted new ballots and failed to destroy the original ones. When over forty ballots are stolen in one polling subdivision is it not a fair inference that there was an organized plot which resulted in the seat being stolen for the Tory candidate? That is a serious charge. I will give the hon. gentlemen authority for it:

I, Thomas Kennedy, of the town of Parry Sound, in the district of Parry Sound, registrar, do solemnly declare that I was returning officer, in the district of Parry Sound, for the province of Ontario, election of 1898, and having need of additional ballot boxes communicated with Mr. Joseph Malkin, of the village of Spencedale, who was the returning officer for the electoral district of Muskoka and Parry Sound, in the Dominion general election of 1896, for the purpose of procuring from him some of the boxes which were used in the last mentioned election; that

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in pursuance of my said communication with said Joseph Malkin, I received per express, from Spencedale, ten of the ballot boxes used in the said Dominion election in said electoral district, and in opening these ballot boxes, in the presence of my deputy, Mr. W. E. Foot, I discovered in one of them about forty ballots marked for the different candidates in the said election, Mr. Pratt, Mr. O'Brien and Mr. McCormick; a considerable number of which on close examination appeared to me to have been tampered with.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

THOS. KENNEDY.

Declared before me at the town of Parry Sound, in the district of Parry Sound, this eighteenth day of July, A.D. 1899.

R. E. STONE,
A Commissioner, &c.

Now, what does that mean? It means that within that ballot box were forty ballots that had been marked against the present member for Muskoka and Parry Sound. The attempt had been made to erase the mark, but they failed to make a good job of it, and no doubt substituted new ballots, but failed to destroy the old ones. I leave the House to say how the hon. gentleman holds his seat.

I am not going much further into this sort of thing. But the case of Manitoba has been referred to. It was proved before the Public Accounts Committee that wholesale frauds were perpetrated in Manitoba during the Dominion general election of 1896. One Freeborn was expressly sent from Ontario to Manitoba to instruct deputy returning officers in different parts of that province to stuff the ballot boxes in the interests of Conservative candidates. Freeborn stated that he was sent up from Ontario by Mr. Robert Birmingham, the chief organizer of the Conservative party. Mr. Nathaniel Boyd, the Conservative candidate in Marquette, to whom Freeborn was sent, telegraphed to Mr. Birmingham about him and Birmingham wired back in reply, 'He was a first-class man in North Bruce.' After receiving this certificate of his skill from the chief organizer of the Conservative party, he was employed by them for the express purpose of teaching deputy returning officers how to switch ballots. In this nefarious business he was helped by two men, named Anderson and Waller. These three worthies went through the province into several constituencies and it was clearly proved during the investigations that followed by incontrovertible evidence that they instructed many deputy returning officers, who subsequently confessed that they had substituted hundreds of ballots cast for Liberals with ballots previously marked for the Conservative candidate and with which they had been previously supplied by the Tory machine in Manitoba.

Subsequently, when that fraud came out, the Liberal party did not wait until par-

liament met for the purpose of raising a furore on the floor of this House. They set the provincial machinery in motion to try to bring the guilty parties to justice. They did not start it with the idea of making political capital for the Liberal party, they started it with the idea of bringing the guilty parties to justice. The ex-Minister of Justice (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) tried to score a point against this government because we had spent the money along this line. We all remember how he rose in his place time and again and denounced the government of this country because they spent the money in trying to prosecute these men. But the hon. gentleman who was zealous for the share of public money in 1896 after the work had been done and it was proved and one of them was actually convicted—the hon. gentleman opposite, instead of being glad of the exposure, instead of commending the government for trying to bring the culprits to justice, censured the Liberal party and tried to censure the Minister of the Interior because he endeavoured to see that justice was done and the criminals were punished. And he spent four or five thousand dollars of public money in the Public Accounts Committee in an effort to show that these prosecutions ought not to have taken place and that they were too expensive when they did. So, this desire for investigation and punishment on the part of these hon. gentlemen comes too late. In the city of Winnipeg there was fraud of another kind; whereas six or seven thousand ballots would have been sufficient in an honest election there were ten thousand printed, and yet all had been used up at two o'clock and the polls had to be closed while they got a fresh supply printed. Altogether, the Manitoba election will live in political history as the boldest and most colossal election fraud ever perpetrated by any party. Yet these gentlemen squandered \$5,000 of the public money trying to censure the government because they had exposed rascality.

Now, there is another matter that I am sorry to have to go into; hon. gentlemen opposite have mentioned it, and that is the South Ontario election. If I were in the place of the hon. gentleman it seems to me that if there was one thing that would bring a blush of shame to my cheek, it would be the mention of South Ontario. In South Ontario, Mr. Calder defeated the Hon. John Dryden by ninety-six votes. As high as \$15 and \$20 each were paid for votes in the Conservative interest. In that constituency the Conservatives spent over \$7,000. They admitted it. In the election trial which followed, one Barker admitted that he had undertaken to make a change of twenty votes in one polling subdivision for \$100, and that the money was paid to him by one Luke on the written order of William Smith. Now, I want to ask, Who

was William Smith? He was the Conservative ex-M.P. But that is not all. I want now the attention of the hon. leader of the opposition for a moment while I make a statement to him. In 1896, Wm. Smith was the M.P. for the county of Ontario, for the south riding. He was a supporter of the hon. gentlemen opposite in 1896, and the leader of the opposition promised a committee of prominent gentlemen from South Ontario that after the election, if Mr. Smith was returned, he would make him Minister of Agriculture. The leader of the opposition visited the constituency of South Ontario, and that statement was made, I am advised, in his presence on the platform, and was not by him contradicted. I want to go one step further, I presume I am right, if not, the leader of the opposition will contradict me. Mr. Henry Parsons, proprietor of the Conservative party organ, and one of the deputation that visited Ottawa, the editor of the *North Ontario Observer* of Port Perry, made this statement, as I am informed, in his paper, at least made it upon the public platform: 'I got the promise of the leader of the opposition to that effect.' The *Oshawa Vindicator*, a Conservative newspaper, said the same thing. I hold in my hand the *Whitby Chronicle* of May 11, 1900, which says in regard to that matter:

The election of 1896 was interesting. The question before the people was, should Manitoba be coerced or not. The Conservative party took the affirmative, and the Liberal party the negative. In fact Mr. Burnett found himself face to face with the announced fact that Sir Charles Tupper had promised to make Mr. Smith, M.P., Minister of Agriculture.

That is what was used in the campaign in South Ontario, that is what the two party organs said, that is what the deputation said who came back, and I am advised that is what was said in the presence of the hon. gentleman. No doubt that Mr. Smith would have been the Minister of Agriculture if the Conservative party had been returned, because I believe the leader of the opposition prides himself on carrying out a promise made to a party friend. On the 9th day of January, 1900, the whole matter of bribery came before the courts, and this man Smith, this would-be Minister of Agriculture in the Conservative government, practically admitted the whole thing, and made what was known to be the most pitiable exhibition of political corruption and human depravity ever witnessed in Canada. Now, Sir, let me prove this statement. I will not ask you to take the evidence of a Pritchett, I will not ask you to take the evidence of a political renegade, of any political criminal or cut-throat; I will not ask you to take the evidence of a single Liberal. But, Sir, I go into the records of the court, and I drag forth the evidence taken upon the investigation before their lordships, Mr. Justice Ferguson and Mr.

Justice Osler, two gentlemen, Conservatives in their proclivities before they were appointed, and two of the most eminent jurists we have ever had in the Dominion of Canada. This is what this man White says :

Cross-examined by Mr. Lount :

Q. Did you see any money during that election ?—A. I did.

Q. For what purpose ?—A. I suppose for buying votes.

Q. How much money did you use ?—A. I cannot tell you.

Q. About how much ?—A. I cannot tell.

Q. Over \$100 ?—A. I never bought a man personally.

Q. Over \$100 ?—A. Yes.

Q. Over \$200 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$300 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$400 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$500 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$600 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$800 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$900 ?—A. It might be.

Q. Over \$1,000 ?—No answer.

By Judge Osler :

Q. It might be over \$900 ?—

Mr. Lount a former member of this House who was prosecuting, asked :

Q. Over \$900 you used for buying votes at that election ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then you are willing to say that you used money for buying votes at that election ?—A. Yes.

Q. Did I understand you to say that you did not pay out any money yourself ?—A. Not to the individual voters.

Q. How did you work it ? Did you select the persons to pay it out ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you give the persons ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you decline to name the persons ?—A. I do.

Q. Do you know the persons but decline to name them ?—A. I do.

Q. How many persons were there that you gave money to ?—A. I do not propose even to tell that.

Mr. Lount.—I ask Your Lordship's—

Judge Osler.—I think he may be asked that question.

Mr. Lount.—How many persons were there to whom you gave money ?—A. Half a dozen.

Q. How much to each ?—A. I cannot tell that from memory.

Q. Have you a memorandum ?—A. No.

In answer to further questions witness admitted that Baker showed him a list of money that would be required in Cedardale to the extent of \$

Judge Ferguson.—Can you tell us how much more than \$900 you paid ?—A. No, I can't.

Q. Can you say not as much as \$1,200 ?—A. It could not be more than \$1,200.

This question was not in his election at all, but in a provincial election in which he was engaged in support of Mr. Calder, who was going to support Mr. Whitney.

Q. Will you say it was not more than \$1,200 ?—A. No, I cannot.

After some further questions, Judge Ferguson asked : Have you any means of saying where Baker got the money that he actually did spend ? Does he own a bank ?—A. No, sir.

Mr. COWAN.

In the course of the argument of Mr. Patterson, counsel for the accused, he claimed that Mr. Smith, this Conservative ex-M.P., this gentleman who was listed for a portfolio in the government of the hon. gentlemen opposite, had given his evidence in a candid manner.

Judge Osler.—I shouldn't call Mr. Smith's manner candid.

Mr. Patterson.—He showed no disposition to fence with the counsel.

Judge Osler.—I should call it brazen ; that is the word.

In giving judgment, Judge Ferguson remarked :

I look upon the evidence of Smith as being a brazen, distinct, strong denial, a denial that I do not believe—

That was on another point. He admitted that he had spent \$1,200 corruptly, but he was trying to save another man. Judge Ferguson says that it was a distinct, brazen, strong denial, that he did not believe :

—and I prefer to take the evidence of Baker as against the evidence of these other two. I think Mr. Smith's evidence cannot be too strongly condemned as it bears on the question, it is discredited by his admission that he was guilty of this gigantic corruption.

Judge Ferguson said further :

I have some regrets that this large offender, Mr. Smith, is not before us. I have nothing to say to him but that his evidence is the most glaring piece of corruption I ever heard.

That is not the political corruption of a Grit. It is in South Ontario that hon. gentlemen mentioned the other day.

Mr. LANDERKIN. This gentleman is to be their Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. COWAN. Well, they will have no need of a Minister of Agriculture for many years to come. I do not intend to detain the House much longer, but, before I close, I want to say, that looking at it from the standpoint of a lawyer, no lawyer on the other side of the House, if he is candid about it, will say that the Privileges and Elections Committee is an unprejudiced and unbiassed tribunal. I want to ask if there is any hon. gentleman who would say that he would be satisfied to go before this committee to try out his sacred rights, or to try out the sacred rights of character, or of the franchise. How would he like to go before a jury, when six men composing that jury had stood up and proclaimed in the strongest language that it is possible for the human voice to give vent to, that these men were guilty before they had ever heard a word. What kind of an exhibition have we had in this House ? The hon. senior member for Halifax, the hon. senior member for Pictou, the hon. member for Western Assiniboia, the hon. member for East Simcoe, the hon. member for Westmoreland, and the hon. member for Montmorency, six of them, have

stood up in this House, members of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and said that Pritchett told the truth. If Pritchett told the truth, then every one of these men charged, is guilty. They say they believe it, and they have advanced their reasons before a word of evidence has been given. Are these hon. gentlemen green enough to suppose that this country will believe that they are unbiassed judges to try the sacred rights of man? Again, as was quoted by the hon. Solicitor General last night, it is not necessary to give our opinions on the impartiality of the Privileges and Elections Committee, because the hon. member for Pictou has expressed it already. I say that the Committee on Privileges and Elections is a biassed tribunal. The hon. senior member for Halifax and the hon. member for Westmoreland were the two counsels against the Liberal party in that committee. What would the hon. senior member for Halifax say to submitting his client to the decision and the judgment of the Privileges and Elections Committee? That is what these hon. gentlemen ask us to do here, without being able to carry out a decision, even if one were arrived at. But, to see the ridiculousness of the situation, all we have to do is to recall the history of the past. The Privileges and Elections Committee has existed in this parliament for some years, and cases have gone before that committee, and with what result? I do not purpose to detain the House in order to recount these cases with any minute particularity of detail, but, I may mention the Queen's County, N.B., case, which has already been alluded to. Hon. gentlemen all know that Mr. Baird was not elected by a majority of the votes of the people. The returning officer who took the deposit of Mr. Baird from his agent, let his name go on the ballot, instructed the deputy returning officers, gave them the ballot boxes, and all the paraphernalia necessary to carry on an election, and when the ballots came to be counted, and it was found that Mr. Baird was some forty votes behind, he turned around and said that his opponent's deposit was put in by his agent, and, therefore—

Mr. MILLS. He resigned, though.

Mr. COWAN. And, therefore, the other man was entitled to the seat. The hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills), has told me that he resigned. True, he did. But, Sir, be it said to his credit, he was more jealous of the rights of the franchise than hon. gentlemen opposite, because, after they had voted that he was entitled to the seat, he became ashamed of it and resigned. This impartial tribunal, these unprejudiced judges of whom I do not know whether the hon. member for Annapolis was one or not—

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mr. COWAN. You were? The hon. member for Annapolis was one of those who voted to give him the seat, and the gentle-

man became so ashamed of it afterwards, that he actually resigned, but the hon. member for Annapolis has never expressed his regret.

Mr. MILLS. No.

Mr. COWAN. I will tell him what was said at that time.

Mr. SPROULE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan), allow me to ask him a question?

Mr. COWAN. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), want to set me right?

Mr. SPROULE. I want to ask the hon. gentleman if he does not know that Dunn, the returning officer, acted upon the advice of one of the leading Liberal lawyers in the province?

Mr. COWAN. Very well. I am not blaming the returning officer Dunn, but there is the fact that he did it, no matter on whose advice he did it and let the facts speak for themselves. At this very hour, the hon. member (Mr. Sproule) is so ashamed of his party, that he tries to shift the act of a returning officer over on a Liberal lawyer in New Brunswick, who is not a member of this House. If it is necessary for him to rise in his place to apologize for the returning officer, how can he apologize for his Conservative friends who afterwards ratified that conduct with the full knowledge of the facts.

Mr. SPROULE. I am making no apology.

Mr. COWAN. I am glad of that. If there is one man in this House for whom I have a kindly regard, and who I believe wants to get down to what is honest and what is right, with the light he has, it is the member for East Grey. If there is a man in the Conservative party who wants to render justice where justice is due, that man is the member for East Grey. But I must tell him, that I hold that opinion, because he refuses to defend the act just mentioned. The hon. member (Mr. Sproule) is too jealous of his reputation to rise in his place and make any apology for the leader of the opposition. There was a man in that parliament by the name of J. C. Patterson, afterwards a minister in the Conservative government, and at present Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. It was too bitter a pill for Mr. Patterson to swallow and I will read what he said. Mr. Patterson said (*Hansard*, June 1, 1887, page 691):

I cannot be a party to any vote other than that which will give Mr. King, the gentleman elected on the 22nd of February last, the seat in this House. It is a question of the rights and privileges of the honour and dignity of this House.

In 1883, when a gentleman having the minority of votes in King's, P.E.I., was declared a member of this House I think an injustice was done in that case, and the course I then pursued is the course I have always pursued. I have always

had a strong feeling against countenancing returning officers in taking powers such as have been used by the returning officer of King's.

That was not a vote for the purpose of investigating cut-throat affidavits; that was a vote for the purpose of stealing a seat, for the man elected had confessedly a majority and yet every one of the Conservatives, except Mr. J. C. Patterson voted for it—and as the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) says I won't apologize for them. Mr. Patterson proceeded to say *Hansard*, April 28, 1887, page 177 :

I think the conduct of the returning officer for the county of Queen's, N.E., was the greatest outrage in connection with elections in Canada that has come to public knowledge for thirty years. I think it is a disgraceful thing if a minority candidate, by trick or quibble, by any lawyers playing upon the mind of an ignorant and credulous returning officer, can obtain and hold a seat in this House against the majority of the will of his constituents.

That was the opinion of Mr. Patterson who was elected a Conservative, who was one of the confidential men of the Conservative party for many years, and who was afterwards taken into their cabinet, and afterwards again entrusted by them with the responsible position of Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. That is what this Privileges and Elections Committee did. Now comes King's County, P. E. I. The present member for that constituency (Mr. Macdonald) was returned in the seat by that election committee with a Conservative majority in committee. The facts are that Dr. Robertson, the Liberal candidate for King's, polled 2,002 votes, and that Austin C. Macdonald, polled 1,940. The duty of the returning officer was to return the Liberal candidate elected by sixty-two of a majority, but on the strength of a statement made to him that Dr. Robertson had not resigned his seat in the local legislature, he made a special return. No returning officer has the right to pronounce on the qualifications of a candidate who has been duly elected at the polls. That is a question that should be relegated to the courts. In this case it was relegated to the Privileges and Elections Committee, with a large Conservative majority, and these gentlemen voted to give Mr. Macdonald, Conservative candidate, the seat, although the people of his constituency had voted to leave him at home by sixty-two of a majority, and five years afterwards Mr. J. C. Patterson, whom I have already quoted, stated that it was an outrage against the honour and dignity of the House and that an injustice was done. That is the history of the Privileges and Elections Committee. That is the unbiassed tribunal. A returning officer takes it upon himself upon election night to say this man has not properly resigned his seat in the local legislature—very few lawyers in this House would venture to give an opinion on it, and if they did give an opinion I venture to say that under these facts some of them would

disagree. The facts were that Robertson had written out his resignation, had placed it in the hands of two members of the House, or mailed it, and the question was that they did not receive it soon enough or did not hand it to the Speaker, I do not know which. But the Privileges and Elections Committee with a majority of Conservatives decided that Mr. Macdonald was entitled to the seat although the people had voted to leave him at home. There was no renegade criminal affidavit about that, but undisputed facts, and that is what the Privileges and Elections Committee did. Now, I come to the last statement I will make on that score. The hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) was charged by a member of this House with having trafficked in public offices. The facts were shown that that gentleman was liable for over \$600 of election debt in a provincial election. There were some jobs along the canal in his constituency and he handed over the patronage to a committee composed of his chief workers, the solid backbone and wheel horses of his party. This solid committee of influential men—I suppose the chief man in his party from each township—proceeded to sell these jobs at from \$150 to \$200 apiece. The money which they received went into the bank to reduce the indebtedness for which the hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) was liable. A man named Gooderich positively swore—and these are admitted facts—that he had paid \$200 over to the member for East Northumberland or his son; that the member for East Northumberland had counted the money, that the son had taken it to the bank and deposited it as a reduction of election debts. Gooderich gives this evidence and it was shown that money criminally obtained went to reduce indebtedness for which the hon. member for East Northumberland was liable. The hon. member for East Northumberland never went into the witness box to contradict it; but this unbiassed Committee on Privileges and Elections, on which he had a majority, voted that the hon. member for East Northumberland knew of no wrong-doing, although he had counted the money and his son had carried it to the bank; but they said that the conduct of the committee was most reprehensible. I do not know whether the hon. member for East Northumberland was perfectly clean and pure and unsullied as the driven snow, or not, as far as those charges were concerned. I have cited these cases to show this House the past record of the Committee on Privileges and Elections. When hon. gentlemen opposite had a majority on that committee, they voted to unseat men who were returned by forty and sixty-two majority respectively. When that committee was willing to steal the seats from these men and vote that the candidates of the minority should sit here. I have no confidence in a tribunal so partial.

Now, to state my position in this matter, I say that I am satisfied that I voice the sentiments of every man on this side of the House when I say, that from the Prime Minister down to the humblest member will ever condone political corruption. In support of that I say that hon. gentlemen opposite are unable, and never have been able to tax one representative of the Liberal party in this House with corruption and make it stick. I defy them to show that the Liberal party has had any Billy Smith who was going to be the next Minister of Agriculture. They will search the history of the Liberal party and the history of Canada in vain to find anything against the Liberal party down to 1896, except the one solitary instance mentioned, that of Mr. Laflamme, who needs no certificate of character from me as he got it from the hon. member for Montmorency, and from the courts of this country, which mulcted the *Mail* newspaper in \$10,000 damages for its insinuations against him. I say I voice the sentiments of every true Liberal in this House, whether he sits on this side or in the colony on the other side, when I say that every man among them is prepared to frown down political impurity, political immorality on the first tint or taint or corruption. I believe the whole Liberal party will endorse the sentiment I express when I say that if we had had those affidavits in our pockets, we would have followed the example of the Ontario government, and would have investigated the charges, and punished the guilty parties. We would not have sat down on the charges until the statute of limitations had counted us out, and then got up in this House with gusto and said, let us investigate. There would have been no conniving Alexander Smith, against whom no stigma attaches in connection with any of the elections which he has gone through, except on the statement of this man Pritchett, of whom nine persons in one constituency and three in another say he is a liar, and who admits that he is a perjurer himself. If Smith had had that document, there would have been no occasion for this discussion. No Liberal organizer would have compromised corrupt acts or villainies by putting the affidavit in a desk and leaving it there until the statute of limitation counted us out; but punishment would have followed. There would have been no letting slip four golden opportunities for punishing corruption, and then seizing on one for the purpose of making political capital. Whether or not Pritchett was a Liberal I care not. If a man commits a crime, no hon. gentleman should attempt to hold the whole party to which that man belongs responsible for it, unless he is willing to assume for his own party responsibility for all the political corruption which has taken place in the party which he supports. I say from the organizer up to the Prime Minister, will the Liberal party of

Canada ever feel the blush of shame upon its cheek. The Prime Minister will never have to go on a political platform to defend and ask votes for a man who is a political criminal. The Prime Minister will never have to go into a constituency and raise his voice and call upon the Liberal party to rally round the standard of a J. C. Rykert or any man of the Rykert ilk, a man, who, driven from this House, practically resigned when he was going to be attacked; and as to whom correspondence was published showing that he had mulcted people out of thousands of dollars on a timber limit which he had got from his political friends for \$5 a mile. I say to the Liberals in this House and to the Liberals in this country, and I say to the hon. leader of the opposition, thank heaven the Liberal party can stand up without any blush of shame on its cheek on account of its leader. If shame is drawn to the Liberal party, it is because of the hangers-on like Pritchett, who are found in its lowest depth, and not because of its standard-bearer and leader. When the hon. member for York again asks the young Conservatives to read the history of Canada and the history of the Conservative party, I hope he will ask them to read it in the light of some of the facts I have stated tonight, placed side by side with Pritchett's affidavit, so that the people of this country may see just what the relative positions of the two political parties are. If it lay in the power of this House I would say prosecute Pritchett, if you can, and get the evidence to prove the case against him. If you cannot, then I say do not put the case before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, a tribunal of which six of the judges have risen in their places in this House and prejudged it, and a seventh, the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Mills), has done it before by act in the Baird case. Do not refer to these people for the purpose of trying the sacred rights of the humblest individual in Canada, but go before an impartial tribunal—not a tribunal of which the judges have risen in their places and have expressed the opinion that that affidavit bears truth on its face because of its particularity of detail. If any Liberal were to rise in this House for the purpose of scoring a point against the opposition by any argument of that description, I would never follow the Liberal party as far as hon. gentlemen opposite are evidently prepared to follow the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), in the motion he has placed before the House.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) referred to me, Mr. Speaker, as the virtuous member for East Durham, and also charged members on this side, who are supporting the amendment before the House, with posing as purists. I make no claim to be more pure or virtuous than hon. members on

either side, but I do claim to stand just where the right hon. the First Minister stood last year on this question. At that time, when the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) made his motion to refer this matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, the right hon. gentleman rose in his place and said without hesitation that he would accept this motion. He said he was quite ready to do that, even although, in the case of the Brockville Election the evidence was exceedingly weak. I wish to say further, that the right hon. gentleman received a great deal of praise all over the country and especially from the Liberal organs for the course he took on that occasion.

My attention has been called to what the *Globe* said about him at that time, and I shall quote a few words from that article. *The Globe* of July 7, 1899, said :

The Premier, without hesitation, stated that a prima facie case had been presented in the West Huron case, and although the case was very weak in the Brockville matter, he readily consented that this also should be investigated, affirming the determination of the government to guard and preserve the sanctity of the ballots and the rights of the people.

All the members of this House, on both sides, applauded the right hon. gentleman on that occasion, but since then a remarkable change has taken place in his conduct. He was then quite ready to have this matter referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, but to-day we find him taking the very opposite position and for what reason I cannot understand.

There is another article in the *Globe* of July 8, 1899, headed 'Investigations,' in which that organ spoke about the action of the government in refusing an investigation into the Yukon matter, and justified their action because the charges had not been proved, and the *Globe* went on to say :

An admirable illustrative example of the situation is afforded by the proceedings of the House on Thursday. Charges were made with reference to the conduct of the recent by-elections in West Huron and Brockville. In this case, of course, it is not the administration of the public service which is impugned, but the constitution of the parliament, which is the ultimate governing authority of the country.

A good deal might be said on the subject of procedure.

I would call special attention to this because we have heard a great deal in this debate on that very same point.

A good deal might be said on the subject of procedure; the method of investigating such charges, which for years has been chiefly favoured is that of sending them before the courts. But the very life of the House of Commons is at stake in the conserving of the purity of its mandate from the electors, and it is not well that there should be hesitation or yielding to red tape in the probing of charges of corruption in elections.

Mr. CRAIG.

Those words express the opinion of members on this side exactly, and they express, I am sure, the opinion held by the First Minister last session, but which apparently he does not hold to-day.

Mr. Borden made definite charges, and within five minutes from the time he had taken his seat, he and all the House of Commons knew that the investigation for which he had asked was granted. More than that, it was granted in the precise form in which he had asked.

Later on in the same article, the *Globe* says :

Definite charges against the conduct of by-elections will be investigated by the House, whose independence is threatened by the prevalence of such practices as are alleged to have existed.

I have read this article to the House because I fully endorse it. I do not always agree with the *Globe*, but what is said in that article I agree with most emphatically, and so, I think, do most of the members of this House, although I am under the impression that they will not give evidence of their belief by their conduct on this occasion.

I ask why this change. The right hon. the First Minister has not told us, but I hope he will before this debate is ended. Last year he was ready to accept at once the motion of the hon. member for Halifax, but this year he refuses to take the same course that he thought proper to take then.

Some reasons were given by the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the junior member for Halifax and other supporters of the government, why the reference asked for should not be made, but in my opinion the reasons given—and I am speaking without reference to party at all, because I think an investigation of this kind should not be made a party question—were not at all satisfactory. I have carefully listened to most of the arguments made by hon. gentlemen opposite but have failed to find any satisfactory reason for their present change of front. One reason given was that nothing was proved last year. But in reply to that argument, I could quote from the *Globe*, but will merely give a paraphrase of the article, as it would take up too much time to give it in full. On August 4, *The Globe* said that although all the evidence had not been taken, it had been shown that some frauds had been committed in the election and there were great doubts thrown on the seat. I do not know how hon. members, in the face of such a statement, made after the evidence had been published, can take the ground that nothing was proved and on that ground refuse to refer this matter again to the committee.

The other argument used is that this matter should be left to the courts, but the article I have cited from the *Globe* deals conclusively with that contention. It shows that the correct procedure in so vital a mat-

ter as this, in which the independence of parliament is at stake, is to refer it to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Another argument used is that the Committee on Privileges and Elections is essentially political and biased, but if any one should resort to any such plea it certainly ought to be hon. gentlemen on this side, because hon. gentlemen opposite are in a majority on that committee. In my opinion hon. members are not in that committee to make this a party investigation, but to inquire and find out the truth and determine really how the elections were conducted. Charges were made that certain frauds existed, that certain irregularities had been practised by deputy returning officers; and it was asked that these be investigated by this committee, so that the facts might be known to the House and to the country and steps might be taken to prevent such things occurring again. I think that is a sufficient answer to the charge that the committee is prejudiced. But, I am not so filled with party spirit that I would be prepared to say that the Committee on Privileges and Elections would not seek to do what is right. I do not deny that members, at times, are influenced by political feeling; but, I do not think so little of any hon. member of this House as think that he would be anxious to prevent the truth being known. But there is one argument against all this that is conclusive, and that is, that if there was anything in this plea, it should have been raised last year. Every hon. member on the other side, including the Premier, agreed to refer this to the committee last year. If the committee is prejudiced this year, it was prejudiced last year, but not a word was said of that then. I am not a lawyer; I look at this question, as I believe the ordinary, common-sense elector will look at it, whether Conservative or Liberal. The question will arise with him why this should not be sent to the committee as it was last year, and he can see no reason for it. But some of those who have spoken have taken a different ground. They blame the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) for delay and want to know why he brings this matter on at the last stage of the proceedings. The answer to that is, that the government themselves should have moved to have this investigation resumed. Why did not they, as soon as the House met, bring forward that proposition? It was the business of the government, and particularly of the Premier, and not of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden). Why? Because their honour is concerned. The names of cabinet ministers have been mentioned in connection with this matter. It has been hinted that they were in the riding and more or less associated with these men who are spoken of as 'the machine.' I have not used the names of these cabinet ministers, but, I say that their names hav-

ing been used, they are more interested in having this investigation go on than any others. On their own behalf, and on behalf of the Liberal party, and on behalf of this parliament of Canada, they should have demanded a full investigation of the matter. The reasons that have been given for failure to go on with this investigation do not satisfy me. I think I may safely go further and say, they do not satisfy the country. There is no doubt that the country is aroused on this question. I believe the reason why the Prime Minister agreed so readily to refer these matters to the Committee on Privileges and Elections last year was that he knew there was a great feeling in the country against corruption in elections on account of the West Elgin case. He felt that public opinion was behind him, urging him to consent to this investigation. And why he has changed his views, I cannot tell. But, I know that the country will not be satisfied with any reason given by hon. gentlemen opposite for not taking that course this year. There are, I am glad to say, two parties in this country. But, there are many men who may be called independent voters, and they are the men who turn out governments and put in others. And I believe that the independent voters demand that the sanctity of the ballot shall be protected. Some persons are bound to their party no matter what happens; but, there are many who are more independent, who read the papers for themselves and judge for themselves. And these men are the salvation of any country. Such men will not be satisfied with the reasons that have been given. They agree with what the Prime Minister said last year and what the *Globe* said last year. In refusing to refer this matter to the committee, the right hon. gentleman is not expressing their sentiments, and, if I know them they will show that when they are appealed to at the polls.

In seeking for the real reason why this investigation is refused, I can only come to the conclusion that it is because too much was brought out in the committee last year. If it has been shown that everything had gone right, they would have said: Let us go on with the investigation. But too much was proven—unfortunately for every one of us. I am not one of those who will exult and applaud when corruption is proved against hon. gentlemen opposite. I regret and deplore such a state of things. There are men all over this country who deplore this political corruption. They do not look at politics as many politicians are apt to do, as a mere game between the two parties.

Let us see what the government are resisting. Many long speeches have been made by hon. gentlemen opposite, and words have been spoken which have merely beclouded this question. I do not say that that is the purpose, but that has been the

effect. But, the plain fact is that what the government are opposing at this moment is the reference of these questions of the Brockville and West Huron elections to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. It is said that this is a vote of want of confidence. But that is no excuse for voting against it. The government could accept it, and if they did, it would not be a vote of want of confidence. I believe that hon. members would vote for this amendment if they were unprejudiced. I believe more, I believe many members on that side of the House will be glad to vote for this amendment and have that referred again to this committee, because they feel they are placed in an awkward position in resisting the investigation and opposing the amendment of the member for Halifax.

Mr. Speaker, I hold that in this matter, the Liberal party is on trial; they may not think so, but they are on trial before the country. In what position are they placing themselves to-day? Are they going to stand by these men of the machine? That is the question that occurs to all of us. Are they going to stand in front of them? If so, I say that the independent Liberal voters of this country will not stand by them, and in saying that, I pay a compliment to these Liberal voters. There are independent Liberal voters as well as independent Conservative voters. At the last election, the Liberal party was returned to power in a great measure by independent Conservative voters, who would not stand by their party. I know men who voted that way, for certain reasons, because they were independent, and there are likewise independent Liberal voters in this country. I am speaking now in their praise, when I say that such men will not support the government and the members of this House, who vote to quash this investigation.

One great argument that has been used in this debate, has been that the Conservatives are just as bad. A more puerile argument I never listened to. We are not discussing the political methods of the Conservatives, we are discussing this amendment. It is a straight amendment, asking to refer the irregularities in the West Huron and Brockville elections, to the Committee of this House on Privileges and Elections. I am not going to say whether the Conservatives are bad or not, because that is not the question under discussion. I am not saying that the Liberal party are bad; that is not the point. But I say that if anything is true which has been charged against the Conservative party, that is a strong argument for referring these two elections to this committee. I have not studied the evidence particularly, and I am not going to argue about the Conservatives being just as bad, because that is not the question before the House.

Now, what are the people of the country?
Mr. CRAIG.

going to think of this? To my mind they see the Conservative party in this House trying to expose these irregularities. I think no one will deny that. If there are irregularities, we want to expose them, and by so doing prevent them from occurring again. Some ask: What good does it do? I say it does a great deal of good to let the light in on these matters. If anything is going to prevent these things being done again, it is just what has been brought out in these investigations. The people of this country see to-day the Conservative party in this House trying to expose these irregularities, and I am sorry to say they see the Liberal party in this House, trying to hide them. Now, I want to trouble the House to listen for a few minutes to an article in the *Ottawa Evening Journal* of this day. The *Journal* is an independent organ, but it generally supports the present government. I do not think it would write as it does, unless it felt compelled to do so in the interests of the country, and, I may say also, perhaps, in the interests of the Liberal party. I will read the article:

Political Rottenness.

Members of the Liberal party who are honourable men need apparently to stop to ask themselves where their party stands in the matter of honesty and cleanliness. Evidences of political fraud in connection with many of their leaders and electoral organizations are becoming more numerous than should be pardoned in any party. Much as people may hope for tariff reform, or admire Imperial tariff preference, or dislike the old tendencies of the Conservative party, or feel dubious about its present leadership, these things one and all may well be argued to be secondary issues compared with the public desirability of condemning and punishing widespread party rottenness, if such be apparent.

In Ontario the courts have recently been compelled to lead with frauds perpetrated with the aid or connivance of the salaried official agents of the Liberal party. Ontario judges have stated from the bench that it had proved useless to report frauds to the Liberal government, because the government ignored the reports. In Prince Edward Island the Liberals have been holding to precarious power, first by corrupting a Conservative legislator whose vote would have decided the issue against them; latterly by breaking pledged faith and defying constitutional practice in order to prevent the honesty of a member of their own party from resulting in their defeat. In Manitoba, investigation of the provincial finances proves that the late Liberal government was a government dominated by either unscrupulous liars or credulous fools, who proclaimed honesty and solvency while making secret dishonourable engagements and swamping the province with deficits. And now in the Dominion parliament, presented with strong evidences of electoral rascality which the party stood fairly pledged to investigate, there appears to be an intention on the part of the Liberal government to disregard the pledge and prevent any parliamentary inquiry.

If this latter prove to be the case, if the West Huron and Brockville electoral inquiries are refused by the government, after the delays which peculiarly enough have taken place in getting the subject formally before the House of

Commons, the inference will be legitimate that nothing which is alleged in these matters is much worse than the truth; that the Liberal party fears to face the truth, and that the Liberal leaders and party here may reasonably be judged by the performances of late of the party leaders and machines in Manitoba, Ontario and Prince Edward Island.

In a number of moral respects, the Conservative party made a pretty bad showing prior to the party's defeat in 1896. But we are inclined to doubt if at any time in the history of the Conservative party there was quite such a consensus of testimony derogatory to the character of the party as there is at present against the good name of the Liberals—who pledged such improvement!

Now, Mr. Speaker. I think I have done a service to the government, by reading that article. I have said that I thought the independent people of this country would condemn them for not referring this matter to a committee, and I think that is borne out fully, by this article in an independent journal. Now, all the speakers on the government side have said they are anxious for purity. Well, I have no reason to doubt it. I think that if they were left to themselves, they would vote to refer these matters to a committee; but they feel bound to stand by their party and by the decision of the government. I think the government are making a great mistake in leading their followers into this hole at the present time. If the government are sincere in their professions, and I have no reason to doubt that they are, they will shake off these men of the machine. I will not say anything about these men of the machine, except this, that they are a disgrace to any party. When we find them associated with the Liberal party and working for the Liberal party, I would be glad to see the Liberal party shake them off; and I hope that when the next elections come round, we will not find any of these men who have been employed by members of the Liberal party in the past, getting any employment at all. So far as I am concerned myself, I hope the Conservative party will take good care that none of this class of men get among them. Speaking for myself, I may say, that I have ran three elections in East Durham, and I never had any outside men to help me. If outside men did come in I would tell them: I do not want you at all, we can run our elections without any outside organizers. So I say that if the government are sincere, they will shake off these men, and let the country see it. I go further, and I say that if they are sincere in their professions of purity, I believe that even at this moment they will consent to this amendment and assist in this investigation. After all this investigation would not hurt them; all we want to do is to get at the truth. The people of the country want the truth brought out, and the right hon. leader of the government received great credit last year for saying that he wanted the truth brought out. The position he is placed in to-day is that he does not

want the truth brought out. He says: We are not going to grant this investigation, we are going to vote down the amendment which we supported last year, although we said that the case then was not very strong. If the Liberal government will not do what is their duty now, I am satisfied that the country will have very little faith in their professions.

Mr. GEORGE E. FOSTER (York, N.B.)
Mr. Speaker, I regret that the speech of about four hours that was delivered at what we thought was the closing period of this debate has made it necessary for me to ask the attention of the House at two o'clock in the morning. I had understood that an arrangement was made that we should come to a vote at something like a reasonable hour, and that it should not be prevented by long speeches, but that arrangement, though made, does not appear to have resulted in its being carried out. However, I have a few things to say and I propose to say them even though I have to do it at this unseasonable hour. Just one word, and one word only in reference to the speech delivered at such length and to which the House has just listened. I do not suppose that there could be packed into the latter two hours of a speech more irrelevant matter and more unsustained assertions than we had given to us in that speech. I am not going to follow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cowan) in this, but I may mention two of them as samples of the whole. He based an argument on the assertion that the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) spoke for Mr. McGreevy in the constituency in which Mr. McGreevy ran in 1896. There is not a word of truth in it. The hon. leader of the opposition did not speak in Mr. McGreevy's constituency nor did he speak in favour of Mr. McGreevy. I am simply combatting a statement of fact, or what purported to be a statement of fact. A statement was also made in reference to a document that was said—absolutely said—to have been issued by the Liberal-Conservative party as instructions to returning officers. It was read by the hon. gentleman, and upon it an argument was based. Now, Sir, did it not appear peculiar to the members of this House that such a document as that should have been issued and should have been used in 1896, and that it never reached the light of day until March, 1900, because in March, 1900, it appears first in an eastern paper, the *Almonte Gazette*, in the same words as were read here by the hon. gentleman who used it. Immediately after it appeared the hon. leader of the opposition wrote to Winnipeg where it was to have been used, and the following is the answer that he received:

Winnipeg, March 31, 1900.

My dear Father,—I return herewith editorial published in the *Almonte 'Gazette'* referring to instructions alleged to have been given to the Conservative workers in Manitoba. I never heard of anything of the kind, and I saw Mr. Haggart,

Mr. Andrews, Hon. Colin Campbell and Mr. Bonner, all lawyers here who acted in the cases brought against the Conservatives charged with manipulation of the ballots in 1896, and they all informed me they never saw any such letter. If the Grits had had anything of the kind, they could have secured convictions by producing them. Hogue defended most of our men, but he is in Vancouver. However, I am satisfied the thing is a forgery, and never saw the light of day in this province. I had an article written by the editor of the 'Morning Telegram' and sent you a copy of the paper yesterday.

Your loving son,
(Sgd.) WILLIAM J. TUPPER.

In the *Winnipeg Telegram* of the 30th of March, there appears an editorial in which it is publicly branded as a forgery. I am not going to ask the House to listen to the reading of it, but it is taken up by the public prints, it is publicly branded as a forgery and there is not a paper in Manitoba, not even the *Free Press* of Winnipeg, that comes to the rescue of this bantling of 1900, which is now said to have been a vigorous child in 1896.

Mr. COWAN. Freeborn produced that in court.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a fact that the hon. gentleman tried to draw away the attention of the House and more particularly the attention of the country from the main and only question which is being discussed in this House to-day, and which has been discussed in this House for the last two or three sittings. I have one answer simply to make, and I make it to the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). You have had a list of these irresponsible statements without the hon. gentleman who made them vouching for their truth, without his giving the names of the persons who made the affidavits—

Mr. COWAN. Oh, yes, I gave them.

Mr. FOSTER. And furnished him with the information—we have had these statements—

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to say.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. FOSTER. We have had these statements made by this hon. gentleman absolutely unsupported, and the hon. gentleman has not said that he would vouch for their truth himself—

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. FOSTER. I have but one single answer to make.

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I must have order.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. COWAN. I extended no such discourtesy to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. COWAN. Mr. Speaker, I desire to—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. FOSTER. I make my answer—

Mr. COWAN. If the hon. gentleman does not want me to correct him well and good.

Mr. FOSTER. I make my answer to the responsible head of the government in this House. Let the right hon. gentleman provide a judicial commission, let him appoint it at once, let him make that a commission of judges of well known standing and reputation in this country, let him ask a vote at the hands of this parliament for the prosecution to the very furthest extent and to the very lowest depth of an investigation into all these matters which have been discussed whether they affect the seats of West Huron, or Brockville, or any of the seats which have been mentioned in this House, and the opposition, to a man, will support the action. The opposition will provide a counsel who will give his work and his effort in conjunction with counsel to be appointed by my right hon. friend opposite in sifting this out to the very bottom and in punishing, afterwards, by every process of law, every man who has done crooked work and who has been convicted of crooked work. I do not care whether it goes back to 1876, or how far it goes back. We are not here, on this side of the House, to burk inquiry into a cancer which is eating out the honest heart of the electorate of this country because it is alleged that Conservatives have done crooked work. We are here to plead with the government; a Liberal government, and we have been pleading with that government for three or four or five days, that they will have sufficient care for the honour and good name of the members who sit in the House, and of parliamentary government in this country, to provide a tribunal which will make this fair and impartial investigation into these charges which have been made and partially substantiated, in order that the guilty may be punished and the good name of this country may be placed where it ought to be. But, let that commission be appointed at once, and let it do its work at once, and let the people of this country, in the general elections that are to come, judge as to parties if they wish to, and judge as to individuals, as they can if these facts are investigated.

Mr. BRITTON. That is not what the motion is.

Mr. FOSTER. It is true it is not what the motion is, but the motion goes as far as the Prime Minister's express statement of last year, and the motion was made with the idea that it would have the unanimous

support of all parties in this House. Sir, this action of the government, of a Liberal government—is it the action of a Liberal government? It gives occasion for pause and for thought in this country. A Liberal government actually and absolutely imposing the whole front of its support in this House of Commons between ballot stuffers and an investigation. A Liberal government doing that? It is instructive in this the opening of the twentieth century, and it makes one pause and think. This action of the government is unexpected. Why? Because of the past history of all governments, and especially because of the past professions of Liberal governments and of Liberal leaders in this country. Shall we have to call to the mind of this House once more the professions that were made by the Liberal leader, and consequently by the Liberal party not later than last year. Before the elections of 1896, what was the position put forward by the Liberal party more than any other. It was that they were the party which stood for the purity of the ballot and the straight deposit of the electors' will in the ballot box. It was that they were the party par excellence which stood for purity in politics; that they were the men that championed the right of individual electors—made the franchise broad at first, and made it secure afterwards. So that the broadened franchise could find its way into legislation without intimidation and without fraud. That was the claim of the Liberal party; that was the claim of the right hon. gentleman who leads it. That was his boast twelve months ago, and when my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) moved his motion this year it was with no other idea than that that motion would be accepted by the same Liberal leader and the same Liberal party as twelve months ago. The change of front was unexpected. Here is what the Prime Minister said in the House last year:

But such is the sanctity of the ballot, such is the sanctity of the right of the people which they must exercise, whenever they are called upon at the polls, that this case must go to inquiry at once. If wrong has been done in these elections nobody ought to be shielded. If any one has contravened the law, it is fair and right that this should be investigated, and that we should know now, henceforth and for ever, that the will of the people must be expressed as the people wish to express it, however severe the consequences may be on one side or the other.

These are noble words. These are the words of a Liberal statesman. These are in the line of Liberal precedents, and especially of Liberal professions. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden) had no reason to suppose, that a change of front diametrically opposite to this would meet his motion this year. And the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), I could see them last year applauding this statement of their

leader, and saying to themselves: There speaks a Liberal leader, that is the doctrine; let us have electoral purity and let us at once have an investigation to secure it. It is unexpected to say the least that we should not meet with the same reception on the part of the Liberal party this year. Last year alongside the leader of the government sat the man (Sir Richard Cartwright) whom he eulogized not more than a week ago at a banquet given to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, by his parliamentary friends in this House. Directly after the Prime Minister had spoken that hon. gentleman (Sir Richard Cartwright) rose and said:

I fully subscribe to the doctrine that, even if you do not choose to go to the courts, this House has not divested itself, and should not divest itself, of control over its own officers. Sir, the government invite investigation. . . . Let hon. gentlemen opposite, make themselves responsible for the charges, let them state their evidence and what they can prove, and they shall have their committee, they shall have their inquiry, they shall have their investigation, with full powers to bring forward their witnesses and their evidence—and we shall see what they will make of it.

Where is the Minister of Trade and Commerce to-night? Has he too gone back on the professions of a short year ago, and above all things on professions which are intimately connected with the purity of the electorate and of the security of the ballot. Yet, Sir, if he were here to-night, he would vote with my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) against an examination going on, against a principle he professed to be devoted to last year. If there was a prima facie case last year, is not the case infinitely stronger to-day. Was there much more than a statement of a suspicion of wrong last year and this year have we not irregularities proved in the committee of last session, and still more in the courts of the province of Ontario, where case after case before the judges showed dark doings parallel in method, in manner, in spirit, and in result with the cases of West Huron and Brockville, which we seek to have investigated. On what ground does the Prime Minister change his base? Last year a mere prima facie case was sent to the committee. Was that case completed last year? My right hon. friend knows it was not. Why does he interpose into a case which he declares should be investigated and when it is little more than half through prevent any further investigation?

That is what the hon. gentleman has done—burked it with all the power he possesses as the leader of his party, burked it against the wishes of men who sit behind him, tried and true Liberals; burked it in the most petty of ways; burked it until three months and more of the session had passed; and then it came on because he could not prevent it any longer, or we would not have it even yet. These are the reasons we did not expect what

has taken place. This action was unexpected not only in the House, but in the country. The country listened to my hon. friend when he made his election speeches, the country listened to the professions of him and his Liberal party for fifteen or eighteen years; and the country listened and applauded him when last year he said: Bring on your charges, bring on your witnesses; there is the committee, and it is open for you to try your case. The country at large felt, when the hon. gentleman took the position he did this year, that it was an unexpected action on the part of the government, and the country through and through was surprised once more at the astonishing rapidity with which the right hon. gentleman is able to go back on the courses of policy he defines at one time, in a very short time thereafter. I venture to say that the action of the government was unexpected by another class. I believe in my heart that it was entirely unexpected by the organized gang of ballot-stuffers and ballot-switchers whom we seek to ferret out and punish. I believe that that gang looked upon this action of the government as an unexpected action; for they never believed, I think, that such good fortune awaited them as to have the right hon. leader of the Liberal party in this country drag his whole party after him to prevent them being punished.

Well, Sir, this question derives a greater importance from certain things that have happened since last year. What are these things? The question we are debating here to-night is not an isolated one. It is one of many questions; it is one of many phases of the same question seen everywhere? Seen in the province of New Brunswick at the last general local election, when Dominion influence, under the leadership of the Minister of Railways and Canals, backed by unlimited cash given by supporters of this government and by people who had benefited at the hands of this government, swamped the vote in that province and elected men who but for that influence would have had no chance of taking up the reins of government again in that province. It was seen also in the province of Manitoba, the recent history of which is well known to the members of this House, and therefore need not be given in any detail by me to-night. But it may be summed up in one word, that the Liberal government in the province of Manitoba went so far away from Liberal principles and proved itself so recreant to Liberal pledges and Liberal policy, that it drove away from itself the best, if not the larger part of the true Liberals of Manitoba, and brought upon itself the overwhelming defeat which it suffered at the hands of Hugh John Macdonald. More than that, Sir; there is an instructive phase of this question in the province of Prince Edward Island at this very moment, an object lesson, not only to

that island, but to the whole country. What is it, Sir? The Liberal party and a Liberal government, supported and backed by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in this House, reduced to what straits? I shall not tell all of them, but I shall come to the latest phase. Reduced to these straits, that one gentleman elected to support them finds that their doings are not according to his liking, refuses longer to support them and offers to resign his seat and challenge a contest in the riding for which he was elected to prove who is right in the opinion of the electorate; and he is promised that if he will resign, his constituency will be opened. He resigns on that promise, the constituency is not opened, and when he goes to the session of the legislature, he is refused his vote, is imprisoned and is turned out of the House. They have, therefore, one less. What more, Sir? A contest takes place in another constituency after party nominations. The Conservative party nominates its man, he runs in the Conservative interest, he is supported by Conservative influence, and he is opposed by the whole power and influence of the Liberal party in that province. He beats his opponent, and is elected as a representative of the Conservatives. What happens, Sir? They have got rid of one friend by lying to him. They get rid of this enemy by buying him over; and to-day Liberalism in the province of Prince Edward Island is reduced down to a majority of one; and repudiation of promise and sale and purchase are the only weapons on which they rely for power. What more, Sir? Shall I say anything with reference to the province of Ontario? Is that not read and known of all men? What have the courts been doing in the province of Ontario. What has the Liberal government in that province been doing? The Liberal government has been doing little until at last public opinion, which rose stronger and stronger, forced one man out of the government, and forced the leader of the next government to try to propitiate it by doing what? By appointing a commission to examine into and report upon the cases of corruption in several constituencies. That commission did not carry out what the friends of electoral purity in the province of Ontario wished to be carried out. It is a partisan commission, before which no counsel for the prosecution is allowed except the Liberal counsel appointed by the government itself. No one is allowed to cross-examine, and the whole examination has proved to be inadequate—I think it is not too strong language to say—has proved to have been something of a farce. But, Sir, reputable judges did get hold of some of these constituencies in the law courts, and what has been proved? A system of organized ballot-stuffing, organized ballot-switching, organized personations, organized lying, and putting men at the polls to act as officers

who were unknown to the localities. It is not a question of the mere fraud of a man here and a man there, acting through real love of deviltry. No, everybody knows that that work is done by an organization, at the head of which is the trusted servant of the Liberal party, the organizer for the time being in the province of Ontario, and by his trusted helpers, all the way down to Cap Sullivan, and Mr. Bole, and Mr. Linklater, and Mr. Pritchett, and all the other confraternity.

Mr. McMULLEN. There are two Tories to one Conservative.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a little plea of my hon. friend, which proves him a very small man indeed. So my hon. friend soothes his sensitive conscience by simply saying that the Conservatives are bad as well and crooked as well. Does that satisfy my hon. friend?

Mr. McMULLEN. No.

Mr. FOSTER. It does not. Then why does my hon. friend use it? In times of yore, he would not have admitted an argument of that kind. Once he stood like a tall pine for purity, once he hewed right straight to the line, no matter where the chips might fall, standing straight for purity and economy and all the other virtues. But today what does he do? He salves his bruised reputation and quiets his uneasy conscience by simply getting up on his feet and saying: Yes, it was crooked, but then there was a crooked Conservative around, too, or may be there were two crooked Conservatives. That is far too thin. It will not suit the people of this country, though it may satisfy my hon. friend, nor will it suit his constituency. Of that I am quite certain. In the province of Ontario, during this last year, iniquities have been proven and punished by the judges on the very line of these which are outlined in the charges made here concerning these two constituencies, and into the truth of which we wish to have a committee of inquiry appointed. But what are you to expect? Are you to be severe upon what may be called this under strata? I think we have to look to the upper strata to get a reason for it. If at the head of the government and in its leaders, if at the head of the party and in its leaders, you have political perfidy, and repudiation—absolute and brazen repudiation—of the most solemn pledge and promises, what are we to expect from the lower strata. Are the criminals all in the one stratum? Oh, no; and if you have the spoils system, if you have contracts given without tender, if you have go-betweens, as thick as blackberries in a corn field, without whom no great enterprise can be undertaken and carried out, who swarm up to the ministers at Ottawa and who can influence, and if necessary interest ministers and put through all that they are required

to put through, what are we to expect? Their names are known to hon. gentlemen on the front benches, and it has become a by-word and a proverb all over this country, this system of go-betweens, between the ministers and those who are promoting great corporations. You have a Minister of Militia and Defence—that department which is one of the most important and which, above all others, should be kept free from the taint of political partyism—who so far defied public opinion as to declare in this House that in militia contracts and appointments, other things being equal, he will favour his own friends, and so introduce the spoils system, in its absolute entirety, into the militia system and management of this country. Is that all going to be on one side and with one class? Political deception, political repudiation, the baldest and boldest going back on the most definite pledges that could be given—are all these to take place among the leaders of the party, and shall there be no carnival break out amongst the under strata? That down below, which all of us abhor and condemn, is due very largely to the lack of propriety, lack of consistency, lack of truth, lack of political honesty, which characterises the men upon the front benches and the leaders of the Liberal party in their administration and carrying out of the government of this country.

There has to be an answer. This question never came up in this way in this House before. We are solving a question and making an answer in this parliament we have never been called on to make before. Up from the provinces, up from all these contested elections, from all this wholesome discipline of the courts, from all these fines and imprisonments, up from all these comes the call to destroy and blot out and prohibit as far as we possibly can this kind of machine and corruption work, has come a case into this highest parliament of Canada. What is that case? Similar in charges, similar in methods, similar in results, and the high court of parliament is asked what its answer shall be? The government has signified what the answer will be. The government say: We wash our hands free of it. You have the process of law, the courts to go to; and if you cannot satisfy yourselves there we are not going to facilitate the operation of satisfying you. That is the answer of the government. Let that be their answer, but what answer will this House give? The answer will ring out to this country as championing the undoubted rights of the electorate, will give heart to those who believe in a pure ballot, or else it will rejoice instead of discouraging the heart of every boodler and machine dealer in this country from one end to the other. An answer must be given; and this answer will either disappoint the two classes I mention first, or rejoice the class I mentioned last. It will either rejoice the

hearts of the electors all carry dismay and discouragement into the ranks of those organizers of political corruption, or it will have an effect exactly the reverse. If the action of the government has been unexpected, how shall we characterize the defence of their supporters? Petty, trivial, technical and unworthy of any great government or of any party. That I shall prove. What did the hon. the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) say. He is possibly the custodian of the honour of this House next to the Prime Minister, at least the legal custodian of its honour. He said to my hon. friend: You should have moved sooner last year.

Suppose that my hon. friend had moved sooner last year, and suppose that, even then, the investigation had not been finished, should we have been any further ahead this year, the government having taken the decision that investigation shall cease? My hon. friend began as soon as he conveniently could last year, and he made such progress as was permitted to him. But it does not seem to me that it lies in the mouth of the Solicitor General to taunt my hon. friend with not getting through the investigation last year. And why? Because, as I say, the Solicitor General is the man who ought to be the custodian of the legal honour of this House, and it was his duty to have been at that committee last year, to have guided and facilitated its work. Instead of that, where was he? Paid \$5,000 a year to look after that work here, he was attending to private business in the old country. Never once, if I am rightly informed, was he known to be in that committee. But the Solicitor General says: Last year you summoned and examined 99 witnesses, and you did not finish your case or prove it; therefore, you ought not to go any further. That is an odd argument. I wonder if the hon. gentleman conducts his criminal cases on that principle. I wonder if he, as Solicitor General, after he had examined fifty witnesses, and was then prevented from going on, even though he had more evidence to offer, would say: I have summoned and examined fifty witnesses and haven't proved my case, therefore I will go no further.

Now, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), and the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) brought forward one argument, and I am glad to say they are the only two members of this House, so far as I can remember, who have descended to such reasoning as they then used. They said that my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) had been trying to baulk and burke his own motion. Two grown men, two men learned in the law, two experienced public men, take up between them an hour of the time of this House to attempt to prove to the House and the country that the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had done everything in his power to baulk and burke his own motion. I think I have only to

Mr. FOSTER.

mention that argument to show the absurdity of it. The history of that case this year and last year is spread on the annals of the House. The man who burked that case this year is the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who leads the government—he and no one else. As the guardian of the honour of the House, I should think it would have been his duty at the first available hour of the session to come down of his own accord, and move to send these cases for completion to the committee, which, with its own good will and consent, began the examination last year. He did not do that, but sat there day after day, week after week and month after month, using the technical rules of the House and all his ingenuity to keep my hon. friend from getting his motion even considered by this House. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries said also: You should not have joined the two cases together. Which two cases? Brockville and West Huron. What did he mean by that? Would he have allowed either of them? Would the right hon. gentleman who leads the government have allowed either of them? The argument could not have had any meaning unless it meant that they were willing to let one of them go; but the two were joined and the amendment could not be amended, and so they would have to vote against the whole motion. Did it mean that? The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) will not stand in his place and say that if they were disjoined, the West Huron case would be sent to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. He was estopped from saying so by his own action, and by the argument of every one who have supported the government in its action in this House. But, he says also: You cannot punish, even if you do convict. That was a long and much laboured argument, and evidently one that was considered very strong by the hon. gentleman. But, suppose you cannot punish—is it not a great thing to investigate and convict? Would it not be a most important thing for this country if, by investigation and conviction you were to hold out two lessons, one that the government was ready to protect the purity and inviolability of the ballot, and the other: Here are the men whom we have convicted of attempting to destroy the purity and inviolability of the ballot. Even though this committee and this House had no power to do more than investigate and convict, it would have been an inestimable advantage that they should have investigated and should have convicted. It would have taught a wholesome and necessary lesson. But, this House has the power to punish. As my hon. friend says, it has power to punish by imprisonment, while it is in session. But as these hon. gentlemen made this argument, were their memories so short that they did not recollect what had taken place in 1896 and 1897? Then the government assumed power not only to prosecute but

to convict, if they could get the evidence, and power to punish by all the machinery of the courts. And before my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was Prime Minister, and before his Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had had a seat in the cabinet, he pledged without vote of parliament or authority in any way, the public funds of this country to prosecute and convict if he could, and to punish by all the processes of the law, men who were suspected, and suspected only, of tampering with the purity and sacredness of the ballot. Are principles different in 1900 from what they were in 1896? Could you do that in 1896 because you were following what you supposed were the opponents of your party? And is it an altogether different thing when some of your supporters of your party may be the persons who will be convicted in the inquiry and will have to be punished? But the right hon. gentleman and his government exercised for themselves the right to prosecute and to convict and punish, by the action which they took in the Manitoba cases in 1896.

It does not lie in their mouths now to plead inability to prosecute, or to punish after conviction, on inquiry being made and the facts being brought out before the committee of this House. Well, but the junior member for Halifax says that the Committee on Privileges and Elections is not the right kind of a committee. It is partisan, it is unequal; to-day you will have three members, to-morrow ten or twelve, and the next day you will have five or six; it is a partisan body and therefore it is not a tribunal before which to make this investigation. Was it not partisan last year? Was it not unequal last year? Had it not the same disabilities last year that it has this? Last year the right hon. gentleman declared that in the interest of the sanctity of the ballot these matters should be sent down to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. This year its constitution is exactly the same, it has the same disabilities, the same excellencies, exactly the same powers that it had before. This year it is not changed, the right hon. gentleman is changed, and when he changed the junior member for Halifax changed as quickly. Last year he applauded the action of sending this to the tribunal of the Committee on Privileges and Elections, this year he applauds equally the action of saying that that committee is utterly inadequate to carry to completion what it was entrusted with, and which it carried out to a certain extent. But my hon. friend has powers over and above that. He and his government have power to grant a royal Commission of judges and to entrust them with the duty of making a full inquiry, and he has the treasury of this country at his disposal so far as it is necessary, in order to carry out that laudable object. He refuses both; he and all who have spoken on

that side of the House have refused both. They have simply put their whole length between the malefactors and the court which is competent to investigate into their wrongdoings and to convict them, if evidence is found.

Now, Sir, the Pritchett affidavit is brought in. You would think, to hear some gentlemen talk that that was the only document upon which we based our demand that the committee should carry out to completion the work which it began last year. Everything we had last year is just as strong this year, and made stronger by the actual evidence taken and the actual irregularities so far proved. The Pritchett matter is simply an addition which, in the opinion of many, has great weight and which, despite all that has been said, has great weight because of the multiplicity of dates, names of persons, and circumstances which are definitely stated in the affidavit. But they say: Pritchett! why, Pritchett is a scoundrel. How long since Pritchett became a scoundrel? Why, Sir, he was a long-trying worker in the Liberal ranks. Was he any better then than he is now? But he was good enough then. He, with his co-mates, with Mr. Vance, with Mr. O'Gorman, with Mr. Tom Lewis, with Mr. Linklater, with Mr. Bole, and all these others, they were all of them good enough then, good enough for Mr. Preston to work with, good enough for Mr. Alexander Smith to work with, good enough for the Liberal government in Ontario to work through, good enough for my right hon. friend and his party here to work through, as an organized machine which they used in the by-elections for this Dominion. Now, when Mr. Pritchett has repented and confessed, he becomes a scoundrel, but when he was guilty of wrong doing he was a boon companion, a hale fellow well met, invited to meet the leaders when they went hither and thither, a confidential man to carry out their work. What has been done with Mr. Preston who worked with him? Given one of the best offices in the gift of the government. He holds it to-day, created for him, a reward for his party services. But Pritchett is a scoundrel; Mr. Preston, who took Pritchett by the hand and used him to filter out his money and to do his nefarious work, to frown down the irregularities in different constituencies. Mr. Preston is in a high and honourable position, while Pritchett has become a scoundrel. That won't cut much ice with the people.

Now, when we come to ask what brought the change of front of the right hon. gentleman, each man has his own theory. I have mine, other gentlemen have theirs. But I think there will be a consensus of opinion upon this theory, that my right hon. friend commenced to change—or was he forced to change? Did he really want to change this year from last year, or was he pushed to do it by some persons behind him, or alongside of him? But whether he did it

of his own free will or whether he was forced to do it by other members of his cabinet, whichever it was, when did the change take place? It began to take place when the law got at the gang in the Ontario court last year and began to show them up. It gained still greater strength when it came nearer and nearer to men who sit upon the front benches, to the leaders and members of the government themselves. For you will never persuade the people of this country that Tom Lewis, and Pritchett, and Linklater, and Duncan Bole, and all that fraternity, work hard to earn money and then, out of pure deviltry and mischief, go to work and spend it the way they did in the constituencies, all for love of and for the promotion of certain gentlemen in high places, to keep them in power and to give them the positions that they have. Sir, the Postmaster General knows where that money comes from. The Prime Minister don't.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). That is an absolute misstatement.

Mr. FOSTER. The right hon. gentleman walked side by side with Mercier through the purlieus of Quebec, midst corruption the most awful and gigantic that was ever known in this country, and he smelled nothing but pure air, saw nothing but blue sky. And he is going along now in the same way. May be he does not know where this money comes from, but his Minister of Public Works does, his Minister of Railways and Canals does, his Minister of Interior does, and his Postmaster General does. They know that elections are not made with prayers. They cast out an anchor to the windward, they know where the funds come from, and they know to a large extent where they go; and the Pritchetts, and the Boles, and the Linklaters, are simply the small fry, while the large fry give them the means, the only means they have, of being either mischievous or effective in the work they are doing. And so when it comes closer and closer to the government, and to the members of the government, they stand upon an opposite platform from that upon which they stood last year, and whereas last year they were hot for investigation and conviction, this year they are hot against investigation and conviction. That is the theory. It may be a mistaken one.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. But I will venture to tell the right hon. gentleman that the country will hold that theory, and that they will vote upon that theory when the time comes for it to express its opinion.

Mr. WALLACE. There is no other theory.

Mr. FOSTER. There cannot be any other theory. Now, cannot we make a truce to this mode of argument, this trivial and technical argument? What is the real

Mr. FOSTER.

question? Cannot we simply look at the real question? Has this House the power? Is there a man sitting on the treasury benches who will deny it? Not one. This House has now the power to refer this case to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Then, what is the use of arguing that you should have done it in some other way, or that you should have done it sooner, or that you should have prosecuted it more speedily, or that you should have done this, or done that, or done the other thing? We have the power; why cannot we use it? Is there a prima facie case? Will any man rise and deny that? Not even the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) will deny that there is a prima facie case.

Mr. BRITTON. I deny that there is a prima facie case to go to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Mr. FOSTER. You do?

Mr. BRITTON. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Why did you support your leader last year when he declared that a prima facie case had been made out and vote to send it to the Committee on Privileges and Elections?

Mr. BRITTON. I did not have the slightest idea of the character of the evidence that would be admitted.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no doubt that the hon. gentleman is right in his answer.

Mr. BRITTON. No, you quite misunderstand me. The character of the evidence which was admitted would not have been considered as evidence by any court or judicial tribunal in the country.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend says that he had not the least idea what was going to come out; therefore, he did not care very much. He found that certain things did come out, he found that other things would come out if power were given to go on with the investigation, but, as to the matter of the evidence who should look to that but my hon. friend and his party who are in control of the Committee on Privileges and Elections? They had everything in their own hands. They were in control of the committee, and the only restriction there was upon the dominant party in that committee was the restriction as to the view that public opinion would take of the manner in which they conducted the business before that committee. That healthy, wholesome public opinion was sufficient last year and will be sufficient another year to make the committee carry out about what is right in the matter of taking evidence and carrying on investigations before it. Then, there is a prima facie case; this House has the power and the other question is: Is electoral purity and the sacredness of the ballot worth preserving? No one doubts that. Then, what argument is there against send-

ing it to the committee? If there is any valid argument as to its not being sufficiently extensive in its powers the government have the right and the power within their own hands to place the whole matter before a commission of judges who will have the undoubted right and the undoubted power of investigation, the power to convict, the power to punish and these powers they can exercise in their plenitude. Much has been said affecting Mr. Pritchett's affidavit as to its reliability or otherwise. Singularly enough, I have had placed in my hands to-day three documents which I am going to read. They are affidavits of credible men and they all hinge on one polling place mentioned by Mr. Pritchett. I will just read Mr. Pritchett's affidavit in that respect. It is in regard to polling place No. 1, in the town of Brockville.

It is as follows :

I acted as scrutineer for Comstock at Jones' polling place.

That is Elmer Jones :

I saw him work several of the false ballots. A man named Lee voted; Jones fumbled his ballot. I thought he was trying to work in a false one. A ballot fell on the floor. The Conservative scrutineer was very sharp and vigilant. He tried to stand up to see what was going on. I obstructed him by getting up at the same moment. He seemed very angry. Some time later he said he would not give much for Lee's vote. I said, 'Why?' He replied, 'You know why.' I said I did not see how I should know. He replied, 'Oh, you are not so slow.' In the course of the day Jones made an excuse to go upstairs. I went also. I told him he was doing first rate, but to be more cautious, as the Conservative scrutineer was watching very close, much more so than usual with scrutineers. Just before five o'clock everything was very quiet, and Jones went upstairs, and I went also. Jones told me he had got in twelve.

And it goes on. That is the only pertinent part of the affidavit that I wish to read in connection with what I am to read now. Here is a man whom certain people on the other side say never was in Brockville at all, never was at the polling place and had nothing to do with it. Let us notice the particulars to which he refers: I was at Jones's polling place, I saw Jones fumbling the ballots. I thought he was putting in a false one; the Conservative scrutineer was very sharp, he got very angry. Jones went upstairs, I went up also, and I had a talk with him there. Now, let me read these three affidavits. The first is the affidavit of George Henry Weatherhead, of the town of Brockville, and I think he was last year mayor of Brockville.

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario,
County of Leeds. To wit :

In the matter of an election of a member of the House of Commons of Canada, for the electoral district of Brockville, held on the 13th and 20th days of April, 1899.

I, George Henry Weatherhead, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, and province

of Ontario, insurance agent, do solemnly declare :

1. That I was president of the Conservative Association of the Brockville riding during said election, and am president of the said association at the present time. On the said 20th April, 1899, about ten o'clock in the forenoon a complaint was made to me that there was some difficulty at polling subdivision No. 1 of the East Ward of the town of Brockville. I went there for the purpose of ascertaining the difficulty, and found that Conservative voters were being prevented by some parties inside the polling place from voting. I then went inside for the purpose of having this corrected. I saw one E. W. Jones, the deputy returning officer, Mr. W. W. Richardson, and a stranger appeared to be acting as agent for Mr. Comstock. I remained inside said polling place for some time, during which time I saw the deputy returning officer, the said E. W. Jones, and the said stranger go upstairs, where they remained a short time and returned together. The booth was cleared, and as the difficulty seemed at an end, I came away.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

G. H. WEATHERHEAD.

Sworn before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 17th day of May, A.D. 1900.

JAS. A. HUTCHESON,
A Commissioner, &c.

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario,
County of Leeds. To wit :

In the matter of an election of a member of the House of Commons of Canada, for the electoral district of Brockville, held on the 13th, and 20th days of April, 1899.

I, Hugh Alexander Stewart, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, barrister, make oath and do solemnly declare :

1. That at the said election one Elmer W. Jones acted as deputy returning officer at the polling place for polling subdivision No. 1, of the East Ward of the town of Brockville and at said polling place the scrutineers or agents appointed on behalf of the Hon. Peter White were one William W. Richardson, then of Gananoque, barrister, and one William Stewart, of Brockville, butcher and fireman.

2. The said W. W. Richardson brought to me immediately after the close of the said poll the book containing the names of the voters for said subdivision which had been prepared for and used by him at the said polling place.

3. The said W. W. Richardson complained bitterly of misconduct of the said E. W. Jones and of the treatment he had received at his hands during the day.

4. He also informed me that he was satisfied that the said E. W. Jones had substituted a ballot for the one given him by one William Lees, a voter well known to be a Conservative, and that the said E. W. Jones had put the ballot marked by the said William Lees in his pocket with the counterfoils.

5. I asked the said W. W. Richardson, to make a memorandum of what had occurred in his said book, which he did within the next day or two. The said book has been in my possession continuously since handed to me by the said W. W. Richardson, immediately after the close of

the said polling place, and is exhibit 'A' to this my declaration.

6. The following is a true copy of the memorandum made as aforesaid by the said W. W. Richardson: 'In this ward, E. W. Jones was Deputy Returning Officer, when poll opened ballots were counted and found O.K.' I was immediately informed that I would not be allowed to address my remarks to voters, but must allow Deputy Returning Officer to do all the talking. When first vote was polled Deputy Returning Officer put counterfoil in right hand pocket. To this I objected and pointed out statute to Deputy Returning Officer. He, although a lawyer, held that putting counterfoil in pocket complied with statute. He refused to let me see ballot when returned by voter, and although I made vigorous protest he held this to be right and later was confirmed in both of his holdings by the sheriff, Deputy Returning Officer. About 10.30 Wm. Lees came in to vote and voted. While he was marking his ballot, Deputy Returning Officer sat with both hands in coat pockets and when ballot was handed to him, he placed his left hand on table and pushed ballot under it, then tore off counterfoil and put it in his right hand pocket. He then took one ballot out from his left hand and pushed it into box, and I distinctly saw him put a ballot in his right hand pocket with counterfoils. I was the only one who saw it. I said nothing to him but conveyed to him by a glance,—

7. The said W. W. Richardson had previously been a student in the law office of Wood, Webster and Stewart, of which said firm I was a member, and I am familiar with his handwriting and swear positively that the memorandum in the said book is in the handwriting of the said W. W. Richardson who now resides as I am informed and verily believe in the city of Winnipeg in the province of Manitoba.

8. Several other scrutineers or agents on behalf of the said Hon. Peter White at the said election complained to me that the Deputy Returning Officers at their respective polling places insisted upon putting the counterfoils in their pockets, were insolent, overbearing, and conducted the affairs at their respective polling places irregularly and dishonestly.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath, and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act,' 1893.

H. A. STEWART.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 17th day of May, A.D. 1900.

JAS. A. HUTCHESON,
A Commissioner, &c.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Is it stated that this W. W. Richardson lives in Winnipeg.

Mr. FOSTER. The deponent states that he now believes he is in Winnipeg.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There was a W. W. Richardson living at Portage LaPrairie, who—

Mr. TAYLOR. This is W. W. Richardson, a young lawyer, who has gone up there lately and is in with Coleman.

Mr. FOSTER. The House will notice the points of agreement upon which Mr. Stewart makes the affidavit. Now here is the affidavit of the other Mr. Stewart.

Mr. FOSTER

Dominion of Canada, Province of Ontario, County of Leeds, To Wit :

In the matter of an election of a member of the House of Commons of Canada for the Electoral District of Brockville, held on the 13th and 20th days of April, 1900.

I, William Stewart, of the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds and province of Ontario, fireman, do solemnly declare:—

1. That at the said election I acted as one of the scrutineers on behalf of the Hon. Peter White, the Conservative candidate at said election at the polling place for polling subdivision No. 1 of the East Ward of the town of Brockville, at which said polling place one Aylmer W. Jones, of Brockville, barrister, occupied as deputy returning officer, and one William W. Richardson, of Gananoque, barrister, also acted as a scrutineer on behalf of the said Hon. Peter White.

2. Shortly after the said poll was opened the said W. W. Richardson objected to the said A. W. Jones putting the counterfoils in his pocket. The said A. W. Jones refused to give effect to the objections made by the said W. W. Richardson, and continued to put the counterfoils in his pocket, and when asked by Mr. Richardson the reason for doing so replied, 'that is my business,' and continued putting the counterfoils in his pocket all day. The returning officer, Sheriff G. A. Dana called a little later and was spoken to about the counterfoils. He upheld the decision of the said A. W. Jones.

3. A stranger whom I do not know, and whom I have never seen before or since, acted at the said polling place as a scrutineer on behalf of W. H. Comstock. I have resided in Brockville for about eleven years, during about eight years of which time I was a driver of a butcher's wagon delivering meat, etc., and know by sight nearly all the people in Brockville, and I verily believe that the said stranger who acted on behalf of the said W. H. Comstock is not a resident of Brockville.

4. During the day I noticed the said A. W. Jones manipulating the ballots in, as I thought, an improper manner, and I was suspicious that he was changing the ballots. I remember that the said A. W. Jones and said stranger went upstairs together, remained a short time, and came back together.

5. I know William Lees, a voter at said polling place, and remember his coming into the said polling place to vote. When the said William Lees was voting the said A. W. Jones had at least one hand in his pocket, and when the said William Lees came out he withdrew this hand from his pocket holding it in a peculiar manner, as if concealing something, made some peculiar motions with his hands on the table, put something in his right hand pocket, then put a ballot in the ballot box. A little latter, the said W. W. Richardson said he did not think Mr. Lees' ballot had been put in the box or something to that effect, to which neither the said A. W. Jones or the said stranger replied, 'Why should you say that,' to which the said W. W. Richardson made some reply which I cannot remember. The said W. W. Richardson seemed very angry, and I thought there would be trouble between him and the stranger.

6. I have not spoken about this affair since said election. I have not read or heard read an affidavit made by one Pritchett in this matter or a copy thereof, and I have not read the declaration made by W. W. Richardson in this matter, nor has any person told me the nature or contents of either of said affidavits, nor have

I discussed the matter with any person whatever before the making of this affidavit, and this affidavit is made by me voluntarily.

7. I have been out of Brockville on my engine performing my duties as fireman since about 10.30 a.m. of the 16th instant, and got to my home about 8.30 this morning.

8. I have been informed by several persons, and verily believe, that the said A. W. Jones has been endeavouring to see me for the purpose of having me make a declaration in connection with this matter.

And I make this solemn declaration, conscientiously, believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect, as if made under oath and by virtue of 'The Canada Evidence Act, 1893.'

WILLIAM STEWRT.

Declared before me at the town of Brockville, in the county of Leeds, this 17th day of May, A.D. 1900.

(Sgd.) A. STEWART,
A Commissioner, &c.

These are affidavits which establish at least, in a very circumstantial way, the main points of Pritchett's affidavit as to what took place in the poll at which Elmer W. Jones was a polling clerk. On these three points, which Pritchett could not have known of, could not have guessed at, he could only make an affidavit from personal knowledge; and on these three points he is corroborated by every one of those affidavits, to a greater or less extent, and by two of them he is entirely corroborated with regard to going upstairs with Elmer. You may say what you like of Pritchett's affidavits. Here are affidavits of equally reputable men with those who made the affidavits which were read in this House last night and to-night. The only way you can get at the truth is to put all these men together before a competent authority to take their evidence and cross-examine them. That is what this committee can do, and would do, if it were allowed. This is what a commission of judges could do and would do, if the hon. gentleman and his party would allow a commission of judges to be appointed.

Now, Sir, I do not propose to take up any more time of the House at this late hour, although, of course, I have a perfect right to take it up and discuss this question as it seems proper and right to do. I have not taken a very large amount of time compared with the time that has been taken by some other speakers during the debate. That it is an unseemly hour in the morning is not my fault, but rather the fault of circumstances at which I hinted at first. I have simply to say, in closing, that no action could take place in any parliament of Canada will be more closely scanned in the country, be more thoroughly discussed, and have greater weight with all thinking people, than the action which this government has declared it is going to take on this matter to-night. If it goes forth to the country that a Liberal government, led by my right hon. friend, with his colleagues about him and his supporters behind him, is determined to burke

any inquiry by a competent court in this House, or a competent court outside of this House, into well-established election irregularities, not single cases, but cases which have supervened on others occurring over and over again, with convictions made and penalties apportioned—if it goes forth to the country that this government proposes to throw in its lot against the sanctity of the ballot and the undoubted rights of the electorate and the purity of government in this country, and with the gang whose dealings have been partly unfolded, but whose whole work can only be thoroughly exposed by a most thorough examination at the hands of a competent court, then I am certain that the people of this country will have their own opinion about that, and will express it at the polls adversely to the government that takes that stand. I know, and my right hon. friend knows, that no consideration of party politics ought to be allowed for one moment to obscure this great and fundamental question as to the sanctity of the ballot and the purity of the conduct of our elections; and the people of this country are fully seized with that view. They are more than usually alive to that view of the case at the present time from what has happened and been unfolded within the last year or two.

Let me repeat what I said before, that the opposition are here to vote you any sum of money you require for a thorough investigation. They are here to help you to inquire, no matter how far back you go. They are here to help you to convict, if the conviction is made, to punish, if the punishment follows, and to carry out to its utmost limits the penalty which ought to be imposed upon those who act corruptly and wrongly, as these men have acted, and as many of them have been convicted of having acted, no matter whether the actor has worked for this party or for that party. We are here to help as best we can—to protest, in the first place, against burking this inquiry, and to demand, in the name of the people of this country, that a full investigation be held, and to unite with you in making and carrying out this investigation to the utmost possible limit.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Foster) opened his remarks by rebuking my hon. friend from South Essex (Mr. Cowan) for having travelled out of the record; but, after having inflicted this rebuke upon my hon. friend, he had not himself spoken fifteen minutes before he travelled far and wide outside of the question we have before us at the present time. At this hour of the night, I do not propose to follow my hon. friend in these new issues which he has brought in. I do not propose to discuss his honour, nor my honour. I have simply to tell him this, that he must not suppose that because he was long associated with Tom McGreevy and politically profited by his malfeasance, that the same system is to pre-

vail at the present time. I will not proceed further in this direction, but if it pleases the hon. gentleman at any time, when it is not four o'clock in the morning to have a discussion of our respective records, he will always find me ready. I wish now to come to the matter under discussion, and I will simply say to the hon. gentleman that, in defending the case he has undertaken to defend, he has not adhered to the lofty tone he assumed at a certain portion of his speech. The question has been asked two or three times during this discussion: What were the reasons which impelled the government last year to assent to the motion of my hon. friend the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and what are the reasons which this year impelled the government to dissent from a similar motion? That is a fair and legitimate question, and I rise to answer it: and I rise with the full sense of the responsibility which attaches to the position which I occupy in this House. I have to say this to my hon. friend and to the House, that the question this year is presented to the House under circumstances far different from the circumstances which were brought to the attention of the House last year. I have to say this, and I venture to hope and believe that I shall make it clear, that last year the question was not fairly presented to the House, the whole truth was not placed before the House. I will not assume to criticise the hon. member who made the motion last year. I do not impugn his honour. I am led to believe that he acted within the knowledge of the facts as they were placed before him; but the hon. gentleman well knows, and the House remembers that when the hon. gentleman made his motion on the 9th of July, 1899, complaining of facts which had taken place on the 21st of February, 1899, at the time of the election in West Huron, when he brought to the attention of the House that irregularities, nay, frauds had been committed at that election, he never enlightened the House upon the material fact that these acts of fraud had been discovered, not at the time he brought them to our attention, but within the forty days which followed the election and during which the parties who committed them could have been brought under the jurisdiction of the Controverted Elections Act. The hon. gentleman saw the objection before him. He saw the objection which confronted him in the existence of the Controverted Elections Act, and he anticipated it both by argument and authority. He cited the opinion of Sir John Thompson amongst others. So much importance did he attach to the opinion expressed by Sir John Thompson, and which he quoted when he first presented his case to this House, that again this year he repeated the quotation: and in order to do him full justice, in order to give every advantage to the views which he expressed upon this subject, I will repeat

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the quotation which he made last session and which he gave again this year. This is the language which was used by Sir John Thompson in the famous Queen's County case:

Notwithstanding the general operation of the principle that a man ought not to be punished twice for the same offence, it is a well-recognized principle that the enactment of various penalties sometimes has merely the effect of establishing cumulative penalties against the offender, and not substantive penalties. The effect of that would be, in this instance, that a returning officer who offended against a provision of the Elections Act, would be, in the first instance, liable to the public for the wrong done to the public by indictment or by any other suitable procedure, for an offence against the Elections Act, and he would, in addition to that, be liable for the pecuniary penalties which the Act declares may be recovered by any individual aggrieved, and notwithstanding the establishment of those penalties he might still be liable at the hands of parliament for contempt committed against its privileges. I might illustrate my view of this question by changing for a moment the offence for which the person at the Bar is charged, by supposing it was a case of libel, in order to give an illustration more familiar to the House. Assuming that you, Mr. Speaker, or any individual member of this House acting as such, had been libelled, it would be quite clear that the offender would be liable, first, to criminal prosecution for libel; second, to a civil suit, at the instance of the person aggrieved; and, third, the offender could be summoned for contempt against the privileges of this House. Under these circumstances I, as one member of this House, entertain this view: that this House should persevere in the question proposed; and I only presume to express these opinions now because it may be convenient on both sides of the House, according as questions of law arise, that those conversant with such questions should express their opinions and consequently, lead the House more clearly to a decision.

The inference to be drawn from this, separated as it was from the subsequent opinions expressed by Sir John Thompson, would be that cognizance could be taken of the matter brought by the hon. gentleman to the attention of the House by several methods of procedure—by indictment, by civil process, by motion for contempt of court before this House, and also by petition under the Controverted Elections Act. But in point in fact, Sir John Thompson did not express that opinion, so far as the merits of the Queen's County case were concerned. He expressed that opinion when the culprit in that case, Mr. Dunn, the returning officer, was at the bar of the House and objection was taken to questions put to him on the ground that this House had no jurisdiction over him to compel him to answer. Sir John Thompson used the language already quoted to affirm the jurisdiction of the House. But when the House came to deal with the facts and the conclusions to be drawn from these facts, he maintained the opinion that the only method by which these facts could be ascertained was by

taking proceedings in the courts under the Controverted Elections Act.

The Queen's County case has been several times quoted in this debate, and can be quoted once more, in order to make clear why I take a position this year on the matter now before us differing from that which I took last year. In the elections of 1887, there were two candidates in Queen's County, N.B. One was Mr. George King, a most honourable man whom, I am happy to say, this government has done honour to itself by appointing to the Senate. The other was Mr. Baird, who is now departed, and against whom I have nothing to say. The result of the polls showed that Mr. King had received 1,191 votes, and that Mr. Baird had received only 1,130, thus giving Mr. King a clear majority of 61. But what took place? The returning officer, Mr. Dunn, coolly gave the seat to the minority candidate. These hon. gentlemen opposite talk of secret machinations to steal elections, to use the language we have heard very often from them in this debate, but they were not so particular under the old regime, for then they stole elections openly in the light of the day. They talk of Donald Cummings, with his honest hand, hardened by the rude labour of the farm, performing tricks of legerdemain which would baffle the efforts of professional conjurers. But Mr. Dunn did not take any such precautions. He went at it boldly, and simply made a report giving the seat to the minority candidate. And for what reason? For the reason forsooth that the deposit required from Mr. King as candidate had been made by Mr. King himself and not by an agent. When this silly pretense was brought to the attention of the House, we contended that this was an offence so clear, that this was a case so palpable, that there was nothing to inquire into, but that the duty of the House was simply to summon the clerk in Chancery and make him amend the report and give the seat to the man who had the majority of votes. This would seem to be a clear case, yet on that occasion Sir John Thompson, speaking for the government as Minister of Justice, said that even so glaring a case could not be interfered with in any other way than by a petition under the Controverted Elections Act. He gave his reasons, and let me give them here as they apply to the case before us with great force. This was the language used by him on that occasion:

If, notwithstanding all that has been said with regard to this question on previous debates, I refer at all to the line of argument that was then presented from this side of the House, it is not by way of repeating or even insisting upon what was then urged but merely by way of reminding members of the line of argument which was used. It was well stated, both in that debate and in the discussion which took place before the committee that, during the early period of parliamentary history, the power of trying election petitions was repeatedly exercised by the House of Commons in England.

It was shown that on every question of that kind which came before the Commons of England a decision was arrived at by a strictly party vote; and so fully was it recognized, in the disposition of election cases by the House, as being a purely party vote, that on one occasion, a ministry went out of office because it had failed to carry the vote of the House in the disposition of a controverted election. At a subsequent time, recognizing the injustice of that system, the Grenville form of procedure was adopted. Under that it was necessary a petition should be presented, that it should be accompanied by security, and that a committee whose decision should be final, should be struck by ballot, that their report should be final, without a vote of the House being taken, and that they should be sworn. Subsequently, some sixteen or seventeen years ago, the legislation was adopted in England by which that procedure was abolished, and the election petition was to be presented to the courts. I showed on a former occasion that we have adopted that statute, we adopted it in 1874. From that time forward, as I then stated to the House—and it has not been controverted since—from the hour when the parliament of Great Britain adopted the mode of trying controverted elections in the courts of the country, and from the hour that that procedure was adopted in Canada, there has not been a single instance in the records of either parliament, of an election return having been disturbed, or a contested election having been tried in the House in Great Britain or in Canada.

This was the doctrine laid down by Sir John Thompson in 1887—that no matter how glaring the offence might be, no matter how open the fraud might be, yet, in every case where facts were to be inquired into which might lead to the loss of a seat of an hon. member, those facts had to be inquired into in a court of justice and in no other manner. Now, having this precedent before the House, let us look at the case that was brought up last year and that comes before us again this session. The election in West Huron was held on February 21, 1899. On July 9, the senior member for Halifax brought to the attention of the House that frauds had been committed in two polls—No. 4 of Colborne, and No. 3 of Goderich. There were a number of men who declared that they had voted for Mr. McLean, the Conservative candidate and that this number exceeded in each case the number of votes recorded in favour of the Conservative candidate. I was led to believe, the House was led to believe, that this discovery was a recent one, that it had been made about the time the motion was presented, and at all events after the period for contesting the election had elapsed. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) had stated to the House that these facts had been discovered within the time prescribed for a petition under the Controverted Elections Act, would the House have been ready to give a commission of inquiry? Would not the House have told him: Why did not you file a petition? But the hon. gentleman failed to give that information; and, for my part, I am free to confess that the matter gave me a good deal of anxiety because I was left

with the impression that this was a recent discovery and too late for a petition, and that a villainy had been perpetrated against the laws of the country and that unless investigated by the House the truth of the matter might not be discovered. This carried so much weight with me and with the government, that we determined to give the inquiry. And what has been the result? I will not insist upon my own view of the matter wholly. Certain irregularities were discovered, no doubt, but I do not think that the result has been such as to show that these irregularities were committed by the deputy returning officers. Take the man Donald Cummings. Here is a man somewhat advanced in age—over fifty years, a farmer, accustomed to the rude labour of the farm. He is examined, and swears that he has committed no irregularity. His neighbours testify that he is an honest man. Even the scrutineers of the Conservative party have nothing to say against him and believe in his innocence. Nevertheless, the fact remains there were only thirty votes recorded in the poll in favour of Mr. McLean, the Conservative candidate, whereas forty-three electors declared they had voted for him. As to thirty of these men, there seems to be no doubt how they voted, but as to the other thirteen, as I read the evidence, there would be as much reason to believe they voted one way as to believe they voted the other. One thing is certain—not one of these thirteen men is a more respectable man or more entitled to credit than Mr. Cummings, in fact, he is more entitled to respect than some of these men. Under these circumstances, suppose that the matter had been before a judge and all this investigation had taken place before a court of justice, is there a man who would say that the court would have even censured the deputy returning officer? There is not a court of justice that would have done it.

Now, with regard to the other poll, which was presided over by James Farr. Undoubtedly, there were irregularities committed here. But, who is the author of these irregularities? First of all it is strange enough, to find ten blank ballots in the box. Who put them there? That is a circumstance which it is impossible to explain. Another strange circumstance is that there are more ballots in the box, blanks and all, than there were men who recorded their votes as shown by the poll vote. But, perhaps the strangest circumstance of all is that by the very witnesses brought by the prosecution—if I may use that term, I mean brought by the hon. member for Halifax—Farr is proved to have been a supporter of the Conservative candidate. Under such circumstances, can you draw any conclusion against that returning officer? I venture to say that a court of justice would not have condemned him on such evidence. Now, Sir, such being the facts that have been elicited, about a hundred witnesses having been

examined, you are asked to re-open the case. Now, again I put the question: Why is it, as all the facts were known to the opponents of Mr. Holmes in the riding in time to protest the election, that the election was not protested? What reason can be adduced for it? And I say more—what right have they to come before the House when they have refused to go before the courts? There is one thing that I have noticed in this debate—and I have followed it as closely as I could, having listened to nearly all the speeches and having read those that I did not hear—and that is that in almost every speech, of hon. gentlemen opposite, except one or two, the statement was made that this investigation would imperil the seat of the hon. member of West Huron. I do not see how that can be done under the law nor under the facts. But, at all events, one thing is certain—that the object sought by hon. gentlemen when they try to bring this case before parliament is to imperil the seat of the hon. member for West Huron, whether they can do it successfully or not. Now, I ask in the name of everything sacred, I ask in the name of British fair play, when the opponents of Mr. Holmes, the hon. member for West Huron had, under the law, the right, the privilege and the duty of going before the court which had been established for the protection of every citizen and having failed to do so, ought they to be allowed to drag him before a court which, by the experience of ages, has been shown to be insufficient, uncertain and dangerous—so pronounced by a Minister of Justice in whom they had great confidence. They had the temple of the law before them with its doors open to them, but they refused to enter. When they refused to go before the courts, what right have they to claim now that we should give them a court which, for the protection of the accused is not as secure as the other courts established by law? Sir, the appeal to the people has been heard several times during this debate. I accept the challenge and the issue. I accept the challenge to this country, and, knowing something of that British fair play which has been brought into this country with the institutions we now enjoy, I am not afraid to meet the issue in the presence of any body of electors.

So much for that question so far as it affects the county of West Huron. Now I come to the case of Brockville. Last year when the case was brought up I remarked to the hon. gentleman who brought it up that it was weak, very weak. If I had said that it was childish in many respects, that would have been a more proper qualification. A ballot had been found in the street by a little boy, forsooth, other ballots had been found in a box folded in a certain way, mysterious circumstances both of them, upon which a case was based. We would have been fully justified in rejecting and ignoring that request altogether, but so

strong was our desire to see the light thrown upon this matter that we agreed to have an investigation. But what was weak last year does not exist at all this year. There is not a thread or a patch left of the accusations brought by the hon. gentleman as to the Brockville case. I have no doubt in my own mind that when the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) brought these slim charges, these petty charges, before the House last year, he imagined with perfect candour that he was on the surface of a terrific scandal, and there was something very bad beneath it. We are all constituted, my hon. friend from Halifax as well as others, in such a manner that we are prone to believe what we desire; and there is on the other side of the House such a desire to see the Liberal party besmirched as the Conservative party have besmirched themselves, that they are always ready to see fraud where they cannot otherwise explain circumstances. They could not explain the defeat they had met in Brockville, therefore they said there must have been corruption, there must have been bribery, there must have been tampering with ballots.

Now, Sir, my hon. friend is not the only man who believed that. Parties there were in Brockville who believed the same thing, and they entered prosecutions against the supposed offenders. They had a man arrested on a charge of tampering with ballots, he was tried before a jury of his peers and was acquitted. Another man was charged, and immediately the whole Conservative press took the cue and repeated one after the other: Here is evidence of the corruption which took place in Brockville. It so happened that the man who was thus accused was the intended victim of blackmailers, he resisted the demands made upon him, he allowed himself to be arrested, he faced his accusers, and his accusers, when they saw the game would not pan out, left the country and have not been seen since. Such was the case when the present session opened, such was the case on Friday when my hon. friend brought it again before the House. Oh, but I must not forget, there is something more, there is an affidavit of Mr. Pritchett. My hon. friend brought the affidavit of Pritchett on Friday night, but he did it in a very timid manner, he did it in a very gingerly manner, he did it without daring to take upon himself the responsibility of the affidavit which he quoted to the House. Let me read to the House the language that was used by the hon. gentleman on that occasion:

I have a sworn statement to this effect: That an expert was employed and paid to train deputy returning officers to steal ballots and substitute forged ballots in their place at that election. I give it for what it is worth. I give it as an inducement why this matter should be investigated before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. I do not vouch for it. I say it is a sworn statement which this man has

made, and if his sworn statement is untrue it is right and proper that he should be prosecuted and punished severely for making such a statement. If, on the other hand, his sworn statement is true, and these men were trained to substitute ballots at the Brockville, or any other election, it is right and proper that the men who were concerned in that should also be tried and punished for their conduct in that respect. Whether or not the statement in that affidavit is true, I do not know.

Well, Sir, I have heard accusations made on the floor of this House before. I heard Mr. Tarte in 1891, sitting then for the County of Montmorency, make charges against certain members of this House, and he did it in these terms: I am credibly informed, I have reason to believe that I can substantiate by evidence such and such facts. I heard Mr. Edgar, in the session of 1892, make certain charges against members in this House. He did it in this way also: I am credibly informed and I have reason to believe that I can substantiate by evidence such and such facts. But here is my hon. friend from Halifax not daring to take the responsibility of the affidavit upon which he asks the House to take action. 'I give it for what it is worth. I do not vouch for it; whether or not the statement in that affidavit is true I do not know.' And upon the strength of this affidavit which he will not vouch for, the truth of which he will not affirm, he asks us to put men upon their trial. Sir, the hon. gentleman will not take the responsibility of this affidavit, and I give him credit for it. He will not cover with his respectability this man Pritchett. There was good reason for it. This man has been branded by a judge of the land as being a self-convicted liar. He has confessed himself a forger and a personater. No wonder then the hon. member for Halifax shunned the responsibility of attaching credence to the words and statements of that man.

But the task from which my hon. friend from Halifax shrank with honour was boldly taken up by my hon. friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). He took the affidavit, he read it to us with gusto, he gave us this nauseous literature with evident relish, and having read these accusations made by Pritchett against respectable men in Brockville, he concluded: Now investigate these charges. Well, Sir, I ask in fairness to any man in this House—I appeal not to passion, not to prejudice, but I address myself to the common sense, to the fairness, to the intelligence of members on both sides of this House—would they really advise us, would they think it just to have honourable citizens of this country brought to the bar of this House to be tried upon the indictment of such a man as Pritchett? Is that their idea of justice, is that their idea of fair play? For my part I cannot conceive that any charges whatever can be based upon the testimony of such a man as Pritchett. Suppose that to-morrow we had one man

arrested on the testimony of that affidavit. We bring him before a magistrate for the offences therein stated; for having violated the election law, supposing that we are still within the time limited to investigate these charges. We bring the accusation against him, we bring forward this man Pritchett who tells his story. Then he is asked: Are you a personator? Yes, he says. He is asked: Are you not in your own confession a forger? Yes, he answers, I am. Would any judge convict a man on such testimony as that? Is there anything so odious, so repugnant to our sense of justice as to suppose that a man could be convicted upon such testimony as that? Well, then, if there is nothing in the testimony of this man upon which we can hang a charge, I want to know by what principle of justice we should re-open this case and send it back to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

I say further that we refuse to send this case again to that committee because it is not right, it is not fair, that the honour, the dignity and the seat of a man in this House should be placed in the hands of such a court, under the circumstances disclosed.

But I may be told that our friends are in the majority, that our friends are in power in that committee. So they are, but if my friends in that committee were to insist upon having the laws of evidence observed they would immediately be charged with burking the inquiry. Therefore, I say, that, for these reasons, this tribunal is not satisfactory, and for these reasons we cannot accept the motion which has been made by the hon. senior member for Halifax. But, the case is not concluded here. That is not all. There is more than that. I do not accept the affidavit of Mr. Pritchett. I do not accept other statements that have been made. But looking at the unfortunate record we have had for some years, especially during the last year or so in this country, one must come to the conclusion that there has been for years prevalent in this country a system of ballot manipulating and of tampering with the sacred rights of the people. This system has been in existence. I do not say that it did not exist in West Huron, I do not say that it did exist I do not say that it did not exist in Brockville, I do not say that it did exist, but it is undeniable to-day that we have it in the press, in the courts, in the very air in this country, that there has been prevalent in certain sections of the country a system, deep and well organized carried on for years of tampering with the ballot, of preventing the will of the people from being expressed at the polls as it exists in their own hearts and in their own minds. If that be the case something must be done because the case is stronger than that which has been brought to the attention of the House. The evil is deeper than that which has been brought to the attention of the

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House, the evil is general and calls for the action of the government and of parliament. Some investigation must take place, deep, searching, complete, penetrating everywhere so as to ferret out the evil, to search out the criminals, and if legislation be necessary, to punish them and to punish them adequately. If I understand aright the language of the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster), he is disposed to agree with us in this that there should be an inquiry full and complete, taking West Huron if need be, taking Brockville if need be, taking every other place in which these offences have been committed. If we agree on this it is settled; the government is ready to do its part. Now, a tribunal must do this work. What shall it be? Do you think that this work can be adequately performed by the Committee on Privileges and Elections? No one believes that. Do you think that this work can be adequately performed by any committee of this House? Nobody believes that. What body other than a tribunal, or a court should do that? It must be a judicial court, a judicial enquiry of the fullest character, and this is the policy which I have to offer to friends of the government and to opponents of the government as well. We must have, at an early date, immediately, a tribunal composed of the best judges of the land so as to have the fullest, the most complete, the most searching inquiry into all that we know, into all that has come to the attention of the House, of the press and of the courts, and into what also has not yet come to the attention of the public to ferret out that system, to expose it and to eradicate it for ever from this land of ours. I said last year, and I have no reason to repent my words, that the sanctity of the ballot must be maintained at all hazards, and that the will of the people is to be expressed by the ballot as the people have it in their own minds. I do not want, for one, to succeed by any other method than this. If the time comes when this government has not the support of the electorate given by reason of what is in the heart and mind of the electorate, I do not want to remain in the government of this country. We have not changed our view that we should have the sanctity of the ballot preserved, as I said last year, at all costs and at all hazards.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the House and I congratulate the country upon the fact that firmly as my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) takes his position, he is amenable at last to an overwhelming public sentiment. The right hon. gentleman finds himself face to face with the position in which he knows that the attitude that he assumed yesterday had arrayed the public sentiment of this country against him, and that no mechanical majority behind him could protect him from the just vengeance of the people. He has been

compelled by the attitude of the Conservative party and by public sentiment to, reconsider and to change his attitude on this most important subject. The right hon. gentleman is compelled to-night, in the face of the declarations made from this side of the House, to abandon the attitude that he held yesterday because he found hon. gentlemen behind him telling him that they would desert him if he maintained the attitude that he held yesterday.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The interruptions of hon. gentlemen opposite will not prevent the intelligent people of the country from knowing the compulsion under which he acts. What is the position of the right hon. gentleman in this debate? He has admitted that here a year ago he accepted precisely the same motion which is now offered. What was his excuse for doing it? He says that he did not then know what the circumstances of the case were. He was not aware that the accusations were so well founded that even the Committee on Privileges and Elections, partisan as they are declared to be by the hon. junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) and by other hon. members of this House, found that the position they were compelled to take in the presence of the minority of that committee in investigating that subject, was going to lead to the conviction of his friends and to a decision that would leave no doubt in the minds of the intelligent people of the country as to the scandalous corruption which must have prevailed in this country. The right hon. gentleman puts up the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and then he is able to call to his aid a learned professor of the law, whose name is now connected prominently before the country with an early judicial position. He puts up this learned professor of the law to declare that what was law last year is not law this year, that the motion for which he voted a year ago should not be supported this year by his party and by the government in this House, because he has discovered that the interests of the government of which he is so pliant a supporter and whose influence last year secured from him the action which he took, would be injured. Now, he is required to make a somersault and to turn around and support a different policy this year in the interest of the same government. This learned professor of the law with all his professions of judicial impartiality in dealing with great and important questions, finds that he can change his opinion just as fast as the leader of the government can change his.

No wonder that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) and the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) were condemned upon their law by the Solicitor Gen-

eral, who is the legal authority of this House. He told them that he was bound to declare that this House was a tribunal that could properly deal with the question, and so he had to differ from them. If this House was a proper tribunal a year ago, why is it not a proper tribunal now? The hon. gentleman stated the inquiry would fail in its object because the House could not punish the culprits, but he knew right well that, under the practice of this House, the testimony adduced before a committee was a sure road to that punishment which would necessarily follow. The Prime Minister told us to-night that a year ago he did not know that the information was not placed recently in the hands of the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), but the Prime Minister ought to know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) told him last year when the information came into his hands. He read this:

Declared before me at the township of Colborne, in the county of Huron, this 30th day of March, 1899.

With this statement of facts set clearly before the Prime Minister, he did not know of it, or he would not have put his foot in it as he has done. There is no member of this House, there is no intelligent man in Canada who does not know that the volte face which he induced the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and his docile supporter behind him, the learned professor in the law, to make, was not because he did not know last year all the facts when he sent it to the committee. We well know that if my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) was able to make the case last year, that he was this year, there would have been no committee granted. Every one knows perfectly well that my right hon. friend would never have permitted it to go to the committee, if he had known what was to come. But when he found the toils closing around him; when he learned, before the House met, that my learned friend (Mr. Borden) was able to deduce testimony that would overwhelm him and his party, testimony that would drive the colleagues at his side out of this House and out of the government, then the right hon. gentleman set his face hard as flint against the proposal that this should go back to the committee. It was not a proposal that it should be referred to the committee, but it was a proposal to continue the investigation to which the Prime Minister had pledged himself in the most solemn terms that ever a public man pledged himself in. Why has the Prime Minister found it necessary to reject the motion? It was because he knew there would be placed before that committee and the people of Canada overwhelming testimony that this government was corrupt to the core, that this government owed its possession of power to the most shameless frauds that ever disgraced any country. That is the reason the Prime Minister found it necessary to use his mechanical majority on wheels to back him up in denying an inves-

tigation. There never existed in any country in the world conditions that made it more imperatively necessary for every man who does not want to see everything in the shape of respectable government crushed into the ground; there never was a condition in any country in the world that made it more indispensable for every man who wants to maintain that purity of elections without which all representative institutions sink into utter contempt; there never was a condition in any country that made it more incumbent upon every man to maintain free and independent elections against one of the foulest conspiracies that ever existed, backed up and supported by gentlemen on the Treasury benches. Every one who has given any attention to this question, as it stands before the House, knows that the reason that the Prime Minister called upon his supporters to vote down any further investigation was because they knew that that testimony of Pritchett, their old friend and ally, would be sustained to the letter. Hon. gentlemen opposite will at least admit that Pritchett is a man of considerable sagacity; they know it full well because of the valued services he has rendered to the Liberal party in the past. He gives day and date for those rascalities, and he gives the names of 29 men, every one of whom, if Pritchett told a lie, could convict him of perjury and send him to the penitentiary. You may talk as you please about Pritchett being a scoundrel. He was a scoundrel, and it is due to his scoundrelism and his associate scoundrels that the government owe half a score of their seats in this House to-day. But it was not because he was a scoundrel that they did not want his testimony; it was because they were afraid of him, and it was because they knew, from the circumstantial character of Pritchett's affidavits, that he would be able to confront these 29 men and to defy any one of them to shake his testimony in a single particular. Let me complain here that the right hon. gentleman has treated me most unfairly. Last night he agreed with me that he would repress speaking on that side of the House, so that we might have a division to-night, and yet a man was put up that every one knew was speaking against time, to continue the debate until half-past four in the morning, before I could have an opportunity to answer the Prime Minister. I ask the right hon. gentleman whether that was good faith. I ask him whether that is treating me as I am entitled to be treated: when he told me that he was willing to reach a division to-night, and yet so conduct the affairs on his side of the House that at nearly five o'clock in the morning I am compelled to speak. But, being called on at half-past four in the morning to answer a speech—

The PRIME MINISTER. If my hon. friend will permit me, he must remember that I told him that we would be ready to come to a vote at any time—that I would

undertake, if he wished, to close the debate at any moment, and I would ask my hon. friend to refrain; but he never conveyed to me any intimation that he wished to do so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not understand my hon. friend.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am sorry that my hon. friend complains, because I would not be guilty of bad faith to anybody, especially to my hon. friend. We agreed that we would take a division to-night, and I told my hon. friend that I would be ready at any time to take a vote, and I would shut off debate on this side of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My right hon. friend kept that pledge by putting up a man to speak four hours on the last night of the debate. I do not know that my right hon. friend could have prevented that; but I am sure he will not say that that is carrying out the agreement he made, and it was not in my judgment just to me. Now, I do not propose at this early hour of the morning, to go into any very elaborate examination of what my hon. friend said. He was not asked by this motion to re-open the inquiry. That was all settled a year ago. The inquiry was then entered upon, and it could not be closed, for reasons that have been stated. A mass of testimony, the most damning testimony, as to the conduct of my hon. friend's party placed that matter beyond controversy by the examination as far as it went, and it was not proposed to re-open it. It was proposed to do that as to which every person in this House believed perfectly and confidently that not a question would be raised. My hon. friend said that it was only on Friday that Pritchett's affidavit was produced. He knows right well that the hon. member for Halifax was ready to move at the earliest possible moment, in the most direct manner, and that he was thwarted by the right hon. gentleman himself from the moment the House met, knowing as he must have known that testimony was to be placed before that committee which would drive these two men out of the House of Commons.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). What nonsense that is.

Mr. McMULLEN. It is nonsense.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If that is all that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) and the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) can raise in protection of their position, I pity them. When I say that these gentlemen would be driven out of the House, I do not mean to say that the House has power to touch their seats; but I say that in the face of the testimony that has already been produced, brazen faced must be the man who would retain his seat which he knows was stolen from honest electors. The hon. gentlemen

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by their action with regard to this motion have confessed before this House and the country that they know that those two seats belong to Mr. McLean and to Hon. Peter White. They know that if ever men were honestly and fairly elected to this House, those two men were, and their seats were stolen from them by that infamous machine gang that had been co-operating with the Postmaster General and other members of this government. Therefore, I assume that if they had a spark of honour or a spark of manly character in their nature, they would not for one day offend this House by their presence, but would voluntarily leave it, as honourable men should, the moment they learn that they have no right to sit here and occupy the seats to which other gentlemen were honestly and fairly elected. Why, Sir, what can be more frightful than this exhibition which we have had in the province of Ontario? Talk about having carried by-elections. What value is it to a government to carry by-elections in the face of the exposure of the means by which by-elections have been carried? Who does not know that the government of Ontario, the right arm of my hon. friend, only exists, has not been cut off at the shoulder, because that machine gang has given it the entire majority which supports it to-day? That is no secret, Sir. Under the miserable pretext of an appeal against the decision of the highest court in Ontario, they have been protected from losing two more seats and being reduced to a mere nominal majority. That is the position there: and so it is everywhere else. This corruption, the most gigantic, the most disgraceful that ever lowered the character of any government in the world, has reached such a climax that there is a widespread and all but universal revolt against it. The independent electorate of Canada have reached a point at which they are determined to have a different state of things than that which has existed. The hon. gentleman brings a score of affidavits to this House—what for? He says affidavits are worthless. We have a most systematic and elaborate affidavit made by a man, who gives 29 evidences to convict him of perjury if he is not telling the truth. The Solicitor General puts up the plea, which is an insult to every intelligent man in this House, that the time has passed for that because this affidavit was made in a foreign country. Who was preventing Pritchett from coming here before the Committee of Privileges and Elections and swearing to that which would have placed him in the hands of justice tomorrow if anybody would proceed against him? The hon. gentleman knows the ground on which Pritchett stated his immunity and his readiness to face these hon. gentlemen—that all he feared was the Conservatives if he told the truth; that he knew too much of hon. gentlemen opposite to fear that any one of them would raise a finger against

him, because he knew enough about them to drive them out of public life. The hon. gentleman talks about the by-elections which they have carried. What by-elections have they carried? There were forty-five by-elections, they carrying all but three. Why, Sir, they did not tell the House that there are only fifteen constituencies which were held by Conservatives at the last election, and which they have carried, eleven to three. But, Sir, when we learn the means by which they have carried them, one is only astounded that we were able to carry any under these circumstances, and that the government with all the power of the local Liberal governments converged in the different provinces were not able to do better. They have got a majority of eight out of the by-elections in four years, and if you will look at the history of previous governments you will find that there is not in that much cause for boasting.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We could not have got a great many more.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman had better look at his own province and see what he has done there. One of the strongest Liberal constituencies in that province has shown him that it has turned its back upon him, and he knows right well that were it not for the gigantic means of corruption used in the province of New Brunswick in connection with the local elections, he would have been paralysed more completely than he has been. And he knows that at an early day, when the electorate has an opportunity of passing on his conduct, he will probably disappear altogether or come here with a small and very ragged regiment behind him.

We have the most indisputable evidence that although these hon. gentlemen have carried by-elections in Grit hives, where they had overwhelming majorities, when we count up the majority of by-elections that they have carried in four years, we find that it is utterly insignificant.

What more? You have only to look east or west to find that the word 'Ichabod' is written over the doors of this government, and they have received notice to quit in a most unmistakable manner. Was there a province that they held more securely than Manitoba? But how do they stand in that province now? Why, notwithstanding the most gigantic corruption that could be used by a man of boundless means and resources, the hon. the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), notwithstanding the co-operation of a man who had been prime minister of that province for many long years, notwithstanding that they had one of the most corrupt election acts possible for a government to have, they are all but wiped out of existence in that province. The majority in the legislature of that province, which they in-

duced to pass the resolution dictated by them, for the abolition of the Senate, has passed out of existence. Take Prince Edward Island, what happened there? The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries went down there to the local elections, and said to the electors, with a bludgeon in his hand: You must vote as I say, or you will not get a railway built or have the public moneys expended that have been already voted by parliament. He got his answer to that threat. The high spirit and independent men of that province were not willing to be dragooned even by the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and where is he now? He knows that the electors having struck down both his candidates—one an attorney general in that province and another filling a vacancy,—he has been compelled to resort to means so discreditable as to utterly preclude his having the slightest chance of winning his own seat again and coming back here with a single man behind him. If anything more disgraceful than the hon. gentleman's conduct in this respect could be imagined, it was his purchase of Mr. Pineau who had been elected against his opposition and whom he brought up here by a letter from the deputy of his department.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That statement is an absolute untruth, and I give it a most unqualified denial.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I ask the hon. gentleman to say if he had not Mr. Pineau, who is pledged to support the Conservative cause, hidden away in this town, and whether he did not bring him to this town by means of a letter from the deputy minister, so that Mr. Pineau might get an appointment in Paris?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I say again that the whole statement is an absolute fabrication, without a shadow of foundation. I never saw Mr. Pineau, and never invited him here.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Was he here?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not know. The hon. gentleman says I brought him here or my deputy brought him here on my written statement. The whole story is a coined lie.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Without even the ghost of a shade to justify it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if it is within the rules of this House for an hon. gentleman to meet a statement I have made by saying that it is a coined lie.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I did not say that the hon.

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gentleman coined the lie, but that it is one. I say that the alleged fact which he has given to the House is false and without a shadow of foundation to justify it. The whole thing is absolutely false.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There are persons within the precincts of this House who saw that man in Ottawa, when no Conservative could find out where he was or have any communication with him.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I never saw him and did not know where he was.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. gentleman may have found it convenient not to see him, but he dare not say that he does not know he was here.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I know nothing about him, but what I heard.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say that that is the position to which these hon. gentlemen are reduced. What more? The hon. gentleman will not deny that a Liberal member of the legislature of Prince Edward Island gave notice to the leader of the government there that he would support him no longer, and voted against him just before the House rose at its last session, and that he was seduced into giving his resignation because he said: I do not want to vote against you without the authority of my constituents, but I am determined to oppose your government, and if you will pledge yourself to issue a writ immediately I will resign my seat. He did resign his seat, but made his resignation conditional upon a writ being issued immediately to fill the vacancy. But so deplorable is the position of the hon. gentleman's party in Prince Edward Island that the leader of the government falsified its word. He went to the man the next day and said to him: The Speaker cannot possibly accept your resignation because it is conditional; but if you will give me an unconditional resignation, I will give my word of honour to issue the writ immediately. They got that resignation and held it over until the House met. And when that man was entitled to take his seat, considering the condition on which he gave his resignation, they inflicted personal violence on him and drove him from the precincts of the House. Could any party be in a more deplorable and humiliating position than the Liberal party in the province of Prince Edward Island in view of these deplorable facts. To-day that party is sustained by the vote of a man who, I believe, has been promised a position in Paris for having deserted his party.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Not a word of truth in it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. These gentlemen talk about carrying by-elections. Why,

they are reduced to the most pitiable and humiliating condition in the face of this country that any party has ever been. They knew they had obtained power by false pretenses, as I have said, and they knew they could not get back by the votes of the constituents from whom they had received power. And so they introduced a change of franchise in this country with the hope of saving themselves. But finding that something more was necessary, we find this humiliating confession made by McNish, in Elgin. Then, the country waked up. We found the work of the McNish gang, these men who trampled under foot honour, character and fair-play with respect to elections, running the same machine that, under the direction of the Postmaster General of Canada and other members of the government, had procured a triumph in Brockville and West Huron. And then we came before this House and asked that this ruthless tide of electoral demoralization should be stopped and the control of the electorate taken from the hands of this most degraded scum of the population. Bribery is bad enough, but it reaches only the corrupt element. But the system that has been established tramples down the rights of every independent elector. A majority in West Huron and Brockville voted for the Conservative candidate. But who were returned, and by whose machination? The opponents of the Conservative candidates were returned, as the result of the working of this infamous machine which tramples down everything in order to maintain Liberalism pure and undefiled.

But all this requires money. Where does the means to carry on corruption on this gigantic scale come from? Take the first instance. The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) was the first man who showed the members of this House and the people of this country that plenty of money could be furnished on call. He did it by making a bargain with a political heeler in Montreal to pay a million dollars more for bringing the Drummond County Railway into Montreal than the parties themselves were willing to take for it. What became of the money. Why, Sir, a man who was a bankrupt the day before was able to pay \$30,000, by the cheque of the person from whom he bought the Drummond County Railway, for *La Patrie*. When we are face to face with such gigantic corruption, it is criminal on the part of any one knowing the facts as they stand out upon the pages of the history of our unfortunate country not to expose and denounce it. There is no crime in the political calendar that will compare with that of robbing the independent elector of his vote which represents his share in the control of the affairs of his country. But, more money was required, and then we see the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) exploiting the Yukon. This House was startled with a proposal to sell a kingdom of

mineral land, a territory of four million acres, for 150 miles of tramway. And then the elections could take place and the dissolution could come in the province of Ontario—the machine beautifully oiled with the products of this deal could be set to work to hold up the right arm of the Prime Minister. We have evidence, we have proof of the most gigantic corruption in the Department of Interior that ever disgraced a public department. Several hon. gentlemen on the other side were not prepared to vote for so gigantic a job, but nearly all of this mechanical majority on wheels were wheeled into line and supported it. But still, the scheme miscarried. When it was moved to refer one of the most glaring scandals that ever disgraced any country, the maladministration of the Yukon to an independent court of investigation, I told my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier): You may use your mechanical majority here to protect your colleague, but there is an appeal to a higher court, to the great independent electorate of Canada, which will strike down all this defending of corruption and mismanagement in public affairs. The right hon. gentleman went into Ontario and declared that the Minister of the Interior was a most charming man and one of his most valued colleagues. But that did not save him. And where is he now. He is where they will all be—struck down by the independent electors. And to-day, he may seek from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but he will not find a constituency that will degrade itself by electing him. That is what has come of corruption, the most open, scandalous and unqualified that ever disgraced any country in the world. And who was this Minister of Interior? He was a man who came into this government having compounded with his creditors at 50 cents on the dollar. He owed a large amount of money to a municipality in Manitoba, and he came here with the brand upon him of bankruptcy. Yet he is able to live as no Prime Minister in Canada has ever been able to live.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame!

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will these hon. gentlemen tell me that Sir John Thompson or Sir John Macdonald or any other Prime Minister has ever been able to drive a magnificent pair of horses through the streets of Ottawa? Not one. I say that there is no man who has ever been premier in the government of Canada that has been able to undertake the expenditure of this man who came into the government as a bankrupt after his proposal to exploit the Yukon. Is not that a legitimate inference? It is evidence as plain as noon day, and will strike every man that the whole story is a story of corruption of a most shameless character. The Minister of the Interior may drive his carriage and pair of horses, but he cannot drive himself into a constituency in the Do-

minion of Canada. Now, Sir, where is he? Why a gentleman here said he was a fugitive from justice of this parliament. I believe he is not here because he knew the time had come when the Prime Minister, knowing from the sworn testimony that could be adduced before the Committee on Public Accounts in reference to his expenditure.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say that I believe his objects in visiting the other side of the water were two-fold; first, to escape from the investigation that he was bound to submit to as a public man, challenged as his action has been as to the integrity of his conduct upon the floor of this House. I say he was bound to stay here and to submit to such an investigation on sworn testimony. The time had come when he would no longer get private supporters of the government to back him up, although the right hon. gentleman declares that he was one of his most trusted and valued colleagues; the time had come when, in the Public Accounts Committee, his officers could be called and sworn testimony could be adduced that would show in the most clear and unmistakable manner, in my judgment, the maladministration of which he had been guilty.

Sir, that is the condition to which this government have reduced the parliament of Canada. It was bad enough in all conscience when they declared by a vote of this House that they would permit no judges, not even of their own choice, to investigate the giant maladministration of its Yukon deal. That was bad enough, but when they proposed to prevent a committee of this House from investigating the most glaring attempt to strike down the independence of the free electors of Canada, the hon. gentlemen soon found that there was a limit to their efforts, and that the majority that is behind them to-day would cease to exist to-morrow if they did not adopt the request of this side of the House to refer this matter to a judicial committee. Now, Sir, I thank the hon. gentleman from the bottom of my heart for declaring that he will submit this question, and submit promptly, to an independent body of judges who should be in a position to take this matter up at once and deal with it at once, upon the abundant evidence which can be placed in their hands; and I am confident that there will be revealed, on indubitable testimony, the mass of corruption by which this country has been overwhelmed and submerged. If the hon. gentlemen will promptly name that committee and allow it to enter at once upon its duties and pursue them steadily until it is brought to a conclusion, then I say we will accept his challenge to meet him in the presence of the great electorate of Canada, and to fight this battle out at the polls.

Mr. DOMVILLE. You will get beaten whenever you do.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not think that the House will attach a great deal of value to that opinion from such a source. I say we are ready, we accept the challenge thrown out to meet the hon. gentleman and his friends at as early an hour as will suit their convenience, and we will try out this issue between the great Conservative party who stands to-day as they have always stood, the determined upholders of purity of elections—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Why do you laugh? Why, Sir, is it not written on the law and on the testimony, do not the journals of parliament show, that whenever hon. gentlemen opposite have ventured to bring a charge of corruption, of maladministration of any kind, they have met with the cordial support of the Conservative government, and of the Conservative party in Canada? Point to me a single case in which we have ever shrunk from referring such questions to a committee, and to follow up the action of that committee by such action as would visit condign punishment upon any person who was guilty of corruptly using the public money placed in his charge. The Conservative party stands to-day, not only as the party who have achieved everything for Canada that has been accomplished up to the present hour, but they stand before the country as a party which has never refused a challenge, however contemptible or insignificant the source might be, to hold a public investigation, and to place their fortunes, their character and their reputation in the hands of the parliament of Canada. I say that when it was found that the parliament of Canada had not power to inflict punishment, we brought the parties into the courts and we never rested until we vindicated the reputation and the independence of parliament and the purity of administration.

I do not intend to detain the House at this late hour of the morning for any longer than to say that we hail with infinite delight the position to which the right hon. gentleman has been forced by the opposition in this House.

Mr. McMULLEN. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well there is not much argument in that. But let me ask the hon. gentleman? Was there the slightest indication on the part of this government yesterday that they would adopt such a course? No, Sir, it was when they found the rising tide of public indignation was going to overwhelm and submerge them that they were compelled to adopt that policy which I told my friends—I think many of them heard me—that the moment the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) asked the House to go into Committee of Supply I would move to refer this whole matter to a judicial commission. I suppose the government had learned that,

and they have taken advantage of the suggestion. They have learned that Canada and the Liberal party especially, are a long suffering people who will submit to almost anything. They have learned that there was a point where they were told: Thus far shalt thou go and no further. I hail with joy the proposal of my right hon. friend to refer this matter to a commission of judges. But it must be done promptly, there must be no attempt to delay or evade this issue. This commission must be appointed at once. I would infinitely prefer it to the Committee on Privileges and Elections after the character which the junior member for Halifax has given it, when he showed that the members of the committee were so partisan that no confidence could be placed in the action of a majority of that committee, which is composed of their own supporters. He goes further than I do, and he says on the floor of this House that they were so partisan that they would always respond to the crack of the whip; and that when the right hon. gentleman who leads this government says: You must say that black is white, they say, white it is. And the next day when he says: You must say that white is black, my hon. and learned friend from Halifax (Mr. Russell) will immediately say in stentorian tones and in the most judicial manner: I was all wrong, white is not black but black is white. Sir, I need not say any more than this, that after the declaration of the right hon. gentleman there is no necessity for pressing this amendment to a division. It has already been carried. When that great hunter pointed at the coon with his rifle, the coon said, Don't fire, and I will come down. Well, he did not fire, but he brained the coon when he got him on the ground. So I say to my right hon. friend that, having yielded this motion, he has given us that which we prefer infinitely to carrying this motion, that is, an independent judicial tribunal, that may go back as far in the history of Canada as they choose. The further they go back the more it will redound to the honour of the Liberal Conservative party and of Liberal Conservative governments. But, we must have it at once, and we must have it pushed to a rapid conclusion in order that the great electorate of Canada may have the report of the judicial committee before them before they are called upon to decide between hon. gentlemen opposite and ourselves.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). I am glad, Mr. Speaker, to know that at last, for once, the government has been able to bring both delight and joy to the heart of the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). Nothing but that statement from him would have satisfied us of the intense pleasure and satisfaction which we have conveyed to him by proposing an effective measure for the elucidation of truth. At this hour of the night, and at this stage of the debate, I do not intend to ad-

dress myself to the general subject that has been before the House; but, inasmuch as hon. gentlemen here have from time to time hurled insinuations and made statements against me, I desire, somewhat briefly, but nevertheless as clearly as possible, to make my attitude known. A short time earlier in the debate, the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) appealed to the House for a hearing. I will not make an appeal, but I will exercise my rights as a member of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. And you will find that this side of the House will not stream out and leave but a handful of members to listen to you.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I wish to say, as briefly as possible, what I have to say. Since I took my place as a member of this government, I have deemed it my duty upon all proper occasions to make known what I conceived to be the policy and the record of this government, and, accordingly, in the discharge of that duty and in the exercise of my right to address the electors before rendering their constitutional verdicts, I did discharge my duty as well as I could, by going to the various constituencies where these elections were held, for the honourable and proper purpose of discussing the public questions of the day. It is somewhat difficult to deal with general statements, especially as in the case of the remarks made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), who stated that, for his purposes, it was of no consequence whether or not I was rightly or wrongly accused, that, for his purposes, it was immaterial. He added that as far as he was aware, there was no foundation in testimony for any of the innuendoes that have been made. He admitted that there was no testimony and no foundation, yet the hon. leader of the opposition, getting bolder as the discussion proceeded, did not so qualify his statements, but made some very broad assertions. Another hon. member of this House also made what he called a statement of fact. I refer to the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), and I propose to deal with one point in his remarks, because it is a tangible one. The hon. member for East Simcoe asserted that he had, on the public platform, accused me of associating with a very disreputable character of the name of Hanna, in connection with the East Simcoe by-election. The time that I speak of was at the nomination meeting in Goderich. He painted the character of the man so black that I certainly failed to recognize any person of that name whom I had ever met. At a later period this session, he again alluded to this same man, and I ascertained that he had reference to an officer of the Grand Trunk. In the by-election in East Simcoe, I can recall meeting Mr. Hanna, and the occasion was as follows: I had arrived in Orillia from speaking, I think, at Midland, the night before, and, after leaving the dining-room and going into

the public hall, I saw there a number of gentlemen, some of whom I knew and some I did not know. But it is customary for public men to be free in making introductions and receiving introductions, and on the occasion in question Mr. Hanna was introduced to me as an officer of the Grand Trunk Railway. There was nothing in his appearance to indicate that he was the disgraceful man that the hon. member for East Simcoe had declared him to be. On the contrary, he impressed me as being a particularly respectable man, striking in personal appearance, one that you could not see once and easily forget. My interview took place with him in the public hall. It was casual and but for a moment. There were persons present whom I did not know. I had not a word of confidential conversation with him to my recollection. I had never seen him before that moment; I have not seen him since. The hon. member for East Simcoe states that I went through the riding with him, that I drove through East Simcoe and suggested that we were engaged in improper work. If I did, there will be people in East Simcoe to testify, but the hon. gentleman will fail to find any human being to sustain him in that statement. I here state, unqualifiedly, that I have described and stated the full extent of my acquaintance with Mr. Hanna. The other night, he referred to him again as a dismissed Grand Trunk Railway spotter. I did not happen to be in the House, but when, in March, he spoke of Mr. Hanna, I wrote to Mr. Wainwright, of the Grand Trunk, to ask who this gentleman was, and, in justice to him and to myself, I may be permitted to read my letter and the answer:

Ottawa, March 6, 1900.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Bennett, M.P., has made unfavourable references to the character of a Mr. Hanna, who, I understand, is in the service of the Grand Trunk Railway. If there is any such officer in your company's service, I would be glad if you would inform me what position he holds; how long he has held it; whether it is a position of trust; what has been his record as an officer of your company; what is his standing in society; does he bear a good reputation; and generally inform me, if you are at liberty to do so, fully as to Mr. Hanna's character.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) W. MULOCK.

William Wainwright, Esq.,

Assistant General Manager, G.T.R.,
Montreal, P.Q.

I received the following reply from a Mr. Wainwright, dated March 15th, 1900:

Dear Minister,—I have your letter of the 6th inst., making some inquiry about Mr. Hanna, who is connected with this company. Mr. W. D. Hanna joined our service in November, 1881, and since that time has held various positions, all of which he has filled most satisfactorily. His official position is that of inspector in connection with my department, and is one of responsibility. He is a man of the highest respecta-

Mr. MULOCK.

bility and has brought up a nice family, his sons holding responsible positions in the United States. Mr. Hanna is a man in whom I place entire confidence and have done so for many years.

Yours truly,

W. WAINWRIGHT.

The other evening the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) again alluded to Mr. Hanna, and I sent a telegram to Mr. Wainwright to inquire if this Mr. Hanna was still in the service of the Grand Trunk Railway. The following was the telegram:

Ottawa, May 16.

Wm. Wainwright, Montreal.

Mr. Bennett, speaking in the House last night, referred to Mr. John Hanna as a dismissed Grand Trunk spotter, being in East Simcoe in last Dominion by-election. Was there a John Hanna, a spotter in your company's service and dismissed?

Mr. FOSTER. Was that a telegram or a letter?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. This is a telegram, there is more of it and I will read it all, but the latter part has no bearing on the case. It happened that when the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett) spoke of Mr. Hanna, some hon. member beside him asked the Christian name, and the hon. member gave his name as 'John.' That does not appear in *Hansard*, and as the letter which Mr. Wainwright sent me referred to him as W. D., I desired to know whether the Mr. Hanna that Mr. Bennett referred to was the one Mr. Wainwright referred to or not. The following is the telegram:

Mr. Bennett, speaking in the House last night, referred to Mr. John Hanna as a dismissed Grand Trunk Railway spotter, being in East Simcoe last Dominion by-election. Was there a Mr. Hanna, a spotter, in your company's service and dismissed? During that election Mr. Hanna was introduced to me in Orillia as being an officer of your company. Was he the person to whom your recent letter referred, as being W. D. Hanna, and is he still in your company's service?

WM. MULOCK.

To that I received the following reply:

Message received. We have had no John Hanna in this company's employ, and therefore no such man was dismissed, during the election you speak of. We had a W. D. Hanna, who has been in this company's service for many years and is still in our employ.

WM. WAINWRIGHT.

I met Mr. Wainwright to-day and he said Mr. Hanna was still in their service, a most trusted man and upon his certificate the Grand Trunk Railway paid out large sums of money annually amounting to a couple of million dollars. That is the gentleman who it is suggested was engaged in unworthy practices in East Simcoe.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) spoke of West Huron and Brockville, and named other people who

he said, I knew, were present in West Huron. What the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) has stated is unqualifiedly incorrect. He named Capt. Sullivan, Bill Molloy, John Ferguson, John Gorman, Thomas Pritchett and Thos. Lewis. Now, Mr. Speaker, I had never seen any of these men, to my knowledge, in my life. I do not know these men. I was billed to speak at several places in West Huron, and I was there for three or four days. I devoted myself faithfully and honestly to the purpose for which I went, namely, the holding of public meetings and laying our case before the public. I discharged my duty in that way, and that way only. That is the only part I took in the election. I had not been in that county for many a year. The people were strangers to me, and if there were a dozen men came there, I would not be able to identify them as strangers. As to these men mentioned, I had never seen them in my life, and I have no knowledge except what has been stated as to whether or not they were there. I can state with reference to Brockville in the same unqualified way. Hon. gentlemen opposite make allegations of which they have not the slightest knowledge. No human being has dared to say anything he knows, and although these gentlemen opposite have been engaged in circulating slanders, there is not a man in Canada who has dared to make the suggestion of a pretended fact to connect me with any wrong-doing.

Last year the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) ventured to make some observations with reference to West Huron, and I then gave a challenge to him, and that challenge has been on the pages of *Hansard* for him to take up every day since, and up until to-day neither he nor any of his friends has dared to take up the challenge, nor will they dare to take it up now. The hon. gentleman made insinuations as to my being in West Huron, and this is the report of my reply (p. 9482 *Hansard*):

To the first specific statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) I have given an emphatic denial. As to the insinuation that my action in West Huron consisted in secreting myself in a hotel, I say that my sole action in that riding consisted in addressing meetings of electors publicly, openly and honourably, and discussing the issues of the day; and I here challenge the hon. member for West York or anybody else to prove what he has insinuated. I challenge an inquiry.

I challenged inquiry then and I challenge inquiry now. Mr. Speaker, there is a way and a proper way to indict a member of parliament. There is a fair and a manly and an open way. Let the man who thinks he has a case stand up in parliament as men of courage have done before, and on his responsibility as a member of this House formulate a charge and make it here. Then, Sir, he will not have to wait for an inquiry. If he desires inquiry by a committee of this House he shall have it, and if some other

tribunal suits better he shall have that. And Sir, we will put the honour of the accuser and the accused in the scale—and there are consequences to the accuser as well as to the accused. The leader of the opposition has been bold as he always is. Let him formulate his charge against me on his own responsibility. He is a Privy Councillor; he is member of this House; he aspires to be a leader of public opinion, and we will see whose honour will suffer, and we will see which man is to be driven from public life. Sir, that is my attitude with regard to all these charges; that is my attitude in regard to all these insinuations. I here say as a member of parliament; I here say as a member of the government; I here say as a member of the Privy Council; I here say on my honour as a citizen and in every other capacity that I occupy: that these insinuations, these slanderous, malicious, cruel and heartless insinuations, that these gentlemen have been filling the air with against me are as baseless as a vision. Under what circumstances are these slandering men appearing here? I am saying it in the sense and knowledge of this, and let them take warning by it. I am telling it to them because in a short time they shall have an opportunity to confront me and make good their charges. Let them not misunderstand that. And there will be no packed jury. As the Premier has said, the men to hear these things will be men in whom the public will have confidence. Can I say more?

Mr. WALLACE. We cannot have it too soon.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No, the hon. gentleman has been free like some others in filling the air with these slanders, and it has been most unmanly, especially as coming from men professing such a desire for political virtue; most inconsistent with their professed desire for justice and fair play. Is it fair play, is it manly, for a man to stand up in this parliament and say that for his purpose he cared not whether I was rightly or wrongly accused or whether or not there was any testimony to support the charge, and yet was not above adding to the circulation of these slanders. Now, Sir, members opposite have a challenge, and I shall not take up any more of the time of the House at this hour; and that challenge must be accepted in some place. They profess to be in a hurry to have an inquiry. So far as I am concerned, they have only to formulate their charges, and if they desire a tribunal in this House they shall have it. I leave the question there, Mr. Speaker. I have suffered under these lies for many a month. They are lies, unqualified lies. I characterize them as such, and the public will characterize the men who utter them as very much the same. I will not be unparliamentary. Mr. Speaker. The hon. leader of the opposition professed

great joy at the turn of events to-night. My own impression was that he was a most disappointed man. Instead of addressing himself to the subject of debate, he had to draw upon that extensive vocabulary of his, playing various roles, and at last he claimed himself to be a David Crockett. I think if the public require any more proof of his true role, they have been furnished with it by his remarks to-night, and they will call him a Munchausen, and not a Crockett. Mr. Speaker, I want just to put a question to the hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart). I want to apply to him not unkindly and not unfairly, for I have none but kindly feelings towards that hon. gentleman, and I have never known him to play an unmanly part. There was an election in North Ontario in 1896. Mr. McGillivray was declared elected. There can be no doubt, I think, that that election was the result of fraud, that the ballots were falsified, and that Mr. McGillivray was declared elected when he had actually been defeated. There were several Ministers of the Crown taking part in that election, amongst them my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals. What would he have thought if I had accused him of being a party to those frauds because he had discharged his duty in addressing the electors who were about to be called upon to record their verdict? Other hon. gentlemen went to other constituencies; and yet because I did it, and it serves the purpose of hon. gentlemen opposite to repeat these misstatements until they believe that by constant repetition they may create what may be considered as proof for the purpose of a political campaign, they have resorted to these unworthy methods. Now, Sir, I leave the matter there. I have made my statement; and if there is anything to be added, if my language does not cover what is in my mind, I would allow any gentleman to add to it to the fullest extent necessary in order to give the most emphatic and unqualified contradiction to every one of these vile lies and insinuations which have been hurled against me across the floor of this House or outside of this House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the Hon. Postmaster General allow me to ask him a question?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I will.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. So far as meeting the statements in regard to West Huron is concerned, speaking for myself, I think the hon. gentleman has met them very squarely. Will he allow me to ask him whether he would apply the same statements to Brockville? For instance, I refer to his statement, which he confined to Huron, to the effect that the only part he had taken in the election there was from the platform. Will he say that in the election in Brockville the only part he took was

from the platform and not elsewhere? Because the statement is made, which I venture to repeat, having no personal knowledge, and having stated that I had none, but merely stating to the hon. gentleman man-fashion what I heard, and it is only fair to him as well as to myself to know what the issue really is.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, I am only too glad to have a person put a question to me. When I say I spoke from a platform, that involves of course a number of other things, such as going to meetings, returning from meetings, ascertaining the time of the meeting, seeing the local people to arrange for it, and so on. That is all part and parcel of the legitimate purpose of taking part in the campaign. In Brockville, I went once or twice, I think, with the candidate to call on some electors. I went down to their committee rooms, and I think that is all except speaking. But whether in mere words I have covered the point or not, so far as any accusation of wrongdoing is concerned—because that is the point which the hon. gentleman states is in the air—I wish him to understand that I have given the most emphatic and unqualified contradiction to any charge of wrongdoing, and I invite the fullest inquiry. I demand the fullest inquiry, and when that is over and the result turns out as I know it will, because I know what the facts are, I hope hon. gentlemen will have the manliness to make restitution for the injury they have done to me.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (Montreal, St. Ann's). Mr. Speaker, there is no trait of character in man more justly prized, more highly appreciated and to which more tribute is paid than that of courage, whether physical or moral. We remember the names of our patriots, of those who have bled for our country, of those who have sacrificed their lives for the advancement of a cause or the advancement of a people, and we erect to them grand statues wherever we can. If this be so, there is also no more despicable quality in human nature than that of cowardice. For the last two or three days, we have been entertained by learned gentlemen on the other side, who attacked the hon. the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) because he demanded that there should be sent before the Committee on Privileges and Elections the case which had been permitted to go before that committee last year by the right hon. the leader of the House. He simply asked, in accord with the report which has been sent to this House by that committee, and which certainly had in view a return of the case to it, that that case be again referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, and I shall read the last few lines of the report to bear out the statement I am making:

The proceedings of the committee being thus incomplete the committee do not feel warranted in reporting any conclusions.

Your committee therefore report herewith the evidence given by the witnesses who were examined that the House may take such action thereon and as to continuing and completing the inquiry and investigation as may be deemed best, and they recommend that the said evidence and exhibits be printed for the use of the members of the House.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Three principal reasons were given by these learned gentlemen—three of whom I believe are intended, at no very distant date, to occupy eminent positions on the bench—why these charges should not be sent back to the committee. The first was that the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) had not begun early enough in the session to make his motion; the second was that that committee had no right to investigate; and the third was that nothing had been proven. These gentlemen laboured for days on these three grounds. They proved to their own satisfaction at any rate, but evidently not to that of the right hon. leader of the House, that this committee had no right to resume its investigation. They proved also, likewise to their own satisfaction, but again not to that of the right hon. the First Minister, that nothing has been proven in the case. They proved further, equally to their own satisfaction, and still not to the satisfaction of the hon. the leader of this House, that nobody was guilty. Yet to-night we have the spectacle of the right hon. gentleman declaring that the air is full of corruption, that so much has been shown up, particularly in the cases which were sent last year before the committee that he now proposes, at the last moment in this debate, to refer all these matters to a commission of judges. Why was not this done before? Why was not this done yesterday? Why was it not done when the hon. member for Halifax first made his motion in amendment to the motion to go into supply. The hon. the leader of this House told us this evening that he informed the Minister of Finance that if this motion was defeated, he would then move that all these matters be referred to a commission of judges. Why then did not the government come out and declare, some time before three o'clock in the morning, that they were going to take this course?

I do not propose to discuss the three reasons given by these learned gentlemen why the case sent to the committee last year should not be referred to it again this session, but I wish in a few words to draw the attention of my leader to the position taken by the right hon. the First Minister, and give utterance to one word of warning: 'Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes,' which, freely translated means: I fear these Grits even when they appear to grant what we desire. I ask the hon. leader of the opposition to see that it is well and thoroughly un-

derstood that this commission will enter upon its duties at once. I ask him to see that the commission will prosecute its work immediately, so as to be in a position to send in its report or decision before parliament rises. If not, what then will be the position? The government will certainly appoint a commission, but every obstacle will be put in the way of the judges to carry out their work, and before they will have done anything, before any of these charges made in the West Huron and Brockville cases will have been investigated, we will, in all probability, have the general elections sprung upon us and have the government posing before the country again as the heroes of purity, when in reality, if these investigations go on, there is no doubt that every charge made in connection with the West Huron and Brockville elections will be proven to the hilt.

I do not intend to detain the House at any length at this hour, but desire simply to make this suggestion to the leaders of my party, because I fear that the offer of the government has not been made in perfect good faith but rather for the purpose of misleading the opposition and the electorate of this country.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). I have a word to say to the right hon. the Prime Minister. I called his attention last session to a statement made with regard to alleged irregularities, which a member of the other House said took place in the riding I have the honour to represent. The right hon. gentleman prevented my going any further by saying I was not in order, and therefore paid no attention to my remarks, but the statement made in the other House is invested with some seriousness by reason of the fact that it was given expression to by one of his own colleagues. Some reference has been also made to that matter by a somewhat less respectable member during this debate, to which I intend paying no attention, but I desire to say to the right hon. gentleman that if, in the face of the statement made by one of his own colleagues in another branch of this parliament, he does not refer this matter to the commission of judges he intends to appoint, I will consider that he and his government are stamped with a stigma which I will not describe as I might this morning. The statement was absolutely unfair. I have personal knowledge, as hon. members usually have, of the manner in which elections are conducted in their ridings, and I must say that I have never heard in the riding itself, which I have the honour to represent, any Liberals or Conservatives make any such declaration, not even my strongest opponent, and I call on the right hon. gentleman—and I think he will admit that the demand I make is a fair one—that when that commission is appointed he will set its machinery in motion to make an inquiry into the conduct of the officials and all concerned in

my election and into my own conduct, so far as that is concerned, in the riding of Bothwell.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think, Mr. Speaker, under the peculiar circumstances in which we are placed at this moment, that I must ask my right hon. friend to state a little more succinctly what he proposes to do. I have already expressed the pleasure with which we accept his proposal to have a judicial commission appointed immediately and one that will promptly investigate all the charges. Its first duty undoubtedly would be to deal with the question before the House, namely, the Brockville and West Huron elections. We are quite ready to have the commission extend its operations so as to cover as much ground as possible, but as these elections are in question before this House at present, it is those which I have particularly in view. If my hon. friend is prepared to say at once that he will name that commission and have it enter promptly upon its duties, with directions to bring its work to as early a conclusion as possible, it will be quite acceptable to this side of the House, and I would ask my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden), with the consent of the House, to withdraw his amendment. In regard to counsel before the commission, I presume the hon. gentleman will at once see the propriety of our being able to name counsel on the one side, as the government will on the other.

The PRIME MINISTER. For my part, I do not desire this motion to be withdrawn. I did not make the statement which I did to the House with the view of making any bargain with my hon. friend. I made this statement on my responsibility, with the advice of my colleagues, in order to meet what we believed to be an evil of great magnitude, deeply rooted. I stated that the examination would be prompt, searching and thorough.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think, then, when we accepted promptly his proposal, that the right hon. gentleman was wrong in allowing the members of this House to separate under the impression that there would be no vote on the question. We accepted unreservedly the proposition which rendered the passage of this amendment absolutely unnecessary. We infinitely prefer a judicial commission to investigate these election matters to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, after the character that has been given to it by the right hon. gentleman's supporters. I think the right hon. gentleman ought to have informed us at the time that he intended to force us to a division, notwithstanding his fresh proposal. There is no question of a bargain. The hon. gentleman has been compelled to this course in the face of a hostile vote, in the face of a threat of his own supporters behind him, that they would vote against him, if he did

Mr. CLANCY.

not consent to the appointment of a commission. Under these circumstances, he is bound to state frankly to the House that he will carry out what he led us to believe would be the case, that the commission should be promptly appointed, and be composed of judges of the highest character, who should enter upon the discharge of their duties immediately. I do not see what the hon. gentleman has to gain by forcing a division. However, he is entitled to do so.

The PRIME MINISTER. I stated that I did not want the question to be withdrawn, but it is optional with my hon. friend to call a division or not.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman will see that this is a very unsatisfactory position in which to leave the question. The hon. gentleman and his government must have made up their minds as to what they proposed to do. Now, does he propose to give us a commission at once and to allow them to go on at once with the investigation in West Huron and in Brockville? He can answer that, and, if his answer is affirmative, it fills the bill exactly as we want it, and is infinitely preferable to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. But to ask us either to give up our motion or to prosecute it with nothing definite ahead of us, he will see, is not treating us quite frankly. This is either a sudden resolve come to without consultation and under the stress of circumstances, or it is a policy that the government have settled. If it is a policy the government have settled, surely the right hon. gentleman can give the House the benefit of the statement that was made, and tell us just what they propose to do. But if the hon. gentleman proposes to take his own time and appoint whatever commission he pleases, without telling us definitely what he means to do, it is not satisfactory to this side of the House, and I do not think it will be satisfactory to the House at all.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am taking no advantage of the hon. gentleman; I offered nothing. I stated what I intended to do; the statement is quite fresh—that we should have an inquiry, prompt, searching and thorough.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. A judicial commission?

The PRIME MINISTER. What else can it be? The hon. gentleman did not ask anything, and I offered nothing. I stated what we would do. In face of that, the hon. gentleman should be satisfied. That is his own business. But I do not want to have this motion withdrawn; I want to have the question put, and it is for the hon. gentlemen to call a division or not, as they please.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think the hon. gentleman is taking a most disingenuous course. The hon. gentleman stated that he was prepared to appoint a commission im-

mediately, who would enter upon its duties at once; and in my reply I stated that we were prepared to accept that.

Mr. GIBSON. After you spoke an hour.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, after in reply to a four-hour speech. I said I was prepared to accept that, and, under that impression, a large number of the members of the House went away. Nothing could be more inconsequential, after the right hon. gentleman had offered us more than we asked for, to press this amendment to a division. I think, therefore, that the hon. gentleman has violated the understanding upon which—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, he has violated altogether the understanding upon which the motion was to be taken, and I think there is no alternative but for the debate to proceed.

Mr. SPROULE. Since the leader of the House has seen fit to withdraw from the position—

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Will the hon. gentleman permit me for one moment? I happened, in my remarks, not to embrace East Simcoe, to which the hon. member for that riding (Mr. Bennett) alluded, and, in case there should be any other by-elections in the mind of hon. gentlemen opposite with which they desired to associate my name. I wish the remarks I made in regard to the two ridings named to extend to all other by-elections.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Under the circumstances, I will ask my hon. friend not to address the House at six o'clock in the morning, and we will take the vote that is forced upon us by the right hon. gentleman, in violation of what I consider to be the understanding made by his own proposal. But I can tell the right hon. gentleman that if he thinks he is going to gain any advantage by this course, he is grievously mistaken. Neither in regard to the business of the House nor in any other respect will he gain anything by departing from a proposal made across the floor of this House and accepted by both sides. We are quite prepared for the question.

The House divided on amendment (Mr. Borden, Halifax).

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bell (Addington),	LaRivière.
Bergeron,	Macdonald (King),
Borden (Halifax),	McAlister.
Broder,	McCleary,
Cargill,	McCormick,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	McInerney,
Carscallen,	McLennan (Glengarry),
Casgrain.	Marcotte,
Clancy,	Martin,
Clarke,	Mills,
Cochrane,	Montague,

Craig,
Davin,
Dugas.
Foster,
Ganong,
Gilmour,
Haggart,
Henderson,
Hodgins,
Kaulbach,
Kloepfer,

Moore,
Morin,
Powell,
Quinn,
Roche,
Sproule,
Taylor,
Tupper (sir Charles Hibbert),
Wallace,
Wilson—43.

NAYS :

Messieurs

Archambault,
Bazinet,
Belth,
Bell (Prince),
Blair,
Borden (King's),
Bourbonnais,
Britton.
Brodeur,
Brown,
Bruneau,
Calvert.
Campbell,
Carroll,
Casey,
Champagne,
Copp,
Costigan,
Cowan,
Davies (Sir Louis).
Dechêne,
Demers,
Desmarais,
Domville,
Douglas,
Dupré,
Dyment,
Ellis,
Erb,
Ethier,
Featherston,
Fielding,
Fitzpatrick,
Flint,
Fortier,
Fraser (Guysborough),
Fraser (Lambton),
Gauvreau,
Godbout,
Gould,
Graham,
Harwood,
Heyd,
Hurley,

Hutchison,
Johnston,
Joly de Lotbinière (Sir Henri),
Landerkin,
Lang,
Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Lavergne,
Legris,
Lemieux,
Logan,
Macdonald (Huron),
McClure,
McGregor,
McGugan,
McHugh,
McIsaac,
McLellan,
McLennan (Inverness),
McMillan,
McMullen,
Madore,
Malouin,
Marcil,
Maxwell,
Mignault,
Mulock,
Parmalee,
Paterson,
Pettet,
Proulx,
Richardson,
Ross,
Russell,
Savard,
Semple,
Stenson,
Sutherland,
Talbot,
Tolmie,
Tucker,
Turcot,
Wood—86.

PAIRS :

Ministerial.

Opposition.

Messieurs

Charlton,	Tisdale,
Christie,	Roddick,
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),	Tupper (Sir Charles),
Davis,	Hale,
Gibson,	Corby,
Snetsinger,	Reid,
Burnett,	Beattie,
Belcourt,	Bennett,
Bethune,	Blanchard,
Frost,	Klock,
Guité,	Tyrwhitt,
Macdonell,	McDougall,
Rutherford,	Prior,
Sourerville,	Guillet,
Dobell,	Maclean,

Ministerial.	Opposition.
	Messieurs
Sifton,	McNeill,
Scriver,	McKer,
Edwards,	Earle,
Fisher,	Robertson,
Mackie,	Hughes,
Fortin,	Gillies,
Livingston,	Pope,
Monet,	Robinson,
Angers,	Kendry,
Bourassa,	Poupore,
Ratz,	Ingram,
McCarthy,	Seagram,
Stubbs,	Osler,
Leduc,	Ferguson,
Bostock,	McIntosh,
Morrison,	MacLaren,
Martineau,	Chauvin,
Lewis,	Bell (Pictou),

Amendment (Mr. Borden. Halifax) negatived.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I do not imagine that at this hour the House has any desire to go into Committee of Supply. I move that the Committee of Supply have leave to sit at the next sitting of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would ask my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) what business he intends to take up to-day and also to make the suggestion that committees should not meet this morning.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think I will accept the suggestion of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) that the committees should not meet this morning. As to the business, we will take up the Criminal Code this afternoon and all the other bills on the paper.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I would ask the right hon. Premier to reconsider his decision as to the committees. There are a number of gentlemen from a distance in attendance, and the meeting is called for 11 o'clock.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no committees.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) agreed to.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. If a convenient moment can be found, the House will be asked to consider special estimates in regard to legislation.

ADJOURNMENT—QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECESS.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). As this is Friday, and as there are two holidays in Ontario next week, I would like to ask if the government has made up its mind what we may expect in the way of holidays next week.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) answers that question, I would mention that, as he is quite aware, the Legislature of Ontario have made May 23 a statutory holiday as Empire day; and as that comes immediately before the Queen's birthday, I would suggest whether it would not be desirable to adjourn on the night of the 22nd over the Queen's birthday.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Mr. Speaker, the season is so far advanced now and we are all so anxious for prorogation that I believe I shall best consult the wishes of the House by insisting that we celebrate no other day than the Queen's birthday.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 6.20 a.m. (Friday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, May 18, 1900.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

WEST HURON AND BROCKVILLE ELECTIONS.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to read a telegram which speaks for itself, and which refers to a matter that I think the party is entitled to be heard upon. This is a telegram directed to myself and received this morning from Mr. William David Macpherson. He says:

Toronto, Ont., May 18, 1900.

Sir Charles Tupper, Bart.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Referring to Cowan's speech yesterday and to Farr's declaration, read by him, regarding me, published in 'Globe,' August 16 last, see my published reply in 'Mail,' August 17; also declaration of Marshall and Nelson answering Farr, and unqualifiedly contradicting him, published in 'Globe,' August 21; also 'Globe' editorial, September 9, apologizing for publishing Farr's original declaration, and exonerating me completely from his slanderous charges. Please answer Cowan fully in House, so the declarations in answer and editorial apology will appear in full in 'Hansard,' and greatly oblige.

WM. DAVID MACPHERSON.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House to carry out the last part of this telegram, but I think it is due to the gentleman, who is not here, that the facts to which he has drawn attention should be brought to the notice of the House.

REPORTED OUTBREAK OF DIPHTHERIA AT REGINA BARRACKS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, a statement was published in the press yesterday in regard to an epidemic which is said to have broken out in the barracks of the Mounted Police at Regina. I have a statement from the Comptroller of the Mounted Police on this subject, which, I suppose, the House will be glad to hear, and which may dispel the fears which have been occasioned by that report. The Comptroller of the Mounted Police writes :

Last evening's papers have an alarming report of an outbreak of diphtheria at the police barracks, Regina. There are three cases, not serious, among recruits recently arrived from the lower provinces. They have been isolated and every precaution has been taken. However, a number of men have been put in hospital, and the barracks buildings are being disinfected. There are about ten men in hospital with colds and other ailments, but nothing contagious, and there are only three cases of diphtheria.

Mr. DAVIN. I am very glad to hear that from the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), because I had a letter from Regina which would seem to indicate that it was more serious than that; but, no doubt, the ten cases were supposed to be all diphtheria cases.

CRIMINAL CODE (1892) AMENDMENTS.

House again resolved into committee on Bill (No. 137) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 166a,

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the reason why this clause should be replaced? A man may be negligent and yet not criminally negligent. A man may escape from an officer when the officer is doing his best, and yet some witnesses might come forward to say he is negligent.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There might be witnesses the other way also. The law as it stood formerly, made this offence a misdemeanour, which was punishable by fine or imprisonment at the discretion of the court, and, therefore, the offender was liable to five years' imprisonment.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, but if you made the alternative of a fine here, I would not see any objection to it. What was the reason for dropping the clause in 1892; there must have been some reason?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There may be a reason, but I have read the debate and I could not find it. If a man be negligent and allows a prisoner to escape, surely we ought to punish him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If he allows him to escape intentionally, the punishment ought

to be very severe, but if it is unintentional negligence, I do not see that the punishment should be imprisonment.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It would be left with the court and the jury to say whether the culprit is criminally negligent or not.

On section 179,

Mr. DAVIN. Will the Solicitor General accept my amendment?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The general law at present provides for the case my hon. friend desires to meet by his amendment.

Mr. DAVIN. Would my hon. friend explain where it is provided for?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will ascertain that, and in the meantime we will let the clause stand.

On section 183,

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I would like to ask why subsection *b* is restricted in its scope to women in factory employment. Should it not cover the case of any employment, such as that of a household servant?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The amendment widens the operation of the section to women employed in a shop or store. There was an amendment added by the Senate providing that no person shall be convicted of an offence under this section by the evidence of one witness unless such evidence is corroborated. The Senate evidently overlooked the fact that section 684 provides for this corroboration, so that I cannot see that there is any good reason for repeating the provision here.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). I would like to call the attention of the Solicitor General to the fact that section 684 includes section 190 as a section which requires corroborative evidence, which seems to me to be rather absurd. In that case a witness might be a person entirely disinterested, who might know of the offence by happening to pass a tent or wigwam. It seems to me that this would be a good time to omit section 190 from section 684.

On section 183a,

Mr. DAVIN. This seems to me to be a monstrous thing, and contrary to every principle of the law of evidence that I ever heard of—to throw the burden of proof of previous unchastity on the part of the girl or woman upon the accused.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). When the relationship of the parties is considered, I think the clause should pass. One can understand the relation in which a girl working in a factory stands towards her master. She might be the very best character in the world, and yet under those circumstances might yield more readily than

otherwise. This clause does not refer to general cases, but to specific cases, and I think it is only just and fair that it should be added as a deterrent in such cases.

On section 687,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would call particular attention to subsection 2, which reads :

In this section the word 'deposition' includes the evidence of a witness given at a trial.

The hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) agreed to draft some amendment to that. I would suggest off-hand to add the words 'before the same court, and for the same offence.'

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). But why should you not limit it to the deposition taken expressly for the purpose of being given in evidence ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Supposing there was a new trial, for some reason or other, because the jury disagreed or because on appeal a new trial was ordered, why should we not be able, if the witness examined at the first trial is not available at the second, to use his evidence taken at the first trial, if it is used in the presence of the accused ?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). There might be evidence given before a judge and jury that was not taken in the preliminary examination at all, an entirely new witness. What formality would you have to show it was the same evidence given before ?

Mr. POWELL. That would be a matter of identification by the judge or the stenographer.

Mr. BRITTON. I think these words will cover that: 'Includes the evidence of a witness given at any former trial upon the same charge.'

Amendment agreed to.

On section 744,

Mr. POWELL. I would move that section 744 be amended as follows :

By repealing subsections 1 and 2 thereof and substituting the following:

744. If the court refuses to reserve the question, the party applying may move the court of appeal as hereinafter provided.

2. The Attorney General or party so applying may, on notice of motion to be given to the accused or prosecutor, as the case may be, move the court of appeal for leave to appeal. The court of appeal may, upon the motion and upon considering such evidence (if any), as they think fit to require, grant or refuse such leave.

The point is this: The law as it stands requires an application to be made to the Attorney General; he gives his consent for application to be made to the court of appeal to determine whether they will entertain a motion to appeal or not; and then,

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

a third application is made to the court of appeal to allow the appeal. This amendment does away with one of these proceedings. I have been asked by several members of the Bar of the province of New Brunswick to have this done, because experience has shown that the Attorney General is rather convinced that he is right, and is sometimes rather averse to granting appeals, as he wants to vindicate his own judgment, which might be overturned on appeal. So, complaint is made of the existing state of affairs and they want application made to the court of appeal in the first instance for leave to appeal. I think that the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) will agree with the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) and myself that this amendment should pass. Take, for instance, the case of a man convicted of receiving stolen goods or of stealing goods—if he is sued civilly, where he is only responsible for the value of the goods and some incidental damages, then, he can appeal; but if he is convicted in a criminal case, where he is liable to be sent to penitentiary, and it is far more important to him that he should get the benefit of the law, if any, in his favour, he is not entitled to appeal. This is one of those traditions from the Dark Ages when criminals were not given the same degree of fair-play that men were given in a civil case, and the quicker it is put on some good civilized basis, the better for the reputation of our country. The matter was brought forward by the hon. member for Kingston, and, certainly, I think the lawyers of the House will agree that this ought to pass without amendment or modification.

Mr. BRITTON. I was not able to follow exactly the section as read by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) to know whether it was just the same as the one I moved.

Mr. POWELL. It was the same.

Mr. BRITTON. I think it is important that it should pass. And, in addition to what has been said, I may say that I suppose the Attorney General, in most cases, would grant leave to apply, and that is all that the section provides for. It would still remain with the court to say whether leave should be granted or not. But there are many cases where, perhaps, it is most important for the accused that he should be allowed to appeal, while it may be of comparatively little importance to the public. For instance, in a case which is not a serious one from the public point of view, not a case of murder or the larceny of a large amount of money, it yet may be a matter of great importance to the accused. In all such cases, the Attorney General, ordinarily, gets his information of the case from the local prosecuting attorney, and he might be led to think that leave to appeal should not be granted. The administration

of justice is fully protected by the accused being required to get the leave of the court. I do not think it should be put upon the accused that he should first get the leave of the Attorney General to apply and then get the leave of the court upon a formal application.

The amendment, as I understand it, is striking out the leave of the Attorney General.

Mr. POWELL moved that section 744 of the Criminal Code be amended by repealing subsections 1 and 2 thereof, and substituting the following :

If the court refuses to reserve the question, the party applying may move the court of appeal as hereinafter provided.

2. The Attorney General or parties so applying on notice of motion to be given to the accused or prosecutor, or as the case may be, move the court of appeal for leave to appeal. The court of appeal may, upon the motion and upon considering such evidence (if any) as they think fit to require, grant or refuse such leave.

Mr. BRITTON. Would it not be better to strike out the clause altogether and re-enact a new clause as amended ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Section 744 of the Criminal Code will now read as follows :

If the court refuses to reserve the question, the party applying may, with the leave in writing of the Attorney General, move the court of appeal as hereinafter provided.

Then will follow the subsections proposed by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell). Then, the remaining sections remain as they are. There is another amendment suggested by the junior member for Halifax, but, as he is not prepared to discuss that now, the committee could allow the clause to stand and take it up at another period.

Mr. POWELL. What about that clause covering an assault ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am willing to adopt the hon. member's suggestion with reference to that. I move that section 864 of the Criminal Code be amended by substituting the following therefor :

864. Whenever any person is charged with common assault, any justice may summarily hear and determine the charge.

(a) If the justice finds the assault complained of to have been accompanied by an attempt to commit some other indictable offence, or is of opinion that the same is, from any other circumstances, a fit subject for prosecution by indictment, he shall abstain from any adjudication thereupon, and shall deal with the case in all respects in the same manner as if he had no authority finally to hear and determine the same.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). There is an amendment to clause 526 of the Criminal Code. I propose that the following clauses a and b are added :

(a) Every money-lender is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or a penalty not exceeding \$100 who lends money at a rate of interest greater than 10 per cent per annum.

(b) The expression money-lender shall include any person who carries on the business of money-lending or any party who announces himself or holds himself out in any way as carrying on that business, and who makes a practice of lending money at a higher rate than 10 per cent per annum, but shall not comprise registered pawnbrokers.

I would move to reinstate in section 205 the section of the Bill introduced in the Senate, as it was first introduced in that body, and which I think is better than the change made subsequently in the Senate. The clauses I have proposed are those which were first introduced in the Senate. It will be remembered that there was a Bill introduced in the Senate last year, and which passed that body, containing the two clauses I have given notice of ; but which we had not time in this House to pass. They are again before the Senate this year ; and if passed, there will be no need of these amendments, but I propose them in case they should meet the same fate as they did last year.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The amendment will stand.

On section 934,

Mr. GILMOUR. This section provides that any boy of, or under, the age of sixteen years and above the age of ten years, who is convicted of an offence, for which a sentence of imprisonment for a period of three months, or longer, but less than five years, may be imposed upon an adult convicted of a like offence, may, in lieu of, or in addition to, any punishment which may otherwise be awarded for such offence, be sentenced to be privately whipped by a constable in the presence of the convicting magistrate, and also of the parent or guardian of the boy, if he desires to be present. I am one of those who do not think that whipping is a good corrective for a boy, or yet a man. There is another feature of this clause that I like less. The person to whom this punishment is entrusted, is a most important feature of the punishment. I do not think that some of the magistrates that we have, are fit persons to be entrusted with punishments of any kind, and they certainly are not fit persons to be entrusted with the responsibility of saying that a boy, or a man, shall be corporally punished. Further, the Bill says that the punishment shall be inflicted in the presence of the parents. I think that the punishment meted out to the man, or the boy, is more severe on the parents, or the friends of the one upon whom it is inflicted.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I think that so far as the boy is concerned, the hon. member for East Middlesex is right. But I think that one of the best correctives that can be

administered to a criminal, is to whip him, and to whip him publicly.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Not a boy.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, I think the line should be drawn at a boy, although there are cases in which nothing but a whipping will help a boy. Take that case at Toronto, the other day. Supposing that boy had not succeeded in killing his father, I do not know of any more salutary punishment for that boy, than to be whipped every three months for a year or two. But it is only in extreme cases that such a punishment should be inflicted. In dealing with criminals, I think we are far too lenient and I think if they were publicly whipped it would have a good effect. I saw the salutary effect of dealing with criminals publicly in Dawson City. There, justice is administered in a way that tells. It does not matter who the man is. Men who come up to Dawson City and break the law, gamblers and others, are fined heavily and sent to jail, not to jail in the way in which they are sent here, but they are simply taken out and made to saw wood two or three weeks in the presence of the public, and the humiliation of it has more terror for them than all the conjured places of future punishment would have. There are many cases in which persons are led in a more innocent way than others into crime, but if a person, for instance, commits an indecent assault, I know of no more salutary punishment than for that person, before the whole community, to be whipped. As far as boys are concerned, I think it is a cruel suggestion, to say that he may be whipped in the presence of his parents, as if they were to go out on a holiday to see their child whipped. It has a very bad influence, and to even suggest that the parent shall be present to see an amusement of that kind, is something that cannot be acceptable to us.

Mr. GILMOUR. Then, when that punishment is put into the hands of such men as we have administering justice, it is worse yet. Many of the magistrates who are acting as such, for the mere purpose of making a living, and who know nothing of justice, or yet of the law, are altogether unfit to be entrusted with this authority. I think it is a most serious thing that they should be entrusted with such punishment, as I, for one, believe, is not proper to be inflicted for almost any offence.

Mr. FLINT. I think that this clause is to meet cases of what are called incorrigible boys—boys whose parents cannot do anything with them. Of course, I agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Gilmour), that there are a great many magistrates to whom it would be dangerous to entrust this power. I know of cases in which, with the consent of the parents, boys have been whipped, rather than be dealt with by the magistrate, and this mode of punishment has been very use-

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

ful. There are boys, that, if this class of punishment be imposed upon them, it would be a very excellent thing. The object is that a boy can be punished severely enough to impress his mind as well as to impress the mind of those who are aware of the punishment. The other alternative is also a painful one, and it is that the boy goes into prison for from three to ten months, where all the influences are against him, and the hon. gentleman can easily see that there might be many occasions on which a good, smart whipping would have sufficient effect, while the other punishment might possibly make the boy worse than ever.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think there is a great deal in the objection which has been made by the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour). There are two reasons why you inflict punishment; one is a matter of revenge, if I may so term it, and the other is for its corrective influence in order to make the boy better. If a man is a hardened criminal, such as the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), referred to, I do not think there is any more effective punishment than a public whipping, and I think under these circumstances, it is in the best interests of society to inflict such a punishment.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). And in the best interests of the man himself.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And of the man himself. In a case of indecent assault, I think it ought to be applied more frequently than it is. But, here is the case of a boy of the age of sixteen years.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And under the age of sixteen years, too.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, it applies to the case of a boy from ten to sixteen years of age, which makes it all the worse. It is a monstrous thing to place in the hands of any magistrate the power of possibly ruining a boy for life of from ten to sixteen years of age, by ordering that that boy shall be publicly whipped.

Mr. FLINT. The whipping is private.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It will soon become public if it is under the law. Once a boy is whipped for an offence by a constable, I think there is very little chance of reclaiming that boy. His conscience is seared, all his respect for himself is gone, and if a boy loses self-respect, and if he is not able to hold the good opinion of his seniors, and of his associates, there is not much hope for him. He is jeered at, as the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), says, by his associates, he is practically an outcast, because we all know that the term 'publicly whipped' is a term of reproach that not one can stand up against in society at the present time. Then, it says that the instru-

ment to be used shall be, if practicable, a birch rod. Well, it appears to me that this is getting back a good many years.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). You and I got it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Sad and tender memories.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have tender memories, and I think we all have. But, we have advanced from the birch rod to more artistic and less humiliating forms of punishment, and I think it is beneath the dignity of the parliament of Canada to say that a birch rod shall be brought back again, as a means of public punishment, especially of a boy. I do not think that the hon. Solicitor General can do better than drop this clause.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will have to consider it carefully. It was introduced in the Senate, in the original Bill.

Mr. GILMOUR. The Senate are followers of the old school.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). And there is no man there who would ever be punished in that way. There are no boys in the Senate.

Mr. FOSTER. Young boys in the Senate! Where is the young boy from Sunbury eighty-eight years of age?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You must remember that, perhaps, the old boys have spared the rod less than we do, and have spoiled more children.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Solicitor General is behind the age. The experience is that the most successful management of childhood is the keeping furthest away from these offensive forms of punishment that were used years ago. There can be no question about it that the effect is beneficial so far as our schools are concerned, compared with twenty-five years ago.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). And our homes too.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, and our homes too. I am sorry that the Solicitor General thinks that the same form of punishment that was meted out to him most severely, and that failed to make him a very excellent boy, is deserved by boys nowadays.

Mr. QUINN. While I do not subscribe to any of the mawkish sentiment prevalent as regards the treatment of prisoners, yet we ought be careful about introducing whipping, especially in the case of young boys. I can imagine cases where whipping ought be inflicted.

Mr. MONTAGUE. On hardened criminals.

Mr. QUINN. Yes. For example, the crime of attacks on females is unfortunately quite prevalent in some parts of the coun-

try, and I think whipping ought be inflicted in cases of that kind. Another case would be where any particular crime is prevalent in a particular district, and it ought to be left to the discretion of the judge to inflict the punishment. But to say that a boy of fourteen or sixteen years old ought be whipped for some paltry offence is not proper. The whipping of such a boy either privately or publicly, instead of being a deterrent, would certainly degrade the boy so low that society could not hope for anything from him in the future. It would be the greatest mistake in the world for us to introduce anything of this kind into our law. I would like to see whipping introduced in the cases of attacks on females and garroting, and I would like, if possible, if some means could be used through the Department of Justice or otherwise to impress upon the judges of our country the necessity of inflicting the punishment of whipping in many of these cases, but certainly not to introduce it in the case of boys.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not share the sentimental objection often heard against whipping as a punishment for certain crimes. I believe that for certain crimes there is no more deterrent punishment than whipping. In this clause introduced by the Senate, it should be provided that the punishment of whipping could only be inflicted by discreet and experienced judges. But here you place it in the hands of magistrates who often have no judicial discretion, and who may be called upon spasmodically to exercise their duties.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And sometimes influenced by local considerations.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, living in isolated localities and more liable to be influenced by local and sometimes, unfortunately, personal considerations, which are not possible to judges sitting in open court. I object to give these magistrates power to inflict this punishment of whipping upon boys between ten and sixteen years old. For my part, before I assent to a clause of that kind, I would like the offences specified, and the court which can fix the punishment specified.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I share in that idea. I know incorrigible boys, that nothing less than a whipping would suit, but under this section boys that ought not be whipped may be so punished. Greater harm would be done by trying to catch one bad boy out of twenty, than if you allowed all the others to escape this punishment. I know that magistrates often carry their personal prejudices very far. Suppose they have a quarrel with the father, and they cannot lick him, they may say: I have the boy, and I will punish him. Although

this House is composed of members of the highest intelligence, there is not a gentleman in the House who could not point out the man whom he would like his boy to be whipped by. If that be the case here, you can see what might occur amongst justices of the peace in rural districts. I say nothing against them, but I know of no persons but judges of the Supreme Court who ought to be allowed to inflict the punishment of whipping, and they would not do it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And in a court of that kind, you would have it open to the criticism of the press.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). We ought not to pass this section. There may be a little animus in it as coming from the Senate, and they may have had their eyes on some boys they would like to see whipped.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And this section does not specify the offences for which whipping should be inflicted.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). Yes. If boys go into an orchard and steal apples, that is entirely another thing from boys breaking into a house and stealing, but a magistrate might say the law made no distinction. A boy may steal apples, which, of course, is wrong, but most boys do it in their young days if they get a chance.

Mr. **FLINT**. It seems to be the general view of the committee that this clause should not pass, and I therefore move that it be struck out.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). I second that.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. **BRITTON**. Perhaps I ought to be satisfied, as a matter of compromise, that the Bill as now before the committee contains half of the amendments suggested by my Bill No. 28, but there are two or three clauses in that latter Bill that I would like the Solicitor General to consider. Let me point out what these are. Section 684, subsection c requires some additional evidence to that of one witness. I suggest that section 189, which relates to an offence committed upon an imbecile or insane woman, be excepted from that provision. In such a case the offence must be proved by some person other than the person herself, and yet if there were an eye-witness to the offence, it would be impossible to secure a conviction unless his evidence were corroborated.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. What about the evidence of an eye-witness and the evidence of a physician?

Mr. **BRITTON**. It has been held time and time again that the corroboration must be with reference to the material part of the charge.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough).

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. Suppose you have the evidence of an eye-witness as to the act, and then the evidence of a physician as to such an act having been committed?

Mr. **BRITTON**. You might not have the evidence of a medical man.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. It would be very difficult for such a crime to be committed without there being some traces of it, the evidence as to which would to my mind be material. I think the hon. gentleman is going a long way in his amendment. He does not point out to the committee that there is any great crying need for this change. I do not think he has cited any cases where difficulty has arisen for the want of it; at least, it is not a common difficulty.

Mr. **BRITTON**. It is not a common difficulty. I know it has arisen in one case.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. I do not think the House should make such a change because of one case. It would be opening the door to blackmail.

Mr. **BRITTON**. I will abandon it if the feeling of the committee is against me.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. There might be cases of exceptional hardship such as the hon. member for Kingston has hinted at. It is not proper that the public should be at the mercy of designing individuals who might lay complaints in ordinary cases of this kind; but in the case of an imbecile or insane woman or girl, who could not give evidence, even if there were an eye-witness to the offence, it would be impossible to secure a conviction.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. That eye-witness might be perjuring himself to wreak revenge on the man charged?

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. There is the difficulty, of course; but at the same time it is possible that what I suggest might occur.

Mr. **MONTAGUE**. My hon. friend the Solicitor General sees that there is always some corroborative evidence required, but in these exceptions, such corroboration would not be required.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. I would not agree to accept the change off-hand, but at the same time it is worth considering.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The section covers imbeciles and deaf and dumb women. The second class can give evidence, and if you remove the necessity for corroborative evidence, any man would be at the mercy of any one of these people.

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. The difficulties are as great in the one case as in the other. A perfectly innocent person may have had an assault committed on her and

testify to it, but if her evidence is not corroborative she cannot obtain any redress. We will let that stand.

On section 789,

Mr. BRITTON. Under this section a magistrate can try summarily the actual theft of an amount not exceeding ten dollars, but where there is only an attempt to commit theft, there is no limitation. If the Solicitor General will consent, I would move that in the case of an attempt to commit theft, the value should also be limited to ten dollars.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Take the case of a pickpocket, he would be attempting to take whatever he could get.

Mr. BRITTON. But take the case of breaking into a bank, the intention would be to steal a good deal more than ten dollars.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. How do you know?

Mr. BRITTON. There could be no doubt about it in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, and there would be no difficulty in determining the amount in the case of an attempt to commit theft any more than in an actual theft.

Mr. RUSSELL. I wish to move an amendment giving the date on which this Act would come into operation. There are a great many changes in our Criminal Code made by it, and some little time should be given the legal profession and the public to become acquainted with these changes before putting them into operation.

Mr. POWELL. I know of a very humorous case which illustrates the necessity of this proposed amendment. The New Brunswick Supreme Court, which was one of the ablest courts in Canada at the time, gravely went to work and quashed nineteen convictions, in entire ignorance of the provisions of a statute which had not at the time got into the hands of the judges. Fortunately, somebody had a copy of the *Gazette*, and showed it to the judges and thus saved our courts from serious reflection.

Mr. RUSSELL. I would suggest that it do not come into operation before the first of January.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This Bill to amend the Criminal Code was introduced in the Senate by the Minister of Justice, and I would not like to add this amendment without previously consulting him.

Mr. MacLAREN. Before the committee rises, I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General if he has considered Bill No. 62.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the Bill introduced by my hon. friend providing for the punishment of those who go into lodging houses and then leave them secretly

without paying. I am afraid that he is asking us to go a little too far when he asks us to make that an indictable offence, punishable by three months' imprisonment.

Mr. MacLAREN. With all due deference to the opinion of the hon. gentleman, I think that this amendment should be accepted if possible. There are many cases in which lodging house keepers are defrauded by people going to them and then leaving before paying their bills, after they have lived in them several weeks. I know of a case in my own town which shows the necessity for some measure of this kind. A man came off the train and took up his lodgings in a boarding house. But, during one Sunday evening, when the landlady was away at church, he packed his grips and left the place, leaving unpaid a bill for five weeks' board, thus defrauding this poor widow who was keeping a boarding house to maintain herself and her children. There was another case in one of the hotels in our town. A man came and stopped seven weeks. He had a trunk, which he did not take with him when he left, as he did very unceremoniously and without paying his bill. After waiting for some time, the hotelkeeper opened the trunk and found it filled with books for the blind. I thought that was a pretty good blind.—at any rate the man got away without paying his board. I think that if this Bill were passed, it would frighten this class of people and prevent frauds of this kind. These hotelkeepers and boarding house keepers should be protected in some way.

Mr. DAVIN. I would urge the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to consider my hon. friend's (Mr. MacLaren's) Bill. There was a case in the North-west Territories of a man stopping at one of our leading hotels and shipping without paying the bills, leaving behind him some boxes. But when opened, the boxes were found to be filled with bricks. There are certainly cases calling for legislation, as proposed by my hon. friend (Mr. MacLaren).

Mr. FLINT. I would ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. MacLaren) if he has consulted any counsel or taken any steps to ascertain if the cases he referred to are not fairly well provided for under the present law?

Mr. POWELL. That against obtaining goods under false pretenses?

Mr. FLINT. It seems to me that the cases mentioned might possibly be reached under the present law, but I would not like to give a definite opinion without further considering it.

Mr. RUSSELL. Unless the case is covered by some section of the existing code, I am entirely in favour of the suggestion of my hon. friend (Mr. MacLaren). It is not sufficient to say that we are providing for one case. If we can conceive or imagine of

a case as possible, this is the time to provide for it. Of course, our system has been based upon the principle of never providing for a case until that case occurred—let people fall into the ditch before you make provision to keep them out. But the modern theory of legislation is to anticipate these and provide against them. Even if we know of no actual cases, it would be entirely proper for us to provide for those that we can think of as likely to occur. Very ingenious devices have been resorted to, to accomplish the destruction of the hotel-keepers. In the Criminal Code as it exists, we find a number of special cases already provided for. I think it ought to be our endeavour, as much as possible, not to let every private member who has a Bill before the House struggle with it as best he can, but, now that we have this general amending Act before us, we should receive suggestions and, if they are found to be good, should make them part of the law. I think that is exactly what we are here for. Instead of discouraging suggestions that are brought forward, wherever there is a suggestion that has the semblance of value, it ought to be carefully considered. There will be cases arise that we cannot think of now: but, if we provide for those that we can think of, it is manifest we shall make our legislation all the better.

Mr. FLINT. I see that it can hardly be claimed that this case referred to by my hon. friend is covered by sections 356 and 358 by the code. But section 362 provides:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to six months' imprisonment, who, by means of any false ticket or order, or of any other ticket or order, fraudulently and unlawfully obtains or attempts to obtain any passage on any carriage, tramway or railway, or in any steam or other vessel.

If the law provides for a case of that kind, I do not see why the criminal law should not be used for the protection of proprietors of boarding houses and hotels. I favour the inclusion of my hon. friend's (Mr. MacLaren's) Bill.

Mr. POWELL. So far as the section cited by my hon. friend from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) is concerned and the sections relating to obtaining money under false pretenses, there is a well defined distinction between those cases thus covered and the one now under discussion. These are all based on fraud. Fraud involves a misrepresentation of a fact. Intention is not an expression of fact. When a man goes to a hotel, if he misrepresents the facts—says, for instance, that he has money to pay his board bill when he has not, and obtains board on the strength of that misrepresentation, that might possibly be held to be obtaining victuals under false pretenses. But in the case cited by my hon. friend (Mr. Flint), the presentation of a false ticket involves the implied representation that it is a genuine

ticket, and is an effort to obtain something by false pretenses. It is true that in the cases sought to be met by the Bill of the hon. member for North Perth (Mr. MacLaren) the victims are often women keeping boarding houses, who are not used to business and are imposed upon by shrewd sharpers; and it would almost seem that these cases should be compassed by the criminal law in some way. I admit that it is stretching the criminal law to such an extent as has never been done before.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Other debtors might be equally regarded as criminals.

Mr. POWELL. Yes; there is no essential difference between getting credit for board and getting credit generally. The fact that a man gets credit and is unable to pay his bill, it does not subject him to criminal prosecution unless he has misrepresented some fact on the strength of which credit has been given. It is opening up what has hitherto been exclusively the territory of the civil law to the criminal law.

Mr. FLINT. The fact of a trunk being taken into a hotel or boarding house or hotel which looks like a trunk full of clothing, is equivalent in its way to the presentation of a false ticket on a railway. It is taken, in a general way, as assurance that the traveller has the wherewithal to meet an ordinary board bill. The landlord thinks he has security for the bill, but when the boarder leaves unceremoniously and the trunk is opened, it is found to be filled with the proverbial bricks. I think that the principle of my hon. friend's (Mr. MacLaren's) Bill is precisely the same as that involved in this section against the presentation of a false ticket on a railway. With the majority of these people who defraud hotelkeepers it is impossible to reach them by civil process. When the loss is discovered, they are beyond the jurisdiction, and they have no property to respond to civil action.

Mr. QUINN. Does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) think that this is covered by the provision against obtaining goods under false pretenses?

Mr. DAVIN. It would be very easy to construct a clause that would obviate the possibility of bringing within it a man who is not a criminal. But when a man goes to a hotel and has two or three trunks, supposedly filled with good clothes, on the apparent security of which he is treated well, and remains for a week or fortnight and then goes away leaving his bill unpaid, and the trunks are found to be filled with brick, it is perfectly clear that he has used false pretenses to gain board and lodging.

Mr. RUSSELL. There is no danger of a man being prosecuted as a criminal because he is poor, under the proposed amendment. It is the intention to defraud that is the

Mr. RUSSELL.

gravamen of the charge, and it would have to be proved to the satisfaction of the jury that convicts, that there had been that intention. There is no possibility, it seems to me, of maintaining the argument that you are amending the criminal law in such a way as to punish a man for being poor.

Mr. QUINN. There was a case in the town of St. John, in the province of Quebec, where a man under the law as it stands to-day, was indicted for obtaining goods by false pretenses. He was convicted, and upon appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench in Montreal, the conviction was maintained. He had gone to the hotel and brought a trunk with him, and left without paying his bill. He left after a week, and it was found there was nothing in the trunk. Now take the other view of the case. Suppose a man goes to a hotel and has several trunks and remains for several weeks, or two months. The hotelkeeper is so dilatory that he makes no demand for payment, but, at the end of two weeks he drags this man to the criminal court and charges him with having obtained goods under false pretenses under this Act. It seems stretching the criminal law very far, and if you pass the Act as it is to-day, you are going to put a man in that position. There is a vast difference between that case and the case of a man who goes as a transient visitor to a hotel. The difficulty is in making this apply to boarding house and hotel keepers generally, because you put it in the power of a boarding house keeper who has not been paid for board for a couple of months, to arrest any of his boarders and send them to prison for having obtained goods under false pretenses. But where the law has been construed by the Court of Queen's Bench in Quebec to apply, is where a man goes to a hotel, presumably as a transient visitor, and there obtains, on the strength of the baggage that he has with him, board for a couple of days, he lights out without paying his board bill. He has evidently gone there with the intention of paying that board in the security of what is supposed to be in that trunk. He has done it with the intent to defraud, and was convicted under the law as it stands to-day.

Mr. RUSSELL. My suggestion was, that we ought not to adopt this if it is already provided for in the code, and that is the whole question. If it is not provided for in the code, it is a very proper subject of legislation, and the section ought to be submitted to the draughtsman of the code for his judgment about it. I do not think it is right in any case to accept a clause drafted by one hand and incorporate in it a piece of work done by another hand, because you are bound to have the work badly done. I think this clause is one of sufficient importance for the Solicitor General to take up and see if it is already covered by a provision.

Mr. POWELL. So far as food is concerned, that is covered by Acts dealing with false pretenses, and this may be provided for by the criminal law now. Then, the first section is covered. The new matter is the lodging and other accommodation, that is not provided for by the statute. Now, as respects section 2:

Proof that such person obtained such accommodation by false pretense, or by false pretense as to baggage, or that he absconded or left the premises without paying or offering to pay for such accommodation, or that he surreptitiously removed or attempted to remove his baggage, shall be prima facie proof of the fraudulent intent mentioned in subsection 1 of this section.

There is no change in the law there. In the first place it is applying it to other subject matter; in the second place, it declares it to be prima facie evidence. The only difference between that and the law as it now stands is this, that the jury can take that and infer from it. Well, that may be the only effect that is given to it by declaring it to be prima facie evidence. If you take that view, there is no change except the extension of the principle. There is an English case in which it was decided and upheld on appeal by the twelve judges that intention is a fact. If a man misrepresents his intention, that is a fact which can be the basis of a complaint for obtaining money under false pretenses. Here is an illustration. A man goes to a clothing store and gets a suit of clothes. He gives a cheque for the clothes, but he has no money in the bank, and he knows it. That is a clear case of obtaining money by false pretenses, although he says nothing at all about his cheque. Now, take another case which goes a little further. A man goes and gets a suit of clothes, and tells the party that he will be in next morning and pay for it. He does not come next morning. If he bona fide intended at the time to return, there is no fraud, if he did not intend to return at the time, if he misrepresented his intentions, that was called a misrepresentation as to fact, and the party would be punished under the criminal law. It is different from a promise, it is a misrepresentation of a fact, and the fact is, whether the man had a bona fide intention at the time. If he went simply to commit a trick, he could be convicted under that statute.

Mr. QUINN. It is a breach of a promise to perform something in the future.

Mr. POWELL. If it is a mere breach of promise to perform something in the future, it cannot be reached by the criminal law. I agree with the member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) that it is not pushing the law much further than it really is, it is simply extending it to cases that are not now covered.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the Solicitor General is going to consider this question, there is an interesting case

mentioned in Burbidge's book on the Code. The authorities are rather against the view taken by my hon. and learned friend as to the condition of the law now. Here is a case altogether similar to the subject we have been discussing, the case of Regina and Gardner :

A, by falsely pretending to be a naval officer, induces B to enter into a contract to board and lodge him at a guinea a week, and under this contract is supplied with food for a week. This is not obtaining food by false pretenses, as the supply of food in consequence of the contract is too remotely the result of the false pretense to be the subject of an indictment.

I do not quite catch the reason of the decision in the word 'remotely' ; for instance, whether it means by the false pretense that this weekly contract was made to get the food. It may be that, and it was held there that it was necessary to show that food was got by a false pretense, whereas a contract was obtained, and that was not covered by the language of the code.

Mr. POWELL. In that particular case, you will find, on looking at the facts, that the woman or hotelkeeper who gave the credit was perfectly willing to trust him whether he was a naval officer or not, and the case failed because the fraud was not the means of obtaining the accommodation.

Mr. RUSSELL. That is not the statement of the case.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It says that it is not obtaining food by false pretenses, and these are the reasons given:

A, by falsely pretending to be a naval officer, induces B to enter into a contract to board and lodge him at a guinea a week, and under this contract is supplied with food for a week. This is not obtaining food by false pretenses, as the supply of food in consequence of the contract is too remotely the result of the false pretense to become the subject of an indictment.

Mr. BRITTON. If you push the case any further I suppose you might make it apply to a lady who is well dressed, and who wears jewels, going in and getting credit in a store to whom the storekeeper gives credit on the appearance of the woman, her dress and belongings.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It seems to me that the Bill simply makes it criminal for every boarder throughout the country not to pay his board.

Mr. FLINT. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, it makes it criminal for any person to be at a hotel, or a boarding house, without paying his board bill. The section goes on to provide that there must be an intent to defraud, and the second subsection expressly provides that not paying a hotel bill shall be prima facie evidence of an intent to defraud. So that a person

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

who does not pay his board shall be liable to indictment. I do not see why any special criminal law should be made applicable to boarders who enter into a contract with boarding house keepers. If any special circumstances of a criminal nature mentioned by the hon. member for St. Ann's division of Montreal (Mr. Quinn) arise, the Criminal Code, as at present framed, covers them, but in ordinary cases if boarding house lodgers happen to be behind in their board, and are unable to pay, to make the fact of their being unable to pay, an offence under the Criminal Code is pushing the thing to an extremity. If the Criminal Code, as at present framed, covers all reasonable cases, I do not see why the criminal law should be invoked to apply to the ordinary case of a boarder failing to pay his board, and I think such cases may be very well left as they are. There are not a great many cases that we have heard of. You cannot make the Criminal Code apply to all commercial dealings between one man and another, but we are going so far now, that it will be a criminal offence to buy or sell or do anything. I think we are going altogether too far in the direction of designating everything as a criminal act for a failure to perform a contract. I think in making such thing a breach of the criminal law, we are going too far. It does not commend itself to my mind, unless there are some stronger arguments advanced than I have yet heard, to make it a criminal offence for a boarding house lodger not to pay his board.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. After listening to the discussion that has taken place, I cannot see that I can very well change my mind as I expressed it at the beginning. We must not make a criminal court a debt-collecting court. That must be guarded against, but in looking at this Bill it seems that the first portion of the Bill would provide for the punishment of any one, having gone to a boarding house, or a hotel, who, after a certain time, left without paying his bill. The second part provides that if the man goes with an apparently well-filled trunk, and as a result of his being in possession of this trunk succeeds in obtaining credit he comes under the classification of having obtained money under false pretenses. I would be disposed to agree that he should come under the clause of obtaining money under false pretenses if it is that the law does not now provide for this, then we may provide some amendment to meet that case, which is certainly one of special hardship, because we have to take into account that a hotel-keeper is not in the same position as the ordinary man who sells goods. He is obliged to receive any person who chances to come to his hotel.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not without pay.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, not without pay; he may fix the terms of payment as he chooses. But, the law provides that if a man comes to him he has a lien on the goods of the man who comes to his hotel. If a man comes to a hotel and brings what is apparently a well-filled trunk, upon the faith of which a hotelkeeper allows him to remain there, being under the impression that he would have a right to collect his money out of the goods contained in the trunk and the goods are not there, it strikes me that if the criminal law does not reach that case there should be some provision for it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That would not apply to the case of a boarding house keeper at all. The boarding house keeper is not licensed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, but the man who is licensed is obliged to receive any person.

Mr. MacLAREN. I think the hardship is that there are lots of landladies who have lost their husbands who start boarding houses, and who are trying to make their living in that way. They are not business women, and they are not able to protect their interests. People go to their houses for four or five weeks, and then do not pay them. I think something should be done to provide for the protection of these landladies. It is not so serious for business men who are selling goods over the counter. But people take advantage of poor widows and others who are keeping boarding houses. I think the point should be considered very seriously, because it is an important matter.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, before you rise, I should like, with the view of helping the hon. Solicitor General to a decision as to the amendment to section 179, to tell him that since we were discussing that I have looked up some matters referring to it. The hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) made a statement, in the course of the debate, that a clause, as I suggested, was actually in the penal code of New York, and that notwithstanding that such a clause was in the penal code of New York, it was not possible to convict the actress and manager who put Sappho on the stage. I have in my hand the New York Penal Code, and as a fact, it has no clause whatever in it that would apply to such theatrical exhibitions as we seek to suppress. I will hand it over to the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). The United States and Canada are the only two civilized countries north of the equator, in which there is no supervision of the theatre. England, I suppose, will not yield to other countries in regard for liberty; liberty or public liberty of exhibition, liberty of the subject in all respects, but in England, from time immemorial, the thea-

tre has been under supervision, and is to this day under the censorship of the Lord Chamberlain. In France, we know that the government is intimately connected with the theatre, and in consequence of the interest the government takes in the management of one theatre in Paris, the Theatre Francais, you have had in that theatre for centuries, the highest drama represented. To this day, a girl who plays the smallest part in a role on the boards of that theatre, is an artist. Everything from the strongest part to the smallest detail of the caste, is regulated so that the *tout ensemble* is perfect, and all is related to a general conception. I have not the least doubt that that would be impossible but for the fact that the government of France, recognizing the immense importance of the theatre in the social and artistic progress of the community, has endowed that theatre, and has supervised it up to the present time. I have had a number of letters written to me since the discussion in the House recently, and some of them coming from some of the most eminent men in Canada. I have had a letter, amongst others, showing the interest in this question, from a man that in his line, stands on the pinnacle of culture and intellectual power—Mr. Goldwin Smith—who has done me the favour of giving me his views. The papers in the United States have taken this question up, and I have editorials from them which, with the permission of the Solicitor General, in order to help him to give a decision, I will read to the committee. This is from the *Bridgeport Union*:

The Revolt Against Vile Plays—Stop the Nasty Farces.

(Bridgeport 'Union'.)

There is one field in which the managerial hand has been allowed to great freedom—with too ready tolerance by the public. There is ample scope for the efforts of the true reformers who have at heart the real interests of the playhouse—they should get to work to 'squelch' the nasty French farces, which while sometimes slightly cleansed in the translating process, still retain sufficient of the venom of lasciviousness to exclude them from presentations outside the brothel. The trouble was bad enough in 'The Foundling' and 'The Gay Parisians,' but worse and worse it became with each succeeding play. There was 'Never Again,' which told of the happenings in an assignation house; 'The Proper Caper,' which treated of the efforts of an artist's model to create in a mild-mannered old man something of her own sort of animal passion; 'A Night Session,' which presented a brothel rendezvous—and its outcome; 'The Conquerors,' wherein was shown an attempted criminal assault upon a country girl; 'Zaza,' which tells how a mistress rebukes her lover because he does not prefer her lewd affection to that of his wife; 'The Cuckoo,' 'Make Way for the Ladies,' 'Wheels Within Wheels,' 'The Degenerates,' and so on—all follow along equally suggestive lines.

We had 'The Degenerates' here a few evenings ago. I did not go to see it. I would not go on two grounds, first: I would not sanction

the play, and for other reasons I would not sanction the representation.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I was glad to learn that the offensiveness of 'The Degenerates' was, as represented in Ottawa, absolutely minimized.

An hon. MEMBER. Did you see it?

Mr. DAVIN. No, but it was reported to me by a person I have confidence in. At the same time, from the incidents connected with it—I will not dwell upon them, because I cannot do so without making personal remarks—there were incidents connected with the play of 'The Degenerates' here, which were not creditable to some of the society people. I continue to quote:

'The Surprises of Love' told of a man and woman being locked in the same hotel room over night, and being discovered next morning by the woman's fiancée. 'The Girl from Maxim's' was close to the limit—and that limit has apparently been reached in Coralie & Co. (now running in New York, and against which no efforts at suppression have yet been directed) and which admittedly eclipses in suggestive immorality any of the foregoing examples of stage offerings.

The Fountain Head of Filth.
(Chicago 'Tribune.')

All the filthy farces of Gallic importation have New York for the starting point of their American travels—and they start with laudatory press notices as a part of their equipment. There is running in New York at this moment a farce so vile that its action cannot be described in print—that is, outside of New York. It is not being played. 'Zaza,' which is as bad as 'Sapho,' did not inspire a Gotham spasm, newspaper or otherwise. If New Yorkers actually desire light on the source of stage depravity of the day they have only to look into the workings of a speculative mechanism—headquarters New York—behind which stands a manager who with one hand writes that he 'presents an actress who never appeared in a part offensive to public morals,' and who with the other pens an endorsement of one of the most evil-smelling farces of the season. Under the title, 'Lewdness on the stage—the flood of filth in the theatre and who is chiefly responsible for it,' 'The Dramatic Mirror' publishes a list of fifteen plays of production within the last five years—seven of them within the year—for which this influence is directly responsible. The list includes 'On and Off,' 'The Conquerors,' 'The Cuckoo,' 'The Girl from Maxim's,' and 'Make Way for the Ladies.'

The Evil Should be Fought.
(Rochester 'Democrat and Chronicle.')

The public can put a stop to stage indecency if it chooses to take the trouble. There is plenty of law to reach this evil, and the officials whose duty it is to enforce the law can be moved to do so. Persistent resort to the law, whenever and wherever an attempt is made to present such theatrical exhibitions as 'Sapho,' will end by effectually discouraging them. We are regarding 'Sapho' solely as a typical case. We have no desire that Miss Nethersole shall be specially persecuted. She is no worse offender nor more conspicuous offender than others against whom the law has not been invoked.

Mr. DAVIN.

There is Mr. Charles Frohman, who during the last five years has 'presented' at least fifteen plays probably quite as objectionable as 'Sapho,' unmolested and almost unrebuked. There is the New York Casino, every one of whose productions for years past has been more or less in violation of public decency. We hope soon to read that 'Coralie & Co.' has been 'raided' by the police. We hope that the law will be impartially brought to bear on all offenders against it, in New York and in every city in the country where there is an ordinance relating to public morality and a police force. We want to see this evil fought earnestly and persistently with more efficient weapons than talk.

As the success or failure of all drama in the United States is supposed to hang upon the verdict of the New York theatre-going public, it is well to note from time to time what this arbiter is doing for the elevation of the American stage. It has given its seal and sanction to Mrs. Leslie Carter in 'Zaza,' to Mrs. Langtry in 'The Degenerates,' and to Mrs. Kendal in 'The Second Mrs. Tanqueray.' It has lent a helping hand to 'The Girl from Maxim's,' has giggled over 'Papa's Wife,' and has now accepted Olga Nethersole in 'Sapho.' The New York 'World' is not quite satisfied with this layout of art and moral purity, but suggests the addition of one more play. The star of this is to be the St. Louis young woman with 'drooping blue eyes' and 'a splendid form,' who was arrested the other day, and whose trunks were found to be packed with the proceeds of recent burglaries and highway robberies which had baffled the St. Louis detectives. Her advance agent has already announced that when arrested she exclaimed through her sobs: 'The news of this will kill mother!' Nothing further is needed—except a release from her present engagement—to assure her a brilliant career on the New York stage at the hands of the critical public which is acting as censor for the drama of the theatrical trust.

And, Sir, in our own country 'Bystander'—I do not want to go behind the well-known nom de plume under which a great critic presents his views to the public—on this subject, says:

Mr. Davin is moving for increased restrictions on the Canadian stage. There is room for such legislation without trenching on legitimate freedom. Nobody expects or wants the theatres to be a Sunday school; at the same time, we do not want it to be a vestibule of the brothel. Let it present human nature frankly, but without alluring to vice. That some of the plays and ballets now presented do allure to vice cannot possibly be denied; they, in fact, have no other attraction. Of such ballets especially as are often exhibited the object can only be vicious; probably no other object is intended or even professed. A cultured spectator may possibly be able mentally to separate the grace of motion from the sensual allurement, as he may be able to read a French novel for the art, not for the lubricity. But the mass of spectators are not cultured. These exhibitions often involve the most deplorable degradation of woman, and it is impossible that in the minds of those who have gloated over them respect for the sex should not suffer. We are in danger of descending, though, perhaps, by a somewhat different road, to the level of the infamous drama of the Restoration. If Mr. Davin could strengthen the checks on theatrical posters he would do a further service. We do not want to be squeamish, but beastliness is not manliness or freedom.

It is an advantage which London has hitherto kept over Paris that in Paris things are displayed which in London would be torn down by the police.

Both in Canada and in the United States, have the leading papers taken the same view of this question as I do. I need not say, as 'Bystander' says, that nobody wants squeamishness. What we want is the theatre so regulated as to show that the government of the country has some regard for art and some regard for public morals. As 'Bystander' says, there are some ballets which are simply bestial, in which the degradation of woman is complete. When I was in London, I was accustomed to see the ballet from the Royal Theatre in Denmark. The King of Denmark, as we know, took a great interest in the stage, and the danseuses who came from Denmark, exhibited all the grace and poetry of motion that could delight an artistic eye, with nothing suggestive or degrading, either to the spectator or the artist. Here is a special from London to the *New York Sun*, of May 16:

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Samuel Smith, member for Flintshire, raised a discussion of the character of the plays recently placed on the stage in England. He moved for a stricter supervision. He complained that foul, corrupting plays were increasing in London and the provinces. Some of them, were so low, he said, that no honest actor would touch them with a pitchfork. He particularly attacked 'The Gay Lord Quex' and 'Zaza,' the latter recently attended by the Prince of Wales, who presented the star, Mrs. Leslie Carter, to the Princess. Mr. Smith quoted a critic who described 'Zaza' as a display of disgusting ribaldry. He said it was a cruel thing to put a pure woman to play the part of a harlot, yet this was becoming a common thing.

Whether a pure woman is put to play it or not, what about the spectator, and what about the possibility of respectable people taking their wives and daughters or sisters to the theatre and having a dramatic representation placed before them, which could be thus described?

Mr. ELLIS. Where was the English censor then?

Mr. DAVIN. The English censor had not done his duty, but wait until you see what comes later on:

Mr. Smith also attacked 'The Belle of New York,' which he had seen described as of the most vulgar order. The debauchery of the plays produced in London had, according to Mr. Smith, disgusted the American and colonial friends of England. Such plays marked a decline in national life. The speakers who took the opposite view twitted Mr. Smith with accepting his views at second-hand, he having admitted that he had never been in a theatre.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor maintained that the tone of the drama has risen, not sunk. It would be a bad thing, he declared, if it was not possible to show the dark as well as the bright side of life on the stage. Mr. T. G. Bowles asked whether Mr. Smith proposed to make a tour of the picture and sculpture galleries of Europe

with his pockets full of fig-leaves, placing them where he thought them appropriate.

Without question, Mr. Bowles showed his ignorance of art. Any man or woman can go to the galleries of sculpture all over Europe and not have any sense of fitness or morality outraged. Take, for instance, the Greek statues, you will see in the Louvre the nude, but, Sir, these are the sculptures of great artists, and a great artist, whether in literature or on the canvas, or on marble, presents the object that he imitates with the most perfect purity. Why, the modern French school of painting, for instance, errs, and why these dramas depart from all true art is because they do not imitate nature. They are suggestive. Take the ballet girls, whose movement on the stage are contortions, and do not imitate anything in nature, are their movements in accord with the ideas of grace? Not at all. They are motivated by a desire to cater to sensual imagination. Nothing can be more refining than to go through the Louvre or the National Gallery. Take the statue of Venus de Medici, a man who can look on that without his sense of beauty receiving that high order of delight which stimulates the intellectual craving for the ideal and thus raises the whole man even morally, would, in my opinion, be constituted on an inferior plan.

Sir Matthew White Ridley, Home Secretary, said in behalf of the government, that it was unable to accept the resolution, but he hoped the debate would have some effect in purifying the stage. He added that he had conferred on the subject with the Lord Chamberlain, who seemed to think that a discussion would strengthen his hands, though Sir Matthew deprecated the declaration that stricter supervision was necessary as casting a reflection on the Lord Chamberlain.

He also opposed Mr. Smith's demand that the licensing of plays be transferred to the municipal bodies. It was, he said, most difficult to decide what play ought and what ought not to be permitted. It should be remembered that an inoffensive play might be made most offensive by the manner of its presentation. He thought that Mr. Smith exaggerated the condition of affairs.

The debate was then adjourned. I say that with the evidences of public opinion that I give the House, both in Canada and below the line—

Mr. BRITTON. I have to leave town, and will the hon. gentleman allow me the favour to make a motion in committee, as he will no doubt go on after recess?

Mr. DAVIN. I was making remarks simply for the benefit of the hon. Solicitor General, and am for the present done.

Mr. BRITTON. I want to make a motion with reference to a matter of great importance in connection with this code. It will be noticed that by the amendment the Court of Appeal in Ontario is changed. Instead of the Divisional Court being a Court

of Appeal, the Court of Appeal of Ontario is the one, but there are pending cases before that court, and I want to move an amendment which, I think, the hon. Solicitor General should accept, and it is this:

That nothing in this Act shall affect cases pending at the time of the passing of this Act.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL moved that the committee rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to.

ADMISSION OF CANADIAN SECURITIES ON THE LIST OF BRITISH TRUST FUNDS.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) moved that the return relating to the admission of inscribed stock of Canada to the list of securities in which trustees in Great Britain are authorized to invest trust funds be printed for the use of members, and that Rule 94 be suspended in relation to such return.

The PRIME MINISTER. I thought it was printed. It was a misunderstanding, and I accept the motion.

Motion agreed to.

THE GRAIN BILL.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When does the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue intend to go on with his Grain Bill?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I wanted to go on with it this afternoon, and am ready to go on with it after six o'clock, if hon. gentlemen are anxious to proceed.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps everybody will not be so ready as my hon. friend to proceed with business; and if agreeable to the House, I will move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. FOSTER. What will be the business on Monday next?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will try and clear the paper of the government Bills, so as to send as many to the Senate as possible.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 6 p.m.

Mr. BRITTON.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, May 21, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE BANK ACT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 163) to amend the Bank Act. He said: Perhaps the House will desire, at this stage, that I should offer some explanation of this Bill. The time has arrived when it is necessary that further legislation should be enacted with respect to our banks. It will be generally admitted that the existing Bank Act, so far as it goes, is an excellent one. We think that in the light of experience some additional provisions may be made, but, so far as the present Act goes, I may say that in the main it has worked well, and the House will not expect that there should be any extensive changes in it. The bank charters, under existing legislation, will expire in the year 1901. The main purpose of this Bill, so far as it amends the existing law, will be to carry forward these charters for a further period of ten years; expiring in 1911.

We make some changes in the schedules respecting returns to the government; whereby fuller information may be given, without, however, disturbing that continuity of statement which is desirable for the purpose of comparison. We also make some provision in regard to the information to be furnished by the directors to their shareholders. What we propose in that respect is, that wherever the shareholders by by-law require a certain class of information to be brought down, such information shall be furnished at the annual or at a special meeting. We think that is a case that might properly be left to be regulated by a by-law of the shareholders, provided, however, that a bank shall not be at liberty to give information with regard to the accounts of its customers, as such, of course, would be at variance with the whole spirit of the Bank Act.

We propose that there shall be an enactment to prevent the issue of bank notes after a bank has suspended. It is believed that under the present Bank Act—excellent as it is—after a bank has suspended, if the directors were so minded, they might issue their own notes to their depositors.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Has that been done in any case?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am not aware that it has, although it is one of the things which seemed to be possible, in considering the recent unfortunate bank failure. At all events, it is well to guard against it.

The House will see that, inasmuch as the notes have a prior lien, if the directors, after the suspension of the bank, could issue their own notes to a certain class of depositors, they would thus give them priority over the other depositors. That, of course, is not desirable. I am not aware that any occasion has really arisen for it, but it is well we should safeguard a matter of that kind as far as possible. With regard to the business powers of the banks, we make some slight change. We include among the things upon which the bank may lend its money, standing timber, which has hitherto not been expressed in the Act, although, possibly, it is contemplated in its general provisions. We propose that the bank may take security for a liability to be incurred, such, for example, as in the case of a letter of credit, where money does not actually pass, but whereby the credit of the bank is pledged, which is, of course, equivalent to the money being paid.

We propose also that the products of the quarry, as well as the products of the mine, shall be included among the things upon which security may be taken—a mere verbal change which, of course, the House will not object to. We also use the expression 'wholesale dealer' as well as 'purchaser' with regard to certain transactions in respect of which security may be taken.

Another provision of some importance is in regard to the holding of land. Under the present Bank Act it is provided that a bank shall not hold land—except for purposes of its own business—for a longer period than seven years, but there is no provision as to what shall happen after that. It would, no doubt, be contended, as a matter of law, that the title remains in possession of the bank, but that is a point upon which the Act is silent. We propose to follow in this respect the legislation adopted last year in relation to loan companies. There, the power to hold land was extended from seven years—or, rather, to be more correct—provision was made that the Treasury Board might extend the power to hold land from seven to twelve years, provided it could be shown that, under exceptional circumstances, the enforced sale would be a matter of sacrifice. We provide, therefore, in the case of the banks, that they may hold land for a period of seven years, or for such further period, not more than five years in addition, as may be determined by the Treasury Board. We have a further provision, filling in the blank which now exists, that after the lapse of the time—whether it be seven years or the extended time by order of the Treasury Board—after the lapse of time for which the bank may legally hold land, proceedings may be taken to forfeit the land to the Crown.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Does that apply to lands that have already been held for more than a period of seven years?

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The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The effect of this Bill is, that the land already held for seven years or more will be liable to forfeiture, but we do not propose to exercise the right of forfeiture until after six months' notice. The main purpose of this provision will not be to forfeit the land, but to oblige the bank to dispose of it, and in this way the banks shall have ample time to sell it, so as not to subject themselves to forfeiture.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Where banks have already held land for more than seven years and desire to sell it, they are required to give a covenant for title. Sometimes they prefer not to do that. If afterwards any proceedings should be taken against the persons to whom they sell, would the title be made good? Is my meaning clear to the hon. gentleman?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Therefore, if it could be provided in some way that lands might, within the period of six months, still be sold, it would be advisable.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think the effect of the amendment will be that land which, possibly, now has a cloud over its title, will remain the property of the bank until it is forfeited, and this forfeiture can only take effect after six months' notice. I think it will remove the doubt that there is in the hon. gentleman's mind, and which has existed in the past.

We propose that unpaid drafts issued by the bank shall, after a lapse of five years, be the subject of a return to parliament, in the same way as we now require return of unpaid balances. Circumstances might arise under which drafts are issued and are lost, and in regard to them the parties interested may, possibly, have no knowledge. If after the lapse of five years, the parties interested have not claimed these moneys, we think the banks should make a return of them in the same manner as the banks now make a return of unclaimed balances.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Do you make any provision that after a certain number of years the unpaid balances should be escheated to the state?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We do not touch that feature. The main purpose is, that the parties who may possibly suspect that drafts have been issued, shall have an opportunity of knowing from this return, and can claim the money. But the question of escheating is not touched by this Bill. There are a few other minor changes, largely verbal, which make the Act perhaps, a little clearer, but which do not materially alter its provisions. These are all the changes we propose to make as respects the existing Bank Act.

But we propose to add one or two new provisions which we think may be found

useful. We think it desirable, in the light of the experience of recent years, that where a bank suspends there should be some better supervision of its affairs than now exists, and we think the best medium we can employ for obtaining that supervision is the Canadian Bankers' Association, which, for that purpose, we have asked to become incorporated. The Canadian Bankers' Association, as hon. members are aware, have already submitted a Bill to the House for the purpose of being incorporated, and it is only right to say that the government desire them to be incorporated, feeling that that association might be used as an instrument for the purpose to which I have referred. The banks, under a very valuable amendment, which was some years ago made to the Bank Act, are more or less partners as respects their circulation. There is a note redemption fund for which they are responsible, and to which they all contribute. We think that for that reason they have a special interest in seeing that a bank which has suspended is conducted in a proper way. We propose, therefore, that the Bankers' Association shall, immediately on the suspension of a bank, appoint a curator, who shall take possession of the bank. It is quite possible, where a bank has been brought to disaster owing to mismanagement on the part of its officials or directors, that it should remain for a certain period in the hands of these officials. We think that if the affairs of the suspended bank are in such a position, that a curator can do no useful service, the Bankers' Association shall withdraw him. If, on the other hand, the affairs of the bank are in such a position that they cannot be properly left in the hands of the directors and officers of the bank, then the curator will be left in charge.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is to be the judge of that?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The curator, as the matter now stands. If my hon. friend can suggest any way by which we can put a guard or check over that, we shall be happy to have his suggestion. We think an officer appointed by the Bankers' Association would be satisfactory to the public at large; and while he does not represent the depositors, every step he takes would be as much in the interest of the depositors as of any other class.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). In case of his misfeasance, would the Bankers' Association or any other body be responsible? What provision is made as to that?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We have not provided for that, but that point is worthy of consideration. The powers of the curator are defined in section 26 of the Act, which I shall read:

The curator shall, on being appointed, at once take charge of the assets and affairs of the bank, and shall assume the management and control thereof, and shall receive and collect

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all moneys and debts due to the bank, and shall make all necessary arrangements for the payment of the notes of the bank issued for circulation then outstanding and in circulation, and generally shall have and possess all the powers that may be conferred upon him, and shall take all steps and do all things that may be required of him by by-law of the association, or that may be necessary or expedient to protect the rights and interests of the creditors and shareholders of the bank, and to conserve and insure the proper disposition, according to law, of the assets of the bank, and the curator shall remain in charge, management and control of the affairs and assets of the bank until he is removed from office, or until the bank resumes business, or until a liquidator is duly appointed to wind up the business of the bank.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). It would seem to be very reasonable that the parties who appoint this curator with such supreme power to control the whole matter, should be responsible for his actions.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is a very proper subject for consideration, and ought to be considered later on. Then, we think it is desirable that there should be, as far as feasible, some further control over the circulation of a bank. A bank is permitted to circulate its notes up to the amount of its paid-up capital. The only guard and check we have at present is the return made to the government. If that return is false, we can prosecute, as was done in a recent case. We think there should be, if possible, some additional guard or check on the circulation; but we have not attempted to work out any scheme further than to propose that that matter shall be regulated by rules and by-laws made by the Bankers' Association. We think that their interest will be in the interest of the public, and that they may be able to make such regulations as will follow the circulation of a bank from the moment a note is printed until it is destroyed. We propose, therefore, by section 30, as follows:

The association shall have power, from time to time, at a meeting thereof, with the approval of two-thirds in number of the banks represented at such meeting, the banks so approving having at least two-thirds in par value of the paid-up capital of the banks so represented, to make, amend and repeal by-laws, rules and regulations respecting—

(a) All matters relating to the appointment or removal of the curator, and his powers and duties;

(b) The supervision of the making of the notes of the banks which are intended for circulation, and the delivery thereof to the banks;

(c) The inspection of the disposition made by the banks of such notes;

(d) The destruction of notes of the banks; and

(e) The imposition of penalties for a breach or non-observance of any by-law, rule or regulation made by virtue of this section.

No such by-law, rule or regulation, nor any amendment nor repeal thereof, shall be of any force or effect until approved by the Treasury Board.

There is another class of provision which we propose to insert, that is, with regard to the purchase of the assets of a bank.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the hon. gentleman goes to that, I did not catch clearly whether those regulations of the Bankers' Association are to be embodied in a law, or subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, or whether they are to become effective simply by being made by the association.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is a provision that they shall have no force or effect until they are approved by the Treasury Board. If it is thought desirable to make them subject to the approval of the Governor in Council, I see no objection. We propose to have a provision with regard to the purchase of the assets of a bank which desires to go out of business. It is thought desirable to provide a convenient method whereby a bank which is perfectly solvent and desires to dispose of its business, shall be able to do so without loss of time. The provision in the Act is to the effect that a bank which desires may by a vote of two-thirds in value of all its shareholders, sell and dispose of all its assets to another bank. If the assets happen to be very large, such as would require an extension of the capital of the purchasing bank, it is provided that the shareholders of that bank also, shall have to be consulted. Of course, in such a transaction, proper provision would have to be made, and is made in the clauses of the Act, for the protection of the note-holders of the selling bank, and also to see that all the liabilities of the selling bank are properly covered; and any agreement for the purchase of the assets of a bank shall have no force or effect until submitted to and approved of by the Governor in Council. Such in the main, are the provisions of the Bill which I have the honour to introduce to the House. I may say that while, as a general rule, it is thought not desirable to send government Bills to the committees, I think occasionally there are exceptions when we can most advantageously deal with them in a large committee; and I shall propose with the consent of the House, at the proper moment, to move that this Bill be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, where I shall be only too happy to receive every suggestion of hon. gentlemen whose knowledge and experience may enable them to add anything to the information we all possess on the subject.

Mr. FOSTER. Might I ask the hon. minister if he has made any attempt at all to strengthen the petition of depositors in those banks by way of increased government supervision in any way.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, Mr. Speaker, I think that the Finance Ministers who preceded me found great difficulty in adopting any system of government inspection, and the difficulties which then exist seem to continue. We hope that the action which we propose shall be taken,

through the medium of the Canadian Bankers' Association, will operate for the benefit of depositors as well as note holders and others interested, but have made no special provision of the character indicated by the hon. gentleman.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

VACANCY.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that I have received the resignation of W. W. B. McInnes, Esq., member for the electoral division of Vancouver, in the district of British Columbia. I have accordingly issued my warrant to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, to make a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—MR. DAVIN.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to call attention to a matter of privilege, and if I should be obliged to go more fully into the question connected with it, I shall put myself in order by concluding with a motion.

I find in the *Hansard* of Friday, the 17th inst., that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), is reported as having said:

All I need refer to is one letter written by Mr. Gass.

And then the hon. gentleman quoted a letter of Mr. Gass, and said:

I took the trouble to look up the Wood Mountain polling district. There were twenty-nine voters there. Of these, twenty-seven voted. One ballot was rejected, leaving twenty-six votes to be counted. I discovered that not four or five, but sixteen in that election voted for the hon. gentleman, leaving only ten for his opponent, and putting the hon. gentleman equal with the man who opposed him. Now, I draw the inference, a much clearer inference than any the hon. gentleman drew, that 'the stuff' went into that district, and that the difference between five votes and sixteen, that is eleven votes, represented the effect of it; in other words, that eleven votes were purchased with 'the stuff.' And this man rises here and talks like a moral cyclone. He would give us to suppose that in him was contained all the morality of the world. But the inference is clear, clearer than any inference he drew from the affidavit he read, that 'the stuff' that went into Wood Mountain polling subdivision, had its effect, that flagrant corruption was practiced, that this is a purchased community, and that he sits here as the representative of purchased votes.

I have to denounce all that as an infamous misstatement. That is all founded on a postal card.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not know that my hon. friend is entitled to apply the term 'infamous misstatement' to what has been said by another member.

Mr. DAVIN. I will withdraw that, and put it this way.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I rise to another point of order. My hon. friend is referring to a past debate. Of course, he is entitled, without motion, to offer any personal explanation he has as to any misrepresentation made of himself, if he deems it advisable.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER** (Cape Breton). That is, I understand, what he is doing.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. But he is not going into a personal explanation, but into a discussion which took place the other day.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I understand that my hon. friend was about to place the facts before the House which would show that the hon. member for Guysborough was mistaken in the inference he drew from certain facts.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If the hon. gentleman goes beyond a personal explanation, he is out of order.

Mr. **SPEAKER**. I would ask the hon. gentleman to confine his statements, as far as possible, to a concise recital of the facts. It is pretty evident that he is reopening the question, and a number of other members might feel disposed to do the same.

Mr. **DAVIN**. That is founded on a postal card from Mr. Gass to Mr. Hamilton. Would he write about money to be improperly spent on a postal card?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). Order.

Mr. **DAVIN**. I am quite in order. I say that the implication which is drawn, that Mr. Gass went down to Wood Mountain, is not correct. He never went there.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. That is not a personal explanation. Whatever Mr. Gass may have done is not a personal explanation, so far as my hon. friend is concerned.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. This is a fact bearing on the explanation.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. My hon. friend may say that he had nothing to do with that, but whether or not Mr. Gass went to Wood Mountain, cannot be a personal explanation.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. That is an evidence of the inaccuracy of the statements made.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. But it is not a personal explanation. It is going into a past debate.

Mr. **DAVIN**. I will not go into the debate, but I appeal to my right hon. friend, whether I am not within the bounds of order if I say that I never communicated with Mr. Gass with regard to Wood Mountain; that neither for me nor for anybody else did he go to Wood Mountain, that the Hamilton he wrote to never had from me a cent of money, and I do not believe he was ready

Mr. **DAVIN**.

to spend any money of his own; and the whole conclusion is a most extravagant one, built upon a postal card. Would a man write about money on a postal card?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Order.

Mr. **DAVIN**. The hon. gentleman said:

I promised the hon. member for Assiniboia to read, as I did in his absence, what the committee said about Mr. Gass's statement.

He never read it in my absence, and although I requested him to read it, he never read it at all. I will put myself in order by moving the adjournment of the House. I desire to show what has happened in Moosejaw.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), that is another matter.

Mr. **DAVIN**. It is another matter I am going into, if that will satisfy hon. gentlemen opposite.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I rise to a point of order. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has no right to move the adjournment of the House except for one purpose. Having stated that, he cannot proceed to debate other matters.

Mr. **DAVIN**. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) is smiling. He knows very well that he is not taking the point of order properly. When I rose I said that I was rising to deal with a matter in the nature of a matter of privilege; but I said: If it goes beyond that, I will put myself in order. I am going to still refer to Mr. Gass's case. It is perfectly clear from the interruption, that I shall not be able to do it except by moving the adjournment of the House.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. I would ask my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) not to do that. Let him make his explanation brief, and not go so far as to move the adjournment of the House.

Mr. **DAVIN**. I can bring this matter of Mr. Gass up at another time; but, before I sit down I wish to say, in regard to the statement, that corruption obtained at that election in West Assiniboia, there is not a tithe of foundation for it.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Order.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. You are much braver than you were when the protest was against you.

Mr. **DAVIN**. There is not a shadow of foundation for it. I did not hear what my hon. friend (Mr. Sutherland) said.

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. You are ready to make accusations against other people without evidence.

Mr. **DAVIN**. No, I do not do anything of that sort.

WEST HURON AND BROCKVILLE ELECTIONS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to make a remark regarding a matter that has attracted some attention on the part of the public press. James Nelson and Thomas Marshall, who have been referred to in the public press in connection with a debate in the House, made declarations some time ago which, I think, in fairness, should be considered by the House in connection with statements that are now being dealt with in the public press.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I shall conclude my remarks by moving the adjournment of the House. I can recognize the anxiety of the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that this matter should not be put in the position in which I think it should be put in common fairness. Notwithstanding that, I shall endeavour to do what I can to place it in the position I think it should occupy. Now, we had before the Committee on Privileges and Elections—

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps this is hardly the time for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax) to bring this matter up in this form. I can understand that if the hon. gentleman proceeds to make an elaborate speech on this question, it will call forth a debate, which seems to be hardly right at this stage.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not propose to make any elaborate statement at all. I propose simply to make a statement to the House necessary for the purpose of enabling the House to understand a matter which, I think, certainly, should be placed right in common fairness to gentlemen who are not members of this House, and who, therefore, are not in a position to justify themselves here. Now, before the Committee on Privileges and Elections last year, a witness by the name of Priest, I think it was, made reference to James Nelson and Thomas Marshall as persons who could give certain information with respect to the whereabouts of one James Farr, whose presence before that committee was very earnestly desired, but who could not be found. Very shortly after that investigation had been closed, Farr made a statement which purported to be a solemn declaration and which was published in the columns of the *Toronto Globe*. That statement contained certain allegations with respect to Mr. W. D. MacPherson, Toronto, barrister, and sought to create the impression that Mr. MacPherson had been guilty of some improper conduct with respect to these two witnesses. Before the Committee on Privileges and Elections, I had already stated exactly what Mr. MacPherson's connection with the matter was. My language was this:

Mr. Borden.—I might make a statement in reference to this, and I would like it put on the minutes. I say that when the names of Priest and Marshall came up in the evidence of Harry Ross, I sent a telegram to Mr. MacPherson asking him to interview these witnesses and see whether they could give any evidence material to this case, respecting admissions or statements by Farr. I received in reply from him a telegram stating that Priest was absent, but that Marshall and this witness could probably give material evidence.

I then moved on Saturday for summonses for these witnesses, James Nelson and Thomas Marshall.

The witnesses we examined before the committee with regard to Mr. MacPherson's connection with the matter showed exactly what that connection was. Notwithstanding that, we had this statement of Farr, published in the columns of the *Toronto Globe* after the investigation was closed, which sought to throw some discredit upon Mr. MacPherson, who had had no connection with the matter except what he had done at my instance as a member of the committee in order to procure the evidence of Farr before that committee. One would have supposed, after the declaration of Farr had been published, and after Mr. MacPherson had made the denial, and after Mr. Nelson and Mr. Marshall had made a statement which had the value of an oath with regard to the matter, we would have heard no more of it, particularly in view of the statement I shall read, which found its place in the columns of the *Toronto Globe*, with regard to the relative value of statements from Farr and Mr. MacPherson. However, it has been thought proper, I suppose on behalf of the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) who leads the government, that the matter should be brought up again and that statements should be made in the House for the purpose of casting discredit upon Mr. MacPherson.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax) is trying to make comments on a previous debate, and doing it under cover of a motion to adjourn. If this extreme extension of the privileges allowed to members is permitted, no progress can be made with the business of the House. If every question can be reopened on a motion to adjourn, there will be continuous debates from one end of the session to the other. The hon. gentleman is commenting on what has been said in a late debate and proposing to read a lot of extraneous or new affidavits to vindicate the character of certain gentlemen, which, he thinks, have been impugned during the debate. I submit that that is out of order. The hon. gentleman has more or less commented on that debate already.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, if my remarks have amounted to a comment on a previous debate—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Or review.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Or review—well, no, I will not go so far as to say 'review.' I say 'comment' or 'reference'—I think that is the language of the authorities. I do not desire to refer to a past debate. I do not wonder that the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) does not desire it, and I am particularly amused—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax)—that he is so much exercised over the matter. I say I am perfectly in order in reading these statements. I should not be in order in referring to a past debate, and I do not propose to do so.

Mr. SPEAKER. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden, Halifax), if I understand him, commences by referring to statements published in the newspapers that, he thinks, reflect on certain parties. I think the House will be willing to accept the affidavits, so as to put these parties in a fair position if they feel they have been wronged; but I appeal to my hon. friend if it is not unwise to proceed to found an argument and open a discussion on newspaper articles. We know from experience how wide a field for debate may be opened in that way.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Where a statement has been made, assuming that it is at the close of debate, reflecting upon the character of gentlemen outside of this House, it seems to me to be an extraordinary position that no means should be allowed them of having the facts stated in this House that would entirely demonstrate the absolute want of accuracy in the statements made in the House. That has been the invariable practice in this House. I had occasion to make a statement to this House in regard to a gentleman who was outside of it, and the right hon. gentleman produced a communication from the party and placed it before the House. I did not raise the question that the right hon. gentleman was referring to a past debate, and therefore he had an opportunity of placing the statement before the House, and not only that, but of commenting upon it and explaining the position in which the question stood, in his judgment. It appears to me that every member of this House has the strongest possible interest in upholding a rule under which members of the House may vindicate themselves when attacked in their absence, and the same rule applies to any person outside. Why was I not stopped from reading a telegram from Mr. MacPherson in this House on the last day of our meeting? No objection was taken to it, and that telegram was produced, controverting in the clearest terms, a statement that had been made by an hon. member of this House in a past debate.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend forgets that when he reads that telegram from Mr. MacPherson, it was pending a debate which was still before the House.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). No, it had been concluded then.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps so. But I appeal to my hon. friends opposite that we should endeavour, as far as possible, to observe the rules of the House. When we observe the rules of the House we are always on safe ground, but the moment we depart from them we are apt to get into trouble. The adjournment of the House is moved, and objection is taken that it is moved to refer to a past debate. Another objection is taken that it is moved to bring before the House a matter which is not of urgent public necessity. Now, I insist on this rule, that the adjournment of the House should not be moved before taking up the Orders of the Day except it is to bring before the House a matter of urgent public necessity. That has been the rule in England for a long time. But in England they have implemented that rule by another one which we have not adopted, and that is one which requires any hon. gentleman who wants to move the adjournment of the House, to give notice thereof to the Speaker, and then it is in the discretion of the House to say whether the motion shall be made, unless a certain number of members ask for it. But under such circumstances the old rule has been maintained, that the adjournment of the House should be moved only for specific purposes.

That no motion for the adjournment of the House shall be made until all the questions on the Notice paper have been disposed of, and no such motion shall be made before the Orders of the Day or Notices of Motion have been entered upon, except by leave of the House, unless a member rising in his place shall propose to move the adjournment, for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

Now, this is the qualifying ruling. We have not the rule providing that an adjournment of the House cannot be moved without the request of forty members; but the spirit is the same, that the adjournment of the House cannot be moved except upon matters of urgent importance. Even in England a member cannot move the adjournment of the House, even if it is asked for by forty members, and to discuss certain specific motions, unless the motion is made in a certain manner. I call the attention of the House to page 263 of May's *Parliamentary Practice*.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is no authority in this House, on questions on which we have our own rules.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is a rule of this House, that an adjournment shall not be moved except on a matter of urgent importance, but we have not adopted the

English rule, which was introduced in the early part of the 80's, I think, that an adjournment should be moved only when it is asked for by forty members.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Why quote something that has no bearing on this question?

The PRIME MINISTER. I say that we still have the rule prevailing in England that an adjournment shall not be moved except upon matters of urgent public importance. This is what I find in May, page 263:

The motion should be placed, in print or in writing, in the Speaker's hands,—

We have not that:

—as except in the event of any informality in the form of the motion, which may necessitate the Speaker's intervention—

We have not that, but we have this:

—or may compel him to decline to put the question from the Chair, the Speaker proposes the question in the words of the mover. Certain matters cannot be debated, save upon a substantive motion, which can be dealt with by amendment, or by the distinct vote of the House, such as the conduct of the sovereign, the heir to the Throne, the Viceroy and Governor General of India, the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Speaker, the chairman of Ways and Means, members of either House of parliament and judges of the superior courts of the United Kingdom, including persons holding the position of a judge, such as a judge in a court of bankruptcy and of a county court. These matters cannot, therefore, be questioned by way of amendment nor upon a motion for adjournment under Standing Order No. 171 (see p. 242). For the same reason, no charge of a personal character can be raised, save upon a direct and substantive motion to that effect.

The hon. gentleman is forgetting that in order to bring up a matter of a personal character, a member must move a substantive motion and not a motion to adjourn.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does the right hon. gentleman think that under the rules of this House it is competent for him to put up a gentleman here to make a four hours' speech at the close of the debate, after two o'clock in the morning—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am now putting the question to my right hon. friend, who does not require the protection of gentlemen behind him. I ask whether he thinks the rules of the House should prevent an answer to a gentleman who makes a dozen palpable misstatements—

Mr. COWAN. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, I do not say whether intentionally or otherwise, but I say it has already been proved. Here is a gentleman who had been assailed in a manner that, if true, would reflect greatly to his discredit, and show him to have acted

in a dishonourable manner. He was absent from home, and I received his communication showing that the hon. gentleman who made the statement here ought to have known that he had no foundation in fact for making it, because it had been completely refuted already by this gentleman. Now I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he thinks it should be denied to members of this House to put before the House facts which will refute a statement that has been made in this House reflecting upon the character of gentlemen, whether in the House or outside of the House? I do not think the right hon. gentleman will feel that it is fair or just to adopt any procedure here that will prevent that which is absolutely a matter of privilege from being discussed on a motion to adjourn. The object is not to enter into a debate, but merely to state facts that are absolutely necessary in order to defend the characters of gentlemen outside of the House that have been assailed by members of the House. This is, I think, a legitimate question of privilege and one which, I say, it is in the interest of hon. members of the House that we should not adopt any rule that would preclude taking any action in this regard.

The PRIME MINISTER. If it be a matter of privilege, there are many ways to bring it to the attention of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does my right hon. friend regard it as a matter of privilege?

The PRIME MINISTER. Well, if it be a matter of privilege, it is not a matter for the adjournment of the House. If it be a matter of privilege, let it be treated as a matter of privilege. On a motion to adjourn the House, I contend that it cannot be brought to the attention of the House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) bases his claim, in support of the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), on the ground that the question now raised is a matter of privilege. That surely cannot be the case. A matter of privilege which is contemplated by the rules of the House is a matter of personal privilege attaching to the members of the House as members. It is not a privilege in respect to anybody else, it is a matter of privilege in respect to a member of the House, so that the hon. senior member for Halifax cannot be brought within the rules of this House in attempting to take the course he is now proposing to take. The rule of the House is, that no hon. gentleman may review a past debate, or comment on matters which have occurred in the House in this form. In conformity with that rule, can the hon. gentleman take up the subject which he is now proposing to take up? A moment's consideration will satisfy any hon. gentle-

man that that cannot properly be done. What would be the result, where will hon. members be landed and what will be the effect on the transaction of the business of this House if such a course were permitted? My hon. friend will see that the same privilege would have to be granted in respect to references made to persons and to gentlemen outside of parliament, but who have friends on this side of the House. I presume that rule would have to apply to references made by hon. gentlemen on that side of the House to persons outside of the House, as well as references made by hon. members on this side of the House, and what could be done on one side could be done on another side, so that, any hon. member on this side, in exactly the same way, could raise the same class of question as the hon. senior member for Halifax is raising now.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no intention to comment on the debate; it is a question of fact.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not care. The fact that the hon. gentleman does not propose to comment does not help it in the slightest degree. What occurred the other day? An affidavit was read by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell), in which the person making the affidavit reflected upon the conduct and imputed criminal actions to some twenty, or thirty, or forty, or fifty persons. Now, if the hon. senior member for Halifax has a right, in this case, to pursue this course, because some of his friends, or some of those whose cause he is desirous of espousing, were reflected upon unfavourably, if it is not open to every other member on this side of the House to ask permission to read affidavits rebutting what was said in the statements read by the hon. member for Westmoreland? Certainly, if the hon. member for Halifax can do it properly in one case it can be done properly in the other, and the consequence would be that at every session of this parliament, instead of parliament proceeding with the public business, somebody, or it may be, half a dozen hon. members, would be prepared with affidavits in answer to something that had been alleged in some other affidavit, or prepared with a statement to rebut every statement made by every hon. gentleman on the other side of the House who had spoken in a previous debate. Disorder would be no name for it, the public business would be hung up, and it would be impossible for parliament to carry on the affairs of the country at all. I think there is no rule under which the hon. gentleman would be entitled to read any statements he has to read or any affidavits he has in his hands. It is not open to him to do it. There are ways by which he can bring them to the notice of the public without absorbing the time of parliament and

Mr. BLAIR.

without violating the rules of parliament. The thing is perfectly clear that if the hon. member for Halifax can read affidavits, which are really answers to allegations made in this House, every one of the returning officers and deputy returning officers mentioned by Pritchett can have members of the House read their statements so as to relieve them from the reflections placed upon their conduct. How are you going to put such statements as these on record without violating the rules and practices of this House?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I would like to remind the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blair) who has just taken his seat where the beginning of it was.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not care where the beginning of it was. That does not alter the case.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will mention a case not so very far back, and the hon. gentleman did not seem to think that we were introducing a dangerous practice. A certain gentleman had been attacked in this House, and I have never known of a case where any member was permitted to attack a gentleman—

Mr. COWAN. I did not attack Mr. MacPherson.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. And that person who was attacked was not allowed to defend himself through an hon. member on the floor of the House whether there was a strict rule against it or otherwise. Take the very extraordinary case of General Gascoigne, who was the subject of a debate—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. He was an officer under the government.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He was a man all the same. He was an outsider having no rights in this House over those of any other private person. He had none so far as the rules of the House are concerned, yet, that gentleman was not only defended by having a letter, written by him, read here, but that letter was read when the gentleman who had referred to him was not only out of the House, but on his way across the ocean. When, for instance, the member of this House who had brought up that subject had left the House, a letter from General Gascoigne defending himself, and criticising, at the same time, the member of this House for making the remarks he had made in regard to him, was read by the right hon. leader of the House. He was permitted to do it. Then, there was the case of Major Walsh. The observations that I had made reflected upon his private character. He was an officer of the government at one time, but he was not an officer

of the government at this time, and no one suggested that his letter should not be read in this House.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That was not on a motion to adjourn the House. There is no objection raised to reading letters.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I am dealing particularly with one of the arguments made by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Neither of these cases was on a motion to adjourn the House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals will understand that my references are in point, not as to this particular motion, if you like, but they are in point as to one portion of the argument which he made, and that was that we were introducing a dangerous precedent. He will not claim that we were taking advantage of a particular motion to do this, but that we were reading, and you, Mr. Speaker, were allowing to be read affidavits or statements made by parties outside of the House whose characters had been attacked. That is the point, and I am showing that this had been a practice long indulged in. I think it has been a sense of fair-play which has induced the House to permit this to be done, and if there has been, in a debate in the House, an attack made upon a man's character who is not here to defend himself, the House will, whether rules exist to control us or not, unanimously agree—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is the point.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes. I say will unanimously agree to allow that gentleman to defend himself so long as he does not make criticisms upon members of this House for exercising their undoubted rights. It is a question of fair-play.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In this case it is not a question of the House granting a privilege as a matter of indulgence. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) here claims his right on a motion to adjourn to refer to a past debate and to rebut statements made in this House.

Mr. JOHN HAGGART (South Lanark). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) is perfectly within his right according to the rules of the House. He asks no indulgence from the House at all. He has stated that certain statements were made in newspapers and he wishes to correct them by affidavits. The hon. gentleman did not say he was going to refer to a past debate in the House; and there is no possible way in which he can bring up the question except by moving the adjournment of the House. When the hon. gentleman opposite quotes from May's

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

new book, he is referring to rules which have been revised in the English House of Commons and which we have not at present adopted in this House. We all know that speeches on a motion to adjourn have been limited under the new rules in the English House, but we stick to our own rules here. In no other way can the question be brought before this House except on a motion to adjourn, and the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) is perfectly in order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have not the slightest intention of referring to any past debate. I expressly stated that on the 16th of August last a statement was published in the *Toronto Globe* purporting to have been made as a solemn declaration by one James Farr, who had been subpoenaed to attend on the Committee of Privileges and Elections. That statement contained certain references of an impertinent and insulting nature to Mr. W. D. MacPherson, a barrister of Toronto. Mr. James Nelson and Mr. Thomas Marshall were referred to in that statement of Mr. Farr's, and after it had been published in the *Toronto Globe* they made declarations, in which they stated that so much of Farr's declaration as related to them and Mr. MacPherson was untrue. Mr. MacPherson himself also made a similar declaration, and the *Toronto Globe* which had published Mr. Farr's declaration stated that Mr. MacPherson was completely exonerated and in that way stated that Mr. Farr is not to be believed. That is the matter which I desire to bring to the attention of the House. That is a matter which I claim to have the right to bring to the attention of the House on a motion to adjourn.

Mr. SPEAKER. The reason I stopped the hon. member (Mr. Borden) was that in making his argument, it seemed to me that he was inevitably opening up a discussion which had recently been concluded in this House. It occurred to me there was going to be no end to that, and I think the House will agree that under the rules the hon. gentleman cannot refer to a past debate. The House I conceive is indulgent towards a man outside, who considers he has suffered a wrong; and it is because it seemed to me that the statement which the hon. gentleman was making could not be made without referring to a past debate, that I interfered. I presume we follow largely the English practice in that respect. Denison's and Brand's Decisions lay this down:

It is out of order to read observations commenting on what has taken place in the House.

It is not in order to read a letter commenting on what has taken place in the House.

It is not in order to read a letter commenting on a debate in the House.

It is irregular to read from newspaper reports.

If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) can,

within these decisions, present his explanation on behalf of the parties who, he feels, are aggrieved, I am sure the House will listen to him.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker, I could very easily have carried out what you suggest in about half the time taken up in discussing this question of order—however it was possibly not to save time that I was interrupted. The first statement which I propose to read to the House is the declaration of Mr. James Nelson, in which he says :

I, James Nelson, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, do solemnly declare :

1. That I am the James Nelson who gave evidence before the Committee on Privileges and Elections at Ottawa in connection with the West Huron election.

2. That I have read over the declaration of James Farr, published in the 'Globe' newspaper of August 16, 1899. The statements contained in said declaration relating to what passed between Mr. W. D. MacPherson, Thos. Marshall and myself are untrue.

3. The facts are that when Marshall and myself were telegraphed for from Ottawa to attend there for the purpose of giving evidence before the parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Elections, we applied to Mr. MacPherson for a loan of \$13 each to purchase return tickets from Toronto to Ottawa, and he loaned each of us this amount, we at the same time giving him an order in writing directed to the clerk of the Privileges Committee at Ottawa for \$13, the amount to be paid us by the committee to cover our railway fare from Toronto to Ottawa and return.

4. While in Ottawa both Marshall and myself endorsed the cheques for \$13 each, made out in our favour to cover said railway fare, and we left the same there to be forwarded to Mr. MacPherson, as arranged, in payment of the money borrowed from him.

5. Mr. MacPherson did not accompany Marshall and myself or either of us to the train on Sunday evening, or at any other time, nor did he attempt to influence our evidence in any way whatever, either by a promise of money or otherwise.

6. The statement contained in Farr's declaration that I told him that Mr. MacPherson had impressed upon Marshall and myself the necessity of telling a story that would look all right, and that if we did that he would not forget us, is utterly false and without any foundation in fact.

7. I never told Farr that Mr. MacPherson had told me that if I would come forward and make the proper kind of declaration the Tories would see me through all right, and it would be money in my pocket, nor did I tell him anything to such effect. Mr. MacPherson never suggested that I should make a declaration of any kind or give any evidence before the committee except the truth, nor did he make any promise or representation that it would be in any way to my advantage to make the proper kind of declaration.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

(Sgd.) JAMES NELSON.

Mr. SPEAKER.

Declared before me at the city of Toronto, in the county of York, this 19th day of August, A.D. 1899.

(Sgd.) SAM. S. MARTIN,
Commissioner, &c.

Mr. COWAN. What is the date of that ?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The 19th of August, 1899. It was made three days after the publication in the *Toronto Globe*, and I supposed that every gentleman in this House was aware that these declarations were made.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. No doubt they were.

Mr. BORDEN. I repeat, that I supposed that every gentleman in this House was aware that these declarations had been made and published in the *Toronto Globe*.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). Would my hon. friend give me one word here ? The argument was made that on account of Pritchett's affidavits being set out in detail, that, therefore, they should be believed. I read the extract from Farr's affidavit concerning Mr. MacPherson, showing that it contained thirty paragraphs, and arguing that if the one ought to be believed on that ground, the other ought to be believed on the same ground ; but I expressly stated that I put them in for what they were worth ; I made no comment upon them. When the hon. leader of the opposition says that I made a dozen misstatements of fact, I beg to say that I made none, but that every statement of fact I made, was absolutely correct.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Of course, my hon. friend, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), should have called the hon. member who has just taken his seat to order, for referring to a past debate.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. As the Speaker has permitted the hon. gentleman to go on, I bow to the Chair.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The Minister of Marine and Fisheries is discouraged as to the conduct of the business of the House. When my hon. friend interrupted me, I was about to read the declaration of Mr. Marshall :

I, Thomas Marshall, of the city of Toronto, in the county of York, do solemnly declare :

1. That I am the Thomas Marshall who gave evidence before the Committee on Privileges and Elections at Ottawa in connection with the West Huron election.

2. That I have read over the declaration of James Farr, published in the 'Globe' newspaper of August 16, 1899. The statements contained in said declaration relating to what passed between Mr. W. D. MacPherson, James Nelson and myself are untrue.

3. The facts are that when Nelson and myself were telegraphed for from Ottawa to attend there for the purpose of giving evidence

before the parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Elections, we applied to Mr. MacPherson for a loan of \$13 each to purchase return tickets from Toronto to Ottawa, and he loaned each of us this amount, we at the same time giving him an order in writing directed to the clerk of the Privileges Committee at Ottawa, for \$13, the amount to be paid to us by the committee to cover our railway fare from Toronto to Ottawa and return.

4. While in Ottawa both Nelson and myself endorsed the cheques for \$13 each, made out in our favour, to cover said railway fare, and we left the same there, to be forwarded to Mr. MacPherson as arranged, in payment of the money borrowed from him.

5. Mr. MacPherson did not accompany Nelson and myself, or either of us, to the train on Sunday evening or at any other time, nor did he know what evidence we intended to give before the committee, nor did he attempt to influence our evidence in any way whatever, either by promise of money or otherwise.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

THOMAS MARSHALL.

Declared before me at the city of Toronto, in the county of York, this 18th day of August, A.D. 1899.

ARTHUR W. BURKE,
A Commissioner, &c.

With respect to the same matter, Mr. W. D. MacPherson, who was absent from Toronto, engaged on professional business at the time this statement of Mr. Farr was published in the *Toronto Globe*, at once, when he was informed of it, sent the following reply by telegraph, as a public statement on his behalf:

Replying to your telegram, I have just seen to-day's 'Globe.' Statements in Farr's declaration relating to me are false. At request of Marshall and Nelson, I loaned each of them \$13 to enable them to go to Ottawa to comply with the telegraphic summons they had received to attend before the parliamentary Committee on Privileges and Elections. This amount is the expense of return railway fare from Toronto to Ottawa, which their telegrams stated would be paid them at Ottawa, and at the same time I took an order in writing from each man, directed to the clerk of Privileges Committee, for repayment to me, and forwarded same to Ottawa, and these amounts were within two or three days thereafter repaid through the clerk of the committee to me by a government cheque, endorsed at Ottawa by each man. Was never asked by either man for any more money, and no more was promised to me, or even spoken of. I did not, as Farr's declaration states, accompany either Marshall or Nelson to the train, nor have I seen either of them since their return from Ottawa. I absolutely and unequivocally deny the statements made in Farr's declaration that I at any time promised either man any money for his evidence, or in any way suggested what evidence he should give. Mr. Borden has already stated publicly before the parliamentary committee, in reference to this matter, that he, as a member of that committee, requested me to see Marshall and Nelson, which is true.

The paper which published the declaration, exonerated Mr. MacPherson completely in

these words—this is from the *Toronto Globe*, of September 8, 1899:

In our issue of the 16th ult., we published a certain sworn declaration made by James Farr, of Goderich, who acted as one of the deputy returning officers at the recent by-election for the House of Commons in West Huron. We published the declaration in the usual course, as Farr's defence in relation to the charges and assertions which had come out in reference to him before the Committee on Privileges and Elections in the pending investigation at Ottawa. Paragraphs 27 and 28 of the declaration consisted of what were said by Farr to be statements made to him by the witnesses Thomas Marshall and James Nelson, relating in part to their evidence and the circumstances under which the same was said to have been given, and particularly to Mr. W. D. MacPherson, from whom, after they had been summoned by the committee to appear at Ottawa, they had each borrowed the sum of \$13 to pay their railway fare from Toronto to Ottawa and return, in order to comply with the summons. In Farr's relation of what he said was Mr. MacPherson's connection with the matter based upon the statements which he said were made to him by Marshall and Nelson on their return from Ottawa, a colour was given to the incident, which somewhat seriously reflected upon Mr. MacPherson's standing as a professional man. These statements have been unequivocally denied by Mr. MacPherson, also by Marshall and Nelson, who have both made statutory declarations, which we have already published.

I ask the attention of the House to what follows, and I ask the House to consider how much importance should be attached to Mr. Farr's declaration after a leading newspaper, the *Toronto Globe*, the acknowledged organ of hon. gentlemen opposite has made the following statement.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is drifting into what will inevitably cause discussion. I have tolerated his reading so far, because I think it only fair, but I will have to ask him to confine himself to his statement.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax) (reading):

After careful inquiry and investigation, we are satisfied that the reflections upon Mr. MacPherson were quite unwarranted and should be set right. We believe Mr. MacPherson's published statements relating to the matter to be true and correct, and consequently we do not believe him to have been guilty of the slightest misconduct or impropriety; indeed, we think he has emerged with credit from an affair which at the outset and uncontradicted would have been likely to have left him in an undesirable position.

What I desire to say, Mr. Speaker, is this: That so long as publicity is given to Mr. Farr's declarations in the public press of this country, I trust that no one will feel justified in attaching any importance to his declarations since the *Toronto Globe*, which published his original declaration, saw fit, after carefully considering the matter, to say that Mr. Farr is not to be believed, and that Mr. MacPherson is to be believed; and I trust that any reference made in the future, in the public press at least, to Mr. Farr's

declarations, will be accompanied by the statement that the *Toronto Globe* has taken the position with regard to it indicated by the article I have just read, and also that any newspaper which sees fit to give publicity to Mr. Farr's delaration, will also see fit, in fairness, to give publicity to Mr. Marshall's and Mr. Nelson's declarations. I now move the adjournment of the House.

Motion negatived.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 55) to incorporate the Canadian Bankers' Association.—(Mr. Britton.)

Bill (No. 81) to incorporate the Accident and Guarantee Company of Canada.—(Mr. Penny.)

Bill (No. 100) respecting the Buffalo Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 153)—from the Senate—respecting the Western Alberta Railway Company.—(Mr. Richardson.)

STR. EUREKA.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. Did the government purchase the steamer 'Eureka'?
2. If so, from whom?
3. What was the purchase price?
4. For what service is she required?

5. Where is said steamer now employed?
6. What sum has been expended for repairs on said steamer since purchased by the government?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mulock). I beg to reply: 1. Yes. 2. North American Transportation Company. 3. \$26,000. 4. In connection with Ship Channel—between Montreal and Quebec. 5. Same as above. 6. \$7,953.57.

RAILWAY SUBSIDIES BEARING INTEREST.

Mr. WILSON asked :

What are the names of the railway or railways that have received subsidy or subsidies on condition that they pay interest on the said subsidy or subsidies at 3 per cent per annum or at any other rate of interest?

When was such subsidy or subsidies granted to said railway or railways, and how much interest has been paid by the said railway or railways?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The following are the names of railway companies with which subsidy agreements have been entered into, subject to such provisions.

The hon. gentleman, I understand, alludes to sec. 8, of chap. 7, of Vic. 63, and if so, I give names of railway companies to which subsidies have been given, subject to such provisions.

Date of Contract.	No. of Contract.	Names of Railways.
Jan. 29, 1900...	13732	Canada Eastern Railway Company.
Dec. 18, 1899...	13734	Canadian Pacific Railway Company.
Feb. 8, 1900...	13757	Central Railway Company of New Brunswick.
Dec. 21, 1899...	13689	Great Northern Railway Company.
" 21, 1899...	13690	" "
" 21, 1899...	13691	" "
" 18, 1899...	13-09	Massawippi Valley Railway Company.
" 7, 1899...	137-9	Midland Railway Company.
Jan. 27, 1900...	13718	Nova Scotia Southern Railway, Limited.
" 27, 1900...	13719	" "
Feb. 14, 1900...	3737	Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.
" 14, 1900...	13738	" "
Dec. 5, 1899...	13678	Philipsburg Railway and Quarry Company.
" 23, 1899...	13688	South Shore Railway Company.
May 9, 1900...	13812	" "
Nov. 23, 1899...	13677	York and Carleton Railway Company.

At the private request of the hon. member, I have subjoined a statement of the names of railways receiving fixed annual subvention for a term of 20 years, and in case of government having used the railway for the carriage of government supplies, the cost of such carriage, up to the amount of the subsidy shall be treated as paid.

Date.	No.	Names of Railways.	Amount paid.
June 21, 1890...	10331	Calgary and Edmonton Railway	\$80,000 for 20 years
Aug. 5, 1889...	9914	On'Appelle and Long Lake Railway.....	80,000 "
Feb. 5, 1896...	12293	The Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal Company.....	40,000 "
May 12, 1896...	12421	The Winnipeg Great Northern Railway Company..	40,000 "

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

Mr. HAGGART. Do I understand that there is any railway in Canada that receives a subsidy on condition that it shall pay interest on that subsidy at 3 per cent per annum?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I asked the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wilson), who asked the question, what statute he alluded to, and he stated that he referred to the Act which I have quoted, section 8, chapter 7, of 62-3 Victoria. That is what he had in mind. But he said also, that there were some companies that received annual subventions for a certain amount for a term of years, and asked me to furnish the names, which I have done.

WHARF AT PERCÉ—WHARF AT GASPÉ.

Mr. BERGERON asked.

1. Have the government decided to construct a wharf at Percé?

2. Have the plans and specifications been prepared?

3. Have they been filed at Percé and other places?

4. Have the government received tenders; and if so, how many, and which tender is the lowest?

5. Has the contract been signed; and if so, on what date? What is the amount, and who are the contractors?

6. When are the works to be begun, and what amount of work is to be done this year?

7. When is the wharf to be finished?

8. If it has been decided not to do any work this year, what is the reason?

9. When do the government intend to do this work?

10. Have the government abandoned the idea of constructing the wharf at Gaspé; and if so, why so?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes, at the earnest request of the member representing the county of Gaspé, Mr. Lemieux, M.P. 2. Yes. 3. Yes. 4. Yes. Three tenders were received, the lowest being that of Heney & Smith. 5. The work was awarded to Heney & Smith; the contract was signed on April 17, 1900. Contract price, \$25,792. 6. The amount of work to be done this year depends upon the provisions of the contract, the same to be begun on execution of the contract. 7. April 17, 1901. 8. No such decision has been reached. 9. Work is now under contract. 10. The department has no appropriation for a wharf at Gaspé.

PERMANENT CORPS—PENSIONS.

Mr. PRIOR (by Mr. Dugas) asked:

Is it the intention of the government to bring in a Bill this session making provision for granting pensions to the officers and men of the permanent corps?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The matter is still under the consideration of the government.

Mr. BLAIR.

SOLICITOR GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

On the question:

If the Solicitor General holds no official position at the criminal assizes in the provinces, is it the intention of the government to prevent him for the future from compromising the dignity of the Crown by allowing him to appear against the Crown in the provinces while receiving a salary as an officer of the Crown at Ottawa?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I would call your attention to this question. It is clearly out of order. The matter referred to is a question of opinion.

POSTMASTER OF ST. BRUNO AND ST. CŒUR DE MARIE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked:

1. Whether Xavier Letourneau, postmaster of St. Bruno, and Ferdinand Larouche, postmaster of St. Cœur de Marie, in 1896, have been dismissed, and why?

2. Have they been replaced?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Xavier Letourneau, postmaster of Pasteur (locally known as St. Bruno), ceased to be postmaster of that office in October, 1896, the office having been removed to a more convenient situation. Ferdinand Larouche was removed from the postmastership of Delisle (locally known as St. Cœur de Marie), for being an offensive political partisan. 2. They were succeeded by Messrs. Joseph Tremblay and Alfred Gagné, as postmasters of Pasteur and Delisle, respectively.

DR. SAVARD, OF CHICOUTIMI.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked:

1. Is Dr. Savard, of Chicoutimi, in the service of the government as paymaster or otherwise?

2. If so, when was he appointed?

3. What is his salary, and how much money has he received since his appointment?

4. Is the government aware that Dr. Savard is a brother of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. November 3, 1896. 3. He is paid 1½ per cent on payments made by him. The commission he has received from November 3, 1896, to March, 1900, amounts to \$495.79. 4. I understand he is.

MR. PHILIP SAVARD.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked:

1. Is Philip Savard employed by the government at Ottawa or elsewhere?

2. If so, what position does he hold?

3. When was he appointed?

4. What salary does he receive?

5. Is the government aware that he is a brother of P. V. Savard, member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. Clerk in the estimates

branch of this department. 3. April 1, 1898. 4. \$2.50 per day. 5. I understand he is.

MR. JOHNNY SAVARD, OF ST. ALEXIS.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Has Johnny Savard, merchant, of St. Alexis, county of Chicoutimi, received money from the government in the construction of the telegraph line at L'Anse St. Jean, and that of St. Alexis wharf?

2. If so, how much?

3. Is the government aware that Johnny Savard is a cousin of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes, in connection with St. Alexis wharf. 2. \$208.65. 3. The government has no information on this point.

MR. HILAS TREMBLAY, OF L'ANSE ST. JEAN.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Has Hilas Tremblay, farmer, of L'Anse St. Jean, received money from the government in the construction of the telegraph line at L'Anse St. Jean and St. Alexis?

2. If so, how much?

3. Is the government aware that Mr. Tremblay is a cousin of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Yes. 2. \$960. 3. The government has not possessed itself of the lineage of the person referred to.

MR. FAUSTIN TREMBLAY.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Was Faustin Tremblay employed by the government in the construction of the Lake St. John piers in 1897-8-9?

2. If so, what amount of money was paid to him?

3. Do the government know that he then resided at Quebec?

4. Do the government know that he is a cousin of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). The name of Faustin Tremblay does not appear on the books of the Public Works Department.

MR. JOSEPH TREMBLAY, OF ST. BRUNO.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Whether Joseph Tremblay, merchant, of St. Bruno, county of Chicoutimi, is postmaster of that locality?

2. When was he appointed, and what is his salary?

3. Have the government paid him other moneys since 1896? If so, how much and what for?

4. Do the government know that he is a cousin of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Joseph Tremblay is postmaster of Pasteur, county Chicoutimi. (The district appears to be locally known as 'St. Bruno.') 2. He was appointed on November 16, 1896.

Mr. MULOCK.

His salary is \$60 per annum. 4. The government has no knowledge of his genealogy.

MR. ALFRED GAGNE, OF CŒUR DE MARIE.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Dugas) asked :

1. Whether Alfred Gagné, merchant of St. Cœur de Marie, of Chicoutimi, has been appointed postmaster of that locality?

2. When was he appointed and what is his salary?

3. Has he received money from the government in the construction of the wharf, and how much?

4. Do the government know that the said Mens. Gagné is a cousin of the member for Chicoutimi?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Alfred Gagné is postmaster of Delisle, county Chicoutimi. (The district appears to be locally known as 'St. Cœur de Marie.') 2. He was appointed on November 6, 1896. His salary is \$42 per annum. 3. He was paid \$352.80 for timber supplied in connection with wharf at Rivière à la Pipe. 4. The government has no information on this point.

FISHING PRIVILEGES—STRAITS OF JUAN DE FUCA.

Mr. HAGGART asked :

1. To whom have fishing privileges, if any, been granted in the Straits of Juan de Fuca?

2. What is the nature and extent of these fishing privileges in each case?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Alexander Ewen; Findlay, Durham and Brodie; Pacific Cannery Company; United Canneries; C. Ternan; W. C. Mitchell. 2. Drag seines of 100 fathoms each.

GRAIN ELEVATORS AND WHARFS AT LÉVIS.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. Is it the intention of the government to construct, or to aid in the construction, of a grain elevator at Lévis?

2. Is it the intention of the government to build, or to aid in the building, of wharfs at Lévis for deep draught ships?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I am not now in a position to declare the intention of the government as to either of the matters referred to in the question.

INTEREST.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 161) to amend the Acts respecting interest.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I explained, in introducing this Bill, that I proposed to substitute 5 per cent for 6 per cent in cases where interest is payable. I quote now from chapter 127, section 2. of the Revised Statutes :

Wherever interest is payable by agreement of the parties or by law, and no rate is fixed by such agreement or by law, the rate of interest shall be 6 per cent.

In several other Acts a similar provision is made. We substitute 5 per cent, so that it shall be commonly understood that 5 per cent shall be the standard rate of interest instead of 6 per cent, where no agreement has taken place.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

THE EXPROPRIATION ACT.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 160), to amend the Expropriation Act.

Motion agreed to. Bill read the second time and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. This is merely the complement of the other Bill. In the Expropriation Act it is provided that interest may be allowed at 6 per cent, and here it is proposed to substitute 5 per cent.

Bill reported, read the third time, and passed.

GRAIN INSPECTION IN MANITOBA.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 141), respecting the grain trade in the inspection district of Manitoba. He said: For a long time there has been a growing friction in the North-west among the transportation companies, the warehouse companies, the farmers, and those engaged in the handling and storage of grain, and in fact every person connected with the grain in the North-west. Last year a Bill was passed by this House relating to the grading of grain, and I am happy to say that for the first year, at all events, the operation of that Bill appears to have been attended with very little difficulty. The grain was of such fine quality that we have had no difficulty whatever with the grading. I hope that the results of the present Bill will be as favourable. The difficulties appear more numerous at first sight than they really are, still I think they can be satisfactorily settled. I may say that after the session last year, a royal

commission was appointed to inquire into all these difficulties. That commission consisted of four members. The late Judge Senkler was chairman, but he died before the commission had concluded its labours, and was replaced by Judge Richards. The other three members of the commission were Mr. Sirett, Mr. Lothian and Mr. Castle, all practical farmers. The report of that commission was laid before the House about a month ago, containing their recommendations. First of all, they recommend the appointment of a warehouse commissioner whose duties will be found in the fourth section of this Bill. They are in brief: To require all elevators, warehouses and mills, to take out an annual license; to fix the amount of bonds to be given by the different owners and operators of elevators; to require the persons so licensed by the commissioner to keep books; to supervise the handling and storage of grain, in and out of elevators, warehouses and cars; to receive and investigate all complaints made in writing under oath; to enforce the rules and regulations made under this Act, and to institute prosecutions at the government expense whenever he considers a case proper therefor.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. minister permit me? Instead of saying 'and so forth,' I think that subsection e is the most important of all.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. Which one?

Mr. WALLACE. The one that the hon. gentleman omitted.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I was merely running rapidly over the headings. Does the hon. gentleman wish me to read the whole section?

Mr. WALLACE. No. I am asking the hon. gentleman a question. Subsection e concludes with these words:

And to apply such remedy as may be in his power.

In this the hon. minister may grant unlimited powers and privileges. What does it mean?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I think it would be better to discuss the details in committee. I am merely trying to give an idea now of what the duties of the warehouse commissioner will be, and I am merely running over the Bill. When we get into committee we can take up the details. Then, there is another officer to be appointed, who will be known as the weighmaster. His duties are described in sections 6, 7, 8 and 9. Then, there are conditions as to elevators and warehouses. There is a distinction between the two. These are described in sections 14 to 28. Terminal elevators are elevators situated at Port Arthur or Fort William, and their name

indicates what their purpose is. This Bill continues by dealing with country elevators, flat warehouses and loading platforms. The Bill appears to be very bulky and enters into a great many details, but, I think, when one considers the conditions under which the royal commission was appointed it will easily be understood why, in the Bill, we have entered into so many details and why we have taken so much of the report of the royal commission. This Bill is intended to remedy, as much as possible, the friction that has existed between the railway companies, the elevator companies, the warehouse companies and the farmers. It is designed to remedy, as much as possible, that friction, and it has been thought well to enter into as many details as possible. The farmers, who are particularly interested in this measure, will see the precautions that have been taken to protect their interests. It has been thought worth while to make the Bill rather longer than it otherwise would have been in order to meet every detail which might arise and as much as possible, to dispose of all the difficulties. The Bill from section 29, to section 41, deals with country elevators, flat warehouses and loading platforms. As I was saying a moment ago there are a great many details which have been placed in the Bill in an attempt to meet all the emergencies and to give us as full information as possible. There is a new feature, and that is in connection with the flat warehouses. The farmers are very anxious, as much as possible, to load their grain themselves, so as to save, in certain cases, the expense of the elevator which they think they can very well do. As can readily be understood they can load their grain, especially with the conveniences that this Bill gives them, as they will employ their own labour in doing it, at a cheaper rate than they can unload it into the elevators. Clause 40 provides for the erection of flat warehouses, and clause 41 deals with loading platforms. There are rules and regulations made to govern the operation of these flat warehouses and platforms and to facilitate the work of shipping through them. Section 42 provides that :

Twenty-four hours shall be allowed for loading a car direct from vehicles or at a flat warehouse.

This provision is evidently meant to protect the railway's interests, and to prevent a farmer from keeping a car longer than is a reasonable time. Then, there is a clause which has been taken out of the Minnesota law in connection with the traffic in grain.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the number of that clause ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is a new clause that my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) will find in the amended Bill under the heading of 41a. It is something that we have borrowed from Minnesota.

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

Mr. DAVIN. Does my hon. friend know what the number of the section is in the Minnesota Act ? I have it here.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have it here too. I do not know exactly where it is at this moment, but when we get into committee I will show it to my hon. friend. It is in order to protect farmers against the wrong-doings of go-betweens, those who purchase grain from them as well as those who sell it. In many cases it has been found that if farmers have not been ruined completely, very serious loss has been caused to the farmer by not rendering them an account of their proceedings, and by this clause the commission merchant will have to take out a license and pay a fee of one or two dollars and give a bond. Then, the other clauses are in connection with the funds coming from the weighing of the grain and the license fees paid to the warehouse commissioner, providing how they are to be disposed of. Every item has been carefully entered into so as to remove, as much as possible, every kind of complaint. The Bill enters into details as to what is called the dockage of grain, that is to say, the amount of dirt which is removed from a wagon load of grain and which naturally diminishes the amount of the grain which is stored or sold. The Bill enters into details so as to remove the ground of the complaint of farmers, who, in many cases, say that dealers dock a much larger amount for dirt than is really removed. This operation of discounting a certain part of the grain is known by the name of docking, and in clause 51, there are provisions made to protect the farmers and to give them the right, when this grain is cleaned, to find out exactly the weight of that part which is removed. There are penalty clauses, and in the schedule there are a number of forms that are to be filled up by the warehousemen and others in dealing with the grain. The intention of the government is to carry out as far as possible the recommendations of the commission. The appointment of the commission showed that the government had the intention to find out as much as possible what the grounds of complaint were, and to try and remedy them. When the Bill is discussed it will be found, I hope, that a successful attempt has been made to meet the difficulties.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). I trust the House will bear with me a little while I say a few words on the second reading of this Bill. Perhaps I might claim that no member in the House has given more attention to this subject than I have personally. I have had a Bill dealing with this matter before the House for three different sessions, and I still have two Bills on the Order paper this session. I am glad to be able to say that I can fully support the Bill which is now be-

fore the House for its second reading. I have given considerable attention to it privately, and have met with parties interested and discussed its various clauses with them. I also had opportunities of considering the Bill as it now appears, and I have suggested amendments which have been accepted so that the Bill as it now stands—speaking generally and without saying in every particular—meets with my approval. I would desire one thing exceedingly, and that is that there should be absolutely no restrictions made upon the trade, but nevertheless a very good deal of good has been secured under this Bill which I believe on the whole will give general satisfaction in the country. We cannot expect to get everything we want in a matter of this kind. The various interests affected by such a measure are so complicated that to arrive at an understanding we must be prepared to give and take so as to meet the general interest and secure a satisfactory result. Upon the whole, I am prepared to support the Bill as being satisfactory to the general public. Representing the people, living in their midst, being personally interested, knowing the difficulties under which the people have laboured in years past and the various ways in which they believed they have suffered and laboured under difficulties and grievances which caused considerable dissatisfaction; I am glad of the prospect of having these removed by such a Bill as this. I need not at the present time enter into a discussion of the various clauses of the Bill. This has already been done by the hon. minister, and when in committee of the whole House, we will be able to point out anything that may not be quite in accord with our individual judgment. I congratulate the House and the country on the provisions which the Bill contemplates in the general interests of the country. I believe it will go a long way to establish confidence between the producer and the purchaser; that it will go a long way to control the trade and bring it under such inspection and supervision as will secure public confidence. Without expressing my personal opinion just now on the several clauses, I desire generally to say that I give a hearty support to the Bill and will be glad to withdraw in its favour the Bills which I now have on the Order paper.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I would ask the minister if there are many amendments proposed to the Bill as originally printed?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have had all the principal amendments printed, but I was sorry to hear that they had not yet been distributed.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). In my first glance over the Bill I was under the impression—and I do not say that impression has entirely departed—that a good Bill might be made out of it. In looking carefully over the Bill, however,

I have the impression that it looks too much in the interests of the grain buyer. However, I am glad to find that by clause 36 the hon. minister has now for the second time solemnly inserted in an Act of parliament, a clause regarding which the Liberal papers throughout the west have been condemning me, and saying that it is of no use whatever. I find my clause incorporated here, which, as I say, the Liberal papers have been saying is of no use whatever. I think that now, it having been twice accepted by the government of Canada, probably these papers will not take that course in the future. There was one important suggestion made before the commission with reference to the weighing and cleaning of grain that the minister has not embodied in this Bill. In my own Bill before the House there is a clause to this effect:

Elevators built after the passing of this Act, used for the purpose of storing and handling grain for hire, shall be provided with machinery to enable the grain as hauled to be weighed and cleaned, and the resultant grain and cleanings severally weighed. The manager of every elevator having such facilities shall hand the farmer or other person who has hauled the grain a certificate or wheat ticket showing the weight in each case and stating the percentage of dirt.

I trust that when we go into committee the minister will add a clause providing that the wheat shall be separated except in the case of flat warehouses, that it shall be cleaned, that it shall be weighed, and that the farmer shall be placed in a position to know exactly how he stands.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. A couple of days ago that amendment was suggested and I have embodied it in the Bill; it is drafted in writing.

Mr. DAVIN. I am very glad. There will be another of my clauses in this Bill which may make it useful.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) will give us very useful advice. The amendment which has been suggested to me, and which I intend to propose to section 52, provides:

Persons interested in the weighing of any grain at country elevators shall, when cleaning is done, have ample opportunity, if they so desire, of personally ascertaining the net weight of the cleaned grain.

Mr. DAVIN. That would go a certain distance. When we go into committee, I shall have some other suggestions to make, and I think that with careful supervision on the part of the House and proper amendments, there is no reason why we should not lick this Bill into a shape to be useful to the farmers.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether

the evidence taken before the commission has been published yet?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is about 2,000 pages in typewriting. We have not published the evidence, but we have published the report.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand that the report is based on the evidence, and this Bill, which is the result of that inquiry, is being put before the House without that evidence.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I may say that the evidence is before the House.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Not printed.

Motion agreed to: Bill read a second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 3.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I propose that this section be amended by adding after the words 'Inland Revenue' in the eleventh line, the following words:

—and who shall in his oath of office declare that he is not directly or indirectly pecuniarily interested in the grain trade.

We thought it was well to have this as an additional precaution for the impartiality of the warehouse commissioner.

On section 4, subsection a,

Mr. DAVIN. Has the minister considered whether it would not be better to exempt warehouses and mills from the taking out of a license?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It only amounts to \$2 a year. We want to be in a position to watch over them all, and have a list of them.

Mr. DAVIN. I am not at all certain that after the committee consider the matter, it may not prove to be wise to let the provision remain as it is; but, I would like them to consider this view. It is not merely a question of the \$2; but there are other clauses which provide that a license shall be obtained and bonds given, and that this shall be done only by the commissioner. It opens up a possibility of making the strongest combine that could possibly be made. It opens up this danger, that after this Bill is passed, you make all buyers of grain a close corporation in the Manitoba district, which means the province of Manitoba and the North-west Territories. As the hon. member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), who attended, I believe, most of the meetings of the commission, knows, the one desire of the farmers was for freedom. They wanted to be absolutely free so that they would not be at the mercy of any combine. Now, although you provide here for warehouses, it does not at all follow that

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after this Bill is passed warehouses will be used at all. The men who went before that commission stated expressly that they were not contending for flat warehouses. What they said was, 'Provided we get justice and know that we are safe, we prefer to ship through elevators.' What the grain-selling public of Manitoba and the North-west aim at is not so much to ship their grain through flat warehouses as to be in a position, if they like to do it, to say to the elevator combine, or to any one else engaged in the purchase and shipping of grain, 'If you are not going to do what is right, we will ship through flat warehouses.' So that, I think you should consider whether the flat warehouses should not be exempted from the license. It is not so much the paying of the \$2 license fee, but that the moment the commissioner has the power to grant or refuse a license, you have a state of things created that will make a close corporation of the purchasers of grain, and you may find that the farmer, instead of being benefited, will really be worse off than he is now.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The point raised by the hon. member is worthy of consideration. I think, however, that he has perhaps overlooked the fact that the warehouses provided for, under this Act, are not to be established for the buying and selling of grain, but that that is expressly prohibited in a clause further on. There is this further to be considered, that in compelling elevators, warehouses and mills to take out a license, and come under bonds, there is nothing prohibiting a man buying or selling grain from any elevator without a license, provided the grain is shipped from a licensed elevator.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There is the point about flat warehouses that the hon. member for West Assiniboia raised. If, as most of us desire, absolute free trade be allowed in flat warehouses, and any number of farmers who choose, may have the privilege of establishing them for the purpose of storing their own grain, it is scarcely fair that they should be obliged to take out a license for that privilege. A farmer may only wish to erect a little warehouse to hold a car-load of grain at a time, and to compel him to pay a license he would regard as a great hardship. I would suggest that the clause be allowed to stand until the whole Bill is considered, so that we may see whether it should be adopted in its present form or not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. How many bushels in a car-load?

Mr. RICHARDSON. Six hundred.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. These are assumed to be of 6,000 bushel capacity.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I was speaking without reference to what may follow, as what may follow, may not be adopted.

Mr. DOUGLAS. There is this further aspect to be considered. Last year we secured the privilege to the farmers of being allowed to load directly from their conveyances on to the car. This is a great advantage to people who live within a certain distance from the main line—say eight or ten miles on either side. But there are people who live thirty or forty miles, or even fifty miles on either side, and the great difficulty they have to contend with, is that they have no storage room. Last year I contended strongly that these people should have places where they could deposit so many loads until they had accumulated sufficient to fill a car, and then ship. The warehouses provided in this Bill, are to meet that want. They are not places for the buying and selling of grain, but intended to accommodate farmers and enable them to ship their grain in car-loads. I point out to the hon. member for Assiniboia, as well as the hon. member for Lisgar, that this is based upon the system in force in Minnesota, and which has been in force there some fourteen years, and has given satisfaction. If warehouses of 20,000 bushel capacity are to be used for that purpose, it is quite right that they should be under the same regulations as other places where grain is stored. The object is to have complete control and supervision of such warehouses as well as elevators. Then I would point out with reference to the mills, that a very large amount of grain is bought by Ogilvie & Co., and the Lake of the Woods Company, and it is right that they also should be under the same supervision, and unless they have to take out a license they would not.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is part of the recommendation of the commission. We have taken literally the report of the commission. Nevertheless, if my hon. friend wishes to have this section suspended for the moment, we might do so.

Section allowed to stand.

On subsection e,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace) did not appear to approve of the words 'as may be in his power.' I propose to substitute 'as provided by statute.' I move that the clause be amended in that way.

Motion agreed to.

On section g,

Mr. DAVIN. The word 'of' in the first line is superfluous.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I was about to suggest that the word 'of' be struck out. I move that the clause be amended in that way.

Motion agreed to.

On section 5,

Mr. DAVIN. In this, the minister adopts the principle of an amendment that I called to his attention last year. What I proposed was that bulletins of the prices should be put up at any point where grain was bought. Under that system, say at ten o'clock in the morning a bulletin would be put up showing the price of grain at the controlling points. When I suggested it, the minister saw great difficulty in carrying it out.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. And so did my hon. friend (Mr. Davin).

Mr. DAVIN. Yes, I did see some difficulty. But in this clause the principle is adopted.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Not at all.

Mr. DAVIN. If my hon. friend will allow me, the clause reads:

The commissioner shall keep on file for public inspection in his office in Winnipeg publications showing the market price of grain in the markets of Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Duluth.

This makes it the duty of the commissioner, who is a government officer to keep in his office the means whereby a grain seller may be informed of the prices. Therefore, I say it is the same principle. I admit that it is easier to do this than to do what I proposed last year. If the hon. minister has looked over the manuscript evidence taken before the commissioners he will have found that farmers, and others as well, gave evidence to this effect—take two points say 40 or 50 miles apart and there would be a difference of one cent or two cents in the prices obtained for grain. This being so, it is palpable that the man who got the lower price was wronged to that extent because he did not know the price that was ruling at, say, Winnipeg. After all, if the hon. minister is legislating for anything, his object is to place the farmer in a position of equality with the grain buyer. That is the object. Suppose there are two men in a grain deal,—one, who wants to buy grain, knows perfectly the state of the market, and the other who is a seller is occupied about his farm and has not the advantage of the same information. Why, you may have a commissioner and an inspector and all the machinery of this Act, yet the advantage will be overwhelming on the side of the man who has the information. And, if you acknowledge the principle, as you do here, why not carry it further? The information is to be kept in the commissioner's office. Now, who are the persons who can get it there? The grain seller who can go to the commissioner's office in Winnipeg will be one who is pretty well off who is carrying on farming in a large scale,—and he who is in a vastly differ-

ent position from the average farmer, who is the one we are trying to help. I hope the minister will let this clause stand, and consult with his Commissioner of Inland Revenue, or whatever officers advise him in this matter, to see whether he will not be able to go the whole way and provide that this information shall be furnished at these different points. They would not be numerous. It would not cost a great deal of money to provide this information, and it would be for the benefit of the class of men whom the minister is trying to help.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You would have the prices posted at points where there are elevators?

Mr. DAVIN. Yes.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) does not appear to appreciate the difference between what he proposes and what the Bill proposes. The Bill merely asks the commissioner to keep on file the publications showing the markets; it does not ask the commissioner to become responsible for quotations every day at every station on the Canadian Pacific Railway. I studied the question carefully after my hon. friend spoke to me about it last year. He agreed that it was a most difficult thing to find a way to carry it out.

Mr. DAVIN. I grant that.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. And the hon. gentleman must see the great difficulty now. Under this Act the government does not assume any responsibility. I think it would be most dangerous for the government to assume the responsibility of issuing bulletins every day stating, at every station, what the price of grain is, so that the farmers may make their price accordingly. The price of grain may change two or three times in one day, and mistakes may occur. I am not speaking of the expense of carrying out this system, which will not be trifling. But, I would object to the principle of the government issuing a bulletin under its own authority, in which case it would be responsible for the correctness of the figures, figures which are liable to change at any moment.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Is not the hon. gentleman doing that now by section 5, which says that the commissioner shall keep on file for public inspection in his office at Winnipeg, the market prices of grain in the chief markets of the world? Is not the government responsible for that bulletin, for that advertisement, which is to be seen every day in the office of the commissioner? And a copy of that is to be sent into the districts where there are elevators.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We know where the points of publication are. It means the different commercial and

Mr. DAVIN.

trade papers that are received from these different localities. He must keep these papers on file, but there is no responsibility entailed on the government.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in Committee.)

On section 5,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think, perhaps, we had better let this section stand for a time.

On section 6,

Mr. DAVIN. What would be the objection to defining the duties of the weighmaster in the Act?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That would make the Bill too complicated. His duties are pretty well defined in the succeeding clauses.

On section 12,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I propose to substitute the following words for this section:

The chief weighmaster may adopt rules and regulations for the weighing of grain, subject to the approval of the Minister of Inland Revenue.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 13,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have not filled in the blank with the amount of the penalty.

Mr. DAVIN. I suppose we will have to insert it before the Bill is passed?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think we can say \$25 up to \$100, or something like that. It is not exactly a dishonest act. It is rather an act that might arise from ignorance or some other cause, so that I do not think the penalty should be too severe. I think we should make it read:

Upon summary conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$100.

Mr. DAVIN. I consider \$100 too high.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The magistrate can make it any amount he likes. You should have some fairly decent penalty.

Mr. DAVIN. One hundred dollars is too high. As the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue says, it does not properly come under the class of offences at all. It is a kind of misconduct that a very slight liability would obviate. Suppose we say: Not exceeding \$50.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Well, \$50.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It may be a trifling offence, but it is necessary to have a pretty stiff penalty, because, in the case of a scale being out of order, a party, by preventing the inspection of it at the time, might thereby avoid the infliction of a much severer penalty under other clauses of the Act.

Mr. POWELL. The case of not keeping the scale in order is not covered.

Mr. RICHARDSON. You might fix that by leaving it to the discretion of the magistrate, not to exceed \$100.

Mr. POWELL. That is a large amount.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There is something in what the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) says. A man who deliberately refuses to allow a person to see his scale must have an object in doing so. It is surely fair to leave it at the discretion of the magistrate.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved :

That the blank in the forty-sixth line be filled by the insertion of the words 'one hundred.'

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. DAVIN. Are you going to fill in the other blank in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth lines ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved :

That the word 'weigh-master' be inserted in the forty-seventh and forty-eighth lines.

He said : It will then read :

And such penalty shall be paid to the weigh-master for the benefit of the Manitoba grain inspection fund.

Mr. RICHARDSON. What is the Manitoba grain inspection fund ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) will remember that by a statute passed last year, a fund was created, and out of that fund the grain inspectors are paid. We propose to pay the officers coming under this Bill out of that fund, so that we shall have only one fund.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 14,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I want to move a trifling amendment to this. The title is 'Terminal Elevators,' and I propose to add 'and Warehouses.' I had an idea at one time that all the buildings intended for storing at the terminals were elevators. There are only terminal elevators at Fort William, Port Arthur and Emerson. It struck me that we might make a distinction between these elevators, terminal warehouses, flat warehouses and country elevators. I have been given to

understand that it is better to apply these provisions to warehouses too. Therefore, in the title, I propose to put 'terminal elevators and warehouses.'

Mr. DAVIN. You will have to amend the clause too.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have provided for that.

Mr. DAVIN. What does the hon. gentleman understand by terminal elevators ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Elevators at Fort William, Port Arthur and Emerson. These are terminal elevators from which the grain, coming from the country elevators and warehouses, is ultimately shipped to its destination. The hon. gentleman will see that I have an amendment which says, after the word 'elevator' put the word 'warehouse.'

Mr. DAVIN. What is the use of putting in 'warehouse' for Fort William, Port Arthur and Emerson ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It has been thought better to do so. I have an amendment which reads, that wherever the word 'elevator' appears in sections 14 to 28 inclusive, it includes a warehouse. I think there is no harm in putting that in. At the end of the first line in the clause, I beg to move :

That the word 'commissioner' be struck out, and that the words 'Minister of Inland Revenue' should be inserted instead.

That amendment is proposed in case of some important change taking place.

Amendment agreed to.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. At the end of the seventh line, I propose to add the following words :

And the expression 'terminal elevator' in sections 14 to 28, both inclusive, includes a warehouse.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 15,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I propose to strike out the words 'subject to an appeal to the Minister of Inland Revenue,' and to substitute the words, 'such revocation not to take effect until the Minister of Inland Revenue has given his sanction thereto.' Great inconvenience might arise if they had to wait for an appeal, which would necessarily take a long time. It would be a very serious thing, especially for terminal elevators, and it would appear better that they should at once get a decision from the department.

Mr. BRITTON. Suppose the elevator is owned by, say the Canadian Pacific Railway, you surely would not require that corporation to put the name of the president, secretary and treasurer of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on the elevator ?

Mr. DOUGLAS. Certainly.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Why should we not do it, they will have to give bonds?

Mr. BRITTON. Suppose they do. Surely the Canadian Pacific Railway or any other railway is sufficiently indicated by the corporate name of the company, without naming the president, treasurer, and so on.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not think it is very important.

On section 17,

Mr. POWELL. You have defined 'terminal elevator' as being an institution that shall include a warehouse? On the second line of page 4, you include the word 'elevator' simply, and not 'terminal elevator.' Would it not be better to use the same phraseology all through?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Very well, I will accept that.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I call attention to the wording of line 7. This is a very important matter, and I would like to ask the committee to look back to clause 17, where the words occur 'save only that he may be permitted to deliver grain previously stored in such elevator.' In this clause you use the words 'in no case shall grain of different grade be mixed together while in store.' If one of these terminal elevators should mix grain in storing, and deliver it in a mixed condition to the vessel, and the commissioner thought it advisable to revoke the license of that elevator for the time being in order to stop that practice; this saving clause would allow that elevator to empty out that mixed grain without any interference whatever from the commissioner, after the revocation of the license, in so far as the delivery of that grain is concerned. I would suggest that the word 'lawfully' be inserted, so that the saving clause will read, 'save only that he may be permitted to lawfully deliver grain.' This would make it unlawful for a man to deliver mixed grain.

Mr. BRITTON. Is it contended that a man shall not get his own grain because the elevator license is revoked?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The hon. gentleman seems to lose sight of the fact that the object of giving these licenses and getting these bonds is to compel the elevator men to deliver grain lawfully. It is unlawful to mix grain in one of these elevators. The commissioner revokes the license; but here is a saving clause put in to let the elevator man empty out the mixed grain without let or hindrance from the commissioner or anybody else.

Mr. BRITTON. If the elevator man commits a fraud or does wrong, his license may be revoked; but you are not going to tie

Mr. BRITTON.

up the grain and prevent its delivery on that account.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Then, why not wipe out this clause giving the commissioner power to revoke the license altogether?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The only reason why I hesitate to strike out that sentence is, that we have taken the greatest care to protect all the interests represented as much as possible. But I think it would be well to change the sentence in such a way as to say, 'save and except such grain as has not been illegally dealt with.'

Mr. POWELL. I would suggest striking out the saving clause, and inserting the following words at the end of the section: 'Provided, however, that notwithstanding such revocation to warehousemen may deliver all grain which has not become mixed in such terminal elevator.' This will cover the case exactly.

Mr. BRITTON. What is to become of the grain that has become mixed. Has it got to stay there and rot?

Mr. POWELL. I do not know.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The moment a license is revoked, the work in the elevator must cease until the question is decided, and if the public suffers, the elevator people are liable to heavy penalties.

Amendment (Mr. Powell) agreed to.

On section 29,

Mr. RICHARDSON. In connection with this and some subsequent clauses, I foresee some difficulty. The question of the farmer's warehouses and flat warehouses is, to my mind, the crux of the whole Bill. If we adopt this clause, then, when we come to clause 40, which, I think, is the clause that most affects the interests of the farmers of the west, we may find that we have in a measure tied our hands. In this clause, for instance, we provide, that elevators and grain warehouses on the right of way of any railroad or on ground 'reserved by any railroad company to be used in connection with its line of railway at any station or siding other than at terminal points, are hereby declared to be public elevators and shall be under the supervision and subject to the inspection of the commissioner.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I was going to ask to be allowed to add the words 'or warehouses,' making it read, 'public elevators or warehouses.'

Mr. RICHARDSON. But if we adopt the clause, the minister will see, should the committee consider it desirable later on to grant permission to farmers to erect warehouses for the storing as little as a car-load of grain, we shall already have pro-

vided that these small warehouses must be licensed and be under the supervision of the commissioner. I propose to contend later on that farmers shall have absolute free trade for the shipment of grain, that they shall not be compelled to ship through any particular form of warehouse, and the size of the warehouses shall not be limited, as it is in clause 40. For the last five or six years the farmers of the west have been struggling for free trade in the handling of grain; and I believe what they really desire is that they shall be allowed to construct warehouses for themselves of any dimensions whatever on the lines of railway and handle their grain through them. If we are going to tie their hands in the way proposed later on in this Bill, I think we are destroying the very object we are seeking to obtain in the west. I regret the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) is not here. I had a discussion with him on the report and he takes the same ground that I do. I would, therefore, suggest that this clause should be allowed to remain over until we come to clause 40. Of course, if clause 40 is carried, then these others should be carried, because these regulations will be necessary.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I think that everything has been done to meet the wishes of the farmers of the west. These flat warehouses are recommended by the commission; and I would remind the hon. gentleman once more that the commission included three practical farmers, and I am told, leading farmers. They recommended that these warehouses should have a capacity of at least six thousand bushels. If the railway companies are going to be called upon to make sidings for all the warehouses with the capacity of a car-load that anybody may choose to build, I think that would be going altogether too far. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) must admit that the government is doing everything it can to meet the reasonable wishes of the farmers. Here is what the commissioners say on page 11 of their report:

We believe that the erection of flat warehouses will not in all instances be called for. The knowledge that farmers will have the right, under certain restrictions, to get the same erected, or to erect the same, will lead to a desire on the part of the elevator owners and employees to give fair prices for grain rather than to stir up feeling which will lead to the erection of those flat warehouses.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The clause does not limit the warehouse to 6,000 bushels, on the contrary that is the minimum.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. When we come to section 40, we can discuss the minimum.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The paragraph the minister has just read bears out the point I was seeking to make. While I contend for the right of the farmers to erect flat ware-

houses of any capacity, I do not think they will be erected to a large extent. But the very fact that you grant them the privilege to erect flat warehouses will compel the elevator owners to treat the farmers in a reasonable and proper way. That has been the crux of the difficulty all along. In this legislation we ought to desire to protect the interest of the people who grow the grain. I think it will be a mistake to fix the minimum capacity of the flat warehouses at 6,000 bushels. The farmers are not in a position to erect warehouses of that capacity. I recognize the force of what the minister has said as to the possibility of farmers erecting a large number of these little warehouses along the line, which will take up a good deal of space; and I would be willing to have it declared in this Act that where an amount of space beyond what the committee might deem reasonable, is required, or where more sidings are required than the railroad companies usually make, these sidings should be paid for by the farmers. But if we pass this clause before we have settled the principle involved in clause 40, we will make a mistake. I propose to offer strong opposition to clause 40, and to move an amendment to it.

Mr. DAVIN. Clauses from 29 to 41, I regard as making a cradle for building up combines and close corporations. As I read these clauses it seems to me they will lead to the grain buyers forming a close corporation, and that is one of the things the farmers wish to obviate. The language of the report dealing with this matter is as follows:

As a valuable accessory to the proper shipment of grain in car-load lots by farmers, we recommend the erection at shipping points of loading platforms, to be used by shippers free of charge. We believe that the erection of flat warehouses will not in all instances be called for. The knowledge that farmers will have the right, under certain restrictions, to get the same erected, or to erect the same, will lead to a desire on the part of elevator owners and employees to give fair prices for grain rather than to stir up a feeling which will lead to the erection of those flat warehouses.

We further suggest that it be provided that, in cases where flat warehouses are now operated on any lines of railway, they should not be arbitrarily done away with or refused cars for shipping grain.

The hon. gentleman will see that if at certain points farmers feel themselves aggrieved, and they want to fall back upon the only means by which they can force the grain buyers to time, a flat warehouse of 6,000 bushels capacity might be too large. In talking with farmers on this subject they suggested a minimum of 3,000. But if we pass these clauses up to 40, the result will be that the hands of the farmers will be completely tied.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Let us in the meantime take clause 40.

Mr. DAVIN. I suggest to treat the Bill as the Solicitor General treated the Criminal Code Bill, let us discuss the clauses one by one and then go on leaving them stand. Then we can retrace our steps.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The commissioners recommend that 6,000 bushels at least should be the capacity of a flat warehouse. This is what they say on page 31 :

That on a written application to the warehouse commissioner by any ten farmers residing within twenty miles of a shipping point, he (the warehouse commissioner) may give permission to any person or persons to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one flat warehouse of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity at such shipping point.

That is the authority under which we have fixed the minimum at 6,000 bushels. Now I do not understand that it is the capacity of these flat warehouses that my hon. friend objects to. I do not see why in the meantime we should not go on with the Bill until we get to section 40; and then if we find we must go against the recommendations of the commissioners, we can discuss the capacity of the flat warehouses. In the meantime, as we all appear willing to get ahead, we might discuss these clauses until we come to 40 and then we can make that the battle ground if the hon. gentleman chooses.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am quite in favour of deferring the consideration of 29 until we consider section 40.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. But you must defer all the others.

Mr. DAVIN. What I suggest is that we go on and discuss each clause as we have done in the Bill amending the Criminal Code. Then we will have heard the mind of the committee on these clauses, and we can come back and consider them, so that we may be in a better position to do so.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Section 40 establishes the principle, and it is the principle that we wish to discuss in the meantime. I see no difficulty in deferring the consideration of section 29 until we settle section 40. Though, in section 40 we have the express words of the Royal Commission, I want to say, simply, that the recommendation of the Royal Commission is impracticable as I can show in a sentence or two. For a great many farmers this proposal is utterly worthless. Farmers residing within twenty miles of any shipping point are only allowed four days to send forward—

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We have changed that.

Mr. DOUGLAS. That is true, but as it stands section 40 is not practicable.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend was there when we made this change to five days instead of four and six days instead of five.

Mr. DOUGLAS.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I wish to say further, that, in reference to the 6,000 bushels capacity, I have always felt it was too large and I call the attention of the committee to the fact that several elevator companies have to-day in operation, and have had, warehouses of 3,000 bushel capacity and less. It will be found, in the list of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, that there are a number of warehouses in operation of less than 3,000 bushels capacity. It would be much more in accord with public feeling if there was a reduction in the size.

Mr. POWELL. The suggestion of the minister strikes me as being particularly appropriate, because the whole point of the discussion is the capacity of the elevators. If we are going to have a discussion over that these features of the Bill are not to be affected by the result, as these clauses have to be passed whatever the capacity of the elevators may be. Why not pass these and let the discussion come up as to the capacity of the elevators under section 40? I do not imagine that this House is going to allow a number of elevators to be put up without the control of a public officer, or that every man on the siding of a railway is going to be practically a dictator. These elevators must be under the control of a public officer whoever he may be; and the whole discussion will come up under section 40.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Why not take section 40 now? The hon. minister says that will be the battle ground. As far as I am concerned there will be no battle. I will offer no factious opposition to the Bill at all. My own view is, that, notwithstanding the fact that the commissioners have reported, we are under no obligation to adopt their report because, as the hon. member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) has made it abundantly clear, some of the recommendations of the commission are absolutely impracticable and could not possibly be carried out. You, yourself, Sir, know that a great many of the amendments suggested, and which have been printed and distributed in separate forms, are not the recommendations of the Royal Commission at all. They are the result, I have no doubt, of maturer consideration on the part of men familiar with the grain trade who are desirous of facilitating the handling of the grain with the object of protecting the interests of the farmer. I would like to hear a discussion of clause 40, and then we can go into the details because clause 40 settles the principle.

Mr. POWELL. What I want to point out is that it is not a question of principle. It is a mere question of the capacity of the elevator. Suppose section 40 fixes it at 2,000 bushels it is not going to affect the preceding sections a particle. These preceding sections have all to be put through.

If it were a matter of principle it would be the expunging of section 40 altogether, or retaining it. It is simply a matter of the capacity of the elevator. We will need these sections whatever the capacity of the elevators is.

Mr. RICHARDSON. By clause 29 elevators are :

—hereby declared to be public elevators and shall be under the supervision and subject to the inspection of the commissioner, and shall, for the purposes of the following sections of this Act, be known and designated as public country elevators or country warehouses.

However, it is not important.

On section 30,

Mr. DAVIN. Would the minister think it necessary to change the words 'under oath,' in the 47th line to 'under statutory declaration' for the same reason that he made the change before?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved :

That after the words 'under oath,' in the forty-seventh line, the words 'or statutory declaration,' be inserted.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. POWELL. Why not have the third subsection read precisely the same as the fifteenth. The hon. minister made an amendment in the fifteenth; why not make the other exactly in the same terms?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved :

That subsection 3 be amended by striking out the words 'subject to appeal to the Minister of Inland Revenue,' and inserting the words, 'such revocation not to take effect until the Minister of Inland Revenue has given his sanction thereto.'

Amendment agreed to.

On section 31,

Mr. DAVIN. If you put the minimum at \$2,000, you might just as well leave out the flat warehouse provisions altogether. It is only a farmer or farmers who will want to build flat warehouses, and to ask them to give security of not less than \$2,000 or more than \$5,000, is simply putting a veto on the whole thing. It would be much better to put in not less than \$500.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I do not think you should have a penalty there at all.

Mr. DAVIN. It is not a penalty, but anyway, as it is now, it is prohibitory. Either throw it out altogether or make the amount nominal.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I would say not less than \$500.

Mr. RICHARDSON. If you are going to have free trade in the handling of grain you do not want to hamper the people who would erect such a warehouse with a clause like

that. It looks from such a clause as if the whole idea was to—

Mr. DAVIN. To block.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Yes, to block the farmers from building those warehouses.

Mr. SPROULE. If you are to have perfect freedom in the election of warehouses, you would not require this clause. But if a warehouse is to be of 6,000 bushels capacity, others will use it, than those who erected it, and in that case there ought to be something to secure a proper performance of duty by the owners of the warehouse.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I endorse what has been said by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule). If a farmer puts up his own warehouse and ships his own grain to it, that farmer will not be called upon to take out a license, provided he does not handle any one else's grain. Our experience in Manitoba is, that it is the small warehousemen and the commission merchants who act dishonestly with the farmers and defraud the farmers. In my own neighbourhood in a great majority of cases where the farmer has been defrauded, it is in the handling of his grain by small dealers, and it is absolutely necessary that when these people handle any one's grain, they should be brought under the operation of this Act. How can you bring them under the operation of the Act, unless you issue a license, and unless you can get security that they will conduct their business properly?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Section 40, provides for the management and erection of elevators, and it is not the farmer who is supposed to be the owner of the warehouse. I am willing to agree that we reduce the minimum amount to \$500.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Make the minimum \$500, and the maximum \$1,000.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It is not enough. You can have a warehouse of twenty or thirty thousand bushels capacity, and in my opinion it is necessary that the man who has a big warehouse and is handling a great deal of wheat belonging to the farmers, should be compelled to give security that he will conduct his business honestly.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I agree absolutely with what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rutherford) has said upon that point. But while we have the provisions of this clause applying to large public warehouses, it surely would not be fair to have them apply to farmers who may build small warehouses.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It does not apply. If a farmer makes an arrangement with the railway company, and puts up a flat warehouse of his own, he does not come under the provisions of this Act.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It only applies to the man who is carrying

on the business of a public warehouse. We can put the amount at not less than \$500, and leave the commissioner to decide what the increase shall be, in proportion to the size of the warehouse.

Mr. SPROULE. I think that is fair.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It will show that our intention is not to prevent the establishment of these flat warehouses. I move that a minimum penalty of \$500 be substituted for the minimum penalty of \$2,000.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. POWELL. There seems to be a distinction made between 'warehouse' and 'flat warehouse' and if so, it is necessary to amend section 31, and after the word 'elevator' in the 5th line, put the word 'warehouse.'

Mr. RUTHERFORD. At country points you either have an elevator or a flat warehouse. The difference is this: An elevator may be a warehouse, but a flat warehouse cannot be an elevator.

Mr. POWELL. If that is the case, the section had better be amended to preserve the distinction between a warehouse and a flat warehouse.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. At page 7 of the report of the commission, the different kinds of warehouses are fully described.

On section 32,

Mr. POWELL. Since section 17 passed the committee, the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) has called my attention to the fact that sometimes grain is mixed in elevators, and it is a perfectly right thing to do, so long as it is not done fraudulently. If that is the case, we are going to run against the snag suggested by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), of depriving the owner of the grain of the power of getting it out of the warehouse.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. In a public elevator you cannot help mixing grain, and the amendment to section 17 would prevent grain being mixed at all. I think the suggestion I made to provide that the elevator man may be permitted to lawfully deliver grain would meet the case.

Mr. DAVIN. That would only make the delivery lawful; it would not apply to the mixing.

Mr. POWELL. You had better let the section remain as it was originally. It seems to me to have been carefully thought out.

Amendment made to section 17 struck out.

On section 34,

Mr. DAVIN. I find that a part of this clause, near its end, reads as follows:

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

Such grain, when so delivered at terminals, shall be subject to freight, weighing and inspection charges, and all other charges (if any) lawful at such terminal points; and the party delivering shall be liable for the delivery of such grain as will, on Canadian government inspection and on weighing at such terminal point, conform to the grade and weight mentioned in such receipt.

How are you going to get Canadian government inspection when it has arrived at Duluth?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Before it leaves, it will be inspected.

Mr. DAVIN. But this clause says that the party delivering—delivering at Duluth, I presume.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. But we have no government inspection at Duluth, and if it is intended that the grain is to conform to the government inspection at Emerson, this part of the clause is badly worded.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I shall be glad to accept any suggestion for better wording.

Mr. POWELL. I would suggest that the words in question be amended so as to read as follows:

And the party delivering shall be liable for the delivery of such grain as will conform to the grade, according to Canadian government inspection, and, as nearly as possible, to the weight mentioned in such receipt.

Mr. DAVIN. That would make it clear.

On section 36.

Mr. POWELL. There is one thing that strikes me in the 8th line, the words 'one or both parties.' I do not think one party should have the right to take a sample of grain and make the application ex parte, except in case the other party declines to make a joint selection with him. I would suggest that these words be replaced by the following words: 'Both of the said parties or by either one of them if the other declines.'

Amendment agreed to.

On section 39,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved:

That subsection 5 be struck out, and that the following be inserted in lieu thereof:

Each of the forms set out in the schedule to this Act, or which is authorized by the Governor in Council as aforesaid, shall be used in every case in which it is applicable, and in that case the use of any other form shall be an offence under this Act and be punishable by fine, or with forfeiture of license.

He said: This has been substituted. I think it is rather severe to provide such a penalty, if a mistake is made of using one

form instead of another. We have a section of this Bill—54—which provides:

Any person guilty of an offence specified in this Act, or guilty of violating any provision of this Act, for which a specific penalty is not herein provided, shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine of not less than _____ dollars, and not more than _____ dollars.

We have not arrived at the point yet. I cannot help thinking that it is rather severe to deprive a man of his license for what may be a formal defect.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Is that quite safe? This would then be an offence under this Act which is punishable only by a fine. How would it be to put in the words: 'punishable by a fine or cancellation of the license,' because a person, working under this Act and handling a large amount of grain, could very soon indemnify himself for a very big fine.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This only applies to forms.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. They are very important.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There might be some mistake. I think it is safe enough to add the words that the hon. member for Macdonald's point is that making it an offence punishable by a fine or the forfeiture of the license. The commissioner will exercise his judgment in that.

Mr. POWELL. As I understand, the hon. member for Macdonald's point is that a man, by making a mistake in this way, might subject another to a terrible loss. We might allow a man, a civil remedy for the damage which is done him.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. By saying 'or forfeiture of license,' it would make it optional and there would be this reserve penalty. I am not speaking legally, but I do not think that it would do any harm to put that in. It is a sort of threat.

Mr. POWELL. We might say: And in addition the minister may cancel the license.

Amendment (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) agreed to.

On section 40,

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Chairman, I want to move in amendment to this section:

That all the words in subsection 1 of clause 40 be struck out, and the following substituted therefor:

On a written application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within forty miles of their nearest shipping point at which there is then no flat warehouse erected or authorized to be erected, he may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one flat warehouse of not less than 3,000 bushels capacity, with power to enlarge the same should necessity require it, at such shipping point, and such flat warehouse, covered with metal, may

be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding within such portion of its station yard as shall not involve the construction of any additional siding in some convenient place of access, if there be any, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators; but should there be none and should a siding have to be located, as aforesaid, involving the construction of any additional tracks, then the applicant shall construct the road-bed and furnish the ties therefor, the company providing the rails and fastenings and receiving for the use of the same rental therefor of 6 per cent per annum on their actual cost.

Mr. DAVIN. I think my hon. friend should put in 3,000 instead of 6,000.

Mr. SPROULE. All right; I intended to do that because I think 6,000 is too large.

Mr. DOUGLAS. A radius of 20 miles will not relieve the people or the country. Take my own case; my farm is 30 miles from a shipping point.

Mr. DAVIN. He has no objection to saying 40 miles.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It is 40 miles in the Bill.

Mr. POWELL. Why 40?

Mr. DOUGLAS. Because the people that need the relief are people that are living between 10 and 40 miles away. Those living within 10 miles, or less, of a railway station are provided for by loading platforms. We have plenty of people handling grain every day who are 40 miles away. Twenty miles excludes a large portion of the community and they would have no interest in this Bill whatever.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) would accept 40 miles.

Mr. SPROULE. I have no objection.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Is the clause, as reprinted, the one which the hon. minister proposes, distributed?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I still adhere to the position I took at the outset when we were considering this Bill after 8 o'clock that even the amendment is entirely wrong, and that the first clause is all wrong. I do not think we should place any such restrictions on the trade at all. I believe if you adopt clause 40 you make the position infinitely worse than it is at the present time. What you want for the farmers is absolute free trade in the handling of grain. Let them build flat warehouses for themselves and handle grain if it suits them. I feel strongly that by adopting clause 40, we will be restricting the trade and imposing a real injustice and a real injury upon the farmers. I have an amendment which I wish to propose, but I shall defer it until one of the amendments is disposed of.

Mr. SPROULE. The warehouse to be of any value requires to be on a siding, and according to this Bill there might be as many on a siding as it is possible to locate. It could hardly be expected that each farmer who would so desire could erect a warehouse and expect the railway company to provide a siding for him. This amendment provides for a warehouse where there was not one already existing; it provides for enlarging, and it also provides that the company shall provide a track or a siding to it, the applicant finding the ties and the company providing the rails and other things necessary. It seems to me that that would cover the difficulty, for it would be utterly impossible to have free trade in elevators entirely and yet expect that the railway company would be compelled to build a siding for every elevator that a farmer would choose to build near a station.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I take the ground that if there were an undue number of warehouses being erected, and if any injustice was being perpetrated on the railway companies, it would be only fair to provide that where an extra large number of warehouses are desired, that the sidings should be built at the expense of those who desire them. I certainly do not want to inflict any injustice on the railway company in this matter. If forty or fifty flat warehouses are to be erected it would not be right to compel the company to provide all the accommodation and the spur lines. The report of the commission does not contemplate that if you grant the privilege it will be availed of to any considerable extent by the farmers, and I feel convinced that that is so. However, the fact that you provide that they shall be able to construct flat warehouses for themselves when they so desire will absolutely protect them from the operations of the elevator companies. In doing that you almost insure that these companies will treat the farmers in such a way as will render it unnecessary for them to erect warehouses on their own account.

Mr. DAVIN. It would be well for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) to explain his amendment. There are three amendments and we better know what each of them is before we adopt one.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The amendment which I propose is taken from the Bill of my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas). It commends itself to my judgment and I may say that it commends itself to the judgment of the member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), who takes a very warm interest in this matter, and who on account of illness is unfortunately not able to be here to-night. I propose to substitute this for clause 40:

The commissioner shall accord to any person who demands it in writing, the privilege of erecting, maintaining and using, free of charge, on some portion of the company's right of way adjoining its main track, siding or spur, at each

Mr. RICHARDSON.

such station or siding, an elevator warehouse or grain chute, for the purpose of storing and shipping grain in car lots; but the said elevator, warehouse or grain chute shall not be used for any other purpose.

It is a general clause. You will see that no maximum or minimum capacity is provided for, and it is particularly desirable that we should allow the utmost latitude in a measure of this kind. It does not limit to one the number of warehouses that may be constructed at any station. As I understand it, clause 40 provides only that one flat warehouse should be constructed at any particular station. I feel very strongly that if a clause like that is adopted it will meet the very strongest disapproval, as it deserves, from the people of the west. If we propose to give adequate relief to the people there, we ought to allow them to build just as many flat warehouses as they desire. If you are going to limit it to one flat warehouse with a capacity of 6,000 bushels or over, you might just as well drop the Bill altogether. By this clause you strike a deadly blow at the most vital point affecting the interests of the people of the North-west.

Mr. POWELL. I have read the report of these commissioners, who are apparently very intelligent men, and it seems to me that you are going beyond what they recommend. While everything should be done to promote trade, yet if ten farmers cannot work in unison, no railway company should be inconvenienced because of that.

Mr. RICHARDSON. There might be within a radius of forty miles hundreds of farmers, and ten farmers on the extreme north might not desire the same thing as ten farmers on the extreme south. My plea is for absolute free trade in flat warehouses and freedom in shipping by means of flat warehouses. I am glad to know that my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas) is ready to support this amendment.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. To my mind, there is nothing in clause forty, as amended by the minister, which says there shall be only one warehouse at a station. It says:

On the written application to the commissioner of ten farmers residing within forty miles of the nearest shipping point, he may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, a flat warehouse, covered with metal, of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity.

It does not say any particular ten farmers. I may be wrong, but it appears to me that under that clause there is power to erect any number of flat warehouses.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I may say that I discussed this matter some time ago with Mr. Bell, the secretary of the commission, who had, probably, a great deal to do with preparing this Bill, and he told me that the design was that under the Bill only one flat warehouse should be allowed at a shipping point. When this section says that the

commissioner 'may give permission to any person to erect one flat warehouse of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity at a shipping point,' I would like to know to whom that applies.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. To anybody—you or any one else; anybody who goes to the expense of erecting a warehouse.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Does the hon. minister say that an unlimited number may be erected?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No, I will not pledge myself to say that there might be an unlimited number of these small warehouses.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Then, this cannot be interpreted to mean what the hon. member for Macdonald says it does. Would the minister say how many might be erected? Might there be more than one?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It would depend on circumstances.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I think it is absurd to discuss this matter in this way. I interpret this clause to mean that only one warehouse of 6,000 bushels capacity may be allowed at a shipping point. The hon. member for Macdonald interprets it to mean that more than one may be allowed. I ask the Minister of Inland Revenue to interpret it, and he will not say how many will be allowed, or whether more than one will be allowed. I think the committee is entitled to know what interpretation the Minister of Inland Revenue places on this clause; and I appeal to the reason of the committee when I ask that the clause should not be adopted unless we have a definite statement from the minister as to what it means.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The hon. gentleman must recognize that the commissioner who is to be appointed will be a public servant, that the application will come to him and not to the railway company, and that he will decide whether another flat warehouse will be necessary or not. Is the hon. gentleman going to trust the commissioner, who is a servant of the people of Canada and is under oath to act fairly and squarely by the people, or is he not?

Mr. RICHARDSON. I am not so much concerned with what the hon. member for Macdonald may think about who the commissioner may be or what his duties may be. I think this committee is entitled to know what interpretation the Minister of Inland Revenue places on this clause, because on that point the commissioner will be guided by his interpretation.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think we are entitled to know what my hon. friend means when he speaks of an unlimited number of warehouses of 600

bushels capacity each. If he gives an idea of what he wants, then we shall be able to say what we will do. I cannot say that I will allow an unlimited number of these small buildings.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I would remind the minister that we are not discussing that point, but the minimum number of warehouses to be allowed of 6,000 bushels capacity.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I cannot say how many would be allowed, because I do not understand the circumstances of the case. If a necessity were shown for two or three, I would have no objection to allowing them, but I certainly would insist on a minimum capacity of 6,000 bushels. In certain cases, where it could be shown that more than one elevator of 6,000 bushels would be absolutely required, I would be ready to make provision to allow another to be erected.

Mr. RICHARDSON. But the decision is not left to the minister, but to the commissioner.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I can scarcely agree with the Minister of Inland Revenue on two points. In the first place, if there was one thing stronger than another in the entire evidence given before the Royal Commission, it was that the country desired perfect freedom of trade, and that the flat warehouse was the only means of securing it. To allow only one flat warehouse at one shipping point is a mockery, and not at all in accord with the evidence given before the commission.

Mr. POWELL. The commission recommended one, did they not?

Mr. DOUGLAS. I do not care what the commission recommended. The evidence was in favour of perfect freedom of trade. Further, as to the warehouses being limited to 6,000 bushels capacity, the minister says he is not prepared to yield on that point; but I know, as is reported by the board of trade, that we have quite a number of warehouses now in operation and used by these grain companies the capacity of which is even less than 3,000 bushels, certainly not more than 3,000 bushels. If, then, these companies are permitted, as we have already provided in the Bill, to utilize elevators of 3,000 bushels capacity, why ought not a company of ten farmers to be allowed to make use of elevators of the same capacity? If those companies have the privilege, the producers ought to have the same privilege. I feel that this is imposing a restriction, contrary to the evidence which the Royal Commission received in their meetings throughout the country. I would like very much to leave the number indefinite and open; and further, to provide that the capacity should not be less than 3,000 bushels, and as much more as you like.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me, if the English language means anything, that this clause means that there may be more than one erected.

Mr. RICHARDSON. But the minister does not interpret it in that way.

Mr. SPROULE. It will not be the minister who will be called on to interpret the clause.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Then, let us make it clear.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. In order to clear this matter up, I would move that the words 'flat warehouse' be put in the plural, and that the clause read in this way:

He may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one or more flat warehouses.

Mr. SPROULE. One person may erect one or more.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Should the necessity arise for more than one of those flat warehouses, after due consideration, the commissioner may give the permission required.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I do not want to leave it in the judgment of any one.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I intend to press my original amendment, and if it is voted down, I will then contend for the amendment that the hon. minister seemed disposed to grant, namely, that under this clause more than one flat warehouse could be erected.

Mr. BRITTON. Without discussing its merits, the section is somewhat ambiguous. I agree with the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), that the section does not limit the permission to one warehouse, but I do not think more than one could be erected on the application of any particular set of ten farmers. If it is intended that on the application of ten or more farmers, permission may be granted by the commissioner, to any person, to erect a flat warehouse, and that on the application of another ten farmers or more, another similar permission may be given, that ought to be stated.

Mr. POWELL. The railway company may provide ample accommodation themselves, and here is a law that will force them to put in a siding at their own expense, which would cost \$5 to \$10 a foot, wherever a flat warehouse is erected. If the necessity exists every accommodation should be given. But it is only fair to the company that they should not be compelled to put in sidings for flat warehouses erected by private individuals, when the company have themselves given all the accommodation required. Even our own government does not put sidings on along the Intercolonial Railway, wherever a farmer desires such ac-

commodation. If an individual wants a siding for his own accommodation, he must put it in himself.

Mr. RICHARDSON. How does the hon. gentleman like my amendment?

Mr. POWELL. I think that in working it out, my hon. friend would find that the grain dealers would suffer themselves. You have no idea of the ingenuity of railway companies to overcome legislation, and I see great opportunities for them in this amendment. Take the first clause of the Bill submitted last year by the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas).

Every railway company now or hereafter engaged in the transportation of grain in the province of Manitoba or the North-west Territories shall, at every station or siding on its lines of railway at which grain is offered for shipment, provide, at its own expense, adequate facilities, &c.

There is the first provision. Then, and only in case of failure on the part of the railway company to provide these facilities, comes the subsequent provision to meet the case and enable private parties to provide facilities. If you will read the reports of the American Interstate Commerce Commission, you will find that the ingenuity of man is not equal to the ingenuity of railway corporations. I think that the effect of the Bill drawn up by the hon. member for East Assiniboia would be such that the poor farmers would be simply fooled. They would have to go into a long litigation to decide in each individual case whether the facilities provided by the company are adequate or not, which would probably be carried to the Privy Council before finally decided. If the hon. gentleman will read the reports of the Granger legislation out west in Kansas, he will see how these people got a stone when they thought they were getting bread, and will then understand how this clause would afford no relief whatever.

Mr. DOUGLAS. This clause that was introduced into my Bill last year, and this year, is based on the Railway Act of the Dominion itself, and this government has the perfect right to compel any company to provide facilities to receive whatever produce that may be presented at the station, when the people are prepared to pay the usual freight rates. It is altogether out of keeping with the spirit of the Dominion Railway Act to say that a railway company is not bound to provide facilities. You will observe in this proposed amendment, that it is only where the railway companies do not provide facilities, that other people are allowed to furnish them, and in that case there need be no legal process to compel the railway companies to give facilities themselves.

Mr. POWELL. You cannot enact effectual legislation to compel railway companies to provide facilities, or allow other parties to

do so, on any portion of its right of way, free of charge, by statute. The only way you can do that is by appointing some commission which will have the power to direct these railway companies to make the necessary improvements in the interests of the public. If you let the individual farmer fight this out with the railway company, he might as well retire from his farm. I do not believe in leaving this matter in the control of the government, because no matter what government may be in power, it is too much influenced by politics. We want an independent commission to control these matters. But we have not got that. How are you going to work it out? Take, for instance, the clause providing that they shall provide the necessary facilities.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I will call the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) to the fact that the Bill provided that the enforcement of the Act depended upon the government of Canada and not upon the individual farmer.

Mr. POWELL. In the Bill of last year?

Mr. DOUGLAS. Yes.

Mr. POWELL. I do not suppose the government would permit private members to submit such an Act, which would involve a charge on the revenue. But, in any case, see how it works out. A private farmer wishes to have the hon. gentleman's law carried out. He complains of lack of facilities. First, he sues the company for damages. They defend the action. That matter is taken to the Privy Council. The farmer is scared out of the fight.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Not necessarily. The western farmer is not easily scared. The Canadian Pacific Railway will pay the cost in the long run.

Mr. POWELL. Your farmers will be rather backward about entering litigation with any large company.

Mr. RICHARDSON. They could combine and push it.

Mr. POWELL. We must have some stringent measure. If you have a commissioner, you have only to compel them to do it. There is no real point of dispute.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Under clause 40 as proposed, we are going to deprive the farmers of their constitutional right. The effect of it is to restrict trade. The effect will be to destroy the very object, the Bill is or ought to be designed to promote. I would press my amendment.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) says the Bill is not fair, I would like to read the clause as adopted in the state of Minnesota:

The owner or owners of any elevator, warehouse or mill of not less than 5,000 bushels

capacity, located on lands adjacent to the right of way of any railroad company in this state at or in the immediate vicinity of any regular way station of any railroad, shall have the right to demand of such railroad company the construction of a side-track over its right of way from such elevator warehouse, mill or manufactory, which said side-track shall connect with a switch with the main or other side-track of such railroad, at a point within a reasonable distance from such way station, and the railroad company shall build said side-track and make such connection at its own expense. And in case no suitable place for the erection of such elevator, warehouse or mill can be had, for any cause, within the distance occupied by the switches, then the railroad and warehouse commissioner shall have the right, upon application of either party in interest, to designate a place for the erection of the same, not more than one-quarter of a mile beyond the end of such switch.

Then, there is a proviso that limits the liability of the railway companies as to switches extending outside of their own premises:

Provided, however, that no such owner or owners shall have the right to demand, nor shall any such railroad company be required to construct any side-track under the provisions of this Act which shall connect with the main track of such railroad outside of the outside switches of the yard of such station or siding as the same may be established at the date of such demand.

In view of this section, I do not think the Bill is so unfair as my hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) seems to think.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Flint). I think we had better take the motion to substitute the draft clause proposed by the Minister of Inland Revenue to replace the clause 40 in the Bill as the main motion. To that there is an amendment by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), and an amendment to the amendment by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson).

Mr. BRITTON. Do I understand the amendment to mean that, on the application of ten or more farmers more than one of these warehouses may be erected, even more than one by one person?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If it was the same person, he would simply increase the size of his existing warehouse.

Mr. BRITTON. However, that does not cover my point. Do I understand that this means that on the application of ten or more farmers, the commissioner may, in his judgment, authorize the erection of more than one of these warehouses at a particular station, and compel the railway companies, at their own cost, to put in the sidings? If so, do you not think it is a hardship? I do not know that the western farmers are different from others. We have to have warehouses built here. There is not a warehouse in the country that does not require railway facilities. And the railway companies, of course, are glad to give them to persons if they pay for the

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. These flat warehouses are not destined to store grain for a long time as hon. gentlemen will see by reading subsections 5 and 6 of section 40. The evident intention of the Bill is that farmers shall empty these warehouses soon after they are filled, and not to use them for a long time as store-houses.

Mr. POWELL. This is a matter I propose to discuss, even though some hon. gentlemen think some of us who take different views from themselves, are interfering with the business of the farmers in the west. That evils have existed out there there can be no doubt. An independent commission, professedly clear-headed and just men, was appointed by the government to go out there and investigate the troubles. They made this recommendation, which will be found on page 31 :

That on a written application to the warehouse commissioner by any ten farmers residing within twenty miles of a shipping point, he (the warehouse commissioner) may give permission to any person or persons to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one flat warehouse of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity at such shipping point. Such flat warehouse to be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, the railway company to be compelled to give such location, with siding, on their premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the warehouse commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators. No owner or operator of any such flat warehouse to be allowed to store in or ship through such flat warehouse grain purchased by or for himself.

Such warehouse to contain not less than six bins of 1,000 bushels capacity each, and each bin to be numbered by a separate number.

Now, there are four independent, respectable men, men of intelligence, selected especially for the work of the government, and they make this report. The Minister of Inland Revenue has gone further, and has said : I will not limit them to one warehouse for the storage of their grain, but I will give them as many as the applications that are shown to be just should demand. Not only that, but he carries the Act further and put qualifications in there which are not in the original Bill which are in favour of the farmers, and yet my hon. friend gets up and says that a person is attempting to throttle the people of the West. He must remember that he is interested, and it looks as if the hon. gentleman has, by some means or other, a prejudice that he cannot overcome. He thinks that he and his fellow farmers should get privileges that this commission did not think they were entitled to, although the general tone of the commission is very much in favour of the farmers. If the hon. gentleman can show any good reason that will convince me that the commission are wrong, I would be only too glad because, I think, where the interests of the farmers are con-

cerned we should not allow any corporation, or any body of men, to interfere with their success, as we would thereby prevent the growth of the west, because the future development of Canada certainly depends on the development of that country. But, there is this fact in addition ; take the interest of the railway itself. You allow, Tom, Dick and Harry and everybody else who makes a demand to erect a flat warehouse in the yard, and what is the result ? You get it all lumbered up, and by this Bill you compel the company to comply with the applications and the applicants are not under any financial responsibility except the payment of a rental. To my mind it would be made use of for the purpose of blackmail. Farmers generally are honest, but among that class there are people who are not any more honest than their neighbours. Such people will take the powers given to them under the Act for the purpose of blackmailing a railway company. This Act is largely tentative, if it does not meet the case, come back next year with well grounded complaints, and let us understand its workings. Here is my hon. friend, my reverend friend, who is making this application to the House. Why ? He tells us that he does not believe that the powers of this Bill will be invoked. It shows that he is not looking towards business but looking to some ulterior object other than business, because the facilities provided are not going to be realized, and the powers of the Bill are not to be invoked.

Mr. DOUGLAS. The argument of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) is exceedingly plausible, but I know the spirit and conditions of the west better than he does.

Mr. POWELL. I admit that.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I want to be understood and to be put on record as saying that this recommendation of the Royal Commission is in the very teeth of the evidence which they received from that country, and I appeal to the evidence that has been laid before the House.

Mr. POWELL. Why did you not have it brought down ?

Mr. DOUGLAS. And then, the recommendation of the Royal Commission has the stamp of the Winnipeg grain trade upon it. It is not in the interest of the farmers, but in the interests of the trade. It is the interest of the trade that is considered, and not the interest of the producer. This is the reason that I wish to stand by the idea of having an open door. We do not wish to crowd the railway companies by putting up a lot of small buildings, but, we want it left so, that every individual or any number of men, if they are aggrieved with the existing state of things, shall not be tied neck and heel to any twenty men in any city or town, but that they shall have the liberty to go

with their product to the market and to put it on the market in any way they choose. Then, they will be satisfied as to whether justice is, or is not being done to them as is their right as citizens of this Dominion. And I contend that no government whether it be Liberal or Conservative, has the right to detract from that privilege. It is true that there are certain things the production or the manufacture of which is circumscribed by law. If farmers were producing dynamite and selling it then it would be proper to apply rules and regulations to that commodity. But will hon. gentlemen tell me that such restrictions are imposed upon any other class of the community unless it be in the case of liquor, or of something that might injure a man's neighbour, but, when the farmer produces bread to feed his neighbour, who cannot provide it for himself, he is a benefactor and he ought to have a liberty to approach the market in his own way. I am not contending for the principle of flat warehouses. I do not care for flat warehouses at all. All I want is an open door which would allow farmers to put their produce on the market in their way as I believe it to be their right so to do. I hope that when a decision is reached it will be of such a character as to leave an open door. It is not one, or two, or three flat warehouses which the Bill provides for. It should not be left to the dictation of this grain commissioner appointed by the government. I do not think that we should compel any section of the country to submit to the judgment of any individual man in the community. My own opinion is that we should not have a grain commissioner, but a grain commission. My idea was to follow the Minnesota plan and have a commission of five individuals. In laying the responsibility of carrying out this Bill upon one individual we are placing more responsibility upon the shoulders of one individual than we should. It may be a tentative measure, but I am satisfied it will not continue very long until there will be not a grain commissioner, but a grain commission.

Mr. POWELL. My hon. friend (Mr. Douglas) has been so given to other worldliness that he has not got down to this world. Take things as they are. So far as this being exceptional treatment. I may say the Bill is exceptional treatment. It singles out the farming interest for exceptional and favourable treatment. I would inform the hon. gentleman that there is not an industry from one end of the country to the other that is treated so exceptionally by this parliament, or by any other legislature in the Dominion of Canada. The hon. gentleman asks for entirely exceptional privileges and rights. It is class legislation, purely and simply. I do not oppose it on that ground. I am not prepared to question it, and in a great deal that the hon. gentleman says I concur; as respects a more extensive com-

mission, there can be doubt as to its desirability. In Germany, where matters are nominally under the control of the government, they are regulated by a commission. Tariff rates are regulated by a commission, trade facilities are regulated by a commission, and on that commission are represented the different interests in the empire of Germany. Some day, I trust, we will have some such successful regulations as that here, when farmers, mechanics and producers of all kinds shall constitute the railway commission of this country. They are acquainted with the requirements of each branch of commerce in the country generally. But, at the present we are striking out upon an entirely exceptional line of legislation, we are granting privileges that have heretofore been unheard of; some oppose such favours as being granted to a particular class. I admit the necessity of legislation, but do not let us get away entirely from the past. We are going a long way at present. Give this a trial for a year or two and let us see how it works. The Minister of Inland Revenue has gone a great deal beyond what the commission has asked him to do. It is well enough for my hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) to make the statement that this commission was dictated to by a lot of grain dealers and shippers in Winnipeg. That may be so, but I do not know it.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I know it.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. gentleman does not know it. He cannot know it. It is not a legitimate use of language. What he should say is: 'I surmise it,' not 'know it.' I have no doubt he does surmise it, and his surmise may possibly be correct. I have every confidence in the minister, and if he made the selection I do not think he would select improper men. I am informed that these commissioners are very honourable men. Speaking from the experience I have in testing evidence, I would judge from their report that they have discharged their duties in a very judicial manner, indeed. These men have given their judgment of what is best suited to the requirements of the west, and we have already gone further than they have asked. Before we go to the radical length the hon. gentleman asks us to go, we ought to pause and see first how the legislation works. At present let us not give away entirely to the supposed interest of one class, more especially as our action may be the worst thing we could do in the interests of that class. In Kansas, the farmers have had some experience of railway legislation, and the greatest fizzle in the whole history of legislation is the Granger Railway legislation of the west. They secured very extreme measures and endeavoured to put them in force, and the result was that every business interest suffered, and there was a howl from one end of Kansas to the other, and the very men who are demanding the

repeal of that law are the farmers of Canada.

Mr. RICHARDSON. This is not Granger legislation.

Mr. POWELL. It is exactly in the line of Granger legislation. They over-reached themselves in Kansas, and it is possible the same may occur here.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not think any one need be alarmed about the provision as to more than one flat warehouse at a siding. If it is permissible to construct one warehouse it might be necessary to establish a second one if the needs of the business required it.

Mr. POWELL. Certainly.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The Bill provides for the enlargement of the warehouse, and I do not expect that a second one will be needed. If it is going to do any one any good to have a provision made, that if the necessity should arise there may be another warehouse, I do not think it can hurt any one to have it in the Bill. I feel confident that the way it will work out will be, that either the railway company, or persons acting in conjunction with the railway company, will provide facilities where the business is urgent. In some cases a flat warehouse will be constructed under this Act. I do not think that a second warehouse will be constructed at all, but yet it might give additional security, or they may feel it would, to the parties interested.

Mr. POWELL. The point is, introducing other legislation which gives to every man who makes application for it the right to have a small warehouse.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I was speaking to the amendment of my hon. friend (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), which I think is reasonable.

Mr. POWELL. Perfectly reasonable.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) quite appreciates the beginning of the grievances that led to the appointment of this commission. The farmers wanted to be free to ship their grain as they pleased, and because the commissioners gave their report practically through the channel of the grain trade, it does not remove that grievance any the more. Because they pointed out how the grain trade could be regulated, does not necessarily prove that the grievances of the men who have the grain to sell are going to be met. It is no argument to say that these provisions should not be inserted in the law because they would not be availed of. If they leave an alternate course open to the shipper, the conditions will be so regulated through the ordinary grain trade channels that he would be able to take advantage of them. The amendment of the hon. gentle-

man (Mr. Richardson) would do away with the necessity of putting in any of these sub-clauses at all, or that amendment could be added to section 40. In looking over the evidence, I believe that the commissioners found but very few farmers to express any desire to have the privilege to construct, or who said they would construct, a single car-load flat warehouse. However, it is my opinion that a warehouse with the capacity of 6,000 bushels is altogether too large. If the minimum were fixed at 3,000 bushels, and on the petition of five members, it seems to me that the grievance would be very fairly met.

Amendment to amendment (Mr. Richardson) negatived; amendment (Mr. Sproule) negatived.

Mr. PUTTEE. Cannot the minister substitute 3,000 bushels for 6,000?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend proposes to reduce the minimum to 3,000 bushels. I must honestly say that that is against my own personal opinion; but as there appears to be on both sides of the House a wish to reduce the minimum to 3,000 bushels, I will ask the committee to amend the clause to that effect.

Amendment agreed to, and subsection as amended, agreed to.

On section 41,

Mr. SPROULE moved:

That on an application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within twenty miles of the nearest shipping point, it will be the duty of the commissioners to inquire into the necessity for a loading platform at such shipping point and the railway company shall be heard at such inquiry, and if he deems the appliance necessary and proper, he shall serve notice to that effect on the railway company.

He said: The company ought to be heard before the commissioner comes to a decision that a platform should be erected.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. There is no necessity for this amendment at all. There is no reason why a platform should not be erected at every station for the loading of grain. The railway companies erect platforms for the accommodation of their passengers, and they make a great deal more out of shipping grain than out of passengers. At some points where the railway companies gave the privilege of loading from the wagons on to cars, the farmers had to drive their wagons into a ditch and erect ladders.

Mr. SPROULE. The railway company should be consulted as to the wisdom and convenience of erecting platforms in any specified place.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The commissioner would consult the railway company in any case.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The words 'approval of the commissioner' sufficiently protects the railway companies. He would not order anything unreasonable, and it would not be unreasonable to exact that one platform should be erected at every shipping point in the west.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman should not press this amendment. How can a railway be compelled to put up a platform without having been consulted?

Amendment (Mr. Sproule) negatived.

Mr. POWELL. I move an amendment to this effect:

Provided, however, that the railway companies shall not be obliged to erect any such platform outside the limits of the station yard.

If they put it beyond the yard, it compels them to put in another switch, and interferes with the safety of their line, and it would also put them to considerable expense.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The Minnesota law, which I quoted a short time ago has a provision similar to that suggested by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell). I think it would be well to adopt the suggestion, and in so doing we shall follow the Minnesota law which served us so greatly in the preparation of this Bill.

Mr. POWELL. If the amendment is not accepted, I would ask the Minister of Inland Revenue, in the interests of the public, not to pass clause 40 until the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has had time to consult Mr. Schreiber about it. I know from experience that the railways hesitate very greatly about putting in these sidings, as they increase the danger of operating the road. So long as they were confined to the station yard, I would not object.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. In the west they have sidings for loading wheat in any wheat-growing district, and they put these in usually of their own volition. It seems to me the clause actually covers the point suggested by the hon. member for Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) when it provides that the sidings shall be put in at the request of farmers within twenty miles of the nearest shipping point. If it is a shipping point platforms will be inside the yard.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Is 'station-yard' a term with a legal definition?

Mr. POWELL. Yes, it means within the semaphores. Beyond that there are no signals, and they cannot be sure of avoiding danger.

Amendment (Mr. Powell) agreed to.

Section, as amended, agreed to.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I propose that the following be inserted as section 42:

Mr. FIELDING.

From and after the 1st day of September, 1900, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to engage in the business of selling grain on commission, or to receive or solicit consignments of grain for sale on commission, in the inspection district of Manitoba, without first obtaining an annual license, for which he shall pay \$2. from the warehouse commissioner, to conduct and carry on the business of such commission merchant, and giving a bond to Her Majesty, with sufficient surety for the benefit of persons entrusting such commission merchant with consignments of grain to be sold on commission, in such amount as is fixed by the commissioner, subject to appeal to the minister. If such commission merchant receives grain for sale on commission, the said bond shall be conditioned that he faithfully account and report to all persons entrusting him with grain for sale on commission and pay to such persons the proceeds of the consignments of grain received by him, less the commission earned on account of the making of such sale, and necessary and actual disbursements. If he does not receive grain for sale on commission, the bond shall be conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties as such commission merchant.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I think there is grave objection to that clause. It seems to me that a man who goes into that country to purchase grain ought not to be treated like a pedlar. It will not do any good either to the farmers or to the shippers. Why should we put restrictions on a man who goes there and offers a price for grain? The farmers of the North-west know all about the price of wheat; there is no fear of anybody imposing on them. Why should this man be obliged to pay two dollars to get a license to purchase wheat?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. This refers to commission merchants; if he has the money to pay for the wheat he does not need a license.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There are so many cases in which it has been found indispensable to protect the farmers that this clause has been introduced. A similar experience had led to a similar clause in the Minnesota law.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). But where is the protection to the farmers, because this man has to take out a license?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. He must give bonds, so that in case he should deceive the farmer the latter can sue him.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I would like the hon. gentleman to give me some information. As this appears to me, a man requires a license to sell grain on commission. If a man has the money to buy grain and pay for it, and he sells it again, he does not need any license. The man who buys and sells on commission is the man who buys wheat without money, and trusts to his sales to pay for it. Those are the men by whom our farmers lose money every year.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is a new doctrine that a commission merchant should take out a license. I do not see any difference in purchasing wheat from purchasing anything else.

Mr. DAVIN. Have there been cases where farmers have lost in this way?

Mr. DOUGLAS. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. If there is a single case where they have lost, of course it is a good thing that the man who buys the grain should give bonds and place himself in a responsible position.

On section 45.

Mr. POWELL. I cannot get any meaning out of a good deal of the verbiage of this clause.

Notwithstanding that elevators of any greater or other capacity shall be erected at such point or for any other cause other than non-compliance with the law or as next hereinafter provided.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Until now the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, on the erection of a standard elevator at a station where a flat warehouse has hitherto existed, has been in the habit of refusing cars to the flat warehouse and closing it up. The first part of this clause, I understand, is a suggestion from the commission to prevent in future that action on the part of the railway company.

Mr. POWELL. What is the meaning of this 'notwithstanding.' It means on account of.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. In 1883 there was so much difficulty in handling grain that a great part of it had to be piled up. Then the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in order to encourage the building of elevators, made certain arrangements for standard elevators of the capacity of 25,000 bushels. These elevator men had certain privileges or monopolies which, since that time, have been set aside. But this law is passed so that all the smaller flat warehouses and all that are now existing, should not be set aside.

Mr. POWELL. There are certainly some words in this clause that are altogether meaningless: 'or for any other cause other than non-compliance with the law or as next hereinafter provided.' Well, there is nothing hereinafter provided.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I wrote to Winnipeg to get the meaning of that clause, and was not successful. But I am perfectly certain it is a most humanitarian and benevolent clause, and there can be no possible harm in our adopting it. I cannot explain what the clause means, but I am perfectly certain no harm is intended by it.

On section 47.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved:

That the words 'or buying' shall be inserted after the word 'selling' in the forty-sixth line.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 50.

Mr. SPROULE. Do you not think that the rules and regulations made under the authority of the Act, should be posted in every licensed elevator and warehouse, as well as in every licensed terminal elevator?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We will strike out the word 'terminal' in the thirteenth line, so that it will read as follows:

The rules and regulations made under the authority of this Act shall be posted up by the commissioner in a conspicuous place in every licensed elevator and warehouse.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Look at the next clause, which is as follows:

Such of the said rules and regulations as refer to dealings between producers, buyers, shippers and elevator or warehousemen, together with such portions of this Act as the commissioner or the Governor in Council deems proper, shall be printed in reasonably large type by the commissioner and posted in a conspicuous place in every licensed elevator or warehouse by the owner thereof.

Mr. SPROULE. Why do you want two clauses, both referring to the same thing?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is a distinction between the two, but we will take out the word 'terminal' in the first one.

Mr. DAVIN. You should have them in the warehouses if you have them in the elevators.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Why not put it altogether, so that it will read:

The rules and regulations shall be printed in reasonably large type by the commissioner and posted in a conspicuous place in every licensed elevator or warehouse by the owner thereof.

There is only need for one of these clauses if it is properly worded, but it requires to be carefully worded.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We must take time to examine that carefully. I think these two clauses do not contradict one another. One of them applies to terminal warehouses, and the other to country warehouses.

Mr. DAVIN. I am quite satisfied with the section as it is.

On section 52.

Mr. DAVIN. I had in my Bill a No. 10 tester, which is the same as ten meshes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It is the same thing. Would it not be better, at the end of that

clause. to say: The use of damaged and defective sieves shall be an offence under this Act?

On section 53.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I would suggest the addition of the following words, which I think the hon. member for West Assiniboia was proposing before dinner. I think this will about meet his views. I b. g. to move:

That after the word 'weighed' in the twenty-ninth line there shall be inserted the following words: 'And shall have ample opportunity, if they so desire, of personally ascertaining the net weight of the cleaned grain.'

The clause will then read:

Persons interested in the weighing of any grain at country elevators or warehouses shall have free access to the scale while such grain is being weighed and shall have ample opportunity, if they so desire, of personally ascertaining the net weight of the cleaned grain.

Mr. DAVIN. In the dirt that they dock, there is a large amount of small grain that farmers tell me is very valuable to them.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes, but unfortunately it is so much mixed with weed, that the law prevents them using it, and they are afraid of turning it out on account of the weeds.

Mr. DAVIN. I think it is a pity that we cannot solve that question in some way, because complaints in regard to that constitute a great grievance. They want to be allowed to make use of this small grain that they feed to their hens. However, it is a very difficult question, I know, with the local legislation, and the local ordinances, and I do not see how it can be dealt with.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Why should not this clause refer to 'all elevators'? For instance, the milling companies who do not clean grain would be exempt under this clause.

Mr. SPROULE. I would go much further than this clause if I had my way. I would compel every one whose duty it was to weigh grain to make an affidavit that they would faithfully discharge their duties. Anything less than that will still leave it to a large number of people to do what is not honest. A farmer may know a little about the scales, yet the whole thing is done so quickly that he cannot tell whether the grain is weighed correctly or incorrectly. In a case like that it would be no hardship on any one charged with the duty of weighing grain to provide that he should make an affidavit that he would discharge his duty faithfully.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. What would be the value of the affidavit of a man who would wilfully falsify weights?

Mr. SPROULE. There might be men who would wilfully falsify weights and yet would not make a false affidavit. One great

Mr. RUTHERFORD.

trouble is that those who sell grain know nothing about the exact weight of it, as they do not see it, and they are often cheated by dishonest weighers.

Mr. DAVIN. Why not add to the beginning of the clause 'and in all elevators wheat shall be cleaned.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Have all the elevators got machinery for cleaning?

Mr. DOUGLAS. The milling companies have not, but why should they not?

Mr. SPROULE. Would the minister introduce a clause to compel those who weigh grain to make a statutory declaration that they shall do so honestly?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Would they have to do that for every load?

Mr. SPROULE. No, there is a man there all the time weighing.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Suppose the man employed at the elevator to weigh grain was absent for any cause and another man took his place, it might be in a country place where there was no magistrate, how would you administer the oath?

Mr. SPROULE. That would be a very rare and exceptional case. These elevators are, I suppose, in a settlement where there would probably be a magistrate, but, at all events, it would be an easy matter for them to take the oath before they commence their duties.

Mr. DAVIN. Would not the minister provide that all elevators built henceforth shall be supplied with machinery for cleaning grain?

Mr. DOUGLAS. I propose to include all elevators, and that will cover the whole case.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is, to a certain degree, an experimental Bill, and we should not take it for granted that all elevators have cleaning apparatus.

Mr. DAVIN. We can provide, that in all elevators built after this there shall be cleaning machinery.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I may say that on the Northern Pacific elevators there are no cleaners at all.

Mr. DAVIN. They should be compelled to put them in.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. What about the grain shipped through warehouses?

Mr. DAVIN. We cannot help that.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think it is well not to grasp too much at once. We have trouble enough now, and I think we had better leave this.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Very well, I will not press it.

Mr. DAVIN. I know that the farmers of the North-west attach very much importance to this, and I would suggest that we let this clause stand, and consider it when we go into committee at a future period.

Mr. SPROULE. Before this section is disposed of, I beg to move :

That all parties entrusted with the duty of weighing grain at these elevators or warehouses shall take a statutory oath for the correct performance of their duty.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That may stand with the clause, and we will consider the two together.

Section allowed to stand.

On section 55,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think we must go to extremes in fixing these fines. I mean to say, that I think the minimum ought to be small, because there are many offences under the Act which do not call for a heavy penalty, while there are others which should be severely punished. Therefore, I would suggest not less than \$25 or more than \$1,000.

Mr. DAVIN. Ten dollars is a large enough minimum.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Very well, put it at \$10.

Section agreed to.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.45 a.m. Tuesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 22, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S PUBLIC LIFE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are called, I am going to ask the kind indulgence of the House to say a single word in

reference to the very kind manner in which I have been received here to-day by both sides. I need not say, Sir, how deeply I have been touched by the kind manner in which my friends on this side of the House have marked the completion of the forty-fifth year of my public life, and not less so by the very generous manner in which the same spirit has been evinced by hon. gentlemen to whom I am opposed politically. I may say, Sir, that I was elected to represent my native county, the county of Cumberland, Nova Scotia, on May 22, 1855, so that to-day is the completion of forty-five years of continuous public life. During that period I have been engaged in the active practice of the medical profession for twenty-nine years, and I have had the good or bad fortune to hold the highest offices in my native province and in the Dominion of Canada, for twenty-eight years of my public life; and I think almost every person will agree that unless I was a great glutton both of office and of emoluments arising from it, I ought to be abundantly satisfied with the past. If I were half as polite a person as King Charles II., who apologized to those who had been detained for some time standing around his bedside to see him expire, I would make an apology for lagging on the stage of public life so long. I can only say that it is not my desire that that period should be very much longer continued; but, I am afraid I shall have to remain, at all events, until the electorate of the country shall decide which of the two great parties who are now contending for power in this country are to enjoy it during the period which is to come.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sure, Mr. Speaker, though I have no right to speak in this House except for one side of it, that on this occasion I voice the sentiments not only of those who are here present, but the sentiments of the whole Canadian people, when I express our pleasure that we are able to see this day and to congratulate my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, upon the completion of the forty-fifth year of his public service to his country. It is one of the blessings of political life that it is possible sometimes to forget that we are divided in opinion. It is one of the redeeming features of public life that though our fights are keen and sometimes bitter, still, after all, we can realize that beneath, or I should say above, there are nobler sentiments that guide us. I do not share the views of my hon. friend on many questions; those who are associated with me have taken issue with him upon many questions of public interest; but I am proud and glad to bear this testimony to the public career of my hon. friend, that, though I might take exception to it in many ways, it will live, and live for the best, in the history of Canada. It has been his good fortune to be associated

in some of the great events of his time ; it has been his good fortune to be associated with the great event which brought Canada to the proud position it now occupies—which brought it from the condition of diversified, scattered provinces, to that of a united nation. For my part, I hail with pleasure the announcement that my hon. friend is to lead his party at the next general elections, and I do so, not by any means because I minimize his influence. On the contrary, I am fully conscious of the great power which his strong personality must exercise on the electors of Canada, but I do it all the more sincerely because, entrenched in the justice of the cause I represent, I am convinced that, notwithstanding all his efforts, he will still remain where he is, long to adorn the Canadian parliament.

THE OTTAWA FIRE RELIEF VOTE.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to say a word on a subject which I brought once before to the attention of my right hon. friend and the House. My right hon. friend will remember that shortly after the great fire here, there was some talk across the floor with reference to the government contribution, and I ventured to intimate that it would be well if the gift of \$100,000 by this parliament could be made in some way or other conditional, so that its expenditure might have the result of bringing about more staple buildings and, consequently, safer conditions in the future in this city. I am not aware whether the government has handed over the whole of its contribution or not, or how far it considers it right to advise with the relief committee on the expenditure of the same. But, I wish to say that an event transpired last night in this city, which emphasizes the opinion of some members of this House, at least, that the gift of this parliament ought to have been accompanied with certain conditions, compulsory or advisory. The action of the city council last night, as I understand it, simply relegated the construction of buildings in this city to the old by-laws, without any improvement of any kind whatsoever. So that, buildings may be put up, entirely lacking in fire-proof qualities, with shingle roofs and timber trimmings. That is a matter which is to be deplored for many reasons, and I wish to call the attention of my right hon. friend to the matter, and emphasize the feeling which, I believe, is very general, that the city council and municipal authorities would only have been carrying out the general wish of the kind and generous donors of this great gift, if they had endeavoured to fence about the future construction of buildings in this city with fairly reasonable and safe conditions.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am not in a position to give any

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information to my hon. friend as to whether or not we have handed over to the relief committee the sum voted by parliament.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We have.

The PRIME MINISTER. I expressed my views the other day to my hon. friend that, much as I sympathized personally with the opinions he then expressed, I was not aware, and could not conceive, how the government could in any way enforce them. I regret as much as he does the conclusion reached last night by the city council. The time has come in the history of Ottawa when it should provide for fire-proof buildings and compel all builders to conform with such a provision. That might be a little more expensive, but it is in my judgment a mistaken kindness to the people of Ottawa, even to the poorer classes, not to compel them to put up buildings absolutely fire-proof. Unfortunately, the city council, as I am informed, have decided otherwise. But, apart from the remonstrance which my hon. friend and my self and everybody can make, as citizens of Ottawa, the government has no power to enforce the wishes which, for my part, I would be glad to see realized.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière)? The members of the relief committee will have something to say regarding the manner in which that enormous sum of money is to be spent, and, to a certain degree, can remedy the action of the city council. Surely, those hundreds of thousands of dollars subscribed are not all going to be spent in paying for furniture and clothes lost, and in feeding and supporting the people until they can find work. I think that the committee—of course, I speak subject to correction—has power to decide in what way those large sums ought to be spent, and the right to impose certain conditions on those to whom they give money to put up new buildings, and give it only to those who will undertake to put up buildings that will afford greater security against fire.

LABOUR TROUBLES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) I would like to ask the right hon. gentleman who leads the government if he can state when Mr. Clute's report on the labour troubles in British Columbia will be brought down?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). It will be brought down, I believe, to-morrow—that is to say, the evidence and first report. There is, I think, a supplementary report, but I am not certain. The first report is over a thousand pages.

GRAIN INSPECTION IN MANITOBA.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 141) an Act respecting the grain trade in the inspection district of Manitoba.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). With the consent of the committee, I propose that we go over the Bill again, taking up those sections that were allowed to stand yesterday.

On clause 4, subsection *a*,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This subsection and also subsections *b* and *c*, were allowed to stand until we had gone through the whole Bill. Now that we have gone through the Bill, hon. members will see the necessity for these clauses.

On section 5,

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I move that this clause be amended, by adding the following words:

And shall see that at each point where an elevator or warehouse is established throughout Manitoba and the North-west, bulletins shall be posted up each day from September 1 to January 1, showing the prices ruling at Winnipeg and Fort William at ten o'clock a.m. of that day.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am sorry that I must oppose this amendment. I gave my reasons yesterday for opposing it. A great many hon. members were absent then, so I may recapitulate briefly my reasons. Apart from the expense of telegraphing every day to every one of these stations and having agents post these bulletins, my principal reason for opposing the amendment, is that I object to making the government responsible for the contents of these bulletins, on the basis of which, no doubt, a great many business transactions would be carried on. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin), points to the clause we have already adopted, which provides that the commissioner shall keep on file in his office, publications, showing the prices ruling in the principal markets of the world. There is no responsibility upon the government in subscribing to newspapers in different parts of the world, showing the state of the markets, and keeping them on file in the office of the commissioner. This clause was taken from the Minnesota Act, from which we have taken nearly the whole of this Bill. That Act provides:

The said commission shall keep on file for public inspection publications showing the market price of grain and farm products in the markets of Liverpool, London, Paris, Hamburg, New York, Buffalo, Quebec, San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis and Duluth. Also the freight rates between said markets, either by railroad, lake, ocean or other means of transportation.

They are not to publish daily bulletins and send them everywhere, but a weekly bulletin.

They shall publish a weekly bulletin or market report showing the prices paid in said markets for farm products. Said market report to show the prices as reported by the publications received from the other cities for one week and immediately preceding the date of said publication, as near as practicable; also the rates of freight between Duluth and Minneapolis and said markets. Said bulletin to be kept on file in said institution and in the office of said commission in St. Paul; also to be furnished by mail to all persons who shall order the same and pay the price fixed by said commission, which shall not exceed \$1 per annum.

I think it would be very dangerous for the government to take upon itself the responsibility of keeping the whole North-west farming community correctly acquainted with the daily price of grain.

Mr. DAVIN. I have only to say that the principle of my amendment is the same as that of the clause in the Bill.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). May I ask, what is the purpose of the provision of clause 5, as it stands?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The commission in preparing its report, took a great deal from the Minnesota Act, including this clause. The purpose of the clause is perfectly evident. It is thought that this will be a benefit to people who take the trouble to look at the files kept in the commissioner's office, from which they can gain some information as to the movement of the grain market all over the world. I do not pretend to say that I see very much advantage in the clause; but it is in the Bill, and it cannot do much harm, while it will be a benefit to those who take the trouble to consult the publications in the commissioner's office.

Mr. OLIVER. It appears to me, that on the face of it, this section purports to give information. Now, if it gives information only to one class of the community, that is to the grain buyers, who circulate around the commissioner's office, I certainly am not in favour of going no further. I believe in giving the information to everybody, if we give it at all; and if you cannot give it to everybody, then, do not profess to give it to anybody. Putting the matter shortly, I am in favour of striking out section 5, or of supporting the amendment of the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin).

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver), will move to strike out the clause, I have no objection.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not propose to move to strike it out. The section is there; and I will support the amendment if the section remains. If the minister sees fit to strike it out, that is another affair. My objection is that as it stands, it is apparently in favour of one class of the community, leaving the other out of consideration.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is an appeal to popular feeling. I see. If my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) would read the clause with attention he would see the purport of it. The publications the commissioner is to keep on file are the commercial papers published in those commercial cities, and they will be kept there for the information of the public, quite as much for the poor as for the rich.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negative.

On section 26,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I must now ask the committee to go back to clause 26, which was passed yesterday. The committee will see that section 35 covers the case of grain heated or damaged when kept in store in country elevators and flat warehouses, but that provision has been overlooked in the case of terminal elevators. My attention was called to it, and I propose to introduce a subsection founded on the Bill passed in the state of Minnesota on that subject. Section 35 says:

In case any country warehouseman discovers that any portion of the specially binned grain in his elevator or warehouse is out of condition or becoming so, and it is not in his power to preserve it, he shall immediately give written notice thereof by registered letter to the commissioner and to the owner of the grain, when possible.

Then it goes on to state how he shall give notice to the owner to remove that grain, and if, after a certain delay, the grain is not removed, he shall give public notice in the press and sell it. I propose to adopt this same provision in the case of the terminal elevators by the proposed subsection, which I will read:

No terminal warehouseman shall be held liable for damage to grain by heating, if it can be shown that he has exercised proper care in the handling and storing of the same, and such heating was the result of causes beyond his control. It shall be deemed the duty of such warehouseman to dispose of by delivery or shipping in the ordinary legal manner of so delivering that grain of any particular grade, which was first received by him, or which has been for the longest time in store in his elevator.

Now, it will be remembered that in these terminal elevators the grain loses its identity, all the grain gathered there becomes one. In order to prevent the danger of the good grain newly brought in becoming heated, the amendment provides for getting rid at once of the grain that came there first, so as to avoid the danger of the heated grain communicating the fermentation to the good grain:

Unless public notice has been given, as hereafter provided, by him, that some portion of the grain in his elevator is out of condition, or becoming so, such warehouseman shall deliver grain of quality equal to that received by him on all receipts presented.

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In case, however, any terminal warehouseman shall discover that any portion of the grain in his elevator is out of condition, or becoming so, and it is not in his power to preserve the same, he shall immediately, by registered letter, give written notice thereof to the warehouse commissioner, and at the same time give public notice by advertising in a daily newspaper in the city in which such warehouse is situated, and in Winnipeg; and by posting a notice in his elevator and in the Grain Exchange at Winnipeg, of its actual condition as near as he can ascertain. He shall state in such notice the kind and grade of the grain, and the bins in which it is stored, and shall state in such notice the receipts outstanding upon which such grain will be delivered, giving the numbers, amounts and dates of each, which receipts shall be those of the oldest dates then in circulation or uncancelled, the grain represented, but which has not previously been declared out of condition. And the enumeration of receipts and identification of grain so discredited shall embrace, as near as may be, as great a quantity of grain as is contained in such bins. And such grain shall be delivered upon the return and cancellation of the receipts.

Nothing herein contained shall be held to relieve the said warehouseman from exercising proper care and vigilance in preserving such grain after such publication of its condition, but such grain shall be kept separate and apart from all direct contact with other grain, and shall not be mixed with other grain while in store in such elevator. Any warehouseman guilty of any act of neglect, the effect of which is to depreciate property stored in the elevator under his control, shall be held responsible as at common law, or upon the bond of such warehouseman, and in addition thereto the license of such warehouseman shall be revoked.

In case the grain declared out of condition, as herein provided for, shall not be removed from store by the owner thereof within one month from the date of the notice of its being out of condition, it shall be lawful for the warehouseman in whose elevator the grain is stored, to sell the same at public auction, for the account of the said owner, by giving ten days' public notice by advertisement in a newspaper published in the city or town where such elevator is located, and in Winnipeg.

Nothing in this clause shall be so construed as to permit any warehouseman to deliver any grain stored in a special bin or by itself, to any but the owner of the lot.

The only purpose of this amendment is to put the terminal warehouses in the same position as the country warehouses.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). I think the word 'shall' in the fifth line of section 26 is rather peremptory. I suggest that it be changed to 'may.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved:

That the word 'may' be substituted for the word 'shall' in the fifth line of section 26.

Amendment agreed to.

On section 34,

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I will ask the committee to take into con-

sideration once more section 34. We overlooked a point which can clearly be explained if hon. members will look at line 13, page 9. Subsection 3 reads as follows:

The operator of any elevator or warehouse may at any time forward any grain stored in his elevator to any terminal elevator in the Manitoba inspection district on the same line of railway, or on railways connecting therewith.

On page 8, line 29, you will see we made a provision as follows:

Except that in the case of a country elevator or warehouse of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway line—

And we have forgotten to make this provision in subsection 3. I therefore beg to move:

That after the word 'therewith' in the thirteenth line, the following words be added: 'Except that in the case of a country elevator or warehouse on the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway line or any line of railway operated therewith, it may be delivered on track at the proper terminal elevator at or adjacent to Duluth.'

Motion agreed to.

Mr. POWELL. The first clause had some amendment made to it.

Mr. DAVIN. We made a great number of amendments to this clause. I think before we pass it finally, we ought to have the clause as amended.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Oh, no; we have made them all very carefully. They were all written beforehand in red ink.

On section 52.

Mr. DAVIN. The unsatisfactory character of the amendment moved by the minister is, that you have at the present time a number of elevators where cleaning is done, and you have other elevators where cleaning is not done. There is nothing to guarantee that elevators put up in the future shall have cleaning apparatus. If you will study the evidence given by Mr. Whyte, manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and study the evidence given by farmers at the meetings of the commission, you will find it is a most important thing that every elevator should have cleaning apparatus. The objections urged against having cleaning apparatus put in these elevators which at present have not got it; these objections are futile, because I am assured by persons who understand what they are talking about, that the cost of putting in cleaning apparatus into these elevators which have not got it, would be trifling. I am told that all that would be necessary would be to add a very small lean-to to one of the elevators and the machinery, which is cheap, could be put in. You should put in cleaning apparatus that will separate the plump wheat from what is called the dirt: a word that covers small grain, cracked grain, and weed seeds. The

weed seeds are very small, and I am assured that it would not be very onerous that every elevator should have such fanning machinery and screens as would separate at the same time, the good grain from the small grain and the weed seeds, and would not only do that, but would separate the cracked grain and the small wheat from what is really the dirt, and which should be destroyed. In looking over the evidence, I find that a very large amount of this dirt, according to Mr. Whyte's evidence, is used for fuel purposes, and he says that when it is mixed with other fuel it makes very good fuel. He very properly says that the farmer should not have to pay for that. Why should the farmer have to pay the freight rates on dirt hauled from Regina or Edmonton or Prince Albert to Fort William in order that a great railway may be able to use it as fuel? Mr. Whyte does not wish it. He says it is not the proper thing. As a broad-minded man, he says the railway is interested in having the best possible machinery for taking out the farmers' grain. He says—and who can doubt it?—that it is a good thing for the railway that the farmer should get the most possible out of his grain. Mr. Whyte's evidence is here, and with the permission of the committee I will read some things that he said on this subject, because I think we ought to know what the opinion of a man who can talk with so much authority is on a subject like this. In answer to a question by Mr. Sirett, Mr. Whyte said:

This morning I gave you my reasons for the establishment of elevators. I am not saying now that the allowing of grain to be loaded from farmers' vehicles is the proper method of shipping grain, although it was free to every one this year to do so, and I have also given evidence that instructions were issued to our agents that preference was to be given in the supply of cars to farmers who wished to load direct from their own vehicles. Last year there were 804 cars shipped in this way, or slightly over 5 per cent of the total crop shipped. While we granted that privilege, I am not an advocate of increasing what I may term an improper way of handling the crop. I also mentioned this morning one of the reasons why the railway company went into the arrangement with the elevators was that the wheat might be cleaned.

One of the reasons why inducements were given to men to erect elevators was, not the convenience of the railway, but that the wheat might be cleaned.

That is one of the conditions, that there must be a cleaner in the elevator.

If the Canadian Pacific Railway felt bound to make that a condition of allowing an elevator to be erected on their line, why should we not insist that the Ogilvie Company or the elevator company, or the Northern Pacific Company should see that cleaners are put into their elevators?

The railway company believe that it is in the interest of the farmer to have his wheat put on the market in as good shape as possible. They have no wish to make money out of hauling seeds and dirt from the point of shipment to Fort William.

If the railway company have no wish to make money out of hauling seeds and dirt from the point of shipment to Fort William, is it to be supposed for one moment that the farmer has any interest in paying for the hauling of those seeds and dirt?

Q. There are two of the companies that do not pretend to clean the wheat at all?—A. Yes, but they don't haul it as far. They have their elevators here or at Keewatin. We have a greater interest than making money out of hauling dirt. We want to see the farmers making money and contented.

Q. The cleaning of the wheat at the receiving point, I think, is a detriment in connection with the question of noxious weeds, because it is almost impossible to get rid of the weed seeds at these places, and it is scattered around, we find, in different districts, and blows all over the country?—A. Can't they take them back to the engine and burn them? We don't allow them to blow them out on our station grounds. It is only a little expense and trouble to convey these noxious weeds back and put them into the boiler and consume them. So that disposes of that objection.

Q. The objection raised is that they do not make a good fuel. Then, wheat—there is a grievance in connection with that, that the farmers lose that. They think when they pay for the cleaning of the wheat that they should get it back again, and this difficulty is raised with reference to the cleaning at the receiving elevators?—A. We have used them at Fort William and find that we can't get as good a head of steam from them as from coal, but ordinarily get all the steam we want from these foreign seeds mixed with a little coal.

There you have a most disinterested opinion as to the necessity of this government compelling all elevator owners to have cleaners in their elevators, and to save the farmer the cost of paying for the freighting of his wheat from the point of shipment to Fort William; and he points out that the elevator man at a little expense can have the advantage which they have at Fort William of using this refuse as fuel. I am told by persons who have engineering ability that the statement made by those interested in the elevator companies that it is an expensive thing to put in cleaners in those elevators that have not got them, is a complete mistake. It is quite clear, therefore, that the amendment of my hon. friend who has charge of this Bill does not meet the case, and what I suggest is this: That all the words of the hon. minister's amendment should be left out, and that the following words be added at the end of subsection 1, of section 52:

—and every elevator shall clean the grain before it is weighed, and shall have appliances by which small wheat and cracked wheat shall be separated from dirt and noxious weeds, and the seller shall have an opportunity of personally ascertaining the weight of the cleaned grain

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and of the cleaning; and the proprietors of any elevator failing to provide machinery for thus cleaning and weighing grain shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assiniboia). I regret to be obliged to state that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) seems entirely to misapprehend the meaning of this proposed amendment to clause 52. The purpose is not to compel certain companies to introduce into their elevators cleaning machinery, but to satisfy the public with reference to the weighing and cleaning. As I had something to do personally with drafting this amendment, I would call attention to clause No. 9 in my Bill No. 58, which is now on the Order paper. This clause does not deal with terminal elevators. It reads as follows:

9. All elevators and warehouses where the government weighmaster or his assistant is not present, the owner, or proprietor, or agent of a company, shall weigh the grain offered in the following manner:

1. The grain shall be weighed in the vision of the interested party. He shall ascertain the gross weight of the quantity offered.

2. He shall then clean it (if requested) on the same floor and in the presence of the interested party. Having separated the seeds and dirt, the same shall be weighed and the weight shall be deducted from the gross weight, and a certificate given to the interested party setting forth the gross weight and the net weight after deducting the weight of seeds and dirt, which shall also appear on the face of the certificate. The cleanings thus deducted shall be the property of the grain producer, and may be taken away should he so desire.

It was felt that this was a matter which should be put beyond the possibility of any deception, and the principle in this amendment is really the one involved in section 9 of my Bill, which I have just read. The interested party, if he so desires, shall have ample opportunity of personally ascertaining the gross weight, and then the net weight after cleaning. I may state that by means of the latest machinery now being used in the United States, and being introduced in some sections of our own western country, the grain is weighed in the presence of the seller or purchaser, and he has an opportunity of ascertaining the gross weight, the weight of the cleanings, and the net weight, and having these stated upon the certificate. This enables the party interested to see for himself whether he is getting justice or not. It was felt by the commission that it might be somewhat difficult to introduce that system throughout the country as a whole. However, without compelling the milling companies and the elevators on to the Northern Pacific, to introduce cleaning machinery, we endorsed the principle and sought to introduce it under section 52 of the government Bill now under consideration, and I am satisfied that the amendment I propose is of decided importance, but I think the hon.

member for West Assiniboia scarcely apprehends the exact meaning of the proposed amendment to section 52.

Mr. DAVIN. With great deference to the opinion of my hon. friend, I thoroughly apprehend the amendment and want to go further. We are on the clause dealing with the weighing of grain, and I am proposing an amendment to it dealing entirely with the weighing of grain, and my hon. friend says that it is in some way incongruous and that I misapprehend the clause; and then he read the clause from his Bill No. 58. I do not know what his object was in referring to that clause. I do not know whether he is going to support my amendment or not.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am not sure.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, I would rather the hon. gentleman were in doubt than that he should be decided to oppose my amendment. If his object, in reading the clause from his Bill, was to indicate that, in some way or other, I had taken my amendment from his Bill, let me tell the hon. gentleman that I have a Bill of my own, No. 38, introduced before his, and in which a clause embodying the same principle will be found. I refer to clause 9 of Bill No. 38, which reads as follows:

Elevators built after the passing of this Act, used for the purpose of storing and handling grain for hire, shall be provided with machinery to enable the grain as hauled to be weighed and cleaned, and the resultant grain and cleanings severally weighed. The manager of every elevator having such facilities shall hand the farmer or other person who has hauled the grain a certificate or wheat ticket showing the weight in each case and the percentage of dirt. In a case where one of the existing elevators does not possess such facilities, then the buyer shall hand the seller a wheat ticket showing the estimated percentage of dirt.

Let us get away altogether from any question except this: How are you going to improve this Bill, so as to make it the best thing almost for the North-west Territories and Manitoba?

Suppose the government had not introduced this Bill and my hon. friend had introduced his, I would have thought, for reasons I need not mention, that he had a better chance of getting his Bill through than mine, and would have supported his Bill. My amendment is one that will really benefit the farmers, and in the end the elevator men. People think the Canadian Pacific Railway is opposed to legislation of this kind, but we have the opinion of Mr. Whyte, who tells us that they actually legislated themselves in regard to their own elevators, by making it a condition that the elevators built on the Canadian Pacific Railway, should have those cleaners. Let us therefore act in the interests of the farmer and do the best we can for him. I will be most happy, if my amendment does

not meet the case, to withdraw it in favour of a better one, but if my amendment meets the case, let us support it.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I regret that I consider it my duty to oppose the amendment of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin). We are giving proof that the government are anxious to come to the help of the farmers, and have trespassed perhaps upon other ground, for both the elevator and the railway people consider that we are subjecting them to hardship. However, it is so important to favour in every way the grain growers of the North-west, that we felt justified in bringing down this measure. My hon. friend wants to force every future elevator to be equipped not only with a cleaner, but first to have the weighing done before cleaning and then after cleaning. I do not like to say that my hon. friend does not know the cost of the machinery, because he must have seen much more of the elevators and the working of grain in the North-west than I could in the few days I was there, but from what I have seen it is very expensive to equip elevators with this machinery, which will take up first the grain and then weigh it, then clean it, and then divide and subdivide the grain. That is much more than I think we have the right to ask from the elevators. My hon. friend read the first subsection of clause 9. But the second subsection, which he did not read, is as follows:

3. In testing for the purpose of arriving at the amount of dockage a No. 10 tester shall be used.

How can that estimated percentage be found out? By the very process my hon. friend suggests and that we have adopted now. Last evening, in the two clauses preceding this one, we provided that where elevators had not this machinery—there are not many of them that have it—in order to find out the exact amount of deduction that should be made:

When testing sieves are used for the purposes of dockage, the wire cloth used in their construction shall have ten meshes to the inch each way, and be of No. 28 standard gauge hard tinned steel wire, and every such sieve shall be verified by the commissioner. The use of damaged or defective sieves shall be an offence.

That is, we provided, as my hon. friend's Bill did, that the amount of dirt to be allowed for should be decided by test. Furthermore, there is another clause in this Bill which is a repetition of the clause which was introduced in the Inspection Bill at the request of my hon. friend. It was not introduced in this House, but in the Senate. It is a clause providing that, when a farmer is not satisfied with the price offered for his wheat or with the weight, that is with the amount of dockage, each of the parties may take a sample of that load of wheat and send it to the inspector; and the whole procedure to be followed in order that jus-

tice may be rendered as between the parties is provided for. Under these circumstances, I do not think we should adopt the amendment of my hon. friend.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. Minister of Inland Revenue sees that the clause in my Bill provided that elevators built after the passing of that Act should be provided with this machinery. When I drafted that clause, I was not in a position to inquire from any person who could tell me with authority what the cost of putting in this machinery was, and I was therefore unwilling to make the clause retroactive. This clause of mine would be better as it is than what he has if the hon. minister will accept it. But I am told that it would not cost them much to put in machinery. He is quite right in saying that in this Bill he has provided that in testing so as to arrive at the amount of dockage a No. 10 tester shall be used. That was suggested to me at Regina, when the thing was thoroughly threshed out in evidence. There are 447 elevators in the Manitoba inspection district—'Manitoba district,' meaning Manitoba and the North-west Territories. It does not say in the report what percentage of these have cleaners: but suppose that we say one-quarter of them have—

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. From the information I have received, I am led to believe that not as many as one-quarter of them have cleaners.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, to begin with, there is the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, with fifty elevators. They have no cleaners. They are an immensely rich corporation, and we are to snigger and dicker as to whether a few cents is to be taken out of the pockets of the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. Then, there is the Ogilvie Milling Company, with forty-five elevators, and they have no cleaners. And again you are to dicker and snigger and sneeze at taking a few thousands or a few tens of hundreds, or a few hundred dollars, as the case may be, out of the pockets of this corporation. This company has made vast wealth out of the North-west Territories. If they have made vast wealth, out of whom have they made it? They could only have made it out of the farmers who had grown grain and sold them grain. And we are to hawk at a proposal to compel these men make their elevators efficient, fit to do the work that, in the emphatic and sworn language of Mr. Whyte, the manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is needed in the interest of the North-west Territories. Then, we have the farmers' elevator companies. I do not know whether they have cleaners or not. Then, you have have the 'individual millers and grain dealers own'—I do not know what that means—there are 120 elevators. And the three line elevators own 206. All the persons behind these are rich peo-

ple; they have vast capital; they can make monster elevators and can provide any machinery which will have the effect of adding to their wealth. But, forsooth, we are to shed crocodile tears in this committee, in this parliament of Canada, over the harsh measure dealt out to these poor fellows if they are made to pay out a few hundred dollars in order to make their elevators fit to do justice to the farmers.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). If this proposal is practicable, it would be well that it should be done; but for my part, I do not see how it would be possible to make it work. Leaving out of consideration the cost, it is plain that the farmers will be detained at the elevators, which might at times be inconvenient to them. Suppose a man had 30 or 40 teams—or suppose he had only one and was delivering from day to day, he would be compelled to remain a considerable length of time after the grain was emptied before he could get a return.

Mr. DAVIN. No.

Mr. SPROULE. I respectfully submit that if you get any machinery that will clean the grain as fast as it is emptied out, it will be expensive machinery. In many cases, I believe, the elevators would not have room for it. I agree that if it could be done it is a desirable thing, because it is the only fair way to deal with the grain.

Mr. DOUGLAS. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) will allow me, I would say that it is done in the farmers' elevators. Complete machinery has lately been introduced that will clean the grain as fast as it can be emptied into the hopper.

Mr. MacLAREN. What does it cost?

Mr. DOUGLAS. I do not know, the farmers' elevator on the Pipe Stone branch does this successfully, and a certificate is given of the gross weight, the net weight and the weight of cleanings, leaving no room for dispute as to the proper weight being allowed.

Mr. SPROULE. I admit that they would have to put in very costly machinery, and I think the hon. gentleman ought to be prepared to give us some approximate estimate of the cost of the machinery. The minister stated that a No. 10 tester would be used. I do not know what that is, but I assume it is used on the same principle as that upon which the weight was formerly ascertained in Ontario, that is, taking one-sixteenth of a bushel.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We take a larger quantity now, instead of one-sixteenth we take a bushel for a test.

Mr. SPROULE. No one can tell what the effect of that is. It is entirely in the hands of the individual who weighs that grain or makes that test. No one can tell exactly how his grain will turn out. They will say

it only weighs 58 pounds to the bushel, that it contains dirt, or seeds, or something that reduces it to that weight, and the owner has no certainty that such is the case. He has only the word of the man who tests it, and the man who tests it is an interested individual. Therefore, the farmer is dissatisfied, and he does not know whether he is getting his rights or not. We should make provision so that the farmer may in all cases, as far as possible, be satisfied, that he shall not have occasion to suspect that he is being cheated. My amendment is simply this: That every one who is charged with the duty of weighing grain, shall take an oath or statutory declaration that he will perform his duty honestly.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not see any objection to that, except the difficulty and inconvenience of requiring all the employees about the place to take the oath, and they may change during the season and others take their places. The hon. gentleman will see that there is a penalty provided for any one who tampers with the weight. It seems to me, as the number of elevators is small, only 47, and in many cases there must be more than one person to do the weighing, we ought to hesitate before putting all these people under oath.

Mr. SPROULE. In an elevator there is usually only one man employed to do the work all through the season, at least he has rarely more than one assistant. These men work all through the season. I think the weigher and his assistant should take an oath before beginning their duty. The time is fast coming when we shall be forced by public opinion to have public weighing scales all over the country, and every man who has charge of them will be put on oath to do his duty. Throughout Ontario to-day, and indeed everywhere else, there is great dissatisfaction with regard to the manner in which the weight of cattle and the weight of grain is determined. We should have not only properly tested scales, but the parties entrusted with the duty of weighing, should be independent men, sworn to do their duty. Now I think that in the case of grain, where it is usually weighed by the same party throughout the season, there could be no injustice to any one if this weigher were compelled to make a statutory declaration that he will perform his duty honestly.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I do not know that there is any serious objection to the amendment proposed by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule); but I must say that I have not got the same faith in the virtue of an oath as he appears to have. I believe that a man who would falsify weight would not be deterred from doing so by the simple fact of having made a statutory declaration that he would act honestly. There is a

clause here in subsection 2, which provides a punishment for any person who falsifies weight. Detection would be just as easy under this clause as under the amendment the hon. gentleman proposes. I do not know that it would do any harm, but I do not see that it would do much good.

Mr. SPROULE. I think there are many men who will do their duty more faithfully if under oath. The common law enables a man to be punished who falsifies weight, still, that is done over and over again.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The only deterrent for a man who would make a false weight, would be the fear of eternal punishment, I presume.

Mr. SPROULE. Or perjury.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. But we have provided penalties for the offence here, and I think the man who would take the chances of eternal punishment by falsifying weights, would be apt to take the same chances whether he had made a statutory declaration or not.

Mr. OLIVER. I object to cheapening the idea of an oath or a statutory declaration.

Amendment (Mr. Sproule) negatived.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negatived.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved:

That the following words be added to the amendment: 'If facilities exist for doing so.'

Amendment agreed to.

On section 45.

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). What about that clause that had no sense in it—section 45 in the new Bill?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That mysterious clause?

Mr. POWELL. If we do not want to perpetuate this curiosity, I think it ought to be amended. It is rather a reflection on parliament to have a section like that. I called the attention of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), who is a literary man, to the construction of this clause. It is simply nonsense. To use an expression employed by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce some years ago, it is a remarkable convolution of grammar. It is preposterous as it stands there.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I would suggest that the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue and the hon. member for Westmoreland draft a clause.

Mr. POWELL. I do not know what is wanted.

Mr. DAVIN. The phrase 'next hereinafter provided' has no meaning whatever. It reads:

Notwithstanding that elevators of any greater or other capacity shall be erected at such point or for any other cause than non-compliance with the law or as next hereinafter provided.

It has no meaning at all.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. If the clause is struck out from the word 'law' to the end, it has meaning.

Mr. DAVIN. Yes.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I admit a feeling of shame in my conscience that we should pass a Bill with such a mysterious clause that none of us can exactly explain it. I will refer hon. members to the same clause in the Bill as it was originally printed :

But nothing in this section shall interfere with or render void any condition, agreement or contract made between the owner of or party who erected such elevator or warehouse and the railway company on the faith of which a site was leased or granted to such elevator or warehouse.

Mr. DAVIN. It is quite clear that the hon. minister does not know what is aimed at in this last sentence :

But nothing in this section shall interfere with or render void any condition, agreement or contract made between the owner of or party who erected such elevator or warehouse and the railway company on the faith of which a site was leased or granted to such elevator or warehouse.

If you read the evidence of Mr. Whyte, the manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, given before the commission, you will find that when there were no elevators in Manitoba or the North-west Territories they held out inducements to persons with money to erect elevators, and one of the inducements held out was that nobody else would be allowed to ship grain at the place where the elevator was erected. Mr. Whyte says that there was an understanding between those gentlemen who erected elevators and the Canadian Pacific Railway that where an elevator was erected no grain would be taken through a flat warehouse, or in any other form, although, in 1898, he, perhaps, may have departed from that because 804 cars of grain were taken direct from farmers' wagons. If you bear that in mind I think you will see what the clause is aiming at. That is clearly what it is aimed at to protect those agreements. I think the hon. minister should ascertain what he aimed at in making the clause, and then when we come to the third reading we can put a clause in that expressing the idea of parliament now. It is perfectly clear to me. If you bear in mind the evidence that I have referred to, you will see that this clause has a meaning, and it may operate against other clauses in the Bill. It reads :

But nothing in this section shall interfere with or render void any condition, agreement or contract made between the owner of or party who erected such elevator or warehouse, and the rail-

Mr. DAVIN.

way company on the faith of which a site was leased or granted to such elevator or warehouse.

It is in evidence that in order to induce the erection of elevators a bargain was made, which legal documents embody, that no grain would be received except through these elevators at the points where they had been erected. If all these inducements were held out, if these elevators were erected, and if this bargain was embodied in legal documents it is palpable that this sentence at the end of this clause would nullify clause 40, which provides for the possible erection of flat warehouses which can be asked for by any ten farmers within forty miles of any shipping point.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have in my hand the explanations sent by Judge Richards, who prepared that clause. Judge Richards succeeded Judge Senkler. The difficulty which arises now is that the clause in the printed Bill in the hands of my hon. friends, says :

But nothing in this section shall interfere with or render void any condition, agreement or contract made between the owner of or party who erected such elevator or warehouse, and the railway company on the faith of which a site was leased or granted to such elevator or warehouse.

In the amendments that we distributed, we changed the last part of that section, but, I believe, we should restore it to the original. I will read to the committee Judge Richards's explanation :

Winnipeg, April 28, 1900.

Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, K.C.M.G.,
Department of Inland Revenue,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,—In answer to yours of the 25th inst., I have to say:

First, it was the deliberate intention of all the members of the royal commission on shipment and transportation of grain to recommend the allowance and permanent maintenance of flat warehouses, such as recommended in the report and schedule 'E' at all shipping points in the Manitoba inspection district (whether there are or not at such points elevators built on an understanding with the railway companies that grain should not be shipped at such points except through elevators).

The commissioners were of the opinion that the serious troubles that have arisen were largely caused by such monopoly agreements. They were also of the opinion that public carriers should never be permitted to make such monopoly agreements, and that such agreements were and are contrary to public policy, and greatly in restraint of free trade and a serious wrong to the farmers.

I may point out here (as was done in the commissioners' report), that the right to farmers to load direct on cars has been restored by the railways, though their promise not to allow such direct loading was (equally with the promise to prohibit flat warehouses) a part of their inducement to elevator owners to build standard elevators.

Secondly, the sentence in schedule 'E' to the commissioners' report under the heading, 'Warehouses now existing,' which begins: 'But

nothing in this section shall interfere,' and ends, 'leased or granted to such elevator or warehouse' (which sentence is the underlined part you refer to), most unquestionably was not meant to apply to or restrict the proposed erection of flat warehouses at the railway stations where there are already standard elevators, or to protect any rights of owners of such standard elevators.

The sentence in question was not in the report as originally drafted. It would never have been inserted but that, when going over the draft report with the other commissioners, it occurred to me that there might be now existing on new lines of rail, some cheaply constructed temporary elevators or warehouses, which had been put up under agreements limiting the period during which the sites could be held. The sentence in question was then inserted, at my suggestion, solely to prevent our report from appearing to advise that the rights to such temporary sites should be made permanent. It was intended to modify only the words preceding it under the heading of 'Warehouses now existing.' It was not intended, or foreseen, that the sentence in question would be thought to affect any part of the report of schedule, except that part of schedule 'E' preceding it under the heading of 'Warehouses now existing.' I greatly regret that our meaning has not been made clearer. This letter will, however, explain it fully.

I remain, yours respectfully,

A. E. RICHARDS.

Mr. POWELL. It is clear what our intention is, and then, why not strike out the whole section and express our intention in the following words :

Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of any person or persons carrying on the business of an elevator at the time of the passing of this Act to continue to do so.

Mr. DOUGLAS. That will suit.

Mr. DAVIN. We will suppose that at a given point an elevator is erected and a lease of the site given to the owner of the elevator by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in that lease one of the conditions was that the company would not at that point take grain from any other persons. If you leave this clause here as it is now, you will prevent interference with that right by any other part of the Act. If that is the meaning of it, we should know what we are doing, and not ignorantly repeal the clause.

Mr. POWELL. My amendment would cover it. If a man or company had a right under a lease to carry on this business, then it would be saved by this amendment that I have suggested.

Mr. DAVIN. I have no objection to that.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. There is a point which the hon. member (Mr. Powell) has overlooked. I take issue with the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) on the stand he takes. He says that we have no right to interfere with this bargain.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, no. My hon. friend misunderstood me. I did not say we have no

right. What I said was, if we are going to repeal it as the minister suggests, then we ought to know what we are doing.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I think that the first part of the clause takes away the right of the Canadian Pacific Railway to interfere with existing flat warehouses. At many stations in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, flat warehouses have heretofore existed and have been doing business as such, and the owners of these flat warehouses have been ordered to cease doing business, and in some cases to remove the building. The object the commissioners had in view in this clause was to prevent that, and to allow flat warehouses now existing to continue business. That the Canadian Pacific Railway have recognized this principle is shown by the fact that for the last two years they have permitted the loading of grain direct from wagons on to cars, thereby violating their agreement with the elevator companies. The proposed addition to the clause first drafted might very easily be construed to mean that nothing in this section shall interfere with the right of the Canadian Pacific Railway to close up and remove these flat warehouses. I most emphatically object to that. I say that this parliament has a perfect right to legislate on that question, and to embody in an Act of parliament the principle that these flat warehouses shall not be interfered with. What is proposed as a substitute for the clause will leave the old monopoly clause in existence.

Mr. POWELL. No, it simply means that people who have been carrying on the elevator business shall, notwithstanding all these additional elevators, be entitled to continue to carry on that business.

Mr. DAVIN. If the last part of the clause has the meaning which my learned friend from Westmoreland (Mr. Powell) says, there is no objection to it.

Mr. OLIVER. If the last part of this clause has a meaning, I would certainly move that it be struck out. Does the new section stand or the old section?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.
The new one.

Mr. OLIVER. Then, it does not contain these objectionable words?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.
No.

Bill reported, amendments made in committee read the first and second time, and concurred in.

Mr. DAVIN. I think before the third reading, the Bill ought to be reprinted.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.
I will try to get it reprinted at once.

COLD STORAGE ON STEAMSHIPS.

Bill (No. 152) to authorize contracts with certain steamship companies for cold storage accommodation (Mr. Fisher), read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time, and passed.

MARKING AND INSPECTION OF APPLES AND PEARS.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 127), to provide for the marking and inspection of packages containing apples and pears for export.—(Mr. Fisher.)

(In the Committee.)

On section 8,

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). When this Bill was under consideration before, I sent several copies to parties in the trade. They object to that portion of the clause which compels them to mark the variety on the barrels. The reason they give is that you can scarcely get two men in the business who will give the same name to the same apples, except in well-known varieties. A few years ago apples shown under one name were refused to be considered by the judges at an agricultural fair in our country because the judges did not consider them properly named, and a number of them were sent to the president of the Fruit Growers' Association to be named. The names put on were not accepted by the fruit men. Every year we find the same trouble. An apple would be called one name by one fruit man and another by another, and it is impossible to say which is correct. One of the largest fruit handlers has written me some very good information. He says :

Something ought to be done to regulate the shipment, or rather the branding, of apples to Manitoba and the North-west as well as to England. It is my opinion that inspection will not be satisfactory, either to the shipper or the protection of the trade. Montreal is about the only place where inspection could be done without employing an army of inspectors; and if the shippers see that their apples are being opened at Montreal, they will ship via Boston, for after a barrel of apples is opened and properly inspected, it is spoilt for export. This will, therefore, drive trade out of our own country.

He means that in the repacking of the apples and putting in the head of the barrel, they would be bruised and spoiled.

The curse of the trade consists in shippers shipping apples under too many brands. A shipper will have his own brand, under which he will ship his good apples. Then he will use any other person's name, he will take the name of any man in his employ, and brand it on the barrels containing his poor apples. He will put up, say, eighteen barrels of poor apples, and brand them with the name of some boy working for him, say, Smith, with XXX, the same as his own brand. The reason he will put up only small lots of eighteen barrels or less, under

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

fictitious names, is because, under the custom of selling, when there are over twenty barrels of one brand, a barrel is opened and another is dumped out as samples, but when there are under twenty, only the face of one barrel is opened.

All that is required is to make every shipper and company have only one brand, and compel them to put that brand on every barrel they ship. Then the shipper will have to mark his apples for what they are or suffer the consequences, and no shipper would put a No. 1 on No. 2 apples, with his own brand on it. This will bring about what the trade wants, without any inspectors except one, and with the least annoyance to the trade.

I think this suggestion is very valuable. If every shipper is compelled to brand his apples under his own name, he will not risk his reputation by branding them incorrectly. It would be utterly impossible to inspect the apples because the only place where they could be properly inspected would be at Montreal, and after the apples have been carted over a rough road, in country wagons, in many cases, and then taken by train some hundreds of miles, they will not be found in the perfect condition they were in when they left the orchard, and will not pass as No. 1 apples.

I have some other letters largely on the same line; and while all the writers agree that there ought to be something done, most of them are of the opinion that this measure cannot be successfully worked. I have another from Thomas Kells, who is in this business every year.

After carefully reading and giving inclosed Bill my best consideration, I have come to the conclusion that in its present state it would not be workable. I have marked the clauses or sections to which I object. I believe that sections 5 and 6 are reasonable. Section 7 also is reasonable, but the rest I consider humbug. To have apples inspected as set forth in this Bill would cost some person or the government not less than 15 cents per barrel. Of course, there would be any amount of inspectors to be paid by somebody. The great trouble, in my opinion, is that the barrels are too light in the stave and not fit to stand the pressure when large quantities are placed, say, eight or ten tiers deep in the vessel. Consequently, the apples are spoiled in transit.

He means to say that the staves are so light that when you put eight or ten tiers of barrels, one on top of another, the staves press in, and thereby bruise the apples and cause them to spoil.

I got the official reports from Glasgow in 1899, and there was no fault found with regard to spot or worm. Of course, there was complaint re colour and not uniform in size, but nearly all the complaints arose from what the apples suffered in transit.

I had another letter, but I have not it at hand just now. However, I may say it is on the same line as the one I have just read—in the first place, that if you mark the barrels with the name of the variety, then you will get into trouble, because you find no two apple-packers who

will name apples alike; and, in the second place, inspection could not be successfully carried out without disturbing the apples in the barrel after they have been packed and tightened up for transportation.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Everybody admits that this Bill is a good Bill, and one that it is desirable to have carried into effect as soon as practicable. The objection is raised that it cannot be worked. There are certainly some clauses in the Bill which are not impracticable, and which, if they were carried into effect and they led to the condemnation of only one man for sharp practice or fraud in this business, would teach a good lesson and result in great good. There are objections to clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 on account of the difficulty of giving the size and name of the apples. I am not ready to say that these difficulties are insurmountable, the more so as the horticultural association have recommended these enactments. There are some clauses that are clearly practicable and which, if put into effect, even on a small scale, would do good. For instance, take clause 8. Could anything be more simple than this? A moment ago my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) read a letter which spoke of the clause I now refer to as humbug. It seems to me it can be humbug only in the minds of those who are not willing to be bound by such conditions. Here is the clause:

No person shall sell, offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any apples or pears packed in a closed package and intended for export upon which is marked any designation of size, grade or variety which falsely represents such fruit; and it shall be considered a false representation when more than 10 per cent of such fruit are substantially smaller in size than, or inferior in grade to, or different in variety from the marks on such package.

The man who refuses to live up to it is one who wants to deceive. It is simply intended to prevent false representation.

Mr. SPROULE. But, as to placing the name of the variety on the barrel, no two men will be found to agree as to the name.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Everybody admits that the Bill is useful, and we are trying to find a means of working it out. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) has pointed out the only difficulty that can possibly arise, and that is, as to giving the variety. But, as to the size and grade of the apple, there can be no mistake. Even if a packer has not the pomological or botanical knowledge to give the exact name to a variety of apples, he can say what is the size and the quality of the apples. As to the point raised by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule), we might amend it by making it read 'as near as possible the variety.' The next clause provides the penalty. If there were only these two clauses in the Bill, I should consider it

a great step in the right direction. But, in this Bill, the Governor in Council is given power, under clause 17, to make regulations. If these regulations provided for the inspection, say at the port of Montreal, of any lot of apples by choosing, say ten barrels out of a hundred, the result would be good. If any dishonesty has been practiced, the examination of 10 per cent of the barrels is pretty sure to lead to its discovery. If we could detect and punish only one person for an act of dishonesty and advertised his name, the effect would be beneficial to the trade. I have received a communication from Ontario on this subject, which contains this interesting statement:

There is no occasion to ship poor or inferior fruit out of our country. There are sufficient evaporators located now in all parts of our province to use up anything that is not strictly first-class, and I think, if the government imposed a severe penalty upon packers of inferior stock, and appointed inspectors at the points of shipment, it would have a tendency to stop the present system of packing. It might be well not to impose the regulations too severely at the start until the packers got acquainted with what the government required.

Mr. E. COCHRANE (East Northumberland). How much would apples be worth for evaporating purposes?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not say the apples would be worth much for evaporating purposes, and I do not ask the packer to barrel only apples that are fit for evaporating purposes; but I say that there is not now the same excuse for deceiving the public. My hon. friend will understand what I mean. There is not the same excuse for deceiving the public now, when there are so many evaporators and canners who are ready to use apples of an inferior quality, which are not proper for exportation, but which still can be utilized for evaporating and canning purposes. This removes the excuse for dishonesty—but at all events, it is one reason why, when people can dispose of their inferior fruit to the cider mills, canneries and evaporators, they have less temptation to deceive the public by barrelling these inferior apples for exportation.

Mr. COCHRANE. I think there is a false notion prevalent about farmers deceiving the people in packing apples. I am safe in saying that no apples at all are packed by the farmers in the section of country where I live, which is, I suppose, one of the largest exporting sections in the Dominion of Canada. The apples are bought by the apple dealers. They buy them generally on the tree, or buy them in piles on the ground, and they send their own men into the orchard and pack the apples themselves. So this cry that has gone abroad that the farmers are deceiving the people by packing inferior fruit is, as regards our section of the

country, without a scintilla of truth. There are no apples packed by our farmers for export. I do not object to this Bill, but I object to any provision placing unnecessary annoyances in the way of exporters. In my opinion there will be trouble in working out this Bill. How can any one tell the size of the apple by the eye? One clause of this Bill provides that the package should be marked as containing not less than 10 per cent of apples, say two inches, or two inches and a half in diameter. Now, in order to comply with that clause, you will have to have two rings two inches or two inches and a half in diameter, by which to try the apples, and a man is forbidden to export a barrel of apples in which there would be 10 per cent smaller than that. I want to draw attention to another thing which should be kept in mind, and that is that the largest fruit is not the best fruit for export. Then there is the difficulty that the same kind of apples have not the same name in Ontario and Nova Scotia. I am as anxious as the hon. the minister to see a good Bill passed. I may say that in my section of the country there is less objection to the Bill than there was at first. I would like to have that clause amended so that there would be no 'if' about it, so that people would not be afraid to sell a barrel of apples having less than 10 per cent two inches in diameter. I understand that is the meaning of the clause, that you must have a certain quantity of two-inch apples.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
Whatever size they are.

Mr. COCHRANE. Anybody that knows anything about apples, knows that to comply with this clause you would have to have a ring to measure every one, you cannot tell the exact size by the eye. That is a pretty nice distinction. Buyers tell me that the fruit which is the largest is not the most saleable; they tell me that hotelkeepers in the old country do not prefer the large fruit; what they want is a nice colour, a shapely apple. They do not care so much about the size as about the appearance and the quality.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in Committee.)

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Mr. Chairman, when you left the Chair at six o'clock, I was just about to make a few remarks upon the suggestions which had been made by hon. members. The Bill is now for the third time before the committee, and it has been pretty fairly discussed in a tentative manner. Since the Bill was last before the House I have had an opportunity of communication with a large number of those engaged in the apple and pear trade in the

Mr. COCHRANE.

country, and have had the advantage of receiving a very large number of communications from several parts of the country, some of them coming directly to myself and others forwarded to me by the various members of the House who had received these communications from their constituents. I may say that the tenor of these communications has been, on the whole, favourable to the Bill. It is true that certain details of the Bill have been somewhat adversely criticised in some of these communications, but in some instances these very details have been endorsed in other communications. There seems to be, pretty generally, I might also say, a difference of opinion in regard to the details, but there seems to be hardly any difference of opinion as to the necessity of a Bill dealing with this apple trade. If there is one thing perhaps more than another, in which the communications that I have received agree, it is that the Bill should apply not only to the export trade, but also to the interior trade. The expressions of opinion have been, on these lines of the Bill, that if we are going to protect the purchasers who live abroad we ought to protect the purchasers who live in our own country, that if we are going to secure a proper grading of apples for export we ought also to equally secure the same kind of grading for the interior trade. There is, however, a little difficulty in this respect, which was brought to my attention. There is a very large number of large operators who deal in the export trade. These gentlemen are engaged in a large business which they manage on business principles and in a thoroughly businesslike way. They can, comparatively easily, make a change in their trade methods, but there is a large number of people in the country who deal only in a small local market, sometimes not having many, if any, apples for sale, one year, and perhaps next year again having quite a good crop and selling a good many barrels. It is pointed out that these people would find it rather a hardship to have to comply with the provisions of this Bill, that it would be practically impossible, or at any rate, expensive, for these people, selling in a purely local market to comply with all the provisions of the Bill, and that they would be open to the hardship of being fined if they did not comply with the provisions of the Bill. In dealing with this Bill, on a former occasion, I said that I was rather disposed to meet the views, which many hon. members expressed on the floor of the House, by making the Bill apply to the interior trade as well as to the export trade. This is the only argument which has been brought to my attention against that action. I would like to bring it to the attention of hon. members of the House who have taken an interest in this Bill and who have favoured the House with their opinions upon it. I may say that one or two criti-

cisms have been levelled at details in connection with this Bill, and if I may be allowed I will take up one or two of these. In the first place, I have been asked to introduce into the Bill a statement of the size of the apples to be applied to the individual, particular varieties, and that these varieties should be named. For instance, I have a letter here which gives me a list of certain apples which should be required to be three inches in diameter, a list of certain other apples which only require to be of a diameter of two and a half inches, and others again of two and a quarter inches. I think that those who are making this suggestion hardly appreciate a fact to which I drew the attention of hon. members of the House, and that is, by the provisions of this Bill the size of the apple is not included in the specification of the grade. I hope that I put this clearly. But if anybody will read the Bill over carefully he will see that in the descriptions of A 1, No. 1 and No. 2, there is no mention of the size of the apple at all, and that A 1 grade, or quality, may be of any size that happens. The size does not affect the grade, or the quality.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) state what is the object of the size, if it is not afterwards to have some bearing on governing the grade? It occurred to me that if it had no bearing on the grade, it should be eliminated from the Bill, because persons, if it is left open to them in the Bill, might fix the grade entirely upon the size of the apple. I want to have it understood clearly that as the Bill stands, the size of the apple does not affect the grade. The Bill defines that the grade shall be a well grown specimen of one variety, sound and nearly uniform in size, of good colour for the variety, of normal shape, and that there shall not be less than 90 per cent free from scab, worm holes, bruises, &c.

Mr. SPROULE. By clause 8 you make it compulsory to put the size on the head of the barrel, no matter what the variety.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Quite so. To speak in general terms, clause 8 says that nothing that is untrue shall be put upon the barrel. The size and the grade are two different things altogether. Both require to be put on the barrel. There are apples of large size and apples of small size and each one may be A1 of its variety. A fruit-dealer sends me a list which names amongst others, Kings, Twenty-Ounce Pippins, Blenheim, Gloria Mundi, Alexander Baldwins, Ben Davis, Spys, Canada Red, St. Lawrence, and he says that these large varieties should be three inches in diameter. These are large apples, but another variety would be of just as fine quality and be only two inches in diameter. The quality of the apples under this Bill is not interfered with

by the size that is to be marked on the barrel. The size marked on the barrel has not necessarily to do with the grade or quality.

Mr. A. BRODER (Dundas). Those in the apple business are aware that the size of an apple has to do with its grade.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That may be, but at the same time, the size varies with different varieties of apples, and I propose in this Bill that the grade should not depend upon the size, because the grade applies to all varieties, but the size of the different varieties would be so different that if I were to include the size in the definition of the grade it would not apply to all varieties. I therefore have suggested in the Bill that the size should not go in with the grade, but should be put upon the barrel in a different mark. For instance, you can have Kings, A1 of three inches, and some seasons Kings would not grow to be as large as that, and therefore Kings might be A1 and only 2½ inches in diameter. Take Snow apples or Fameuse of 2½ or 2½ inches and they may be just as good a quality as Kings of 3 inches. Those with whom I have consulted, including the Fruit-Growers' Association, believe that it is better the size should not be put in as part of the definition of the grade, but should be another designation put upon the barrel.

Mr. M. J. F. QUINN (St. Ann's, Montreal). In the communication from the fruit-growers the minister will notice that Kings, &c., should be 3 inches A1, and that Snows, Spitzenberg, Golden Russets, &c., should be 2½, while English Russets, Swazis, and Pomme Grise should be 2½, so that there are three sizes for A1, according to the different variety of the apple.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. To go into a definition of the particular varieties would complicate matters, and make the person packing the apples more liable to make a mistake. If the packer knows the size of the apple he puts in his barrel he marks that size and the variety, and a person knowing anything about the variety will know that the size is a good size for the variety in the barrel. If I were buying a barrel of Kings marked 2 inches, I would know they were culls, whereas the Pomme Grise, or the Snow apples might be marked 2½, and I would know that was a good size for that variety. It is a well-known fact that one year the apples are larger than another year, and this Bill does not suggest that the grade should change from season to season, but that A1 should be A1 year after year, and that it shall require certain quality of apples. Although the size may change with the seasons, the quality of the apple may be equally good or perhaps better, although the apple is smaller. I would also emphasize the fact that, while a barrel of apples is required to have

the size marked upon it, that means the diameter of the smallest apple in the barrel, and it does not prevent a larger apple being put in.

Mr. SPROULE. How can you provide for the measurement in packing?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill provides that the measurement shall be the diameter through the core.

Mr. SPROULE. Suppose a man goes out with three or four others to pack apples, it is going to retard him very much in his business if he has to run them all through a sieve.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think the packers can manage that very well without having an absolute measurement. A man who handles apples very much can tell after a little by his eye almost exactly whether they come up to the standard size.

Mr. SPROULE. A man goes out with a number of boys or men whom he divides up into two or three groups. He may be experienced in packing, but the others are not. They gather the apples in baskets or place them in piles in the orchard ready for packing. How are they to measure the apples with their eyes? They could not do it unless they were experts; and to do it in any other way would take a great deal of time.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is partly to obviate just what the hon. gentleman has pictured that this Bill is intended. Its object is to hold to account the people responsible for the shipment of our apples, and to compel them to see that the business is done properly. Though I am not an expert, I know a little about the packing of apples, and I think that with very little practice a man packing apples can easily grade and sort them by the eye; and the packing of apples by inexperienced and ignorant people, which the hon. gentleman has pictured, is just what the Bill is intended to a large extent to obviate. The Bill provides that the actual labourer who does the work as well as the person responsible for the work shall be liable to a penalty; and I am in hopes that by imposing that joint responsibility we shall have the work done satisfactorily and well. I do not pretend that people should measure every apple to be put into a barrel; that would interfere far too much with the work; and I do not suppose the inspector would measure every apple put into a barrel unless there came to be a prosecution. The inspector as well as the packers can judge pretty well by the eye.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I think the further the hon. gentleman goes with the Bill the more difficulties we will get into. To my mind it is practically unworkable, and the more provisions the hon.

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gentleman makes in it, the more people he makes liable, and the wider the scope he gives to the Bill, the more unworkable he will find it. I gather from what the minister said a few minutes ago that he had it under consideration whether he should make the Bill apply to apples packed for market in Canada. Whatever the hon. gentleman does with the other provisions of the Bill, I think he had better stop short of that. To my mind the evil does not lie with the farmers at all, but with the packers. As a matter of fact, the charge made against the Canadian farmers was absolute nonsense. I venture to say that many apples which were bought from them as second-rate apples were packed by the packers and sold as first-class apples. I quite recognize that some law should be placed on the statute-book to prevent the packers practising fraud on the farmer as well as on the buyer; but my judgment is this: if you put the name of the packer upon the barrel, that is penalty enough. If he practices fraud, his name is discredited for the future, and the purchaser has recourse against him if the apples are not up to the standard he represented them to be. I do not think you can have any better remedy. A miserable little fine that may be imposed will not have the effect of deterring him from practising the fraud without some stronger motive, and that motive must be to keep his name good with the men who buy the apples from him. If a man sells to a wholesale dealer fifty or a hundred barrels of apples, which are found not to be up to the standard, he is disgraced in the eyes of the dealer, and will not sell his apples to him again. All you propose to do beyond that will, I believe, be unworkable. The same difficulty was experienced in connection with the Irish egg trade. Eggs were collected by dealers in Ireland and sold in the British market; and on some occasions a large number of them were found to be stale. The plan adopted was to compel every man who sold the eggs and the man who gathered them to stamp his name on the eggs; and it is an exceedingly rare thing to find a single egg in the shipments from Ireland to England which is not first-class and absolutely fresh. The deterrent there was that the man who sold the eggs had to pay the loss, and his name was dishonoured among the purchasers. I believe the same thing can be done in the case of the packers of apples. If they are made responsible for every barrel by having their name placed on the head of the barrel, they will see that the apples are honestly packed and that the buyer gets exactly what he pays for. All the nonsense about measuring apples will lie on the statute-book, and will continue to be nonsense for all time. Nobody is going to measure apples. I think the hon. gentleman will see that that part of his Bill is unworkable. The main point is to bring

the fraud home to the person who sells apples not up to the standard, and compel him to pay damages as well as dishonour his name among the trade.

Mr. JOHN McMILLAN (South Huron). What the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) has just stated is quite correct. There is not one farmer in fifty in western Ontario who packs his own apples, and almost every farmer there has a quantity of apples to put on the market. In some cases the packer buys the best apples and leaves the refuse to the farmer. In other cases the packer takes everything, and the farmer only draws the apples to the railway station. The measuring of apples is an impossibility. I have shipped Pomme Gris apples which would not measure over an inch and a half through the core, and yet they brought the highest price. I believe there is a necessity for doing something in this matter, as great fraud has been perpetrated by men putting fine apples at the bottom and at the top of a barrel, and inferior apples in the middle. I believe the object would be attained if we required the grade to be the same from the top to the bottom of the barrel. I think it would also be well to have the name of the packer stamped on the barrel, and I would have no objection to having two or three sizes in the barrel if the grade were correct. It is also impossible to have one variety, because I have had several packers, two or three of them experts, and they gave the apples different names. It would, therefore, in my opinion, not be fair to fine a farmer so long as the centre of the barrel was as good as the top and bottom. If a fine were imposed on those who put good apples on the top and bottom and bad apples in the centre, we would accomplish the purpose desired. The apples should be the same from the top to the bottom; and unless the packer packed in this way, he should be liable to a fine. If something of that kind were done, we would attain the object aimed at without going into all these technicalities, and the credit of our fruit would be very much enhanced on the English market.

Mr. CLANCY. The difficulty of inspection in order to ascertain the size of the apples is, that the barrel would have to be unpacked to a very large extent to determine whether an inferior class was found in the centre. Apples might be graded as No. 1 without being all of a certain size, but, under this Bill, you would require a uniform size as well as grade. The hon. gentleman must see that all the extra expense of handling and measuring these apples, so as to determine the size, must eventually come out of the farmers, because more labour would have to be expended in packing. Let us suppose that the apples were packed with ordinary care, and the inspector found one apple undersized, it is true that he has dis-

cretionary power, but the law specifically imposes a certain penalty if a single apple is found undersized.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, 10 per cent.

Mr. CLANCY. Even in that case, it requires greater skill than you can always obtain. During the season when apples are packed, it will be utterly impossible to get experts to pack the apples of a uniform size. You must make use of such labour as you can get. The season is short, and if the apples must be measured before being packed, you will find it almost impossible to have that done, and you will impose greater expense on the farmers.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I think the hon. minister is mistaken as regards 10 per cent being a smaller size. Whilst there might be 9 per cent of wormy apples, that would only leave 1 per cent margin for small apples.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The size has nothing to do with the definition of the grade. The definition of the grade is explained in section 5, which provides that if 90 per cent are free from wormholes and scabs, the apples are A No. 1; but, section 8 provides that if 10 per cent are substantially smaller in size or inferior in grade, there is false representation. The grade would not be marked A No. 1 if 10 per cent were wormy, but even if they were up to the grading, there must not be 10 per cent undersized. The hon. gentleman has said that the size is not necessary. Well, I can only say that a uniform size was most specifically demanded by the formal resolutions of every provincial fruit-growers society in the Dominion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There are different classes of fruit-growers. There are what we call fancy fruit-growers, who are devoted exclusively to that occupation, and who do nothing else. But they are not the people who raise the greatest amount of fruit in Canada. The people who raise the greatest amount of fruit in this country are the farmers, men who do not belong to fruit-growers' associations, but who grow and sell, I venture to say, ten barrels for one produced by the fancy growers.

Mr. FOSTER. A hundred.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes—perhaps a hundred. The fancy fruit-growers may be prepared for these technicalities, but the farmers are not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will take up the point before the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Montague's) interruption. The Fruit-Growers' Association held its annual meeting, which was attended by fruit-growers in all parts of the province, including dozens and hundreds of the farmers of the province, and not the fruit-growers alone.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I will venture to say if the hon. minister will permit me—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think it is quite fair for my hon. friend (Mr. Montague), to interrupt me so often.

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is probably my last interruption. In my constituency there are thousands of barrels of apples grown and sold. Yet, I venture the statement, that there is not a farmer in my constituency who belongs to the Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague), with all due deference to him, is entirely astray. The Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association is largely composed of members of the local Fruit-Growers' Association, who are, ipso facto, members of the provincial association.

Mr. MONTAGUE. They are not attending members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They send their delegates to the Provincial Fruit-Growers' Association. The local associations get subventions from the provincial association, and have their officers and their directors in the provincial association. The hon. gentleman need not suppose for a moment that the annual meeting of the Fruit-Growers' Association of Toronto, is simply a convention of fancy fruit-growers. Though the hon. gentleman comes from a fruit-growing section, he has entirely misconceived the scope and excellence of this annual meeting of the provincial association. At the last annual meeting, they appointed a committee to deal with this, a committee whose names were before the farmers and fruit-growers for months. Among them were such men as Mr. E. D. Smith, Mr. William Orr, Mr. George Fisher, Mr. Wolverton, the editor of the *Horticulturist*, who has been most intimately connected with the fruit-growing interest of Ontario, and others. This committee for months took information from all parts of the province, as published in the *Horticulturist*, and given out at Farmers' Institutes. And that committee, after deliberating the question for months, asked that the provision with respect to the size of apples should be put in the Bill. I am in the judgment of the House, when I say, therefore, that this was not introduced into the Bill without consideration. The fact is, that the fruit can very easily be graded as to quality and also as to size. An apple is not good in quality according to its great size. Those who know anything about fruit-growing, know that the fruit of medium size is of fully better quality than than of the largest size. The object of putting the size upon the barrel, is to let the purchaser know what he is getting. If a

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man thinks that his fruit of medium size is better quality than the largest, he can pack those of largest size in one barrel, the medium-sized in another, and the smallest in still another. But the English market demands that each package shall contain articles of a uniform size. You can always do better in the English market, if you send a package of fruit or poultry, or any thing else that is divided into units so that articles of equal size shall be in one package. It was largely for that reason that the fruit-growers and those who have interested themselves in drawing up this Bill, asked that the size should be put upon the package. In the definition of the grade, it says that the apples shall be of nearly uniform size. It may be that that is sufficient, that is, it is unnecessary to provide in addition, that the size shall be marked on the package. I have taken the recommendation of those who are in the best position to know; but I am not particularly wedded to this, and not particularly anxious to force it upon the House; although I think that those who asked it knew the business they were dealing with, and had good grounds for their request.

Mr. SPROULE. What has the Fruit-Growers' Association recommended with regard to variety?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They asked that the name of the variety should be put on. In that connection—I am not speaking in a controversial sense, but I want to let hon. members understand the things that have been brought to my own attention during the months I have been dealing with this question—the reason for putting the name of the variety on the barrel is this: These varieties of apples will keep for different times. If you put into one barrel, for instance, some apples that will keep until the middle of October, and others that would keep until Christmas or later, the purchaser would be unfairly treated; because the more delicate apples, spoiling in a few weeks, would ruin and destroy the others. But there is another reason. There are apples of different kinds, a list of which I have just read. As a matter of personal taste, some of these apples I like, and some I do not like. Of course the same is true of any purchaser. If a man buys a barrel of one variety, he has a right to get what he chooses, and what he pays for. And, if he finds on the top, a layer or two of snow apples, and underneath a layer or two of Ben Davis, he is deceived. Therefore, it is only right that the barrel should show what is contained in it.

Mr. SPROULE. I have here a letter that was written by a member of the Fruit-Growers' Association, who attended the meeting to which the hon. minister referred. Practically this Bill was the one that was discussed before them. He says:

If a person is liable for placing the wrong name of a variety on a barrel, few would escape the penalty.

He admits that a barrel may contain apples of which one party would name as a certain variety, while another would disagree with that and call them by another name or variety. So long as you are dealing with well known varieties, it would not make so much difference, but you have some varieties that are known by different names by different people. Therefore, my correspondent thinks it would be unwise to make it compulsory to put on the barrel the name of the variety and subject the packer to a penalty if he used the wrong name.

Mr. JOSEPH FEATHERSTON (Peel). There are some varieties of apples that are known by different names at different places. For instance, there is the twenty pound pippin, as it is called in some places; it is the same apple that is called the Cabaschaw in others. Complaint was made with regard to this Bill on account of the provision concerning the sorting of apples. Many think it would be a loss to the farmers to sort their apples, but I do not think so. I have handled apples for many years. Take a ten-barrel lot, for instance, going to Toronto market. I take these ten barrels and sort them over and see that the packages contain apples of uniform size. If the apples are of uniform size, I would probably get nine barrels of first-class apples and one barrel of culls, or eight barrels of first-class and two barrels of culls. I found I made more by sorting them in that way than by sending them in promiscuously. It will pay you every time to search the fruit, both for the foreign market and the home market. To send mixed fruit or poor fruit to England does not pay at all; you do not get as much for a barrel of poor apples as the cost and the freight. If you send a good article you will get enough to pay the expense, and have a good price left. I think this Bill is in the interest of the public generally. If we can arrive at some conclusion along the line suggested in this Bill it will be a good thing for the country. Of course, there are some men who object to restrictions and regulations of any kind, because they are men who will do a crooked thing whenever they are able, and they will be willing to take their chances to make a few dollars. I for one would like to put a stop to that kind of business, and I think the time has arrived to do so. We must reluctantly admit that our apple trade has become a disgrace to this Canada of ours in the English market, and I think the time has come when we should make some change, and try, if possible, to give our apples a better standing on the English market. Our western apples do not sell as well as Nova Scotia apples, because we do not practice honest packing, as they do in Nova Scotia. I suppose the Nova Scotia people do it as a pleasure to themselves, be-

cause they find they get a better price for their fruit. Let us endeavour to make this Bill workable in all its features, and if we do that I am satisfied that the apple trade will benefit by it.

Mr. SPROULE. I think the apples should be as nearly as possible of a uniform size, and that the names of the well-known varieties should be put on the barrels containing them. But I do not think there should be a penalty if a barrel happens to be found wrongly named.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. There is no danger of that.

Mr. SPROULE. But others who have had a good deal of experience think there is danger. Then, with regard to the law, most of the parties who have written me think it ought to apply to apples sold at home as well as to apples for export; but they think it would be a hardship to compel the party to put the name of the variety in every instance on the barrel, and then make it a punishable offence if it is found that the name of the variety is not correct, though they think the names of the best known varieties should be marked on the barrel.

Mr. J. D. REID (South Grenville). I am surprised that the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), who is supposed to be a friend of the farmers, should have presented this Bill. This Bill imposes a penalty on the farmers of this country, and forces them to assume the responsibility of the man who purchased the apples and packed them. Now, here is the statement of one who is in the business:

On reading over the copy of the Bill, I have come to the conclusion that it is impracticable. It would be impossible to inspect the large quantities going forward in some seasons of the year. Moreover, it would spoil packing. It cannot be got in as good shape again for shipping after being opened up, and unless the apples are repacked at shipping points, no inspector could put the government stamp upon them. If my apples have to be repacked at shipping points, I for one will go out of the business. I will admit something should be done to compel the shippers to put their names and address on every barrel, marking them No. 1, 2 or 3, as the case may be. I would compel every shipper to sign an affidavit that his apples are truly marked according to the quality as marked on the barrel, and that the name on the barrel is the true name of the shipper. I would have a copy of this document go forward with each bill of lading to the man to whom the apples were consigned, with instructions to the brokers or men who sell these apples, to read to the people before the sale something like the following:—

And so forth. Then, if we take up the *Canadian Horticulturist* of May, 1900, we find a letter from Bowlby Bros., of Waterford, saying:

Sir,—We see by the 'Canadian Grocer' that you and Mr. Orr called on the Minister of Agriculture to endeavour to find some means to put

a stop to dishonest packing of fruit, especially of apples for exportation. Our canning factory here has had a great amount of trouble this year when opening a barrel that was bought as Spys or Baldwins to find them sweet apples or poor little cider apples, of no use whatever, and all other fruits to a certain extent are not properly graded and labelled. We are of opinion, as we wrote you in December last, that the only way to stop this rascality is by Act of Parliament—

That's right; I agree with that.

—making it compulsory when fruit is sold that it be properly labelled with the grower's name, number of lot, township and county; in case he did not pack it himself, the man's name who did pack it; in case he sold to a dealer, then the dealer's name. The grower or dealer to become personally liable for damages, and every one connected with the packing to be criminally liable for committing a fraud and be punished by fine or imprisonment or both.

We have never seen the rules for grading as made by your Fruit-Growers' Association. Would like very much to have them.

We will be ready to assist all we can at any time to further the purpose about which we are writing.

I know that in my county where there are a great many apples grown, none of the farmers in that constituency belong to the Fruit-Growers' Association. They simply sell to men who come around there and buy the apples, and these men are usually from the city of Ottawa. The farmers sell to these men who do the packing themselves.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
Who pack the apples?

Mr. REID. The men who buy them from the city of Ottawa. Now, the farmers are liable for the action of these men according to this Act.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
No.

Mr. REID. But they may put the names of the farmers on the barrel and then the farmers will be liable, which I consider unfair and unjust to the farmers. I think it is most unfair to make the farmers liable to a penalty, or make them liable to receive a smaller amount for their fruit.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman has shown clearly, both by the letter he read and by his statements, that the Bill does not do any of the things that he is afraid of. The Bill does not provide that the farmer from whom the packer buys shall be liable for a penalty; on the contrary, that penalty is only upon the man who packs and not upon the grower. The hon. gentleman read a letter from a friend of his who said the penalty should apply to both the packer and the grower. I suppose he endorsed that letter, and he wants it to apply to the grower as well as to the packer.

Mr. REID. But why should it apply to the packer alone?

Mr. REID.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Because the packer is the man who is responsible for the way the fruit is put up.

Mr. REID. That is right.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The man who grows the fruit has nothing to do with it, if he has sold his whole orchard to the packer. Therefore, he is innocent, and the hon. gentleman wants the farmer, who is innocent, to be made liable.

Mr. REID. No, I do not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Well, the hon. gentleman has read a letter which contends that he should be liable. The hon. gentleman says: Why should not the grower be responsible the same as the packer? The hon. gentleman is so mixed up that he does not know what he has said.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister is getting too clever. The hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Reid), said what was very clear, that he did not want anything done that would make the farmer liable.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman read a letter in which the writer said that the packer or the grower should be liable. When I said that the packer only would be liable, he said: Why should not the grower also be liable?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The packer and the grower may be two individuals, or the packer and the grower may be only one individual, and if only one individual, he must be liable.

Mr. REID. The grower or the packer must be personally liable for the damage. Which ever one sells the apples is responsible.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is the grower, according to the hon. gentleman's letter.

Mr. REID. If the farmer sells the apples, I want him to be responsible, and if the packer sells the apples, I want him to be responsible.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is what the Bill does.

Mr. REID. No, it does not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Excuse me, the Bill does not make anybody except the packer responsible.

Mr. REID. If the packer puts the name of the farmer, on the barrel, who sells the apples, the farmer will be responsible.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, the packer will be responsible for putting a false name on it. That is the provision of the Bill.

Mr. REID. It does not say that.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It does say that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Take another point.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Let us finish this point at once, and take up another question afterwards. The Bill distinctly says :

Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs apples or pears in a closed package, intended for export, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner before it is taken from the premises where it is packed.

Then it gives the definition. Section 10 says :

Whenever any apples or pears packed in a closed package are found to be falsely marked—

And so on. Section 11 says :

Every person who wilfully alters, defaces or obliterates—

And so on. Section 12 gives the definition as to who shall be liable as follows :

The person on whose behalf any apples or pears are packed, sold, offered, or had in possession for sale, contrary to the provisions of the foregoing sections of this Act, shall be, prima facie, liable for the violation of this Act.

The grower has nothing to do with it. The grower is not liable in any shape or form under any provision of the Bill.

Mr. CLANCY. Where is it intended that the inspection shall take place, and at what stage ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill does not provide for that. It is left, according to section 17, to the Governor in Council to make provisions for the inspection. The general intent of the Bill is that when the apples are once packed, and in transport, they will be liable to inspection. The inspection will, probably, sometimes, take place at the port of export, and sometimes at the point of shipment, and, as I explained the other evening, I think it would be wise to make provision so that if any packer wished to have the inspection take place at his own place of business, or at the point of shipment, he could do so on the payment of a small fee. Wherever the inspection takes place without a request from the packer, it will be done at the government's expense. That is part of the regulations which I suggested to the House the other night, and which seemed to meet with the approval of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke), in answer to whose suggestion I made the proposal.

Mr. SPROULE. How is it proposed to make the inspection—by taking the head out of the barrel, or a stave out, or how ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The general opinion is that for a proper inspection, the barrel will have to be opened and turned out.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many barrels will be opened in two hundred, for instance ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That will be a matter of discussion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many would you suppose ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would say 10 per cent.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Then you would destroy 10 per cent of the apples, because every time you turn the apples out and put them in again, you make a fresh bruise.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. To a certain extent, there is no doubt that is a very material difficulty.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The whole of this Bill could be done away with, and a Bill of about twenty lines would give just as effective a remedy, by compelling every man to put his name on the barrel, and the class of the apples on the barrel.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. What does the hon. gentleman mean by the class of the apples ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The grade of the apples ; possibly the variety, if you like.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Does the hon. gentleman mean the variety ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I mean the grade. My English is not quite as good as that of the hon. minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I just want to know what the hon. gentleman means.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I mean the grade, or the class of the apples, No. 1, or No. 2, or whatever is the classification. You have then the name of the packer, or the shipper, and if he cares for his name and reputation, this will be a guarantee.

Mr. COCHRANE. Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. minister to a letter I received from one of the largest packers in my part of the country, Mr. Nisbet. He says that he has had a man in Montreal to attend to the inspection of his apples for the last two years, and he says that it is a most serious difficulty, unless the inspection takes place where the apples are packed. He says that every barrel of apples that was opened in Montreal had to be placed on the market. If 10 per cent of the apples had to be placed on the market because they were unfit to be shipped to Great Britain, this would be a serious thing for a man shipping thousands of barrels to the old country. I am rather of the opinion that the Bill will not be workable as far as the inspection is concerned, when the apples are inspected at the point where they are shipped from, and there is a great deal of force, to my mind, in the point that if a man will put his name on every barrel that is packed, it will be a guarantee. I think I can show the minister where a great deal of this fraud is perpetuated. For instance, a man comes and buys orchards all

through the country, and he takes the apples all away. I may tell the minister that in our section of the country, there is no winter fruit left in the orchards. It is all taken out, because with evaporators, cider presses and one thing and another, it pays the packers to remove the apples and pack them in their storehouses. Some of the buyers have evaporator, cider-mills, and canning factory of their own, so that they can utilize everything that they buy, but there are other men who have not the same facilities. They buy up orchards and put on their barrels, No. 1, or No. 2, but they have a great deal of fruit that will not stand these classifications, and they send it to the old country without any name on it. I think if men are compelled to put their names on the apples they pack, and send out of the country, they will know that if their apples are fraudulently packed they will not be liable to sell apples another year. It appears to me that this Bill will be unworkable, and that it will cause a great deal of inconvenience. I am not discussing this Bill with any motive other than a desire to make the Bill workable and to produce the best results we can from the apples we are sending out of Canada. But these difficulties which arise, and which are spoken of in the letters I have received in connection with the inspections from apple exporters in my riding, will, as I have said, render the Bill unworkable.

Mr. CLANCY. I have no disposition to criticise the Bill for the purpose of minimizing the efforts that the hon. gentleman is endeavouring to make to cure an admitted evil. It seems to me that the Bill undertakes so much, that it will be next to impossible to carry out its provisions. The minister tells us that the fruit may be inspected at Montreal, or some port of export, and that in cases where a demand is made for inspection at the place of packing, an inspector will be sent on the payment of a small fee. The hon. minister must see that it will take an army of inspectors to carry out such work. I do not point out these difficulties in a spirit of hostility to the Bill, but I wish to show that if you are not able to carry out all its provisions, it would be better not to have any law at all on the subject. Section 9 says :

Every person who by himself or through the agency of another person violates, &c., shall be liable to a fine.

Now, certain persons may go from one end of Canada to the other buying apples from farmers, pack them, and sell them to third parties. The purchaser was not the packer, and the person who purchased in the first instance was not the agent, and if he were it might be impossible to find him. The law could be evaded there at the outset. I quite agree that some attempt ought to be made to remedy the existing evils, but, at the same time, it appears to me that it

Mr. COCHRANE.

would be better to have a simpler Bill, the provisions of which can be carried out, than this Bill full of details which cannot be carried out.

Mr. REID. Section 12 says :

That the person on whose behalf any apples or pears are packed shall be liable for a violation of this Act.

Therefore, if a man goes around and purchases apples from a farmer, that farmer is liable.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If you buy apples from a farmer and pack them for yourself, you are not packing for the farmer.

Mr. REID. The person who buys them may never be found out.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is entirely mistaken.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is something in the point. Suppose a dealer says to the farmer : I will buy your apples after they are packed. Then, the farmer is liable if they are improperly packed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He would be in that case.

Mr. REID. I am satisfied with any Bill that would protect the farmer, but I am opposed to any law which will harass the farmer as this Bill does, and make him amenable to a penalty that it should not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Reid) was not present when the Bill was discussed, and he does not know what passed. It was stated over and over again in the House that in almost every case the apples are not packed by the farmers, but by men who buy the orchard, pack the apples, and try to make as many barrels as possible out of the product of the orchard. These men fill the middle of the barrels with poor fruit, and put good fruit at both ends.

Mr. REID. That is right.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is what the Bill seeks to cure. The object of the Bill is not to make the farmer liable, and I have the assurance of the Department of Justice that that is not the effect of it. Of course, if a farmer himself packs the apples, he would be responsible if they were not properly packed. If he is dishonest he would be liable, but if he sees that the apples are properly packed, he would not be liable. The honest farmer is perfectly protected under this law. I assume the intention of all law is to punish the guilty, whether they be farmers or others, and I do not suppose that the hon. gentleman wishes to shield the dishonest farmer any more than he would the dishonest packer. My personal opinion is, that few, if any, of the farmers are dishonest in this matter. As a general rule, the grower

is not responsible, but if he be responsible for the improper packing, he ought to be liable to a penalty. There is no danger whatever to the honest farmer.

Mr. REID. The minister knows that probably not one farmer in a hundred will know anything about this law. If a city buyer comes to my constituency and says to the farmer: I will give you so much per barrel, and I will pack them, and put your name on the barrel. The farmer does not know anything about this law, but he will afterwards be held liable for bad packing. There is nothing in this Bill to protect the farmers, and there should be something to protect him against unprincipled men of that kind. The minister knows there is nothing in this Bill to protect the honest farmer.

Mr. FLINT. The clause only makes the person prima facie liable, and he will have an opportunity of defending himself by competent evidence.

Mr. REID. Yes, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) knows that the magistrate will look to the law and not to the discussion in this House; and there is nothing in the law to protect the honest farmer. He will take the law as he finds it in this ninth clause. There is nothing in this Bill to protect the honest farmer of the country, and the minister should have something in it that will protect him.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Bill was never intended to meet the case of the honest farmer, because the honest farmer will not violate the law.

Mr. REID. The honest farmer will not violate the law if he knows what the law is. Does the Solicitor General suppose that every farmer in this country will have a copy of this Bill? He knows that he will not; therefore, there should be something in it to protect the honest farmer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Then I suppose the hon. gentleman means that when we enact a Criminal Act, we should distribute a copy of it to every person in the country.

Mr. REID. No I do not, but this Act is framed especially for the farmers of this country.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is not.

Mr. REID. It is not the lawyers of this country who are growing the apples, but it is the farmers, and if the Solicitor General framed this Bill, he should see that it protects the honest farmers, who are the backbone of this country.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am quite satisfied that when the farmers of this country read this discussion, they will not be very thankful to the hon. gentleman for the mode he has taken of protecting them.

Mr. REID. The hon. gentleman has no right to make that remark. I am ready to depend on the votes of the farmers of the county I represent for their approval of my course. The Solicitor General, in framing this Bill, should protect the farmers as well as the purchasers of apples.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). There is a good deal in the contention of my hon. friend from Grenville (Mr. Reid), for this reason. The farmers of this country have been growing apples from time immemorial, and shipping and selling those apples in a certain way. Now, you are enacting a law, which is to take effect on the first of July, making it a penal offence in some cases if these farmers dispose of their apples. As my hon. friend says, there is not one farmer in twenty who will know that you have passed this law. But what I rose for was to ask the Minister of Agriculture how apples from other countries are sold in England. If I am correctly informed, apples from all countries are sent there in barrels, and when put on the market a certain number are poured out into baskets, and the apples are sold according to the sample shown, so that the purchaser sees what he is buying. He sees the sample poured out.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, certainly.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is the case with apples from all countries, and I understand that no other country has the form of inspection which we are adopting here.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not know as to that.

Mr. TAYLOR. I am informed that neither the United States nor any European country has this kind of inspection; therefore, it is going to prove a disadvantage instead of a blessing. Let the hon. gentleman adopt the suggestion I made and try it for one year, that is, to let the packer be his own inspector, and brand his name, his address and the variety of the apples on the barrel. If you adopt this Bill, you are going to stop a large trade. Many farmers send their apples to commission merchants in Montreal. The commission merchant finds them to be a fair average stock, and he sends them to England and sells them by auction for what they are worth. My hon. friend is going to stop that trade unless the apples are repacked at Montreal, which would spoil the fruit. Then, he proposes to brand the apples A No. 1, No. 1 and 2. The apples which command the highest price in this country are the Russets, and yet you will hardly get a Russet large enough to grade A No. 1.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman has not listened to my explanation, that the grade does not depend on the size.

Mr. TAYLOR. The grade must depend to a certain extent on the size.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, not at all.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then I do not understand the hon. gentleman. What is the benefit of having a size?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. To show what the size of the apples is.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know that the small Russet apple commands the highest price, it is the best keeper, there is a larger number in the barrel, and the apples will go further as a table fruit in hotels. If the hon. gentleman is going to grade a Russet because it is small in size—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not, and the Bill does not.

Mr. TAYLOR. However, I have studied the matter, and my opinion is this—and it will please the farmers, the fruit-growers and the exporters—that you should compel every packer to be his own inspector, put his name and address and the variety of the fruit on the barrel. But to appoint a lot of inspectors to enforce the Act at Montreal or anywhere else, means that you are simply going to ruin the trade of this country, and do something that is not done in any other apple-growing country in the world.

Mr. THOMAS FORTIN (Laval). I have only a few words to say on this subject, and they are said in response to what I understood to be an invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, as to the feasibility of enacting that the branding of apples shall apply to the local market. I understand that the Bill provides for the branding of apples for the export trade only, and the suggestion was made that it should also apply to apples for the local market. I do not know very much upon this subject, and it is with hesitation that I venture to express an opinion. There are, however, a few farmers in my constituency who grow apples for the local trade only. I regret to see that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier is not here; I understand that possibly the best apples grown in the whole country—the celebrated Fameuses—come from the county of Jacques Cartier. There is hardly any necessity for imposing upon our farmers the necessity of putting their names upon the barrel, etc., when they are selling their apples upon the local market. There are reasons for this which may not exist in so far as the export trade is concerned. In the first place, the farmers are generally known to the purchasers. A man who purchases apples upon the market in Montreal from a farmer in the vicinity generally knows the seller, and can tell whether he is dealing with a man in whom he may have confidence. In the second place,

Mr. FISHER.

those apples are brought either in bags or barrels, and the barrels are opened to inspection, and may be emptied sufficiently to permit personal inspection.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill only applies to the sale of fruit in close packages, so that the open packages which the hon. gentleman describes would not come under its provisions at all.

Mr. FORTIN. This is an additional reason why this Bill should not apply to the local trade at all. If the local trade is not carried on under the conditions provided by the Bill, it seems to be useless to extend the Bill to that trade. I am not an expert on this subject, but I have heard so many members talking on subjects which they apparently knew so little about, that I was encouraged to take some little part in this discussion.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). I am very pleased to see the sentiment prevailing, that something should be done to regulate the sale of apples shipped for export. We all realize that our apples are at a great disadvantage in the English market. We can see by the press of our country and by the English press, and any person who heard the evidence given before the Agricultural Committee by our agents on the other side could not help a blush of shame at the manner in which our apples are sent to the mother country. While we find that our wheat and pork and cheese and butter are rated high in the English market, our apples, unfortunately, are at a discount, and considering that we export from \$1,300,000 or \$1,400,000 per year of this commodity, we must admit that it is high time something should be done to give it the standing which our other products have attained. And it is quite evident that if our apples were properly handled, they would realize some hundreds of thousands dollars more than they now do. It is no doubt a good move to compel the name of the shipper to be stamped on the barrel, but we should have a provision compelling him to put on his true name, so that he could not evade the law by putting on the name of one of his employees or irresponsible person. It is said that the inspection of the barrel would be a source of great trouble, but if 10 per cent inspected be reduced in value, the 90 per cent will bring a better price and the exporters will get the benefit. When our apples are at a discount, as they now are, in the English market on account of poor packing, some radical means should be taken to remedy that evil. It may be said that the present Bill is not perfect, but I would like to know of any law that was perfect when first passed. All our laws have been amended time and again, and if this measure should not be found workable, we can have it amended another session. As regards the contention of the hon. member for Renfrew with reference to ignorance of law,

there may be something in it, but ignorance of law is not an excuse, and our farmers are to-day a reading public and better aware of what is going on in the House and the country than some people imagine. When he has an article to sell a farmer should not and is not ashamed to put his name on the package. Even in the local trade that would be an advantage, and if all the apples were not up to a certain grade, they could be stamped as mixed or seconds, so that the buyer could know what he was buying. In my opinion, this measure will encourage our farmers to take more care of their orchards and aid in the development of this valuable trade.

Mr. REID. I have listened with a great deal of pleasure to the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers). That hon. gentleman was elected as a Patron of Industry and a friend of the farmer. And since he has sat in this House, he has never given one vote or spoken one word in the interest of the farmers of this country. But every Bill that has been submitted by the government, the hon. member has supported, whether it was right or wrong, whether it was needed by the farmers or not. He knows that this Bill is not in the interest of the farmers. He asks that it be passed now, and says that next year it can be amended. The hon. member knows that next year he will not be in the House to amend it. He says that a great injustice has been done to the apple-growers of this country. I agree with him in this statement. My objection to this Bill is that it does not protect the apple-growers. If he will point out to me one clause in the Bill that will protect the apple-growers, I will support it.

Mr. ROGERS. It all protects them.

Mr. REID. No, it protects gentlemen who buy and pack the apples. But it is the farmers I am trying to protect; and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rogers) is going back on the farmers, although he was elected to represent them in this House. He says that butter and cheese are properly protected. I agree with the hon. gentleman, but he is not protecting the farmers of this country when he agrees with this Bill. He says the farmers are not so dense but that they know what is going on, and what the objects of this Bill are. I agree with him to a certain extent. But not every farmer knows. Those who do know, and who read the speech of the hon. member (Mr. Rogers), I believe, will not support him after what he has said.

Mr. TAYLOR. How are butter and cheese protected?

Mr. REID. By brand. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), I believe, framed this Bill—

An hon. MEMBER. No.

Mr. REID. Well, he takes the responsibility. But, as a lawyer, I do not know why he should be unwilling to leave matters to a jury. The Bill provides:

No appeal shall lie from any conviction under this Act except to a superior, county, circuit or district court, or the court of the sessions of the peace having jurisdiction where the conviction was had; and such appeal shall be brought, notice of appeal in writing given, recognizance entered into, or deposit made within ten days after the date of conviction; and such trial shall be heard, tried, adjudicated upon and decided, without the intervention of a jury—

And so on. Now, is it not unfair that if there is any wrong-doing it should not be allowed to go to a jury to consist of the farmers of this country? Could not twelve honest farmers be chosen to decide such questions? The hon. member is afraid to allow that to go to a jury of farmers.

Mr. FEATHERSTON. I think he will accept that. There are twelve in the House who are capable.

Mr. REID. Why not put it in the Bill? Will the hon. minister agree to leave it to a jury?

Mr. JAMES GILMOUR (East Middlesex). Fraud should be punished wherever it exists. This Bill seeks to accomplish that, but in the technicalities and varied stipulations into which it goes, it defeats its own object. I would not like to ship apples under the conditions imposed by this Bill. I think the suggestion made by the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) would make it easy and plain—simply to provide that the apples shall be uniform from one end of the barrel to the other. This could easily be ascertained, and the inspector could put his brand on accordingly. The hon. member for Peel (Mr. Featherston) has shipped many apples, I know; and I would ask him if that would not meet the case. There are all sorts of stipulations with regard to size and with regard to grades made by the government in this Bill. We are all sure to vary as to the grade, and vary honestly. Your inspector might meet my apples somewhere on the way and stop and inspect them. If he did not agree with me as to the grade, he would bring me up for summary punishment. The apples would be detained, while the litigation was going on, and while an appeal was taken to a superior, county, circuit or district court. That is too much for apples. Apples are delicate articles. The one who handles apples has to get them while he can and put them on the market right or he will soon be out of the business. I would urge the minister to consider the suggestion of the hon. member for South Huron. Let the barrel bear the name of the variety and the name of the shipper, and let the fruit be uniform from top to bottom of the barrel.

Mr. W. V. PETTET (Prince Edward). The fruit-growing industry is a very important one in the county of Prince Edward. I think that the year before last we shipped something like 50,000 barrels from that county alone. The hon. member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane) will bear me out in saying that there are not better apples grown on the continent of America than those grown in the Bay of Quinté district—notwithstanding the statement of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) and others that the Annapolis valley apples are the best. I have never had experience in exporting apples to the old country, but I have shipped my own apples to Montreal. I prefer selling them at home. I have always found it more satisfactory to ship them to Montreal and have them sold by a commission merchant. I do not believe that the bad name that our apples have got in the British market is due altogether to bad packing. Professor Robertson, before the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization last year, said that it was impossible to carry apples safely across the Atlantic unless the holds of the vessels were fitted up with ventilated chambers. He went on to read a letter from Mr. E. D. Smith, a leading fruit-grower, comparing the shipments of this fruit from Halifax and from Ontario and Quebec. Of 1,000 barrels shipped from Halifax in vessels provided with ventilating chambers, only fourteen were reported slack and wet; whereas, in the shipment from Ontario and Quebec, from twenty to seventy-five per cent were slack and wet when they reached the old country. I do not know whether the steamships have been provided with ventilating compartments since that time; but the minister should see to it that the vessels carrying our apples from Montreal to Great Britain shall be provided with ventilating chambers. Now, as for the Bill itself, I am in accord with its principal features. Perhaps if anything should be left out it is the provision regarding the size of the apples in inches. I think the packer's name should be put on the barrel, with the name of the variety and the grade. But the most important part of the Act is left to the Governor in Council, that of inspection, and I would advise the minister, when an inspector is appointed, to make him liable to a penalty if he does not do his duty faithfully. I know of some cases where veterinaries were appointed to give certificates for cattle going to the other side, and I have it on good authority that they gave the certificates without having inspected the cattle at all; that upon being paid for it by the shippers they passed a whole car-load without inspection. Now that might be the case with the apple inspectors unless they were liable to a penalty.

Mr. TAYLOR. Explain how they can be inspected.

Mr. GILMOUR.

Mr. PETTET. That is a difficult thing.

Mr. REID. You are representing the farmers, you should do so.

Mr. PETTET. Yes, I am a farmer, and I grow apples, but I never had any experience in shipping them. The member for East Northumberland (Mr. Cochrane), said the other day that shippers could give more details about the business than growers. I could not offer any suggestions in the matter of inspection, and am willing to leave that to the Governor in Council.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Pettet) has made one or two remarks which show that he has carefully considered this Bill. He remarked, in referring to inspectors and their duties, that he had heard of a case where veterinary inspectors had given certificates without proper inspection. I regret to hear that, and I can assure the hon. gentleman that if he will inform me who those inspectors are, I will take steps to see that they are dealt with properly and promptly. So far as I know, no such conduct has been brought to my attention, except in one particular case where the person was immediately dismissed from the service of the government. If the hon. gentleman will give me the means of tracing such action on the part of any officers of my department, the shrift will be very short for such officer, I can assure him.

The matter of inspection, I say frankly, is a most difficult one. I have shrunk for two years from the introduction of an Act of this kind, although it has been urged upon me by gentlemen all over the country, by many gentlemen who are discussing this Act to-day. In the Committee of Agriculture, the question has been discussed for two years, and it is only in consequence of the deplorable condition which our export apple trade has reached, as shown in the information which was received last fall, that I felt compelled to take some action, if we are going to preserve our export trade at all. The condition of affairs is not altogether what has been explained by my hon. friend from Prince Edward County (Mr. Pettet). The arrival in England of apples which have been damaged in the unventilated holds of steamers, is certainly much to be regretted. Through discussion with the various ship-owners, I have been urging upon them to provide proper ventilation for those holds, and as an hon. gentleman has mentioned, in the case of apples shipped from Nova Scotia the shipowners who took those apples to England had acted upon my solicitation and had put proper ventilating shafts into the steamers to carry those apples. This last fall a number of ships from Montreal were also fitted with electric fans and ventilating shafts, but notwithstanding these improvements in the transportation of apples, the reputation of Cana-

dian apples last fall suffered more in England than ever before. But the chief cause of this was not the discovery of slack and wet apples so much as it was the discovery of actual fraud in the packing, where closed barrels had been faced at either end with a couple of rows of good apples and the rest of the barrel was filled with trash. It is to guard against fraud of that kind that this Bill has been framed. This Bill does not provide for any inspection of fruit after it has crossed the Atlantic, we have to leave that to the people on the other side. There is no doubt that even if our apples were good through and through and fulfilled every condition of this Bill, still, if they are carried across the Atlantic in heated holds, near the boilers and engines of the vessel, they will arrive on the other side of the Atlantic in bad condition, and this Bill does not pretend to provide against that. What it does pretend to do is to provide against the fraudulent packing and marking of the barrels. Hon. gentlemen opposite have made suggestions, some of them in one direction and some of them in another. My hon. friend from Grey (Mr. Sproule) has protested against the name of the variety being put upon the barrel. My hon. friend from Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour) asked that the name of the variety be put on.

Mr. SPROULE. The minister misunderstood me. I said it would be well to put the names of the well-known varieties.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I was going to suggest a small verbal amendment to that third clause in section c, where it says that the name of the variety shall be put on, an amendment in these words 'mixed varieties'; so that if a person wished to pack different varieties of apples in the same barrel he might put these words on the barrel. So far as the inspection is concerned, nobody appreciates the difficulty more than I do. As I have pointed out in former sessions in the Committee of Agriculture, I have shrunk from proposing legislation of this kind because of the difficulties of inspection. At the same time it seems to me we have had a call to pass such a Bill as this. Inspection seems to be necessary, however little may be contained in the Bill itself. If it is understood on the floor of parliament that we require certain grading and certain things to be done in the shipment of fruit, and if there were to be no provision for inspecting that fruit, the people would laugh at the provisions and would not try to fulfil them. As I have explained on several occasions, it is not expected that every shipment, that every barrel or every lot of apples shall be inspected. But every one, under this Bill, would be liable to inspection, and therefore I think it will prove a deterrent to people from practising these frauds. Inspection is not compulsory, but at the same time any individual who packs apples is liable to have

them inspected under this Bill. Without such a provision the Bill would be of little use. If it was understood and expressed on the floor of parliament that while provision is made for the proper branding and marking of apples, no penalties were attached for neglecting to do so, and no inspection was to be made, the people would laugh at the provisions and would ignore them, and our fruit would not get the benefit of the improvements. Some hon. gentleman has suggested that the name of the packer and the grade would be sufficient to mark upon the package. But, the grade is no use to be put on the package unless there is some statutory definition of what the grade means. If you were to put A No. 1. or XXX, or anything of that kind on, and there was no statutory declaration to show what that grade meant, if an hon. gentleman opposite were to buy a barrel of apples from me, marked XXX, if he were to go into a court and try to prove that I had not supplied him with XXX apples, and there was no definition of what XXX meant, the hon. gentleman would find it very difficult to convict me, because there would be no standard, and he could not prove that I had sold him something which was falsely represented. Therefore, it is, that I think it is necessary that there should be a definition of what the grades mean. Otherwise I think the Bill would be practically useless.

Mr. TAYLOR. That would be all right.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is just what the Bill provides.

Mr. TAYLOR. It provides more than that; it provides for an inspection.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It provides that there will be a liability to inspection, so that any person who puts up apples and mark them fraudulently is liable to be found out. But, if there were no inspection a person would mark whatever he liked on the package and he would take his chance of being found out. As far as the home trade is concerned, the purchaser who is defrauded might bring him to account, but as far as the export trade is concerned, when the people in Great Britain, who purchased the fruit, found that it was not what it was represented to be, they could not prosecute him with any convenience, or they would not be likely to do so. This brings me to what the hon. member for South Grenville (Mr. Reid) said. He said, that on the English market fruit is turned out and sold at auction open to the inspection of the purchaser.

Mr. BRODER. Only the sample.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is sold by sample, and the sample is turned out.

Mr. SPROULE. A gentleman who is in the business says that if the consignment is under 20 barrels the barrel is not turned out, but if it is over 20 barrels one barrel is turned out.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not aware of that provision, but I do not say that it is not so. If it is so it is very evident that fraud is very easy because, as we know perfectly well, to our shame be it said, a large number of packers and shippers send part of their trade in one name and part of it in another, and probably the reason for doing that is to avoid coming under the provision that the hon. gentleman has described. But even supposing that the purchaser over there knows what he is getting, and only pays for what he is getting, that is not a remedy for the evil at which this Bill is aimed, because, in consequence of what has been going on the reputation of Canada as a fruit exporting country has been ruined and the object of this Bill is to try and reinstate her in the reputation which she ought to have as a fruit-growing and a fruit-shipping country, because we do produce fruit here of the highest and best quality. It is only because some people have been guilty of fraudulent packing that our reputation has been injured in other markets. Therefore, the contention as to the inspection is not substantiated but, to prevent further injury to our reputation in foreign markets we need an inspection, or a liability to inspection, and is only by that means that we can accomplish the objects of this Bill at all.

Mr. HURLEY. Would the hon. minister tell me where and how the inspection will take place?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. An inspection will be liable to take place at any point from the point of shipment until the barrels are sent out of the country. The fruit shipped is liable to be inspected wherever the inspector may happen to find it, under the provisions of the Bill. That is the intention of the Bill. There is no doubt that there are great difficulties in this, but, at the same time, if we are going to have a Bill, and if we are going to have any good effect from it, it seems to me absolutely necessary that this liability to inspection shall be provided for.

Mr. J. J. TUCKER (St. John City and County). Will it be one barrel in 50, or one barrel in 75, or one barrel in 100, that will give an indication as to the quality of the remaining barrels?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The usual practice in such cases is that a certain percentage of the barrels shall be opened, and that if that percentage is good the whole lot will be allowed to pass. But if a certain number be found defective the whole lot shall be marked 'fraudulently

packed,' or wrongly marked, like the ones that are inspected. This is a detail of the inspection which can be arranged to suit the exigencies of the trade.

Mr. GILMOUR. The hon. minister said at one stage of his remarks that he had noticed the bad condition of the apples when he was in the old country last fall. He did not seem to state the cause exactly. I would like to state to him the chief cause of the bad condition of the apples which were sent forward last fall, and the cause of the disaster to those who shipped them. It will be remembered that last fall apples ripened too early, that warm weather followed the ripening, and that they were unfit to ship. Winter fruit was as unfit to ship as fall fruit generally is. I know men who lost every dollar's worth of the apples which they had shipped under the best method which was known to them.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman is quite right, but that does not account for the fact that at each end of the barrels there was fine, handsome fruit, while the middle was filled with little nubbins.

Mr. GILMOUR. When the decay came the middle would look worse than the outside.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, but it does not account for the small apples that were in the middle of the barrel.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). I would like to ask the hon. minister, if after fruit has been inspected in Montreal and passed, there will be any mark put upon the barrel by the inspector that will guarantee to the purchaser in England that the fruit has been inspected and is really what it is represented to be. Will there be any distinctive mark showing that the fruit has been inspected?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. As the inspection is not compulsory, I did not think it would be well to place such a mark on the package. This Bill does not contain provisions for a compulsory inspection. I have been urged by many people to have a compulsory inspection and to undertake to inspect every lot of fruit that goes out of the country, but I did not see my way clear to do that. I shrunk from attempting such an inspection, and as long as that is not done I do not think that it would be wise that any mark of inspection should be put upon the barrels.

Mr. CLARKE. It would undoubtedly give a special status to our fruit if the result of the inspection were put upon it. It seems to me, that the purchasers of fruit in England would rather purchase fruit that had been inspected and would pay a larger price for it while the reputation of our fruit would be re-established more rapidly if

Mr. FISHER.

some marks were on the barrel showing that it had been inspected by our inspector before it was shipped to the old country.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Mr. Chairman, I do not rise to express any opinion as an expert, and I feel some diffidence in addressing you, Sir, upon the question which has been treated by the experts of the House. But, there are other points beside the technicalities which appeal to the practical common sense outside of any technical point, and one of these which appeals to me, whether I am right or wrong is this: The hon. minister states that in his Bill he does not wish to make a compulsory inspection. What is the use of an inspection in so far as the foreign market is concerned, unless compulsory? If the English buyer knows that there is compulsory inspection in Canada which gives a certificate of character to the apples, he would be more likely to rest assured that he was getting fruit of good quality. I would like the minister to consider whether this inspection, without being compulsory and without placing the imprimatur of the government of Canada on our apples, will have the desired effect of enhancing the reputation of our apples in the English market. In Canada our fruit is undoubtedly of a most superior quality, and it should enjoy the very best reputation, and it is for the government to take measures to secure that. The apple-grower in Canada will enter into the business for the purpose of making money out of it, and his greatest inducement to pack properly and to grow the best quality of fruit will be, that if his name is placed on the barrel, he may become known as a successful producer of apples. The individual grower will be interested in maintaining his reputation, and will produce and export his apples in a manner to bring him the highest price. I speak with some diffidence on this subject, but I come from a part of Canada where apples are produced in perfection. The Fameuse is favourably known all over the world, but the delicacy of that variety is such that it is not fit for exportation. However, in Ontario, Quebec, and the valley of Evangeline, we produce the very best fruit in the world for export to the English market. I should imagine that if the inspection is compulsory it would be far better for the apple trade, and I would also suggest that it would be better to stamp the name of the grower on the barrel for the reasons I have mentioned.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill does provide that the packer's name shall be upon the barrel. The hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) alluded to the Fameuse apple, and while I quite agree in his opinion as to its excellence, I cannot allow his statement to go unchallenged, that the Fameuse cannot be exported. The Fameuse is exported with the greatest

success to England, and its super-excellent qualities are recognized there to-day. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House complain generally that the Bill goes too far, but the hon. member (Sir Adolphe Caron) asks that it shall go a great deal further, and that the inspection shall be compulsory. As has been already stated, it would be almost a physical impossibility to undertake to inspect all the apples exported. Within about six weeks of the fall of each year, some time as much as 500,000 barrels of apples are shipped from the port of Montreal, and compulsory inspection of that number of barrels in such a short period of time would be practically impossible. Of course, I suppose enough men could be put on to do it, but the inevitable delay which would arise would be fatal to the trade. I venture to say that no one who has studied the matter carefully would advocate compulsory inspection. I grant that the fact that this inspection is not compulsory may not make the grading of itself so satisfactory to the English purchaser. But the fact that inspection can be made will accomplish, I believe, what is aimed at, in deterring the fraudulent packer. He will never know when his packages may be inspected, or when he may be discovered and fined, and nine men out of ten, of those even who wish to commit fraud, will shrink from doing so. I fear it will be impossible to do more than that.

Mr. T. DIXON CRAIG (East Durham). I have two or three large apple-shippers in my constituency, and when home I had a talk with them about this matter. They told me there was a meeting of shippers at Toronto, that one of them attended as representing the others, and that the conclusion they came to was: That they were opposed to this Bill. They thought the object of the Bill might be good, but they said it was utterly impracticable. They did not know where or in what manner this inspection was to be done to be of any use. I report that as their opinion; but I go further for myself, and I say that on general principles I am opposed to compulsory inspection of any kind. Our butter trade does not amount to much, but our cheese trade amounts to a great deal, and it has not been built up by compulsory inspection. Neither has the bacon trade, which is also a very large trade in this country. It is true, as the minister says, last year our apples turned out very badly; but the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Gilmour) has given the reason for that. In that case it was the shippers themselves who suffered loss, not the farmers. A difficulty of that kind will cure itself, for men will not continue to ship apples and lose money on them year after year. They themselves will have to take greater precautions and be more careful about packing. After all, self-interest is the great motive in doing business; it is the only thing that makes

men do business properly. Every man is anxious to have his goods stand well in the market to which he sends them, and it is his interest more than that of the government to see that everything is done so that the goods will turn out well and that he will make a profit. A suggestion which was made by the shippers in my constituency has been mentioned here two or three times, that is, that the name of the shipper should be put on the barrel. If that were done and the apples turned out badly in the old country, he would get a bad name. That was their argument. As for themselves, they said they would be anxious to have a good name there, and that the apples should turn out just what they were represented to be. They are opposed to the government going any further than that.

Mr. SPROULE. Did they not express the opinion that the name or the brand on the barrel should also be registered here, so that it could be traced? Those with whom I communicated regarded that as important.

Mr. CRAIG. No, they did not say a word about that. Now, as the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) says, I do not think there is any such Bill as this in the United States, where they ship a great many more apples than we do; and that being the case, I am afraid that if we adopt a Bill of this character, instead of doing good, it will do harm and hamper the shippers of apples. There is one clause in this Bill which struck me as a very peculiar one, that is clause 13, which provides that the inspector may enter upon any premises to make an examination of any packages of apples or pears suspected of being falsely marked, whether such packages are in the premises of the owner or on other premises, or in the possession of a railway or steamship company. It seems to me that puts too much power altogether into the hands of the inspector. If he suspects any apples, he has the power to inspect them anywhere, whether in transit or anywhere else. I can see how this would greatly interfere with trade. I think that power is too great to give any man. Altogether, I am opposed to this Bill. Before sitting down, I am going to read a short article from the *Weekly Sun*, a farmers' paper, which expresses my views on this question exactly:

The Fruit Inspection Bill.

Mr. Fisher's Bill, providing for the inspection of apples and pears packed for export, is one of the most important that has been taken up at this session of parliament. It was well, we think, that when it was up in the House last week, it was allowed to stand over, in order that there might be a fuller expression of opinion upon it. The legislation proposed is of an entirely new character, and it is not easy to say just how the measure will work out, should it be placed upon the statute-book.

Mr. CRAIG.

It is unquestionably in the interests of all, and of none more than the exporters, that our apples, which constitute nearly the whole of our fruit exports, should obtain and secure a high reputation on the British market. There have, doubtless, been instances where inferior apples have been exported, and the general average has thus been lowered. But, in instances where the quality has proved to be inferior, the party placing the fruit upon the market has been the chief sufferer. It is not the purchaser who loses, for before apples are sold in Great Britain, they are subjected to rigid inspection, and if the quality is poor, so is the price. Here, then, a penalty of the heaviest character is at once imposed upon the exporters of inferior fruit.

Our cheese has acquired a high reputation on the British market; so has our bacon. With neither cheese nor bacon has it been found necessary to enact legislation such as is proposed in the case of apples. Is there not some danger that the legislation now proposed will hamper our apple trade rather than help it? Is there not some danger that the proposed restrictions and the impositions of penalties, one-half of which we notice are to go to the informers, may have the effect of discouraging trading, and thus lead to less competition and lower prices? We hope that the Bill, if enacted, may have a directly opposite effect, but these questions seem, to us at least, worthy of consideration.

As the exporters have the most to gain from a high reputation for our apples abroad, they will doubtless investigate the causes that have led to the shipment in recent years of some apples of an inferior quality. They will probably find that the great defect is the way in which the system of purchasing and packing is carried on. They will probably find instances where their local agents have bought orchards in bulk, and, when the crop has been short, have packed inferior apples in order to bring the number of barrels up to the estimated quantity. They will probably find other instances where agents who purchase for them on commission, have been more zealous in swelling their commissions than in culling the apples purchased by them. That it is the system of purchase more than anything else that is at the root of the trouble is proved almost conclusively, from the fact that in Nova Scotia, where the apple-grower exports his own fruits, there is little, if any, complaint of the inferior quality of the exports. It is in Ontario, where the fruit is at least equal to that grown in Nova Scotia, but where an entirely different system prevails, that the charges of bad packing are made. If we are correct in this, the evil seems one that is likely to best work out its own remedy without restrictive legislation.

It seems to me that the minister might well let this matter stand over until another session, so that it may be more fully considered and we can ascertain whether or not there is any need of a Bill of this character.

Mr. ANDREW BRODER (Dundas). I rise to suggest that it would be well to put on the barrel, not only the name of the exporter, but the name of the orchard from which the apples are taken. Then, the owner of the orchard would have as much interest in having the apples properly packed as the shipper, because the reputation of his orchard would be to some extent at stake. It seems to me that would get

over the difficulty as to when, where or how the apples should be inspected. I do not for a moment suggest that any inspection we can make here will bind the English purchaser. A perishable article like an apple may be in good condition when it leaves our shore and be bad when it reaches England. You cannot get a thorough remedy. The one thing we want to be sure of is, that the apple shipped from Canada is what it is represented to be. The persons interested are the owner of the orchard and the packer; and if the purchaser is packing badly for the purpose of fraud, let the farmer bring in the inspector at the expense of the purchaser.

Mr. TAYLOR. If I understood the hon. minister correctly, he said that Canadians lost heavily on account of the way they packed their apples, namely, by putting one or two tiers of large apples at the head and bottom of the barrel, and filling the middle with smaller apples.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Some did that.

Mr. TAYLOR. How does he know they were Canadians? Is he not aware that large quantities of apples are brought in from the United States, purchased by our Canadian shippers, and shipped from Montreal? How does he know that it was not the Americans who were doing this work of which he complains and not the Canadian shippers. If the hon. gentleman will look at the Trade and Navigation Returns, he will find that last year in particular we brought in large quantities of apples from the United States and shipped them to Great Britain, and we shipped besides from Canada to the United States 17,000 barrels of apples. Will this Bill apply to apples shipped to the United States?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. TAYLOR. We supplied Germany with 5,000 barrels and Newfoundland with 7,000 barrels, and no fault was found by the trade in the United States, Germany, and Newfoundland as regards the apples being smaller in the centre of the barrel than at the top and bottom. What right has the hon. gentleman to charge Canadians with this fraudulent practice? Where is the protection he gives the Canadian trade by providing that our apples are to be branded as the produce of Canada, when the Americans can ship their apples and claim that they are Canadian goods?

I agree with what my hon. friend has read from the *Farmer's Sun*. We have built up in Canada a trade in cheese and butter simply because Canadians took pride in sending the best article to the English market, as they will do in the case of apples. If the hon. minister will take the precaution of having them shipped as carefully as butter and

cheese were under the provisions enacted by the late government, he will be doing something for which he may claim credit. My hon. friend laughs, as if the late government had done nothing in building up our butter and cheese industry, although he knows that industry was built up before he ever had anything to do with it as a cabinet minister. If he would take the trouble to see that our apples are not stowed away in the holds of vessels, where they become melted before arriving in England, and have them stowed in properly ventilated apartments, he will be doing something for the trade. I would ask the hon. minister what he did with the apples he sent to England. He nursed them all the way across, and yet they did not bring enough to pay freight, and did not return a dollar into the treasury. Did he pack the barrels with small apples in the middle, and large ones at both ends? or what was the reason not a cent was returned to the treasury? and were they the kind of fruit that has brought our Canadian exporter and grower into disrepute? He is allowing American apples to go from Canada branded as Canadian fruit, and is making no provision to brand Canadian apples as a Canadian product.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The Bill does provide that Canadian apples shall be branded as such, and the American apples, to which the hon. gentleman has alluded, came from the United States and went through in bond, and were sold in England as coming from the United States, and had not the word 'Canadian' printed on the packages at all. The English law requires the packages to have the country of origin printed on them, and Canadian apples were branded as such on their packages in accordance with that law. The apples which the hon. gentleman has alluded to, and which have been alluded to several times in this discussion, which arrived in England fraudulently packed, had the names of Canadian packers on the packages.

Mr. TAYLOR. They will not do it again.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They may or they may not, but they injured the reputation of Canadian apples in the English market, and the object of this Bill is to prevent a repetition of that kind of thing. The hon. gentleman is entirely wrong in his premises, so that I need not pay any more attention to him.

Mr. REID. The whole tendency of this Bill is to represent that our farmers are a lot of scoundrels.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not a bit of it. The farmers are not mentioned in the Bill at all.

Mr. REID. According to the Bill, it is directed against the farmers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
No.

Mr. REID. From my county some 10,000 to 20,000 barrels of apples are sold by the farmers to men who purchase them at so much a barrel. The purchaser packs them, and the farmers are held responsible for the packing of those apples under this Bill.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
No.

Mr. REID. Yes, the Bill says: 'Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person—' The packer may be held to be the agent of the farmer and the farmer is responsible.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
The purchaser is not an agent.

Mr. REID. He might be held an agent, because he might put the farmer's name on the package.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
He would be liable under section 3 for putting a wrong name on the package.

Mr. REID. Right along the border, supposing the packer shipped the barrels right across the river and thence to England, how are you going to protect the Canadian market? Those apples are shipped as Canadian apples; and if badly packed, as the minister describes, they will injure our reputation. I was the first man in this House to recommend the branding of our Canadian cheese, and the first time I did so I met with opposition, but the government in the House finally adopted my view, with the result that our cheese exports are very much increased. Now, if this Bill provided that the apples were to be branded 'Canadian'—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
It does.

Mr. REID. I admit that. But apples of the United States may be shipped through in bond marked 'Canadian,' and you cannot prevent it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
Yes, you can.

Mr. REID. You cannot interfere with the brands of a foreign country.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
We could not prevent an American shipping his own goods, say from Boston, marked 'Canadian.' But there is a law in England which says that food products shall be marked with the name of the country of origin. The English law would have to deal with that.

Mr. REID. Is there anything in this Bill to prevent apples marked 'Canadian' going through in bond? American apples packed in the way the minister is trying to prevent will go through in that way, and

Mr. REID.

the reputation of this country will be affected. When the manifest shows them to come from Montreal, the English purchaser does not know where the goods actually come from. I have heard from men who have shipped cheese that it is impossible to trace it if it is shipped from Montreal.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
It is very difficult, I admit.

Mr. REID. It does not protect. Then, what is the use of the Bill?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
It is not intended for that purpose.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). I have listened very attentively to the remarks of the various members on this Bill, and I am sorry I cannot endorse the views expressed, as they are altogether different from those I entertain. I am pleased to say I represent a county that grows a large quantity of choice fruit, as has been shown by the prizes won, not only in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but in England as well. And I feel I should be doing injustice to the farmers of Nova Scotia were I to allow this Bill to pass without expressing my opinion with regard to it. First of all, I am opposed to compulsory inspection. The hon. Minister of Agriculture, a few moments ago, said it was not compulsory. But clause 3, to my mind, makes it compulsory:

Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs apples or pears in a closed package, intended for export, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner before it is taken from the premises where it is packed,—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.
That is compulsory, but it is not the inspection.

Mr. KAULBACH. But clause 13 clearly makes inspection compulsory. Suppose that a farmer is not getting on well with his neighbour, and that neighbour knows that the farmer is exporting apples, and he wants to put him to all the inconvenience and trouble he can, he will require these apples to be inspected. And clause 13 requires him to submit. It says:

13. It shall be lawful for any person charged with the enforcement of this Act to enter upon any premises to make an examination of any packages of apples or pears suspected of being falsely marked in violation of the provisions of this Act, whether such packages are on the premises of the owner or on other premises, or in the possession of a railway or steamship company; and any person who obstructs or refuses to permit the making of any such examination, shall, upon summary conviction, be liable to a penalty not exceeding \$500 and not less than \$25, together with the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such penalty and costs, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding six months, unless the said penalty and costs of enforcing it are sooner paid.

I feel that it would be very hard for a farmer to be submitted to the operation of a clause of this kind. I am not anxious to criticise this Bill unduly. What I desire is not to be hampered in any way in the export of our fruit. We export and inspect in such a manner as we feel is in the interest of the farmer, and I do not want this parliament to legislate so as to interfere with us and hamper us in our shipments. I believe in the grower's own inspection—that is, he marks the package with the name and address of the packer, the variety of the apple and the grade. I think that that is all that should be required of the farmer. I agree fully with the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the size of the package—that our barrels should be the same size as the barrel that is in use in the United States.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. This Bill does not provide for that.

Mr. KAULBACH. But I agree with the minister's remarks in regard to that point, in introducing this Bill. He said that was one of the objects sought in framing it. But, I believe that the restrictions imposed here are not in the interest of the farmers. As to the inspectors, it seems to me that the minister would require an army of inspectors to carry out the provisions of the Bill, and their fee would be a tax on the farmers which I object to strongly. I am anxious to protect the farmer's interests and I am also anxious to help the Minister of Agriculture in fair legislation; but I must certainly dissent from the views expressed by him as respects this Bill in many of its features, and shall have to oppose it.

Mr. HENDERSON. I am glad the minister has not made the inspection compulsory. The Bill, I assume, will become law, as he intends to put it through. Therefore, I am glad it contains that feature. In fact I think the more difficult he makes the inspection the better. On reading section 13, I apprehend the inspector would not be able of his own will to go upon the premises of any man where apples are stored and insist upon an inspection. It seems to me that could only be done on some person swearing out an information that he suspects and has reason to believe that the apples are falsely marked, and on the strength of that information the inspector would then proceed to inspect the apples. If that is not the minister's intention, I think he should change the wording of the clause in such a way that the inspector, of his own free will, could not make an examination, but could only act on the sworn information of some one that there was reasonable ground to believe that the apples were falsely packed. If that is not the meaning of the Act, I am afraid the whole system of inspection will be abused. It would be a very easy matter for the inspector to make considerable

money by inspecting where inspection was not necessary. I hope that if the language here is not sufficiently strong to prevent the inspector from acting on his own free will instead of waiting until some person has given him sworn information, the minister will make it so, and not leave the matter of inspection entirely in the hands of an inspector.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am glad to hear the suggestion of the hon. gentleman. It may be that this clause is not as clear as it should be. The intention is not that the inspector should enter upon premises where apples are originally packed and where the owner still holds them, but the intention is that when the apples are once started on their journey to the point of destination, showing that that was the manner and style of the packing intended, they would then be liable to inspection. There was no intention of entering upon the premises, say, of a farmer who had put up apples in his cellar and was keeping them. Perhaps the clause may require a little change to make that intention more clear. The intention was that the inspector might enter upon the premises of a packer who had packed apples in a warehouse, where he was putting them up and heading them up, and marking them for export or for shipment; but there was no intention that the inspector could enter the cellar, for instance, of a grower and there inspect apples which happened to be put up in a particular way in that cellar. I will look over the clause carefully and see if it can be made more clear. I think it would be necessary, if there is to be any inspection, that the inspector should be empowered to inspect apples at any point in transit, or in a warehouse in transit.

Mr. HENDERSON. I scarcely think so, unless he is called upon, unless he has placed in his hands some evidence showing that there is reason to believe that these apples are falsely marked. I think it will make inspection too common and too easy, and that the whole matter will be abused and become unpopular. I think the inspector should not be called upon except where there is good reason shown him, on sworn testimony in fact, that the informant has ground to believe that the apples are falsely packed. I do not think it is well to trouble the trade more than is necessary, but when it is necessary, I am satisfied that an inspection should be made.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I agree with the hon. gentleman that we should not trouble the trade more than is absolutely necessary. I will consider carefully what the hon. gentleman has said. I would point out to him, however, that in such a provision there would be danger perhaps, if people had a spite against a packer or shipper, of calling upon the inspector to take action against him.

Mr. HENDERSON. I think it will prevent it.

Mr. REID. This Bill is only supposed to deal with apples for export. Now, suppose a man goes to a farmer and says that he wants to buy a thousand barrels for home consumption, and he picks them as he wishes, and ships them through to the United States, brands them Canadian or not, as he pleases; how are you going to follow these?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think we could follow them.

Mr. REID. They go as Canadian apples. If all apples exported from this country had to be branded as Canadian apples—

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. So they are, under this Bill.

Mr. REID. No, if they are exported through to the United States.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Under this Bill they would be liable to inspection. Supposing a man, any where on the frontier, put up apples and shipped them across the river, if the inspector happened to hit upon them before they crossed the river, he could inspect them under this Act just the same as if they were going to Montreal. Of course once they have got across the river, or on the sea, or in England, we cannot follow them any further for inspection. If the apples escape inspection in Canada we cannot help it; but if the apples are marked under this Bill and started towards the United States, if the inspector should catch them, he would have power to inspect them and to mark them accordingly as he found them. More than that we cannot do.

Mr. REID. What I mean is this: A man may purchase a thousand barrels of apples in a township adjoining my village; he may bring them out and put them on the vessel. When he is ready to ship them he simply goes to the customs and gets an outward entry, and it is impossible for you to follow them.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They would be liable to be inspected when they are on the vessel.

Mr. REID. No, because he may say he is going to ship them to Montreal, and they are not liable to inspection until they are ready to leave. Is it the intention of the minister to have an inspector in every town, village and city in the Dominion?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No.

Mr. REID. If it is not, how are you going to have these inspected? The customs officer cannot detain them, and therefore they go through. He can brand what he likes on the barrel, but as it is not compulsory,

Mr. FISHER.

I do not see how you are going to protect the Canadian trade by this Bill.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is a deterrent to prevent people marking their packages wrongly. If a man is not caught he will get through all right, but if he is caught he will be liable to penalties. But if there is no Bill and no penalty, he is not liable for anything, and he can mark his packages just as he pleases. The hon. gentleman was not present a night or two ago, and consequently does not know that many members asked that the scope of this Bill should apply to the home trade as well as the export trade. If that amendment is made, which I am rather disposed to suggest should be made, then it would apply to these apples when they are packed under the circumstances to which the hon. gentleman alluded.

Mr. REID. The hon. gentleman means that they may be shipped across to the United States without any brand on them at all?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They cannot under this Bill. The Bill requires that they shall be branded if they are exported at all.

Mr. REID. But they can be shipped to the United States without any brand?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, they cannot.

Mr. REID. It is not compulsory to have it on?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly it is.

Mr. REID. I do not see how that is.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If you will read clause 3 you will see how that is.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would like the hon. minister to point out the law whereby goods were last year required to be branded Canadian.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is an English law.

Mr. TAYLOR. The English law says that goods coming into England must have the brand of the country from which these goods were exported? The minister will not make that statement.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do emphatically.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know, as a matter of fact, that any amount of goods of all kinds are shipped from Montreal. Until we commenced to brand cheese all these goods were sent to England without any mark upon them.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Because the law was only passed two years ago.

Mr. TAYLOR. Did we pass a law ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, England passed one two years ago.

Mr. TAYLOR. That all goods coming into the country should be branded ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. All food products.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is news to me. If we are to brand at all the only point at which the branding or inspection should take place is the port of export. What will be the result if the hon. minister is going to allow his inspectors to inspect and brand in transit ? Take, for instance, Port Hope and Cobourg. These are large points of shipment. The exporter purchases from the farmers and warehouses his goods there. The inspector may come in, if he is so disposed, inspect every barrel of these apples, and destroy every barrel. The only place at which the inspection should take place is at the port of shipment, Montreal, Quebec or Halifax.

Mr. REID. The hon. minister stated to me, a few minutes ago, that every barrel of apples exported had to be branded 'Canadian apples,' and he referred me to clause 3. In clause 3 the Bill states :

Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs apples or pears in a closed package, intended for export, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner before it is taken from the premises where it is packed,—

- (a) with the initials of the Christian name and the full surname and address of the packer;
- (b) with the size of the fruit in inches;
- (c) with the name of the variety, and
- (d) with a designation of the grade of the fruit.

Will the hon. minister tell me where it says that the apples have to be branded 'Canadian apples.'

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If the hon. gentleman will look at the designation of the fruit he will see that in the designations there is the word 'Canadian.'

Mr. REID. It does not state so in this Bill.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, if the hon. gentleman looks at section 5 he will see that it does.

Mr. REID. Clause 5 is as follows :

5. No person shall sell, offer, expose or have in his possession for sale any apples or pears packed in a closed package and intended for export upon which is marked the grade 'A No. 1 Canadian.'

'Upon which is marked the grade,' but it does not say that he must mark it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It says in section 3 that he must mark it, and in section 5 the grade is defined with the word 'Canadian.'

Mr. REID. But it does not say that he must mark any grade 'Canadian.' He can mark it any grade he wishes.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, he marks it any grade he wishes, but he must put the word 'Canadian' on whichever grade he marks it.

Mr. REID. I do not see that it is compulsory.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am sorry you do not.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the minister will look at clause 16, he will see the lever that he is placing in the hands of the inspector, or some other person who might have some spite against a shipper.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I said the other night that I proposed to strike out section 16.

Mr. REID. Section 5 says it shall be branded 'Canadian' or any similar designation.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That similar designation would contain the word 'Canadian.'

Mr. REID. Not necessarily. I would ask the minister in all seriousness if it would be necessary to use the word 'Canadian' in any similar designation ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes, I think it would.

Mr. REID. But, according to the law would it ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think so.

Mr. REID. Yes, but your opinion is only think so.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am not going to set my opinion against yours. Perhaps you are a lawyer.

Mr. REID. No, I am not.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. If it is possible that there is any doubt in the opinion of the lawyers of the House we can put the word 'Canadian' in, but I do not think it is necessary.

Mr. REID. Should it not be more explicit ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think so, but if the hon. gentleman wishes we can make it so. He can move an amendment.

Mr. REID. What is meant by section 5 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That the word 'Canadian' has to appear.

Mr. REID. It says 'or any similar designation.' Could it not be a mark of any kind ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think so. It would have to be similar.

On section 10,

Mr. SPROULE. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether it would not be wise instead of saying 'falsely marked' to mark it correctly. If the inspector finds a package marked falsely he should be able to say what is the correct mark that should be upon it.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The reason for putting on 'falsely marked' is that it may act as a punishment. It would be designated as falsely marked, and therefore the fruit would have to be sold on its merits. I think if we marked it in that way it would help materially to enforce the Act.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether 2,108 cases of pears and the 253 cases of apples that he shipped over to England in 1898 were sold on their merits and whether it was their defective condition that caused such a loss as to return no money, or whether they spoiled on the passage over? I see by the Auditor General's report that there were 2,108 cases of pears purchased and sent over.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I did not purchase them, and if the hon. gentleman will consult the next page of the Auditor General's Report he will see an item that balances against that, and, consequently, the amount which he has indicated is not the correct one. Some of the fruit was sold to advantage and some was not. It was not by any means an altogether successful shipment, but I may say that the shipment was made with the assistance and at the request of certain fruit-growers in the neighbourhood of Grimsby, whose names were submitted by the Fruit-Growers' Association, that the shipment was guaranteed by the department so as to make a trial shipment, and that it was a trial shipment, in every sense of the word. Various kinds of fruit and various varieties of fruit were sent over to see whether a trade could possibly be worked up. Some of these were successful and some were not. Some reaped a good profit and some were a dead loss. In some instances the fruit was sent in consequence of those interested asking over and over again that trials should be made. The hon. gentleman, on a former occasion, discussed this matter very fully, and I have secured the information which he requires, and more than he asked for, which I will give him when we discuss the cold storage.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the Auditor General's Report, B-47 and 48, every item shows a small balance over the amount guaranteed, but the total loss to the country is \$3,088.85 on the trial shipments of pears, apples,

Mr. REID.

grapes and tomatoes. There is no revenue returned anywhere.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At page 50 you will find the entry 'less proceeds from fruit sales, \$1,665.66.'

Mr. REID. After the barrel is branded 'falsely marked,' the person shipping may erase that and brand them as Canadian apples again.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He can do anything he likes with the barrels after he gets them out of the country.

Mr. REID. They should not be allowed to leave this country without being properly branded, or else the apples should be confiscated.

Mr. CRAIG. The man who owns the apples may not be to blame. Instead of them being falsely packed intentionally, they might be inadvertently marked by an employee, and I think it would be better, after the fine is inflicted, that the barrels should be branded according to their contents.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It was thought well to put that in as a sort of punishment for the incorrect marking.

Mr. CRAIG. He is fined already.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He may or may not be. I think myself the inspectors ought to prosecute, but that does not necessarily follow. When the inspector brands it 'falsely marked,' then the fruit can go forward and it will always be followed with that mark, unless, as my hon. friend from Grenville (Mr. Reid) says, the fruit shall be confiscated. The hon. gentleman says that not only ought it to be branded 'falsely marked,' but that it should be confiscated.

Mr. GILMOUR. Cases may arise in which it would not be fair to brand them 'falsely marked.' Suppose the buyer buys the orchard, packs the apples, and sells them to another who would ship them. They go to Montreal, and the third party would hardly be responsible for the packing, unless he examined them all, and that could not be very well done.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The intention is, that both the shipper and the person from whom he bought would be liable.

Mr. REID. I move:

That after the word 'mark' in clause 10, the words 'falsely marked' be struck out and the words 'quality such as is found,' be inserted instead.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would hardly be prepared on the spur of the moment to accept that amendment, for this reason, that it would, I think, necessitate the inspector examining the whole lot.

Of course, if he found a certain percentage not up to the standard, he would so mark the whole lot; but if he were to mark them according to what they would grade, I think he would be obliged to inspect every barrel, which nobody has yet suggested should be done.

Mr. GILMOUR. Would it not be necessary for him to examine every barrel before he marked them as falsely branded? He should certainly see that he is correct before he does that. It would be better for him to go on and examine them and put the proper brand on them.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I think as a matter of law there would be a very great distinction as to the number of barrels the inspector would have to examine, in order to brand them as of a proper quality, and the number he would have to examine before he put the other mark upon them. The law would say that after he made an inspection of the requisite percentage, he would be entitled, in a general way, to pass the whole lot as being properly graded; but he would lay himself open, it appears to me, to an action for damages if he labelled any one of those barrels as falsely marked and on inspection it should be found that it was properly marked.

Mr. SPROULE. Suppose a person purchased a consignment of apples, and found one barrel falsely marked, would that be regarded as the only barrel falsely marked, or would that apply to the whole consignment?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The mark would have to go on each package.

Mr. REID. Take the case of a farmer or a packer having a thousand barrels of apples, who asked the inspector to go and inspect those apples. They might be packed as No. 1 Canadian apples; but the inspector opens one barrel, and says he can only grade that as No. 3. Why not mark it No. 3? I do not think it is fair to the farmer or the packer, that the inspector, simply because he finds one or two, or ten barrels wrongly graded, should condemn the whole thousand barrels. Let him mark them for what they are. The farmer might prefer to have them marked No. 3, rather than to have the words 'falsely marked' put upon them, because that would be an imputation upon him when he did not intend to do anything wrong. I think he has a right to have them branded for what they are.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The hon. gentleman has evidently not apprehended the purpose of this Bill. It is that the inspector shall inspect the apples after the packer has put the brands upon them. It is not intended that the inspector shall help the packer to pack his apples or grade them. The packer must do that for him-

self; but if he brands them fraudulently, he is liable for the penalty, and the inspector will mark them as falsely marked. I agree, however, that the hon. gentleman's suggestion, that the inspector, instead of putting 'falsely marked' on the barrel, should mark the grade on them, is worthy of consideration, and if the committee will let this clause stand, I shall be glad to consider that, and see how it will work out, and if possible adopt it.

Mr. REID. The minister says that the packer must have the apples branded before the inspector comes. Would it be unfair if the farmer or the packer has the apples packed, with the heads out, and says to the inspector, 'There are my apples packed; you can examine one barrel or a thousand; grade them what you can, so that I can brand them;' just as is done with grain. But from what the minister says, the farmer or the packer must inspect them for himself and brand them, and then if the inspector comes round he may fine him a dollar a barrel, and mark them 'falsely marked,' whereas the farmer may wish to have them inspected and marked for what they will fairly grade, and the inspector comes down and says: I cannot pass them, because they are No. 3, and I will mark them 'falsely marked.' His neighbour may be an enemy and enters an action to recover the penalty of \$1 per barrel. The inspector should be allowed to grade them according to their grading, and then a fine could not be imposed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The intention of the Bill was not to have the inspector go and grade the fruit. But, it is quite possible that arrangements ought to be made by which the packers could call upon an inspector to go and mark the fruit, and, under those circumstances, the packer ought to pay a fee. When an inspector inspects the fruit in transit, and not at the request of the packer, the government ought to bear the expense, because that is done for the general good. But, I agree that provision ought to be made for the calling in of an inspector to grade the fruit at the point of shipment, so that the packer would not be liable to a fine. That is one of the regulations with regard to the carrying out of the provisions of the Act, which is left in the hands of the Governor in Council, and which, in consequence of the discussion here, I intend to have adopted. The discussion on this clause with regard to the false marking has brought out several points well worthy of consideration, and I would ask that the clause be allowed to stand for further consideration.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is no room for doubt that under the provision of this Bill, it would be necessary to prove that each individual package was falsely marked in order to re-

cover the penalty provided, not exceeding \$1 per package.

Mr. REID. But the Minister of Agriculture says it is not necessary to examine the whole lot, but that a few barrels need only be examined, and the court might be guided by this explanation.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is a very clear distinction between passing the lot as properly graded and recovering penalties for false grading. The inspector may examine a percentage of the lot, and finding it up to the mark, pass the whole. But, if you seek to recover a penalty for false marking, you must prove that each package was falsely marked. Otherwise you would expose yourself to a claim of damages for seeking to recover a penalty on the allegation that certain packages were falsely marked, when each package was not examined and proved to have been falsely marked.

Mr. REID. The hon. minister is, no doubt, right, and no doubt each package would have to be examined before it could be proven that it was falsely marked. But, I fall back on the request I made, that if a package should be falsely marked, the inspector should give it its proper grading and mark it accordingly.

Section allowed to stand.

On section 15,

Mr. REID. The minister will remember that a few minutes ago I said that in this clause no provision is made to allow the party the option of having a jury. I claim it as most unfair in this country, that any man accused should not have the option of being tried by twelve of his countrymen. I would ask that that clause be amended.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Such an alteration would be directly contrary to the provisions of all our summary convictions Acts. The necessity of a jury is not recognized in cases of much greater gravity, and involving much larger interests than are contemplated here. The conviction is summary, and it is necessary that the proceedings should be summary. It would be impossible to summon a jury; there is no procedure for calling a jury to decide whether a man should be fined a dollar for wrongly marking a barrel of apples.

Mr. REID. I will admit that I discuss this at a disadvantage when I discuss it with an able lawyer like the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair). But, is it not a fact that, in division court cases in the province of Ontario, even in the smallest cases, if the party wishes, he can demand that he be tried by a jury, and the judge simply calls twelve men out of the room—the party having the right to challenge them.

Mr. BLAIR.

Mr. SPROULE. But this is on appeal.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). That is a small jury and in certain cases.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It may facilitate matters if I explain to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Reid) that this section was taken verbatim from the General Inspection Act, and is the same as applies in the case of the inspection of other commodities.

Mr. REID. This is a very important matter to the farmers of the country, and the General Inspection Act does not get down to the farmers.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It applies to wheat.

Mr. REID. But, that is a different thing. Is it not a fact that there will be an audience sufficient to get a jury? Why not let the party have the option?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. In these summary convictions, it is deemed advisable that there should be no such machinery.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). If you read the criminal law, you will find that many cases that, formerly, it was thought impossible to try without a jury, are disposed of summarily without a judge. To provide for a jury in this case would open the door to a similar amendment in ten thousand other cases. And it would be discovered in the main that a man gets a better trial by a judge in summary conviction than by a jury.

Mr. TAYLOR. It seems to me that this is all right, being an appeal. But I object to the procedure in the first instance. If a man has a thousand barrels of apples for shipment, the inspector may come along, brand them as wrongly marked, and fine the party a dollar a barrel. It may be merely a difference of opinion, but, apparently, the law is absolute, and the inspector has the power.

Mr. SPROULE. But you have the appeal.

Mr. TAYLOR. But, apparently, the inspector has the power of imposing a fine.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, he has to lay information under section 14. He cannot impose any fine. All he can do is to inspect and give evidence as to the inspection.

Mr. SPROULE. The complainant gets half the fine. I think this clause is decidedly in the right direction. When the appeal is made it should come before a judge. A man can expect fair-play from a judge more likely than a jury.

Mr. REID. Notwithstanding what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) has said, I would like to see the option allowed of a

trial by jury. Of course, it is useless for me to argue a point of law against the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) and the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). If it cannot be done, of course I must submit.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. Before moving that the committee rise and report progress, I would like to move an amendment in regard to clause 3. In subsection *c* it is provided that the name of the variety shall be branded on the barrel. I would like to add, 'or the words, mixed variety.' I think that would meet the views which have been expressed this afternoon, so that if any packer was not sure he had put all of one variety into a barrel, he could put on to that barrel the words 'mixed varieties.' In that way he would not render himself liable to the penalty.

Mr. **SPROULE**. That scarcely meets my views, because the same defect exists still, that there may be a difference of opinion as to the names of the varieties. If you said 'all well known varieties,' I would not object to it. There are so many varieties of apples that one could call by one name, and another would call them by another name, and the inspector might take a different view from the packer.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I do not think any inspector would condemn a barrel of apples on such an occasion as that. If the hon. gentleman does not like my suggestion, I would be glad if he would draft an amendment which would satisfy him and cover the case.

Mr. **REID**. If what he is suggesting there now means that you could put more than one kind of apple in a barrel—

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. You could if you wished to.

Mr. **REID**. In that case how would you brand them? Because they have to be branded either No. 1, 2 or 3 Canadian. If you say that you could mix the apples in a barrel, then the other clauses would be wrong.

Mr. **HENDERSON**. I think the minister would make a mistake by his amendment. The apple business is not carried on on such a small scale in Ontario and Nova Scotia that a man is going to ship to the old country a barrel of apples, half of one kind and half of another, or of several different varieties. I would much rather adhere to the Bill as it stands. If the branding is to be of any value, let us maintain it at as high a standard as possible.

Mr. **SPROULE**. It is a fact that many exporters pack barrels of apples containing two varieties. I have seen it frequently done by the packer, and that from a locality that ships from 100,000 to 300,000 barrels in

a year. I saw the name put on the barrel, Spys and Russets, or names of other varieties. The mixture usually consists of two kinds. There are a few good apples left from one tree but not enough to fill the barrel, and they make up the balance from another tree.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). It is a fact that there are many different kinds of varieties shipped. I attended a show in Kentville two years ago, and there were 109 distinct varieties of apples there.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Be good enough to state the names.

Mr. **FRASER** (Guysborough). I refuse to keep this House so long in session as to give the names.

Mr. **FEATHERSTON**. No man in the business would think of mixing two or more varieties in a barrel for shipment.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I move that the committee rise and report progress. There are one or two suggestions that I would like to consider with my colleagues before it finally passes.

Mr. **ELLIS**. I understood the minister to intimate that he proposed to give this Bill a local effect as well as to make it apply to exportations.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I have followed the discussion closely, and the impression in the House seems to be in favour of applying it to the interior trade as well as the export trade.

Mr. **A. W. PUTTEE** (Winnipeg). I think it would be well that the Bill should also apply to the home trade. There seems to be a diversity of opinion amongst hon. members as to whether the Bill will do any good at all in connection with the export trade, but I am perfectly sure that it will do good in regard to the North-west trade. In England they have an open market where apples come from various parts of the world besides Canada, but in the North-west it is different. We depend entirely on Ontario. We have a customs tariff against apples, so that we are restricted to this market. We do not grow apples at all. The hon. Minister of Agriculture knows thoroughly well that we have suffered most outrageously from bad packing, false packing and false marking of apples. Whether or not the Bill should apply to the eastern trade, it should most certainly apply to the western trade, because that trade can be handled more easily than the export trade can. I had intended to move an amendment to section 3, but when the first two or three sections of the Bill were brought up, they were put through so quickly that no person had a chance to say a word. If the section 3 is opened up again, I propose to move an amendment to it.

Committee rose and reported progress.

**MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY—
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.**

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) presented a Message from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. **SPEAKER** read the Message, as follows :

MINTO.

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons further supplementary estimates of sums required for the service of the Dominion for the year ended 30th June, 1900, and in accordance with the provisions of 'The British North America Act, 1867,' the Governor General recommends these estimates to the House of Commons.

Government House,
Ottawa, May 22, 1900.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved : That His Excellency's Message, together with the supplementary estimates accompanying it, be referred to the Committee of Supply.

Motion agreed to.

**YUKON—RETURN RE THE STEAMER
YUKONER.**

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson) moved :

That leave be granted to lay on the Table of the House papers in connection with the ss. 'Yukoner.'

Motion agreed to.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would like to ask the hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), what he intends to take up to-morrow ?

The **PRIME MINISTER.** Bills, and then supply.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.20 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 23, 1900.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READINGS.

Bill (No. 166)—from the Senate—to incorporate the British North America Pulp and Paper Company.—(Mr. McCarthy.)

Mr. **PUTTEE.**

Bill (No. 165)—from the Senate—respecting the Montreal Bridge Company.—(Mr. McAllister.)

Bill (No. 164)—from the Senate—respecting the Great Eastern Railway Company.—(Mr. McAllister.)

**PRIVATE BILLS—EXTENSION OF
TIME.**

Mr. **GIBSON** moved :

That the petition of the Central Vermont Railway Company, presented this day, praying to be permitted to lay before the House their petition for the passing of an Act authorizing them to acquire and operate the Montreal and Province Line Railway, the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway and the Montreal and Vermont Junction Railway, notwithstanding the expiration of the time for presenting petitions for private Bills, be read and received forthwith, and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Mr. **D. TISDALE** (South Norfolk). I do not wish to object to the different Bills being introduced at this stage of the session, but I do appeal to the right hon. the leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that we ought to have some regard for the rules of the House. If this session had closed within the average time, as it should have, some of these Bills could not have been presented. It is most unfair to ask the Railway Committee to give, at this late date, that consideration to those Bills which they ought to get in the interests of the country. I can understand an exception being made in a special case, but it seems to me that the introduction of private Bills after the time in which, according to the rules of the House, they can be introduced is becoming an abuse, and both sides should unite in applying some remedy. I am not saying that one side of the House has sinned more than the other in this respect, but either we should have some respect for our rules or repeal them.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The subject to which my hon. friend has drawn our attention is not a new one, and is one in which I am ready to go very far in supporting him. The Bills that come from the Senate are within the rules in being introduced now.

Mr. **TISDALE.** That is right.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** My hon. friend, perhaps, has reference to the petition introduced to-day. I have looked into that petition somewhat cursorily, and it seems to me that the exception in each of the circumstances justifies us in allowing it to be adopted. But I am prepared to say to my hon. friend that, unless from this time forward a petitioner is able to establish exceptional circumstances, I am ready to say

we shall not allow any further private legislation to be introduced.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). I am glad to hear the statement of the right hon. gentleman, because it shows at any rate his good intentions. He made a somewhat similar statement last year, and I hoped for better results. Although I drew attention to this divergence from the usual rule twice this session, I regret to say I had no supporters in this House. I am glad that the hon. gentleman has come to the same conclusion as I have, that this is a real grievance, and that it is increasing year after year. The rule provides that after a certain stage of the session, we cannot receive petitions, that, after a later stage, we cannot introduce Bills, and so on. But these rules are systematically and persistently violated. Now, I can understand, that in some cases, there may be special reasons for it; and when these reasons are given to the House, they may justify the House in allowing the rule to be set aside in a particular case. But this is growing to be such an abuse that no reasons are given, but simply the motion is made for the petition to be read, and it is passed as a matter of course. In my judgment, this tends to lengthen the session and also to prevent Bills getting that careful attention that they ought to receive. Therefore, I think that the sooner we reach the conclusion that if the rules are proper, we should obey them, and if they are not proper, we should amend them, the better.

Mr. TISDALE. If I may be allowed the indulgence of the House, I would say that in my opinion the reasons given are quite sufficient.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECESS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I move:

That when this House adjourns this day that it do stand adjourned until Friday next.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). I would appeal to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), even at this late date to make it Monday.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. TISDALE. Well, I suppose I have the floor; and if hon. members do not agree with me, I am quite content to have the motion carried. But my experience in this House has been that when the Queen's Birthday comes on Thursday, as it does this year, we do not get such an attendance in the House on Friday, as will enable public business to make substantial progress, even though we sit on that day. If meeting on Friday would really advance our business and secure due consideration for the measures coming before us, I would be the last

to propose an amendment to such a motion as this. But on such an auspicious occasion as the celebration of this great event, a great event, not only for the Dominion, but for the empire, the celebration of the birthday of our venerable Queen, not only the great Sovereign, but the great woman, those of us who can possibly reach their constituencies, naturally desire to spend the day there, to take part in the local celebration. It is true that distance prevents some hon. members from reaching their homes and returning in time; but those whose constituencies are in Ontario or Quebec have an opportunity to do so. While I desire to see the business of the House progress as fast as possible, I am not prepared to have the mere semblance of attending to business, when we have not the reality; but I am prepared to take the responsibility of saying that where we can only have a semblance, we should frankly adjourn. For my own part, and I am satisfied that I speak for the majority of those from Ontario, I am not able to be present. And I believe that those from a distance will be willing to say that on an occasion like this, considering the years of our venerable Sovereign, and considering that to meet would not really advance the business of the House, it would be better not to have a sitting on Friday. It will be almost impossible to get a quorum, even if the House does meet. Let us give the government a chance to prepare their business in council, and let us go home, feeling that we will make this celebration worthy of the occasion and that we will come here ready to work all the harder.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am sorry I cannot agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale). I think the best way we can honour our Queen, is to imitate her in our close attention to duty. The Queen's Birthday has always been made a holiday; but it has always been considered that from twelve to fourteen hours of that day devoted to cheering Her Majesty and giving expression of patriotic sentiments, are adequate for the demands of loyalty. We cannot, as my hon. friend (Mr. Tisdale) can, spread our wings and go to our lares and penates. We cannot go to the shrine of our household gods with the quickness that he can—some of us from the lower provinces, some from far British Columbia, and some from the North-west Territories, like myself. At this stage of the session, one day's work will help us very much. Of course, I would not presume to suggest to the government, but if, on Friday, instead of adjourning, as my hon. friend suggests, they were to bring forward some of the Bills that are pending, we could make good progress. For my part, I realize the force of my hon. friend's appeal, and was touched by it; nevertheless I feel that the best way we can honour our Queen, and show ourselves good British

subjects, is to get on with our business as quickly as we can.

Motion agreed to.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 167) to amend the Copyright Act. He said: This Bill has but one object. At the present time, before the Imperial parliament, there is an Act which gives authority to those self-governing colonies in which there is copyright legislation, to provide that when a copyright exists in the colony, the book that is copyrighted and printed in England, shall not be allowed to be imported into the colonies, thus overriding the present provisions of the Imperial Copyright law, which makes the Imperial copyright override the colonial copyright. The present Bill provides the necessary means to take advantage of that provision of the Imperial Act.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PATENT ACT AMENDMENTS.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher), moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 168) to amend the Patent Act. He said: This Bill is intended to provide certain machinery, under certain circumstances, by which the life of a patent may be extended. In the Imperial Patent law there is a provision by which, on appeal to Her Majesty in Council, the request for an extension of a patent is submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council. This committee makes a report and that report is acted upon. Representations have been made of the desirability of a similar provision being inserted in our Patent Act. This Bill follows almost exactly the provisions of the Imperial Act, and introduces them into our Act—with the change that the Exchequer Court here is made use of, as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is made use of in England.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What is the nature of the representations which have prevailed to induce the minister to bring in a Bill? For instance, a case might be cited to show that it is necessary.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. There is a Bill now before the House, a private Bill, which I think represents the class of cases which might be dealt with. I think the patent is called the Service Fish-Plate Patent. The owners of the patent show that they have not been able to introduce their patent into public use, that the patent was perhaps a little before its time, and that the people who were likely to make use of this contrivance did not at first see the advantages of it, and that it is only towards the end of the ordinary

Mr. **DAVIN**.

life of a patent that the patentee is able to place his goods upon the market and make it of any advantage to him. Several cases of this kind have been adduced, and it seems only fair that a certain amount of extra protection should be given to the inventor to enable him to reap some advantage from his invention, an advantage which he has not been able to secure through no fault of his own, but rather perhaps because he was a little too clever for the market to appreciate the value of the patent. The safeguards which are thrown round the exercise of this power are sufficient, I think, to prevent any improper use of this privilege of extension.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PAYMENTS TO THE MEMBERS FOR TORONTO.

On the question,

What amount of money has been paid to each of the present sitting members for the city of Toronto over and above their sessional indemnity and mileage by the government of Canada, from January 1, 1879, to January 1, 1897?—(Mr. McMullen.)

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Stand.

Mr. **GEO. E. FOSTER** (York, N.B.) Might I say a word with reference to that question? It is a peculiar question, and seems to indicate some improper conduct on the part of members of the House. I do not think it ought to be allowed to stand so long. One can see there is rather an imputation in the question. It has stood now from May 10th.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I may say that I asked the hon. gentleman privately what he wanted, and I find the information he desires to have would require some time to procure. The public accounts have to be looked over. Let it stand till Monday.

Mr. **BERGERON**. Why go back to 1879?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If the hon. gentleman understands the question he knows that the books have to be looked over since 1879.

Mr. **BERGERON**. I think the right hon. gentleman can get an answer from the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) himself.

GROSSE ISLE QUARANTINE.

Mr. **TALBOT** asked:

1. Has the hon. the Minister of Agriculture entered into any contract with any individual or company for the service of a steamboat in connection with the quarantine at Grosse Isle?
2. To whom was the contract awarded, and under what conditions and prices?
3. How many applications or tenders were received by the Department of Agriculture for said contract?

4. What were the prices asked in the different applications or tenders?

5. What are the names of the parties who made application or put in tenders for said service?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). 1. Yes. 2. John C. Kaine, of Quebec, \$3,000 for the season. Mr. Kaine installing at his own expense all the disinfecting appliances upon the boat and removing them again in the autumn, and furnishing the passenger cabin. 3. Four. 4. \$25 a day (*Mayflower*); \$4,880 for the season (*Rhoda*); \$3,000 for the season (*Kathleen*); \$2,000 for the season (*Contest*). 5. F. P. Ronnan; G. Rochette; John C. Kaine; D. Arcand. (*Contest*), \$2,000, requires extra crew, having double engines, and would require considerable alteration to take machinery on board. Nothing in tender providing for installation of appliances. (*Kathleen*), \$3,000, including the putting on and taking off appliances (\$300 to \$400), and requiring smaller crew and less coal, was taken as cheapest and most suitable boat available.

IMPORTATIONS OF BINDER TWINE.

Mr. CLANCY (by Mr. Kaulbach) asked :

What quantity of binder twine, and the value thereof, was imported in each of the following months, namely: January, February, March and April, 1900?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). The information required by this question cannot be furnished by the Department of Customs at present. In the monthly returns of statistics received from the customs ports, binder twine is not specifically enumerated. It is so enumerated in the quarterly returns, but such returns do not subdivide the months. From the returns for the quarter ending March last, it is found that 415,388 pounds of binder twine, of a value of \$45,833 were imported. To obtain the full information required by the hon. gentleman, it would be necessary to communicate with each of the ports in the Dominion for a special statement. If the hon. gentleman desires it, this will be done. Would the hon. gentleman who asks the question for the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) please mention that to him, and ask him kindly to let me know whether he wishes the information to be procured from the ports?

SALE OF NEWSPAPERS ON INTER-COLONIAL RAILWAY.

Mr. GAUVREAU asked :

1. Who has had the contract for the sale of newspapers, &c., on the Intercolonial Railway from Lévis to Halifax, and on all the branches east of Lévis, and what amount has been paid to government from May 1, 1897, to May 1, 1900?

2. Who has had the contract for the sale of newspapers, &c., on the Drummond Railway, from Lévis to Montreal, since the line has formed

part of the Intercolonial Railway, from March 1, 1898, to May 1, 1900?

3. Were tenders called for?

4. What amounts were paid?

5. Has the whole been paid up?

6. Who now holds the contract for the sale of newspapers, &c., since May 1, 1900?

7. Were tenders called for?

8. If not, why not?

9. When will the present contract expire, and what is the price?

10. What is the amount paid by the government yearly to the Canada Railway News Company for the advertisements of the Intercolonial Railway in a volume called 'The Railway Guide'?

11. Is the hon. Minister of Railways aware that the Canada Railway News Company does not give satisfaction to the travelling public, in that it does not keep its agents on all the passenger trains, and that its agents, when they are so kept, do not do their duty?

12. If so, what means does the minister propose to adopt to provide a remedy?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. The Canada Railway News Company have had the contract for the sale of newspapers, &c., on the Intercolonial Railway, for line east of Lévis for three years from May 1, 1897, to May 1, 1900. They paid in cash \$11,000 and \$1,500 in advertising in Intercolonial Railway Guide and the Allround Route Guide. 2. Eugene Michaud, Rivière du Loup, was given a contract for the sale of newspapers, &c., on the Drummond Railway on March 21, 1898, at \$599.84 for twelve months, but after paying for one month (April), he transferred his contract to the Canada Railway News Company. 3. No tenders were called for, for the Drummond county end of the line. 4. Eugene Michaud paid \$50 for month of April, he then transferred his contract to the Canada Railway News Company. 5. Yes, the whole amount has been paid up. 6. The contract expired on May 1, 1900, but the Canada Railway News Company is carrying on the work for the present under their old contract. 7. Tenders have not yet been called for. 8. The matter is still under consideration. 9. The present contract expired on the May 1, 1900. The prices paid by the Canada Railway News Company for the privilege of selling newspapers on the Intercolonial Railway east of Lévis is \$12,600 for three years—\$4,100 for the first year, \$4,200 for the second year and \$4,300 for the third year. For the line west of Lévis they paid for the same privilege, \$599.84 a year from April 1, 1898. 10. Under the contract for news agency on trains \$500 a year is paid the Canada News Company for advertising in the Railway Guides. 11. Have heard no complaints.

I.C.R.—STATION MASTER AT STE. LOUISE.

Mr. DECHENE (by Mr. Gauvreau) asked:

1. For what reason has George Morin, station master at Ste. Louise, an employee of three

years' standing, not been made permanent, in pursuance of his application in that behalf?

2. Why was no answer returned to a letter of April 6 last, addressed by A. M. Dechene, M.P., to Moncton, until May 9, when the said station is about finished?

3. Why is the 'express' run on Sundays between Montreal and Campbellton, and 'vice versa,' and not in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). 1. George Morin has been station master at Ste. Louise, permanently since the first of July. 2. An inquiry had to be made as to whether or not there were any special circumstances necessitating a resident inspector in the case of St. Jean Port Joli station, and it took some time to obtain this information, that is the reason why Mr. Dechene's letter addressed to Moncton was not answered until the 9th of May. An inspector is not appointed for each separate building along the line. 3. The express is run on Sundays because the carriage of the through mails and the business of the country require it. The Canadian Pacific train in competition with the Intercolonial train leaves Montreal on Sunday, and so the Intercolonial train has to leave there the same day.

PARIS EXPOSITION—MAP OF CANADA.

Mr. **PRIOR** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. Has the large map of the Dominion, which was lately exposed to view in the vestibule of this building, been sent to the Paris Exposition as the official map of Canada exhibited by the government?

2. Is it true that the boundary between Canada and Alaska, commonly known as the 'Alaskan boundary,' is marked on that map according to the United States contention and that the boundary according to the Canadian or British Columbian contention is not shown at all?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). The map in question was sent to Paris as one of the exhibits of the Department of Public Works, but not as an official map. It is true that the boundary between Canada and Alaska, commonly known as the 'Alaskan boundary' is marked on that map in two ways, marking the American contention and the Canadian contention as to the boundary, and each of these markings is distinctly stated to be what it represents; so that I do not think there could be any possible difficulty or doubt as to what is meant.

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** (by Mr. Ellis) asked :

1. Why is the insoluble phosphoric acid of bone meal valued at a much higher price than the insoluble phosphoric acid of Thomas' phosphate powder?

2. Upon what system or principle is such a value made?

3. Is the chief chemist aware that continuous experimentation with Thomas' phosphate powder

Mr. **DECHENE**.

in comparison with bone meal shows its phosphoric acid more readily available than that of bone meal?

4. Is it prudent upon the part of the chief chemist, in determining the scientific value of phosphoric acid as available or unavailable, to step beyond his sphere and express determinations of trade values giving relative prices per ton?

5. Does not such valuation leave the average reader of reports to draw wrong conclusions as to the real merit of Thomas' phosphate powder or other fertilizers because of such printed values?

6. Would it not be better to print unit of value per pound of phosphoric acid rather than unit of value per ton?

7. Will the chief chemist quote or express an opinion as to whether the phosphoric acid of Thomas' phosphate powder existing in a tetra-basic form is not changed to a tri-basic form by means of past methods of analysis adopted by the Inland Revenue and thus show a lower percentage of available phosphoric acid?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). 1. Because section 52 of the Fertilizers Act of 1890 provides that the relative value of each fertilizer shall be calculated from its contents in fertilizing ingredients at their current market value, and the insoluble phosphoric acid in bone has a higher market value. 2. The principle is stated in the foregoing answer. 3. No. 4. It must be prudent seeing that this has been made his duty by the Department of Inland Revenue. 5. No. 6. No. 7. The question is not stated with sufficient clearness to enable him to express an opinion.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) if he intends to have these interesting chemical questions and answers edited by themselves later on.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). We are preparing a pamphlet which will be distributed among hon. members.

Mr. **FOSTER**. We will send that out with Sir Richard's speech.

SERVICE AMMUNITION IN MILITARY DISTRICTS.

Mr. **WALLACE** (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

What was the number of rounds of 'service ammunition' stored in each military district in the Dominion on April 1, 1900, distinguishing the 'Lee-Enfield' and 'Snider' ball cartridges, giving the number of each?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I see that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is not in his seat. If he were here, I would like to submit to him that it is not desirable that the figures we have before us should be given out publicly. But, I would say that, in every military district in Canada there is and there was on the date named Lee-Enfield cart-

ridges, and a considerable supply of Snider cartridges, amounting in the aggregate to many millions.

ALLOWANCE TO OFFICERS, PRINCE OF WALES RIFLES.

Mr. PRIOR (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

1. What are the names and rank of the officers formerly in the 1st Prince of Wales Rifles who were transferred to the 1st Prince of Wales Fusiliers, and to whom the government paid an allowance on account of their having to buy new uniforms ?

2. How much was paid to each of the above officers by the government ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). I see also that the hon. member (Mr. Prior) who proposes this question is not in his place. I had a conversation with him last evening in reference to the matter contained in the question. I did not know then that he had given notice of the question. I do not think it desirable that the names or the amounts should be mentioned, but I may say now, what I promised to say to him in a letter, that the smallest amount paid was \$84, and the largest \$264, that there were about 16 officers who received money to compensate them for uniforms, and that the average amount paid was something like \$150 per uniform.

YUKON TERRITORY—DREDGING LEASES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Referring to Yukon dredging leases in question answered May 16, 1900, and replies to (s) and (t) in which it is said the regulations have not been complied with :

1. Have these leases, or any of them, been cancelled or declared forfeited ?

2. If not, why not ?

3. If not, what does the government propose to do about them ?

4. If any of these leases have been forfeited or cancelled, which are they, and when were they declared forfeited or cancelled respectively ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. None have been cancelled or declared forfeited. 2. The department has extended the time where application for the same was made by any lessee. The department has not cancelled any leases in view of the fact that the demand for leaseholds had ceased, and there appeared to be no advantage to the government in cancelling the leases as in many cases it was represented by the lessees that they were proceeding to provide the necessary machinery to operate their leaseholds. It was felt that if the government cancelled the leases, the lessees would simply have allowed the leases to lapse and made no further effort to operate them. In cases where application was made by the lessees,

the time for payment of rent, and complying with other provisions of the lease, was extended from time to time. All other leases are subject to cancellation at any time. Extensions of time were granted in each case for a limited period. 3. The policy of the government at present is not to cancel unless there are later applicants desirous of acquiring the leaseholds. 4. None have been cancelled. Most of the leases are subject to forfeiture for non-payment of rent, but none have been cancelled.

YUKON TERRITORY—GRANTING OF OPTIONS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Referring to the answer of the hon. the acting Minister of the Interior, May 16, 1900, (page 5298-5401, 'Hansard') :

1. When was the system of granting 'options,' such as obtained in the cases mentioned, first introduced in the Department of the Interior ?

2. Will the hon. the acting Minister of the Interior cause to be laid on the Table the papers connected with first application when an 'option' was granted ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. On the 22nd of January, 1898. 2. Yes.

YUKON TERRITORY—BONANZA CREEK LEASE, MR. A. E. PHILP.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Referring to question and answer, May 10, 1900, (page 5025 'Hansard') ; Bonanza Creek lease, Mr. A. E. Philp :

1. When was the commissioner asked for a report ?

2. How long will Mr. Philp be allowed in which to comply with the provisions of the regulations referred to ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. The commissioner was not asked by the department for a report. The applicant is required to furnish the report. 2. Mr. Philp was given six months from the 1st of February, 1889, to file in the Department of the Interior a report from the commissioner. The department was advised in August, 1889, that letters to Dawson to obtain a report from the commissioner had gone astray ; and a further extension of three months was given. Mr. Philp was advised by two letters on the 12th and 14th of May, 1900, that the report from the commissioner had not been received. No application has been received for further extension, and the matter has not been considered.

YUKON TERRITORY—NAMES OF PARTIES HOLDING OPTIONS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked :

Referring to answer May 14, 1900 (page 5246-5247 'Hansard') :

1. Were the names of parties holding 'options' furnished to the public or to Mr. Philp?

2. If not, why was a distinction made in the case of a lease and an option for a lease?

3. What particular records, books, &c., were open to the public, covered by subsections 1 and 2 in the above question and answer of May 14?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. No. 2. Because it was not the policy of the department to disclose the names of applicants up to the time they became lessees. 3. A plan showing the tracts leased, and the portions of the rivers covered by applications.

YUKON—ALEXANDER McDONALD'S ROYALTY.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

Referring to question and answer, May 14, 1900 (p. 5238-5241 'Hansard'), Alexander McDonald's royalty:

Has the report of the Comptroller of the Yukon Territory been brought down to the House?

(a) If yes, when, and what is the date thereof?

(b) If not, will the hon. the acting minister cause the same to be brought down at an early date?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. (a) June 23, 1899. (b) Yes.

YUKON—MR. OGILVIE'S REPORT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

1. Has the Department of the Interior any reply to the telegram sent to Mr. Ogilvie for his report referred to by the hon. acting minister on May 3?

2. If yes, what is its nature and when may the report be expected?

3. Considering the period of this session, will the report be laid on the Table of the House upon its receipt and before it is printed?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. No. 2. Unable to say. 3. It is not customary to do so, but the matter will be considered.

BRIDGE BETWEEN BOUT DE L'ISLE AND CHARLEMAGNE.

Mr. BERGERON asked:

1. Whether, in 1897, the Prime Minister, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, pledged himself on his honour, to a delegation of the inhabitants of L'Assomption, to grant subsidies during the then coming session, 1899, for the construction of a bridge between Bout de l'Isle and Charlemagne, and for an extension of the Montreal belt line as far as Berthier, via L'Assomption?

2. Why did not the government redeem the pledge given by their leader, and grant them the said subsidy?

3. Is it the intention of the government to grant the just claims of the counties of Berthier, Joliette, Montcalm and L'Assomption, now urgently calling for the granting of the said subsidies?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In 1897 a delegation waited upon the Prime Minister to urge the granting of

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

a subsidy for the construction of a bridge between Bout de l'Isle and Charlemagne, and the Prime Minister promised he would bring the matter to the attention of his colleagues and would favour it himself. The answer to the second question cannot be disclosed, but I may say that the subsidies were so large last year, that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron), judging from his speeches in the House did not favour an increase.

Mr. BERGERON. I proposed to increase that one, though.

The PRIME MINISTER. As to the third question, my hon. friend will have to wait a little longer to see what the policy of the government will be.

POSTMASTER, NORTON STATION, N.B.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

1. How long was Mr. McCready postmaster at North Station, King's County, N.B.?

2. Has he been dismissed, and why?

3. Was an investigation ordered, and if so, on what charge?

4. Who conducted the inquiry, and what was the recommendation made in the report?

5. Who has been appointed in place of Mr. McCready?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). 1. Mr. Samuel McCready, late postmaster of Norton Station (the name of the office has been changed to Norton) was appointed postmaster on January 1, 1881. 2. Owing to the removal of the post office from the railway station, and Mr. McCready not being a satisfactory officer, Mr. Wm. H. Baxter has been appointed to the office in his stead. 3 and 4. There was a report by the inspector which shows that the postmaster was not a satisfactory officer. 5. Mr. Wm. H. Baxter has been appointed to succeed Mr. McCready.

ALIEN LABOUR LAW.

Mr. CLARKE asked:

Since the Alien Labour Law was enacted by this parliament in 1897, has any convictions been secured by any agent or officer of the government against any person or persons for the violation of its provisions?

If so, against who, when and where, and what was the penalty imposed in each case?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am informed by the Department of Justice that no prosecutions have taken place under the Act.

POSTMASTER, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (by Mr. Taylor) asked:

Who is the postmaster at New Westminster, B.C.?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Mr. George Kennedy is postmaster of New Westminster, B.C.

PAYMENTS OF SESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Prime Minister, whether, considering to-morrow is Queen's Birthday, the sessional clerks and messengers and pages, will receive the amount they are entitled to in order to enable them to properly take part in the fete. My attention has been called to the matter by several of the employees, and it would be a great boon to them if they could be paid to-day.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The government would be glad to do anything they can, but it is not a matter entirely within the power of the minister. I am sorry to say that the supplies for that very necessary service are about exhausted, and we have estimates on the Table to cover the additional appropriations required. The Auditor General, who has the power to deal with these matters, declined to pass any further moneys for these services, until the estimates have been passed. Perhaps before the day is out we may be able to dispose of these estimates, and although they do not become law until assented to by His Excellency, yet the passage of the estimates might satisfy the Auditor General and enable him to make the necessary appropriation.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. FOSTER. As to-morrow is a holiday, would the right hon. the Prime Minister indicate what business will be taken up on Friday?

The PRIME MINISTER. We propose to take a few Bills and then the estimates.

CRIMINAL CODE (1892) AMENDMENT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 137) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

(In Committee.)

On section 179.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I wish to place before the Solicitor General additional reasons why he should adopt my amendment to this section now in the hands of the Chairman. The other day I showed him what was the public opinion in the United States and in Canada on this matter, and I shall not take up the time of the House by reiterating those citations. I notice that in preparing this Bill the draughtsman, no doubt, instructed by the minister, has put notes to the various sections, and under section 183, I find the following note:

See reports of the National Council of Women, Canada.

That shows that the Department of Justice was very properly aware of what took place at the National Council of Women of Canada, and gave due weight to their suggestions. The Solicitor General may have seen in the *Citizen* that about a fortnight ago there was a special meeting of the National Council of Women held in Ottawa. It seems that one of the ladies brought before the council this amendment of mine, and after due deliberation, a unanimous vote was passed endorsing it. I call the attention of my hon. and learned friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to the fact that in England, up to this moment, you have the Lord Chamberlain exercising censorship over plays. I do not think he exercises a sufficiently strict censorship, of which, judging by some of his remarks, he seems himself to be aware. A great art calamity has recently happened in Paris. The temple of the French classic drama, the Theatre Francais, has been burned down; and that event has called public attention to the history of that theatre—a subventioned theatre, over which, for more than a couple of centuries, the government of France has exercised paternal control. All the great productions of French dramatic and romantic genius are connected with that theatre, which, closely supervised by the government, supplied the salt to the literary and dramatic efforts of a city where, according to one eminent critic, the Goddess of Lubricity is worshipped. In Canada comfort is now widely diffused, our wealth having greatly increased in the last twenty or twenty-five years. I remember when the only theatre in Toronto was a little bit of a place, about one-sixth the size of this Chamber, hidden away in an alley, when there was no theatre worthy of the name in Montreal, and when there was none in Ottawa. Now, you have theatres in all the big cities of Canada; and we find an unworthy, inartistic, degrading drama, which, I believe, is temporary; but which cannot pass on its vicious and destructive way without leaving a deposit of great moral and national evil. I need not tell the right hon. gentleman what has been the history of the drama in the great civilized countries in the world. In Greece, for instance, for a certain time the drama was associated with great religious and national festivals, so that the great productions of the Greek mind, which remain to us, unparalleled monuments of dramatic power, were associated with the highest religious aspirations of the Athenian people. But, as the drama in Greece departed from its original associations and controlling influences, and the licentious wit of the dramatist was allowed to have free scope, you find that with the decay of the drama went the decay of national life, until at last a people who at one time held the empire of the civilized world, fell easily beneath the stroke of a petty potentate just

emerging from a half savage condition. In Europe, you find that from the dominance of Christianity the Church exercised control over the theatre; and in England very close supervision, probably altogether too close, was exercised for a long time, of which the Lord High Chamberlain is the relic. But, up to this hour absolute license has never existed. Here in Canada and in the United States, however, there appears to be absolute license. Now, in regard to this amendment which I have suggested, the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) said he had seen a similar clause in the New York Code, and yet no conviction could be got, for instance, against the author of 'Sapho,' or the impersonatress of 'Sapho.' Well, I can find no such clause in the New York Code.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). The hon. gentleman failed to find it, but it is there, though in a form in which it was not easy for him to find it.

Mr. DAVIN. If the hon. gentleman has the code there, will he kindly send it over to me with the place marked?

Mr. FLINT. It is under the head of 'Definition of a Public Nuisance.'

Mr. DAVIN (reading):

A public nuisance is a crime against the order and economy of the state, and consists of unlawfully doing an act or omitting to perform a duty, which act or omission annoys, injures or impairs the comfort, repose, health or safety of any number of persons, or offends public decency.

I think the hon. gentleman is very strained in his definition when he says that is in any way equivalent to my clause.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. gentleman is speaking in entire misapprehension of what I stated. What I stated was, that the terms in the New York Code referring to this matter were very similar to the terms in the Bill before the House, not in the amendment of my hon. friend, and that in my opinion the terms in the present Bill were ample to cover all the points of the hon. gentleman's amendment.

Mr. DAVIN. If that is what the hon. gentleman said, it is no argument whatever against amending the Act.

Mr. FLINT. Yes, it is.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not think so. I suppose the hon. gentleman, before he was allowed to practice law, received some education in logic. Let me put the case. I am arguing that our law is not effective and should be amended, and the hon. gentleman says, in reply to my argument, that our law is the same as that which is in force in New York. But in New York the impersonatress of Sapho and her theatrical manager were brought before the magistrate, and no conviction could be obtained. Therefore, the New York law is equally in-

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effective. If the hon. gentleman were to argue against my proposition that the New York law is the same as ours and proved effective, I could understand his logic, but I cannot understand it when it is proved ineffective. I am glad, however, that I was mistaken in my understanding of what the hon. gentleman said, because I was afraid he had departed from that sincerity which so distinguishes him.

This is a serious matter, and the government will not be doing its duty if it does not pay any attention to it. We sent to South Africa contingents, the like of which is not supplied by any other portion of the British Empire. Do you mean to say, Sir, that we shall be able in the future to produce such men if we allow that virus to be introduced into our community which, more than anything else, destroys manhood? People may be coarse and yet manly, but you cannot encourage in any community a taste for such theatrical exhibitions without the result happening in this country that history has shown us has taken place in other countries. We will have the inevitable degeneration and deterioration, first morally and then physically, and then deterioration in national life.

The right hon. gentleman knows who it is that writes under the pseudonym 'Bystander' in the *Weekly Sun*. He knows that there is an eminent name behind that pseudonym, and his attention may not have been called to the fact that that eminent man supports the position I have taken. I need hardly say that there is not, in any English-speaking community, a greater advocate than he for freedom, under all possible conditions. But even this philosophical radical makes his protest against the abuse of freedom which is called license. I can easily understand the kind of mind that laughs at any attempt to deal with this evil, but I know that the right hon. gentleman has not that kind of mind, although there may be men on both sides of this House who have. I do not say there are many, but I know the kind of man that laughs and says: Oh, let things go. Their attention has never been directed to the harm that comes from license in these matters. Here is what 'Bystander' says:

Mr. Davin is moving for increased restrictions on the Canadian stage. There is room for such legislation without trenching on legitimate freedom.

'Bystander' at once sees that there are people who would raise the question: Oh, you are interfering with freedom; but he knows very well, as a great historian, that there is a limit beyond which freedom degenerates into license, and when license strikes a blow at legitimate freedom itself.

Nobody expects or wants the theatre to be a Sunday school; at the same time, we do not want it to be a vestibule of the brothel. Let it present human nature frankly, but without alluring to vice. That some of the plays and

ballets now presented do allure to vice cannot possibly be denied; they, in fact, have no other attraction. Of such, ballets especially, as are often exhibited the object can only be vicious; probably no other object is intended or even professed. A cultured spectator may possibly be able mentally to separate the grace of motion from the sensual allurements, as he may be able to read a French novel for the art, not for the lubricity. But the mass of spectators are not cultured. These exhibitions often involve the most deplorable degradation of woman, and it is impossible that in the minds of those who have gloated over them respect for the sex should not suffer. We are in danger of descending, though, perhaps, by a somewhat different road, to the level of the infamous drama of the Restoration. If Mr. Davin could strengthen the checks on theatrical posters he would do a further service. We do not want to be squeamish, but beastliness is not manliness or freedom. It is an advantage which London has hitherto kept over Paris that in Paris things are displayed which in London would be torn down by the police.

I saw the other day in a paper which I always read, the *Mail and Empire*, a criticism on Sapho:

'Sapho' produced at Toronto.—Daudet's heroine presented by Alberta Gallatin.—A play with fine points.

If Daudet's heroine can be presented and played with fine points, the actress has achieved an extraordinary success. To present Daudet's heroine and make the play one with a fine point—the dramatist must have made the character something different from Daudet's heroine.

The play 'Sapho,' as presented at the Toronto Opera House last night proved a sore disappointment to a few and a real pleasure to many. It was a disappointment to those who went in the joyous expectancy of something nasty, and as might be expected of persons of that ilk, they made their chagrin known by laughing in the serious passages, and becoming uproarious at the points where their microscopically morbid intelligences found something they imagined to be suggestive. Either there never was anything dangerous to public morals in Clyde Fitch's stage version of Daudet's romance—as the New York jury held—or else it was scum that was easily skimmed off the play; at any rate, last night's representation was no more demoralizing than the average daily newspaper.

There is a fallacy there. The daily newspaper tells of public transactions, sometimes most disgustingly loathsome, but it does not present them in the guise of art, but merely as a chronicler. And if, sometimes, the chronicling does not subserve public morality, we know that the cold chronicling of a criminal act is very different from presenting the criminal act with all the allurements of artistic presentation and stage decoration.

With regard to Daudet's novel itself, there will generally be two opinions, fixed largely by the temperament of the reader. There will be those who will be touched by the pathos of the woman with an earnest longing for pure love, but who has found the apples of Sodom that turned to ashes at her touch. And there will be others

who will see nothing but the sordid ambitions of a vile outcast in the piece.

Here is three-quarters of a column about 'Sapho' in that strain of criticism. It is palpable that the reporter who wrote that criticism is not, it seems to me, a very just dramatic critic. I do not say he has written without sincerity; I have no doubt these are his own opinions. But, I would refer to the impression made on the highest papers in New York, behind which, we know, there are minds critical and highly educated. The impression made by the presentation of 'Sapho' in New York was very different from that. It may be that the play has been changed. But, it must have been greatly changed indeed from Daudet's work to present what he says so well here in the life of a vile outcast to one mind, as to appear to another mind—such a piece of euphemism that has probably never been heard—that this abandoned woman was hungering for pure love—hungering for a lily under conditions where lillies cannot grow. Now that our cities are becoming larger, now that our theatres will become still more numerous and more numerous frequented, it is the duty of the government to so fence around theatrical exhibitions as to make it clear to dramatists and to dramatic impersonators, that it will not pay to come to Canada with dramas that, as I say, pander to sensuality.

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). I ventured, the other evening, to differ from my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) with regard to this section. I do not wish to repeat what I said then, as it was pretty exhaustively argued on both sides. But I wish, by way of explanation of what I did venture to say, to address a few words to the committee. The words of the clause as passed and sent to us are 'publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show.' I said that in legislation, as in discussion and in the ordinary conversation of life, I thought it best to use language that could be fully understood—there was nothing like plain English. And when you say 'any disgusting object or indecent show,' I think you cover the whole ground, because we all know what that means. The commonest man and woman or the most educated and refined man or woman in the community will understand those words. And when you attempt to go beyond that, in my opinion, you do more harm than good, because you limit the broad expanse of plain, common-sense English. And I said, as I say now, that, either as a philosopher, as a linguist or as a poet, a plain, common-sense, matter-of-fact man of the world like myself has had neither the opportunity nor the time that my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) has had, and so, I could not 'hold a candle' to him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. TISDALE. I am not saying that sarcastically. Hon. gentlemen are laughing, but I say that seriously. Unfortunately for me, I was brought up in a country and under circumstances that limited my opportunities for the requirement of literary and philosophical lore, and I have had to be content with such advantages as I had. My hon. friend has had opportunities of which he has taken advantage, and I admire him for it. As I have said before in this House, I regret that I have not had opportunity to acquire languages as he has. Were I the master of the language spoken by so many of my fellow-countrymen in the province of Quebec, I should be able to understand them better. I often feel that we, in our rough English, fail to express ourselves in a way that they will understand, and, on the other hand, we fail to understand them. However, this is digression, and that I do not often indulge in. I am unable to agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) in the view he expresses. He saves me the trouble of reading an article from the *Mail and Empire*, which I had intended to read in support of my contention. Though I have had a somewhat lengthened experience and lengthened life, this is only the second case—the previous one was in a legal argument—in which my opponent and I referred to the same authority in support of our varying contentions. My hon. friend is a newspaper man and an able one. Not being a newspaper man myself, I defer to him, but only this far—that I believe that from their knowledge, those representing the great newspapers on either side of politics, are generally well able to decide the matter where there are no politics involved. Therefore, I think the criticism of a gentleman who is entitled to represent the *Mail and Empire*, the *Globe*—and I mention the two to show that politics does not influence me in this matter—would be one which could be referred to with confidence. I am somewhat surprised that my hon. friend should feel called upon to criticise the criticism of such a newspaper on such a question as this. I would take the opinion of the reporter, and I would consider it as a reader and as an observer. The article the hon. gentleman read shows that it is the way you look at it whether a play is objectionable or not. It brings our coat-of-arms into question: *Honi soit qui mal y pense*. That means the way you look at it, and there is no better morality in the world than is taught by those words. I say the matter is capable of being looked at in two ways, in a suspicious way and in an unsuspecting way. If it depends on the way you look at it, we should be very careful, when we are legislating, not to interfere with the plain English of this clause. I do not take the view that seems to have prevailed in the Senate. I have brought up both girls and boys, and I have endeavoured to teach

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them that a thing is bad or innocent according to the way they look at it, and that is the true criterion of judging of these things. It depends on the way you look at them whether they are right or wrong. If you attempt to make people too good, you expose them to the liability of falling into error when they come into contact with the rough things of life. The true way to make men and women strong and virtuous in this country is to let them see things in a proper way and to judge for themselves, to educate them in the right way to look at things and the right way to act. Before we exercise the strong arm of the criminal law, let us be sure that we are right in the way we look at the Act in question. In regard to all these amendments made by the Senate, when we come to deal with them, I think we would do better rather to let up on what they have done than to make it more severe. The clause reads: 'Publicly exhibits any disgusting object or any indecent show.' Any magistrate, any judge, any legislature, and man, high or low, can fairly judge what that means.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No matter what his motive may be, he is liable.

Mr. TISDALE. Not at all, because we ought not to consider the motive. When we make that criminal which is not yet criminal, we ought not to consider the motive.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say the section provides that the motive shall be irrelevant, whatever the motive may be.

Mr. TISDALE. We ought to be very careful. I am always prepared to support any reasonable amendment to the criminal law when it is clear and plain that what we legislate against is an offence. The best way of finding out whether anything is wrong, is to ascertain how the great body of men and women look at it. Whatever the general community condemns, the law should condemn, and not otherwise. When we go beyond that we make a mistake.

Mr. FLINT. The hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) having brought my name into the discussion, I will venture to say a few words. He was under a misapprehension in his reference to me, and I desire to express my opinions a little more fully on this occasion. There was an undertone throughout his speech that I and others who take the same views with me, are opposed to the views that he has expressed at such length. I have stated that we agree precisely on the object to be attained. The question is: Does the form of words in the present law meet the views which are held by the majority of the committee, or is it necessary, in order to carry

out those views, to add additional words? That is the point under discussion, not the morality of any particular play or the tendency of the drama. The reason I alluded to the trial of a famous case in New York was the fact that it was conducted under a code the terms of which are as simple and direct as are the terms of the present Act. The hon. gentleman was not able readily to turn up the reference in that code, because it does not come under the heading that he might expect. In New York it comes under the heading of 'Public Nuisance.' Their Act declares that any person doing an act which offends public decency is liable to imprisonment or fine. The phrase in theirs is similar to our own, and it was held by the court to be ample to cover all the ground which the prosecutor desired to cover in that case. The reason of failure to convict was not in the law, but because the jury did not think that the action complained of was an offence which came within the terms of the law. Similarly in this country it would be open for the jury to decide whether a like charge came within the terms of this law. I think the terms are ample. Fortunately in Canada we have not hitherto been seriously troubled by offences of this kind, and the reason is that public opinion is so well educated, is so thoroughly in accord with the best sentiments of the legislature, that the exercise of this provision of the Criminal Code has not been frequently required. I agree with the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) that the present form of words is ample to meet any possible emergency. There is danger of adding too many words in defining an offence, as is patent to all who are accustomed to trials of offences under the Criminal Code. If there were any danger that this form of words did not cover all possible occasions of offence under the idea endeavoured to be conveyed, of course, it would be the duty of parliament to adopt such phraseology as would meet the emergency of the case. This Act is comparatively new. This form of words did not exist previous to the introduction of the code. It was introduced at that time to remove the offence from the position which it formerly occupied as a case of vagrancy. I think the committee would make a great mistake if it entered upon a new line of legislation to meet this difficulty, as the present form of the law is ample as it stands.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negatived.

Mr. CHARLTON. Mr. Chairman, if in order, I desire to offer an amendment to section 181 of the Criminal Code, 1892. I beg to move:

That section 181 of the Criminal Code, 1892, be amended by substituting the word 'eighteen' for the word—

Mr. TISDALE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) be kind enough to read the

section so that we will see the application of his amendment?

Mr. CHARLTON. Section 181 is as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces or has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character of or above the age of fourteen and under the age of sixteen years.

The amendment which I propose is:

That section 181 of the Criminal Code, 1892, be amended by substituting the word 'eighteen' for the word 'sixteen' in the fifth line thereof.

The section would then read:

—any girl of previously chaste character of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of eighteen years.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. There are two or three motions still before the Chair which were proposed the other day, and which have not been disposed of yet. Perhaps it would be better, before proceeding with the discussion of the new question put by the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), that we should dispose of these proposed amendments.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am under the direction of the Chair. If that is the correct ruling, I will submit to it. Might I offer this motion to be considered in connection with ones pending before the committee?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I think it would be in order to move a motion, but to expedite business it would be better to dispose of the motions that are before the Chair.

Mr. CHARLTON. I am in the hands of the Chair.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I would suggest to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton), that his proposed amendment might come up on the motion for the third reading. As this Bill was introduced in the Senate, and came from the Senate, I would not like to say that I will accept or reject the amendment without having time to consider it.

Mr. CHARLTON. The motion was considered by the House, it received the assent of the House, and was sent to the Senate in the form in which the Bill was passed by the House, so that we can hardly deal with it as a novel question which requires time for consideration. It has received careful consideration, because it has been under consideration session after session.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This matter has been considered very carefully by the Senate, with the result that the amendment has been rejected. I do not want to deal lightly with it now.

Mr. CHARLTON. We have not been in the habit of receiving dictation from the Senate or of acting under their directions.

When we have, after careful consideration, session after session, passed this provision and sent it to the Senate, I do not think it follows that because the Senate have rejected it we should be chary about dealing with a question that we have dealt with before.

Mr. TISDALE. The question would be one of order. I am not saying what my view upon it is now, but certainly it would be more conveniently deferred until we get through the rest. What is the order? Should the hon. gentleman give notice?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. There is no notice required. I was simply making the suggestion to the committee in order to expedite business. We have already three motions before the Chair which have not been disposed of. Perhaps it would be better to dispose of these three motions, and afterwards take into consideration the motion of the hon. member for North Norfolk.

Mr. CHARLTON. I would ask if the motion offered by the hon. member for Western Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), at the time of its being tabled was not fully discussed then and stood over for subsequent action?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The first motion which is before me is the motion of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), to add a new clause to the Bill providing that this Act shall come into force on the 1st of September, 1900.

Mr. CHARLTON. I will offer the motion now, and it can be taken up in due order. I wish in connection with this motion, to submit another. I will again read section 181 so that the bearing and effect of the amendment I propose will be more clearly apparent. Section 181 is as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces or has illicit connection with any girl of previously chaste character of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of sixteen years.

I propose in this amendment:

That section 181 of the Criminal Code, 1892, be amended by striking out the words 'of previously chaste character.'

The reason for offering this motion rests largely upon experience as to the carrying out and working of the previous law. It has been found almost impossible to protect any young female under the provision of this law which contains the words 'of previously chaste character.' Some woman who keeps a brothel, or some unscrupulous person, can swear for \$5 that a girl is not of chaste character, so that a girl is at the mercy of any unscrupulous person who may tamper with her character. Those who desire the preservation of female chastity are unanimous in their opinion that these words

should be struck out and that the law should be applicable without any conditions at all to the protection of females who are protected by the law.

Mr. DAVIN. How would the clause read with the amendment?

Mr. CHARLTON. I will read the clause as it will read when amended:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who seduces or has illicit connection with any girl of or above the age of fourteen years and under the age of sixteen years—

Or of eighteen years if the amendment now tabled is adopted.

Mr. DAVIN. The words 'of previously chaste character' are omitted.

Mr. CHARLTON. Yes.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). It is not in the Bill before the House.

Mr. TISDALE. This is a new amendment not in the Bill at all.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I would just observe to my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton), that, while expressing no opinion upon the merit of the motion which he has offered to the committee—and if I were to offer an opinion upon it it would be in favour of it, because I favoured it on a former occasion—that the hon. gentleman proposed this legislation last year and the year before, and that it passed this House. It was sent to the Senate and rejected by the Senate.

Mr. TISDALE. Both clauses?

The PRIME MINISTER. No, the first one. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) now wants to introduce this legislation into this Bill. This Bill comes from the Senate. It would have to go back to the Senate again with the presumption that the Senate would not accept this amendment, and the result would simply be to imperil this Bill which is one of very great merit. I would submit, therefore, to him that the committee ought not to agree to his motion for this reason, not that I object to it, because I am in favour of it, nor am I one to submit to the dictation of the Senate, but I think such legislation should go in a separate Bill and be examined by the Senate separately, because if it is embodied in this Bill it must go back to the Senate, the presumption is that it will be rejected by the Senate, and it may perhaps imperil the Bill. For this reason, I think that the clause should not be incorporated in this Bill at this time.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) must bear in mind that this clause was in the Bill as first introduced in the Senate, and that the Senate re-

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jected the clause. If we now re-enact a clause which has been already rejected by the Senate we should do so with a possibility of jeopardizing the Bill. I am afraid the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) was not present when the Bill was being discussed here, but if he would read the amendment passed (183*a*), he will find that the burden of previous unchastity is on the accused. We meet exactly the difficulty he suggests.

Mr. CHARLTON. I have stated that the result of experience is, that while the burden of proof was upon the accused—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It never was before.

Mr. CHARLTON. Yet, the accused was easily able to blast the character of the girl, by subordination and perjury, on the part of females who have fallen themselves, and who are ready to drag down others and to swear away the character of an innocent girl. For that reason this provision had better be eliminated from the Criminal Code, so as to give the girl who is protected by the age limit absolute protection without putting her to the trouble of proving her character, or leaving her exposed to the possibility or the probability of having her character blasted by perjured evidence; her character having suffered only in respect to the trial which is going on. The general consensus of opinion of those in favour of such a provision is, that his provision with regard to previously chaste character should be eliminated from the Bill. As to the action of the Senate, I realize the force of what the Prime Minister and the Solicitor General have said, but still I do not think we are so near the close of the session as to endanger the Bill if we refer it back with one or two clauses added. The Senate may possibly reject those clauses, and if so they will do it speedily, and when the Bill is returned here we naturally would make no further trouble about it. It must, however, be borne in mind that the personnel of the Senate has changed somewhat, and we hope it will change still more, and the action of the Senate last session is not an absolute criterion of what its action will be now. Not only are there new senators who will take perhaps a different view of this case, but other gentlemen who voted against the Bill last session, when they find this provision reiterated by the Commons may conclude that they had better accept it. I cannot agree with the position taken by my right hon. friend and leader, but I do not think we will imperil the Bill by the insertion of this clause. The principal question to me is: Are these provisions right; are they desirable, should they be incorporated in this Bill as a matter of public policy and public interest, and if the answer is in the affirmative, then I say we should enact them and leave the responsibility of rejecting them to the Senate.

Mr. TISDALE. As the right hon. the leader of the House has pointed out, this Bill contains a great many other provisions than that which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) feels so keenly about. Those of us who have experience know that in a Bill of this kind with forty or fifty clauses of public interest, all of them being improvements on the Criminal Code, it is not fair to the House nor to the Prime Minister nor to the Solicitor General, that these provisions should be imperilled for the sake of asserting one other principle; and particularly as this very clause was in the Bill as introduced, and rejected by the Senate. The Senate gave a great deal of consideration to this matter and made many improvements in it, and for my part I feel that the passage of the general provisions of this Bill is more important than the passage of an additional one or two clauses.

Mr. CHARLTON. I agree with that.

Mr. TISDALE. The proposition which the Prime Minister submitted to the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) is a fair one, namely, that the hon. gentleman might have introduced a Bill specially dealing with the subjects he advocates. It is too bad that any course we should take now would set at naught all the labour of the House on this Bill. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Charlton) has always taken a very strong course on this question, and I would suggest to him that his views would receive more consideration if he would adopt the suggestion of the Prime Minister and of the Solicitor General.

Mr. CHARLTON. I realize the force of what my hon. friend and colleague (Mr. Tisdale) says, and I realize very fully the force of what was said by the leader of the government. I disclaim any intention to imperil this Bill. I cannot believe, however, that the insertion of these two amendments, if they were accepted, would endanger the passage of the measure. I have to say now, that if the Senate should eliminate these provisions from the Bill and return it to us, I should have nothing further to say about it this session. If the Senate does not accept the amendments I shall consider my duty done for the present, and I shall not interpose any further delay but shall allow the Bill to pass when the desire of the Senate is known. I merely move these amendments for the purpose of having them submitted to the Senate and asking that body to concur in them, expecting to abide by the decision of the Senate, whatever it may be, as it would be useless to go further than that.

The PRIME MINISTER. Notwithstanding everything that has been said by my hon. friend, I can only repeat, that while on the merits I agree with him, I have to adhere to the determination

I announced a few moments ago, that these amendments should not be accepted. My hon. friend, the Solicitor General, stated that these provisions were incorporated in this very Bill when it was brought in by the Minister of Justice, at the solicitation of my hon. friend. They have always been considered by the Senate and rejected by it this very session, so that there is no hope of having them accepted by the Senate this year. It is true, we could engage in a controversy with the Senate on this question, but there is no hope of carrying the amendments. The business of the House is advancing, we are all anxious for prorogation, the government are anxious to clear the Order paper; and if we put these amendments in the Bill, it would have to go back to the Senate and then come back to us, and so much time would be lost, which I think had better be applied to the practical work of the session. Therefore, when we cannot get the legislation, which, for my part, I favour, I think it should not be introduced into the Bill at this time.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. CHARLTON moved :

That section 181 be amended by striking out the words, 'of previously chaste character' in the third line thereof.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). When this Bill was in committee before, I suggested an amendment to section 449, with reference to the fraudulent use of trade marks. There was no objection taken to the clause which I proposed, and I would ask the Solicitor General to have it placed in the hands of the draughtsman, so that it may be made to correspond with the other provisions of the Act. I understand that the Solicitor General favours it, and is prepared to recommend its acceptance.

Mr. TISDALE. What is it ?

Mr. RUSSELL. There is at present no law to protect the manufacturers of soda water and aerated waters, from the fraudulent and improper use of bottles bearing their trade mark. These bottles are not sold, but are only loaned for the use of customers; but entirely irresponsible persons, such as scavengers, junk dealers and children take these bottles and sell them to other dealers, who obliterate temporarily the trade mark, and put their own inferior product on the market in the bottles, thus practically misrepresenting the character of the contents and perpetrating a fraud on the public. There is no law here to prevent that abuse as there is in the state of New York, and I propose that the same protection be given to the manufacturer in this country as is found to be useful in the state of New York.

Mr. TISDALE. What is the penalty ?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. RUSSELL. That will depend on the way the clause is drafted. I presume it will be the usual penalty provided in the Act.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). In some cases the name is branded in the glass of the bottle itself. Suppose a junk dealer legitimately purchases these bottles ?

Mr. RUSSELL. If he purchases them from anybody having the ownership of them, there is no offence; but the custom of the trade is not to sell the bottles.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Suppose he purchases them at a private house, is the hon. gentleman going to impose a heavy penalty upon him ?

Mr. TISDALE. In my opinion, there is a great deal in the idea of my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron), because you shift the onus of proof. If a private individual sold one of these bottles in good faith, he would become liable, unless he could prove that he had paid for it. It seems to me there is no hardship or impropriety in preventing anybody taking advantage of the trade mark of another; but when you commence shifting the onus of proof, you are enacting hasty legislation. What I mean by hasty legislation, is legislation which was not contemplated by those who naturally considered the Bill when drafting it.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would like the hon. gentleman who is moving the amendment to be good enough to explain the very point I am submitting.

Mr. RUSSELL. The New York statute, which covers the same ground, provides, first of all, for the registration of the trade mark, substantially as we have provided for that here. Then, it provides that if after such registration, anybody else should use such trade mark, without the consent of the owner, for the purposes of sale, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour. He is obliged to obliterate the trade mark.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. How can you obliterate it if it is branded ?

Mr. RUSSELL. This provides that the use of a bottle or other vessel containing the trade mark shall itself be an unlawful use. It is always a tortuous use. It is quite possible that my hon. friends may be right in saying that we ought not to shift the burden of proof, and I am quite content that that provision should be struck out, but there should be a general provision preventing frauds being practiced on the public.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would suggest that we should have these clauses reprinted and distributed before the Bill is brought up for further consideration.

Mr. J. A. GILLIES (Richmond). Take the case in which large quantities of bottles have been seized under assignment made

by merchants to the trade, and sold by a sheriff. The right of property in the purchaser would seem good.

Section allowed to stand.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I have here a motion of which I have given notice :

That subsection (c) of the Senate, as introduced in the Senate, be reinstated.

This section—section 205—does not apply to :

Any distribution by lots among members or ticket-holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other works of art produced by the labour of the members of or published by or under the direction of such incorporated society; if—

First, such paintings, drawings or other works of art are themselves actually and bona fide so distributed; and

Second, when the member or ticket-holder is not given the option of taking in place of any work allotted to or drawn by him a sum of money or something else of value; and

Third, no other such distribution has taken place among the members or ticket-holders for a period of one month, less one day, next preceding the date of, or the date fixed for, such distribution.

It will be observed that the Senate left in the clause *b* of the original Bill, which relates to the Credit Foncier Franco-Canadien, and according to which the ticket-holders can draw money. This clause only permits the drawing of paintings and pictures. Everybody knows about the drawings of the London Art Society, and I cannot understand why this clause was left out.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That was thrown out by the Senate, and they will not pass it again. You will be only courting a defeat of the Bill.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The legislation which the hon. member for Guysborough is proposing to reinstate in the Criminal Code is an absolute copy of that which obtains in England. While we are all anxious to put an end to the gambling under the guise of art lotteries, there is no reason why we should not allow lotteries to be established on the basis of the Art Union of England. I remember well that when my late leader, Sir John Thompson, introduced this clause he went into the whole question. It is impossible for me to account for the Senate leaving out this clause except upon the supposition that, while wishing to put an end to an existing evil, they overlooked the difference between this Art Union and the small companies or societies which are organized for the purpose of demoralizing our people. Hon. gentlemen will easily see the difference between the two propositions. In these societies which should be abolished there are three drawings a day, and they sell tickets from ten cents up to fifty cents. But, in the other case you have a drawing

which is for the purpose of encouraging art, something which is especially necessary in a country like ours that is new, and is only beginning to develop its artistic life. Artists here are under great disadvantage through finding it difficult to dispose of their paintings in the ordinary way. Even in England such encouragement as here proposed is deemed necessary, and it is for that reason that the Art Union of London was created, giving a helping hand to the artists there. If such a course is found necessary in the older and more advanced civilization of Britain, we should not neglect this means of encouraging art in our country. Under the clause proposed by my hon. friend from Guysborough you will have drawings not oftener than once in two months, and purchasers will not be able to buy tickets for less than one dollar. A clergyman in Montreal told me the other day he could see the distinction between these two institutions. He said that even children purchased tickets in these so-called art societies whose drawings are now going on. Children go about the canals, picking up coals and selling them at ten cents a can-full in order to invest their money in the purchase of tickets in these different societies. I have had occasion to speak to some of the senators, and I have no doubt that when the matter is submitted to them again, it will be found that the reason why the clause was left out was that they did not draw the line between these injurious organizations and this other which is intended to fill a want among the people of the cities. In my opinion, the police, the municipal authorities, should look after the administration of such a law as this; they should prohibit any society such as these injurious societies that I have spoken of from carrying on its nefarious business. It is not for the government of Canada to, in effect, take into its own hands the municipal administration.

Mr. SPROULE. I would ask the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) if it would not be quite as possible to make a lottery business out of this as it would if the tickets were sold at ten cents each. The question of a little more or a little less money does not make the difference. It seems to me this is only providing a lottery for those who can afford to pay more for their tickets. This, as I understand, provides that if one does not care for the specimen of art he wins, he can take money instead.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. No; under the clause which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) wishes to introduce, there is no option.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not going to express an opinion one way or another, but the section introduced in the Bill was opposed by the Senator from Montreal, and they succeeded

in having it struck out. And the argument that convinced the Senate, rightly or wrongly, was that if the liberty asked for were allowed, the same kind of gambling so detrimental to the people of Montreal could be carried on.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It cannot be.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. However that is the argument that convinced the Senate and caused them to strike out the clause. It comes before the House for the first time, and it might be well to let it stand for consideration.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse). Under the old Act there was nothing to prevent the distribution of paintings being made the pretext for carrying on a lottery with money. Under the clause as proposed, the winners are compelled to take the pictures and nothing else, and the members of the society have no option to give money instead.

Mr. TISDALE. I can see the distinction, and I think the argument has something in it. The clause as proposed, if we can be sure it will be carried out, simply affords an indirect means of encouraging art.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If my hon. friend will tell me that there is an incorporated society in Montreal actually existing that wants to dispose of its works of art in this way, it will, no doubt, have great effect upon the opinions of hon. members on this subject. But they were not able to convince the Senate that there was any such society, and Senator Dandurand succeeded in convincing the Senate that under cover of the section gambling would be carried on.

Mr. TISDALE. I do not propose to commit myself to the clause. I agree with the minister that we had better have it printed and circulated, like the other clauses, and defer the consideration of it. But it appears to be conceded that abuses did arise under the law as it was formerly. The question is whether this abuse would be likely to exist under the proposed new section, and secondly, whether some useful purpose would be served by it. If so, there would be no reason why we should not pass it. There would be no reason for passing, because there would be no object. It would look like an evasion under cover of something else. Therefore, unless there was some society in Montreal or elsewhere that it would affect unfavourably, there would be no use in the legislation.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I think I can explain how the Senate was led into error. These companies or societies were organized under provincial charters, whereas this company and the Credit Foncier and the Credit Franco-Canadien were organized under charters granted by the Federal parliament. The

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Minister of Marine and Fisheries has stated that it would go far to convince him if it could be shown that a company or society existed in Montreal. Well, I have never heard the question discussed, because it is thoroughly well known that there is a company or society existing in Montreal, and that a large amount of money has been invested in it. I know some of the people who belong to the society, which has branches in the city of New York, and they are not men who would invest their money with any intention of encouraging gambling, or leading young people away from their legitimate occupations, into bad habits. The object of that company is really the encouragement of art. How could they continue their organization, if we stated that they should not have the option of taking money instead of pictures? That indicates that the object is perfectly legitimate. Does it not indicate beyond a doubt, that their object is absolutely the same as the object of the Royal Art Union of London, namely, for the purpose of encouraging art? Some of these artists dispose of their own pictures by giving them away in the shape of prizes to their own company; others are encouraged to prosecute their artistic studies abroad by the money which is received from the sale of these pictures. I make this statement, that the small ten-cent organizations that have been organized under provincial charters—not that I wish to blame at all the provincial legislatures for granting those charters. But this company and the Credit Foncier and the Credit Franco-Canadien, were excluded in Sir John Thompson's Criminal Code, because they had been organized under charters passed by this parliament.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The companies to which the hon. gentleman refers, are all excepted from the operation of the section by the Bill now before the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Except the Art Union.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I say except the Art Unions you speak of. The Credit Foncier by name is excepted.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes, and there is no reason why that exception should be made as against the Art Union. The point I wish to make, is that when Sir John Thompson drew up his Criminal Code and submitted it to parliament, he made three exceptions, namely, the Art Union of which I am speaking, the Credit Foncier, and the Credit Franco-Canadien. Under these circumstances there was a distinction made in favour of these three institutions. What I claim to-day, is that in trying to rid the city of Montreal and other cities of societies which are really injurious, the legislators did not consider the distinction which ex-

ists between this Art Union and the Compagnie des Arts, and for that reason I think it should be reinstated in the code.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I want to call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that the exception in favour of the Credit Foncier has not resulted in any evil, or alleged evil. Nobody has contended, since the Criminal Code was introduced, that there has been gambling by reason of the Credit Foncier, or other companies being excepted. But it has been claimed and proved that under the other exceptions of the Art Union, as it was in the old code, gambling of an odious and condemnable character was carried on much to the detriment of the young people of Montreal.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. Not in this.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Now, the Minister of Justice introduced that old exception into the Bill this year, with certain guards, which he thought were sufficient in themselves, to prevent that gambling taking place. For reasons that seemed good to the senators, they threw it out, even with the guards the Minister of Justice had thrown around it. They did it, I understand, at the instance of senators from Montreal. Well, I can give no opinion, I do not know the facts; but I merely say, that being so, it behoves us to go along a little slowly. If the Senate has carefully, after consideration, thrown it out at the instance of those who are supposed to know the facts, we ought not hurriedly to insert it again and send it back to the Senate.

Mr. **POWELL**. Has this been a matter of public complaint in the press?

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. No complaint at all. The complaint has been made against the ten-cent organizations, the cheap policies. I draw the attention of the minister to this difference: In the ten-cent cheap policies, they have the option of money or pictures. In the present society, the Art Union of Montreal, the tickets are \$1, and there is no option of money at all. The person who invests \$1 in a ticket, if he draws a prize, must take a picture. Surely there is a great distinction, and it shows that there cannot be any idea of gambling when, for the dollar you have invested, you have the option of taking the price of the picture in money, in lieu of the picture itself.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I press the other point, that the circumstances of the Credit Foncier and the Credit Franco-Canadien are largely different from those of this alleged Art Union, a different character of society altogether.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. Not different from the Art Union, but different from the cheap ten-cent organizations.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I speak with some diffidence, not knowing the facts as well as he does about Montreal, but I am told that these alleged Art Unions are so-called for the purpose of deceiving the public, and that under cover of this name, people carry on condemnable gambling.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. That is true of the cheap ones.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman has not yet been able to state to the committee, from his own knowledge, that there are some Art Unions worthy of the name existing in Canada, seeking to have their operations exempted from the gambling section. If there is such a society as an Art Union composed of reputable and responsible people who desire to dispose of works of art by this system, there may be a very good argument. So far as I have been able, and I am speaking now without committing myself, to gather information from other sources, it is that under cover of an alleged Art Union, their names are being used for the purpose of carrying on gambling.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. This is a regularly organized Art Union Society that I am speaking of.

Mr. **TALBOT**. There is a good deal of truth in what the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) has said, that under some of these Art Unions gross abuses have been committed. But in this instance, if the hon. minister wants information he will find that there are schools now in existence in Montreal which are receiving young pupils and teaching them drawing and painting. There is one now under the direction of Mr. Brault. There have been abuses in this as well as in other things, but we want to prevent these abuses and to encourage these institutions which are teaching the art of painting and drawing. This amendment is intended to prevent anything but a fair distribution of paintings and to enable these institutions to bring in money in that way.

Mr. **SPROULE**. What would hinder a ticket-holder under this amendment, providing these pictures were drawn by ticket-holders not belonging to the association, to sell a picture back to the same Art Union at a price stipulated with the union beforehand?

Mr. **TALBOT**. The amendment prohibits that.

Mr. **SPROULE**. My hon. friend (Mr. Talbot) misunderstands me. A person might take so much money in lieu of the picture.

Under that provision a person might come to an understanding with the Art Union that these tickets have a certain intrinsic value and the pictures drawn might be disposed of afterwards for the amount of money previously stipulated, and a lottery might be carried on in that way. What would prevent that?

Mr. TALBOT. The law prevents that. There is no option. When a man brings a ticket a bona fide distribution takes place of pictures of a greater or lesser value.

Mr. SPROULE. I might take a dozen pictures and mark them at from \$1 up to \$5 each. If I have a picture cannot I realize the price of it by sending it back to them afterwards?

Mr. TALBOT. No, you cannot.

Mr. SPROULE. I mean, providing that this association wished to turn itself into something of the species of a lottery. These pictures will be saleable there at that amount of money. I buy my ticket for a dollar and draw something. Whatever it may be there is a price on it. I have the option either to take the picture or to dispose of it for a certain amount of money. I will take the picture home, but afterwards I will go back to the association and sell the picture to the association at the price stipulated.

Mr. TALBOT. The hon. gentleman could not sell it to the association, or to any member of the association. You might sell it outside. If a man has drawn a picture he is certainly entitled to sell it as it is his property, but it cannot be done between the members of the association.

Mr. SPROULE. I see nothing in the law that would prevent me doing that.

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). I think that in this matter we ought to be guided by the Senate. It is stated in the Senate by Senator Dandurand, and apparently without contradiction, or this section would have been stricken out, that this was merely a lottery and that it had led to many abuses. That statement was not successfully contradicted, and if it had been we should not have had this clause from the Senate. I am prepared to vote against the amendment.

Mr. FLINT. The question has been asked why the Credit Foncier are exempted from the operation of the law. They are exempted, I presume, on the ground that they are reputably and honestly conducting an art lottery. I think such institutions as the British Royal Art Society and the Scottish Royal Art Society should be placed on as good a footing as this.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Are we going to say that we shall not have some of the best societies in the world in Canada

because there are some abuses in Montreal, and the officials will not prosecute? We are not legislating for Montreal. We have an Art Society which is not incorporated, so far as I know, in Halifax. I do not know whether there is one in Vancouver or whether there is one in Toronto. But, this is not for Montreal. The senator for Montreal thought Montreal was the whole world. We are legislating for Canada, and we want to encourage art from Halifax to Vancouver. Every one knows that in England and Ireland such institutions exist under the law. People who are young and well educated, who have no means, who would not come and ask for money, are anxious to receive instruction in the arts of painting and drawing, and everybody feels, when tickets are taken, that they are contributing in that way. I am not going to legislate for one city. I want a law that will apply generally, and I say that what is good enough for England, or Scotland, or Ireland is good enough for Canada.

Mr. F. McCLURE (Colchester). I have no doubt in the world that under the strict letter of this law the process described by the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) could not be carried out, but I can see that this Act is not necessarily a law for Montreal, or for any particular society. It is a general law, and if people were inclined to act dishonestly and desired to make a gambling institution, I can see that by the process described by the hon. member for East Grey, it will be very easy to get around this law and make of an Art Union a gambling institution by drawing, within the letter of the law, a picture, and afterwards under a private arrangement, it would be possible for the company, or somebody not officially connected with it, to buy back the pictures at a stated price, and thereby evade the law and carry on an open and notorious lottery.

Mr. TISDALE. I am prepared to give societies under this Bill a chance. If it does not work let them come back, and we can repeal the law. I believe that we should give a chance to artists, such as is given in older and well established countries. I cannot say that I am fully satisfied that this Bill will work out. If the Bill does not work well, let us repeal it at a later stage, but in the meantime let us give them a chance.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). I should not like to support the amendment unless I was sure that it had been carefully drawn. An amendment of that kind should receive very careful attention, and I have no doubt the Senate did give it all the attention we have given it here. We should not make it possible, under our law, for people to turn Art Unions into gambling societies. I have received resolutions from some of the labour organizations in Montreal, asking me to

assist this amendment of the senators through the House. These organizations fully realize the tremendous harm that these Art Union lotteries are doing in that city.

Mr. RUSSELL. I think that clause might be made to meet the objection suggested by the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Sproule). I think that the Senate—I am not permitted to refer to the other Chamber—but I think that since this Bill was introduced into parliament it has not had the consideration yet that might have been bestowed upon it. I think it probable that, perhaps, in another Chamber, hon. members saw that this innocent device of an art lottery could be used for the purpose of carrying on an injurious lottery system, and they despaired of being able to find suitable words to check all the abuses in a legitimate way. They find it easier to strike out the whole thing than to do what they ought to do, that is, to address themselves to the task of preserving that which is good and beneficial, and prevent it from being made the means of that which is evil and injurious. It seems to me that protected as the clause is by the amendment as originally drafted, it almost provides for everything necessary. I see in the small print in the Bill:

The attention of the authorities has been called to several societies claiming to be art societies, but whose operations are only colourably so, they being, to all intents and purposes, lotteries for money prizes, as directly or indirectly, they give ticket-holders an option to take money. Of course that avenue will be closed up by the amendment.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes.

Mr. RUSSELL (Halifax). If there was another exception added, namely, that this should not be a lawful and legitimate transaction unless it was such as was not being colourably used for the purpose of effecting the distribution of money by lot, then we would make the clause absolutely watertight against evasion. I do not think we should destroy what has proved to be a perfectly ordinary, innocent, and beneficial piece of machinery, or that we should despair of making that useful, simply because it has been used for illegitimate purposes. It seems to me that we should direct ourselves to the task of preventing this improper purpose being accomplished, while at the same time, we retain what is useful.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It ought be borne in mind that if the law goes into force in the shape it now is, that it will be impossible to sell the tickets of the British Art Association in Canada, and impossible for Canadians to participate in it. With reference to the lotteries, they are not only a nuisance, but it would be a crime for us to allow them to continue, and we must insist that such safeguards will be thrown around the amendment as to make it impos-

sible for them to continue any longer. While we are at it, the attention of the committee ought to be directed towards the bucket shops in Montreal, which are a greater evil—I speak from my own personal experience—which are a greater evil than the lotteries, bad as the lotteries are.

Mr. HENDERSON. How much did you lose?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am glad to say I am not a victim.

Mr. HENDERSON. You said you spoke from personal experience.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I may say to my hon. friend that I never in my life speculated to the extent of five cents.

Mr. HENDERSON. I am very glad to hear it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I speak from experience, and I now state that in connection with the fall of the Ville Marie Bank, over \$200,000 went into one bucket shop alone.

Mr. POWELL. The bucket shops have sent more men to the penitentiary than perhaps anything else.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They have helped to send more men to the penitentiary than there are in this chamber at the present moment.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 125) respecting the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. Dymont.)

Bill (No. 20) respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to 'The British Yukon Railway Company.'—(Mr. Fraser, Guysborough.)

Bill (No. 150) respecting the Salisbury and Harvey Railway Company.—(Mr. Lewis.)

Bill (No. 68) respecting the Nickel Steel Company of Canada.—(Mr. MacPherson.)

Bill (No. 144) for the relief of Catherine Cecilia Lyons.—(Mr. Mills.)

Bill (No. 159) for the relief of Gustavus Adolphus Kobold.—(Mr. Bennett.)

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 157)—from the Senate—to incorporate the St. Lawrence Terminal and Steamship Company.—(Mr. McIsaac.)

Bill (No. 158)—from the Senate—for the relief of Gertrude Bessie Patterson.—(Mr. Richardson.)

THE CRIMINAL CODE (1892) AMENDMENT.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 137)—from the Senate—

further to amend the Criminal Code of 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). As the two amendments proposed to this Bill, one by the hon. member for Guysborough, with reference to lotteries, and the other by the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), with reference to the use of trade marks, were understood to be printed before we proceed further, I would move that the committee rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

SUPPLY.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I propose to take up first the supplementary estimates laid on the Table for legislation for the current year.

Reporting, printing, &c., of debates in the Senate, and other purposes..... \$8,000

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) What was the vote taken in the main estimates?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. There was a supplementary vote last year of \$6,000; this year it is \$8,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Is this supposed to cover the whole cost, or up to what date?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. This can only be to June 30, the end of the present fiscal year. It was sent by the committee of the Senate as covering the requirements of that date.

House of Commons—Publishing debates.. \$15,000

Mr. FOSTER. Is that calculated on the basis of the session lasting to June 30?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The whole cost is calculated to June 30.

House of Commons—Sessional clerks, including two clerks for the whips' room. \$10,500

Mr. FOSTER. Is there any addition to the number of clerks?

Mr. SPEAKER. No, the number is not increased; but last session extended to August 11, and the pay up to that time came out of this year's appropriation. The staff is the same as usual.

House of Commons—Serjeant-at-Arms' staff \$18,278

Mr. FOSTER. Is the sessional staff increased?

Mr. SPEAKER. No, I think the staff is two less than it was a year ago.

Mr. FOSTER. Would Mr. Speaker kindly tell the House with how many less he thinks we could get along?

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps if I had more prolonged experience, I might be able to tell.

Mr. FOSTER. Is Mr. Speaker fully persuaded that the staff is an efficient one?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think, perhaps, there never was a finer staff.

Library of Parliament—Sessional messengers \$210

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation of this?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). We had that the other day. These messengers continued until August 10. This is to pay them for the time between June 30 and that date.

Mr. FOSTER. Have they not had their pay?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. They have been paid out of contingencies, and this is to recoup that vote.

Printing, printing paper and binding.... \$25,000

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. This is on the recommendation of the Committee on Printing.

Mr. FOSTER. This does not include stationery, but we have already had an item about that. Where is the stationery being obtained now?

Mr. SPEAKER. The House will remember that there was some difficulty with regard to the quality of the stationery. I believe—speaking subject to correction—that the stationery in the lines complained of is now being supplied under the old contract, but we are still making use of a good deal of Canadian stock. The envelopes were unsatisfactory. I may explain that the increase of the estimate is due partly to the fact that provision was not made for the amount usually provided for members' trunks, and partly because there has been a very heavy demand for the long manila envelopes.

Mr. FOSTER. Has Mr. Speaker any idea of the use made of these manila envelopes?

Mr. SPEAKER. No, I do not pursue the subject further than to keep up the supply.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I would like to ask whether the large envelopes which are being put in members' trunks are Canadian or imported?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the Canadian envelopes were not found satisfactory, and we reverted to the foreign imported stock.

Mr. HENDERSON. I venture to hope that those supplied last year and this year are not Canadian. They are worthless. The paper is so hard that it will not absorb the gum and you cannot seal them. It would be a compliment to the members if these envelopes were not given out at all.

Mr. SPEAKER. I will make inquiry, and will give the desired information as to

stationery when the regular estimates are under discussion.

Mr. HOLMES. You cannot get a stiff envelope that will seal well; the paper is so stiff that you cannot put enough mucilage on to seal the envelope.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). I would like to inquire from the Finance Minister if this sum of \$25,000, or any part of it, is required to pay for publishing the blue-book which, in my opinion, is nothing more or less than a campaign document. It is entitled 'The action of the government in respect to the manufacture and sale of twine produced by convict labour.' I presume that this is published by the hundred thousand, and distributed throughout the country, and it may be that this \$25,000 is required for this purpose.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am afraid I am unable to inform my hon. friend whether this is charged against parliamentary printing or not. The \$25,000 for parliamentary printing was inserted on the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Printing. Whether it is used for that particular purpose I could not say.

Mr. TAYLOR. I brought this up before the Printing Committee, and it was done by the committee.

Scientific institutions and hydrographic surveys—Meteorological service \$72,000

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is an increase in this item caused by the printing of the diary for distribution in Europe and Australia. It is an immense volume giving details of all this work, and is sent to every scientific institution in Europe and Australia. It is a volume of 300 or 400 pages, with scarcely anything in it except figures, and for this reason it cost \$1,500 more to print it than the previous volume. As the result of some suggestions made at a meeting of the Royal Society which took place last year, it has been extended, made larger than heretofore.

The next large item of increase is for the extension of the service to the Yukon—\$1,000 to appoint two observers at different places in the Yukon. Then there is an increase in the salaries of observers at the station in Toronto and other places in the Dominion, made on the report of Mr. Stupart. These officers at Toronto are paid exceedingly low salaries, many of them, and on the recommendation of Mr. Stupart we have made the following increases: Mr. Webber, who has been there many years, was getting \$1,500, and we give him an increase of \$100. Mr. Payne gets \$930, and is increased to \$1,000. An increase of \$50 a year is given to Mr. James Young. Mr. Blake gets an increase of \$200, making him \$900. He was paid a very low sum, he is

an extra good man, and Mr. Stupart said he could not retain him at that salary. He urged strongly that, in consideration of his services, he be allowed a sufficient sum to live on. He has been in the service ten or twelve years. Mr. Banning is getting \$750, and we give him an increase of \$50. Charles Ross, \$580, increased by \$120. He has been there for a long time. He commenced like other young fellows at a low salary, \$300. All these increases are made on the recommendation of Mr. Stupart. Some of the officers do mechanical work, and others more or less scientific work. Then R. McKay Cameron, salary \$350, increased to \$400; A. J. Small, salary \$330, increased to \$400; Mr. Tweedie, salary \$480, increased to \$500; Mr. Kingsmill, salary \$350, increased to \$400. Mr. Allan was appointed last year at \$300 on the understanding that he was to get \$400 the present year. These are all the increases in the service at Toronto.

Mr. FOSTER. You have practically increased them all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, we have increased eleven, and there are seventeen altogether, not including Mr. Stupart. Then there is Mr. Hutchinson, in the observatory at St. John, who gets \$950, and on urgent representations, I propose to increase his salary by \$50. He succeeded his father in that position, and is an excellent official. Then young Mr. Dennison was sent from the observatory at Toronto to British Columbia. He got \$500 at Toronto, and we propose to give him \$900 on the ground that the expenses of living are much higher in British Columbia than in Toronto. He was backed up by Mr. Stupart, and in consideration of the fact that he was getting married besides, we propose to give him an extra \$100, making \$900.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that not a direct encouragement to matrimony?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If it were, it would not be condemnable. Then there are small increases proposed for the officials at the telegraph stations of Barkerville, Calgary, Sydney, Rockliffe and St. John's. In the Yukon I spoke of the \$1,000, and there are the Vancouver time signals \$250, which make a total of \$2,450 of an increase in the salaries of that branch. Then, there are some small miscellaneous expenses not enumerated, such as hardware and train signal agent's fuel, making up the total increase.

Fisheries \$262,000

Mr. FOSTER. Before the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries goes into the details I would like him to give some information to the committee as to what is now practically the position of the fishery ques-

tion as between the provinces and the Dominion, and also some information in reference to rumours—I do not know whether they are well based or not—of a claim that is being made by the provincial governments to a further encroachment—or that is not the right word to use—to taking over the fishery privileges which have been heretofore exercised by the Dominion. The hon. gentleman knows that this is a matter of a great deal of importance. Unfortunately, I am afraid, it is in a position where incalculable harm is bound to come in the future. My own opinion is very strong that the Dominion authority should have retained its power, or that its power should have been retained over the fisheries. I remembered hearing that there was a conference looking to a retention of the central authority over the matter in the provinces for the sake of the fisheries themselves. I would like the hon. minister to give us a brief, although comprehensive idea, of how the matter stands.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) that the position is unfortunate and unsatisfactory. Up to the time that the Privy Council judgment was given on the fisheries case, which was submitted to the Supreme Court and afterwards carried to the Privy Council, the general assumption was that we had entire control over the fisheries in the various provinces and acting upon that assumption we had our officers in those provinces. We made regulations as to the times and seasons and manner of fishing, and appointed our officers to carry our regulations into effect. There was no discord and no claims put forward in an effective way disputing our rights until the province of Ontario claimed that the fisheries did not belong to the Dominion, in so far as Ontario was concerned, and that question was referred to the Supreme Court. The different provinces were asked to join in the reference, and they nearly all joined in—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and I am not quite sure whether British Columbia did or not. The matter was decided by the Privy Council in a lengthy, reasoned judgment, the effect of which was to declare that the fisheries, as property, in Ontario and Quebec, and in the interior parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, belonged to the provinces and not to the Dominion.

Mr. FOSTER. Did that take in the great lakes?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That the great lakes and rivers of the provinces belonged, not to the Dominion, but to the provinces themselves, and that the property in the beds of the lakes and rivers, being vested in the provinces, the property in fish, swimming in these waters, belonged also to the provinces. So that

Mr. FOSTER

the property which we were supposed to have had in the fish in these great lakes and rivers was declared by the Privy Council judgment to be vested in the provinces themselves and not in the Dominion. The result of it was that while we used to exercise and assume the right to lease the fisheries in these lakes and rivers at specified places and points, we lost that right. Our leases were void, and we had to hand over to these provinces the right to do what we theretofore had done, to grant leases to A, B, C and D for particular localities in these different lakes and rivers. We retained, however, by decision of the Privy Council, the absolute and uncontrolled right to declare the close season, the seasons when fish may be taken, and also the manner of catching the fish, by net or by other methods. That right could not be interfered with in any way, no matter how absolutely or how arbitrarily we exercised it, so far as the inland waters of the Dominion were concerned. I am not speaking of the North-west Territories, which stand upon a different footing altogether, but so far as Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick fisheries and interior rivers and lakes are concerned, the fisheries were by this judgment vested in the provincial governments. Then, we only had the right to declare the close seasons and the methods of fishing, and that new condition of matters resulted in our withdrawing from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the fishery officers that we had appointed in years gone by for the carrying out of the regulations. The regulations which we previously had made were now made by the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Mr. FOSTER. Regulations as to the close season?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No. As to the number of licenses that they would grant and to whom they would grant the licenses. Hundreds of licenses have been granted in these provinces which were formerly granted through our officers, and the fees derived from these licenses go to the provincial governments. We withdrew from the provinces all our subordinate officers. We retained in Ontario three inspectors for the purpose of travelling during the fishery seasons all over the fishing districts and reporting to the department, from week to week, how the regulations of the department in regard to close seasons and methods of fishing were being carried out, if there was any breach of them, and if so what.

Mr. FOSTER. What officers enforce the close seasons?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Our officers enforce the close seasons if they have knowledge of any breach. We have in Ontario three inspec-

tors. One of them goes from the department here, Mr. Cunningham. Another is the fishery inspector from Ontario whom I found in office when I came here. Mr. Sheppard. The third man is appointed in what is called New Ontario, in the Georgian Bay district, and his name is Mr. Duncan. These are the only three officers we have in Ontario besides the captain and officers of the *Petrel*, who are still retained for the purpose of protecting our international rights as against the Americans in Lakes Erie and Huron.

Mr. FOSTER. In the property of the fish.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In the waters there. To prevent foreigners from encroaching on these fisheries.

Mr. FOSTER. But the property of the Ontario government.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, yes, but we thought as it was an international matter we should continue that protection we had hitherto afforded from the encroachments of foreigners. Unless the provincial authority were prepared to go to the expense of fitting out a ship for the purpose, we did not see how they could protect those fisheries at all. However, as a matter of policy we continued that expense and the officers of the *Petrel* have continued to discharge the duties which they discharged before the Privy Council's judgment was given. In the province of Quebec the same policy was adopted, as far as it could be, but when we get down near the sea there is a little difference. We have one of the officers of the department, fishery inspector for western Quebec, and we have a fishery inspector in eastern Quebec, Dr. Lavoie.

Mr. FOSTER. You have two inspectors in Quebec.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. One is an officer of the department, and he only costs \$100 a year extra, besides his travelling expenses, the same as Mr. Cunningham in Ontario. When we get to the sea-coast the question comes up: What are the rights of the provinces and the Dominion; does the recent judgment of the Privy Council, which declares that the beds of the lakes and rivers belong to the province, and therefore, the fisheries in the lake and rivers belong to the province; does that reasoning apply to the bed of the ocean? We have been for a long time in trying to get a case agreed upon between the province and the Dominion, in order that it may be referred to the Privy Council to determine: Does their judgment mean also that the beds of the ocean within the three-mile limit belong to the provinces, as well as the beds of the lakes? We have submitted to Prince Edward

Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Quebec certain questions for their approval, and we have got answers from many, some suggesting other questions, and we have not yet decided upon the form which the case must take. The Quebec government insist that they not only own the lakes and rivers, but that they own the beds of the ocean within the territorial jurisdiction of the province, which they construe to be out to the three-mile limit, and, that having the territorial rights in the bed of the sea out to three miles they also have the right in the free swimming fish and other fish in that sea, the same as they have in the lakes.

Mr. POWELL. What about the harbours and foreshores?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is conceded that the harbours themselves belong to the Dominion by the express words of the schedule to the British North America Act. No one challenges our exclusive right to the fisheries in the harbours. It is, of course, a very difficult matter to determine what is a harbour and what is not within the meaning of the Act. Before we can have anything like a final settlement, we must have a decision of the Privy Council upon that point. We are forcing it to an issue as fast as we can, and I am not without hopes that in the near future we will have it finally arranged. Some of the provinces desire—and it does not seem to me to be reasonable—that the question of their right to the share of the fishery award should be included in the reference. We think that might be a matter of policy as well as a matter of law, which could be determined when the legal rights of the provinces and the Dominion were settled as regards the foreshore in the three-mile limit. We have withdrawn from Ontario and Quebec a large number of officers, so that now the expenditure in Ontario is \$3,500, and in Quebec \$4,500. In New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, to some limited extent, the same questions arise, but the fisheries there are largely around the coast, and the governments of these provinces intimated that they did not wish to raise the question at all. They would rather we should go on administering the fisheries in the future as we have done in the past.

Mr. FOSTER. The inland fisheries?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes. They said that until the legal right of the Dominion or provincial government to the fisheries around the shores was determined, they would rather we should continue to administer the fisheries, and we are doing that.

Mr. FOSTER. You draw the revenue?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, very serious questions

may arise one of these days upon that point, but what is being done is done by mutual agreement. It has been suggested to us that having first taken legislative power to do so, they should assign all their rights in these fisheries to the Dominion for a certain time. We were not able to agree upon the amount we should pay, and I for one told them that I thought it would be injudicious to enter upon negotiations upon that point until the Privy Council had finally determined what our and their legal rights are.

Mr. POWELL. Suppose in the meantime these men down by the sea, dispute your authority and turn out your officers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It would raise a case that would have to go to the Privy Council, because the Dominion, I assume, would not waive its claim. A private person would have the right to contest the point as well as one of the provinces.

Mr. POWELL. It would look as if he could do it very successfully just at present.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I will not express a decided opinion upon it. I have talked it over with the Minister of Justice and the Deputy Minister of Justice and Attorney Generals of the different provinces, and am not satisfied we have not the right in the foreshores.

Mr. POWELL. It is well to say so anyway.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Well, it is more than arguable.

Mr. FOSTER. The provincial governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have undertaken not to dispute your authority in the meantime.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Oh, yes, it is at their solicitation we have gone on administering the fisheries as formerly and drawing revenue, with the exception of the oyster fisheries which clearly belong to them.

Mr. FOSTER. You said: 'That great trouble might arise hereafter.' Do you mean trouble as to claims for the return of revenue?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not anticipate any trouble of that kind, but the trouble I had in my mind was that supposing it was held in the future that the three-mile limit was territorial property belonging to the province, then the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, at least, have given formal notice that they intend to claim they have the right to share in the fishery award which was granted for the lease of this property to the American fish-

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

ermen for ten years. That question will have to be met, if and when the Privy Council determine (if they ever do) that the property in these waters belongs to the provinces.

Mr. POWELL. Take the oysters in the harbour of Prince Edward Island near Hillsboro; these clearly are in the harbour?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no question but that the Dominion has the authority there.

Mr. FOSTER. What oyster beds do the provinces hold?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The oyster beds in the rivers and creeks and on the flats in the bays and creeks.

Mr. POWELL. Not what might be a harbour?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If it is a harbour they concede it is ours.

Mr. FOSTER. How far do the provinces go out from the shore?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Waters inclosed in the jaws of a small bay would be clearly territorial. It is only when the bay becomes large, as the Baie de Chaleur for instance, that the question arises.

Mr. FOSTER. Do I get it right, that as far as the oysters are concerned, they belong to the provinces up to the three-mile limit?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would not say that, but I say that in all the rivers, and in the small creeks and bays, which are clearly within what are called territorial waters, they would all belong to the province. It is a very difficult thing to give a definition unless you have the exact contour of the harbour before you. Speaking broadly, I would say that the Baie de Chaleur is not territorial property, although I am bound to say that many lawyers hold differently.

Mr. FOSTER. Why oysters and not other fish?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The fish on that particular spot.

Mr. POWELL. All birds in the air or fish in the sea over the ground.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Within their territorial property rights—because I draw a broad distinction between territorial jurisdiction and territorial property rights.

Mr. FOSTER. You have not made any reference to Manitoba.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. In Manitoba the question does not arise. It all belongs to us.

Mr. **FOSTER**. And in British Columbia ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, the same question would arise there. British Columbia has adopted the same course as Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. It has left the administration to us, knowing that it will be better conducted in a central office than by the different provinces.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Then, the Dominion government has given up all effective control in Ontario and Quebec ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Except below the mouth of the St. Lawrence. There is a point in the St. Lawrence which was settled by the arbitrators under the old reciprocity treaty as the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and for practical purposes we have assumed that to be the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and we claim the right to the fisheries below that point.

Mr. **McALISTER**. Have the New Brunswick government and the Dominion government come to an understanding as to the territorial divisions in that province ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes. The New Brunswick government were anxious that we should continue to administer the fisheries. They were anxious, further, that we should enter into an arrangement by which they should hand over to us what they considered to be their rights for a certain sum per year; but I pointed out that I did not see how we could arrive at a defensible basis until we had the question of the rights of the two governments settled. I do not see how we could come to a fair estimate of what we should pay for their rights, if we determined to take them over, until the Privy Council gives judgment as to what those rights are.

Mr. **McALISTER**. There is no final arrangement until the Privy Council gives its decision ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, further than that in the meantime we administer the fisheries, drawing the receipts and paying out what is required to administer them.

Mr. **H. A. POWELL** (Westmoreland). The minister's suggestion is a very good one, and the only sensible course that the provinces should pursue. What is their secret objection to taking this course or not taking it ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not know what their secret objection is.

Mr. **POWELL**. I say this because I know the question has come up in my own practice respecting the fishery rights in the different rivers and along the shores. I had some correspondence with the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and I could not complain of the answer I got, because if they had given me any other answer they would be assuming the powers of the Privy Council. But the matter is in a very unsatisfactory state. It is several years since a decision was given, and we have nothing but a legal chaos between the provinces and the Dominion in respect to the fisheries. One scarcely likes to advise the people along the shore to ignore the Dominion altogether; yet, the decision of the Privy Council looks that way, although I cannot appreciate the reasoning of their decision. When the British North America Act gives the Dominion jurisdiction over the fisheries, it would strike an ordinary person that it is not merely to say when people shall fish and when they shall not fish, but it gives full power over them. Unless the matter is settled in some way, private individuals will have to bring it before the courts.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We have the question fairly well disposed of, as most of the provinces have come to an arrangement with us, and I think in a short time Mr. Newcombe will have the case ready to go home.

Mr. **POWELL**. Are you going direct to the Privy Council ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, I think we shall go first to the Supreme Court.

Mr. **FOSTER**. There seems to be no great need for having two inspectors in Ontario and one in Quebec. What are these men in Ontario to do ?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I must have some man there to keep in touch with the provincial officers and to see whether the licensees of the provincial government are observing the close season or not. It is of no use to make regulations unless I have some one to inform me from time to time whether these are being observed or flagrantly broken. The department here must also be informed in regard to the manner of fishing, whether by nets or otherwise, in order to take steps to prevent breaches of the law. Of course, there is a dual control.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Over so large a province as Ontario, with fishing districts everywhere, it is absolutely impossible for two officers to keep track of violations of the law. Your officer is in Toronto.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, he keeps travelling all the time.

Mr. FOSTER. He cannot be in two places at the same time, especially if they are a thousand miles apart. Even with fishing officers everywhere, it is most difficult to keep the law fairly well enforced; but how must it be when there are weeks, at least, between the visits of the inspector at one place? The hon. gentleman has no officer to advise him outside of these two or three?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No others.

Mr. FOSTER. So that, practically, the control is a very loose control. Then, what are the reports given by these officers as to the manner in which the provincial officers are acting with regard to enforcing methods and times of fishing?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They are fairly satisfactory. We had some friction at first, because the province was insisting, not only that it should draw the whole revenue, but that we should appoint officers from time to time to enforce the law. I said that we would not do that, but that we would have our officers report from week to week whether or not the regulations of the department were being observed. We are, at present, in a transitional stage, but the arrangement has not worked badly. Our officer at Toronto is to report his observations once a week; and whenever he reports a breach of the law, we at once put ourselves into communication with the fishery commissioner of Ontario and notify him of the fact; and wherever our officer has personal cognizance of a breach of the law, it is his duty to punish.

Mr. FOSTER. Do the provincial authorities instruct their officers to see that the methods of fishing and the close seasons, as prescribed by the Dominion, are carefully observed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no reason to doubt that they are loyally assisting us in that regard.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. minister could easily see whether they were doing that or not. If the regulations are necessary, they should be carried out; and if not necessary, they should be abrogated. Do the provincial authorities give imperative instructions to their officers to carry out the law?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I believe that their co-operation has been fairly loyal. Of course, now that they have independent jurisdiction, they may sometimes assume a pretty independent tone, but, speaking generally, their co-operation has been fairly loyal, and the provincial officers are doing fairly well in seeing that our regulations are carried out with regard to the close seasons and the methods of fishing.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. FOSTER. Under the changed circumstances, my hon. friend might consider the question, whether we should any longer sustain the burden of the fish hatcheries in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, which are, of course, intended to keep up the supply from which the provincial governments draw the sole revenue. It does not seem quite fair that when the revenue has been entirely taken from the Dominion, the Dominion should go on making these large expenditures.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is a very broad and important question, which gave me a great deal of thought and consideration. I came to the conclusion that as we have these fish hatcheries in operation, the general interests of the fisheries would seem to justify their continuance, at any rate for the present, and I have made no change in the policy of the government in that regard. In the province of British Columbia our receipts are very large from the fisheries, and we are getting the revenue also in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and are retaining the fish hatcheries in these provinces.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman surrendered without a shot.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am not quite satisfied that our action could be correctly designated as a surrender. We were in possession of these hatcheries and administering them, and I do not know that we would be justified in closing them up. I do not think the hon. gentleman himself would advocate that course.

Mr. FOSTER. It is certainly a matter for adjustment. If you had a property which brought you a revenue and all at once it was taken from you by decision of law, there is no longer any duty incumbent on you to look after that property and take care of it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I was a long time dubious about it.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a question which ought to seriously engage the attention of the hon. minister. There is a little difference in the matter of beet-root sugar, because there are international questions connected with it that are better dealt with by the central than by the provincial authorities, and that I would not press unduly, but the other is a matter which ought to be taken up.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am intensely sorry, whatever the reason may have been, that the change was made with regard to the ownership of the fisheries.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a change that the country will deplore more and more, and it is a question that may be solved in some way like this, namely, that the provincial authorities by legislation—I suppose Imperial legislation would be required?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think not. Provincial legislation would suffice.

Mr. FOSTER. The provinces might by legislation put the fisheries in the hands of the central authorities for many reasons. I do not think there is a single reason against that view. The diminution in the salaries and disbursement of the fisheries overseers and guardians, I suppose, was made two years ago?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). I would like to ask the hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies), if the decision of the Privy Council, while giving the provinces the sole control of issuing licenses and appointing overseers, went so far as to make it imperative on the Dominion government to exercise some control.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. My hon. friend wishes to know whether it is imperative on the Dominion government, by the decision of the Privy Council, to pass regulations with regard to the close seasons and the appliances that might be used in the catching of fish?

Mr. CLANCY. Or whether you might hand that duty over to the provincial authorities.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Privy Council declared that that was within our sole jurisdiction. The provincial authorities could not pass any regulation about the close season which would be of value.

Mr. FOSTER. Could they not make it a condition of the license they issue?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. By the decision of the Privy Council the regulations on that subject are exclusively vested in the Dominion government.

Mr. POWELL. Could they issue a license for the month of July?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, provided we permitted fish to be caught during that month. But they could by refusing a license make that month a close season.

Mr. CLANCY. If it be the case that there is no power within the provinces to make regulations with regard to the mode of fishing or the close seasons, their rights to issue licenses are utterly worthless, standing alone, unless assisted by the central author-

ity, and it seems to me there is no advantage in our having this power when the provinces alone profit by the fisheries. Therefore, while perhaps a solution cannot be reached at once, there can be no doubt that the jurisdiction given us by the Privy Council would be a very good lever to use with a view of coming to some reasonable understanding, by which the Dominion would either be relieved of all expense or be given the sole control and benefit of the whole matter. The question might be settled, because, as I pointed out a moment ago, the rights which have been declared, by the decision of the Privy Council, to rest with the provinces are of no use without the co-operation of the Dominion government—they cannot make regulations. I wished to ask the hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies) if none of the overseers in Ontario have been retained except those he has referred to?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. None.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). As there is a question between the Dominion and the maritime provinces as to which controls the fisheries, would it not be well to come to some arrangement, instead of allowing the question to continue in doubt? Two litigious parties might bring the question into the courts here, the end of which might be the reference of the matter to the Privy Council. All that expense and uncertainty could be avoided and a clear understanding reached with respect to the fisheries on these shores, if an arrangement were made, which should be done at the earliest day. I am sure the maritime provinces would have no objection to transferring their rights, if rights they have, to the Federal government; and I contend that the Federal government is the proper authority to deal with the matter. I am anxious to have the matter settled, in order that we may take up the development of the deep-sea fisheries. I have had correspondence on this subject with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and I am very anxious that fishing in the waters of the deep sea should be recuperated. At present, the condition of affairs is such that there are a number of fishermen on the shores of Nova Scotia, who will be compelled to seek other employment, unless something of this sort is done. They have made the appeal very frequently to have fish hatcheries along the coast. I feel satisfied that there is no money the Federal government could spend to better advantage, than in establishing fish hatcheries. I wish the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries would give this matter his serious attention.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). Do I understand that the fisheries and fish hatcheries of Manitoba are completely under the control of the Dominion?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. PUTTEE. What is the use of having a fish inspector on Lake Winnipeg, seeing that his advice as to issuing licenses is given no weight? This is true of this year especially. It has been customary, in past years, to issue licenses in Manitoba, but this year the applicants came here and got their licenses in the winter, when it had been customary to get them about the present time of the year.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The duty of the fisheries inspector is to make recommendations, and he has done that from time to time; but it does not necessarily follow that the department must follow every suggestion that he may choose to make. The only question that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee), refers to is that of the fisheries of Lake Winnipeg. The question came up whether we should grant licenses to British subjects to fish on a large scale. The matter was reported on by the fisheries inspector, and I referred his report to the Commissioner of Fisheries, and acted on his advice. Some people complain that I should not issue these licenses. They are all granted to British fishermen. It is quite true that it is contended that these licensees are the agents of a combine. That may, or may not be so. There are petitions in, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee) knows, charging that the men to whom the licenses are granted, are the agents of a huge combine, and should not get any licenses at all. On the other hand, I have statements from these men and others, that such is not the fact. At this distance I cannot judge as to the facts; therefore, I intend to send a capable man up to examine the question on the spot. I have also consulted the representatives of the locality, and we continue the system as it has been without any material change. Whether or not we will refuse to grant licenses for such a large number of yards of net to any individual, will be determined by the report of the scientist whom I shall send up to examine the question. As at present advised, I do not think it would be wise to make a change this season. But, even as to that, I have not made up my mind. I am constantly receiving information, and I shall act on the advice of the Commissioner of Fisheries upon whom, in such matters, of course, I must largely depend.

Mr. PUTTEE. It is pretty well understood that the fisheries there are carried on for the benefit of the Booth Fish Company of Chicago. I think we are entitled to some explanation. Two months ago, I asked for reports of the fish inspector and so on, and the minister objecting to bring down confidential reports, I did not get them. The House afterwards passed an order with the objectionable clause struck out: but the

Mr. PUTTEE.

papers in response to that order have not yet come down. Therefore, I am hardly prepared to discuss the matter; and so, if this item passes, I think the next should be allowed to stand, so that the question may be discussed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There will be other estimates upon which the question can be discussed.

Mr. PUTTEE. In that case, I am quite willing to put off the discussion. I may say that this is a very serious matter. As the hon. minister says, he has petitions from fishermen at twenty-two different points on the lake, that something should be done to let Canadians get some benefit out of these fisheries. Though we in Manitoba are known principally as wheat-growers, we are a little in the fish business too. In Lake Winnipeg, we have valuable fishing grounds; but they are being rapidly fished out, and the entire profit of the fishery is going across the line. Our own fishermen are not getting even a bare living. There were people brought over from Iceland to that section, induced to come partly by the representation that they could carry on the fishery there in connection with their farms. But the combine has the fishermen entirely in its power. It pays them low wages, and forces them to truck at its store, and often brings them out in debt to it at the end of the season. There is a great deal of matter in this case that the minister is aware of, as I am; and I would like to have a chance to place it before the House. But, if there are supplementary estimates coming up, I can bring the question forward when they are before the House. I intended to move that this second item for fish hatcheries should be reduced. For what is the good of paying for hatching fish to keep those lakes stocked, when the people of our own country are making no use of them? The combine fishes all around the lakes and near the shores, so it is impossible for individual fishermen with domestic licenses to fish at all. The lake is so large that you must have tugs to go out to the middle of the lake. There are three commercial licenses granted, covering 20,000 yards each. By this arrangement the whole fishing business has been monopolized, and six or seven independent companies crushed out of the business, and nearly 1,000 fishermen have had their business taken away from them. While this matter is before the committee, I think we should have some promise that something will be done. I have myself put before the Minister of Marine and Fisheries twenty-two petitions, comprising nearly 700 names, asking that the licenses that have now been granted be cancelled as having been obtained under false pretenses. They were obtained merely for the American combine and not by Canadian citizens.

Mr. TAYLOR. Some three or four years ago a deputation from the American authorities had an interview with this government in reference to setting apart a preserve in the river St. Lawrence between Cape Vincent and Ogdensburg on the American side, and between Kingston and Prescott on the Canadian side. Difficulties had arisen on account of the close season on the American side of the river for bass beginning June 1, and on the Canadian side on June 15. The Americans, beginning to fish on the 1st. of course, came into Canadian waters. After discussing the matter, the Canadian government and the representatives from the New York government agreed to set apart this portion of the river as a national preserve, making the regulations the same on both sides of the river, and it was agreed that June 9 be the day for putting the law into force. Now, there has been no action taken by this government. Shortly after that arrangement was made, on the faith of the promise of the late Minister of Marine and Fisheries, then Mr. Costigan, the Americans changed their law, but the Canadian law has never been changed. Representations have been made to this government year after year, and I think this government should keep faith with the American government on this matter. Last spring we had a meeting at Brockville, and representatives were there from both governments, and it was then distinctly understood that these regulations would be put into effect this year by the Canadian government. Has this been done?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope it will be done. Within the last ten days I have had two or three consultations with my officers on that very point, and have gone over all the representations made to us. I am not able to speak with positive accuracy now whether the order has been issued, but the intention is to carry out the agreement and the views which the hon. gentleman mentioned.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). I did not understand the hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies) to say that he proposed to make any change in the regulations with regard to fishing in Manitoba.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I said I had not made up my mind yet, but that the matter was under consideration. The petitions sent to me, signed almost entirely by Icelanders, have been sent back to be verified, examined into and reported upon, and I have not received them back yet. When I saw hundreds of names on the petitions, names which I could not read, many of them signed in the same handwriting, I could not tell what weight to attach to the petition, and whether the signatures represented the genuine wish of the people. These refer to Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. ROCHE. Is any change likely to be made as regards Lake Winnipegosis?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. As regards Lakes Winnipegosis and Manitoba, I have issued an order and regulations nearly a month ago prohibiting fishing with tugs in either of these lakes. That cures all the objections there were to the combine going there and cleaning the lake out. Our object was to prevent these two lakes from being overfished, and the question was how to do it. The manner in which they were overfished was by getting a license for a large number of yards of netting, and using this netting with tugs. We have prohibited the use of tugs on Manitoba and Winnipegosis lakes. We have appointed a special inspector, with a tug of his own, to see that our regulation is enforced, a gentleman at Dauphin. I think his name is Macpherson. We have taken every step to ensure that our regulations shall be rigidly enforced by the fishermen there. I do not expect any difficulties in carrying them out to the fullest extent. The other point my hon. friend referred to is now under consideration. I am in hope we shall reach a satisfactory conclusion in regard to Winnipeg Lake, too.

Mr. ROCHE. I suppose the minister is not in a position to say to-night how many licenses have been issued on Lake Winnipegosis?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think in the neighbourhood of twenty-five. These are issued to local fishermen, and to none others.

Mr. ROCHE. Are the fish hatcheries supposed to be inspected yearly?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. ROCHE. Has there been any inspection of Selkirk the last couple of years?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not since Mr. Prince was there himself.

Mr. ROCHE. How many whitefish were hatched out last year and this year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I refer my hon. friend to the Fisheries report, which will give him all the information he requires on that point.

Mr. ROCHE. It says that 75,000,000 were placed in jars. I saw an article in the public press up there stating that less than 3,000,000 fish were hatched last year, and less than 5,000,000 this year, and offering to pay the expenses of an inspector, or any one else, to go up there and verify the list. The statement is, that the report made is entirely inaccurate, that the jars could not hold that number.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am glad the hon. gentleman has mentioned it to me. It is my intention to have a thorough investigation made this year by the most competent officer I have.

Mr. PUTTEE. It is understood, I presume, by the minister that even on Lake Winnipegosis tug fishing was never legal?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. They were prepared this year to scoop the lake out, and tugs were being prepared to be sent up that lake.

Mr. PUTTEE. They have another scheme of getting over the law at this very same point, for the Booth combine operates here. They get some one to take out two or three domestic licenses and supply them with a large sail-boat, and instead of fishing with several hundreds of yards of net, they fish with thousands of yards of net.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I think it is a 300-yard net and a large sail-boat that are allowed. I think my hon. friend can rest satisfied that so far as Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba are concerned we have collared the combine. I think our regulations will ensure absolute protection for the local fishermen and for the fisheries on those lakes.

Mr. PUTTEE. As to the export of fish from these lakes has that been absolutely stopped?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, I could not prevent the export of fish.

Mr. CLANCY. There are Indian lands on which the Dominion government have granted fishing and shooting privileges, and where the people holding these privileges have club houses. I want to ask the hon. minister if, since the change has taken place, the government of Canada still exercise supervision over these lands. I may point out the case of Walpole Island as one of the striking cases where they have a club house and where they have a lease from the Dominion to shoot and fish upon Indian lands with the consent of the Indians. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether the Dominion government have any overseers there for the purpose of seeing that the law is enforced, as, of course, these lands belong to the Dominion.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not in a position to answer the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) on that point, but I will make inquiries in regard to it. The matter has never been brought to my attention. There has been no change made as far as I am aware.

Mr. JOHN McALISTER (Restigouche). What are the specific duties of guardians here? I see a provision made for overseers and guardians.

Mr. ROCHE.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There is a distinction between a guardian and an overseer. An overseer, for instance, is a man appointed for a country or district. He is appointed every year and paid by the year. A guardian is only appointed for a special river, and he is appointed for so many days in the season.

Mr. POWELL. What do you call these lobster men—overseers?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, guardians.

Mr. McALISTER. My particular reason for asking this question is, that in Restigouche the fishing bounty used to be distributed through the overseer.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Who is the overseer there?

Mr. McALISTER. Mr. McLean is the overseer of the county. I am informed that last year and the year before a special officer was appointed to look after the distribution of the fishing bounty. I do not know it of my own knowledge.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, it is on the Quebec side that these special officers are appointed.

Mr. POWELL. There is one point in respect to these guardians or overseers or wardens, as you may call them, of the lobster fishery. If there is one question more than another that has been impressed upon the attention of the present and the preceding ministers it is the protection of the lobster fishery in the maritime provinces. There is no question but that this is a great source of wealth, and a great source of wealth to people who particularly require it, to the farmers along the shore who may, during the few months or weeks that they snatch from their agricultural pursuits, catch these fish for which they receive considerable money in return. This is a matter that has been under my own personal notice ever since I was a child. I remember the first man on the shores of New Brunswick, who engaged in the business was Henry O'Leary. From that time the fishery has grown to the enormous proportions it has now reached. While the fishery has been carried on more and more every year, there has been a gradual decline in the size of the fish, until to-day it is simply ridiculous the size of the fish that are caught on the shores of New Brunswick, and I presume that the same thing is true of Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Now, the fishery regulations have been made apparently for the sole purpose of being broken from the very inception of the supervision that the government has taken over these fisheries, but never has it reached that pitch of absurdity that it has reached under the administration of the hon. gentleman who now presides over the Marine and Fisheries Department. I say that, and I

say it advisedly. I attribute that to two things. In the first place, so far as the county of Westmoreland is concerned, one thing that was done was to turn out a man, and I am speaking within bounds when I say that a more conscientious man I never knew in the whole of my acquaintance. He was a gentleman by the name of Charles Munroe, he was the fishery commissioner and the only fault he had was that he was so conscientious that he might be called a crank. Another gentleman was appointed who was entirely ignorant of the duties which he had to perform. I am informed, credibly informed, that last year and the year previously there were actually more lobsters caught out of season than were caught in season along the northern and eastern shores of the province of New Brunswick. Something should be done to remedy this. This is a serious matter and I would not state it had I not the information to back it up, that officers of this department actually collude in some way or other, with the fishermen, or there may be another hypothesis that the fishermen are too shrewd for the officers and in that way elude the regulations of the department. But, whichever hypothesis is correct, the result is that, these illicitly caught fish are stamped with the government stamp, or label, or certificate of the inspector and they go forward as if they were caught in season, and more go forward which are caught out of season than are caught in season. The large establishments along the shore, of course, are closed up. But illicit fishing is carried on by men of less means. Either the regulations should be done away with altogether, and the expense that the Dominion is put to in maintaining the service should also be done away with, or else these regulations should be more stringently applied. The result of the present lax administration of affairs will be that these people who live along the shore will have destroyed their means of livelihood and lessened one of the most lucrative businesses that they have. It is a business which does not require much capital. A man requires a boat or two, a few traps and a moderately sized boiler. The whole equipment would not cost a couple of hundred dollars and he can earn quite a number of hundreds of dollars in the few weeks or months he is engaged in the business. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Department of Marine and Fisheries under the present and under the preceding administration, and it seems idle to talk about it, but the matter is now in this predicament that the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the department must either, if he is going to maintain his self-respect, wash his hands entirely of the regulations and give free trade in fishing, or else he must see that the regulations are carried out by having officers and wardens who are sufficiently conscientious to carry

them out and by backing up an officer who will initiate legal prosecutions to effect that result.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It is news for me to hear that the administration of the Department of Fisheries has been somewhat lax.

Mr. **POWELL**. Well, it has been extraordinarily lax.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman is the only man in the maritime provinces who has ever made that charge. I venture to say, speaking with a better knowledge on the subject than the hon. gentleman can possibly boast, that there never was a time when the regulations were enforced more rigidly than they have been during the last few years. I suppose there is no more unpopular man in the maritime provinces than your humble servant because of that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) knows that the inspectors of fisheries who were in office when I came in power are there still.

Mr. **POWELL**. It is not the inspectors; it is the local wardens.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The chief officers in each inspection district have been retained and not one of them has been dismissed. These officers have had the most positive instructions given by me to them to enforce the law on every occasion. If the hon. gentleman takes the report of the department he will find that each of the inspectors has reported that the law has been enforced up to the hilt. In addition to that, I chartered a number of tugs, manned them with men from the fisheries service, and sent them around the coast, and they confiscated and destroyed tens of thousands of lobster traps, because the people would persist in fishing contrary to law. That was a very painful task for me to undertake, but I recognized the vast importance of this fishery, and because of that I determined to save the people from themselves and to insist that the regulations which had been passed to preserve this fishery for the people should be observed. Take the report of Commander Spain, and the report of the officers of the *Curlew* and the *Kingfisher*, or any of these, and you will see the efforts that have been made, the great number of prosecutions that were instituted, the convictions obtained, and the large quantity of property destroyed in an effort to have the regulations obeyed. I must frankly say that although there were persistent attempts made to violate the law—hon. gentlemen will see how difficult it is to guard four or five thousand miles of coast—I have no complaint to make of the general efficiency of the officers, and I believe they did their duty well. The complaints which flood the files of my department are to the effect that we are ab-

surdly severe in the enforcement of these regulations. The complaints that I get from hon. members on both sides are to the effect that we are pushing this matter too severely, and not that we are too lax. I frankly say to my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) that it is rather a pleasure to hear myself attacked for being lax. It is the first complaint of the kind that has ever been made to me. I do not know a man who has ever come to me before and said that I was lax in the administration of the fishery laws. Per contra the complaint has been the other way. We have enforced the law. I will not say with too great severity, but pretty severely, in a bold effort, and at a good deal of expense to convince the people that it was in their interest that the law should be observed, and that we were determined to carry it out. Look at the quantity of property destroyed for illegal fishing during the last few years; look at the extra amount of money we have spent in this protection service. Let me ask, when before did tugs, with officers, patrol the whole coast, as has been done for the last few years, and when before was property destroyed that was left in the sea for illegal lobster fishing. I venture to say that the strictures of my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) are entirely unfounded.

Mr. POWELL. I am speaking simply whereof I know. Outside of Westmoreland I do not know anything. I am speaking from my own observations and on what I believe to be credible information. What I have said is true. The county inspector or the divisional inspector has nothing to do with a matter of that kind except to direct his officers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He goes along the coast all the time.

Mr. POWELL. I am speaking of the local officer. If there is any complaint it is made to the inspector, and I have no doubt these inspectors in that respect would do their duty. The chief reason why that state of affairs has existed, I believe, is due to the fact that the people along that shore believe they are hardly dealt with in the matter of the close season. The lobsters strike Cape Breton weeks before they strike on that shore. They strike Prince Edward Island before they strike on that shore. The result is that the season for lobster fishing on that coast opening at the same time as on Prince Edward Island, the Prince Edward Island fishermen have a fortnight's fishing before our fishermen can commence. Just at the time that the fish begin to strike in on our coast, and after the fishermen on other coasts have had their good catch our fishermen are obliged to stop just as the good catch is beginning.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman knows

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

that we have remedied that, recognizing that what he says to be true. We have extended the time to the 15th of August all along that coast.

Mr. POWELL. That will better it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I appreciated that what the hon. gentleman says is true, and that is why I gave the extension.

Mr. POWELL. Let me speak for a moment on this item of oyster culture in the county of Westmoreland. The hon. gentleman talks about the way these regulations are enforced—the late government undertook the costly experiment of seeing whether the famous old oyster beds of the Shediac could be renewed. There was the Poirier bed that was known to all oyster dealers and it was sought to renew it. At the expense of several thousand dollars that bed was cleared and planted with oysters of the best quality. These oysters had just about come to maturity the year the present government came into power and regulations controlling it should then have been made. It is nonsense for the minister to deny that this matter has not been pressed upon him and upon his department. It has been pressed upon Professor Prince and it has been pressed upon other officers. But the government were more anxious about politics than oysters. The first thing they did was to turn out one of the most conscientious men of my acquaintance—a gentleman named Mr. Wood—who, at the time of his appointment was selected purely and simply because of his merit and his character, and who at the time of his appointment was reputed to be mild Liberal. He was turned out of office by this government and they put another man in his place. What was the result? Instead of this government conserving the oyster bed and seeing that the money expended produced good results they turned out the old officer and put in a new man, and the result is that there never has been a license issued in respect to the bed from that day to this. At one time twenty poaching boats were found upon it. Oysters, not by the hundreds of barrels, but by the thousands of barrels have been taken from it and to-day it is practically depleted again. That is the history of that bed. While that has been going on the minister, although he could not help knowing of this matter, for complaints were made to his department, has sat quietly here and allowed this illegal fishing to go on, and the oyster bed to be ruined. With that history before us we are asked for an expenditure of several thousand dollars for oyster culture. The House will fail to appreciate the reasons that may be urged by the minister in support of that vote, when we consider what happened in the Shediac case. I do not hold the minister to that degree of—what shall I say—acuteness, in

enforcing the law, which would indicate omniscience on his part, but there is no question about it, that there has been a most atrocious maladministration of the oyster culture undertaking in the province of New Brunswick. The first experimental expenditure, which amounted to between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, has been absolutely thrown away. If the hon. minister wants evidence of the illicit fishing, he can find evidence in the fact that his officers are aware of about twenty poachers who were found there on one occasion.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. When was that?

Mr. **POWELL**. That, I think, was last summer, and some of them were fined, I am informed. It was a systematic business to fish that bed. To-day from this bed that cost the country thousands of dollars, the minister could not get as many hundred dollars' worth of oysters, if accounts I hear are true. The ex-Minister of Finance spent the summer down there. I have never spoken to him about it, but the matter was such a public scandal, that I have no doubt he heard of it time and again.

Mr. **J. H. BELL** (East Prince). I think there is something in the observation and admission of my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) with regard to the poaching that goes on along the coast of Westmoreland. On the Cape Traverse coast we have to complain that while our people observe the law, and sometimes are compelled to observe it, we hear constant reports of poaching on the opposite shore, and I think the Minister of Marine might take the hint and send his cutters and apply a little more severity there. Our complaint against the government on the Prince Edward Island shore is that the lobster regulations are enforced very severely—I may say too severely. We have no charge of laxity to make against the Minister of Marine and Fisheries; on the contrary, and we find that the regulations are rigidly and arbitrarily enforced. We do sometimes complain that when illegal fishing is going on, the lobster traps and gear are destroyed instead of being taken ashore and sold to the best advantage.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We would require a whole fleet to do that.

Mr. **BELL** (Prince). The change of season made under the present administration has given very general satisfaction. The fishermen of a certain section of the Island shore, extending from Cape Traverse to West Point, now enjoy the benefit of a season for which they have prayed and petitioned in vain for many years. The minister may receive some complaints yet. I can assure him

there is a very general satisfaction with the change. What we do complain of is that our new season, which the people appreciate very much, is shortened unfairly by certain regulations of the department preventing the people from putting out their lobster traps and preparing for the season before the time limit for the opening of the season. I do not think the poaching referred to by the hon. member for Westmoreland as going on along the shores of that county results from laxity on the part of the officers, but from persistent and determined efforts on the part of the fishermen along that shore to violate the law. I think the minister should respect the plain intimation of the hon. member who represents that shore and these people in this parliament and should see well to it that such cause of complaint be rendered impossible for the future.

Mr. **A. C. MACDONALD** (King's, P.E.I.) I am sorry I cannot very well agree with the hon. member for Prince (Mr. Bell) that the minister is enforcing the law too severely. I think when there is a law or rule laid down by the government or the department, it ought to be carried out to the letter, or as close thereto as it is possible to go. If the fishermen have to suffer in consequence, I am sorry for them; but I think it is in their own interest that the regulations which the department lays down should be carried out. From all I can learn I am rather inclined to the opinion that there is more poaching going on along other coasts than along the coasts of my county. If there was no law at all, I think the lobster fishermen would be quite prepared to take up their traps at the end of the season. The greatest injury to the lobster fisheries are the small packers, who are people of small means, and whose necessities are so great that they are driven to encroach on the regulations, and try to get all the fish possible, even if the process should exterminate the fishery altogether; and we can see that result coming closer to us every day. The lobsters have got to be so small that where hundreds of traps were used some years ago, there are thousands used now, and immense numbers of these small lobsters have to be caught to make a factory self-sustaining. Many of these lobsters, I fear, are taken before they reach the reproducing age, and for that reason the fishery is becoming rapidly fished out. With regard to the fishing season, the fishermen were in favour of opening it on the 1st of May instead of on the 20th of April, and I think it would be well for the minister to take that into account. With respect to the hatching of lobsters, I cannot say much about it. On our coast we have not seen any appreciable results from it. It is to be hoped that the hatchery for the propagation of lobsters on the coast of Pictou is of some benefit, but it is a ques-

tion on which there is very much doubt. I think it is pretty hard to demonstrate that it is really a benefit.

Mr. McALISTER. A charge has been made by the hon. member for Westmoreland of violation of the lobster fishery regulations along the coast of that county, a charge which, I have no doubt, is true, because the hon. member has stated that he knows of it of his own knowledge. I may say that the county of Restigouche, which I have the honour to represent, has very extensive lobster fisheries; but I have never yet heard of any complaints that the regulations of the lobster fisheries were violated in that county. A great many of the people in my county are engaged in that industry, and quite a number from other places have factories established there, but the fishing is done principally by the people of my county. I must say that the people there are law-abiding citizens. Each and every one of them, so far as I can ascertain, is anxious to see the regulations strictly carried out. True there are complaints time and again made that the regulations are unjust in some respects, complaints that I admit, have some strong foundation; but at the same time I know the difficulties that exist in the way of framing regulations that will please everybody, or be at all near perfection. But while complaints are made from time to time, I know, of my own personal knowledge, that the regulations are rigidly enforced by the officer of the department. He has, however, no difficulty in enforcing them. I never knew yet of any complaint being lodged in the county of Restigouche against any lobster fishermen for violation of the regulations. There may have been some, but I think I would have heard if there were any, and I never did. The season is unsatisfactory to some of them. They complain that the regulations are unjust, which are imposed on the fishermen in the Baie des Chaleurs, as compared with the regulations in force in other places. Not being a practical fisherman myself, I do not know whether there is anything in that complaint, but I know that it is made from time to time. At the same time the regulations are strictly carried out, and I have never heard yet of any complaints made of any violation.

Mr. ANGUS McLENNAN (Inverness). I happen to represent the county just opposite that represented by the hon. gentlemen from Prince Edward Island, who have just spoken. That county covers the whole of the western side of the Island of Cape Breton, just as the three counties of Prince Edward Island cover the coast of the whole side of that island. In that whole coast, the western side of the Island of Cape Breton, I have had ample opportunities for personal observation, living just midway between the two extreme points, and I am in a position to state that I do not believe one hundred lobsters were packed out of season

Mr. MACDONALD (King's).

during the past three or four years, since I have had the honour of a seat in this House. While criticising, as I did the other day, severely the conduct of the Marine Department in shortening the fishing season, as applied to the western side of Cape Breton Island, and lengthening it as applied to the eastern side thereof, yet when we come to the subject of the protection of the fisheries, I must really stand up in my place and declare that the regulations have been strictly carried out, since the present minister has had charge of the Marine and Fisheries Department. Whether that be due to the vigilance of the officers or to the law-abiding character of the people, I am not prepared to say; but I do know that there are about forty or fifty miles of unsettled coast along the extreme northern portion of the island, which was considered, no doubt, by some of the packers, a very eligible site for poaching or illegal fishing, and accordingly they established two or three packing establishments there, and operated them. And on a certain occasion, while preparing to pack a catch, to their very great consternation, they saw a steam tug coming in from the sea, and making straight for one of these establishments. An officer came ashore and found one lobster in the lot below legal length, and the whole lot was confiscated, and the owner of the institution subjected to a fine.

Mr. KAULBACH. When was that?

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). Last season. I do not know the name of the tug or the officer.

Mr. KAULBACH. Hard usage.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). Well, I only cite this instance as evidence of the vigilance of the protective service on that coast, which is about 150 miles in extent. While I feel bound, in justice to the department to say what I have just said, I do complain that the department is using the fishermen rather severely by shortening the season, in view of the fact that not a trap is set along that great extent of coast until May 10th or 12th, instead of April 20, as allowed by the new regulations. The traps are set out twenty days later, thus leaving the people along the coast a fishing season of only about six weeks, whereas the people of eastern Nova Scotia are permitted to fish three weeks longer. However, the point I rose to call attention to, is the efficiency of the protective service, which I must say, is most effective on our side of the Island of Cape Breton.

Mr. POWELL. Might I ask the minister what the regulations are now?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. August 15, is the date on the north shore of New Brunswick down to Cape Tourmentine.

Mr. POWELL. When did that come in force ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Some few months ago.

Mr. POWELL. That regulation is a step in the right direction. My hon. friend from East Prince, seems to think that the people of Westmoreland are more immoral than the people across the Strait. But it is not a question of morality at all. The root of the trouble has been the fact that our people felt they were deprived of three weeks' fishing which the Prince Edward Island and Cape Breton fishermen enjoy. When the lobsters are just beginning to come from the deep to the shallow water in large numbers, our season was cut short, and the result was that if our fishermen were going to catch any of those lobsters, they had to continue fishing beyond the season, and having done that, a great number continued a much longer time, and carried their fishing some time into the fall. My remarks apply to the period previous to last year, because last year we were engaged here until after the fishing season was over, which was some time in July. I cannot speak for last year, because we were here until August and, before I had personal knowledge of affairs in the county, we were into September. But previous to last year, it was true that illegal fishing went on, and the reason primarily was the unfairness of the regulation, the secondary reason being the laxity of the official who was appointed in lieu of Mr. Munroe. This year I am glad to hear the government extended the time as I had urged upon the department previously. I urged it upon the last Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Costigan), and also upon his predecessor (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). But they ignored this very wholesome regulation and the necessity for extending the time, and with the most disastrous results. The hon. gentleman says that in other parts of the maritime provinces they are enforcing the regulations strictly. I am glad of that, as the effect must be to increase the lobsters in every portion of the coast, including the shores of Westmoreland. But I bring again to the minister's attention this maladministration of the oyster bed in the harbour of Shediac; and I hope he will not allow another year to pass without having stringent measures taken to preserve that oyster fishery which has cost the Dominion so much. It is a scandal, nothing less, that the government should have done absolutely nothing with the bed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I shall have a special report made on what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell) says to-night.

Mr. KAULBACH. I would ask the hon. minister to inform me with regard to the size limit of lobsters.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The limit is nine inches on the coast of the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Kaulbach's) county. That limit holds good to Halifax harbour, but north of that the limit is eight inches.

Mr. KAULBACH. I think the minister will see that this difference in the size should not exist. I do not see why they should draw a line at the mouth of Halifax harbour and all south be given a limit of nine inches, while north the limit should be eight inches. It appears to me, if a difference is to exist, it should be reversed, that the smaller limit should be south of Halifax, for the reason that fewer lobsters are found south of Halifax than are found north of it. I understood the hon. minister to say that no overseer of fisheries had been dismissed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I said no inspectors had been dismissed.

Mr. KAULBACH. I misunderstood the hon. gentleman. I know that in my county—Lunenburg—we had two very active and very efficient officers, Mr. Solomon and Mr. Evans, with whom no fault could be found except that they were friends of the Conservative party. But they were not offensive partisans by any means; I know of no action they took, inconsistent with their duty. Nevertheless, the government thought proper to dismiss them and to replace them with other men whom I am sure have not been looking after the fisheries half so well as their predecessors. I think it was a gross mistake on the part of the government. However, it is done; and I suppose it is needless for me to comment upon it. I was rather surprised to hear my hon. friend from Inverness (Mr. McLennan) charge the government in the manner he has done. I thought he would look upon the government as a paternal one; and that they would not be so cruel as to send officers in a ship to his town and seize a large number of traps and lobsters because of finding one lobster under the limit size for packing. I can hardly imagine that such could be the case.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). It was not in a port, but on an isolated coast.

Mr. KAULBACH. That makes no difference. It seems to me that the action of the officers as reported by the hon. gentleman (Mr. McLennan) was very unfair and acted cruelly; and if these poor people have suffered in this way, I hope the government will make some compensation to them. My hon. friend from Prince Edward Island (Mr. Macdonald) referred to the scarcity of lobsters on that shore and to their being of full size. That only shows more clearly the necessity that exists for the government to carry on fish hatcheries along the coast. I realize this very clearly. In this connection, I would remind the minister that in a let-

ter written to him, I urged that, in addition to fish hatcheries and the use of incubators, that where it is possible to find natural ponds for hatching, that is for lobsters more particularly, these ponds should be utilized. I hope the hon. minister will not overlook the letter, carefully drawn, in which I made a special request that he would give this his earliest and most careful attention.

Mr. FOSTER. What has been done about lobster hatcheries?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There has been an increase of the vote. We propose to build three new hatcheries. One, a combined lobster and salmon hatchery will be at Gaspé. The size will be 114½ feet by 34 feet. The plans and specifications have been prepared and the site has been selected, and the only cause of delay now is that Prof. Prince desires to see the exact location before the hatchery is built, to see that there is proper water supply. He is going down in a day or two to see about that. Then, in British Columbia, where, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) knows, we have large surplus receipts, there will be hatcheries at Sicamous and Skeena. The first is to take the place of the one at New Westminster which has rotted down. We go further up the river. They sent officers up there last year to select the site, and a site has been selected, though not finally determined upon. Plans and specifications are prepared, and the hatcheries are about being built. And we propose, inasmuch as the hatchery at Sydney, Cape Breton, is rotted down and has been closed up for some years, to rebuild at Margaree. That accounts for the increase in the votes for this service. We have at present hatcheries at Ottawa, Newcastle, Sandwich, Tadousac, Margaree, Restigouche, Bedford, Miramichi, St. John, Fraser River and Selkirk.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) What is the Margaree hatchery for?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. For salmon.

Mr. CLANCY. Can the hon. gentleman say what the fish hatcheries cost, that are now maintained in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. In Ottawa it costs \$1,278, that is our central fish hatchery down here. At Newcastle it costs \$3,762; Sandwich, \$4,941. Those are in Ontario. In Quebec, we have one at Tadousac only, costing \$2,190.

Mr. FOSTER. What has been the result of the lobster hatchery business?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is claimed by the fishermen that the results have been good. It is

Mr. KAULBACH.

almost impossible to come to any definite conclusion. All we know is that since the lobster hatchery has been started in the neighbourhood of Pictou, a very large number of small lobsters are caught every year, and that is attributed largely to this lobster hatchery. We have no means of testing that definitely except by taking the opinion of fishermen along the coast.

Mr. FOSTER. Why are you extending the system?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Because the general opinion is that it has done good. We are establishing this one at Gaspé for salmon and lobster both.

Mr. BELL (P.E.I.) I call the attention of the minister to the fact that we had a salmon hatchery in Prince Edward Island at one time that did good service. Unfortunately, it was burnt down, and I trust the government will see its way to rebuilding it. It is situated in the riding I have the honour to represent, on an excellent location, on Dunk River. As it is the only one in Prince Edward Island, I trust the Minister of Marine and Fisheries will direct its reconstruction.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). I think it is doubtful, indeed, if the lobster fisheries can be restored by means of hatcheries. I have no practical knowledge of the matter myself, but those who have, doubt very much if they can be restored by these means. I believe the time will come very soon when, if lobster fishing is to be retained at all, the country will have to face the question of suppressing the lobster fisheries for two or three years, taking, not the whole coast at once, probably, but a part of the coast at a time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is a drastic measure.

Mr. ELLIS. But, I believe it is the only remedy to preserve the fisheries from extinction. I would not stop the fishing over the whole country at once, but over a portion of the coast.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Who do you propose to offer up as a sacrifice first?

Mr. ELLIS. I would begin with Prince Edward Island. But, I would be perfectly willing to follow geographical lines, and extend it over so many miles of country in successive years. The lobster is not a fish that travels a great distance on the coast, only from deep water into the shore, not laterally along the coast any great distance.

Mr. POWELL. Opinions differ about that.

Mr. ELLIS. I know they do. Yet, it is well understood that the lobster lives within not a large area. Now, if this fishery is

valuable, and the country is earnest in desiring to retain the lobster fishery, it will have to undertake what the minister calls drastic measures. We are told in this portion of the country that the people are exceedingly honest and do not violate the law. The truth is that every lobster fisherman violates the law if he gets an opportunity when fish are plentiful. It is the most natural thing in the world for fishermen. The fishermen suffer a great deal by the drastic measures, to use the minister's own words, which are necessary to enforce those laws. At the same time, they will run any risks to catch the fish when they are there. The lobsters are disappearing, you cannot get a decent sized lobster at all now for ordinary use. While the minister is endeavouring to hatch out a few lobsters here and there, the fish in its natural state is caught before it is able to produce eggs at all.

Fisheries protection service \$100,000

Mr. FOSTER. Were there any American fishermen down last year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, a list was given by Commander Spain, about 120 all told.

Mr. KAULBACH. Before the item passes, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to one fact in connection with the mackerel fisheries. He is aware, I think, as well as the most of us who reside on the coast, that the paucity of fish in the waters on the shores of Nova Scotia, in Cape Breton, is occasioned largely by the methods that are employed in the catch of mackerel. Some years ago an arrangement was made between the Dominion government and the United States government with regard to the catch of fish of this description by purse-seines. In the maritime provinces, a large number of vessels were fitted out for that purpose, and fish were destroyed in great numbers. An arrangement was made, as I said, between the two governments, that that method should be abolished. Of late years the Americans have been adopting that method again, after the Canadians have dropped it. Now we find that in the spring of the year a fleet of vessels will pass from Cape Sable down along the eastern shore, past the ports of Lunenburg, Halifax and others, for the purpose of catching all the fish they can. A fleet of eighty or ninety vessels may be seen at one time, all fitted with purse-seines to bag the fish in any part of the ocean where they may be found outside the three-mile limit, and inside the three-mile limit, if there are no schooners or steamers in the patrol service to prevent them purse-seines when each tend to drive fish, and mackerel particularly, from the shores into deep water, and are lost to the shore fishermen entirely as they do not return. I think, in order to encourage that

industry in a legal way, the government should approach the American government and make an arrangement similar to that which was in force in previous years, and prevent the capture of fish by the use of the purse-seine. I think it would be wisdom on their part to do so, and I urge very strongly that something should be done in that direction.

Building fishways and clearing rivers..... \$1,000
Mr. McALISTER. What fishways are these?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There are no special ones. From time to time applications are made to build fishways and the law provides that we shall contribute half the cost.

To pay persons employed in the Department of Marine and Fisheries for services in connection with the distribution of the fishing bounty, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$5,000

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. These are custom-house officers.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) I suppose the bounties have been distributed for the past year?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) The cheques have been sent out?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) They are now in the hands of the same parties as heretofore?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) This amount is to pay for the services of parties who have distributed the bounties?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This is for custom-house officers in connection with the distribution of the bounty.

Oyster culture \$7,000

Mr. FOSTER. I think the minister had better not press that to-night.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have discussed that all evening.

Mr. FOSTER. We want to have a little discussion over the next item.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Can you not carry all the items to the last one?

Mr. FOSTER. If we can talk upon all of them.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Very well, leave the last one.

To assist in the establishment, maintenance and inspection of cold storage for bait for deep sea fishermen under conditions to be fixed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries \$25,000

Mr. KAULBACH. Are you going to take up the \$25,000 item?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. KAULBACH. May I ask the hon. minister as to how the money is disbursed in connection with the package of ice for cold storage for bait for the deep sea fisheries? What is the method for engaging in the packing of this ice? What amounts do the respective parties receive?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The organizations are formed, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) will see by the circulars that we issued, one of which I hold in my hand, and which I will be happy to give him, by the local fishermen along the coast, and they contribute a proportion of the cost of the building. The building must be erected according to specifications and plans submitted by us, and on the inspection of our officers we contribute 50 per cent of the cost within a certain limit.

Mr. KAULBACH. What is the limit?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think \$1,000.

Mr. KAULBACH. How many have been erected?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Five or six have been erected and others are in process of erection, but their completion has been postponed until next year.

Mr. FOSTER. I hope the hon. minister is not going to press this matter to-night.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not wish to if the hon. gentleman wants it left over.

Mr. FOSTER. I want it left.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can give all the information that you wish to know.

Mr. FOSTER. I am not every person in the House, and if it is necessary we will have to ask the quorum to stay if we want to do business, and if the hon. gentleman wants to stay all night, we will do so.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The whole matter will come up again.

Mr. FOSTER. The matter will come up again when we have about two days at our disposal.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no desire to press it. The hon. gentleman has been very good to-night.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the hon. gentleman is as consistent as a young lover. He is so consistent that he will not let go.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is that the way with a young lover? I have to take another vote in the supplementaries for this and if the hon. gentleman will let this go to-night it will facilitate matters. I want to get some night to myself. I have to come back here every night for this one thing, and it is rather hard. I have been good to the hon. gentleman myself in old times, and he might do it again.

Mr. FOSTER. We have been good to you to-night.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 11.05 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, May 25, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 169) to incorporate the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.—(Mr. Borden, King's.)

BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 163) to amend the Bank Act. He said: I do not imagine that there is any desire to discuss this Bill at the present stage, as I have intimated that it is my intention to move that it be referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce. I move the second reading on that understanding.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

INSCRIBED STOCK OF CANADA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 149) respecting inscribed stock of Canada in the United Kingdom. He said: This Bill

has been submitted to the House in accordance with the intimation which I was able to give in the budget speech, when I stated that an understanding had been come to between Her Majesty's government and the government of Canada, for the promotion of legislation which, when enacted, would enable trustees in England to invest their moneys in the stocks of Canada. I am sure it is not necessary to say much as to the desirability of that privilege being given to trustees who may wish to put their money into Canadian securities. When a man has stocks, bonds or debentures to sell, or goods of any other kind, he is interested, of course, in having as many purchasers as possible. If a farmer brings his goods to a market town where there are a score of buyers, he expects the competition of those buyers to create a demand, which will assure a fair price. But, if he found that half of the buyers had been, by some local regulation, forbidden to buy, he would feel that his market was restricted. This is our position in relation to the investment of trust money in Canadian securities. A large number of the best buyers of stocks are practically prevented by the English law from investing in Canadian securities. When we need money for the purposes of our permanent works, we have to go to England to raise it; and, when we put out an issue of bonds, our desire is that we should have as many buyers as possible. The importance of securing this privilege for Canada was recognized many years ago, and very earnest efforts were made by the government of the day to obtain this privilege. Especially in the year 1888, an effort was made in that direction. We have the privilege under the Scottish trustee laws of having trustees purchase Canadian securities; but in England, where we find the greater volume of transactions of that nature, we are precluded by law from having trustees so invest their money. In the English Trustee Act, there is a provision that by order of the Supreme Court, such permission may be granted. In 1888, the Supreme Court took steps by virtue of that Act, to allow such privilege to colonial stocks, under certain conditions. The special condition they laid down was that it would only apply to a stock which, bearing 4 per cent., was quoted in the market at 105, or a stock at lower rate of interest, bearing a corresponding quotation. While the matter was in that position, a discussion occurred in the Imperial parliament which, apparently led the English court to withdraw its order. There was at that time a Bill before the Imperial parliament to amend the English Trustee Act, and a clause had been inserted in that Bill, no doubt as a result of earlier agitation, which would give this privilege to colonial stocks. When the Bill was before the House of Lords, it received the approval of Her Majesty's government, and was carried through the Upper House.

Subsequently, when it came to the House of Commons, it was referred to the Committee on Law, and it would appear that the government changed its views, because when the Bill came before the House, members of the government dissented from the Bill, and the clause was removed, thus denying a privilege which seemed at that time likely to be conferred, not only upon Canada, but upon the colonies generally. In consequence of that, no doubt, the colonies made a further effort to secure this recognition of colonial stocks. A deputation waited upon the Imperial authorities, and it was agreed between the representatives of the colonies and Her Majesty's government that a committee should be appointed to give special consideration to the subject. Later on, a committee was appointed in accordance with that understanding, a committee composed of representatives of the colonies, including the then High Commissioner for Canada, the present leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), and also representatives of the English public service, and, if I mistake not, a representative of the Bank of England. They reported a draft Bill, which, if enacted, would have given the privilege to the colonies generally. However, difficulties arose, as will happen with regard to legislation on such an important matter, and the Bill did not become law. The agitation continued, because the desirability of the privilege was recognized on all hands. However, nothing appeared to be accomplished, though I am sure that every government, and every High Commissioner for Canada, did their utmost to that end. In 1899, however, we thought the opportunity favourable to revive the agitation to profit as much as possible by all that had gone before, and urge as strongly as we could our reasons in support of the change. We pointed out in a report of the Minister of Finance, confirmed by an order in council, the importance of the colonies, and also that the time seemed opportune for granting the privilege to the colonies generally—for we did not think we should press the case entirely from a purely Canadian standpoint.

Mr. FOSTER. Were these negotiations conducted in concert?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No. I have reference now to independent negotiations carried on in 1899 and since. The earlier negotiations were largely in concert with the other colonies, especially in the case that I have referred to, when the present leader of the opposition, then High Commissioner, was associated with representatives of other colonies in pressing the matter upon the Imperial government. In 1899, as I say, we deemed the opportunity favourable for bringing the matter before Her Majesty's government, urging, as the papers which have been laid on the Table, will show, that the privilege might be given to the colonies generally,

and, at all events, we thought Canada could make out a very good case for the privilege, in view of the growing importance of this country, its unassailable credit and its strong financial position generally. That led to some confidential negotiations, which continued for some months, between the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Colonial Secretary, the Canadian Finance Minister, through the Canadian High Commissioner for Canada. The upshot of the matter will be found in a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to Lord Strathcona, the High Commissioner for Canada, written on February 15, this year. The letter is as follows:—

Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.,
February 15, 1900.

My dear Lord Strathcona,—I have been in communication with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the admission of colonial securities as authorized trust investments, and I am glad to be able to inform you that a decision has been arrived at which will, I hope, be satisfactory to Canada.

As you are aware, the Chancellor proposed to take legal advice as to how far the proposals submitted by the Dominion government were sufficient to secure the objects which are aimed at, and this has now been received.

It is essential, of course, that the privilege should be confined to the securities of colonies adopting the Colonial Stock Act, but the adoption by the Dominion government of the Colonial Stock Act would not, the Chancellor is advised, wholly remove the difficulty so far as Canadian stocks are concerned. It would be necessary, in order to enable that Act to be applied to Canadian stock issued between 1877 and the present date, that Imperial legislation should be passed amending the Act, and providing that 'it shall not be necessary that any prospectus, notice, coupon, &c., or other document issued before the passing of the Act in relation to the stock should state the particulars required to be stated therein by section 19 of the Colonial Stock Act of 1877.'

The passing of this Act would secure the parliamentary sanction which, as you are aware, it has been felt, after what happened in 1899, ought to be given before colonial securities are admitted as trust investments.

Assuming that such an Act is passed, supplementary legislation would be required in Canada making specific provision for the inscription and transfer in a register kept in the United Kingdom of Canadian stock, so that the declaration required by the Act of 1877 may state the provision thus made in proper form; and Canada would further have to provide for the satisfaction of judgments of the English courts in the two ways, (a) and (b), offered in Mr. Fielding's confidential letter to you of June last.

It would be necessary that the Dominion government should officially undertake to do this before any legislation is introduced here, and that they should also formally place on record the views, unofficially expressed by Mr. Fielding, that any Canadian legislation which, in the opinion of the Imperial government, altered the provisions above required to the injury of the stockholders, or otherwise involved a departure from the original contract, would properly be disallowed by the Imperial government.

If the Dominion government will now make an official application and give the formal as-

surances required, the way will be cleared for the introduction of the necessary Imperial legislation.

I am, &c.,
(Sgd.) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Thereupon, a further report was made by the Minister of Finance of Canada, upon which an order in council was founded, dated 22nd of March, 1900. It will be seen from Mr. Chamberlain's letter that he asked Canada to pass legislation in certain respects, legislation which is largely of a formal character, because what it asks we have practically already done. I quote now from the conclusion of the order in council in which we made the following recommendation:

As it has been intimated to the minister that it will be necessary before legislation is introduced in the Imperial parliament that the Canadian government should undertake to introduce in the Canadian parliament the legislation necessary on the part of Canada, and should give the formal assurance desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to disallowance by the Imperial government of future legislation as hereinbefore set forth, and as it has also been intimated that if the Dominion government will now make an official application and give the formal assurances required, the way will be cleared for the introduction of the new Imperial legislation, the minister, in view of the great advantage which will undoubtedly accrue to Canadian stocks in the English market if they are included in the authorized list of investments by trustees, recommends as follows:

1. That the Canadian parliament, during the present session of parliament, be asked to provide for the inscription and transfer of Canadian stock in a register to be kept in the United Kingdom, so that the same may be recorded under and become subject to the provisions of the Colonial Stock Act, and for the payment by the Minister of Finance and Receiver General out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Canada of any amounts which may be payable in respect of any such stocks under the properly certified judgment, decree, rule or order of the proper court in the United Kingdom.

2. That the Canadian government arrange with their present financial agents for the payment at all times of all such judgments, decrees, rules or orders of such court in the United Kingdom, and make similar arrangements with their successors in office if a change of agents should at any time be made; and

3. That the Canadian government concurs in the views expressed by the Minister of Finance, that any Canadian legislation which, in the opinion of the Imperial government, alters the provisions as above required to the injury of the stockholders, or otherwise involves a departure from the original contract in regard to any of the stock so inscribed, would properly be disallowed by the Imperial government.

The minister further recommends that Your Excellency be pleased to make application on behalf of the Canadian government for the admission of Canadian inscribed stock to the list of authorized trust investments, and for the introduction into the Imperial parliament by Her Majesty's government of the legislation necessary to remove any difficulties in the way of such admission.

What the Imperial government desired us to do had, to a large extent, been already done. In the year 1890, at a time when, as I have already explained, this matter was being urged upon the attention of Her Majesty's government, an order in council was passed in Canada by which we practically adopted the English method of inscribing, registering and transferring stock. That has already been done and is applied now to our stocks in England. In 1893 a further order in council in the same line was passed, when the change of financial agents took place. So far as this Bill is concerned its chief provisions, relating to the Colonial Stock Act of England are already in actual operation by the voluntary Act of Canada. It is the desire of Her Majesty's government that we should have these regulations made under a special statute. Therefore, we insert a clause in our Bill providing that we may pass such regulations in conformity with the English Colonial Stock Act.

Mr. FOSTER. And these regulations will fill the Bill?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We hope so. They were made in anticipation of our being able to secure the admission of our stocks, and were designed for that very purpose. The second point in which Her Majesty's government asked us to meet their views may seem to some, perhaps, unnecessary. It is that we should make provision by which Canada would respond to any judgment that might ever be obtained in an English court against the Dominion as respects these stocks. We can hardly anticipate any circumstances under which any English stockholder would be obliged to sue the Canadian government to recover either the principal or interest on this stock. Still, as a matter of business the provision is not unreasonable. We are asked to make provision that any judgment, order or rule of court in England made as respects these stocks should be recognized, and that we will respond to any order so made, and we are to arrange with our financial agents in London, the Bank of Montreal, that they will at all times agree to respond to any demand of that court which may be made upon us.

The only other point is one, not of legislation, but rather as to what I might call constitutional understanding. The power of Her Majesty's government to disallow any legislation which Canada might pass is, of course, beyond question. Still, it is a power that happily is not often exercised, and is not likely to be exercised often. Perhaps that is the reason why Her Majesty's government are not content to rest upon their abstract power in the matter, but ask that we should give the assurance that if at any time the parliament of

Canada should pass any legislation which would seem to vary our contract as respects these stocks, that such legislation would be a proper subject of disallowance. I am sure we will all agree that if the parliament of Canada were to do anything so unreasonable as that, we could not expect our Act to be confirmed by Her Majesty's government. We, therefore, had no hesitation whatever in giving Mr. Chamberlain the assurance that if at any time such legislation were passed, we, on behalf of the Canadian people, admitted in advance that this would not be a legitimate subject for legislation on our part, and that such an Act might be properly disallowed by Her Majesty's government. Practically therefore, all we are asked to do by Her Majesty's government in this matter is not of great consequence, and much of it has already been done in a less formal way. I think that I have said enough to place the matter fairly before the House.

Mr. FOSTER. But the minister has not stated the conditions of the stocks.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There will be no conditions. It means that in any new stocks that we may issue in England we would issue them under the Colonial Inscribed Stock Act, which practically we are operating under to-day. There are no new conditions for the issue of stocks.

Mr. FOSTER. Is their no standard fixed?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No. At one time that question was raised, but in recent negotiations that point has not been raised at all. At one time it was thought necessary in order to secure the admission that there should be a standard to which I have already referred, and this was that it should be a stock which, bearing interest at 4 per cent, should be quoted on the Stock Exchange at not less than 105. That, at one time, was thought necessary, and it was inserted in the order of the court made in England in 1888, and it was contemplated by a clause inserted in the English Trustee Act, in 1888. But, I think it is because, since that time, the position of the colonies generally has improved, and the credit of Canada is unassailable, that that condition has not been insisted upon in the recent negotiations.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I should like to ask my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding), as I was not in the House when he rose, whether all the correspondence between the High Commissioner of Canada, from the inception of this subject, and the government, has been brought down?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The correspondence brought down refers to some confidential correspondence that took place

during the interim, but all that is official, and, I think, all that is necessary, to show the whole matter, has already been laid on the Table of the House. I have only this moment learned that it is not printed. I assumed that it was.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I should have liked that the House should have had the opportunity of perusing the printed copies of the correspondence before the hon. gentleman felt it necessary to move the second reading of the Bill. But this is a subject upon which there will be such a consensus of opinion in the House as to make that not so important as it otherwise might be. I can only say that this was a matter that was practically determined long ago as between Her Majesty's government and her colonies. What occurred was this: The great importance of having colonial stocks admitted to be in the position that trust funds could be invested in them was so apparent to all the colonies that the subject was taken up—I think it was in 1890—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Eighteen eighty-eight was the first.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The commission was in—?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Eighteen eighty-nine.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Eighteen eighty-nine. I, myself, acting in the capacity of High Commissioner, felt the subject to be of such great importance that I called together all the representatives of the self-governing colonies in London, and we made a communication to the colonial minister, asking for an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. At that time that position was occupied by the very distinguished gentleman who is now the First Lord of the Admiralty, Right Hon. Mr. Goschen, and after a number of interviews with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which we obtained the aid and support of the Colonial Office, Her Majesty's government took a very decided and important step, appointing a departmental committee to deal with this question, as has been stated by the hon. Minister of Finance. On that committee the Treasury were represented, the Colonial Office was represented, and the Lord Chancellor was represented. The Bank of England was invited to send a gentleman to represent that great monetary institution, and the colonies were invited to elect three of their number to represent the colonies. The then Agent General of New Zealand, Sir Francis Dillon Bell, Sir Graham Berry, representing the colony of Victoria, in Australia, and myself had the honour of being selected as the three representatives of the colonies on the departmental commission. The commission held a number of meetings, and gave the subject the most care-

ful consideration. As it will be remembered, as has been suggested by the hon. Minister of Finance, the credit of the colonies had not attained, at that time, the very high position which it has since attained. It was felt necessary by the Imperial government to have some mode of determining what colonial stocks should be in a position to have trust funds invested in them, and that there must be some criterion affecting the known value on the English money market of these various stocks. After a good deal of care and deliberation upon this question, we all agreed, on the part of Her Majesty's government, the Lord Chancellor, the Bank of England and the colonies, upon a plan, and we reported by a Bill. When the Bill was reported, I have no hesitation in saying, that as matters then stood it would have been submitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Goschen, to parliament, and it would undoubtedly have become law, but, after that Bill was reported by the commission, and before the meeting of parliament, a very unfavourable condition of things exhibited itself in Australia. I may say Australasia, because New Zealand was similarly affected, and it was felt that in consequence of the very great change in the relative value of securities, especially in Australasia, it would be unwise to submit that Bill to parliament as accepted in fact by Her Majesty's government for the adoption of parliament, and for the passing of it into law. We felt that we were approaching parliament on a very important question at a very unfavourable crisis in colonial affairs. I may possibly be told: Well, Canada was not very materially affected by that; there was no change in the value of Canadian securities that would have prevented their coming within the scope of the Bill, and being available for the investment of trust funds, but, I may say frankly to the House, that having received the hearty co-operation and support of the representatives of the self-governing colonies in London, I felt that it would be invidious to press the Bill, so far as it related to the Dominion of Canada. I felt that I was acting in the best interests of Canada in not taking advantage of the position that we occupied at that time to press our interests, leaving in abeyance those of the Australasian colonies and of the gentlemen who so earnestly aided and co-operated with me in bringing about the adoption of the Bill. Under these circumstances, the matter was allowed to remain in abeyance, but Her Majesty's government and the representatives of the colonies felt that it was only a question of a short time until the financial position, the credit and the value of colonial securities assumed their normal position, and that the cloud of the commercial and financial depression which moved over the world at that time, from 1890 onwards, had passed, when we should press

for the adoption of the Bill. I am very glad to know that that time has long since passed, that the only possible difficulty that stood in the way of carrying out the settled policy of the Imperial government, and as well as of the colonies, is a thing of the past, and that there is now no difficulty in the way of the adoption of that measure which undoubtedly will give additional value to the securities of the colonies which are made available for the investment of trustee funds.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

The House again resolved itself in committee on (Bill 110) to amend the Weights and Measures Act.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). I wish to give to the committee some information which I have obtained recently concerning this Bill. It was introduced at the request of the Fruit-Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, who asked that the legal size of the standard apple barrel should be reduced to the same size as that legalized in New York State, and adopted by other northern states of the union. The Nova Scotia fruit-growers consider they labour under a grievance in this respect, because they cannot get for their larger barrel in the English market any higher price than their American competitors get for the smaller barrel.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Do I understand the hon. gentleman is meeting the wishes of the hon. gentleman from Annapolis (Mr. Mills) in this matter.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.** Yes, and the Fruit-Growers' Association of Nova Scotia.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, that is sufficient.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.** I wish to point out that the American barrel only holds ninety-six quarts, and the other day I stated to the House on the authority of the officers of my department, that our standard barrel holds 103 quarts. Since then I thought I would experiment so as to find exactly the size of our standard barrel, and to my great astonishment, I found that instead of it being 103 quarts, it is 112 quarts. The barrel which the Nova Scotia apple-growers are asking for would hold three Imperial bushels, while our legalized barrel holds three and a half bushels. I was asked by the hon. gentle-

man from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), if I could say what was the capacity of a sugar barrel, and I had an experiment made with the greatest care, and I find that a sugar barrel holds 126 quarts, that is to say, thirty quarts more than the barrel advocated by the Nova Scotia fruit-growers. I find, however, that the apple-growers in the other provinces are not all of the same opinion as the apple-growers of Nova Scotia, and the question arises whether we should legislate in this matter for Nova Scotia alone. We have done that already in the Weights and Measures Act, particularly in regard to the province of Quebec, where they have old customs as to their measures, and we have provided that the contents of a bag of potatoes in Quebec shall be eighty pounds. Perhaps the committee will consent to make the ninety-six quart apple barrel, applicable to Nova Scotia, particularly so as it will be an experiment which may prove that the Nova Scotia people were justified in advocating to reduce the size of the apple barrel. I wrote to a number of fruit-growers in Quebec and Ontario for their opinions on this matter, and have received several replies. For instance, I have here a letter from a fruit-grower in Montreal, in which he says:

I agree with you in what you say. The apple-growers have been at a great disadvantage. Not only do we not get any more for our apples, but they carry better in the small barrel. A flour barrel is too large. One of the reasons that the Nova Scotia apples arrive in better condition than those from Ontario is the small barrel.

Here is another one from Montreal, written by a well-known horticulturist and apple-grower, Capt. Shepherd, in which he approves of the proposal to change the size of the barrel, and says:

Certainly the Canadians competing in the same English market should have the same sized barrel as a standard barrel.

Here is a letter against the proposal from one of the apple-growers of Montreal, in which he says:

We do not understand why your department asks to change the present size of the apple barrels. In our opinion, the barrel now in use is small enough. The only people to benefit by a change would be the manufacturers, railroad and steamship companies; certainly not the trade. The size of the Canadian apple barrel is well known, and in many instances, where the goods are equal, is given the preference on this account, when compared with the American apple barrel. We are certainly very much against any change being made.

I have some letters from Ontario. Here is one from Mr. Vanduzer:

I think that all apple barrels should be of the same size throughout the Dominion, and that size should be the same as those of another country or countries from which we get our strongest competition in the British market.

As the United States is our strongest competitor in the apple trade, our barrels should be of the same size as theirs. There is nothing gained by having them larger.

But there are others in Ontario who are not in favour of adopting the smaller barrel. Here is one from Mr. Henry, in which he says :

I would be very sorry if this were done, for I think it would be an injury, and no benefit. I have been an exporter of apples for many years. I understand the people of Nova Scotia argue that they export apples to the New England States, and get no more for them than they would if the barrels were smaller, which is ridiculous.

Here is a letter from Mr. Anderson, of Ontario, in which he speaks very strongly against reducing the size. Among other things, he says :

The state of New York, against the protestations of the American Apple Shippers' Association, passed the necessary legislation, making the 'pcny,' or 'stove-pipe,' the standard so far as New York State is concerned. To me that is no reason why we should follow in their steps. The barrel adopted and made the standard last session is all right, just the right size. They are just the right size for loading into cars, and the freight on them would be just the same as on a smaller package.

You can see that the question presents a good deal of difficulty, and it was complicated to a much greater degree by a letter I received three or four days ago from Nova Scotia, coming from Mr. Innes, who is the president of the Board of Trade of King's County, and one of the leading apple-growers in Nova Scotia. This letter explains to a certain degree the wish of the Nova Scotia people to have the size of the barrel properly fixed. It took me very much by surprise, and the moment I received it I wrote to Mr. Innes asking for a full explanation of something I never heard of before. He says :

The barrel prescribed by the Dominion legislation for apples has never been used in Nova Scotia.

This is something entirely new to me, and I dare say to the House generally. Mr. Innes continues :

We are using a barrel legislated for prior to confederation and supposed to hold about ninety-nine quarts.

I wrote at once and asked for explanation, but so far an answer has not been able to reach me yet. Now, before we go any further with the Bill, I would like to find out from hon. members if they are of opinion that the smaller barrel should be adopted for the whole Dominion, or that it should apply for the present only to Nova Scotia, in the expectation that by and by the result of this legislation would show whether it was right or not. Before getting the

opinion of my hon. friends from the province of Ontario and Quebec on that point, I would like to reassure them by reading a proposed amendment to this Bill. It may be asked whether larger barrels will become illegal, or whether those who use them will be liable to be fined. I think this objection will be met by the following clause:

Barrels holding a larger or lesser quantity than above specified shall not be used for the sale of apples, unless such barrels are plainly marked on the outside thereof with the words, 'large barrel' or 'small barrel,' as the case may be, in letters not less than one inch in height.

This would provide for the difficulty that would certainly arise if the proposal of the Nova Scotia apple-growers should be adopted for the whole Dominion. When we limit the size of the barrel to ninety-six quarts, naturally it would upset completely all the arrangements made by the coopers and apple-growers in the other provinces; but, if we make this reservation, it is possible, I think, to avoid serious inconvenience. Before pressing the Bill, I think it is only fair that hon. members from Ontario and Quebec who take an interest in this question should speak from their experience and give their opinion whether they think the Bill ought to be limited to Nova Scotia, or whether under the circumstances they are willing with this reservation to adopt it for the whole Dominion.

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). In the first place, I would just say this, that I would be opposed to a Bill that would be applicable only to Nova Scotia. If we want to deal with the barrel question at all, we want to deal with it as it will affect the whole of Canada. In my opinion, the apple-growers of this country will require to feed their apples to the hogs, between the Bill of the Minister of Agriculture in respect to inspection, and the Bill of the Minister of Inland Revenue in reference to the size of barrels in which they must pack their apples before they can sell them, defining exactly the measurement of the barrel between the heads. The poor farmer will not know what to do with his apples. I am not taking very much interest in this Bill, because I think it is uncalled for. But my hon. friends behind me who represent large apple-growing districts will have more to say upon it. I just rose for the purpose of reading a letter which I have just received from one of the largest tanners in Canada, asking me to draw the attention of the Minister of Inland Revenue to some important legislation which he should enact, and which he has promised to enact.

For some time past the farmers of Canada have been trying to get compulsory hide inspection made the law. The Hon. Mr. Joly pro-

mised great things, but he has failed to do anything except to appoint a chief inspector at a salary of \$1,500 a year to look after the few hide inspectors who have been appointed, but it is not compulsory on any one to have his hides inspected, and the chief inspector has nothing to do, and does nothing, except draw his salary.

This is legislation that has been demanded for some years and which the hon. minister promised to bring down, but so far has not done so. Instead he is now introducing a Bill that, in my opinion, is going to affect the apple-growers of this country very prejudiciously and so will the Bill brought down by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, making it compulsory on apple-growers and packers to have their apples inspected for export. The Bill before us makes it compulsory on any one who puts up apples in barrels for sale, to put them in barrels of a certain size. The farmers at present take their apples to market in barrels with their heads open and sell them by the barrel, and this Bill will do away with that trade. If this government keeps on as they are doing, the farmers will have nothing to do but feed their apples to the hogs.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I could not expect my hon. friend to look with any kindness or favour on any Bill coming from this side, and it would be very foolish on my part to expect any help from him. In connection with the inspection of hides, if my hon. friend will do me the honour to call at my office to-morrow morning, I will show him the work that I have been doing in order to find out whether I would be justified or not in bringing down legislation in the direction of compulsory hide inspection.

Mr. TAYLOR. Why did you appoint an inspector at \$1,500 a year?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. In order to watch over the inspectors we have now. In all the principal cities we have inspectors. I introduced a Bill once or twice, since I have been in charge of this department, providing for the compulsory inspection of hides, but I met with such strong opposition from both sides that I did not see fit to proceed with it. I wrote to England to find out whether our hides suffered in the English market through the lack of a compulsory inspection law here, and have received no information that they have.

On the one side we have the tanners asking for compulsory inspection and on the other side the dealers are against it. My hon. friend spoke of the poor farmer. The nearer we come to the elections, the poorer and poorer gets the farmer and the deeper the interest taken in him by hon. gentlemen opposite. My hon. friend can scarcely get up without speaking of the poor farmer.

Well. I have thousands of names of poor and wealthy farmers too, protesting against the compulsory inspection of hides, and the reasons they give are so strong that I do not know how to overcome them. They protest against the idea of being obliged, whenever they slaughter any cattle, to send for an inspector from town or to run to town and get the hides inspected before they can bring them to one of the country stations.

I am very sorry that the hon. member for Annapolis and some other members of Nova Scotia who take such a deep interest in the Bill now before the House are absent to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand that my hon. friend has decided to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Annapolis and reduce the size of the apple barrel to that of the American barrel, which comes into competition with it in England.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have tried to make it as clear as possible that our present barrel contains half a bushel more than the American barrel, and I must throw myself on the mercy of the committee and find whether they approve of the section reducing the size of our barrel, with the reserve expressed in it. If they do not, I would like to try the experiment in Nova Scotia first, and if satisfactory there, apply it to the other provinces.

Mr. CLANCY. The Bill of the Minister of Agriculture, dealing with the inspection of apples, is limited to apples for export, but the hon. gentleman's Bill deals with apples both for home trade and export. If he would make his Bill agree with that of the hon. Minister of Agriculture by limiting it to apples for export, there would be no difficulty.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My Bill was prepared before that of the Minister of Agriculture, and consequently I did not know that he intended only dealing with apples for export. I would like to know whether hon. members approve of limiting to Nova Scotia the provision as regards reducing the size of barrels.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend may take silence for consent. No one has raised any objection, and therefore he may take it for granted that everybody is satisfied with what he is doing.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I read a moment ago the correspondence of several growers in Quebec and Ontario, whose opinion, unfortunately, is so contradictory, that I thought it would be advisable to have some of the members

from these provinces throw a little more light on the subject.

Mr. CLANCY. Other provinces are concerned as much as the province of Nova Scotia in not selling a larger barrel of apples than the Americans sell, and I approve of the Bill on that point. But the hon. minister does not seem to be satisfied with that, but has gone further. He tells us that this Bill was drawn before that of the Minister of Agriculture and without knowledge of what that Bill would contain. I would suggest to him to drop all that part of the Bill referring to any but the export trade. I have no doubt that should the other Bill become law, there would be no difficulty. But if he is dealing with any other than the export trade, some provision will have to be made about the minimum size of barrels, in order that a packer purchasing from a farmer shall not buy in larger barrels than for export. Provision should be made that the packer purchasing from the farmer may not take a larger barrel than that provided for export.

Mr. URIAH WILSON (Lennox). I have a letter here from an apple-grower in my riding who says that if the barrel is fixed at three bushels, and make that permanent so as not to be tinkering with it, it will be satisfactory. I am entirely opposed to legislation for particular provinces. Laws that we pass here should apply to the whole Dominion; we should not establish one standard barrel for Nova Scotia and another for Ontario, and so on.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have been much impressed by the remark made by my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy). Evidently, if the smaller barrel is adopted, we shall need to provide for the case he mentions, so that when apples are purchased by the barrel they shall be purchased by the barrel of three bushels or ninety-six quarts.

Mr. CLANCY. And will the hon. minister consider the propriety of dealing only with the export trade? Otherwise his Bill must involve the disturbance of a custom, good or bad, that exists now. If he would drop all the provisions of the Bill excepting those relating to export, it would simplify the matter and there would be no difficulty in arriving at a reasonable solution of the whole thing. I have special reference to clause 18. I am not discussing the subsection, which we can discuss later on.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Though I agree with the idea of applying it only to the export trade. I know that there is a good deal of uncertainty with the members of this House whether it should be applied to the export trade or to the sale of apples in general. My hon. friend will readily understand that, under the circumstances, I am obliged to wait for an

opportunity to consult my friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to find exactly what stand he is going to take upon the question, to learn whether he is going to limit his Bill to export, in which case I would limit mine the same way. Therefore, I move that the committee rise and report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to, and committee rose and reported progress.

SUPPLY.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

To assist in the establishment, maintenance and inspection of cold storage for bait for deep sea fishermen, under conditions to be fixed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries \$25,000

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Last year the House, without exception, was good enough to vote \$35,000 for this experimental purpose, and it is natural that the House should expect from me a full statement of what we have done in the matter since this vote was granted. The first thing that was done was to consult with Professor Robertson as to the manner in which he brought into operation the different factories for the manufacture of cheese and butter, and the manner in which he laid before the people the necessity and advantages of these factories, with the idea of more or less following in the same lines or in as much of the lines as commended themselves to our judgment. Doctor Kendall had taken a great interest in the construction of these bait freezers, and I requested him to come to Ottawa and consult with us about the investment of this \$35,000 in the construction of bait freezers throughout the maritime provinces. He did so, and at my request he entered upon the work and lectured at a great many places in Nova Scotia to the fishermen, placing before them the advantages of constructing these cold bait freezers. He had the advantage of many consultations with Professor Robertson, and after going over the manner in which Professor Robertson so successfully carried out the construction of the cheese factories in co-operation with the farmers, he proceeded to prepare, in conjunction with Professor Robertson, pamphlets giving information to the fishermen as to how they should form themselves into organizations, as to what the cost of these different bait freezers would be, the modus operandi by which they could be brought into existence, and the terms and conditions under which the government would be willing to assist them.

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

He then visited the different fishing stations along the coast, advertising himself ahead, and calling meetings and addressing the fishermen. The results were not altogether unsatisfactory, and this year we are enabled to state that in many places throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island chiefly—for we have not yet reached New Brunswick and Quebec—the initial steps have been taken for the construction of these bait freezers. Two bait freezers have already been completed and put into operation, one at Ballantyne's Cove, Antigonish County, N.S., with a capacity of fifteen tons, and one at Frog Pond, in Prince County, P.E.I., with a capacity of fifteen tons.

Mr. KAULBACH. That is very small.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Of course, the hon. gentleman sees that the tonnage capacity would depend altogether upon the extent of the settlement and how much bait they will require. These bait freezers are different altogether in size. There are three different classes of bait freezers; the small one of about fifteen tons, a larger one of about twenty-five tons, and a very large one of about 100 tons. Besides these two that I have mentioned, another one at Alberton, P.E.I., on the north coast, will be ready for operation on the 10th of June.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the capacity of the last one you speak of?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Twenty tons. Then we have completed a building at Gabarouse, which is almost ready for taking in bait. But some little difficulty has arisen between the engineer of the department down there and the company of fishermen who built the Gabarouse structure, with reference to the accounts, and the department will not, until it receives a certificate from Mr. Fraser, the engineer there, assume their share of the liability for the construction of this building. This is a large one, of the capacity of 100 tons, and is to cost in the neighbourhood of \$1,800. By the scheme which we laid before the fishermen and by the terms of the offer we made, we would be liable for 50 per cent, or \$900. I have received a report from Mr. Fraser intimating that he is not yet able to certify the accounts for the factory to enable them to draw the 50 per cent which the government propose to pay.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What is the nature of the difficulty?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I could not tell exactly, it is with respect to the accounts. I sent Mr. Fraser, one of the assistant engineers of the department, down with instructions to superintend and watch closely the construc-

tion of these different factories, and to see, inasmuch as we were to pay 50 per cent of the cost, that proper accounts were rendered of the material and labour used in the construction of these buildings, and to certify these accounts so that we would have every assurance that business arrangements would be conducted in a proper way, and that we would not be made to pay a greater amount than we should be obliged to pay, that is, 50 per cent of the actual cost, not the assumed cost. There is some little difficulty about the accounts, for the material supplied for that building. He has not been able to certify, and therefore, we have not paid any of the accounts. Then, there is a building partially constructed at Whitehead, Guysborough County. That is one of fifteen tons.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the cost of a 15-ton building?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The actual cost, of course, is not known. But the estimated cost of a 15-ton one will be about \$700.

Mr. FOSTER. You will pay half?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Who owns it?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It belongs to the association.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. An association of fishermen formed under the terms of a local statute. A local statute is passed in the different provinces enabling fishermen to form incorporated associations. They take stock in these associations, and as soon as a new association is legally formed they apply for assistance from the government. They have to submit their papers to Dr. Kendall, who is acting for the department, and as soon as he is satisfied that a legal association is formed, and that the members are prepared to put in their share of material and labour, he submits the plans that we prepare for them and provides a superintendent to superintend the construction, the building proceeds, and the engineer, Mr. Fraser, certifies the accounts for labour and material in order that we may contribute our proportion.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will the hon. gentleman tell me in what year these local statutes were passed?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have one of the statutes in my hands. It was passed the year before last, I think. It is called 'An Act to

incorporate fishermen's bait associations.' It does not say the year on the face of it, but I think it was the year before last.

Mr. FOSTER. Being for the province ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There are these statutes in the provinces to encourage these associations for building bait-freezers.

Mr. FOSTER. Cannot these associations be formed unless under these provincial statutes, or do you not form such associations ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have not so far. I do not see very well how a corporation could be called into existence unless in this way. We do not allow mere partnerships between man and man to entitle people to the grant.

Mr. FOSTER. So that it is only effective when the provinces have given the power ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Do I understand it that none of these people in any association can get this help except by the recommendation of Dr. Kendall in Nova Scotia ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No. Dr. Kendall goes to different localities and incites people to take action towards the formation of these associations. He endeavours to get the people to form an association, and after the formation of the association, and after determining the size of the building, the association proceeds to get their material. After they have ordered their material, he consults Mr. Fraser, the chief civil engineer, as to the stage he has arrived at, whether it is necessary for Mr. Fraser to go there to begin to superintend the construction. If he finds that that stage has been reached, he goes there and places a superintendent in charge to superintend the construction of the building for the people. Then, Mr. Fraser examines the accounts carefully, certifies to them, and we pay our proportion of the cost of the building.

Mr. FOSTER. Who directs the primary movements of Dr. Kendall ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He received his general instructions from the department here.

Mr. FOSTER. To go to what places ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. To places all along the coast of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, before starting for Quebec. I was just giving the committee information of what we had completed, what bait-freezers are in course of construction, and what associations are being formed and intend to construct these buildings. In Drumhead, Guysborough

County, there is an association being formed, and a bait-freezer of the capacity of ten tons, to cost about \$500 is being erected. At Clark's Harbour and Lockeport, in Shelburne County, buildings are being erected, one at the former place of twenty-five tons, and one at the latter place of twenty tons. In Prince Edward Island, bait-freezers are being erected at Tignish, Prince County, ten tons; Souris, Queen's County, forty tons; and Murray Harbour, King's County, forty tons. The organizations for freezers at Miminegash and Rustico are not yet completed. The following places, where the system has been explained to the fishermen, have so far not yet taken advantage of the project: Larry's River, Guysborough County, N.S.; Malpeque, Prince County, P.E.I.; New London, Queen's County, P.E.I.; Morrell, King's County, P.E.I. In addition to the foregoing, associations will be formed and freezers erected at nearly all the following places: Magdalen Islands: Amherst Island, House Harbour, Etang du Nord, and Grand Entry, Nova Scotia: Big Lorraine, Main-à-Dieu, Mingan, Port Morien, Little Bras d'Or, Ingonish, St. Ann's, Neil's Harbour, White Point, Cheticamp, Margaree Harbour, Port Hood, Arichat, L'Ardoise, Pictou Island, Malignant Cove, Beckerton, Prospect, Herring Cove, Portuguese Cove, Lunenburg Harbour, Port Medway, Liverpool, Shelburne's Beach, Wood's Harbour, Shag Harbour, Pubnico, Yarmouth, Digby and St. Mary's. These freezers will vary in capacity, mostly from fifteen tons to thirty tons. The only large one that an association has been formed to erect is at Gabarouse, which has a capacity of 100 tons.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the after-history of this ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Two have been completed, and we have contributed our share.

Mr. FOSTER. In what way will the movement go on? Will we get anything back ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, this is an absolute gift of 50 per cent, and then, for the next three years we agree to pay a bonus of \$5 per ton on all the bait which they store. We agree to do this for three years from the inception, following on the lines which Prof. Robertson adopted in the construction and in the bringing into operation of the cheese factories.

Mr. FOSTER. What guarantee is there, after the bonus has been given and the association formed, for continued work ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have no absolute guarantee except the self-interest of the people, from the fact that they put as much into the original construction as the government. For every dollar that we put in they put in

a similar dollar, and when they have put in \$500. or \$600. they have an interest in continuing it. It is their interest and for their benefit and their benefit only. Hon. gentlemen who are acquainted with the fisheries do not need any explanation of this scheme. But, hon. members from inland parts do not know and ought to know its object. At certain seasons bait is a superfluity, and at other seasons it is scarce. The object is to put bait up and freeze it so that there will be a continuous supply of bait all the year round.

Mr. FOSTER. Is there no limit fixed by the department as to the number of persons or geographical sections?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, the only limit is the amount of money voted by parliament. Of course, we could not go beyond the \$25,000. We have put in one-quarter of the amount this year.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it not open to an objection of this kind? If the hon. minister is going to take this policy up, I suppose he means it to be largely instructive, and that he will show by actual operation, as well as by help, that the system of bait-freezing is an economical and worthy one for the fisherfolk. If that be so, why should he confine its operation to one section of the country? Why does he not use his money to open several of these experimental freezing-stations in every section of the fishing country?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We intend to do that.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister seems to be devoting all this money to a very small, but no doubt deserving section. I should think he ought to put some of those experimental bait freezers in the fishery districts of all the provinces. I presume the idea is to get the people to see the benefit of these stations, and that this vote is to help them in the initial endeavour, as was done with dairy work in Prince Edward Island. It will not be a permanent charge upon the revenue.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Certainly not.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Dr. Kendall?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The circumstances in British Columbia and the Great Lakes as they have been represented to me, do not call for the establishment of these freezers at all. I have not heard of any scarcity of bait in these places. Along the coast of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton particularly, and to some extent in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the scarcity of bait was so much felt that at one or two points private establishments were started. The fishermen themselves are not a wealthy class as

a rule, and it was thought wise to educate them as to the manner in which they could procure a constant supply of bait for their precarious avocation, and to do it in a way that would be less onerous to them by giving them slight government assistance. We thought we did well in starting these freezers where there was greatest necessity for them. If this proves a success it may be extended, but we thought it well to commence with the places where the necessities were greatest.

Mr. CLANCY. Has the minister based this upon the plan of the assistance given to creameries in the North-west?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Very largely, but we do not contemplate any repayment. We think that if the building was to cost \$1,000, and if the fishermen put in one \$500 in labour and material, the government would be justified in giving the other \$500. That policy was approved of by the House last session when the vote was asked for, and I am now giving the House details of the expenditure and the measures to provide that only a proper expenditure should take place.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Dr. Kendall, and what are his duties?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Dr. Kendall is the man who was first responsible for initiating this work. He obtained from the provincial legislature of Nova Scotia a resolution favouring it; and he came here and pressed it upon the attention of myself and my colleagues. From the very great interest he had taken in it, I thought perhaps he was the best man to be appointed to instruct the fishermen upon the subject, the same as Prof. Robertson was selected to instruct the farmers on the subject of creameries.

Mr. FOSTER. Prof. Robertson was a specialist.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And Dr. Kendall has given great attention to this subject.

Mr. FOSTER. How much do you pay him?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We pay him on a basis that if he were engaged all the year round, would amount to about \$1,600, but he is not paid during the session of the Nova Scotia legislature.

Mr. FOSTER. Why?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He is a member of the Nova Scotia legislature.

Mr. FOSTER. Is he a Conservative or Liberal?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not think he is accused in his own country of being a Conservative.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I should not think so.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Your hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) beside you will recollect that Dr. Kendall ran a contest against him in Cape Breton County.

Mr. **FOSTER**. It is getting interesting now.

Mr. **ANGUS McLENNAN** (Inverness). I call the attention of the minister to the fact that I think every member on this side of the House from the maritime provinces called upon him on a certain occasion to advocate this plan for the establishment of bait freezers all over the maritime provinces. Judging from the remarks of the minister the inference would be drawn that Dr. Kendall was the only one instrumental in getting this grant from parliament. I must really take exception to that statement of the case, as a member of this House representing one of the counties most interested in this matter.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McLennan) misunderstood me, if he thinks I was ascribing the entire credit to Dr. Kendall. What I said was: That the initiative was taken by Dr. Kendall who first brought the matter to my attention. Afterwards I was waited upon by most of the maritime province members in the House, amongst them my hon. friend (Mr. McLennan) who pressed me to adopt the suggestion.

Mr. **ALEX. MARTIN** (P.E.I.) My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) will remember that I asked a question about this matter in 1899, and the reply then made me by the minister was that the government had not given it very much consideration. I think I deserve a share of the laurels if they are being distributed. But I rise only to ask the minister to give us a detailed statement of the expenditure up to the present time. How much has been paid for salaries and expenses, and how much has been actually invested in these bait freezers up to the present date. I notice that for this large vote of \$25,000, there are only two freezers in actual operation, capable of only holding thirty tons of bait. That is a very small result for such a large expenditure. The minister announced the places where he was going to put those establishments in Prince Edward Island, but he appears to have overlooked Rustico where there is more fishing done than perhaps in any other locality. Will the minister tell me why no progress has been made in the establishment of a freezer at Murray Harbour? I understand that at Murray Harbour the people were anxious to co-operate with the government and carry

Mr. **FOSTER**.

out the proposal of the minister; but so far nothing has been done there. The minister has told us that a 100-ton freezer would cost only \$1,800, and a fifteen-ton freezer would cost \$700.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The increased size does not necessarily mean a proportionately increased cost.

Mr. **MARTIN**. I would like the minister to give us his reason why no progress has been made with the freezer at Murray Harbour.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Progress has been made, but they were not able to agree upon a site. The officers of the department have visited Murray Harbour. I think, twice, and an association has been formed there, and the initial steps taken; but they could not do anything further until they agreed upon a site. When this is done, we shall be happy to assist them in every possible way.

Mr. **MARTIN**. Who has been engaged in this business, besides Dr. Kendall?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Mr. Fraser, the assistant engineer of the department.

Mr. **MARTIN**. Not Mr. McFarlane?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He is the carpenter, who superintends the construction.

Mr. **MARTIN**. I understood that the difficulty at Murray Harbour was to find lumber.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Possibly, but the report made to me was that the main difficulty in the way was to agree about the site. A good many associations were unable to build last year owing to the difficulty of getting lumber. A good many of them will build this year.

Mr. **MARTIN**. How about Rustico?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Rustico was one of the first places visited in Prince Edward Island, but an association was not formed there, I am not able to tell my hon. friend why. At New London and Malpeque, the people were not favourable to going into the scheme.

Mr. **MARTIN**. Can the hon. minister tell us about the expenditure?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Mr. McFarlane has been paid for salary and expenses \$1,080.90. He is a very excellent man whom we obtained from Prof. Robertson, having had a good deal of experience in the construction of similar factories. Mr. Fraser, civil engineer, has been paid \$1,411. There has been paid out towards the cost of construction: Freight on waterproof insulating paper, \$118.94; to Mr.

Lord, agent of the Marine Department, Charlottetown, freight on material, \$36.25; carpenters' wages and expenses, \$316.88; insulating paper, \$2,146.16; galvanized iron, \$463.62; lumber and shingles, \$389.78; cartage, \$124.26; blue prints of the plans of the different bait freezers, \$84.66; door fasteners, \$57; jute bags, \$3.30; printing and stationery, \$53.70; making a total of \$6,286.47. Paid to Dr. A. Kendall, \$1,311.83.

Mr. MARTIN. What is the date of Dr. Kendall's employment?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He entered on his work on May 25, 1899.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Can the minister tell us exactly what Dr. Kendall's duties are?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I thought I explained that his duties are to visit the settlements around the coast and lecture to the fishermen on the importance of these bait-freezers, the cost of construction, and the modus operandi by which they could obtain them, assist the fishermen in forming these associations, and circulate the literature necessary to enable them thoroughly to understand the matter.

Mr. FOSTER. How does he circulate that?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He takes it with him, and reads it over to the people and explains it. His duties are: First, to take steps necessary to start the people in the work; secondly, to instruct them as to the practical way in which the work can be carried on; and thirdly, to advise them as to the character of the freezer they should have. He has had a good deal of experience during the past two years in experimenting in freezing these fish.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman speaks of practical work. Does he mean the construction of these freezers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The practical work of forming the associations. The practical work of constructing the freezers is done under the superintendence of Mr. McFarlane, the carpenter.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). As I understand, Dr. Kendall's duty has been to go around the country, and lecture with regard to the formation of bait associations. As a matter of fact, the Act under which these bait associations have been formed, was passed only two months ago. He could not be lecturing on the formation of a bait association ten months before the statute providing for it was passed. There is another thing I would like to inquire into, and that is whether or not there is a provision in this Act with regard to the raising of capital and how it must be paid.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We have nothing very much to do with that. As long as a legal body is formed and our officers are satisfied that the actual amount of money has been put into the building by the association, the internal arrangements do not very much concern us.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). They would to this extent. The Act prescribes that the capital must be subscribed, and the association would be entirely unauthorized unless it was subscribed. In the first place, let me say that I am informed that Dr. Kendall conceives it to be part of his duty to give some instructions to the fishermen with regard to their political views.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope not.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I hope that is not done at the expense of the country. If done at all, it should be done at the expense of my hon. friends opposite. I am informed also that Dr. Kendall is telling the fishermen this: If you will subscribe for a certain amount in this particular association, you need not pay in any money at all.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am afraid my hon. friend's information is inaccurate.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will tell the hon. minister what I understand to be Dr. Kendall's instructions to the fishermen: You need not pay in any money on your subscription, but you will do work on this building and pay for your stock in that way. But the work on a building of that kind is of a kind that requires skilled workmen. It is a very excellent thing to employ the fishermen, if they can do the work, but the criticism is a fair one, and the hon. minister should look into it. Then, the Act requires that whatever is subscribed should be paid up in money; and the difficulty would be, in the case of any arrangement such as I am told Dr. Kendall is proposing, that if any one of these associations should get into difficulties, you will find that these people, who imagined they had paid up for stock in work, will be sued by the liquidator of the company or some creditor and made to pay up in cash the amount they subscribed. There need be no difficulty in giving out the work to the shareholders, but under the Act they must pay in money for any stock they subscribe, in order to make the association valid. After that is done, it is perfectly competent for the association to employ a shareholder as well as anybody else on the work of construction. But you cannot, under the Act, go to the fishermen and say: You need not pay up any money, but you can subscribe for the stock and pay for your subscription in work. Any scheme of that kind will lead to trouble in the future.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I shall make inquiry to ascertain whether any such declaration was made. The statute requires the shareholders to pay in a certain amount of the stock for which they subscribe, and they must comply strictly with the requirements. Of course, there is nothing to prevent the association employing its own shareholders on the work and paying them for it. I shall make inquiries as to what the hon. gentleman said. I think he has been misled to some extent.

Mr. **FOSTER**. When does the department pay over that money? Suppose an association is formed and has paid or alleged to have paid \$500, when and under what conditions is the \$500 paid by the government?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is one of the reasons I sent Mr. Fraser, the chief engineer, there. He visits the places from time to time, watching the construction of the buildings generally—

Mr. **FOSTER**. To come to it more directly, who erects the buildings?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The associations.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What does Mr. McFarlane do?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He acts as foreman.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Under whose pay?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Under the pay of this government. He directs how the buildings shall be constructed.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. His pay is not part of the 50 per cent?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No; we provide an inspector to go from place to place and direct them how the building is to be put up.

Mr. **FOSTER**. He is more than an inspector?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He is foreman of works.

Mr. **FOSTER**. He constructs the buildings?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He directs their construction—yes. And Mr. Fraser visits the building from time to time, examines the amount of material bought by the association and the accounts for that material, and satisfies himself that the material is on the ground and had been used in the construction of the buildings. And when the building is finished, he certifies to the fact. And only then we pay.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax).

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does the department take any steps to satisfy itself that it is dealing with a legally constituted corporation?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. We have in both the cases that have been dealt with so far.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What are the dates of the payments made?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have not the exact dates; they were within the last couple of months.

Mr. **FOSTER**. When were the associations formed to which this money was paid?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Just a short time before that, and completed, I suppose, after the Act came into operation.

Mr. **FOSTER**. How long were the buildings under construction?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I could not inform the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster).

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) know that they were legally formed associations when they commenced to build these buildings?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. It was so reported to me.

Mr. **FOSTER**. By whom?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. By the engineer, Mr. Fraser.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does the engineer report on the legality of the associations? I thought he reported on the material that went into the work. Does Dr. Kendall have nothing to do with the reporting whether the company is legally formed or not?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No.

Mr. **FOSTER**. The hon. minister does not know, in either of these instances, whether he has paid money for the benefit of associations that have complied with the conditions of the law?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. All the papers have been forwarded to the department and closely scrutinized. We have the subscription lists with the amount subscribed by each person—

Mr. **FOSTER**. And the amounts paid in?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The amounts alleged to have been paid in. I can only take the certificates as they are given to me. I do not assume, and I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) will not assume, that these people are engaged in a conspiracy. I have taken every reasonable precaution to see that the

money's worth has been put in the building before we paid a dollar.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no question of conspiracy or imputation. If the statement of the hon. member (Mr. Borden, Halifax), is correct, there is great doubt whether these associations are legally formed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There are two of them. They need not be legally formed until the building is completed.

Mr. FOSTER. They ought to be formed before the payments are made.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If they are formed legally when the building is completed, that is sufficient. I am satisfied on the certificates of Mr. Fraser that the money has gone into the buildings.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. minister thinks he knows that—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What more could I do to satisfy myself on that point?

Mr. FOSTER. There is an easy way by which he could be satisfied, I think. However, there is another question which I desire to put. I do not understand why these bills for paper and other materials were charged up to the government. Is that a part of the contribution of the government?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is part of the 50 per cent.

Mr. FOSTER. Is this bought by the government?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. FOSTER. But it was paid for by the government?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was bought by the association, and paid for by us.

Mr. TAYLOR. There is \$2,146 worth.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was an order given so as to have material for the different freezers—

Mr. FOSTER. How many?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know. There are two completed, and one nearly completed. Mr. Fraser satisfies himself, as the building goes along, that the material is provided and the work done, but he does not wait until the building is finished before he contributes a dollar. If he was satisfied that the material was on the spot to the value of four or five hundred dollars, he would not hesitate to give the government aid

for say, several hundreds of dollars before the building was completed.

Mr. FOSTER. This order for paper would give about \$700 for each of the three freezers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There are a number of freezers in course of construction. That at Ballantyne's Cove is completed, and the ice is in. The one at Gabarouse is completed, but the ice is not in. There was great dearth of ice last year in the maritime provinces. The building is completed and ready for operation when they get the ice.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) was to have given us the amount of bait actually in store or frozen. He is probably under the impression he gave that, but I think he did not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think I gave that. I said that according to the last advices there were four tons of frozen herrings in the storing room, and they were putting in more from day to day. They hoped to fill it to its entire capacity.

Mr. FOSTER. Has Dr. Kendall been employed by the government in any other capacity than this apostolic work?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, that is the only evangelical work that he has been engaged in.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the meaning of this item in the Auditor General's account: A. Kendall, Ottawa, expenses in connection with a trip to England?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That was in connection with the shipment of some lobsters which he undertook.

Mr. FOSTER. Has he any particular technical or skilled experience in the lobster business?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, he has devoted a great deal of his time to this particular subject, studying the question of transporting, in cold storage, lobsters and fish, and he has achieved a large amount of success in it. He went to different places where this freezing business has been carried on successfully in the North-west and in Chicago, and after he had done this at his own expense, he undertook to take a shipment of lobsters to London to see if they could be carried in cold storage successfully and placed upon the British market. I look upon it as one of the most important experiments in which he could be engaged, and if he had been successful, I do not know a greater boon that could be conferred upon the people than

in opening up that market. He made a report, which I will be happy to bring down if required. We paid him \$195 as a contribution towards his expenditure, the bulk and risk of which he bore himself. All we contributed was the small amount mentioned, money that we were well justified in paying, and which has borne good fruit. As a result of that experiment we are now considering carefully whether to put on cold storage cars for the carriage of our fresh fish from the coast back to the great cities of the west. That has been worked out, and we know now from the result of the experiments of Dr. Kendall the exact temperature at which this fish can be safely carried. Many details have been worked out by Dr. Kendall, not only in the experiments conducted by himself, but in some conducted in conjunction with Professor Robertson and under his direction.

Mr. WILSON. Were they a success?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not an absolute success, but sufficient information has been obtained to justify us in assuming it can be made thoroughly successful. I think before long we will reach a stage when we can say that we are not confined to the United States markets for the sale of our fresh lobsters, but we will have a market in England, and if we reach that stage there will be a magnificent opening for our lobster fisheries.

Mr. POWELL. How do they propose to take them across?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The lobsters will be boiled, of course. Dr. Kendall has ascertained the exact temperature at which the boiled lobsters can be transported to the London market.

Mr. POWELL. 212 Fahrenheit would fix that without any experiment from Dr. Kendall. I would like to know if there is any grave doubt as to whether cooked lobsters can be carried by means of cold storage. I should think that does not require an experiment.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would like to undertake a little speculation and see.

Mr. POWELL. A few years ago I understood that either Dr. Kendall or some other great scientist who had made a special study of this ichthyological subject, had solved the mystery of curing lobsters when canned so that they would never suffer from the blackness which was a great source of deterioration of the quality; and the minister announced to the House that the problem had been completely solved by the scientific knowledge of this gentleman.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I did not use that language.
 Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

age. I never used any language implying that Dr. McPhail's experiment was a success at all. I said he reported that he thought it was a success. Dr. McPhail was not appointed by me, but by my predecessor. He is an eminent scientist of McGill University. The hon. gentleman may sneer at his scientific abilities, but I think if he will inquire he will find that he is criticising without knowledge. The appointment was not made by me. When Dr. McPhail was appointed he went to the maritime provinces and spent the summer there, experimenting upon methods by which canned lobsters could be best preserved, and he thought he had discovered a means by which they could be thoroughly well preserved and kept free from this black taint. He came up here with the result of his experiments, and we paid him a certain amount, in compliance with the instructions that he had received, and the directions he had received from my predecessor. He published in a pamphlet the result of his experiments, giving instructions to all those who desired to know how he had achieved that result, and how boiled lobsters could be kept free from this black taint. I have reason to believe that to some extent his experiment was a success, but I never used any language indicating that it was a supreme success.

Mr. POWELL. So far as Dr. McPhail is concerned, I do not wish to reflect upon him in the slightest. I concede that his ichthyological knowledge is equal to that of Buffon or Cuvier, and that it even exceeds that of Agassiz. But the point I wish to direct attention to was the fact that the minister had advertised it as a great triumph of his department in aiding the lobster industry of the maritime provinces, and I am sorry to say that it has been an ignominious failure.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no foundation for that statement.

Mr. FOSTER. The total amount that was expended was \$6,286, besides the items for Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Fraser and Dr. Kendall.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That sum includes everything except Dr. Kendall's salary, \$1,311.83, and expenses, \$902.66, to 30th April, 1900.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, will the hon. gentleman make a division between salaries and material?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The only salaries I read was Mr. McFarlane's, \$416, and Dr. Kendall's, \$1,311. Mr. Fraser is an officer of the department, he just charged his expenses.

Mr. FOSTER. That makes \$3,500.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Did you put in \$1,411 for the expenses of Mr. Fraser?

Mr. **FOSTER**. Yes.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. How do you make up the \$1,080?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. \$416 for McFarlane's salary, and \$664 for McFarlane's travelling expenses, making \$1,080. J. F. Fraser, travelling expenses, \$411.

Mr. **FOSTER**. That is \$3,800 for travelling expenses and salaries out of the amount?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I have not heard the hon. minister make a satisfactory answer yet to the question put by the hon. senior member for Halifax, as to what Dr. Kendall's special qualifications are in this matter.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I have no knowledge that he has any other qualifications than those that I have mentioned. He has, for the last three or four years, given a great deal of time to the consideration of this fishery question, and engaged in a great many scientific experiments in connection with it. He has studied the question of bait-freezers, gone to different places where they are in operation, studied and mastered their operation, satisfied himself of their advantages, and submitted the facts to the Nova Scotia legislature. The Nova Scotia legislature passed a strong resolution endorsing the scheme that he submitted, the construction of bait-freezers along the coast. That was in 1899. Then, Dr. Kendall spoke at a meeting here of the maritime provinces members, who were so impressed with the idea that they pressed its adoption upon me, and satisfied me that it was an excellent scheme. I submitted it to the House, and I satisfied the House, I think, that it was an excellent scheme. I do not think my hon. friend (Mr. Foster), criticised adversely, and we voted the money. I have no knowledge that Dr. Kendall has any other qualifications than his scientific knowledge, acquired from experience and the close study of the question for several years, perhaps more than any other man that I know of in the maritime provinces. I hope that his labours will not be continuous. The object that he was retained for, is largely achieved. I have read a list of twenty or thirty places where he has lectured, and begun the organization of these associations. He will not be continued longer in the work than is necessary.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Is he in the present employ of the department while he is here in Ottawa?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, he is here for the pur-

pose of reporting to, and discussing with the department.

Mr. **TAYLOR**. How long has he been here?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Two or three weeks, I think,

Mr. **FOSTER**. Is he here now?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He is.

Mr. **FOSTER**. He is not lecturing now?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, he is here in constant communication with the department.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What is he communicating to the department, now, particularly?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He is discussing the size of freezers.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Has not Dr. Kendall settled the matter of the size of freezers yet?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No.

Mr. **FOSTER**. He has built several.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Yes, but that does not settle it.

Mr. **FOSTER**. And he has qualified himself so as to become a lecturer. He has been here two months.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. No, he has not been here two months—about three weeks.

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). I have no desire to depreciate Dr. Kendall, or his lectures, but I do not understand why he should be here two or three weeks, for the purpose of reporting respecting the lectures that he has delivered to the fishermen. The hon. gentleman said, in answer to a question, that Dr. Kendall devoted himself to lecturing to the fishermen, so as to enable them to meet and constitute themselves into bait associations. If there is anything in his lectures that could not be communicated in a letter of three or four pages, I would like to know what it is; instead of which we have Dr. Kendall in Ottawa for two or three weeks to report to the department in respect to his lectures. This is a state of affairs upon which the hon. gentleman ought to give the committee some more specific information, and he should tell us what Dr. Kendall is reporting. It is assumed that he is competent to give the fishermen instructions, and why he should require to come to Ottawa for two or three or four weeks at a time, for the purpose of reporting, is something that we do not understand. Cannot he condescend to use paper and pen, or has he to come personally to Ottawa to make his report orally?

Mr. FOSTER. Dr. Kendall's expenses are paid while he is here ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I have no reason to see why they should not be, if he came on the purposes of his work.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Fraser is an engineer, is he not ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. And McFarlane is a master builder ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I believe him to be a very excellent one.

Mr. FOSTER. Has Dr. Kendall to consult two, three or four weeks with the minister, in order to instruct these men what size of freezers to build ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, what is he communicating to the minister ? What is the plan of campaign he is now discussing ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He is discussing as to whether he should go on with the work he is doing. Having submitted his report as to the different places he has visited, as to the interest he has evoked in the minds of the fishermen, as to the steps he has taken in these several places for the formation of associations to build bait-freezers, he is discussing as to where he shall go next, as to what he shall do next, as to what he shall do during the next two or three months, and as to whether he shall go on lecturing at other places or not.

Mr. FOSTER. How would a wire sent up to the minister, asking his opinion on those questions, do ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think it would be satisfactory. I think my hon. friend, if he had agents, would like to see them and discuss matters personally, face to face, with them. I have had a great many questions to ask him, and I want also to have some interviews with Prof. Robertson.

Mr. FOSTER. Is he going to wait until Prof. Robertson comes back ?

Mr. KAULBACH. What are the conditions of the contract between the government and the owners of these bait-freezers, what are the requirements of the owners of the bait-freezers, as to their continuing to use these freezers, and I would also like to know what quantity of bait is required for each ton of ice ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think I answered all these questions. The quantity of bait put up

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

would depend upon the size of the freezer. It would depend entirely on the character of the bait-freezer which the people might determine to build.

Mr. FOSTER. The people determine that ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. I thought it was Dr. Kendall.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The association determine what character of a freezer they will build, after having gathered all the information from Dr. Kendall that they require, and they may build one which will only require ten tons, or they may build one of twenty-five tons capacity.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That does not answer the question asked by the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach), as to how the tonnage of ice and the tonnage of the bait compare. That is the question that, I think, the hon. member asked, and it is one in regard to which we would like to have some information.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot tell the hon. gentleman how the tonnage of the ice and the bait corresponds. I have not that information.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose the hon. minister could get that from Dr. Kendall ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If it is important, I suppose it could be got.

Mr. TAYLOR. The government undertake to pay one-half the cost. What is the limit that they might go to in putting up a building for this purpose ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no fixed limit. A building, say, of 100 tons capacity, would cost \$1,800 or \$2,000, and the government are prepared to pay 50 per cent of the actual cost of the building, and to contribute not more than \$100 per year, for three years, towards the supply of the bait.

Mr. FOSTER. That will be twenty tons.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not to exceed \$100; if they have a very large freezer they do not get beyond the \$100.

Mr. TAYLOR. What is the cost of the two that have been completed ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Ballantyne Cove freezer cost \$1,361, but I am informed by my officers that from the knowledge and experience gained the same freezer could be built now for \$1,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. What county is that situated in ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is in Antigonish.

Mr. KAULBACH. The minister is aware that the county I represent has more tonnage employed in the deep sea fisheries than any other county in Nova Scotia. In fact, Lunenburg represents fully one-half of the fishing tonnage of the whole province, and the fishermen of that county consume about two-thirds of all the bait used in the deep sea fisheries. Why is it that a freezer has not been placed in that county—it is not because it has not been asked for.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There have been meetings held in several of the counties and the initial steps taken to establish freezers.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What is meant by a freezer ? Is it an icehouse ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is no means of producing cold other than by the absolute presence of ice.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And the ice is so placed as to make it sufficiently cold to keep the bait frozen.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not quite understand the scheme which the minister is carrying out, because I have not the statute before me. Is it the idea, that the association shall buy bait and put it in these freezers and then sell it to the fishermen; or, is it the idea that the fishermen can get their own bait and put in the freezers to preserve it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The bait is procured by the fishermen themselves and the association sell to their own members at a certain rate. If they have a surplus they are permitted to sell to outsiders at a higher rate.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Then the association does buy bait ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They may if they like, but generally they get it from the members of the association. The regulations provide that the association shall freeze and store for shareholders who are actually engaged in fishing a quantity of bait up to 400 pounds for cash share held by a member if delivered at the cold storage. It provides that the association shall charge a rate not exceeding half a cent a pound for freezing and storing such bait, and it provides that if the shareholders do not provide such bait as shall

be needed the directors may procure such quantity as is necessary.

Mr. TAYLOR. Where is the other completed freezer and what did it cost ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It cost \$750 and is situated at Frog Pond, Prince Edward Island.

Mr. TAYLOR. What did the others that are nearly completed cost ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was some question about the actual cost of the one at Gabarouse, Cape Breton County, which prevented the engineer from certifying. We have advanced money on some of the others, but not completed our share of the cost.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) Was there any advance on the Souris freezer ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Mr. Grant has given some of the paper used in the construction.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister has paid out \$1,055 to the two that are completed, and provided the other two are completed the advance would not exceed another thousand dollars. That would be a little over \$2,000, and yet he reports an expenditure of \$7,598, of which \$3,802 has been paid in salaries. He has expended \$3,796 over and above the salaries. Where has that money gone ? Last year the minister obtained this vote on the distinct pledge—a pledge renewed this year—that when each of these buildings was completed the government would pay half the cost. In the face of that pledge, we have here a waste of money which should not be allowed to continue. If Dr. Kendall has been here discussing this matter with the minister for weeks, as some of my friends say, it looks to me as if he is preparing bait for the general election, something on the line of the Brockville and West Huron business. The vote is not being administered according to the intention of parliament when it passed it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman must have understood from my statement to-day that when the engineer is satisfied that a certain amount of lumber is placed on the location by the association, he is authorized to assist them as the work goes along.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is right.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Therefore, he makes advances. If they have \$400 or \$500 worth of lumber on the ground, Mr. Fraser would be justified in giving them \$200 worth of paper, taking care that he is within the 50 per cent limit. When the building is completed, he certifies the cost, and we pay whatever balance is due of the 50 per cent. If the hon. gentleman's plan were carried out, we would not advance a dollar until the whole building was completed—a pro-

ceeding well calculated to prevent the scheme ever going on. The hon. gentleman is not in sympathy with the scheme; coming from the interior he cannot know very much about it; but, it is of grave importance to the people of the maritime provinces, and the plan we have adopted is in the interest of the associations and of the public.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, I would like to inquire how many buildings have been erected to consume \$2,146 worth of paper—I suppose ordinary tar paper? How much paper will be used in the construction of each of these buildings?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot tell the hon. gentleman a detail of that kind.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, did you authorize Mr. Fraser to buy the paper?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did, on Prof. Robertson's advice, authorize him to purchase a certain amount of paper in the United States, and deliver it to those associations as they require it, when he has satisfied himself that they have a certain amount of lumber and material on the spot.

Mr. DAVIN. Do I understand that the 50 per cent is a free gift?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. In that respect the arrangement differs from that in the North-west Territories?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 165) respecting the Montreal Bridge Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

Bill (No. 164) respecting the Great Eastern Railway Company.—(Mr. McAlister.)

SUPPLY.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

To assist in the establishment, maintenance and inspection of cold storage for bait for deep-sea fishermen under conditions to be fixed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries..... \$25,000

Mr. GEO. TAYLOR (South Leeds). Before we took recess, the hon. minister undertook to read me a lecture. He said I was not in favour of this vote. I want to inform you, Mr. Chairman, that I am in favour of any vote of money that will assist the labouring men of Canada, whether fishermen

Str LOUIS DAVIES.

or otherwise. When the hon. minister asked for this vote last session, there was no opposition from this side, because we accepted his statement. He did not take then all the credit to himself, because he said this matter had been brought to the attention of the late government in 1893, when some reports were made by Captain Gordon, who made an investigation into it, at the request of the then minister. He said, however, that at that date cold storage was still in the crude stage, but that today, when we have applied it to agricultural products, it can be more easily grappled with. Last year he said the intention was that the officials of the government should visit the different localities and see which were best suited for these establishments and talk the matter over with the fishermen. But he did not say he was going to appoint Dr. Kendall, who was one of his political supporters, and make a job for him out of this fund. I am informed that Dr. Kendall was here for two or three months continuously, except when in Toronto buying horses.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman is wrong.

Mr. TAYLOR. I can furnish men who saw him here two months, and can prove it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is not true.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. minister stated that Dr. Kendall is under pay now, and was under pay while he was here two months, except when in Toronto buying horses. Last year he said that the government proposed to offer inducements to the fishermen to form themselves into these associations, and the intention was that the government should pay one-half the original cost of the buildings, and give a very small assistance for the purpose of running each factory, amounting to \$50 per year. But before recess he said he wanted \$100.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I said that the outside limit was \$100.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. minister further said last year that after going into the matter with Professor Robertson, he concluded that the only mode of assisting the fishermen was in the direction he had indicated, and he was of the opinion that these buildings could be put up at a cost of from \$500 to \$600. The buildings were to be capable of holding ten tons of bait, and they were to be nine feet high, fifteen feet wide, and thirty feet long, and that Professor Robertson estimated the cost at from 15 to 20 cents per square foot, making an average of \$500 to \$600 each. But to

day he tells us that one has been erected at a cost of \$1,350. He said also last session that the inspector would submit plans, and that from time to time, as the buildings were being constructed, he would inspect them. And that if fifty freezers were erected, the government contribution would come to about \$1,500. One member of each association would be appointed to receive the bait and another to deliver it. On that explanation, we voted him \$25,000 last year, and he has spent up to date \$7,598, and is asking for \$25,000 more. Let him ask a sufficient amount to make up the \$25,000, and there will be no opposition from this side. He appointed Dr. Kendall, a member of the local legislature, as inspector, and that gentleman has been going around doing campaign work, distributing campaign literature, buying up constituencies out of the money voted, and telling the fishermen that they could pay for the stock they took in the associations by their work. We find also that he has purchased paper to the amount of \$2,146—enough paper to do all the fifty buildings. I know what the paper to line a building costs just as well as does the hon. minister. It would be either tarred paper or cardboard, and I presume it is tarred paper. My hon. friends opposite laugh. Well, if it is not tarred paper, it is the other kind.

An hon. MEMBER. To tar the fish.

Mr. TAYLOR. It could not tar the fish. All dwelling-houses in the north-west are lined with tar paper between the boards, and that paper would not give taste to the fish or the bait. All I want the hon. minister to do is to carry out the promise he made last year, when he said the government contribution would be \$12,500 and \$50 to each association, and then allow the officers of the department to look after this work and not employ political hacks who are using the money for the purpose of bribing constituencies. That is what Dr. Kendall is doing according to my information, and according to the information of the hon. member for Halifax. And he has been up here putting out jobs for the minister for the last two months. Now, I ask the hon. minister to reduce this vote to the amount that he has unexpended of the appropriation of last year. To vote \$25,000 last year and \$25,000 this year is unnecessary, and I certainly will oppose it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is nothing in the statement I made last year at all at variance with the statement I made this year. The price of the building I gave last year was about correct; but, after the officers had seen the different communities and consulted with them, they found it necessary to build larger buildings, and, of course, that meant larger expenditure. The one at

Garbarouse is capable of holding 100 tons of bait, instead of fifteen or twenty tons, which was the quantity I estimated for last year. Of course, the cost of the building is enormously greater than that of such a building as I had estimated.

Mr. CLANCY. The minister has not kept faith.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, I have kept faith.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman got a vote last year on representation that a certain number of buildings of a certain size would be needed.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No. I said that the vote would cover fifty buildings at \$500 each, but I did not say that fifty would be built. The House voted \$25,000 for this laudable enterprise—and a more laudable or beneficial vote for the maritime provinces fisheries has never been given than this. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) thinks he is going to make political capital by reducing this vote, I feel confident he is mistaken, and his own friends will not support him in cutting down this vote. So far as Dr. Kendall's expenditure is concerned, the hon. gentleman knows that is not to be repeated. He has nearly covered the ground, having only a few more places at which to deliver his explanation, when his services may be dispensed with. The style of building has been chosen after the greatest care devoted to the designs by the civil engineer sent out by me, and after practical experiments made in consultation of Dr. Kendall and Prof. Robertson. We have had the assistance of the men who, so far as I knew, knew most about the matter. It would be absurd, of course, to have one style of buildings for large and small fishing communities. I do not see what the hon. gentleman hopes to gain by opposing this vote.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid the hon. minister is trying to dodge the question. He says this is a laudable vote. Nobody has said anything to the contrary. But the fact is, that he came last year and got a vote of \$25,000 on the promise that a certain size of building would be erected. Now, I would like to ask him, as I suppose there must be some government policy, some scheme in this matter, how many buildings he proposes to pay half the cost of? I am not asking where they are to be located or any details, but merely how many he expects to assist. The style of answer the hon. gentleman gives is not a satisfactory answer. He told us last year that the buildings would cost so much, now he tells us that the buildings must be larger, and that more money will be required. I would like to know from the hon. gentleman if there is a limit to the assistance that is to

be given. He stated last year that it would be limited to three years at \$50 a year.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** That is for operating the bait factories after they are built.

Mr. **CLANCY.** But, I understood the hon. gentleman to say now that there was no fixed time.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I said that we proposed to assist in their operation for three years.

Mr. **CLANCY.** I am not disposed to say that it is not perfectly proper to grant this assistance. The hon. gentleman should not take the ground that everybody is opposing this measure and hoping to make political capital out of it simply because they want to understand it. The hon. gentleman would get on a great deal better with his vote if he simply explained it. No one wants to make political capital out of it. I do not wonder, however, that he is a little touchy, because the affair certainly looks a little fishy. Dr. Kendall came up and engineered up the whole thing, and it is stated he is doing a little missionary work.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I stated where we hoped to establish these bait factories, and also the number that were completed, and that we hope to have completed in a few weeks, and the places where we hoped to have them established within the next twelve months.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** How many in all?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** There are thirty-three places in which there are fair prospects of having bait-freezers established with the assistance of the government. There may be more, and I hope there will be.

Mr. **CLANCY.** I am sure that the country will expect some limit even in a good thing.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** I cannot go further than to state that we are seeking to obtain \$25,000 for next year and giving names of the places where we hope to establish these bait-freezers.

Mr. **DAVIN.** Will the hon. gentleman explain what these freezing houses are like, and what the system is. He may have stated this in reply to the leader of the opposition, but I did not catch it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** There is a large icehouse filled with ice, to be used during the season. Opening up from that icehouse is a bait-freezing room. Surrounding that there is a galvanized iron box, in which the ice is put, broken up and mixed with a certain proportion of salt. That effects the freezing. The bait is packed in barrels in the freezing

Mr. **CLANCY.**

room, and when frozen it is kept and sold and delivered as required. A constant process of freezing goes on as the bait is brought in by the fishermen.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** There is no machinery, simply the building. The government is not paying for putting in the ice?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** No.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** The hon. minister has named the two freezers that have been erected, two or three more that will soon be in operation, and others that he has hopes of—thirty-three all told.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** There are four more on the Magdalen Islands that I omitted. That is thirty-seven all told. And there may be others—I hope there will be—before the season is closed.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** There have been thirty-seven all told that he has any prospects of completing within the next year or two.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** Proceedings are partially under way now. I must take the money for the next financial year.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** Even if these cost \$1,000 each, that is twice the amount the hon. gentleman asked for last year. He can erect the whole thirty-seven for \$18,500, and that will leave a surplus of \$6,500 out of the \$25,000.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES.** That is supposing we do not add another one. We will build more freezers if there are more associations formed. I hope we shall use up the whole \$25,000.

Mr. **TAYLOR.** I think \$25,000 is ample to complete forty of them, and leave \$1,000 then for expenses for Dr. Kendall, and the hon. gentleman's other missionaries. The minister ought to be bound by his first statement that the building will only cost \$500 or \$600. But admitting they will cost \$1,000, and that he completes all the places he has now begun, he has ample money voted last year to do the whole work.

Mr. **FOSTER.** The hon. gentleman must not think that he is going to get this money without our understanding what it means. For instance, the hon. gentleman got this money last year on the distinct ministerial promise, that we used to think was a guarantee, that the policy would be carried out according to the promise of the minister, and he told us in so many words that this matter was to be carried out by his own officers, that is, that there was to be no extra cost with reference to it. He said moreover, that fifty of these freezers could be put into operation at an expense of \$12,500. Well, the House accepted his explana-

tions and gave him the vote. The very first thing he does is to make a place and pay for an altogether unnecessary officer in the person of a political partisan and adherent of his own. He takes a member of a provincial parliament, one of his own stripe of politics, one of the right hand men of his colleagues from Nova Scotia. I can remember when the right hon. gentleman who leads the government, and every Liberal leader said it was a very unnecessary and bad thing for the legislature here to link itself with the local legislatures, for the party here to link itself with partisans in the different provinces. The hon. gentleman is doing just exactly what he and his leader declared it was bad politics and corrupting to the public life of this country to do. After having last year declared to the whole House that his officers would carry out this work, he comes down this year and acknowledges an expenditure of \$1,300 or \$1,400 for Dr. Kendall, one of his own right hand men, given this salary to do everything in favour of the party interests. This is an alliance between the hon. gentleman who has the people's money to dispose of, and a member of a provincial parliament on his own side of politics. It is an alliance to strengthen the party here by the cord which he pulls upon the provincial government. What have the government done with regard to a member of the provincial parliament of Quebec? Why, Sir, a member of that parliament has been in the Yukon, paid for two years at a high salary by this government, and at the same time allowed to draw his salary at Quebec, even when he was not in attendance. The hon. gentleman and his colleagues are interfering in that way corruptly with the local legislature and spending for corrupt purpose the money which is given to them by the people to spend as stewards for the benefit of the country. The very immoral politics which they vehemently denounced until they got into office, are being put into effect with the public money of this country. Is dual representation the best thing? Is it right to take the money of this House and with it to fee a member of a local legislature? If you can do it in one case you can do it in all. Why does not the hon. gentleman go to work and employ every Grit member in the province of Prince Edward Island, or in the province of Nova Scotia, or in the province of New Brunswick? If he has the right to do it in one case he has the right to do it in another. The Pineau matter is another case. The hon. gentleman interfered in that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman is keeping in Prince Edward Island to-day a moribund government in power by turning out one man who refused to follow the government, and by appointing another man

who was elected after having been pledged in open convention, and against the efforts of the party in power, to oppose that party. By the arts which the hon. gentleman is employing they are trying to keep on their feet by a majority of one, the Speaker included, a government which everybody knows in Prince Edward Island ought to have been buried at least two years ago, by any straight course of politics. Now, Sir, this gentleman is no expert. He did not conceive this idea. The minister himself acknowledged that the representations were made in 1893, and have been made every year since 1893. Did Dr. Kendall first conceive the idea that bait preserved in this way would be a good thing in times of scarcity? Not at all. Other gentlemen have bait houses on the shores of Nova Scotia to-day, have had them for years, and are being interfered with to-day by this same action. But it is too late for the hon. gentleman to say that Dr. Kendall, out of his great brain, brought this idea, and that he deserves at least some employment because his idea was so novel, and has been put into practice. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman has officials in all parts of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. They are just as clever men as Dr. Kendall, and certainly they are competent to take the printed literature which is for distribution and go amongst the fishermen and say: Would it not be a good thing for you to form an association? If you do, such and such a thing will be done. Are there any abstruse theories to be propounded in that? These fishery officers are not worth their salaries if they are not able to do that in the maritime provinces. They are able to do it, but hon. gentlemen wanted to pay a fat fee to a supporter of their own and to violate the principle of the Independence of Parliament Act against which they howled for years when they were in opposition and wanted to get into power. The corruptness, the badness, the immorality there was in a union between the party here and in the provinces was a theme of denunciation. The very same thing has been done in the case of a Quebec member. He may be an employee of the government to this day, and the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) knows that he suborned that man, took him away from his public duties in Quebec, from the place his constituents elected him to fill, paid him a large salary, put him into the Yukon, and kept him in the Yukon when he should have been doing his duties for his constituents? Why did he do this? For partisan purposes. If there is any principle in the independence of parliament it is just as good for the local legislature as for the Dominion legislature. Why was Dr. Kendall taken? What does Dr. Kendall do? He simply goes to a fishing community and says: Would it not be a good thing to form an association under a resolution which is to

be brought in. That is what Dr. Kendall said first, because the Act was not brought in when he started out. It is not more than two or three months old. Dr. Kendall got the resolution through, Dr. Kendall got the ear of the ministers, Dr. Kendall got the money of the Dominion, and Dr. Kendall went on the anticipation that this resolution would become law. It is all for Dr. Kendall and all for the same partisan purpose. Will Dr. Kendall do one thing more than could be done by any intelligent fishery officer you have in Nova Scotia? You have intelligent fishery officers there. What does Dr. Kendall do? Build an icehouse? He does not know anything about it. The icehouse is built after consultation with Professor Prince, Professor Robertson; the measurements are made by your engineer and the work is supervised by your master carpenter. You would think that it was a Paris Exposition building that you wanted to build. What is it? Simply an icehouse—galvanized iron, paper sheeting, ice, sawdust and timber. Dr. Kendall has nothing to do with these. The sizes of your freezers are all made out by your proper officers. All that Dr. Kendall has to do is simply to go into a fishing community, talk with the people and ask them if they want to form an association. There are your fishery officers; they could do that. That is what you promised would be done last year, and that is what you have not carried out. You have put in a super-numerary and you have done that at the expense of what you used to call principle, which now counts for nothing. Dr. Kendall has been in Ottawa away from his duties for weeks and weeks. He has been here for what purpose. To make his report? What report is he making that he could not make if he were down there carrying on his duties? To discuss matters? What is he discussing? He is not discussing the size of the ice-houses. That is settled already. He is not discussing the quality of the galvanized iron, the width of the timbers; that is all decided by the engineer and the carpenter. What is he discussing? The places he is to go to? That does not require him to come here to discuss for two or three months. You promised that with \$12,500 last year you would put up fifty freezers, and you got \$25,000 and you have not put up fifty freezers. You have now two freezers constructed and thirty-seven in prospect. The thirty-seven that you have in prospect at \$500 each, and they will not average that, might yet be overtaken by the vote of \$25,000 that you have during this current year. Will the hon. minister get up and say that he has made arrangements to put up fifty ice-houses and thirty-seven more, making eighty-seven in all, and that he wants \$25,000 more. If he would take off Dr. Kendall's salary, this useless, immoral expenditure, he could build two more and make it fifty-two. The minister must remember

Mr. FOSTER.

surely with some show of seriousness that he has not shown one shred of necessity for the employment of Dr. Kendall. The bait business is a good thing. I am not opposing, neither is any hon. member on this side of the House, a reasonable vote, reasonably applied for that purpose. The vote given last year, if carried, would have been reasonable, but the way in which it has been applied is not reasonable.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Dr. Kendall was selected for this work because he was the most competent man in the maritime provinces. He is a man, as I previously stated, who is well qualified to explain to the people the benefits they will derive from organizing themselves together and constructing these bait freezers. He has been eminently successful in his work. Two bait freezers are completed, four or five are nearly completed, thirty-seven are in process of construction, or the initial steps have been taken for their construction. We hope to have them constructed. Dr. Kendall's work is to go to the people and explain the benefits that they will derive from the construction of these freezers. Whether it was right or wrong for us to appoint Dr. Kendall instead of selecting some friend of hon. gentlemen opposite is a matter of controversy, but we do not generally select our opponents in a matter of this kind, but select men, who, from their experience and knowledge are most eminently fitted to discharge such duties. As regards the statement made by me last year, it is perfectly correct. I pointed out that freezers of a certain size, when we did not know whether the fishermen would be satisfied with that or not, could be built for a certain sum of money. Since then the fishermen want larger freezers and they have cost more. The cardinal principle of the policy which we adopted is that we should assist the fishermen in establishing bait freezers of the size that would be necessary to keep bait, and we agreed that we should contribute 50 per cent of the cost. The money that was voted last year for the present year will not all be spent this year. It will lapse. We propose to take a vote of \$25,000 for next year, and if it is not expended it will lapse again. But we now propose to vote the money that will be necessary to carry out our promise to the fishermen, that wherever there is a bona fide building erected we will contribute a small sum towards its construction and for three years afterwards we will pay a small sum of money, in no case exceeding \$100, for the purpose of assisting in its operation. This, I do not think, is too much. This is a matter which I think the committee will consider to be about fair and right, and it will result in enormous benefit to the people whom we propose shall be benefited by this expenditure.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not rise for the purpose of continuing this discussion as the ground has been pretty well covered, but, I had some communication with the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and I might speak of it in connection with this case, as it has to do with the bait question. It is in regard to a proposition made in various parts of the province of Nova Scotia to have fresh bait taken by trawl nets and keeping it in a harbour so that from time to time fishermen can obtain fresh bait, which, I believe, is better than frozen bait. There is some difficulty as far as the law is concerned, and I am not aware that it has been practically tested so as to show whether that could be done. When I communicated the reply of the minister, that it was contrary to law, the answer was that it was allowed in other places. What is really the position of that fresh bait question?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. My hon. friend's communication dealt with a technical matter, and I referred it to Prof. Prince, and he told me he intended to take the opinion of the different fishery officers throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He communicated with them, and I suppose he has not yet got their replies. I can promise the leader of the opposition that the matter will not be lost sight of. If during the session, later on, I can give him a reply, I shall be happy to do so.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the future policy of the government in respect to this matter? This may be a good thing, but we ought to know how far we are going to pledge the credit of the country in regard to it. Will the government continue the maintenance of these buildings at the end of three years? Whose property will they then become? Is the work being done by contract?—this is all information we should have.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. At the end of three years, the government aid will entirely cease; the buildings will become the property of the association, and the government will have no control over them. So far as I am able to speak for the future policy of the government, the idea is to make these freezers as universal as the necessities of the case require. The total value of our fisheries runs sometimes as high as \$18,000,000 a year, and if we can largely increase that value, say by 25 or 50 per cent, I am sure no hon. gentleman will scruple to vote further to extend the policy. If the fishermen in Gaspé and New Brunswick decide to build similar freezers, there is no reason why they should not have the same aid as is now given in Nova Scotia. It may be that in future years the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), will be called upon to vote another \$25,000 in aid of this most meritorious work.

Mr. DAVIN. Has the minister considered the plan of getting the fishermen to pay this back, the same as in the case of the Northwest creameries?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It was considered, and at my first consultation with Prof. Robertson, it presented itself to my mind. We came to the conclusion that there would be no hope of inducing the fishermen to enter into this scheme conjointly with the government, unless we were prepared to give them this aid. The fishermen, as a class, it must be remembered, are poor people, compared with the farmers.

Mr. DAVIN. What are the duties of Mr. Fraser?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He is the chief engineer, and he certifies to the character of the material that enters into the building, and he sees that the expenditure is bona fide, and that the building costs double the amount that we subscribe.

Mr. DAVIN. Why cannot Mr. Fraser do the kind of work that is done by Dr. Kendall?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is a different kind of work altogether. Going around among the fishermen, calling meetings, addressing them on the general subject, pointing out the desirability of forming these associations, that is a different thing altogether from the actual inspection of the buildings.

Mr. DAVIN. No one on this side of the House from the west, feels any disinclination to vote this money, and I am not going to say that it is not a perfectly proper thing to grant a subvention to people in the position of these fishermen, if their industry is likely to be recuperative. If the assistance that you give is calculated to extend their business to such an extent that their wealth is enhanced, and by consequence, the wealth of the country, it is a perfectly legitimate thing for the government to do. Although those of us from the west have nothing directly to do with the fishing industry, yet, we do not carp or cavil at this; but the minister cannot be surprised if this vote is criticised with a certain amount of doubt and distrust, because of the circumstances surrounding it. The minister has not made out a case to prove the necessity of employing Mr. Kendall. It seems to me that the construction of these freezing houses is a very simple matter, and that all that has been done by Mr. Kendall at considerable expense, could have been done by the machinery permanently at the control of the department. The minister, therefore, cannot be surprised if there has been a tendency to criticise the employment of Mr. Kendall, as being animated by political, rather than departmental consid-

erations. We know what has taken place in the province in which the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), is a leading figure in his party. We know very well that he has taken provincial and Dominion matters completely in his hands, and we know that Mr. Pineau has been controlled in all his movements by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is most unjust.

Mr. DAVIN. I have a letter here describing the way Mr. Pineau entered Charlotte-town.

Mr. FOSTER. The entry of the relief force to Mafeking, was nothing to it.

Mr. DAVIN. Here is how the letter describes it :

He was met here by Jack Whear—

A law student in the firm of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. FOSTER. It is coming home to him now.

Mr. DAVIN. The letter says :

He was met here by Jack Whear and taken to the Queen's. All the government met him at the hotel. He was introduced by McNutt and Richards. The scene was beyond description. An angry and prolonged hiss was heard so soon as he took the oath. Grit and Tory spectators hissed for all they were worth. The House was packed. His first vote was upon the appointment of the doorkeepers. He voted with them on two other motions. The whole Grit party is dumb—the best of them talk openly of the iniquity.

Why, so great has the talk been that the old Liberal element in the Island is in revolt against the tactics of the hon. gentleman. If that is the case, how can the hon. gentleman be surprised, in the face of what he has told us to-night about Dr. Kendall, at the criticisms which he has heard from these benches, and the suggestion that Dr. Kendall is employed, not for the behoof of these poor fishermen, but for the behoof of the poor Liberal party, which I grant you is in a very bankrupt condition at present. But look at it : a leading man like Mr. Wise abandons the party, and when he is reproached by a leader of the party in the local assembly, he challenges the leader to go back to their constituencies, and a solemn compact is made that they will do so. Mr. Wise carries out his part of the compact, but the other man breaks faith : and under these circumstances Mr. Wise thought he had a right to take his seat, and the result was the scandalous expulsion of a gentleman who had been made the victim of treachery. I want to read to the committee the letter of Mr. Wise, because it is very interesting.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. But hardly germane to the question of the fisheries.

Mr. DAVIN.

Mr. DAVIN. It shows the methods by which the Minister of Marine and Fisheries works. Mr. Wise says :

In the meantime our affairs were becoming worse and worse; heavy taxes, large annual deficits, the debt mounting higher and higher, weakness and incompetency in the government, and dissatisfaction and disappointment among the people.

He put up with all this for a long time, and then he, a recent friend of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries he was impelled to action, which he thus describes :

I was forced to the conclusion that I was supporting a pack of political thieves, devoid of honour and principle, whose conduct was only actuated by the basest and most sordid motives, and so I gradually and reluctantly came to the conclusion that I must come out from among them. Reluctantly—yes. I had loyally supported the party all my life, and there is no one who has had to do with politics but understands how strong party ties are. But, knowing and feeling that these men were utterly incompetent, and that they were only holding on to power to promote their own selfish aims, I was overpowered with the conviction that the sooner they were driven into private life the better; and so I determined to vote, and did vote, against them at the last session of the legislature.

Then a plot was begun against him; but having gone against the government he was elected to support, he was told that he ought to resign his seat and go back to his constituency. Then came the challenge and the compact which I have described, and the Premier agreed, gave a written promise to that effect, and both promise and resignation were left in the hands of an official. But the Premier only made a pretense that there was something wrong, and another resignation was put in. In the meantime, his written promise was supposed to stand; and this is what Mr. Wise says :

A few days after the 3rd of March, about a week, my resignation was sent to the Speaker, Mr. Cummiskey, and the Premier's written promise was taken by him from Mr. Newbery, and he now holds it from the light of day, when it does not belong to him—a reproach to him for his broken faith and unkept word. Mr. Cummiskey promptly notified the Lieutenant Governor, and the latter, about the 12th of March last, ordered a writ for the election to be issued, and the order was promptly received at the proper office, and a writ was duly made out, leaving certain blanks to be filled up, and from that day to this, although two months have elapsed, nothing further has been done.

Can any one wonder, under such circumstances as these, that criticism like that we have heard here to-night should have escaped the lips of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House? How are we to be sure that the same kind of tactics were not behind the employment of Dr. Kendall? While expressing strong sympathy for the fishermen and approval of the policy of subventing any industry that is likely to prove recupe-

rative and in which poor people are employed, I cannot help saying that having listened to the debate in committee, the whole thing looks suspicious. Dr. Kendall is not really a specialist like Professor Robertson, but he is professedly a politician. Therefore, the whole thing looks suspicious; and of all forms of corruption, none is so subtle, none so dangerous, none goes so completely to the root of the vitality of our public life as that form of corruption which is mixed up with public employment, so that where public employment commences, and where political machinations and contrivances commence, you do not know. I am glad, therefore, attention has been called to the peculiarities of this vote, which is one of those many cases which the people of the country will have to scrutinize: for the hon. gentleman must remember that out west we have public officials in the employ of the Department of the Interior, men like McCreary in Winnipeg, who are as much engaged in politics as they are in their legitimate official duties.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to bring one or two matters to the attention of the minister which form the subjects of communications which I had not under my hand before dinner. So far as the vote is concerned, I for one am heartily in favour of the scheme which the hon. minister proposes to forward by this vote. The only criticism I would offer is that a somewhat too large proportion of the vote goes to Dr. Kendall, and a not sufficiently large proportion to the fishermen. However, that is a matter of administration which I hope the hon. gentleman will remedy. One thing that is dealt with in this letter, which is from a firm carrying on a large fishing business, is this:

By the policy the government have adopted in the small bait freezers, they have made it almost impossible to be of any benefit. The idea of subsidizing these bait freezers is a good one, but instead of offering to pay half the cost of the building of such, they should have offered a bounty of so much per hundred pounds of bait sold to Nova Scotia fishermen, excluding any sold to American or foreign fishermen. In this way, small freezers would have been put up almost everywhere that they were needed.

Another suggestion made in the letter is this:

There is also no provision made under the present scheme, as expounded by Dr. Kendall, for the bait used by the banking fleet, and it would, we think, be advisable for you to ask the minister what is the intention of the government concerning larger freezers for supplying the banking fleet.

I mention this, because the vote is a general one, and the hon. gentleman seems to have a very large discretion in the application of this money. I would like to read also a short extract from a letter that is in

line of what I said to be my recollection of it before recess:

The method adopted by the Doctor is to canvass a district and get the fishermen to subscribe for a sufficient number of \$5 shares, on the understanding that they can put in work on the construction of the building to cover the amount of their subscription.

There might, as I have said, be difficulty afterwards, should the creditors claim that the fishermen had not paid up their subscriptions in money as required by the Act.

There is another matter to which I wish to call the attention of the hon. gentleman, and that is the sale by American fishermen of their fish in Nova Scotia under the claim that their vessels have come into Nova Scotia ports in distress. I wrote to the hon. gentleman on that subject, and he was good enough to give me a very courteous answer. Since then I have had further communication with my informant and have received further particulars. The complaint was that American vessels come into Halifax, and, although not really in distress, are allowed to sell their fish there and in that way to enter into competition with our fishermen. I did not know the names of the vessels at the time, but on receiving the reply of the hon. minister, I wrote my informant, who is Mr. C. W. Hart, of Sambro, a prominent and respectable man, and he said under date of April 1, that the two vessels were the *W. H. Moody*, Captain Dundas, which sold about 8,000 pounds of halibut in Halifax, and the *Edith Whelan*, which sold fish in the same place. I understand that neither of these vessels was in distress, the former having nearly slipped her anchor. I know nothing about the accuracy of these statements, but think it right to bring them to the attention of the hon. gentleman, because of course it is not right that such vessels should enter into competition with our own fishermen unless there are exceptional circumstances, as, for instance, if the vessel is in great distress and the cargo would otherwise be absolutely lost.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can assure the hon. gentleman that this matter has caused us no small anxiety. In every case where an application is made,—on the allegation that the vessel has been driven into the harbour in distress for repairs—to be allowed to sell a small quantity of fish, which otherwise would be destroyed, we never grant the privilege without first communicating with the collector of customs and ascertaining from him whether the allegations are well founded. It may be that in the alleged cases, we were imposed upon, and I am glad the hon. gentleman has drawn my attention to them, as I shall again call the attention of the collector of customs to these cases and have them further inquired into, and shall also impress upon him that the

policy of the department is not to permit the sale of such fish, except in the exceptional circumstances already mentioned.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the construction of these buildings let by tender?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is the association that build them and not we, and they generally build them among themselves.

Mr. CLANCY. The government has an interest in seeing that they are let by tender.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Indirectly we have, and that is one reason why our chief engineer, Mr. Fraser, is down there to see that the work is done, and the material supplied, and that the prices are bona fide prices. When we have there his certificate to this effect, we have nothing more to do with the matter. I do not think these buildings could be let by tender, to as much advantage as if built by the parties themselves.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. minister only asks a vote for association formed under local acts of Nova Scotia?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. TAYLOR. The association has to be formed before it can make an application. How many have been formed in Nova Scotia?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I could not really tell. It is perfectly impossible for me to tell that, but before any amount is paid the association must be formed.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). While not condemning the present system, for I really believe that the government are doing an Act of justice to the fishermen in introducing the cold storage system among them as applied to their bait product, at the same time, I think a better plan could be brought about, that is, instead of erecting these buildings and spending the money in the way indicated, to appropriate this money in the shape of a bounty to the fishermen on every ton of fish placed in those buildings, and let the fishermen themselves put the buildings up. That would be a better system and give greater satisfaction to the fishermen themselves.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. member for Halifax brought that to my attention in a letter he read from a leading fishing firm down at Canso, and I will of course consider it.

Mr. FOSTER. Suppose there are firms already engaged in the freezing of bait for the deep seas fisheries, and two or three establishments already in operation, what objection could the hon. gentleman have to give them a subsidy or a bounty? Why make

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

it necessary, in order to obtain the government subsidy, to build up rival establishments?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman will see that we do not propose to assist in the construction of any bait feeding establishments for commercial purposes. We do not propose to enter into competition with establishments already erected for the purpose of supplying bait to bank schooners, though in the near future the present system may be extended to that. We have given instructions to our officers not to assist in the construction of freezers in any place where such establishments are placed already. There are some at Canso for the purpose of supplying the fishermen along the coast with the necessary bait during the season of deep sea fishing and for the purpose of selling bait to the large schooners. We do not propose entering into competition with those.

Mr. FOSTER. Your associations will sell too.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They can sell a little to their neighbours.

Mr. FOSTER. Can they not sell to any one?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is nothing to prevent it. But that is not the object in view, nor will the size of the buildings justify it.

Mr. FOSTER. The building with 100 tons of bait is large enough.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is at Gabarouse, where there is an immense number of fishermen, and the size is not at all incommensurate with the number of the people who will seek to benefit by it.

Mr. FOSTER. Each one of those is a commercial corporation?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. To that extent.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. minister say whether an American fisherman, having a license, would be permitted to purchase bait from these freezers?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, we do not allow them to buy bait.

Mr. CLANCY. I mean those having licenses. Are they permitted to purchase bait from these associations that are assisted by the government?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, I do not anticipate that these associations that we are aiding will sell any bait to the deep sea fishermen at all. That is not the object; and the places where they are to be established and the size of the buildings indicate that they will

be for the purpose of aiding the longshore fishermen.

Mr. CLANCY. Is there anything to prevent it, though?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. If that case arose and it became necessary to guard against it, I suppose some regulations could be made. Some hon. gentlemen say that we should sell bait to the Americans. But it is not contemplated to erect buildings for the purpose of freezing bait to sell to bankers, though, indirectly, something of that kind may be done; but it will be to a small extent.

Mr. KAULBACH. This is a new feature. I thought this vote was for the deep-sea fisheries. If the deep-sea fishermen are not to get the benefit of it, I cannot see what advantage it will be. The deep-sea fishermen have immense capital invested in their business and they should be the first to get the bait.

Mr. A. G. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) I gather from the remarks of the last speaker (Mr. Kaulbach) that these freezers are intended for the benefit of the shore fisheries.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Primarily.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) I think it would be an outrage if the deep-sea fishermen could not take advantage of what the government is putting forward in the way of assistance to these bait-freezing establishments. While the boat fisheries are of very great importance, indeed, and while these establishments will be of great benefit to them, I think it is more important that the deep-sea fishermen should procure bait from these freezers when it cannot be easily procured otherwise. Though not interested in the deep-sea fisheries to the extent that my hon. friend from Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach) is, I venture to say that it would be well for the minister to consider the advisability of extending this thing so that the deep-sea fishermen can take advantage of it to the same extent as the shore fishermen.

Mr. FOSTER. This is interesting. The hon. minister (Sir Louis Davies) has proceeded up to five minutes ago, on the basis that this was for the boat fishermen.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Primarily.

Mr. FOSTER. Entirely. 'Primarily' is a word that he has but lately introduced. When my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) read the letter of his correspondent with respect to procuring bait for the deep-sea fisheries, the reply of the minister was that this was a matter that might come up later, but was not contemplated just now, as these establishments were meant for the boat fishermen. But when a protest is raised, the hon. gentleman says that they can buy bait from these establish-

ments if they wish to, but, primarily, they are for shore fishermen. He has no consistency in his policy. He has wobbled and wobbled and wobbled. There are some of his own supporters who would not support his policy for five minutes if the deep-sea fishermen could not get bait from these freezers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Nobody said they could not.

Mr. FOSTER. What rhyme, sense, reason or honesty was there then in the hon. minister's reply to the hon. member for Halifax? That hon. gentleman asked whether their policy would be adapted to provide for the deep-sea fishermen, and the minister said it was not for that purpose, but if this was successful they would take up later the question of applying it so as to provide bait for the deep-sea fishermen. The hon. gentleman pleads good Lord and good devil—he is in favour of everything, one thing when one asks him, and of another when another asks him.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. And what does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) himself favour? No one can tell from what he said whether he is opposing this vote or not.

Mr. FOSTER. Probably the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) cannot, but any one who understands English can understand my position. I said I was in favour of the proposal of the hon. gentleman, but that his methods were as bad and as unbusiness-like as they could possibly be. He has involved himself in many contradictions. And he knows as well as anybody does that when his freezers are established they can sell to any one who will buy, whether a boat fisherman, a deep-sea fisherman or an American fisherman, acting properly under his license. And I find that the vote we are discussing says distinctly that this is for deep-sea fishermen.

To assist in the establishment, maintenance and inspection of cold storage for bait for deep-sea fishermen, under conditions to be fixed by the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

But, varying the subject a little, I think it would be well that we should know the government's policy with regard to the employment and payment by this government of partisans in the provincial legislatures. Does this government approve of that and adopt it as a policy? Do they think it a good thing for the public life of this country? And do they propose to extend the system which they have adopted?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The government sees no reason to lay down any policy except as their actions indicate. They have seen fit to select a man pre-eminently qualified for the position for which he was chosen, and they did not think the fact that he was a member of the local legislature disqualified him.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it for the same qualification that Mr. Girouard was employed in the Yukon?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not know.

Mr. FOSTER. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) may be able to answer.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I shall be glad to give any explanation that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) is entitled to when we come to discuss the estimates for that department. Mr. Girouard has been appointed for the same reason that Mr. Kendall was appointed. I think he is a good officer, I have every reason to believe so; but at the same time this is not the time to discuss his case. Let us confine ourselves to the vote before the committee. By and by we shall have, I hope, if there is not too much obstruction in the voting of supplies, we shall come, in the course of the summer or fall, to discussing the estimates of the Interior Department, and then I will be very happy to give my hon. friend all the information he is entitled to.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman says we must judge of the policy of the government by their action. Well, their action in the Girouard case and in the Dr. Kendall case indicates that the policy of the government is to employ members of the provincial parliaments, and, therefore, to do what, in opposition, they vigorously denounced. This government, according to the policy of the new Liberalism, extends its tentacles into the provinces, and if they can find money enough, would pay every Grit partisan in every provincial legislature and support him out of the funds of the Dominion of Canada.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am sure it will be very satisfactory for the hon. gentleman to know that so far as this estimable gentleman is concerned, Mr. Pineau, I have nothing more to do with him than he has, and I do not think as much.

Mr. FOSTER. What does the hon. gentleman mean when he says not as much?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I want the hon. gentleman to understand that so far as I am concerned, I do not know Mr. Pineau, I never met him, never had anything to do with him, directly or indirectly. The hon. gentleman, I am afraid, has. I may be wrong. I would not make as strong a statement as he did about me. But I tell him that so far as his statements are concerned, wherein he seeks either to charge or to imply that, directly or indirectly, I ever had anything to do with Mr. Pineau's political

action, they have not the shadow of a foundation. He can accept my statement or not, just as he likes, but that is true all the same. I submit to him whether it is proper or whether it is honourable to keep repeating every week in this House a charge that I have been or am in some way connected with, or responsible, for Mr. Pineau's political action. I am not, never was, never had anything to do with him, and the whole charge, so far as I am concerned, is without the shadow of a foundation.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman leaves himself open to suspicion. The hon. gentleman went down to the province of Prince Edward Island with a vote of \$250,000 of the people's money given by this parliament. He went down there and took part in two by-elections, having in his right hand a vote of \$250,000 that this parliament voted, expressly for carrying out certain public works. Having this money in his hand he went into these by-elections and virtually said to the people: You elect supporters for my party in the province of Prince Edward Island, or if you do not, you may find it very difficult to have this money expended. His language was tantamount to that. Now, that makes us suspicious. A man who has in previous years, when in opposition, subscribed to high political doctrines, and who, when he gets into power, in direct opposition to those doctrines, will take part in provincial by-elections, and use the people's money granted for another purpose in order to induce them to vote as he wants them to do, leaves himself open to suspicion.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) If this freezing establishment at Gabarouse succeeds, and it fills up to its full capacity with bait, does the hon. gentleman say that the parties connected with that freezing establishment will not have the privilege of selling that bait to any ship that comes along?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Certainly they would, if they liked to.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) I do not see what connection the Pineau matter has with this vote, except in, so far as it relates to cold storage, because I think Mr. Pineau must have been kept in cold storage for some time by somebody not very far from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. I know this, that Mr. Pineau was elected as a Conservative, he came to Ottawa, and he was invisible to everybody except friends of the local government, and people knowing that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries was very intimate with the local government, very naturally connected him with Mr. Pineau. The result was that he was put into cold storage down in a town of Massachusetts, and when the meeting of

the local legislature came round, Mr. Pineau turned up and he was surrounded by friends of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, conducted to the best hotel in the town, and so surrounded by them that he has hardly seen daylight since. The result is that the local government of Prince Edward Island is kept in power by this celebrated man.

Civil Government—Department of Inland Revenue

Revenue \$38,000

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). The only increases are that five officers receive \$50 a year of a statutory allowance, one of the messengers \$30, and another \$10, making in all an increase of \$290.

Mr. FOSTER. How many are eligible for statutory increases?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There are ten officers who might receive a statutory increase, but we have recommended five. The first is Mr. Campeau, chief accountant, \$2,200, increased to \$2,250; Mr. Westman, his salary was \$1,400, and we propose to make it \$1,450. The next is Mr. Shaw, whose salary was \$1,550, and we propose to pay him \$1,600. The next is Mr. Doyon, \$1,450, increased to \$1,500, and Captain Winter, \$1,200, increased to \$1,250. Then there are two messengers. Mr. Potvin, whose salary is \$490, receives an increase of \$10, and Mr. Yetts, whose salary is \$390, gets an increase of \$30.

Mr. FOSTER. For what reason were the other five, of the ten who were eligible, denied their increases?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is not very easy to explain the situation, as it is difficult to understand exactly the meaning of the statute in connection with these statutory increases. We have taken those who appear to us, by the length of their service and the importance of their work, to be entitled to an increase, in preference to the others. Those who have been left aside, are those who have been appointed more lately. There is a number of our officers who have already reached the maximum of their class, so that they cannot claim an increase. In giving this \$50 only to half of them, we have given it to those the importance of whose services appeared to have entitled them to the increase more than the others.

Mr. FOSTER. Were the services of the other five not sufficiently satisfactory to warrant an increase?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I would certainly not say that their services are unsatisfactory, but they were not of such an important nature as to entitle them to come under the same recommendation.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman has not accounted for another \$50. He pro-

poses an increase of \$340, and he has only accounted for an increase of \$290.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is a mistake in the amount entered for last year. Instead of the vote for 1899-1900 being \$37,660 it was \$37,710. It was \$50 more than was entered as the amount of last year's vote, so that it leaves a difference of exactly the amount I state. Five fifties make \$250, and one messenger at \$10 and another at \$30, makes \$290.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue whether instructions were given last year to the inspectors throughout the country in regard to the larger measure used as a tester? I am informed that no instructions have been given from the department to officers outside, although we had the hon. gentleman's express pledge when we gave him the vote last year, that such instructions would be given. I am now speaking subject to correction. I should be glad if the hon. gentleman is able to inform the committee that he has given such instructions, and if he has not done so, why, and whether he intends to do so?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If I pledged myself to give the instructions, I must have given them. It is impossible for me, at this distance, to say positively, but if I promised last year to give the instructions, I must have given them. However, I will make a point of inquiring. Certainly, if I promised to give them, I must have given them.

Civil Government—Department of Inland Revenue

Revenue \$6,250

Mr. FOSTER. I notice that the hon. minister has been offending again, in the old way, by buying books, which do not seem to be necessary for the health, comfort and efficiency of his department, 'Burke's Peerage' for instance.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I did not buy it, and I do not know how it was purchased. I never ordered the purchase of it.

Mr. FOSTER. I am afraid my hon. friend is not doing his duty to the country, as the responsible head of a department if these purchases are made of useless books, and he knows nothing of them. What subordinate dare spend \$8.40 without the minister's advice and permission?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I really do not know. I was astonished when I saw it myself.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman ought to be astonished. It is proof positive that his department is entirely out of his disciplinary control.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I never said it was.

Mr. FOSTER. Who did that? Somebody must bear the blame. Does my hon. friend use the 'Peerage'?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. When I had the honour, at one time, of receiving that distinction, which Her Gracious Majesty was kind enough to confer upon me, I bought one copy at my own expense. Since that time I have been persecuted every year to buy one, and I have always refused. I am sorry to say that I cannot account for the purchase of this one.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman use ordinary diligence to see that it does not occur again?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think I can promise that.

Mr. FOSTER. Here the minister has two 'Canadian Men and Women of the Times' at \$6. What is he doing with those? Is that an irresponsible purchase, and is the minister not using them? Here again 'Discours a Conference,' by Thomas Chapais. The minister is getting heretical. Why, Thomas Chapais is a Conservative. Is it possible he allows a brochure from Mr. Chapais in his department?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is not a man's fault that he is a Conservative. Mr. Chapais was born that way. Some of the Conservatives are doing such good work that I am glad to acknowledge it.

Mr. FOSTER. The military fever has got into the Inland Revenue Department. I see they bought 'Hart's Army List.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is not the only department where there is military fever.

Mr. FOSTER. Here I see the department bought the 'Manual to Good Manners.' Now, what in the world does the Minister of Inland Revenue want with that? Who in the department is interested in using that?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. You know there are certain things it is very difficult to refuse, and the man who wrote that was no doubt a benefactor to society. Perhaps I may be able to lend it to some of my friends opposite.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister is not satisfied with two 'Canadian Men and Women of the Times,' but I see he has bought four 'Men of the Times.'

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Really they are all very useful works.

Mr. FOSTER. I see the minister has bought 'Political Appointments, Parliamentary. &c.,' and a number of other such works. These are not necessary for the work of the department, and, seriously, this

is an abuse which has been growing since the present government came into power. It is an abuse which existed many years ago, but which the Conservative government had suppressed. The hon. gentlemen are making it hard for us when, in a short time, we get control of the government, to make head against this abuse. If the officers or the head of the department want these books for their own reading, they should pay for them and not charge them to the unfortunate taxpayers of the country. The minister will, I am sure, agree with me in that.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I agree with the hon. gentleman to a certain extent, and this is a practice against which I fought as hard as I could. There are certain books which are, of course, useful, but I must acknowledge that certainly to a great degree it is an abuse.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I wish to again mention to the Minister of Inland Revenue the claim of the two men, J. B. Ryan and Edward Kelly, which was brought to his attention some time ago. These men had deductions made from their salaries from year to year for superannuation, but they were not within the Superannuation Act. They were dismissed. An Act was passed providing that the amount paid by dismissed officials into the Superannuation Act should be refunded, with interest. These two men did not come within the Act, because the deductions from their salaries had been improperly made. The result was that they were placed in a worse position than those from whose salaries deductions were legally made. That does not seem to be right. These men were out of their money during all these years, and they got it back without interest, whereas those whose money was properly taken got it back with interest. I think the minister should see that the Act is so amended that justice would be done in these two cases. It is only a small matter to the government, but it is of considerable importance to Messrs. Ryan and Kelly, as neither of them has been employed, so far as I know, since they have been dismissed from office. It amounts to \$60 or \$70 each, and there is certainly no reason why it should not be paid to them. It was overlooked when the statute was passed, and therefore the Auditor General very properly objected to paying it. A slight amendment should be made to the Act so as to remedy the grievance.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I took a great deal of trouble about this matter. As the hon. gentleman says, it will require an amendment to the law to enable us to pay the interest. Of course, I had to take the law as I found it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. minister consents, I will undertake to draft an

Act for him which could be done in a few lines, and as there can be no possible objection to it, I am sure that parliament will pass it very quickly.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am obliged to the hon. gentleman, but I would rather look into the matter before I do that.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have the letter of the minister in which the facts are as I have stated them to the House. These men, from whom not one dollar should have been deducted, are in a worse position than the men from whom deductions were properly made.

Mr. FOSTER. And the government had the use of the money?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes. The Auditor General says: You cannot pay these men because they did not come within the Superannuation Act, and the statute which the Minister of Finance introduced provided only for deductions which have been properly made. The minister will see that there cannot be any possible distinction in principle between the two cases. If there is a distinction at all, it is in favour of these men and not against them. What I ask the minister to do is really to perform a simple act of justice.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I cannot undertake now that I will ask the Finance Minister to amend the law, but I will consider it and see whether I can recommend it or not.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman will refer to his letter of the 16th of June, 1899, he will find that the facts are exactly as I have stated them. There is no doubt whatever about the facts. The Minister of Finance is also aware of the facts, because on one occasion I brought them to his attention.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think the hon. gentleman once mentioned the matter to me, but I did not follow it up. Do I understand that the Auditor General ruled that these sums should not have been deducted at all, so that even if the gentlemen had remained in office the money would have been returned to them?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes, I will read what the Auditor General says in his letter:

No interest is allowed on the abatements of Messrs. Ryan and Kelly, and the abatements of W. K. Leighton as weights and measures inspector, as they were appointed subsequently to June 2, 1886, and so were not entitled to come under the Superannuation Act. The Act of last session only covered the cases of those who came under the provisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act.

That is a perfectly proper position for the Auditor General to take, and I do not find any fault with it. The difficulty was that owing to the oversight of some one, the de-

ductions were made from the salaries of these men when they were not under the Superannuation Act. The Minister of Finance was going to pay them interest, but the Auditor General raised this technical point, and so they have been ever since without their interest, amounting to a considerable sum to them. Although it is a small matter, I think justice should be done.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I will promise to look into it again.

Mr. FOSTER. The matter would be much better got at by placing a sum in the estimates without amending the Act.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If the hon. member will give me the letter, I will look into it.

Excise \$457,742 50

Mr. FOSTER. Why does the hon. gentleman lower the item for preventive service? Is there an improvement in conditions to warrant that?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We think we shall be able to do with \$2,000 less. We have dispensed with the services of one officer, whose name I forget at the moment.

Mr. FOSTER. I am glad if the hon. gentleman can do with less; but will he give the House some information as to the comparative conditions which now prevail, and as to the duties of these preventive officers?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We used to have an average of about 300 seizures a year of every kind—for illicit distilling, smuggling tobacco, manufacturing without paying the duty, and so forth. The number of seizures has certainly diminished, especially for illicit distillation. It has been pretty hard work to insist on the execution of law, but I am happy to say that the examples we have made in many cases have produced a good effect. In some of the large cities, like Montreal and Quebec, we have found some cases of illicit distillation; but they are very rare, as compared with the cases that occur in isolated places, principally in new settlements, on the part of men who are completely, as it were, beyond the pale of civilization, and completely ignorant of the law. In some of the new settlements in the province of Quebec, in Cape Breton, and in some of the isolated parts of the province of Ontario, we have made some seizures for illicit distillation. I sent circulars to the priests in the different parishes in the province of Quebec, asking them to draw the attention of their parishioners to the evils of illicit distillation in every way—how it was against the public interest, and against their own private interest, and how they were ruining their health by absorbing poison, which their illicit liquor really is when it does not

go through the different processes of distillation, and I have been happy to receive assurances that this has been the means of stopping illicit distillation in several places. We have had a great deal of trouble with the smuggling of tobacco, especially in those parts of the country which are quite close to the United States; and I have been accused with acting with too much harshness and severity in many cases. Then, the moment a man falls under the claw of our officers, he turns out to be a Liberal, and appeals to all the Liberal influences, to the services he has rendered in the past, and all that; and it is wonderful how difficult it is to do one's duty under these circumstances.

Mr. FOSTER. But the hon. gentleman does it?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I try. I must say I have not always done my duty to the fullest extent that I ought, but I do my best. In some cases there is a mitigation of the penalty where some illegal act has been committed through ignorance. Altogether we have been successful in diminishing illicit distillation as well as the illicit manufacture of tobacco and the smuggling of it.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. gentleman think that a good deal of tobacco is smuggled over?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. A good deal is smuggled. I hope there is not so much smuggled now as there was. One reason why I think there is not so much is that owing to the law which permits imported and Canadian grown tobacco to be mixed, the price of tobacco has greatly diminished. As I have had occasion to explain already, the amount of Canadian tobacco going into our factories, if the present consumption continues, will be over 3,000,000 pounds by the end of the year, and two years ago it was only about 600,000 pounds. No doubt this immense quantity will lower the prices, and I may say that lately we have not had nearly so many seizures as formerly.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are the preventive officers now?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have not got the list.

Mr. FOSTER. I notice in the Auditor General's Report that the Auditor General has under the heading of 'Preventive Service' four men on salary, and under the heading of 'Contingencies' I find a large number of officers, some of whom are also drawing salary. I refer to page T-96 of the Auditor General's Report. Why are Curless, Casey, Kelly and Prosser under 'Preventive Service' and the others under 'Contingency'?

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That I am unable to explain, but that was done by the Auditor General in his report.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to know what services are done by these respective officers I have named.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I must confess that I did not expect this severe cross-examination, which, of course, the hon. gentleman has a perfect right to make, and if he likes we can let the item stand until I can get the information he requires, but there are some preventive officers with whose duties I am more particularly acquainted. There is Mr. Boulianne, a temporary preventive officer, who is now travelling in the Saguenay district, and who has rendered good service in the discovery of several cases of illicit distillation. There is Mr. Cinq Mars, whose duties lie in the district north of Montreal, and I know he has done good work in putting down illicit distillation in that part of the country. There is Mr. Floody, who has rendered good service to the department. At one time he was employed in New Brunswick; now he is in Ontario. I remember his name as that of one of our useful officers.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Cinq Mars does not seem to travel very much. His expenses are only \$114.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. His district is in the neighbourhood of Montreal, which is not an expensive one to cover.

Mr. FOSTER. But you cannot do much travelling on \$114. The question I wished to settle was whether these officers who are supposed to be preventive officers really do that work or not. From whom do they take their orders?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. From the excise inspectors of the different districts.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. minister might look up the information with reference to Mr. Kelly and his duties.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. And does my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) wish the item to stand in the meantime?

Mr. FOSTER. If the hon. gentleman does not object.

Stamps for Canadian and imported tobacco	\$20,000
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The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is an increase in this item of \$1,000. And, in the supplementary estimates, I shall be obliged to ask for a considerable sum to complete this year. I shall give fuller explanations when that item is before the House; but, in the meantime, I may explain that in 1891-2, the vote for this service was \$27,000, and in 1893-4, \$28,000.

In 1896, I was under the impression that it would be possible to make a considerable reduction, and we reduced the vote to \$19,000. But we find that this is not sufficient. I do not think it is possible to do with less than \$20,000. The expenditure on these stamps is very considerable, because we have to make a number of new stamps in order to provide for the new tobacco factories, called mixed factories. The stamps are of different colour and we have to have a complete set of them. When we consider that the revenue from tobacco will be about four millions, that every cent of that money is paid by stamps, and that some of these stamps are only of the value of one cent, two cents, and very few are of large value, it is easily to understand what an enormous quantity of stamps are required—several millions of them.

To pay collectors of customs allowance for duty collected by them for 1899-1900. \$5,500

Mr. FOSTER. Is that carried on under the same principle?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes, we pay up to a maximum of \$250 to collectors of customs in places where there is not enough business to have a special officer.

Commissions to sellers of stamps for Canadian twist tobacco \$100

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. These are for Canadian tobacco. We send these stamps to the postmasters who ask for them. The stamps must be twisted in with the tobacco—that is the only way we can avoid fraud. If we were to put the stamp around the twist, it would be too easily removed. The operation must be performed by the farmers who put up the twist tobacco. Some of the postmasters in the places where this little industry is carried on generally write for stamps, and we send them.

L. A. Frechette, for special technical translation \$100

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is an item that comes every year. There are so many technical words in our report, that it has been found necessary to get it translated by a gentleman with special qualifications. Ever since I have been in the department, Mr. Frechette has been allowed this \$100 for this work.

Mr. FOSTER. He is not in your department.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No.

To enable the department to supply methylated spirits to manufactories, the cost of which will be recouped by manufacturers to whom they are supplied; and to pay for rent, light, power, freight, salaries, &c. \$50,000

Mr. FOSTER. I see that last year there was an expenditure of \$67,418 on this service.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is generally a much larger revenue than expenditure, as my hon. friend will see.

Mr. FOSTER. But last year your expenditure was \$67,418. You now ask a vote for \$50,000. What reason has the minister for believing that this estimate will be sufficient?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We never know exactly how much we are going to spend. We are recouped at once by the sale.

Mr. FOSTER. But the money that is received goes into the consolidated fund, and you cannot spend it.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We have never been able to tell exactly what we should need to spend. We have always sent to the treasurer much more than we received. We generally put in about the same sum.

Mr. FOSTER. The estimates must generally be somewhere about what the expenditure is supposed to be. When you take an estimate for \$50,000 and spend \$67,000, what basis have you for thinking you will spend equally as much next year?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We have always followed the practice of asking a certain sum. We never know what we are going to spend. This year our methylated works were burned, and it will be a month or two before we can produce any more. I do not know exactly what we will require this year, it would be mere guess work. So far, I have never met with any objection to the way in which we are putting these estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. A disparity of \$17,000 on a vote of \$50,000, is enough to make the minister think that he was not estimating sufficiently for the service.

Mr. CLANCY. How does the hon. gentleman cover the difference? He cannot expend \$67,000 on a vote of \$50,000, because he will have no authority for expending the surplus. Is it done by paying it out of some other fund?

Mr. FOSTER. He is probably asking for \$17,000 in the supplementaries.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I never got anything in the supplementaries for methylated spirits. In nearly every case we have exceeded the amount.

Mr. FOSTER. The Department of Customs brings in a great deal more than the minister expends, but the Minister of Customs cannot expend any more than is ap-

propriated by the House. I do not understand how the Minister of Inland Revenue spends any more than the House authorizes him by vote.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I am giving my experience for the last four years. In the Department of Customs, as in my own department, we are not allowed to spend anything for salaries, without it has been strictly voted by the House in the estimates. This is the only exception. This case has always remained so. I do not know if it was that way when the Conservative government were in power. This manufacture of methylated spirits by the government began eighteen or nineteen years ago. Before that time, private individuals were allowed to manufacture methylated spirits, but such frauds were discovered, that it became necessary for the government to take hold of the manufacture. I will certainly take a note and inquire into this matter.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman will inquire into that, and cover everything that comes in as profits, into the consolidated revenue fund; otherwise we have no clear balance of revenue and expenditure.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Now that my attention is drawn to it, I will certainly look into it. This is a special thing altogether.

Culling timber \$18,550

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is one increase of \$100 for Thomas Harley. He was appointed in May, 1892, as bookkeeper.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the hon. gentleman the revenue from this timber business?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Were it not for the necessity of paying pensions to twenty or twenty-two cullers, who were discharged eight or nine years ago, I think the department of cullers would about pay its expenses. But under the circumstances we have to meet generally \$5,000 or \$6,000, which represents these pensions.

Mr. FOSTER. Does superannuation apply to the present cullers, or does it simply inure to those for whom the arrangement was made?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The arrangement was made in 1890 or 1891, when about twenty cullers were struck off the list, and a pension of \$200 was given to each of them.

Mr. FOSTER. You do not pension the present cullers.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No, I do not think so.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no pension system?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No, I do not think so.

Mr. FOSTER.

Weights and Measures—Salaries of officers, inspectors and assistant inspectors of weights and measures \$48,710

Mr. FOSTER. There is an increase in that item.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is an increase of \$1,850. I can give you a list of the officers for whom we ask these increases. I would like first, however, to state that we have brought down the expenditure of the Weights and Measures branch lower than, I think, we can afford to. The Weights and Measures expenditure in 1889, was \$67,000; in 1890, \$69,000; 1891, \$72,000; 1892, \$72,000; 1893, \$71,000; 1894, \$73,000; 1895, \$71,000; 1896, \$70,000; and then coming to 1897, the first year I was in charge of the department, we brought it down to \$67,000; 1898, \$63,000; 1899, \$64,000; and last year, \$64,860. Evidently I have cut my cloth a little too small in order to cover all the necessities of the service, and I am obliged to ask for more. I can give the names of the officers to whom the increases are given, making up this \$1,850. We were obliged, owing to a change in the law, in regard to weights and measures, which calls for much more frequent inspection of public scales, market scales, mining scales and all those heavy scales, to appoint a new officer in Montreal, Mr. Collins, to whom we give \$800. Then, there are a number of increases. For instance, there is Mr. Guay, our inspector of weights and measures at Quebec. He was appointed in 1896 at a salary of \$1,000. His predecessor received \$1,200, and I thought, as it was a new appointment, that I would start him at \$1,000, with the hope that by and by, if his work was satisfactory, I would put him on the same footing as his predecessor. It will be four years from the time of his appointment until the new year begins, and I propose to give him \$200 of an increase which will make his salary \$1,200, the same as that of his predecessor. Mr. Gravel, the inspector at Three Rivers, was appointed in 1897 at a salary of \$800, and as his predecessor had \$1,000 I decided that I would put him this year on the same footing as his predecessor. Mr. Elliott, now in Ottawa, was appointed in June, 1893, at a salary of \$600. I have recommended that he be given \$100 more. Mr. Murdoch, of Toronto, was appointed in 1897, at a salary of \$600. I have recommended that he should get \$100 more. Then, there is Mr. Guay, of Lévis, who was appointed in 1892, at a salary of \$600, and I have asked for \$100 more for him. There is also Mr. Macdonald, of Ottawa. We brought him over from Kingston, where we found we could dispense with his services. He has been in the service since 1886. He is a very valuable officer. He was appointed at \$1,300, and I propose to give him \$100 more. He has very important work to do. He is in charge of the Ottawa district. Then, there is Mr. Milli-

gan, of Toronto, appointed in October, 1896, at \$750. I have recommended that he be given \$50 more. Mr. Tomlinson, of Montreal, was appointed in 1899, at a salary of \$600. It is recommended that he should get \$100 more. Mr. Fournier, who is in the Montreal district, was appointed at \$500 in 1894, and I have asked for \$100 more for him. This makes up the increase of \$1,850, counting the new officer, Mr. Collins, appointed at Montreal.

Mr. CLANCY. Has the hon. gentleman's attention been called to the case of Mr. R. A. Hughes, of Chatham?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have received an application for an increase for Mr. Hughes, and I have been in correspondence with him. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) likes to come to my office I will show him the correspondence. I receive so many applications for increases that it is difficult for me to remember all the details, but I think there is an application from the gentleman to whom my hon. friend refers. I am not perfectly positive about it, but I think I remember some correspondence showing that there are two other officers, who are of the same rank as Mr. Hughes, but who, having a specialty, being practical mechanics, have a somewhat higher salary than he has. This gave Mr. Hughes motive for complaining and for asking to be put on the same footing as the others. If I am not mistaken I think my remarks apply to the right person. I have explained to him why I do not see any good ground for putting him on the same level as his brother officers. But I am not positive about it. I receive so many applications that it is impossible for me to be perfectly certain if my remarks rightly apply to Mr. Hughes or to another.

Mr. CLANCY. I think the hon. gentleman is probably correct in his references to Mr. Hughes and to the other gentlemen whom he has spoken of as being in a sense technical officers inasmuch as they are mechanics. But my information is that they do the very same work as Mr. Hughes, notwithstanding that, and that there is none of the special work to do which the hon. gentleman speaks of that necessarily devolves upon these two officers. Mr. Hughes is doing the same work as the other officers, and if he does the same work the fact of these others saying that they are in a sense technical officers does not seem to me a fair ground for this disparity between the salaries of these officers. If gentlemen are put in a position and are paid a salary on the ground that they are technical officers and of having some sort of qualification for doing technical work, and they have no technical work to do, I do not think it is a fair way to deal with officers. I would like the hon. gentleman to make some inquiry and to find out whether the gentle-

men with whom he has made a comparison are doing that kind of work. If they are not, they should not be paid for it on the mere ground of qualification. I am sure the minister has no disposition to deal unfairly with Mr. Hughes and I would like the hon. gentleman would make inquiry into the points I have mentioned.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have made inquiries. I asked the inspector for a report, and I find that the other men being practical mechanics their services are considered of more value. How is it possible for me to grant every application for an increase of salary? I am almost afraid to say how many such applications I have.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid I did not quite make myself clear. Now, these two men may possess technical knowledge; but are they doing technical work? If they are simply discharging the same duties as Mr. Hughes and if Mr. Hughes is doing the same work, and is in the same grade, it seems to me he should have the same salary no matter what qualifications the other men possess.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Our officers of Weights and Measures have to do technical work. It is generally considered a very easy job, but in order to do their work well, it is necessary for them to have technical knowledge, as they have, for instance, to test the composition of the metal of the small knives on which the weights are put. If the metal is too soft it would not be suitable. For this and other reasons practical men are more valuable than others, and that is the report that was made by my inspector in relation to Mr. Hughes.

Mr. CLANCY. As I understand it, each of these men has his own district to inspect, and each is doing the same work in his district as Mr. Hughes is doing. They do not interfere with Mr. Hughes's district, and if Mr. Hughes discharges his duties in his district as well as they do in theirs, it seems to me, that he being in the same grade, should receive the same salary.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There are two ways of doing work. One way is to do it well, and the other way is do it not so well. My inspector tells me that these two men are superior to Mr. Hughes in their efficiency, and do better work.

Mr. TAYLOR. What did this service cost in 1895-6?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. In 1895-6 this service cost \$70,358.

Mr. TAYLOR. And a year after that the minister, with a great flourish of trum-

pets, brought in an estimate for \$63,000 and said he was going to save \$7,000. Last year he had to confess that that estimate was too low, and he asked for \$89,000. This year he asks for \$97,000, so that since 1896, when the work was done for \$70,000, he has increased it by \$27,000.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If the hon. member remembers the flourish of trumpets I made three years ago, he has a better memory than I have. I did not make any boast about it, but I thought I could honestly and fairly do the work for a less expenditure. It ought to be remembered that while we decreased the expenditure we steadily increased the revenue. In 1895-6 the revenue was \$37,000 and the expenditure \$70,000; in 1896-7, the revenue was \$33,000, and the expenditure \$67,000; in 1897-8, the revenue was \$44,000, and the expenditure \$63,000; in 1898-9, the revenue was \$48,000, and the expenditure \$64,000. As compared with 1896, the expenditure last year was \$4,000 less, and the revenue \$11,000 more. I am obliged to confess that we reduced the estimate too much, and I am now coming back to what I consider necessary.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the revenue has increased since 1896 by \$14,000 then the minister has increased the expenditure by \$27,000.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is quite the reverse; I have diminished the expenditure. I would like to know where my hon. friend finds the increase of \$27,000 that he speaks of.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will try and enlighten my hon. friend. In these estimates he is asking for \$97,260.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That is for other things besides weights and measures. Gas and electric light inspection takes up about \$26,000, which is almost exactly the amount the hon. gentleman spoke of.

Mr. MARTIN. Some time ago I asked the minister about an inspector of gas in Charlottetown who was dispensed with. A return came down from the Department of Inland Revenue, but I have it on good authority that there was correspondence with the Department of Marine and Fisheries which was not brought down.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend alluded to some petitions which I think he said might be in the Department of Marine and Fisheries. I obtained them from that department, and included them in the return that came from my department. That was all that came from the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. MARTIN. Those petitions were against the discharge of Mr. Brace. I have information that there was a petition sent to the Department of Marine and Fisheries asking for his discharge.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, nothing of the kind.

Mr. MARTIN. Then, I asked the minister the other day, and he stated that Mr. Brace had been paid up to the time of his discharge.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. So I was told by my officers.

Mr. MARTIN. I have a letter here stating that as a matter of fact he was relieved of his labours on the 15th of February, but was paid only up to the 1st of February. I have it also on good authority that a man named Davey, who was supposed to have performed his duties there, has not attended to his duties since his appointment, and no one has been sent down to instruct him as to his duties. The minister has told me that he has had reports from Mr. Davey; but the presumption is that these reports were in blank. I would like the minister to give me some idea as to whether Mr. Davey is attending to his duties or not. It is very important that in a large city like Charlottetown the inspection of gas should be properly attended to; but in the first place Mr. Davey has not been very much in the department, and in the next place he has not been instructed how to test the meters.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I remember that I answered every one of the questions which my hon. friend submitted the other day, from information which I got from the officers of my department.

Mr. MARTIN. As a matter of fact, has any one been sent down to instruct Mr. Davey in the duties of his office there?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I could not tell at this moment. I know our orders were to send some one down. I will make inquiry.

Mr. MARTIN. Will the hon. gentleman take a note of that, because there is some anxiety in the city to know whether or not that has been attended to?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Before the vote is passed, I beg leave to say a few words about the last item. The House has been voting a sum for the purchase of metrical instruments for two or three years past, and I have not been allowed to explain what they are for. I do not wish to take up too much of the time of the House but I think it is important that it should know why that money is voted, and I hope to induce the people of Canada

to take more interest in the introduction of the metric system of weights and measures. That system has been introduced all over the civilized world. There are only three countries in the world which have not adopted it—England, the United States and Russia. I wish to state what is doing in England and the United States in order to show how the moment is approaching when the metric system shall be adopted in those two countries; and in what condition should we be if we had no one in this country who understood it?

Mr. POWELL. I always understood that the metric system was permissive by law in the United States.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It is permissive by law, but not compulsory. I merely want to show what is being done in England and the United States in order that we may understand that at any moment we can be called upon to adopt the metrical system, and ought to be ready to put it in force when that moment comes. It is so ingenious a system as to fill one with admiration for its simplicity and for the ingenuity of those who invented it. One single unit is sufficient, not only for the unit of length, but also for the unit of weight. That unit of length is converted into a unit of weight and capacity. I have here consular reports to the Imperial government on the subject, all of which are in favour of the adoption of this system. I have reports from the English consuls in Paris and Lisbon and Constantinople, and even Bulgaria and Tokio in Japan, all of which urge strongly the adoption of the metrical system in the interest of English commerce. I would also draw attention to what has taken place in the Imperial parliament of England and the Congress at Washington. The select committee of the House of Commons on weights and measures, appointed to inquire into this subject, recommended, by its report in 1895, that this system should at once be legalized for all purposes. It was not then legalized in England, but they have legalized it since, although they have not made it the official system. They also recommended that the metrical system be taught in all the public elementary schools, as a necessary and integral part of arithmetic, and that the decimal system be introduced at an earlier period into the school curriculums than is the case at present.

I was speaking of what took place at Washington, and I have here a Bill introduced in Congress in December, 1899, to fix the standard of weights and measures by the adoption of the metrical system, and that Bill was referred to the Committee on Coinage and Weights and Measures. They begin very wisely by inserting the thin end of the wedge. By having the public department,

when they have any contract calling for use of weights and measures, to try and get these specifications made according to the metric system. The Bill provides that after 1st July, 1902, all the departments of the United States government in the transaction of all business, except completing the survey of the public lands, shall use only the metric system of weights and measures, and after 1st July, 1902, the metric system shall be the only standard recognized by the government of the United States. So, you can see what efforts are being made in the United States to keep pace with England and introduce that system. I have here the last report of Mr. Gage, the Secretary of the Treasury, submitted to Congress in December, 1899, in which he refers to a circular issued by the American Chamber of Commerce and declares 'our present system is only a temporary one'—it has lasted a long time, but evidently he speaks for the future—and it is out of harmony of our decimal notation and monetary system.' He recommends the metric system. I desire to show also that there are people in Canada who understand the importance of being prepared for the metric system. I have been asked to explain this vote, but every year when I get up to explain everybody calls out 'carried,' and will not allow me to explain. I said to myself: I will explain it once for all. So, Mr. Chairman, I may say that we use this vote of \$500 in sending out about 100 collections illustrative of the metric system of weights and measures to the normal schools, the boards of trade, the universities, colleges and convents all over the Dominion. I am glad to say that even the ladies in the convents are very anxious to get these collections. I have here a letter from the Rev. Mr. Mackay, superintendent of education for Nova Scotia, which shows that this work is appreciated, that the value of the metric system is understood, and that there are those in the Dominion who see the importance of being prepared for its adoption. He says:

I write to thank you in the interest of the people of this country who understand what it means, and to assure you of the fullest support of the Department of Education to so desirable a consummation as you have in view. I send you copies of our new arithmetical text-books, prescribed for our public schools, the one being now in universal use in the common school grades (the first eight years of the public school course), and the other in the high school grades. You will see that all the pupils in the schools of Nova Scotia will be as fully acquainted with the metrical system in theory as with the old system. In our normal school—

Notice this, Mr. Chairman.

—all our pupil teachers have to take a course in woodwork, and one of the exercises is to make a set of metrical standards, including a cubical decimeter box loaded with sand to the weight of a kilogram, &c., which products of their

labour they are at liberty to carry with them to their schools. I shall have much pleasure in seeing that there are such standards in all our schools, as there may be many yet without them, if any onward step is to be taken by the Dominion. In one season our schools will be able to make the metrical system of weights and measures and the corresponding prices, the common system, if the Dominion parliament orders it, and all that with very little difficulty, I think, from my experience in the matter.

I have here the resolution passed by the Board of Trade in Toronto, appointing a committee to inquire into the metric system of weights and measures. We already have the system introduced in a measure. In the Department of Inland Revenue, all the chemical analyses have been made for years past according to the metric system. Thus the people are being prepared for the change. I do not believe that we should wait until forced to adopt it by compulsion. It is such a beautiful system that the teaching of it in our schools will be the finest form of mental gymnastics, by enabling the pupils to compare it with our present defective system. Even if we never had the prospect of working it out practically, there could be no more useful mental exercise for our young people than learning the metric system. I prepared a resolution, which I scarcely dare to expect would be adopted unanimously, but I will ask leave to read it, and I think it will be found to embody the idea that prevails among those who have studied this subject :

Whereas, the metric system of weights and measures has been adopted and is in use in all civilized countries except Great Britain, the United States of America and Russia ; and

Whereas, from the growing interest manifested by the Parliament of Great Britain and the Congress of the United States, who have both legalized the metric system, there is good reason to believe that they will, in the near future, adopt its exclusive use, when we shall have no other course but to follow their lead.

Resolved, that in order to prepare for its introduction in Canada, it is advisable to make the merits of the metric system known and appreciated by encouraging its teaching in the public schools and by giving a practical illustration of its working in applying it, as far as possible, to the business transactions of our public departments.

Of course, we have not the control of education. All we can do, and I think it is fully justified—as the question of weights and measures is entrusted to us—is to distribute these tangible illustrations of the value and beauty of the metric system. It has been the greatest satisfaction to me to receive so many requests for the collections and charts.

Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.) May I ask if any of these have been sent to Prince Edward Island ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Certainly, some must have been sent. I have

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a list of the names. I think my hon. friend has asked me for one. If my hon. friend knows any educational institution in Prince Edward Island that would like one, and would study the system and apply it, I shall be glad to send one, if my hon. friend will only give me the address. I have still about a dozen to spare.

Mr. KAULBACH. I would ask the minister to send one to the Academy of my town, Lunenburg.

Mr. MARTIN. I asked the minister the other day in conversation, if all the colleges in Prince Edward Island had been supplied, and he told me the Prince of Wales College and St. Dunstan's College had not been furnished.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I cannot say exactly what institutions have been furnished. I told the hon. gentleman, I would send to the addresses that he gave me.

Inspection of Staples—Purchase and distribution of standards of grains, flours and other expenditure under the Act, including salary of raw hide inspector.... \$4,500

Mr. TAYLOR. I see the statement that the amount was \$9,500 last year. What is the reason of the decrease ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Last year \$5,000 was voted to the Grain Commission, the result of their work I communicated to the House by means of the Bill we discussed the other day.

Mr. TAYLOR. The minister includes in this vote the salary of the hide inspector. Is there one hide inspector for the Dominion ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. There is only one paid chief inspector, the others are paid by fees. All the inspectors at Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and other places, are paid by fees, while the chief inspector is paid a salary. The chief inspector is Mr. George Roy, of Quebec. He was a tanner, a man of great experience, who appeared perfectly qualified for the work. I may mention that the inspection is not compulsory. As long as inspection is not compulsory, naturally there is a certain difficulty in regularizing the work of the inspectors. A system of compulsory inspection prevailed for nearly every one of the articles that comes under the inspection system, up to 1883 or 1884, then it was abolished. As I told my hon. friend this afternoon, I made an effort once or twice to introduce a Bill to restore compulsory inspection, but the opposition was so strong, and in view of the fact that there was no such inspection in the United States or in England, I hesitated to propose to the House a system of compulsory inspection.

Mr. TAYLOR. When was Mr Roy appointed ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. He was appointed about three years ago, at a salary of \$1,500.

Mr. TAYLOR. His expenses last year were \$275.52. What is the necessity of a chief inspector, when there is no compulsory inspection ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If the hon. gentleman will come to my office, I will show him a circular that I sent to the chief inspector, and to all the inspectors. I asked the chief inspector to make a regular programme of what he considers the best mode of inspection. When I got his programme, I sent copies to all the local inspectors, and asked them to report. They have not all reported yet, but I have received the reports of a good many, who approved entirely of the programme indicated by the chief inspector. My intention now, is to see if it is possible to get these inspectors to inspect according to that programme. Now, there is great difficulty. I am told that the value of hides in certain cities, is one or two cents a pound more than in other cities. Evidently that results from the inspection. But on the question of compulsory inspection I am not ready to give a decided opinion, and I do not think any one in this House is ready either.

Mr. TAYLOR. I want to know what the duties of Mr. Roy are, and what is the necessity of his appointment ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. As I said to the hon. gentleman, if he will come to my office, I will show him the correspondence, and he will see that I have tried as much as possible to get the chief inspector to equalize all our inspections and visit the inspectors. We have not decided yet on compulsory inspection. What can we do ? Either have no inspection at all, or have such an inspection as we have got now, which is certainly better than nothing.

Mr. TAYLOR. This gentleman lives at Quebec, and the other inspectors are scattered all over the country. Does the inspector travel from Quebec and visit these local inspectors all over the Dominion ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes, he travels to different places, he came to Ottawa and Toronto. Of course it is impossible for me to say exactly where he was last.

Mr. TAYLOR. I find that his account for last year is as follows :

Georges Roy, inspector, salary	\$1,500 00
Railway fares and pullmans, \$103; hotel expenses, 16½ d., \$37.50	140 50
Cab-hire; inspection at Quebec, \$25.65 ;	
cab-hire, inspection elsewhere, \$35.10..	60 75

Typewriting, \$16.50 ; expenses, meeting of Chamber of Commerce, \$4.75.....	21 25
'La Semaine Commerciale'—article on inspection of hides and fifty copies of paper	6 00
Leliève & Frère, Quebec : desk, \$25 ; sofa, \$9 ; chairs, 6 at \$1.50.....	43 00
Telegrams, \$4.02 ; telephone, \$2.60 ; ferries, 40c.....	7 02

Making a total of \$1,775. He certainly did not travel very much outside of Quebec and up to Ottawa and back, judging from the fares that are here.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. He went to Hamilton and Toronto.

Mr. TAYLOR. He may have run up to Hamilton. I have received a letter from a prominent tanner stating that this gentleman does practically nothing but draw his salary and that it is useless to pay him this salary. The gentleman who wrote me this letter is a supporter of this government. He says that this man does nothing but draw his salary, that it is useless to keep him employed, unless you make the inspection of hides compulsory. You cannot force these local men to carry out any instructions if they are not officials of the government.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). They are officials of the government.

Mr. TAYLOR. They are but they cannot compel any seller of hides to have his hides inspected. It looks as if this is to give a man a job at \$1,500 a year and expenses.

The PRIME MINISTER. Although you have not compulsory inspection, there is apparently an inspection going on at different places in Canada, and the duties of this inspector are to see that you have uniformity, and unless you have these inspections to go on regularly you would not have uniformity of inspection. The hon. gentleman knows, if he has been in communication with the tanners, that they desire uniformity of inspection.

Mr. TAYLOR. If there is to be uniformity it is very easy for the department to prepare instructions and send them out to local officers. It is not necessary to keep this inspector in this place. He has never visited the different parts of Canada.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The hon. gentleman should not say that he has never done it. That is a bad joke.

Mr. TAYLOR. You have inspectors at Vancouver, Halifax and Winnipeg. Has he ever visited these places ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If the hon. gentleman wants to ask me where the inspector has been he should put a question on the paper, and I will inquire where he has gone.

Mr. TAYLOR. Certainly the hon. gentleman could inform the committee whether he has visited these points or not.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. No, I cannot.

Mr. TAYLOR. Can you positively say that he has visited any of these places?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think he has been in Toronto and other places.

Mr. TAYLOR. I think this is a useless expenditure, and I move that the item be reduced by \$1,500.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) should never have asked for a vote of this House to pay a salary to Mr. Roy, the chief inspector, if it were not thought that compulsory inspection would be adopted. I am quite certain that no person would ever have thought of having such an officer if it were not with the view of compulsory inspection. But, public opinion was so strong against compulsory inspection that I think the minister should hesitate before adopting it, and I think he need not hesitate to abandon the idea entirely. I am sure that the inspectors are anxious to inspect in every case in which it can be done, but they cannot demand to be allowed to inspect, because the inspection is purely a voluntary matter on the part of those having the hides. I think the government might very well dispense with Mr. Roy. If uniformity of inspection is desired that can be secured from the department. It may be said that you want rules. If you want rules you can employ Mr. Roy to make rules without employing him as a salaried officer. But, the rules are not of such an important character that it requires a man of great technical skill and experience to draw them. I should judge, that they could be very easily obtained. When the government employed Mr. Roy it was in the mind of the government that there would be compulsory inspection and since that has failed, the government should abandon this office too.

Minor Revenues—Inland Revenue \$200

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This is in connection with ferries, because we have charge of interprovincial and international ferries. We are called upon to ask for tenders for licenses to be renewed and one thing and another and this amount is to meet that. I do not know about these three first items. I only know about the last one.

Customs—Civil Government \$37,600

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I have a few explanations, and I can get through before twelve o'clock with

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the customs, civil government and contingencies' vote.

Mr. FOSTER. I rather think my hon. friend cannot get through by twelve o'clock.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have the explanations here and I will give them.

Mr. FOSTER. If you gave them to-night they would fade from our memories, and you would only have to repeat them on Monday. We have been here since three o'clock this afternoon, and I think we had better adjourn now.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There is an increase of \$900 in civil government, and it can be explained in this way—

Mr. FOSTER. There are things in this department we will have to discuss. The very first moment we come to Customs Department I want to discuss the Lemieux matter, and if the minister wants to take it up to-night then we will take it. This is a most important matter, a matter in which the department was grossly derelict, and I would not feel I was doing my duty unless I discussed it the very first moment the items are taken up. I have the papers here and I can discuss it if necessary.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Lemieux does not come within this item.

Mr. FOSTER. But he is a customs officer, and the Department of Customs has not done its duty.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He comes under the inspector's branch.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not propose to wait until it comes to that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. We cannot go on if the hon. gentleman wants to bring that matter up.

Mr. FOSTER. I certainly do.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The discussion could come up more properly on the inspector's office where Mr. Lemieux is.

Mr. FOSTER. I quite know where he is.

The PRIME MINISTER. Then it is not in order to discuss it on this vote.

Mr. FOSTER. I think it is.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. This vote is for the inside service and Mr. Lemieux is in the outside service.

Mr. FOSTER. He has been too long on the inside.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am only taking the inside service and I wish to explain that one second-class clerk in receipt of \$1,150 is to be made a first-class clerk at an increase of \$250. We give four first-class clerks an increase of \$50 each which makes \$200 more. We give three of the second-class clerks an increase of \$50 which makes \$150 more, and we give the six third-class clerks—all who are eligible in the third-class—\$50 each which would make \$300. If that item passes we can go on to contingencies.

Mr. CLANCY. This raises the whole question of the policy of the government in giving the statutory increases to their favourites and shutting out others. The service is becoming demoralized under this system introduced by the present government and the Minister of Customs has never given any satisfactory reason why it should be continued. The committee should insist upon knowing why the minister has selected some clerks for these favours while others have been left out.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In the case of the third-class clerks whose salaries are not large, no distinction has been made and the increase was given on the report of the commissioner.

Mr. POWELL. Are these all the third-class clerks there are in the department?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes. In the other classes, we select those who were the heads of the departments, having considerable responsibilities, with the exception of one or two; Mr. Saunders for instance, who might be described as secretary of the commissioner, and Miss Christie, who is also engaged with the private secretary. Mr. Breadner is the chief check clerk. He has \$1,300 and he gets \$50 increase. Through the working of the department Mr. Breadner who is chief clerk, gets a lower salary than some of the gentlemen working under him. Mr. Bliss is head of the correspondence branch, and he gets an increase of \$50.

Mr. CLANCY. Do you give an increase to all second-class clerks?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Mr. CLANCY. Then explain why some have been selected for the statutory increases and some have not.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have explained to the hon. gentleman that those selected are those who have heavy responsibilities thrown on them. All the third-class clerks who have rather poor salaries get the increase. In the first-class clerks Mr. Farrow is the accountant, Mr. Code is the assistant accountant, Mr. Saunders is the secretary of the commissioner, and Mr. Morin is at the head of the seizure branch.

Mr. CLANCY. The explanation given simply condemns the minister's past conduct. When he adopted the system of preventing the statutory increases these third-class clerks were in the same position they are in to-day, and yet the minister made his selections and distributed his favours then as he is doing now. It is a proper thing for him to give an increase to the third-class clerks, who no doubt have small salaries, but the minister ought to have thought of that before. It simply shows how bad the system is that the minister has adopted in the past. I for one would be willing to see the service put on a good footing by weeding out the incompetent officials, so that those who are faithfully performing their duties should receive their statutory advance from year to year. That is the only healthy and wholesome system, under which men will depend on getting and keeping in favour with those who make the recommendations. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman to tell the committee who has made the recommendations for the statutory increases in these cases. There is absolutely no end to the evil that will follow a system of that kind, and the sooner the hon. gentleman gets rid of it the better. If there are men in the service not earning their salary, let us weed them out; it may be a painful task, but let us not escape from it by demoralizing the service by another system which the hon. gentleman is forced to recede from after having had some experience of it.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the minister tell us which of the first-class clerks have not been recommended for statutory increases?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The deputy recommended Mr. Bennett, who was made chief clerk last year, Mr. Blakeney, Mr. McKeil and Mr. Fawcett, and not the others.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has only given three second-class clerks the statutory increase.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, Mr. Bliss, Miss Christie and Mr. Breadner.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the reason for not giving it to the others?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The commissioner thought he would give it to the heads of the different branches. For instance, Mr. Breadner, who is chief clerk, is in receipt of less salary than some of the gentlemen under him. Mr. Bliss is the head of the correspondence branch. If we were making an all-round advance of \$50 each, it would be a simple matter; but the hon. gentleman knows that that has not been the policy of the government, and I concurred in the recommendation of the

commissioner. I thought the line which he took was fair, and would commend itself to fair-minded men under the circumstances.

Mr. FOSTER. If you give increases only to the heads of branches, where will the others come in?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is for this year.

Mr. FOSTER. What excuse will the hon. gentleman have next year?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The commissioner may think it desirable to make other advances.

Mr. CLANCY. Why should the commissioner think or not think in regard to a matter of that kind? Surely there ought to be some rule which would not leave it to the whim of the commissioner whether an advance should be made or not. The more the hon. gentleman turns the system over the worse it appears. It is a scandalous rule, and no civil servant should be subjected to it.

Mr. FOSTER. It amounts to simply a system of favouritism. The worst phase of that is the effect it has on the service itself. Every man in the service knows that from the beginning of the year to the end of it he has to get influence with the minister in some way or other, or he will not get the statutory increase. Every man knows that he will not get it because he does his duty well, but by an outside or an inside pull, he has to get into the favour of the minister. Everybody can see the effect that has on the service. A man who does his duty faithfully and well ought to have equal fair-play with the head of a department. They work about the same hours and each work to the extent of his ability and to the satisfaction of the department. The case is altogether different if a clerk is dilatory or has any habits which prevent him doing his work well. There is good reason for not giving him the statutory increase, or for disciplining him in other ways; but where you have a staff of clerks, each doing the work which a department sets him to do, and doing it well, it must be favouritism when one is taken and another is left; and the effect of that on the service is to make them feel that merit does not count and that a pull is necessary.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has debated the question which has been debated before. I can see all the force of the argument presented from that side of the question; but administering a department as the hon. gentleman has done

Mr. PATERSON.

himself, he knows that without seeking any favouritism at all, if a department were being administered like a large commercial house, he would find certain persons who, by their attention, their capabilities, or perhaps the nature of their duties, would receive more than others who might perhaps do as much work. For instance, take Mr. Breadner's case. Under this system of advances year after year, men under him have been getting larger salaries than he has. He feels the responsibility of staying after hours, while other men do not feel the responsibility. I have had Mr. Breadner there working sometimes at nine o'clock at night. I think that the commissioner of my department is in his office until eleven o'clock every night in the year. Miss Christie, his assistant secretary in the minister's office, never thinks of going away until nearly six o'clock. The others, under the rule which, I think, is established with us, leave at five o'clock. They do not feel that responsibility which those who are at the head of my department, and who remain later. I see the force of what the hon. gentleman says with reference to this looking like favouritism, but sneaking for myself I can say that the department is administered without favouritism. As a rule, those third-class clerks were not getting sufficient salary, considering the expense of living in Ottawa, and I thought they were entitled to an increase. But when it came to the others, whose salaries are fair, I do not think I would be justified in increasing them. But those who are at the head of the department, and who stay beyond hours to see that things are put through, I thought were entitled to an increase. While there is some advantage in having a uniform advancement, that ought to be done on some other system than that of first, second and third-class clerk. It ought to be based on different classes of work. All work cannot be alike. In some of the departments the work is purely routine. I need not mention the particular departments, but you can put a man in some of them at \$700 or \$800, and in a month or two he would be doing just as good work as the one alongside of him does, who, by dint of the annual increase of \$50, has reached a salary of \$700. I think with this explanation that this vote might be carried and we will pass on to contingencies.

Mr. TAYLOR. Surely the hon. gentleman will not go on with contingencies. There is one item in the Auditor General's Report for 7,000 newspaper wrappers, amounting to \$9.80.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.20 a.m. (Saturday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, May 28, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

YUKON—THE JOHN C. BARR—INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I desire to call the attention of the government at this stage to a matter of some urgency, now that the session has reached May 28. It is the case I have so often mentioned, that of the *John C. Barr*. As far back as May 7, I began to call attention to the incompleteness of that return, and was in hopes that it would be completed by the time the papers were printed. The letter relates to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and, I suppose, has been overlooked. On May 7, I pointed out to the Department of Marine and Fisheries that there were two letters that had not been replied to, one was of November 10 and the other of November 15. The letter from the department to the collector, of November 10, is included in the papers brought down, the letter of the 15th was not included. The order of the House covered all letters, and, obviously, there would be no objection to bringing that down, so I take it that was an oversight. At any rate, on May 7, I called attention to the fact that that letter of November 15, from the Department of Marine to the collector, had not been brought down. Then, recently, for the second or third time, I called the attention of the government again to what seemed to be an omission in another respect, and that was that Mr. Ogilvie's report that he was asked to make had not been brought down, and the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) asked me to send a memorandum across the House, and I did so. Since then I have a letter from the secretary of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), which may be the final answer, but—I think the Prime Minister will see my point—it is not necessarily so. He says:

By direction of the Minister of Customs, I beg to send you herewith copy of a letter from William Ogilvie, Commissioner of the Yukon, addressed to the Commissioner of this department, under date of June 20, 1899. You will observe certain notes by the Commissioner of the department appended to the copy.

Now, I want to point out that there is no answer yet from the government that this is the only report of Mr. Ogilvie. On its face it would not seem to be a report at all. Mr. Ogilvie, on May 6, 1899, was asked to investigate and report in regard, not to the valuation of the *John C. Barr* merely, but in regard to the charge that had been made

that a fraudulent registry had been obtained, that is to say, that a Canadian registry was obtained in the name of a British subject, when the vessel was really owned by United States citizens. In the letter of instructions to Mr. Ogilvie, he is asked to investigate and report in reference to that. Now, the report which is referred to by the secretary of the minister, is as follows:

I am in receipt of yours of the 6th in regard to the valuation of the 'John C. Barr' for Canadian registry:

Then, he goes on to deal only with the question of valuation, as I have been pointing out. Now, I desire to explain that that may be the only report Mr. Ogilvie has sent, but I cannot assume that it is, because it does not purport to deal with the main charge at all. If the Minister of Customs will say to me across the floor of the House that this is the only report, it would satisfy my query. There should, it seems to me, be a report from Mr. Ogilvie as to the charge he was asked to investigate and report upon. But, the letter I have received, through the courtesy of the minister outside of the House, does not definitely state that was the only report that was obtained from Mr. Ogilvie on the subject of the *John C. Barr*. So, the matter stands incomplete. Then, perhaps the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) would allow me to say, while I am on my feet, that on May 7 I called his attention to the fact that an order of the House of May 29, 1899, had not been complied with. That asked for the report of Mr. W. H. Lynch, and the return gives only a draft report, which is, on its face, supplementary to the report, and in these papers Mr. Lynch refers to his main report. The order asked for the main report, and on May 7 of this year I called the attention of the House to that omission.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I would say to the hon. gentleman, speaking now from memory, that I gave instructions that every attempt should be made to get everything we could for the hon. gentleman. My recollection at the present moment is, that I said to some of my officers: It seems to me that does not cover what the hon. member has asked for. I think they said there must be a mistake in the date of the Ogilvie letter, if I remember rightly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is explained.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Well, the returns were intended to be as full and as precise as I could give to the hon. gentleman. If he wants me to ask again whether there is any other communication from Mr. Ogilvie on the subject of the *John C. Barr*, I will ask that directly.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Thank you, that is all I want to know.

PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS FOR TORONTO.

Mr. McMULLEN (by Mr. Flint) asked :

What amount of money has been paid to each of the present sitting members for the city of Toronto over and above their sessional indemnity and mileage, by the government of Canada, from the 1st of January, 1879, to the 1st of January, 1897 ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The following sums were paid to Mr. E. F. Clarke, as proprietor of the *Orange Sentinel* :—

1883-4, advertising	\$190 85
1884-5 "	83 25
1885-6 " .....	.....
1886-7 "	131 90
1887-8 "	96 10
1888-9 "	161 90
1889-90 "	123 80
1890-1 "	153 75
1891-2 "	187 80
1891-2, printing voters' lists.....	892 43
1892-3, advertising	74 70
1893-4 "	42 50
1894-5 "	40 30
1894-5, printing voters' lists.....	1,299 10
1895-6, advertising	17 85

Total\$3,496 23

E. F. Clarke, as commissioner on liquor traffic :

	Salary.	Allowance	Expenses.
1891-2	\$170 00	\$ 36 00	\$ 81 40
1892-3	680 00	316 00	217 77
1893-4	410 00	120 00	107 00
1894-5	160 00	64 00	106 50
	<u>\$1,420</u>	<u>\$536 00</u>	<u>\$512 67</u>

Total\$2,468 67

The following payments were made to Mr. J. Ross-Robertson, proprietor of the *Telegram* :—

1883-4, advertising	\$328 70
1884-5 "	372 00
1885-6 "	108 00
1886-7 "	287 30
1887-8 "	429 00
1888-9 "	339 90
1889-90 "	41 40
1890-1 "	79 10
1891-2 "	9 50
1892-3 "	8 00
1893-4 "	15 45
1894-5 "	34 89
1895-6 " .....	.....
1896-7 "	3 00

Total\$2,056 24

I. C. R.—FREIGHT BROUGHT INTO MONTREAL.

Mr. POWELL (by Mr. Casgrain) asked :

How many tons of freight traffic destined to Montreal have been brought into Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway during the period from December 1 last to March 31 last? Also during the year ending June 30, 1899? How many tons of freight traffic destined to points west of Montreal were brought into Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway during the period from De-

ember 1 last to March 31 last? Also during the year ending June 30, 1899?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The number of tons of freight destined to Montreal, brought into Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway :—From December, 1899, to March 1, 1900, 35,250 tons; during year ended June 30, 1899, 86,085 tons. The number of tons of freight destined to points west of Montreal, brought into Montreal by the Intercolonial Railway :—From December, 1899, to March 1, 1900, 18,399 tons; during year ended June 30, 1899, 55,746 tons.

Mr. WALLACE. The question asked for a statement for four months, and not three.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. We are asked to make a return up to March 31. but I have only been able to give it to March 1.

YUKON TERRITORY—HYDRAULIC LEASE TO MR. ROBERT ANDERSON.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

Referring to return, May 10, 1899, re hydraulic lease two and one-half miles of Bunker Creek, and order in council January 12, 1898:

1. What evidence, if any, had the department that Robert Anderson was a mining engineer of London, Eng., when the order passed?

2. What evidence, if any, had it that he was an experienced miner?

3. Is Robert Anderson, mentioned in the order in council of January 12, 1898, the writer of the following letter now upon the Table of this House?

Copy.

(Exhibit A.)

E.E.S.

Juneau 3rd July 1897.

dear Sam we arraved here thise morning and am leaving here for Yukon to Morrow Morning, we will have to pay \$18 per 100 lbs. for packing across the pass about 30 miles to the Lakes, where we buy a Boat. I will here tell you my plan on wich I intened to operate, As soon as we get there i am goeing to bond all of the rich claims that i kan get there, and there is also a large amount of Land wich will pay \$10 pr day to the man, wich Nobody wants at present that i am goeing to try and get hold of, then i am goeing to get out here thise fall wich gives us a Chance to float a Company in London thise Koming Vinter, and that will be an easy matter to float a Company of that description, because the Gold will be in sight, and the Claims proved thise summer, I am sure that i will get something good on thise trip therefore dont bother muche about travelling around looking at properties down there, Capt. Miner will stay at Clondyke during the Vinter and bond all good tings that he may see for us, and the News from there is the best that i ever heard from any mining camp, the Mail Carrier has arraved here from Clondyke a couple of days agoe, and he brings the News that the two Claims was sold there thise spring one for \$30,000 and the other for \$50,000, only a few Dollars payed down on sale then the purchasers went to work and in a month they took out the Money from the claims and payed for

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

them. My Opinion is that there will be the greatest Mining Excitement there next spring that we have ever seen, and you know that I do not boast much about mining, but I feel sure that we will make all the money that we will need in the next two years; there is native copper in large quantities also and I hear that they have found Quartz also rich.

Keep this quietly until I come out this fall, of course you may write and tell the people in London to be ready for a good sure thing, meantime take it easy and don't worry.

Your partner, ROBT. ANDERSON.

My kind greetings to Clorinas.

4. In what particulars did the terms of the lease authorized on January 12, 1898, before the order in council, differ from this applicable to an application not covered by the said order in council?

(a) Before the said order in council was passed?

(b) Since the order in council was passed?

5. Referring to the 5th clause of the order in council providing that in addition to the rental of \$500, the lessee should pay a royalty of 10 per cent on the output after it exceeds \$20,000—how does this provision, compared with the provisions after the said order, apply to other leases?

6. Referring to the said clause 5 and the provision for the royalty of 10 per cent on a certain amount, 'as shown by sworn returns to be furnished monthly by him to the gold commissioner,' what is the provision respecting the amount on which royalty is paid generally in the Yukon, that is to say, how is the said amount to be ascertained, whether by sworn returns or otherwise?

7. When was the protest of November 30, 1897, against this lease received?

8. What action, if any, was taken upon it to verify the allegation contained therein?

9. When was the protest of February 4, 1898, received?

10. Did the Department of the Interior inform a committee of miners (who had protested against granting a lease) through the commissioner on April 19, 1898, that Mr. Anderson was given a lease of these bars, and I do not see that anything can be done to cancel it?

11. If so, was the statement accurate?

12. When was the lease actually granted?

13. Did Mr. Anderson inform the Hon. Mr. Sifton on December 12, 1898, that he had 'transferred benefit of order in council relating to Hunker Creek concession to Klondike Government Concession Company'?

14. Referring to following cable:

London, Dec. 12, 1898.

Sifton,

Minister of Interior,
Ottawa.

Referring to order in council dated January 12 for grant of lease on Hunker Creek to Robert Anderson already transferred to him by Klondike Government Concession (Limited), by transfer registered Dawson, July 29; capitalists here are ready to issue company, but before doing so directors desire your assurance that grant of lease will be made to company direct; about \$50,000 has already been expended by capitalists in good faith. Anderson showed them your letter of May 13 to McLagan; Belcourt will see you. Kindly cable immediately.

(Sgd.) BURN & BERRIDGE,
11 Old Broad Street,
London Company's Solicitors.

15. Referring to the following cables:

Department of Interior,
Ottawa, December 13, 1898.

Robert Anderson,
Hotel Cecil,
London.

Belcourt advised lease will issue to you forthwith and sent London for your execution. Department will consent assignment to company if in proper form.

(Sgd.) SMART,
Deputy Minister of Interior.

London December 16, 1898.

Sifton,

Minister of Interior,
Ottawa.

Have seen your cable to Anderson dated 13th this so far satisfactory, but capitalists, although anxious to order machinery forthwith to ensure working during coming season stipulate for lease being previously vested in company utmost importance save time Anderson sending Belcourt power of attorney to execute lease his behalf and to transfer to company who also sending Belcourt power of attorney to do what is necessary its behalf is this satisfactory.

(Sgd.) BURN & BERRIDGE,
Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, December 16, 1898.

Burn & Berridge,
London.

Yes.

(Sgd.) SIFTON.

15. What information had the department at those dates that the company mentioned would be as suitable as 'Mr. Robt. Anderson, mining engineer,' and 'Mr. Robt. Anderson, who is an experienced miner,' 'who should be given an opportunity to ascertain whether or not hydraulic mining was practicable in the tract applied for' (quotation refer to order in council, January 12, 1898) to test the experiment?

16. What information at this time did the department possess as to the parties interested in this company?

17. Has the government any information as to the sworn statement of the alleged partners of Mr. Anderson that Mr. Anderson conveyed his mining properties to the above company for \$2,500,000.

18. Is the government aware that Mr. Anderson received £5,000 on March 4, 1898, in respect of his interest in the said order in council?

19. When, if at all, was the necessary hydraulic machinery in operation on the ground?

20. Have all the terms of the order in council been carried out?

21. If not, in what respect has there been default?

22. What returns, if any, have been furnished to the gold commissioner?

23. What has been the output, if any?

24. What royalty, if any, has been paid?

25. In whose or what name is the title to the two and one-half miles on Hunker Creek at present?

26. What has been the result of the experiment referred to in the order in council up to date so far as the department is concerned?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1 and 2. There was no evidence other than that shown by the papers included in the return referred to and Mr. Anderson's own statement to that effect. 3. The only evidence in the depart-

ment as to who is the writer of the letter in question is the statement of Mr. D. G. Macdonell, who was the solicitor for Mr. S. Lichtenstader in a suit against Mr. Anderson and who forwarded the copy of the letter to the department on December 28, 1898. In this connection it might be well to state that it is understood that Mr. Anderson is a Swedish mining engineer, and possibly has not fully acquired the facility of expressing himself in the English language.

4. (a) No leases were issued before the lease to Mr. Anderson was authorized on January 12, 1898. (b) The lease authorized by order in council of January 12, 1898, provided:—1. An annual rental of \$500, being at the rate of \$200 per mile frontage. 2. A royalty of 10 per cent on the gross output after the total amount exceeds \$20,000. 3. The location to be operated by hydraulic mining machinery within one year from the date of the lease and if during one season when hydraulic mining operations can be properly carried on the lessee shall fail to maintain and keep the said hydraulic machinery in good and satisfactory working order, the lease shall become void unless the minister shall otherwise decide. The lease also provides that the location shall be worked by the method of mining known as hydraulic mining. The differences between this lease and the ones authorized by order in council of December 3, 1898, are as follows:—The latter would allow the lessees to work the claim by hydraulic or other mining process, whereas the lease issued to Mr. Anderson provided that the location should be worked by the method of mining known as hydraulic mining. Leases under the regulations exempt from royalty \$25,000 of the annual output, the royalty to be paid in the manner provided in the regulations governing placer mining. The lease issued to Mr. Anderson provided that a royalty of 10 per cent should be charged on the gross output after the total amount thereof exceeded \$20,000. The rental under the regulations is \$150 per mile. The lease to Anderson fixed a rental of \$200 per mile.

5. The regulations allow an exemption of \$25,000 of the output, after which 10 per cent is to be charged as royalty. 6. By sworn returns. 7. April 21, 1898. 8. No action was considered necessary, the gold commissioner had reported, when submitting Mr. Anderson's application, that the tract applied for had been passed over by individual prospectors and it was not considered likely to give sufficient returns to make placer mining profitable; and that he approved of any encouragement to introduce mining by the hydraulic method. It might be added, that Mr. Anderson was advised on January 17, 1898, that the location had been granted, the lease to issue on his filing plan of survey. 9. The 19th April, 1898. 10. The commissioner was advised on April 19, 1898, as follows:—

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

I beg to say that on the representations of the gold commissioner, Mr. Anderson was given a lease of these bars, and I do not see that anything can be done to cancel it, at all events, in the meantime.

11. Though the lease had not issued an order in council had been passed granting the lease on submission of proper survey returns. 12. The 24th December, 1898. 13. Yes. 14. (No question asked.) 15. The department had no information. It was understood, however, that Mr. Anderson had undertaken to secure the necessary capital in the old country to assist in developing the claim. 16. No special information. 17. Nothing further than what is shown by the papers already brought down. 18. No. 19. The only report received as to the work done on the claim is the following from the chairman and managing director of the company on August 20, 1899:—

Before we left England in May an extensive plant had been shipped to work the Hunker Creek ground, but owing to transportation difficulties which we could not have foreseen, the plant did not reach Dawson as soon as we expected. The result is that so far as productive work this year is concerned, the machinery sent from England will be of little use. Acting on the advice of two well known hydraulic experts whom we employed for the purpose, plans for the working of the property on a large scale, and by methods best calculated to secure profitable results, have been prepared, and additional machinery, specially adapted for such operations and of the most modern type, has been purchased, partly in Dawson and partly in Vancouver. This coupled with the machinery that had previously been sent out from England, will provide the company with an exceptionally complete and efficient plant, all of which will be in position and ready to commence operations at an early date. A good deal of sinking and drifting work remains to be done to determine the extent, direction, value and other conditions of the pay gravel in the property. For this purpose a numerous staff of men has been employed, and the indications so far are of a very promising character.

20. At the request of the Klondike Government Concession (Limited), the assignees of Mr. Anderson, a lease under the regulations of December 3, 1898, for the disposal of mining locations to be worked by hydraulic or other mining process, was issued in their favour on February 12, 1900. This lease was in substitution for the one issued under the order in council of January 12, 1898, but no reduction was made in the annual rental of \$200, although the annual rental under the regulations of December 3, 1898, is \$150 per mile frontage. The annual rental has been paid and it would appear from the report referred to in answer to question 19 that the other conditions of the lease are being complied with. No official report, however, has been received. 21. Answered by reply to 20. 22. The department has no information of any returns furnished the gold commissioner. 23. No report. 24. No report showing payment of royalty on gold

taken from this location. 25. The Klondike Government Concession (Limited). 26. No reports having been received, the department is not in a position to furnish this information.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) be good enough to cause to be laid on the Table of the House the report of, I think, August 20, 1899, to which he referred and in which is a large part he has read, and also the lease granted in substitution for the old lease.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There can be no objection, I think, to laying copies of these on the Table.

INSPECTOR OF FISHERIES, MANITOBA.

Mr. ROCHE asked :

1. Is the government aware that the present inspector of fisheries for Manitoba is chairman and part owner of the Selkirk 'Journal' Company, a strong Liberal paper published in Selkirk ?

2. Is the government aware that the office of the inspector is in the printing office and is also the editor's office ?

3. Has the present inspector made any inspection of the fisheries of the lakes since his appointment ? If so, how many ?

4. Is it a fact that the department refused to furnish the inspector his expenses while inspecting his fisheries ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). To the first and second questions the answer is 'no.' To the third question the answer is 'yes.' Two of Lake Winnipegosis. To the fourth question the answer is 'no.'

MONTREAL POST OFFICE.

Mr. MONK asked :

1. Do the postal regulations authorize the imposition of fines upon the post office employees in Montreal ?

2. Is the government aware that the postmaster in Montreal has imposed fines lately upon the postal employees there upon the most trifling pretexts ?

3. What become of the said fines ?

4. Is it the intention of the government to reimburse the amount of said fines, inasmuch as it is the first time such fines have been imposed within the last twenty years ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. The postal regulations do not bear upon the subject. 2. The government is not aware that the postmaster at Montreal has imposed fines lately upon the postal employees there upon most trifling pretexts. On the contrary the fines so imposed were because of material neglects of duty. 3. Such fines become part of the consolidated revenue. 4. It is not the case that this is the first time fines have been imposed within the last twenty years. On the contrary it has been the practice of the department not only for the last twenty

years, but throughout its whole history to impose fines when the circumstances warranted such action.

SCHOONER JAMES BECKWITH.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. Was fishing bounty paid the schooner 'James Beckwith' of River Bourgeois, owned by William Levesconte and Sons, for the season 1899 ?

2. If not, why has the bounty been withheld ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). To the first question the answer is 'no,' and to the second question the answer is: Because she was not engaged the length of time in fishing required by law.

Mr. GILLIES. Has the minister a report from his officers to that effect ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They must have or they could not give me the answer. I am only reading the official answer.

Mr. GILLIES. Would the hon. gentleman be good enough to bring down the report.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot say without seeing the report. I will look at the report.

Mr. GILLIES. How am I to know ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Move for it.

Mr. GILLIES. This is a matter of importance and I cannot move for it at this stage of the session.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is not open to discuss the question.

Mr. GILLIES. No, but I would ask the minister would he be good enough to lay the report on the Table. Will he give me an answer to-morrow ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I cannot give an answer until I see the report.

Mr. GILLIES. Will the minister give me an answer to-morrow whether that report will be laid on the Table or not ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

JACOB SHEEHAN—FISHING BOUNTY.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

Was fishing bounty paid one Jacob Sheehan, of River Bourgeois, county of Richmond, for the seasons of 1898 and 1899 ?

If so, what amount was paid him during each of these years respectively ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Fishing bounty was paid to Jacob Sheehan, for the year 1898, but not for 1899. The amount paid him for 1898, was \$4.50.

ALLEGED ELECTION FRAUDS—JUDICIAL INQUIRY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the right hon. gentleman the leader of the government to the pledge which he gave to the House some little time ago, that there should be appointed immediately a commission composed of the best judges in the land to investigate and report for the information of the House in reference to charges of electoral corruption. We have waited with considerable patience for some time past, and I wish to ask the Prime Minister if he is now in a position to state to the House: How soon that commission will issue; who the judges are of which it is to be composed; how soon they will be able to enter on the discharge of their duties; and the scope of the inquiry and the instructions that will be given to the commission.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). This is information to which the House is certainly entitled. I have to say to my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper), that the personnel of the commission has been settled, and that the scope of the commission has also been very well advanced. But the work of proceeding with the commission and the announcement to the public has been somewhat delayed from the fact that the Minister of Justice is not in very good health, and he is away from Ottawa just now. We expect him in the middle of the week and as soon as he has come back, or immediately after, the commission will be issued and all the information which my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) has just asked for will be given to the House.

Mr. WALLACE. But the session may be over before that.

The PRIME MINISTER. I said this week.

INCOMPLETE RETURN RE YUKON SS. YUKONER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I wish to state to the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), that the return in the case of the ss. *Yukoner* is by no means satisfactory. It does not cover the important questions which I withdrew, on the minister stating to me that the return would give the information I desired to obtain. It does not contain any information as to the opinion of the Department of Justice to which Mr. Davis in his letter refers. It does not even contain the letter of April 5, addressed to the Deputy Minister of Justice, from which the Minister of Customs read in part during the discussion; nor the reply thereto. Those are all absent from these papers, and that being the case many of the questions

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

which I put are not met at all. I had hoped that the hon. gentleman, having recognized the desire I had, would have included in the return even a memorandum stating the ground on which certain documents were not brought down. As the matter stands, it leaves me exactly where I was when I put the questions. I had most of the papers which the hon. gentleman brought down, and I put the question to elicit further information or a statement from a responsible minister that for such reason as he might give he declined to answer such and such question. May I also call the attention of the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) to a very important document which should be got? On May 3 he telegraphed to Mr. Ogilvie to forward a report which ought to have been here long ago. That is a supplement to the annual report which ordinarily should have been presented to the House in February. The hon. gentleman must have expected that report at the usual date, but it did not come, and he was unable to say why it had not come; and on May 3, as he frankly told the House, he had wired to Mr. Ogilvie in regard to it. I asked two questions since in regard to the report, and the last one elicited the statement on May 23, that the hon. gentleman had got no reply to his telegram of May 3, and he was therefore in no position to state to the House when he might expect the report. Hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches will see that it is impossible to deal with that department satisfactorily or consider its estimates, or have any full or proper discussion of the government there during the past year, without Mr. Ogilvie's report; and under the circumstances I should have thought it would have been unnecessary for me to suggest to the acting minister that he should ask Mr. Ogilvie to give the official reason for this extraordinary delay—a delay not merely not anticipated by the department, but of an extraordinary and unprecedented character. I would like to know from the minister if he will take means now to ascertain by wire definitely from Mr. Ogilvie the reason for withholding his report.

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). I may say that I have already done so. As the hon. gentleman knows, I was not in charge of the department until I saw the annual report, with a reference to this report in it. I asked the deputy about it, and he said that Mr. Ogilvie had been asked months ago to make a report, giving a resume of the business for the year, which would be suitable for the annual report; and I understand the annual report was delayed as long as possible in the hope of getting Mr. Ogilvie's report in time to include it. Then I suggested that the main report should be printed, and that Mr. Ogilvie's report should be printed as a supplemental report. About the same time a message was sent to Mr. Ogilvie in regard to it. No an-

swer has been received to that message. In speaking to the deputy again about the report, I requested him to telegraph to Mr. Ogilvie and ask whether the report had been sent, and, if sent and lost, in some way to duplicate it. I can assure the hon. gentleman that we are anxious to have the report, as is shown by our having held back the annual report for several weeks for it. I shall at once make further inquiry of the reason for the delay, and make every possible effort to secure the report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). With regard to the return to which the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has referred, my impression is that everything was brought down except the one letter from the Department of Justice, which I asked him not to press for at present, and which I am sure he would not expect to have brought down if he knew all the circumstances. It is a complicated matter, involving a question of law, and difficult law, and my endeavour is to find out exactly what is right and proper. That letter is not withheld from any desire to shield the officer; but, as the hon. gentleman knows, the matter is not yet closed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. So far so good. I hope the hon. gentleman will not misunderstand my pertinacity in restating my question. I do not do it for the purpose of adding any confusion, but in order that the hon. gentleman may give me, not a general statement that he does not intend to answer the questions, but answers to such questions as he feels he can answer, and a statement with regard to the others which he does not consider it proper to answer. These papers do not give me information which I know exists, and it may be that the hon. gentleman's view is right, that he could not give me that information; and I will restate the questions, and then the hon. gentleman can take the responsibility of declining to answer some and answering others which ought to be answered.

PAYMENT OF SESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorancy). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to bring to the attention of the proper authorities a matter which was brought up on the 23rd of this month by the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron); that is, the payment of the salaries of the sessional clerks, messengers and pages. These people, I am informed, are usually paid every fortnight; but they have not received anything since the 25th of April, and I am informed that their families are suffering severe hardship in consequence. The Minister of Finance stated on the 23rd of May, I believe, that if the \$92,000 were passed for the payment of these salaries, the Auditor General would then, probably, see fit to allow payment to be made. Since then I understand the Sen-

ate employees have been paid on a telegram from the Speaker of the Senate; but the employees of this House have not been paid.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The matter is not one within the control of the government at all. The Auditor General, of course, has the power to refuse the passing of cheques when the appropriations are exhausted, and we reached the stage that he declined to pass any further appropriations for this service. But now that the estimate has passed the House, even although the Senate is not in session and cannot complete the legislation, I still entertain the hope that the Auditor General may, under the circumstances, authorize the necessary cheques to be issued. I trust, that although the proceeding is not technically regular, he will do so, and I should be very glad to sustain him in doing so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). I would like to ask the right hon. the First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) if an opportunity will be given to reach those motions that are purely formal and not a subject of debate, in order that some of the returns desired may be brought down during the session.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I could not agree to the request of my hon. friend, but will talk over the matter with him, which he has in his mind, and perhaps reach the same object he desires to attain.

POINTE AUX TREMBLES LIGHTHOUSE.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Before the Orders are called, I would like to ask the hon. the Minister of Marine (Sir Louis Davies) what steps have been taken to replace the lighthouse at Pointe aux Trembles. The hon. minister is probably aware that the lighthouse was destroyed by fire last autumn, and replaced by a lantern strung from a pole. I am informed that no steps have since been taken to rebuild the lighthouse, and this is a matter of the utmost importance to the navigation between Quebec and Montreal. Perhaps the feeling of the commercial community can be best expressed by the resolution of the 9th May, 1900, passed by La Chambre de Commerce of the district of Montreal:

La chambre de commerce du district de Montréal.

Assemblée du conseil,

Mercredi, le 9 mai 1900.

Présidence de M. Damase Masson, 1er vice-président.

Après délibération, la résolution suivante fut adoptée à l'unanimité des membres présents:

"Attendu qu'au mois d'octobre dernier (1899), un incendie a détruit le phare à la Pointe-aux-Trembles et que la lumière de ce phare a été

remplacée par un simple fanal assujetti sur un poteau ;

“Attendu que cette installation provisoire et des plus rudimentaire ne peut tenir lieu d'un phare surtout en cas de mauvais temps, et afin d'écartier tout prétexte de nature à donner raison aux compagnies d'assurance maritime qui prétendent que la route du Saint-Laurent est négligée.

“Cette chambre prie le gouvernement de vouloir bien faire reconstruire ce phare le plus tôt possible, pour donner à la navigation toute la sécurité et la protection que le commerce en général et le port de Montréal en particulier sont en droit d'exiger.”

Vraie copie.

Le secrétaire.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). My hon. friend gave me no notice of the intention to put this question, and I am unable at the moment to reply. I shall make inquiries and give him the information later.

CRIMINAL CODE (1892) AMENDMENTS.

The House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 137) further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)

(In the Committee.)

Amendment of Mr. Fraser (Guysborough), to section 205 of the Criminal Code, negatived.

Amendment of Mr. Russell, to section 419 of the Criminal Code, agreed to.

Bill reported.

SUPPLY—APPOINTMENTS AT MOOSE-JAW.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. **NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN** (West Assiniboia). Before the House goes into supply, I wish to say a few words with reference to the way things are managed at Moosejaw. I asked the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) a question some time ago with respect to Mr. Gass, of Moosejaw. I regret the Postmaster General is not in his place—

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) will permit me : of course, he is quite within his right if he wishes to make any observations at this time ; but I am sure he will agree with me that it would be more favourable to a proper understanding of the question to be debated if he were to give intention of his notice to move—

Mr. **DAVIN**. I was not going to move.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Or even to discuss—

Mr. **DAVIN**. If the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) wishes, I will postpone what I have to say, and all the more

Mr. **MONK**.

readily as the Postmaster General is not here. But, I give notice that on the next occasion of going into supply, I will call attention to certain grievances we have in connection with the post office at Moosejaw, and an appointment in the Customs Department there.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. It would be better not to bring it up on the next occasion for going into supply, for that is reserved for the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor).

Mr. **DAVIN**. Very well, then ; at an early day.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Civil government—Department of Customs—Clerical and other assistance, including \$1,750 to be paid notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act.... \$7,450

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Explain this, please.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS** (Mr. Paterson). This item shows an increase of \$3,190. The extra clerks paid out of contingencies for 1899-1900, and their salaries are as follows : Fred Norris, \$750 ; W. G. Bishop, \$750 ; Mdme. Jolivet, \$600 ; Miss E. M. Daws, \$540 ; Miss Janet Young, \$490 ; F. J. Slater, \$430 ; W. Wall, \$400 ; and F. Lessard, messenger, \$300 ; total, \$4,260. Increases of \$50 each are to be paid to the first two, that is, Messrs. Norris and Bishop. These are the two gentlemen for whom the words are kept in 'notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act.' As I explained to the committee in previous years, the way these gentlemen came to be employed was this : Subsequent to the passing of the main estimates in committee and before their final adoption, one of the first-class clerks, receiving a salary of \$1,750 died. The main estimate was reduced by \$1,750, and a vote was taken in the supplementaries for the same amount ; and we have used that \$1,750 or a portion of it, to employ the two officers I have named, whose salaries last year were \$750 each.

Mr. **WALLACE**. What are their duties?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS**. Fred Norris is in the correspondence branch, and Mr. W. G. Bishop in the statistical branch. The others, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) will notice, are entitled to increases of \$30 each—that is five of them : Mdme. Jolivet, having attained to \$600, the law does not allow us to give any more. The increase of \$30 to each of five represents an increase of \$150, and Messrs. Norris and Bishop getting \$50 each, this makes an increase of \$250, which, added to the salaries of last year, makes a total of \$4,510. Now, it is proposed to transfer from the Board of Customs and Customs laboratory, the following extra clerks : Miss B. Six-

smith, \$490; George Prentiss, \$430; A. Carriere, \$440; Miss E. Dalton, \$425; Miss B. Mason, \$480; and Miss Low, \$490; total, \$2,755. These were entitled to the statutory increase of \$30, adding \$180, and making a total of \$2,935. Add that to the amount previously shown, and you have a total vote for the extra employees of \$7,445.

Mr. WALLACE. Will the hon. gentleman, while he is on the subject, tell us how many are in the laboratory now?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Miss B. Mason and Miss Low, and Mr. Babington. As I have explained to the committee, these are not extra hands that are being employed, but, as the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) will remember, under his administration, and, I suppose, prior to his administration, as since then, of these parties, four have been paid out of the estimate for the Board of Customs, which is a vote taken in connection with the outside service, and two of them have been paid out of the laboratory vote. The department thought that, inasmuch as they are employed in connection with the inside service, this transference should be made, which would not affect the amount to be voted. Therefore, the increase, which is only nominal, except in so far as we are giving what may be termed statutory increases, is not an extra charge upon the revenue, but it is paying out of contingencies this extra sum less the statutory allowance that was previously paid out of the outside vote. Printing and stationery are the same, sundries the same, making salaries paid out of contingencies, \$12,175.

Mr. WALLACE. Has the minister deducted that \$3,000 odd from the outside vote?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is a very natural question for the hon. gentleman to ask, and I expected it would be asked. I have not done that, for a reason that I will explain when we reach that vote.

Mr. DAVIN. Then, this is an addition to the cost of running the department?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It will not be for running the department inside, but if the committee are pleased to give me as large a vote for the Board of Customs and laboratory this year as they did before, it will be an extra amount of that much out of the vote, but not on the inside service. These parties have been for years working in the inside service, and instead of paying them out of contingencies, some of them have been paid out of this outside vote for the Board of Customs and laboratory. I think the committee will agree that as their work is wholly inside the department, the salaries ought to appear as charged against the inside department. With reference to Miss Mason, she works in the

seizure branch; Miss Low works in the correspondence branch; these two have been paid out of the Customs laboratory. Out of the Board of Customs, Miss Sixsmith is in the accountant's branch, George Prentiss in the check branch, Albert Carriere in the supply branch, and Miss E. Dalton in the accountant's branch. They have been for years engaged in this work. While it was proper enough to pay them out of the outside vote, it seem to me it is better to have them charged to the inside vote and paid out of contingencies, and let the outside vote stand bearing the expense which is properly chargeable to it.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses of the province of Nova Scotia. \$115,005

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). There is an increase of \$4,755. I may say, in a general way, with reference to these increases, that, as the hon. gentlemen are aware, under the expanded business and the growing revenue, which has also made increased work in the matter of entries, &c., I am forced to ask for a somewhat larger vote this year. I have the details here, which I will give if the hon. gentlemen require.

Mr. WALLACE. Is the revenue the same for Halifax?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The total revenue was \$1,069,425.17. There is an increase there. We had to have some extra officers at Halifax, we were pressed for them time and again.

Mr. WALLACE. The cost of collection is enormously increased. What is the reason?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In salaries there is an increase of \$1,280. There are increases at other ports as well. There is an increase at Annapolis of \$15, that is in contingencies; of \$10 at Antigonish.

Mr. WALLACE. I am speaking of the port of Halifax. Have you appointed new officers?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Some tide-waiters had to be appointed there. The increase in salaries, as furnished to me, is \$1,280; increase in contingencies, \$100.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). In this connection I would draw the attention of the Minister of Customs to the salary that is paid the customs officer for the port of Lunenburg. He is a very efficient officer, indeed, I do not think his equal can be found in that province, and that is saying a great deal. He is worthy of a superior class, and his salary is very inadequate for the work he performs. It will be remembered that we have something like 260 sailing vessels at the port of Lunenburg, and all the entries and despatches have to pass in a measure, through his hands. The duties collected are not, perhaps, as large in amount as they would otherwise be shown in other counties, because this, being a fish-

ing county, a great many of the goods entered are free—fishermen's supplies, &c.—but when you consider the duties of that official, they are far in excess of the duties that are imposed upon other officers in that province, and when you compare his salary with the salaries of others you will find that it is far short of those of others. You may take the port of Liverpool, where comparatively little work is performed, and you will find that the collector there is receiving a larger salary. Or, take the port of St. John, N.B.; you will find that the salaries paid to the different officers there are very large when compared with the salary paid to the official I refer to, Mr. Coldwell. I would ask the hon. minister if he would carefully look into the position of this official and see that his salary is made equal to the salaries of the rest doing like work.

Mr. WALLACE. What is his salary?

Mr. KAULBACH. I think \$800.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Eight hundred dollars.

Mr. KAULBACH. I would ask the hon. minister to carefully view his work and give him an adequate return for the labour he performs. I am speaking in fair justice, and I think that the hon. minister will see that this official is not adequately rewarded for the work he performs.

Mr. WALLACE. Does he get anything from the Department of Marine and Fisheries as the registrar of shipping?

Mr. KAULBACH. There is no additional salary.

An hon. MEMBER. When was he appointed?

Mr. KAULBACH. He was appointed about fifteen years ago. I am not quite sure, but I only judge that from the time I have seen him in the office. I feel satisfied that if the hon. minister looks at it carefully and in an equitable light he will give this official the wages he is entitled to. He is overworked, and he has comparatively very small compensation for the services he performs.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) says, I dare say, is correct. I have heard nothing to the contrary in reference to this officer. We are guided in a measure by the revenue, but not wholly, especially in our maritime ports where it would not be just to be guided wholly by that. What the hon. gentleman has pointed out is a fact, that there is a great deal of shipping at these ports which requires attention and care. The revenue at this place is not quite \$10,000, and the collector is not alone, as he has two others with him. I see by the records that there were 458 arrivals of coasting vessels, and 379 departures; of sea-going vessels, 225 arriving and 278 departing, and I am quite

Mr. KAULBACH.

aware that it requires a good deal of management and care to attend to that important part of the work. While \$800 is less than some are getting, I think if the hon. gentleman will institute a comparison with others he will find that it is perhaps a little more than others are getting. There is not a perfect equality in the granting of salaries. I am endeavouring, as far as I can, without increasing the cost upon the revenue too much, to try to do justice to those who are performing work for the department according to their merits. Of course, some of our officers are paid salaries where the revenue is very much less, but, as hon. gentlemen understand, these officers are requisite for preventive purposes and for clearing vessels. I am bound to say to the hon. gentleman that I have not proposed an increase to this officer this year. Whether it was found that it was a case that really should be considered worthy, or whether we shall be able to find a little sum out of any saving that can be effected in other ways, I cannot say. But I will remember, or try to remember, what the hon. gentleman has said in reference to this officer.

Mr. KAULBACH. I desire to supplement my remarks in regard to this official by saying that this year alone we are adding to our fleet something like 30, and more are at present under construction. That will, of course, entail a larger amount of work. I would certainly ask if it is not provided for in this amount, that the hon. minister would get the money from some other source or ask for a special grant with which to supplement this officer's salary.

Mr. WALLACE. Before we go to the vote for New Brunswick, I would call attention to the fact that there is a very large increase in the item of North Sydney. North Sydney, we all know, is a town that is blossoming into a city. It is progressing quite rapidly, but the enormous increase in the proposed customs expenditure, I think, requires some explanation from the hon. minister, more particularly as I see, in face of the fact that the town is going ahead wonderfully, and we all rejoice to see it, the revenue has actually decreased in North Sydney.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) is confusing Sydney with North Sydney. They are two distinct places. North Sydney is not the town at which these great developments are going on, although we do expect similar developments there at an early date.

Mr. WALLACE. I would be rejoiced to see developments going on in every part of Nova Scotia. I have been down there in the last few days, I am quite in love with Nova Scotia, and as the political prospects are also delightful, there is nothing which charms or allures one so much as Nova

Scotia. North Sydney is the place where the hon. Minister of Customs proposes to increase the expenditure in the Customs Department. I want to know why he proposes to increase the expenditure when the revenue is decreasing?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Sydney is the place where the present activity is going on, and the revenue of Sydney is increasing rapidly.

Mr. WALLACE. North Sydney has not increased. The revenue of North Sydney has decreased from \$16,000 a year to \$14,000, and I see that the expenditure has remained the same. In Sydney they report an increase of customs revenue of nearly 100 per cent. What does the hon. minister propose to do with the \$2,350 of increased expenditure?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There is a total increase proposed of \$2,350. There is an increase of \$2,200 in salaries, and of \$150 in contingencies, as follows: We have appointed P. Campbell as preventive officer at the chief port with a salary of \$500. We could not expect to do all the business that is to be done there with the present staff.

Mr. WALLACE. What staff had you before?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The collector and some outport officers. In addition to the appointment of P. Campbell as preventive officer, we propose to increase an increased expenditure at that port to meet the new business of \$1,500. We put it in that way. It is impossible just to tell what we will require there. We have had lately to appoint an appraiser, as it is very necessary that we should have an appraiser there. This port is going to be one of the large ports of the Dominion, and it will require a larger staff than what I am providing for here as the work progresses. As the imports develop it is possible that even with the amount I am asking now, that I shall next year—or whoever should be in my place if there should be any change—shall have to ask for a supplementary grant. Meanwhile I have appointed this officer at \$500 and I take \$1,500 to enable me to engage others. I think that already part of it will have to be paid out of the supplementaries for this year. There has been an appraiser appointed a short time ago.

Mr. WALLACE. But the revenues are decreasing.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not at Sydney, they have gone up enormously.

Mr. WALLACE. The figures are as follows:—Customs duties, 1898, \$11,343; 1899, \$10,790.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The increase and activity has been within the last few months.

Mr. WALLACE. What justification is there for appointing an appraiser there?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I felt it was an absolute necessity.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the appraiser a specialist in?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He has been a large business man there, I am told. He was a general merchant, and I think he had a knowledge of hardware. His name is James McKenzie, and I dare say the leader of the opposition may know him. I do not know him personally, but I am told he is a man of large business experience. I asked for a capable man, because it is necessary to have a good man as appraiser there. We have an agent, a capable man from the county of Pictou, whom we are using as relieving officer at that port, but I am taking the vote for him in Pictou.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I am quite sure that the expectations of the Minister of Customs as regards Sydney will be borne out, and that instead of finding this appropriation too large, he will soon have to increase it. There is no question but that there is no other part in the Dominion of Canada which bids fair to make greater strides in the way of increased business. The port of Sydney will necessarily require large additional facilities from the Customs Department.

Mr. ANGUS McLENNAN (Inverness). I had occasion to make inquiry with regard to the customs receipts at the port of Sydney, and the returns show that for the first six months of the financial year, the receipts of the port of Sydney, instead of being \$10,000 as in 1899, were \$86,000, if my memory serves me right.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness). Instead of being \$10,000 for the whole year 1899, the receipts were \$86,000 for the first six months of 1900.

Mr. WALLACE. Is there a proposal to increase the salary of the collector in this increased estimate?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is a question that will have to be considered. Of course I take that \$1,500 without having definitely determined how it should be applied. My own impression is that in a port getting to be so important as that, probably it would only be just that the collector should have some little advance. However, that is a subject which will engage our attention.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses, New Brunswick \$89,670

Mr. H. A. POWELL (Westmoreland). What is the increase in Moncton?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). Two hundred dollars increase in salaries, and \$25 in contingencies.

Mr. POWELL. To whom are the increases given ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Leger, sub-collector at Shediac, is increased from \$500 to \$600. Mr. James Hamilton, acting locker at chief port, from \$400 to \$500. Mr. Hamilton is now employed nearly all the year, and I presume he had not been before. Last year \$250 was voted for contingencies, and \$265 expended, so that I am taking \$275 this year.

Mr. POWELL. What is the ground for increasing Mr. Leger's salary ? I was under the impression that there was rather a falling off in business there.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think perhaps you are giving him the same salary as his predecessor—

Mr. POWELL. Mr. Robidoux ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think so. Some of these officers do not commence at the same salary as their predecessors and after a time we deem them worthy of it

Mr. POWELL. What is the increase in respect to Sackville ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Prescott, collector at Baie Verte, will have his salary increased from \$300 to \$350.

Mr. POWELL. He is one of your own party, but I think you should have given him that increase long ago.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I think it ought to be \$400 at least.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Very strong recommendations were made in that direction, but the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell), knows the gauntlet we have to run in getting increases through this committee.

Mr. POWELL. So far as that \$50 is concerned, I am generous enough, even to assist an enemy politically. I think that gentleman gets a salary that is simply ridiculously small.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Hear, hear.

Mr. POWELL. He has a stretch of eighteen miles of territory to look after, and he has no assistant. It is only the good moral condition of the community that prevents smuggling to an extraordinary degree along the shores there. He ought to have \$400.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will make a note of it. It may be that there will be some little saving affected in other directions, and I will make a note of what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Powell), says.

Mr. POWELL.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I would like to bear my testimony to this gentleman being an excellent official, and deserving of consideration. I am glad to see he got some increase, but I would like to see him get more.

Mr. WALLACE. In the port of St. John the increased expenditure is \$1,400, while the revenue is nearly stationary. Even a slight increase of revenue does not indicate a larger amount of business ; because prices have advanced 100 per cent in hardware, and in other lines, and therefore, the increased revenue in St. John, being very small, it would rather indicate a decreased volume of business in that port during the past year. What is the minister's explanation and justification for increasing the expenses \$1,400 there, in view of the conditions I have pointed out ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. My notes are that there is an increase of \$500 in salaries, and \$100 in contingencies.

Mr. POWELL. The total increase amounts to \$1,400. What about the remaining \$800 ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There must be an error in the printed detail.

Mr. WALLACE. Has the minister appointed a new collector of customs at St. John ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Mr. WALLACE. What is his name ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. W. A. Lockhart.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses, Quebec \$230,735

Mr. WALLACE. There is a large increase at Montreal ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, an increase of \$4,575 in salaries, and \$750 in contingencies. The increase in salaries includes the transfer of J. P. Coghlin from Paspebiac to Montreal, \$600. Paspebiac was expected to be a large port, and this gentleman, who had been previously at Montreal, was sent there ; but that has not proved a success so far, and he has been returned to Montreal, and the amount which was asked last year for Paspebiac, is not asked this year.

Mr. WALLACE. Has the port of Paspebiac been closed ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, virtually ; I am not taking a vote for it. It is proposed to increase the salary of M. Charland from \$750 to \$850. Then, we have to employ the following extra officers at \$1.50 per working day, or \$475 per year : M. Gallery, John Rochette and L. Roy. Then, we are short of the amount estimated for services of acting officers during the season of navigation, \$450. It is impos-

sible to estimate exactly for these services, as navigation does not open and close on the same dates each year. So I take a bulk vote of \$2,000 to meet the increased business, and if we can dispense with any extra officers, we will do so. The vote for contingencies must increase in a port where the business is growing as it is in Montreal. The vote for these last year was \$8,750; for this year it is \$10,500.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses, Ontario..... \$322,590

Mr. WALLACE. Tell us about Port Arthur.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There is an increase of \$1,450 in salaries, and \$150 in contingencies. The increase in salaries is made up as follows: To George Barnes, sub-collector at Rat Portage, an increase from \$500 to \$600. Rat Portage is a growing place, and the business is increasing. E. R. Douglas, preventive officer at Mine Centre, gets an increase from \$600 to \$700. This is an out-of-the-way place, and living is expensive. Then, it is proposed to increase the salary of Thomas R. Boyce, clerk at the chief port, from \$750 to \$800. Then, there is a provision for appointing a new officer at the frontier at \$700, whom we require on account of the building of the new railway. There is also an additional officer at Rat Portage, and there is an increase of \$150 in contingencies.

Mr. WALLACE. What about the port of Toronto, where there is a large increase?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There is an increase of \$3,040 in the salaries and \$700 in the contingencies at that port. F. A. Campbell, tide-waiter, is getting \$400 instead of \$300. E. L. Garby, acting messenger, gets \$400. He formerly had \$240. Then, there are three officials who were getting \$1.50 a day, and with regard to whom the estimate of \$460 each was \$10 short of the amount required. That should be \$470, or a total increase for the three of \$30. There is also the salary of an additional officer of \$600, and an increase in the salary of the sub-inspector at Orillia of \$100, from \$500 to \$600. There is, further, an amount for additional assistance that may be necessary, owing to increase of business, of \$1,050. That will not be spent except if found necessary.

Mr. WALLACE. Has the hon. minister increased the salary of the old experienced officers in the Toronto customs, such as cashiers?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There needs to be some little advance to some of the old and faithful officers. We have this amount of \$1,050, that will be available for that purpose or for new men. We are giving what consideration we can to these men. Of course, the hon. gentleman knows that I have applications from a great many,

some of whom are, no doubt, deserving; and on behalf of the customs officers, I say that it cannot be charged that there is any extravagance in their salaries. That department has been worked with a great deal of economy in the past and at present.

Mr. WALLACE. Is Mr. Douglas a surveyor?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Mr. H. CARGILL (East Bruce). I can bear testimony to the economical management of the Customs Department. I would like to call attention to the salary paid to a very efficient officer in the town of Walkerton—a very old and efficient officer, who attends closely to his duties. The revenue there has largely increased during the past two or three years, and I would like the hon. minister to see if he could not find it advisable to recommend an increase of salary there.

Mr. A. McNEILL (North Bruce). I hope the hon. minister will take my hon. friend's suggestion into consideration. The gentleman referred to is a very old, laborious and efficient officer of the department. I hope the hon. minister will do what he can to meet the suggestion of my hon. friend. I am quite sure that an increase is very well deserved, especially as the returns are very much larger than before.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman who spoke first brought this matter up to my attention, and I have been thinking a good deal about it. Of course, you have to be guided somewhat by the revenue. This man collects over \$5,000, and the cost of collection is a little over 10 per cent. I dare say that compares favourably with some districts, and perhaps not with others. But, of course, we cannot get uniformity in these matters, and I promise the hon. gentleman I will keep the case in mind. In a large service like the customs, there are vacancies that may, perhaps, not be filled immediately, and the saving thus effected makes a little sum on which the department would have to work in a case like this. This man, McNamara, gets \$600.

Mr. J. McALISTER (Restigouche). Would the hon. gentleman let me draw his attention to the collector of customs in the town of Campbellton, where the receipts are very large and rapidly increasing? I find that the collector there only gets \$500 per year, whereas collectors in other districts get \$1,000. I think that in view of the importance of the port and the increase in its revenue, the salary of its collector should be also increased. It is true that Campbellton has always been a sub-port, and that Dalhousie is the port, and, consequently, Campbellton is not looked upon as of such importance as the port of Dalhousie. But now that the revenue from the port of Campbellton far exceeds that of Dal-

house, I think the salary of the collector at Campbellton should be somewhat increased. Five hundred dollars per year is very small for the services he renders.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He gets only \$500, and he collects about \$7,000. In comparison with the revenue, the salary is certainly more than some other ports, though it is less than some. We were just comparing with the port in Ontario. I find that the collections there are about \$6,000, and the salary \$600.

Mr. McALISTER. Would that include all the collections made at the port of Campbellton?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There was \$175.18 of other revenue.

Mr. McALISTER. This \$500 is not 10 per cent of the collections?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It is true that the salary does not bear the same proportion to the collection as in some other places. The salary at that port does look a little small.

Mr. WALLACE. But what is the minister doing in order to remedy this? Take, for instance, the port of Bowmanville. The collections are a little larger—but not much—than at the port of Walkerton, where the salary is \$500, or Brampton, where the salary is \$550. But the collector at Bowmanville starts at \$1,000, quite a handsome salary. Mr. McNamara is an efficient officer, but after twenty years of faithful and efficient service he gets only \$500.

Mr. WOOD. Why did you not increase it?

Mr. WALLACE. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) will allow men to finish, I will answer his very sapient question. The hon. minister says there is a little disparity, but he is remedying it as fast as he can. The way he is remedying it seems to be by giving good salaries to those he appoints, while he leaves those appointed under the Conservative government with their small salaries.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is not the way the department is run. The question asked by the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) is there, and the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) will find the explanation not so easy. He left Mr. McNamara with the same salary.

Mr. WALLACE. But, we were labouring under a decreased revenue, and we were decreasing the expenses of the department. But the hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) is increasing the expenses by hundreds and thousands of dollars.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. As to Bowmanville, I simply followed the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Wallace's) example in the salary given to the collector there. Bow-

Mr. McALISTER.

manville is an important port, and there is the coasting trade as well as the collection of revenue to be considered.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses of the several ports, Manitoba.. \$45,060

Mr. DAVIN. I see that the increase here is in Brandon. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Paterson) seems to have made Brandon a port of entry. Will he please explain the necessity for that. The increase for that port is \$5,300 for salaries and \$600 contingencies, a total of \$5,900.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Prior to my accession to office, the whole province of Manitoba, and I am not sure but part of the North-west Territories, were under the port of Winnipeg for customs purposes. Shortly before I came into office, Calgary was made a port of entry with some outports under it. With Manitoba growing as it is, it has been deemed advisable to make Brandon a port of entry. As the hon. gentleman knows, it is a town of considerable importance. When it was made a port of entry, certain of the towns which had been outports of the port of Winnipeg, being more convenient to Brandon, were made outports of the latter. They are: Deloraine, Carberry, Virden and Killarney. The collector at Brandon is Mr. H. C. Graham, and his salary \$1,600. The salaries of the outports added to this make a total of \$5,300. There are also, contingencies, \$600.

Mr. WALLACE. The minister has taken Brandon away from Winnipeg and made it a port. I am in cordial agreement with that policy. When a place attains such importance as Brandon, it should be a port and not an outport. I was myself, while in the department, a convert to this system. But the point I make is, that the minister has taken away the \$5,900 for the port of Brandon from the port of Winnipeg, and then he has increased the expenses in Winnipeg by \$2,200. We would naturally expect that the expenses in Winnipeg would be decreased by that \$5,900, instead of their being an increase of \$2,200.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That would be the case were it not for extraordinary growth and prosperity of our western province that is going ahead so fast. It was found that we required an increased amount for Winnipeg as well. The receipts at Winnipeg have gone up by leaps and bounds, and I fancy I will have to have even more money there. When I was in Winnipeg this year I took occasion to make particular inquiries throughout the North-west and British Columbia, and I must say that, having gone fully into the cost of living there, I found it was not just to the officers of this department there that they should be paid only the same salaries as officers here. I found that in Winnipeg, houses such as you would expect an officer of Her Majesty's customs to live in,

cost \$25 a month, and living is somewhat dear. So we will have to grant some increases in the salaries there, and we may have to have some extra help, too.

Mr. WALLACE. Although the revenue in Winnipeg has increased, it does not indicate any increase in business, but only in the value of the products. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) knows that in the articles he deals in in Winnipeg, the prices have gone up more than is indicated by the increase in revenue, which is less than 25 per cent. He knows that the prices of the commodities he deals in have gone up more than 25 per cent.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The revenue in Winnipeg is \$974,905.

Mr. WALLACE. A little more than 25 per cent. That does not indicate as great an increase of business as there has been an increase in the value of the goods.

Mr. WOOD. It is not all hardware, there are many other classes of goods brought into Winnipeg.

Mr. WALLACE. I was only appealing to him on the question of hardware, because that is the only commodity he knows the prices of. He knows that hardware has increased more than 25 per cent. It appears to me evident that the increased revenue is altogether produced from the increased prices of the goods and not from a larger volume of goods entered.

Mr. WOOD. You would not say that groceries have advanced 25 per cent or 26 per cent?

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, I could pick out many articles that have advanced more than 25 per cent.

Mr. WOOD. Some items perhaps, but not the whole.

Mr. WALLACE. You cannot say the whole of any class of goods have increased. But I can show there are large quantities of other goods as well as groceries that have increased very much more than 25 per cent. Take the whole line of canned goods, and I can show that in round figures they have all increased 25 per cent, and these goods have always been largely consumed in Manitoba and the North-west.

Mr. PUTTEE. No doubt prices have increased, but at the same time there is less doubt that business in Winnipeg has rapidly increased; in fact it is complained there that business has increased more rapidly than the facilities at the customs for collecting the revenue. The service has been for some time undermanned, and to that extent inefficient. That is the trouble in all the government departments, that they do not increase their facilities as rapidly as there is need for it. I believe there has been an appointment of a new appraiser. I would like to know whether the minister

has satisfied himself as to the competency and fitness of that gentleman?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Provision has been made for a new appraiser there, and a gentleman has been highly recommended to me, but I think he has not yet entered upon his duties. Sometimes we make temporary appointments to ascertain the capabilities of the parties. I can assure the hon. member for York (Mr. Wallace) that instead of there being too many officers at that port, there is, as the member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee) says, an inadequate staff. While there has been an increase in values for some goods, I have figures showing that the number of entries has very largely increased. The increase is not for the port of Winnipeg alone, but it includes some of the outports.

Mr. DAVIN. I am glad the minister has decided to increase the salaries in some instances, as it is a fact that the cost of living is greater in Manitoba and the North-west Territories than it is in Ontario. I quite agree with him that in Winnipeg, which is going ahead so rapidly, probably more help will be required. At the same time the figures before me seem to justify the argument of the member for West York that no additional strain could have been put on the staff in consequence of increased entries. But I am not disputing the propriety of adding to the staff.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The increase is not all made up at Winnipeg, as the hon. member for West York has said. At Winnipeg there is an increase of \$2,215 over and above the amount deducted at Winnipeg, on account of the establishment at Brandon. Of this amount \$2,160 is salaries, \$55 for contingencies. There is provision for a new appraiser, \$1,200. I forget the name of the new appraiser, I do not know whether he has been appointed.

Mr. DAVIN. Has he been recommended by the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee)?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, I do not remember him waiting on me on that matter.

Mr. WALLACE. What branch of merchandise does he appraise?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. We have Mr. Bennie and another gentleman, Mr. Jones. One took the dry goods and groceries, and two or three other classes of goods, and the other hardware and boots and shoes.

Mr. DAVIN. I would like to ask the hon. minister: Did he actually appoint an appraiser without asking the advice of the hon. member for Winnipeg?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. We will allow the hon. member for Winnipeg to speak as to any conversation that I have

had with him in reference to matters touching the benefit of the city that he represents in this House. But I think, in reference to the appraiser, that he did not offer me any suggestions; at least, I do not remember that he did. We had to appoint an officer at the boundary line on the south-eastern frontier at \$800. This is a new officer.

Mr. WALLACE. At what point?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. On the railway that is being built between Manitoba and Ontario on the boundary. I do not know the exact point at which he is stationed. He will have to travel up and down somewhat.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the new man's name?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. Gagnon. Then we have to appoint a new man at Emerson. There are outposts of Winnipeg yet.

Mr. DAVIN. An additional man to Cooper?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes. This is one of the points where perhaps the revenue has not gone up at all, but where there is a great deal of forwarding and a great deal of manifesting. This is work that it is necessary to do. It brings in no revenue, but it is absolutely essential, and the work had increased so that we were not able to keep up with it. Then, Mr. McColl was appointed as an acting landing officer at a salary of \$700.

Mr. DAVIN. Where?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In Winnipeg. Then, we propose to ask for \$1,500 to provide for additional men. This is just another case of those large ports in regard to which we are unable to say what will be needed, and we assume that the committee will be willing to trust us with the vote of \$1,500 to be used if it is required, and not to be used if it is not required. Then, there is the appointment of Mr. Bourne, as acting preventive officer at Portage la Prairie at a salary of \$540, less the sum of \$80 overestimated in 1898-9.

Mr. DAVIN. Is that a new appointment?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No. I am saying that we overestimated this amount by \$80, and that reduces the vote to \$460, and leaves his salary at \$460. Then, we provide for the following officers. Does the hon. gentleman need me to read the names?

Mr. DAVIN. Read a few.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. This is what I was alluding to, that I was so impressed with the increased cost of living, that I propose to advance the salary of Mr. Heintz by \$100, and of Mr. Bennie, the appraiser, by \$100.

Mr. PATERSON.

Mr. PUTTEE. What were their salaries before?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Heintz got \$1,000, and we propose to give him \$1,100. Bennie got \$1,100, and we propose to give him \$1,200. Most of our appraisers here get equal to that. We proposed to give Mr. Auger, a clerk since deceased, an increase of \$50, and Mr. Waugh an increase of \$50. Then, there are increases of \$50 to nine others, making \$450.

Mr. PUTTEE. What were the salaries before they were increased?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I have not their salaries just in my hand. There are Bergeron, Telford, Adair, Eadie, Campbell, Stewart, Shaw and McColl.

Mr. PUTTEE. Some of these lower salaries should be raised also, to meet the increased cost of living there.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, I think that will be the case with these. That is the line that we are proceeding upon.

Mr. PUTTEE. As to the appraiser, it has been generally understood that the appointment has been made for some months. I do not know if the department knows anything about it, but I believe the gentleman has entered upon his duties. I believe it is a \$1,200 position. I think, in creating new offices like this, the old officers in the department should be promoted to these positions and let the new men come into the lower ranks. I understand that Mr. Phillips, the late Queen's Printer of Manitoba, is now the appraiser in Winnipeg, and there are certainly several good officials in the customs-house who are deserving of promotion.

Mr. WALLACE. I would like to know what the qualifications of this gentleman are as an appraiser?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He was a business man before that.

Mr. WALLACE. He was the Queen's Printer.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I understand he was in business.

Mr. WALLACE. What kind of business?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Probably stationery.

Mr. WALLACE. Probably! But, we want a specific statement why he was appointed to such a responsible position.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He has to pass an examination before being appointed as an appraiser.

Mr. WALLACE. What examination?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The examination qualifying for an appraisership.

Mr. WALLACE. What kind of an examination?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. A technical one.

Mr. DAVIN. What form does it take ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It takes the form of a technical examination before a Dominion Appraiser, to see that he is competent for the purposes of the work.

Mr. DAVIN. What is covered by the word technical ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It would cover that he is conversant with the values and nature of the goods that he is called upon to appraise. The ordinary civil service examination would be an educational test, but it does not necessarily mean that a man would be qualified to appraise properly the value of goods that come under his inspection, and therefore, he is required to pass an examination before a Dominion Appraiser to demonstrate that he is competent for the work before he can be appointed permanently as an appraiser.

Mr. WALLACE. Who was the Dominion Appraiser who examined him, where was he examined, and what is the nature of the report on the matter ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It has not been had. He is not appointed an appraiser yet. This gentleman has entered the service and is assisting at the duties of appraising, but he has to pass an examination before he can be permanently appointed. Mr. Jones was acting as appraiser. There was some little difficulty with Mr. Jones, and he is engaged at other duties now. This gentleman has entered the service, but before he can be permanently appointed, as the hon. gentleman knows, he will have to pass this examination. He is meanwhile added to the port.

Mr. WALLACE. I understood from the minister that Mr. Jones and Mr. Bennie had to have a third man, but now it appears that Mr. Jones is removed to some other position, and that a new man is appointed without having passed a single examination to qualify him for his duties. It is promised that at some time in the future when he has learned his business in the customs at the expense of the public, he is to be examined to see if he is qualified.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) never did it in any other way.

Mr. WALLACE. It is just the same thing as appointing a schoolmaster to teach a school and telling him that after he has been in office a year you will examine him to see if he is fit to teach or not.

Mr. WOOD. A man can learn a trade without serving an apprenticeship.

Mr. WALLACE. The apprenticeship should not be served at the expense of the country.

Mr. WOOD. You never did it any other way yourself.

Mr. WALLACE. I do not think I ever made an appointment like that without being able to tell the House that the man had experience to discharge the duties of the office.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) had to make these appointments in just the same way. I ascertained that the man had experience in goods, but where is the man who has experience in all kinds of goods ? You might get a man who in a small store had to carry a varied stock.

Mr. WALLACE. You told us that the man in Sydney had business experience that qualified him.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I said he had business experience, but he cannot be appointed permanently until after he has passed his examination.

Mr. WALLACE. You said he had experience in a general store.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He was represented as a good man, and so was this gentleman. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) did not make Messrs. Bennie and Jones appraisers during the years he was in office. They were assistant appraisers, and I think they were made appraisers and passed their examinations, after I came into the department.

Mr. DAVIN. Is this Mr. Phillip or Philp, who has been appointed. Is he a brother of Philp, of Brandon ?

Mr. PUTTEE. I cannot say for certain.

Mr. DAVIN. A Queen's printer may have experience in printing, but that does not in any way fit him to be an appraiser. I find that R. I. Jones was appraiser and T. Bennie, assistant appraiser, and yet this man is taken in and placed above those two gentlemen, although he never passed an examination.

Mr. WALLACE. Both of these are appraisers now.

Mr. DAVIN. And I understand these gentlemen are placed in a subordinate position to this new man.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, and they have a lower salary.

Mr. DAVIN. This new man gets \$1,200 a year, and they get \$1,100. That seems very extraordinary, and it looks like favouritism, and bears the appearance of a job. It looks as if the shadow of politics had fallen upon

the management of the department—which, of course, would be a very astonishing thing.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Amongst the advances proposed here, is that Mr. Bennie should be raised from \$1,100 to \$1,200. As to Mr. Jones, I do not know that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) would wish me to enlarge upon it, as I do not wish to do any harm to that officer, but it was found necessary to suspend him for a time for a rather serious matter, and he was taken back and his duties are somewhat changed. Under his appraisalment, came one department of commerce, which it was thought better he should not have, and which the hon. gentleman would approve of his not having if he knew all the circumstances. There was no desire to put in the new man at a higher salary than the others. There is nothing of that kind in the matter. The extra man is required, and if he should not prove equal to the duties he will be assigned to other duties. I do not know whether or not the member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee) knows the trouble there was with Appraiser Jones.

Mr. PUTTEE. I do not, but surely the minister would be more apt to get a good appraiser out of the customs-house than to take in a stranger from the outside and afterwards put him through his technical examination with the probabilities that he would fail. You have officers there who have been in training for some years, and one would naturally think they would be entitled to promotion. I do not say that \$1,200 is too large a salary, but there are a good many other officers who have a less salary than that, and it appears to me that some of these officers should be promoted and other men taken in at a lower grade.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee) will understand that a man might be engaged in purely clerical work and that he would not be able to take hold of the appraiser's work unless he had learned the business all through. It is a matter of internal arrangement of the customs there, and I will consult with my officers in reference to this. We have our inspector there, and all I can assure the hon. gentlemen at present is, that if they have any fears there is anything wrong in the matter, I am not aware of anything of that kind.

Mr. DAVIN. I know Emerson pretty well, and I do not see how it was necessary to add an additional man to the staff already there.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) will give it a little thought he will see the necessity. I certainly hesitated a good while before I consented to increase the expenditure, but it was absolutely necessary in order to do the work properly that I should appoint one. If the hon. gentleman will consult the busi-

Mr. DAVIN.

ness men of that country he will find that they are in favour of it. It is a frontier point.

Mr. DAVIN. I know it well.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The business has increased wonderfully. I tried to avoid appointing another officer, and I refused to do so until the representations were made so strong that I felt in the public interest I could not withhold any longer. There is a good deal of work to do in the manifesting and discharge of goods entering there.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses, North-west Territories \$12,750

Mr. DAVIN. Will the hon. gentleman explain how the increase occurs at Calgary and Lethbridge?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The increase is \$1,850. Of this amount, \$1,550 is for salaries, and \$300 for contingencies. It is proposed to appoint an officer at Moosejaw at \$600, and it is proposed to increase the salary of Edgar Hooper from \$240 to \$600. There is an increase in the amount estimated to pay commissions to North-west Mounted Police on collections made by them of \$590. The members of the force are paid 10 per cent commission. The increase of contingencies is largely to meet increased payments of commissions to postmasters on collections made by them. They are allowed 10 per cent commissions. As the department has made regulations providing that postmasters may accept entries of goods up to \$25 in value, this expenditure has greatly increased. This was done with the view of meeting the convenience of people at points distant from a customs officer.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the salary paid to the sub-collector at Moosejaw?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It is to be \$600.

Mr. DAVIN. The salary of Mr. S. B. Jamieson at Regina is \$600, which seems to me to be a small salary at so important a point. About three weeks ago I asked the hon. minister what applicants there had been for the position of sub-collector at Moosejaw, and he told me that there had been but one applicant, Mr. Stephenson. He did not tell me by whom Mr. Stephenson was recommended, but he said it was by some one in whom he had confidence. The result is that I have received the following letter:

Moosejaw, May 18, 1900.

N. F. Davin, Esq.

Dear Sir,—In the Winnipeg 'Telegram' of the 16th inst., Hon. Wm. Paterson is reported:

'Mr. Davin was told by Hon. Wm. Paterson that J. K. Stephenson was the only applicant for the position of customs officer at Moosejaw, and was recommended by people in whom Mr. Paterson had confidence.'

I don't know what gave rise to the above statement, or why the hon. gentleman should state what he knows to be absolutely false.

I was an applicant for the position, and my application was supported by the business men of the town. I have letters from the department acknowledging both the application and the petition. Mr. Paterson is either ignorant of the business passing through his office, or he is endeavouring to screen his Moosejaw friends, who, like himself, lack the cardinal principles of Liberalism, truth and justice.

If this is a matter for parliamentary consideration, by all means let us have the truth.

I am, yours truly,

O. B. FYSH.

I may say that the gentleman who writes that letter is one of the cleverest men in the Liberal ranks, and he has been, to my knowledge, one of the most zealous, energetic and trusted members of the Liberal party in that district. Many a time that gentleman has met me on platform after platform, and there are few Liberals, in or out of this House, who can stand up against an opponent with more power, more knowledge or more effectiveness than that same gentleman; and it was a matter of perfect amazement to me that a man whose services to the Liberal party in the North-west Territories date from a long way back, should have been overlooked and neglected for some Mr. Stephenson recommended by some clique there. I cannot understand it. Speaking, not as a Conservative, but as a member of a party, and knowing how important it is to the working of constitutional government that we should have parties, and that men who work for a party should have due recognition, I regret, in the interests of the country, that Mr. Fysh has been thus overlooked and neglected by the hon. minister. It is quite clear that Mr. Fysh himself feels a certain amount of indignation at being thus treated. A great mistake has been made, and it is a mistake so serious to the hon. gentleman's party that even now I would recommend the removal of Mr. Stephenson and the appointment of Mr. Fysh.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I do not know what paper the hon. gentleman is reading from.

Mr. DAVIN. I am reading from the autograph letter.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman does not think I would give an untrue answer.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not say that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. If the hon. gentleman will look at the *Hansard*, he will find the reply I gave. I think I said that there was no other application before the department when this appointment was made. Applications may have come in after the appointment was made. The hon. gentleman during recess will verify my re-

ply, because I do not think he would say that I had given an incorrect answer.

Mr. DAVIN. Certainly not. I read merely this letter from one of my hon. friend's supporters.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in Committee.)

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses of the several ports, North-west Territories \$12,750

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does this include the Yukon?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, that will be found at page 68, item 334.

Customs—Salaries and contingent expenses of the several ports, British Columbia \$102,500

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What is the explanation of the increase?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The estimate is \$7,350 more than it was last year. Grand Forks was made a chief port of entry on July 1, 1899, and there has been increases of salaries and contingencies in the various chief ports of entry and sub-ports.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How is the reduction at New Westminster accounted for?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. By the increase at the ports of Nelson and Rossland, which were outports before. The expenditure for them when they were outports was charged against New Westminster, but now that they are made ports, it is charged against themselves.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How is the decrease caused in Victoria—\$1,455?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The changes among the officers caused a net decrease of \$455 in salaries, and there is a decrease of \$1,000 in contingencies. The decrease in the contingencies is due to the transfer of officer Turner from Stikine to Dawson. He was allowed living expenses at Stikine, which come out of the contingencies for Victoria. All expenses connected with the Yukon are now found in the Yukon vote.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Are the officers in the northern ports, Stikine and others, given living expenses in addition to their salaries?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. At the passes, Bennett and Dawson, they are given living expenses. We have allowed \$60 a month, but I think we are increasing that. There are none in the province of British

Columbia that are allowed their living expenses, and the expenses of the others I have named will appear in the Yukon vote.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Under what authority was Mr. Turner given an allowance besides his salary?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** He was paid out of contingencies.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The point I am directing the minister's attention to is this—I understand that attention was called by the Auditor General to the payment of officers in the Yukon in addition to the salaries voted by parliament. Under what authority, then, was Mr. Turner paid an allowance?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Under the authority of the vote for contingencies.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Nothing else? No order in council?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** I am not sure. I could ascertain.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It does not matter. Will the hon. gentleman kindly explain the increase in Vancouver—\$2,500?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** There is an increase of \$2,150 in salaries, and \$350 in contingencies. We are making provision for the payment of \$2,000 for additional assistance, as we have done in some of the other items. It may not be used and it may; the business at these large ports is increasing very much, and we are asking the committee to entrust us with this amount. Then, there is an increase of \$75 each to two clerks, a total of \$150. Contingencies are increased from \$1,000 to \$1,350. The expenditure on this account was \$1,150, and the indications are that the amount here stated will be necessary.

To cover unforeseen expenditures..... \$1,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The estimate last year was \$5,000; how do you get along with \$4,000 less?

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** I do not remember. I suppose they have estimated more closely. I suppose the hon. gentleman will not object to that reduction.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, but a reduction to \$1,000 from \$5,000 seems worthy of an explanation.

Salaries and travelling expenses of inspectors of ports and travelling expenses of other officers on inspection and preventive service—Board of Customs—To meet expenditure in connection therewith, including \$800 salary of Commissioner of Customs as chairman of the board..... \$67,500

Mr. CLANCY. After the intimation given by the ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) on Friday evening, I think this item

Mr. PATERSON.

should be allowed to stand. It involves questions that will require some explanations from the Minister of Customs which the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) would like to hear. I may say to the hon. gentleman that I refer to the case of Mr. Lemieux. The ex-Minister of Finance is unavoidably absent this evening, and perhaps it would be well if the hon. gentleman would let that item stand for another day.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** I suppose it was thought by the other ministers that I would be going on to-night with this item, and I do not know whether they are here. I hope the hon. gentleman will not interrupt the work that way. I have not the slightest wish to prevent this being discussed. I pointed out to the ex-Minister of Finance that his discussion would come in more properly on another item, but he took the view himself that he did not care whether it was on this item or not, but that as soon as he was present when we reached the customs estimates, he would discuss it. There are the supplementaries to come on, and there is also the item for the Yukon customs concerning which I think the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) might want more information than I have got. We might let that item stand and go on with the others. I suppose there has been the general supposition that these estimates would proceed to-night.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think this will be satisfactory to the member for Bothwell, with the understanding that the usual practice applies, that on any other item in the hon. gentlemen's department, the discussion will be just as free in regard to this subject the member for York has in hand.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Yes, quite.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman was proceeding with another item on Friday evening. My hon. friend will remember that the ex-Minister of Finance said he expected some more definite explanation with regard to that question. The Minister of Customs then said: Well, there will be another item, that the item we have now reached would be the proper one. The ex-Minister of Finance assented to that, and he proceeded with some other items. I think that would be consonant with the understanding, unless the hon. gentleman has some reasons for pressing them to-night.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Not at all. If the hon. gentleman thinks it is contrary to any understanding, I would not for a moment press it.

Mr. CLANCY. I understood it that way.

The **MINISTER OF CUSTOMS.** Then let it stand.

Miscellaneous—Day books, ledgers, book-binding, printing and stationery, subscriptions to commercial papers, flags, dating stamps, locks, instruments, &c., for various ports of entry, legal expenses and uniforms for customs officers\$30,000

Mr. TAYLOR. I presume upon this item I can bring up a matter that I purposed bringing up on another item last week. In the item under discussion the other evening, there were 7,000 wrappers for newspapers. I wish to inquire from the minister what these 7,000 wrappers for newspapers were used for. I presume they were used to wrap up literature the hon. gentleman sent out to his constituents. This was in the Auditor General's Report last year, so I presume that would be the number he required to go through his constituency. I am receiving every day through the mails copies of the *Montreal Herald*, that are sent out franked by the Minister of Customs, and printed as follows, on the inside as well as on the wrapper: 'With the compliments of Wm. Paterson, M. P.' I understand the country is being flooded with these papers sent out from the Customs Department, franked by the Minister of Customs. I want to know if in this sum an amount is included to purchase wrappers for doing up the Minister of Customs literature.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not that I know of. I do not know that I have used any of these, or done anything in the way of purchasing newspaper wrappers. I do not know exactly what it may mean. What is the amount?

Mr. TAYLOR. The amount that is in the Auditor General's Report for 1899, is 7,000 wrappers costing \$9.80. That would be last year or the year before. I presume that is all that was used that year. But from the information I get there is ten times that many being used this year from the Customs Department, sent out with the budget speech of the Minister of Finance as a supplement to the *Montreal Herald*.

Mr. DAVIN. Some are franked by the hon. minister, and some are franked by Mr. T. O. Davis, M.P. The whole Dominion is flooded with them. I may tell the hon. gentleman that he could not do anything better for the Conservatives.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I am pleased to know that the hon. gentleman is satisfied. Why should they not be franked by the Minister of Customs as well as by the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor)?

Mr. TAYLOR. I have no objection at all to the minister franking millions of them, but the question is, when each member of parliament is allowed 5,000 envelopes and that is all he can get, can a minister surpass that number? If we require more

than the number supplied to us, we have to purchase them.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I cannot remember anything about it. All I know is that I am not trying to get any wrappers, or anything else that I know of at public expense. I have not sent out documents myself that I remember, to any extent. I do not think he will find many items of extravagance in my contingencies.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the reason of this \$5,000 increase?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. About \$2,500 of that we propose to use to uniform a certain number of our officers who meet the public at trains or on the wharfs, and who come in contact with the travelling public in that way. We think it is desirable, we think that it is a thing that is necessary, that it will be for the credit of the country, the safety of the country, and the efficiency of the service. Altogether we are thinking, if the committee will agree to the grant, that we will expend this year something like \$2,500 in that way. We may not accomplish it all at once. We do not mean to apply this to the inside officers, but the gentlemen who board trains, those that examine baggage on trains and steamboats and those that come in contact with the public, in that way we think, should have a uniform by which they should be known. They will have a cap on which they will be designated as officers of Her Majesty's Customs, a blue serge, or a woollen coat, so that they will look what they really are, and that a stranger, coming in, when they ask to examine his baggage, will at once see that they are officers whose duty it is to do so.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. gentleman propose to spend \$2,500 for uniforms?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In that direction.

Mr. CLANCY. How many officers does the hon. gentleman propose to supply uniforms for?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Of course, it is not fully matured yet how we will do it: whether we will contribute part and require the officer to contribute part or not. But if we were to fix the contribution of the government at, say \$10, towards supplying the hat and coat, that would accomplish the uniforming of something like 250 men. That is what we have been thinking of. We have not fully matured the plan. If we were providing the uniform altogether, the cap, coat, vest and pants, we could not do it for \$10 a piece, and fewer, therefore, out of this vote, could be thus uniformed.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid the hon. gentleman has given rather a hazy explanation. The plan has not been matured yet, but here is an increase of \$5,000. The hon. gentleman

has accounted for \$2,500 in the way he has spoken of. What is to be done with the other \$2,500?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is required for the purposes that are mentioned in the vote for which the vote last year was not sufficient.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it proposed to appoint any new officers to the service?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, there are no new officers provided for by this item of 'miscellaneous.'

Mr. DAVIN. I read a letter from Mr. Fysh, of Moosejaw, before dinner, and the hon. gentleman wished to know what his answer to my question was. On May 16, I asked the following question:

Who were the applicants for the position of customs officer at Moosejaw? Was Mr. J. K. Stephenson appointed? On whose recommendation? Who were the other applicants?

To which the hon. Minister of Customs replied:

When the appointment of a customs officer at Moosejaw was determined upon, the only name or application before me was that of Mr. J. K. Stephenson, who received the appointment. He was recommended to me by parties in whom I have confidence.

The hon. gentleman will see that his answer was reported correctly in the *Morning Telegram*, of Winnipeg, which answer led to the letter that I had the honour of reading this afternoon.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that the letter said that my answer conveyed something that was not correct. That is the reason I wanted the hon. gentleman to look it up.

Mr. DAVIN. I only spoke about the able character of the gentleman who sent the letter. The writer states:

In the Winnipeg 'Telegram' of the 16th inst. Hon. Wm. Paterson is reported:

'Mr. Davin was told by Hon. Wm. Paterson that J. K. Stephenson was the only applicant for the position of customs officer at Moosejaw, and was recommended by people in whom Mr. Paterson had confidence.'

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman sees the distinction.

Mr. DAVIN. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The answer was that that was the only application before me when the appointment was determined upon. It does not say that subsequent applications had not come in. The application of Mr. Fysh may have come in; I think there was an application from him; but it came in after the appointment was made. My answer to the hon. gentleman was that there were no other applications at the time the appointment was made.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. DAVIN. The appointment, I suppose, was made by order in council?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No, I think not. The appointment was made as an acting collector. I said that the salary was \$600. I cannot say whether that is right, or whether it does not include contingencies for the office. I think it perhaps includes contingencies for the office.

Mr. DAVIN. I know nothing about that.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The reading of the report in the *Telegram* would put Mr. Fysh wrong.

Mr. DAVIN. What he says the *Telegram* said, is this:

Mr. Davin was told by Hon. Wm. Paterson that J. K. Stephenson was the only applicant for the position of customs officer at Moosejaw.

What the hon. gentleman said to me was:

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). When the appointment of a customs officer at Moosejaw was determined upon, the only name or application before me was that of Mr. J. K. Stephenson, who received the appointment.

That means that the hon. gentleman, at the time of making the appointment, did not know of Mr. Fysh's application, or of any other application, except that of Mr. Stephenson?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is the meaning. I believe it is correct. I think probably, Mr. Fysh was written to in that sense, but, I speak subject to correction.

Mr. TAYLOR. I had not in my hand the information that I wanted to give the hon. Minister of Customs, but I have it now. If he will look at page T-9, of the Auditor General's Report, he will find that seven thousand newspaper wrappers cost \$9.80.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will have to inquire into that.

North-west Mounted Police..... \$353,750

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The estimates which I now submit to the House are exactly the same as last year. They are estimated for a force of 500 men, costing on the average about \$700 a man, including horses, &c. Last year we maintained a force, exclusive of the men in the Yukon, of 520 men. At the present time the force in the North-west is 547 men. In consequence of the war a certain number of our men have enlisted to serve in South Africa to the number of 18 officers and 160 men, total 178 men. We have commenced recruiting all over the Dominion, and we have in Regina at the present time 547 men, being an excess of 47 over the number we intend to maintain. The men who are being recruited at the present time we intend to send to the Yukon. Last year we maintained about 250 men in the Yukon, but in consequence of the number of men who have

gone to South Africa and the number who have been discharged and remained in the Yukon, we have now only 175 men in the Yukon territory. We intend to maintain a normal force of 250 men there. These men are to be taken from the North-west Mounted Police at Regina as soon as they are recruited and instructed. The amount we ask from parliament is \$353,750, which makes an average expenditure for each man, and horse and so on of \$700 per year, which is considered to be a very moderate estimate. The force in the North-west is distributed over the different districts as follows on the 1st of January :

	Men.	Horses.
Regina	151	130
Maple Creek	37	53
Battleford	62	87
Macleod	150	208
Calgary	62	54
Saskatchewan	61	69
Total	523	601

The force has been increased to 547 men, but we intend to keep the average force at 500.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am very glad the recruiting is going on, because the strength of the force had gone down entirely below the needs of the Territories and entirely below the demands of efficiency. I understand that recruiting has been energetically proceeded with all over the country, and that a very good class of recruits, quite of the same type as heretofore, has been obtained. With regard to the vote for 'subsistence,' the right hon. gentleman is aware that I have been calling for returns bearing on the cost of the support of the force. I suppose the item of hardware is included in this vote ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I should think so.

Mr. DAVIN. The right hon. gentleman told us that since the advent of the present government to power no tenders have been called for hardware, but that men here and there have been allowed to get contracts without competing. In fact, the answer of the right hon. gentleman brought it down to two firms who seem to have got the lion's share : one Ashdown and the other Gurney. My information is that Ashdown has got the lion's share. That, in my opinion, is contrary to public policy, contrary to economy, and contrary to what is fair in the North-west. It is contrary to economy, because where there is no competition the man can charge pretty much what he pleases. In Calgary, in Regina, in Moosejaw, in Medicine Hat, in Edmonton, in Prince Albert and elsewhere, there are large stores as capable of supplying hardware as is Mr. Ashdown. The reason that Mr. Ashdown has got it, probably the Prime Minis-

ter himself suspects. The Prime Minister has pretty well handed over the patronage of his department to the minister from the west, the Hon. Mr. Sifton. As the Minister of the Interior is a Manitoba man and one who had lived in Winnipeg, and he also regarding Mr. Ashdown as a man who had run a constituency for them, and moreover, the Minister of the Interior having a kindness for him because he had abandoned his party and is one of the apostate Conservatives who has gone over to Liberalism : the Minister of the Interior has practically thrown the entire patronage for hardware into Mr. Ashdown's hands. Mr. Ashdown is a very sharp business man, and he has made great wealth in consequence of his sharpness, but the result of giving him a free hand in this way is not conducive to economy. We were promised economy in every detail of the management of affairs by this government, but here in regard to one important item we find that a sharp man like Mr. Ashdown is allowed free forage, so to speak, to do what he pleases, to get the prices that will suit him best, and to be free from all competition. So much for hardware. I have been waiting for these returns which I moved for early in the session with regard to the supply of tea. Copies of correspondence have been placed in my hand which I do not care to use until I see the copies of the originals, officially authenticated, brought down. What has happened in regard to tea ? I am informed that one firm having a lot of tea on hand that it could not get rid of, applied to a gentleman who has been hovering around the precincts of this House for three or four weeks, who has rather, I think, led the ministerial party into an ambush when they thought they were being led to victory headed by the wise gentleman from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). This gentleman, who was kicking hard, says it would be very convenient to him if he could get rid of this tea : in fact, he says he does not know what will happen if he does not get rid of it : he has a tremendous lot on hand, and it will be a great loss to him. Thereupon, this gentleman who manages the patronage for Mr. Sifton at the capital of the Territories, writes to Mr. Sifton and incloses this letter to him. Then the secretary of the Minister of the Interior writes to Mr. Fred White, and in some way or other the Department of the Mounted Police is put in communication with the Department of the Interior, and what is the result ? This gentleman who has this tea on hand gets rid of the whole lot without any competition whatever. Is that a sample of the wise and economical management that we were promised ? In another session I got from the right hon. gentleman the fact that in Prince Albert drugs were bought without tender. That has been the system along the whole line. It is a very unfortunate thing, and

it is contrary to sound policy. As regards the management of the force itself, it has not been satisfactory, and for this reason. Ever since the present government came into power a system of favouritism has been in vogue. Men have been sent up from the east who never were connected with the mounted police, and placed as officers over the heads of men who had been twenty or twenty-five years in the force; and the system which had been inaugurated and carried to the greatest efficacy by the previous government, of appointing men to inspectorships from the non-commissioned officers—in other words, recruiting the officers from the ranks—was entirely abandoned by the right hon. gentleman. I do not know a single instance of a man having been promoted from the ranks under the right hon. gentleman; and there is a great deal of feeling on the subject, not only among the force, but through the North-west Territories generally; because it is not merely in the force alone that the management of that force excites interest. All over the Territories there are ranchmen, farmers, men in various positions who were originally in the force, and some of whom occupy high positions; and they take a great interest in that force. The whole country is aware of the fact that instead of the sound principle that obtained whereby every man who enlisted in the force felt that he had the sword of an officer in prospect, we have had men passed over, hopes disappointed, a laudable ambition blunted and balked, and favourites of friends of the right hon. gentleman sent up there to take the command of men who were experienced plainmen, and who, socially, intellectually, educationally, were the equals of the officers of any force in Canada. I say it is most unfortunate. From the point of view of economy, the system of buying goods is unfortunate; from the point of view of efficiency, the system of managing the force is still more unfortunate.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think I shall be able to satisfy my hon. friend that his criticisms are not justified by the facts as they exist in the North-west Territories. He has divided his remarks into two parts—the buying of the supplies, and the management of the force. With regard to the buying of the supplies, my hon. friend has told the committee that we have not adopted the most economical system, because he says the supplies are bought, not by open competition, but from private firms without tender. I am happy to say to my hon. friend that the information which he has obtained on this subject is not accurate. Eighty per cent of all the supplies are bought by competition, and only 20 per cent are bought without competition from dealers in Manitoba and the Territories. In a statement sent to me by the comptroller of the force, Mr. White, an officer of perfect reliability, as my hon. friend knows, he says

Mr. DAVIN.

that with the exception of the expenditure in the Yukon, which is quite uncontrollable, about 80 per cent of the supplies are purchased under contract, awarded after public competition. It is not possible to purchase 100 per cent of the supplies by public competition. A certain proportion, and a very small proportion, 20 per cent, have to be bought from local dealers. Take iron goods, which have been discussed by my hon. friend. In answer to a question put by my hon. friend some weeks ago, I stated that there has been no contract for the purchase of iron goods since 1895. At that time Mr. Ashdown, a renegade Conservative, as my hon. friend called him—at all events, a man who, in his estimation, has fallen from grace—was given the contract. Whatever may have been the merits or demerits of Mr. Ashdown for having left the Conservative party for the Liberal party—my hon. friend might say that was falling down, whereas, I might say it was going up; but we will not discuss that point, because we could not agree—Mr. Ashdown, if he fell from grace, supplied good iron goods, and at a cheap figure, because in 1895, not under the present administration, but under the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, he was found to have been the lowest tenderer and was awarded the contract. Since that time the bulk of all the iron materials have been furnished by Mr. Ashdown and the Gurney Company. What we have to buy in the way of ironware is a comparatively small quantity, and the greater proportion of it has to be got from local dealers. As my hon. friend knows, the mounted police are distributed over a large extent of territory. There may be two men at one place, three at another, five at another, and so on. If these men want a kettle or a poker, they go to the nearest dealer and buy it. Purchases made in this way represent about 20 per cent of what we purchase. Therefore, I think my hon. friend will agree that his criticism was not justified by the prevailing condition of things. I am sorry to say that at this moment I cannot answer my hon. friend on the question of tea. However, that is a question which is not exactly germane to these estimates. I have asked Mr. White to give me a report on the matter at as early a day as possible, but I have not yet been able to furnish my hon. friend with that report. When it is brought down, I shall be very glad to discuss the matter with my hon. friend. I am altogether ignorant of the nefarious features my hon. friend sees in that transaction. I believe he has been misinformed, but, at all events, it is a question that will keep for discussion.

With regard to the management of the force, we have supplied the officers from three different sources—from the military college, from the militia, and from the ranks. For some time past we have not promoted any one from the non-commissioned officers.

Mr. DAVIN. Not since you came into power.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps not, but it does not follow that we shall not do so. We have chiefly recruited the officers from the Royal Military College and the militia. Nobody else has been appointed. My hon. friend will not say that it is not a proper system to recruit the officers from the ranks of the militia or the military college. If we have a good officer of militia, who has proved his efficiency, my hon. friend will agree that he is a proper selection to make.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. For my part, I do not intend to close the ranks of the officers to the non-commissioned. They should have their share of promotion; and although we have not been able to promote any so far, I rely on the fact that the men we have appointed were well qualified and are a credit to the force.

Mr. DAVIN. The right hon. gentleman has made an ingenious, plausible and persuasive defence, but he has practically pleaded guilty to the indictment. The system followed under Conservative rule of promoting from the ranks has been entirely abandoned. He has not been able to give a single instance since he has been in office, of a man having been promoted from the ranks to the position of inspector.

The PRIME MINISTER. When we have been eighteen years in office, my hon. friend will not have that complaint to make, I am sure.

Mr. DAVIN. I am afraid that four years of uniform sinning cannot be condoned by promising that if the hon. gentleman be continued in office longer, he will repent of misdeeds and take a better course. The right hon. gentleman was cheered by one militia officer near me and by my distinguished and hon. friend, who formerly presided over the Militia Department, when he spoke about recruiting from the militia.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not object to the militia getting their share of the positions on the force, and under the late government some of the officers were taken from the militia and others from the military college, and a large number from the ranks. But, what I object to is ignoring the ranks altogether. I am not at all saying that the men chosen from the militia and the military college are not good men, for I am quite sure that as a rule any officer of the militia and any graduate of the military college is fit for the position of inspector of the North-west Mounted Police; but at the same time I am inclined to think that these men were appointed, in the first instance, because of their political pull. I could mention the names of men,

very closely allied to ministers, who got these appointments. I am not saying that they were not fit, or that being closely allied to a minister is in itself a disqualification, but am only setting this in juxtaposition to the fact that, in promotions, the rank and file have been ignored altogether.

Coming to the question of supplies, my right hon. friend said that only 20 per cent had been purchased without tender. But that percentage is a very serious crime against the sound principle of inviting tenders. What is the object of calling for tenders, is it not to induce competition? And if 20 per cent be given without competition, and given into one or two hands, that is encouraging the very abuses which the right hon. gentleman himself admitted the other day existed when he said that corruption was rampant in the country. Some of the contracts were not let directly by the right hon. gentleman, but let under the management of the hon. the Minister of the Interior, to whom my hon. friend has practically abandoned the North-west Territories and Manitoba, and who has declared again and again his belief in the principle that to the victors belong the spoils.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the right hon. gentleman able to say that clothing was tendered for. If 80 per cent of the supplies had been tendered for, and the contracts given to the lowest tenderers, that is, perhaps, a fair average. But, take the matter of clothing; as the right hon. gentleman will see, a great many persons have been—

The PRIME MINISTER. What I said was, that 80 per cent of the appropriations for subsistence, fuel, light and clothing, are expended under contract awarded after public competition.

Mr. DAVIN. But that only applies to the clothing, light and fuel; it does not apply to food, nor to hardware. The right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) told me, in answer to a question, some time ago, that no tenders were called for during three or four years for hardware.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, but the hardware is a very insignificant expenditure. The statement I have from the comptroller of the force, and I have absolute reliance on his statement—and moreover it is done as the policy of the department—is that 80 per cent of the appropriations for subsistence, fuel, light and clothing, have been expended under contract awarded after public competition. I would say to my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), that it would not be safe to take the Auditor General's Report for only one year for the expenditure on clothing, because the expenditures for this purpose are not uniform year by year. But if he takes the expenditure in the Auditor General's Report for a series of years—say the last four years, during which we have had control of the expenditure—I think he will

find that the statement I have made is correct.

Mr. CLANCY. Take the statement with regard to subsistence. If the hon. gentleman will turn to page N-6, of the Auditor General's Report, he will see that C. Kettles & Co., furnished beef at 7½ cents. Maunsell Bros., at 9 cents, and also at 8 cents, while Hull Bros. & Co., of Calgary, furnished beef at 13 cents, at 8½ cents, and 11 cents. And these are very considerable items too. The last one is for \$1,840.03, and one is for \$3,829.60. The price is not uniform, and there is no appearance of this having been let by tender.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend will see that, with the exception of Maunsell Bros., the items are small, running from \$31 to \$300.

Mr. CLANCY. The one just before Maunsell Bros., is for \$560.34.

The PRIME MINISTER. That does not alter what I said—that the items are small. The explanation is—though I cannot be quite sure—that these are for small contracts which must be made with local dealers, as the meat is furnished at points where different detachments of the force are. It would be impossible to make a uniform contract, as local men must furnish the supply from day to day, or almost so. At Moosomin, for instance, we have five men, at Qu'Appelle, one man, at Wolseley, one man, at Saltcoats, three men, at Estevan, two men, at Wood Mountain, five men, and so on. The force is distributed all over the North-west Territories. My hon. friend (Mr. Clancy), must admit that we must deal with local dealers. But where we have large sums of money to expend, we follow the system of having contracts.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Auditor General's Report shows that Ashdown & Co., of Winnipeg, supplied goods under various items, to a total amount of \$2,503.63. Mr. Ashdown, as I understand, was the defeated candidate in the last general election. For the same line of goods, considerable purchases were made from Messrs. Adams Bros., of Brandon, and Mr. Adams was the defeated candidate in the local election. They furnished a total of \$2,460 worth. For instance, they sold horse blankets, 61 at \$3 : 24 at \$4. They furnished everything in the harness line. These goods, I am quite sure, could be furnished much cheaper by the largest harness establishment in the North-west Territories in Winnipeg, if competition had been allowed. But this would give a chance to Mr. Hutchings, and as he is a Conservative, of course it would not do to let him tender. I find that Bate & Sons, of Ottawa, appear in the accounts of the Yukon and the North-west Mounted Police, at M-38, Auditor General's Report, for \$9,829.45. These groceries are purchased here at Ottawa, and sent out

to the Yukon. Were these goods purchased by tender?

The PRIME MINISTER. I could not say, for I have not the management of the force in the Yukon. I do not intend to discuss the item now, but I think that these goods have been supplied under tender.

Mr. DAVIN. In the Auditor General's Report at page M-14, I find an item:

Galibert, P., Montreal, riding boots,
2,101 pairs at \$4.85 \$10,189 85

This is a very high price. These riding boots could just as well have been purchased in the North-west Territories. Suppose that, in consequence of not calling for tenders, this gentleman gets 20 per cent more than would have been paid, the difference is quite an item. It may be said: What signifies \$500 or \$700 of an item of \$10,000? But it is in these small items that extravagance runs rampant. This argument that these small items do not matter, is the argument of the spendthrift, who says, because he has a good income: It is only an extra box of cigars, or an extra box of champagne. But, in the end he finds he has spent more than his income. We have not gone into any great public work, and yet here is an expenditure gone up to between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000, from the \$36,500,000, which the right hon. gentleman, in 1893, called a convention to declare was a monstrous thing. And we have the Minister of Finance boasting of a surplus, money that he is taking out of trade, doing what the right hon. gentleman has declared, and what Gladstone has declared, was a monstrous thing. He is boasting of a surplus, and yet we are running into debt, and here, there and everywhere are shovelling out money to be picked up by the Ashdowns, the Galiberts and the Gauthiers.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman has delivered a very eloquent speech but without having any ground to base it upon. He talks of the Galiberts getting contracts without tender. The hon. gentleman is entirely wrong.

Mr. DAVIN. Were public tenders called for?

The PRIME MINISTER. Here is the contract, given after tender, and the articles are the very best to be had in the market.

Mr. DAVIN. By circular?

The PRIME MINISTER. By public tender.

Mr. DAVIN. Will the right hon. gentleman give us a copy of the tender?

The PRIME MINISTER. With pleasure.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If I understood the Prime Minister correctly, this amount which he is asking for to pay the force has nothing to do with the force

employed outside of the Territories proper, nothing to do with the Yukon district.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, there is a special estimate for the force in the Yukon.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. My hon. friend from Assiniboia has referred to me as expressing an opinion which I am prepared to stand by. I think that the force which was selected in the mounted police which went from the east was a success, and the fact of the west possessing my hon. friend is a further proof that a man going from the east does not injure the west in any shape or form. I do not think the right hon. leader of the House has made a very strong case when he discussed how he laid out his estimates for supplies. If you put 500 men in one place, as the hon. gentleman said, and 100 in another place, you do not thereby have an assurance that you can rely upon the supplies being furnished by local people. In a military course, as it is universally known, supposing your force is composed of 5,000 men, if you send five men to one place, and ten to another, and twenty-five to another, your stores are drawn upon by a requisition which is sent in by the officer commanding the different columns, and there is an end of it. But I think the right hon. gentleman has not consulted the Minister of Militia and Defence upon this very complicated question, because the Minister of Finance will tell him that it would be impossible for him to keep a thousand men according to the lines laid down by the right hon. gentleman in regard to supplies. I believe that every supply should be provided for by contract. As the right hon. gentleman properly stated, these are outside supplies. You go into a district where you require to expend \$100 or \$1,000 for a force, not because you did not call for tenders, but because the supply cannot be furnished from headquarters. Your stores at headquarters in Ottawa, or Winnipeg, or wherever the headquarters are for the mounted police, are drawn upon to meet every requisition that comes from the commanding officer, or the man who has to sign the requisition. Then the country knows that every requisition has been provided for by headquarters, that contracts have been called for by the government, and the goods have been supplied under these contracts.

Office of the Comptroller of the North-west Mounted Police, clerical and other assistance, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$900

The PRIME MINISTER. This item of \$900 is for the contingencies of the office of the Comptroller of the Mounted Police in Ottawa. It is a new item, and it is explained as follows: Last year we had a messenger who was transferred to the Inland Revenue Department. His name is Edward Hinchey, and he received a salary

of \$500. We want a new appropriation of \$300 for a messenger, and apart from that we want \$600 more for clerical assistance. The work of the office has been very largely increased, as everybody knows, largely on account of the Yukon, and we want for this additional clerical assistance \$600, and for a messenger \$300.

Office of the Comptroller of the North-west Mounted Police \$10,300

The PRIME MINISTER. There is an increase of \$150. The explanation is as follows: The chief clerk, Mr. Fortescue, whose salary is \$2,050, will receive \$2,100. Mr. Fisher, first-class clerk, whose salary is \$1,650, will receive \$1,700, and Mr. Duplessis, will receive an increase of \$50, making, in all, \$150.

Mr. PRIOR. Is Mr. Fisher a relation of the hon. Minister of Agriculture?

The PRIME MINISTER. No relation whatever.

Civil Government—Post Office Department \$202,455

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) give some slight information about this large amount?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The item is not as large as formerly, being \$600 less. This is for salaries of the inside service.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. But the hon. gentleman knows that he reduced salaries by cutting down the annual increase of the civil servants who were entitled to it. I think the hon. gentleman will agree with me that this is the reduction which has been made in his department.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The inside service, in all the departments is undergoing certain changes because of the action of the late administration in having abolished third-class clerkships, and as promotions take place, or vacancies occur in third-class clerkships, it has only been possible to fill them by appointing temporary writers under the provisions of the Civil Service Act. These changes are going on continually in the public service.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would ask the hon. gentleman to reply to the question which I have submitted to him. My contention is—it may be right or wrong, but I think it is right—that, under the law the hon. gentleman is bound to pay the annual increment to the men who are in his department. He refused to do so, and I still believe that if any of the officers in his department would appeal to the courts they would have the right to recover from the government the amount of money which they have been refused. I want to know whether the hon. gentleman, in discussing

the item, without giving any explanation, does not admit that this annual increment, which should have been paid, is taken out of that amount.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. The hon. gentleman, I think, is quite in error in his law. I do not think that he will find any lawyer to support the view that the staff are entitled to an increase as a matter of law.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. Yes.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. It is not the opinion of the government, nor is it the opinion of the legal adviser of the government, the Minister of Justice. Increases do not take place merely because so many hours or days elapse after one is in the office. Other things have to take place. Not merely by the vote of parliament even can they be compelled. Even when parliament votes the money that does not give the officer a legal right to their increase. A recommendation would have to be made to council, council would then have to make an appropriation and pass an order in council, and the increase would then become a charge on the vote. At all events, this government has not asked for all the statutory increases that are spoken of. We are asking for increases on merit, and in that way considerable increases have from time to time been made. In the estimates hon. gentlemen will find considerable sums for increases running through the various departments.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER** (Pictou). Not one increase in this.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. Yes, there are some.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Would you point them out? I have been looking for them and I cannot find them.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. In the vote forty-three on the next page.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. No, but on this vote for the staff.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. Vote 43 is part of it, and vote 43 contains sixty-one increases.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. As I understand it, the minister is not asking for an increase for one single officer in that branch.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. In the supplementary estimates for next year, there will be some items of increases in the inside service in connection with this vote.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. Then, the minister was wrong, and I am right, that there is not one increase provided for in this main estimate.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. We will discuss the supplementary estimates when they come down, but that has nothing to do with this. I tell the Postmaster General that there are two clauses in the Post Office Act, one which states that the clerks shall be paid so much per annum according to their rank, and that they shall receive so much a year as an annual increase. There is another clause in that Post Office Act which explains that the only reason why this increase shall be refused is when the civil servant is stated not to have fulfilled his duty, and that recommendation comes to the minister and the minister refers it to council. That is the law of the land in regard to this matter. When the hon. gentleman tells the country that he is saving so many thousand dollars a year by keeping away from the civil servants the money they are entitled to, he is not treating the country as he should. I believe that if a test case were taken before the courts the civil servants could recover their statutory increase under these two clauses in the Post Office Act. I am not going to tell the Postmaster General that his law is wrong as he said my law was wrong, but I will tell him that he has not read it or he would know differently; and I am quite certain that if an appeal were taken to the courts, the courts would decide against the view of the Postmaster General.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. I confess that I cannot see where the decrease is here.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I will tell the hon. gentleman. Mr. Matheson, the superintendent of the saving branch, was retired, and Mr. Harrington, next in command, was appointed in his place. Mr. Matheson's salary was \$2,600, and Mr. Harrington's salary was made \$1,800.

Sir **CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER**. The figures are blurred in my copy of the estimates.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. And they will be blurred before the country also. If there is one man known in Canada as having been the best official in that department it was Mr. Matheson. I knew him when I was head of the department, and I know he is quite capable of carrying out his duties. The Postmaster General made a mistake in appointing a man who, I do not believe, is the equal of Mr. Matheson in so far as experience is concerned, and giving him an increased salary. The Postmaster General never told us whether this decrease is comprised in the reduction he has made by not paying the annual increases to the civil servants of his department.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I do not think my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron) seriously means to take exception to the retirement of Mr. Matheson. Mr. Matheson was a very efficient officer, and I

endorse all the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) has said with regard to him. If the hon. gentleman wishes to insinuate that Mr. Matheson was retired at my suggestion, or that his was a compulsory retirement, brought about under the slightest pressure from me or from the government, I can assure the hon. gentleman he is entirely in error. I regret as much as my hon. friend, or any one else, the retirement of Mr. Matheson. Mr. Matheson, a year before his retirement, called upon me and stated he was in very poor health; that some years ago he had been seriously ill and had been obliged to go abroad on extended leave of absence. He complained of nervousness and pain in the head, brought about by extreme anxiety in consequence of his very responsible position. After travelling awhile and being under treatment, Mr. Matheson recovered and was well for some years. But, in the year preceding his retirement, he told me that he feared a recurrence of his old trouble. I told him that his appearance certainly did not sustain the view that he was at all likely to be incapacitated, for he looked the picture of health. I thought at the moment that it was only fancy, and I begged of him to consider the matter. A few months went by, and he again brought it to my attention, and about the end of the year, towards Christmas, he told me he was afraid he would have to retire. I asked him if he would not take a few months leave of absence to see if freedom from the cares of office might not give him the health he desired. He took a few months leave of absence, but after that he came back one day and said he was afraid his health would break down, and he could not stand the office, and so I very reluctantly consented to part with him. So much for Mr. Matheson's retirement.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The Postmaster General will permit me to say, that reluctant as he was to allow Mr. Matheson to retire, he was not reluctant to give increased pay to the man who succeeded him. Mr. Matheson was one of the best men it was possible to place at the head of that branch; he had almost established it; he had many years' experience in its management; and he must have known more about it than any new man could possibly know. I know that the hon. gentleman is quite sincere in stating that he recognized his merits; but, recognizing his merits and then giving a new man a larger salary than the man whose merits he recognizes is beyond anything I can explain.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. My hon. friend seems not to have understood me. I did not say that Mr. Harrington was given a higher salary than Mr. Matheson. What I explained to the hon. member for Pictou was that the reduction of \$600 arose from the fact that Mr. Matheson had been paid \$2,400, while Mr. Harrington is being paid

\$1,800. I find that I was in error in having stated that Mr. Harrington had received an increase. I believe there is a tradition, or rather a law, that when a man is at the head of his class, and is promoted from that class to the next higher class, the honour of the promotion counts for a time as emolument in lieu of increase of salary. Mr. Harrington is a worthy man, however, and is entitled to receive an increase in due course. But at present he does not receive an increase.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. gentleman say that there are no increases in the salaries of the staff of his department this year?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. There will be some proposed in the supplementary estimates. My hon. friend knows that a Bill has been introduced by the Minister of Finance to increase the maximum salaries of the packers of the Post Office Department, and if that Bill becomes law, parliament will be asked to make a slight increase in the salaries of the packers. I prefer to ask all the increases in one vote, instead of having part of them here and part of them in the Civil Service Bill now before parliament.

Mr. CLANCY. I understand that the Bill of the Minister of Finance goes further than that. That hon. gentleman, when he introduced the Bill, stated that it was for the purpose of filling up the gap between those in the temporary service and the second-class clerks, and that it will apply to the service generally. Speaking broadly, it is to provide a class to take the place of those who were formerly third-class clerks. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be able to tell the committee now who are to be selected for special favours this year, because that is what it means, nothing more nor less. I venture to say that if there is a clerk in his department who has offended his superior, he will find a black mark placed opposite his name; and no matter how good an officer he may be, if he has not made a settlement with his superior in the meantime, he will get no advance. The system we have now has practically enslaved every civil servant to the will and the wish and the whims and the evil designs of those who will connive and plot to further their own positions in the service. It is all well enough to say that that does not happen. That is simply human nature, and to give a person a chance to do it means that it will be done, more or less. Whether the system which has been set aside was perfect or not, I will not say; but I will venture to say that no system could be open to greater objections than the one adopted by the present government. As time goes on the difficulties will not be minimized, but greatly increased, in spite of the diligence of the head of the department. It will be utterly impossible for him to control such influences as must arise. I do not

care how strong the minister is, he is perfectly helpless to effect a remedy under a system of that kind. But I ask the hon. gentleman if he can give the committee the names of those who are to be selected on what we believe to be the score of favour which he may say is on the score of merit.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. The hon. gentleman has a very winning way, and I would like to give proof of my having recognized it by meeting his inquiry; but I would remind him that until the estimates are laid on the Table, it would be premature for me to proceed to discuss them. They will stand discussion then, and my hon. friend will have all the particulars of the increases when they come down together. I do not want to bring them down piecemeal.

Mr. **CLANCY**. I can tell the hon. gentleman that may seem a very good answer from him; but in the face of the fact that there is a statute providing for statutory increases, it does not look well for him in supplementary estimates to propose advances for the officials of his department. It bears all the colour and flavour pointed out a moment ago. Nothing could be worse for the service than to have the possibility of these increases held over their heads or to be delayed instead of providing for them in the main estimates if they are to be made at all. But the hon. gentleman has forgotten what he said a moment ago, that the increases were to apply to packers alone, or are they to be given to his staff generally?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. My hon. friend has misunderstood me. I certainly did not say that the increases I intend to recommend to council would include packers alone. What I did say was, that there is a Bill before parliament to increase the maximum salaries of packers, and as that Bill will likely become law, the government would probably ask parliament to enable these packers this session to enjoy the benefits of it. For that reason, I do not think it worth while to put part of the increases in the main estimates and part in the supplementary estimates, but they will all go into the supplementaries, which will not be limited to the packers alone. I am sure that my hon. friend will approve of the measure the Minister of Finance has introduced, raising the maximum of the packers, who are a very meritorious class, from \$500 to \$600.

Mr. **CLANCY**. That Bill does not apply to first-class clerks and neither does it apply to second-class clerks now in the service. It simply applies to another grade to be established in the second-class. Is it proposed to make any increases to those who do not come within the scope of the Bill?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. Yes.

Mr. **CLANCY**.

Mr. **CLANCY**. Then one would naturally expect to have such increases provided for in the main estimates. The hon. gentleman may put the increases where he likes, but I do not see why these, which are not provided for in the Bill referred to, should be suspended for the present and put in the supplementary estimates.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. It will not make any difference to the staff whether their increases are included in the main or the supplementary estimates. They will all go through in the one Supply Bill and become payable at the same time. The increases to be submitted to council will not be confined to the class covered by the Bill already alluded to, but the supplementaries will give the increases generally in all the classes.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. I would like to know whether the decrease in the estimates is due to the amount which the hon. gentleman has saved by not paying the statutory increases, and also what amount of money the hon. gentleman has received for the new stamps he issued, and which stamp collectors inform me comes to a very large amount.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. The hon. gentleman will find that a considerable number of increases have been made. The staff is a continually changing one, and there are constantly vacancies and new appointments. The hon. gentleman knows that, under the measure of 1895, third-class clerks were abolished and now we have only the temporary writers class. It would require an audit showing the different clerks' salaries and what would have been expended if they had received the annual allowance which my hon. friend says should go to them as a matter of right. That is not of consequence here; we are dealing with what we are going to vote and not with what has been voted or what has been withheld in years gone by. I can only say, as has been stated by members of the government before that the law officers of the government at any rate, Sir Oliver Mowat and his successor Mr. Mills, have both held that what have been known as statutory increases are not a matter of right, but depend upon other conditions as well. My hon. friend wants to know how much we realized from the sale of Dominion stamps.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. From collectors.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I am not aware of any account being kept or stamps being ear-marked so as to show that. All the stamps are sold in the ordinary way, and through the ordinary channels, and the government does not know what is done with them by those who buy them. But I should think it not at all surprising, if in admiration of some of these

stamps, persons should treasure them as works of art.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Schedule 'B' of the Civil Service Act provides that the salaries of clerks in the Post Office Department shall be increased by \$40 annually to \$800. This shows that when a man goes into the department as a third-class clerk, he is entitled to increase until his salary reaches \$800, and the only reason why he may be deprived of it is that he is reported to his minister as not attending to his duties as a civil servant. This is not a matter with me of making a point against the government; it is a question of appealing to parliament and to the country to give justice to men who have been deprived for four or five years of the increases of salaries that they are entitled to, and that they were deprived of by hon. gentlemen in an attempt to show—he has not succeeded; his work was clumsy—that he was reducing the expenditure of his department. I can give the figures to show that it is only by the extra revenues received from the sale of these extra issues of stamps that he has succeeded in bringing up the revenue of his department. That plan was recommended to me by those who were advising me when I was Postmaster General. They said: Make a new issue of stamps, and collectors will be glad to purchase them, and so you will make a lot of money. We see these collections all over the world. There are some collections that are worth thousands of pounds. Take the Duke of York for instance, his collections are estimated at a very large amount of money. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) ceased selling these stamps, his surplus disappeared; and now he is relying on depriving the civil servants of their well-earned salaries. I would like to know from the hon. gentleman the amount of money that the new stamps brought into the department, and also the amount which, if these increases had been paid to which the civil servants were entitled, would have been added to the expenditure.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have answered the hon. gentleman several times already, but I have no objection to answering him again. The gross vote does not include any increases which my hon. friend (Sir Adolphe Caron) calls statutory increases.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. My hon. friend (Mr. Mulock) never answered that before.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I intended to answer that; no doubt the error was mine. As to the amount received for the sale of certain postage stamps—

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Jubilee stamps.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Very well, call them Jubilee stamps—I have only

to say that stamps issued by the department have been sent in the regular way to postmasters in response to their requests for stamps and by them sold in the regular way to the public. The department has no means of knowing what use has been made of them by the public. Some may have been treasured up, just as many other stamps are.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. But if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mulock) knows the working of his department, he knows that his books show—or ought to show—the amount received from the sale of stamps. That is all I want, and the country is entitled to know these facts. What I want to get at is the amount received for the sale of Jubilee stamps. I wish to know how much money was spent by Canada for stamps, and how much money was received by the Postmaster General for stamps. That is a plain question, to which it is easy to reply. If I were in the hon. gentleman's position, by sending for Mr. Matheson, whom he replaced by another gentleman, I could get the whole thing in five minutes. These accounts are kept day by day, the book shows daily the expenditures for stamps, and the money which is received for them. How else could we control the expenditure of a great department like the Post Office, covering probably \$2,500,000? It would be impossible. The hon. gentleman sees that I am not asking anything that is unfair or unreasonable. I am asking information that the people of Canada require.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The amount received for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, as appears on page 3 of the Postmaster General's Report, for the sale of postage stamps, post cards, &c., is set down as \$4,091,116.11.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. That proves my contention exactly. That is a normal year for the sale of stamps, and the hon. gentleman has placed that amount to the credit of his department, and he has tried to convince his supporters and the country that he made a great saving and increased the revenue enormously. I have all the figures. I gave them on a previous occasion, when I was sorry not to see the hon. gentleman in his seat. For instance, we had a comparison of the statements contained in the reports of the Postmaster General for the year 1896-7-8, showing that the expenditure for mail service, by stage and other vehicles, or by hand, was as follows:

1896.....	\$847,080
1897.....	847,660
1898.....	765,660

For Steamboat Services.

1896.....	\$79,218
1897.....	83,734
1898.....	84,743

For Railway Mail Service.	
1896.....	\$1,285,383
1897.....	1,350,786
1898.....	1,352,257
For Salaries (Outside Service.)	
1896.....	\$1,249,402
1897.....	1,250,609
1898.....	1,175,155
Total Expenditure.	
1896.....	\$3,665,011
1897.....	3,789,478
1898.....	3,575,411

The reduction in the whole expenditure for 1898, as compared with 1896, was \$80,000. Of this reduction, \$74,217 was saved by withholding from the junior members of the outside service the annual increase of their salaries. These are facts. The hon. gentleman's contention is, that he acted, under the advice of the law officers of the Crown, who advised that they did not consider it was proper for the hon. gentleman to give which I considered to be, under the law, an absolute condition of their engagement, if I may so call it, or, more properly speaking, their appointment to the civil service. Now, the hon. gentleman knows that the issue of the new stamps is practically exhausted in so far as the revenue is concerned, but that issue brought into the coffers of the government \$100,000, and that was all put down as being due to the wonderful energy and practical ability of the Postmaster General. I do not deny his energy or his practical ability, but he has saved \$74,000 in money which he kept back from the clerks who were doing the work of that department. The hon. gentleman has been so saving in his department that he has called upon his colleague, the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), to carry his letters; he has actually placed his mail bags on the backs of the mounted police, and he has got his good friend the Minister of the Interior to pay the expenditure of carrying those bags. In my time, when we sent letters, and in the time of every Postmaster General, when we sent postal matter, we called for tenders, and the Postmaster General was bound to find the money by putting an amount in the estimate which he submitted to parliament. But the hon. gentleman does better. He says: The mounted police have been sent out there by my friend the Minister of the Interior, and I am going to get them to carry my mail bags and have the Department of the Interior pay for it. And he says: Look, the Yukon is giving us a very large revenue. And so it has been. But surely the hon. gentleman does not consider that the matter is properly put before the people of Canada. If \$100,000 is paid by the Department of the Interior for post office service, and if the hon. Postmaster General does not tell the people what that amount of money is for, then, he does not

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

take the people into his confidence, he does not take parliament into his confidence, and I do not believe it is a proper way in which estimates should be laid before parliament. I consider that if the hon. Postmaster General made use of the mounted police force in the Yukon to accomplish the post office service he should reimburse the Department of the Interior for the service performed by the mounted police. That is in accordance with my traditions of the cabinet, and in accordance with the way in which I used to treat my colleagues, and the way in which my colleagues used to treat me. When the Riel trouble was taking place several of the departments were brought into play and I used to have demands made against my department as regularly as I used to send claims in against other departments, and in that way the books were kept and the country knew what the expenditure was. When the hon. gentleman gets the Interior Department to perform his postal service in the Yukon, and takes the revenue for the Post Office Department he makes a statement which the country cannot understand.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If the hon. gentleman looks at page xiii., he will find a reference to the Yukon mail service. I may explain that last session this matter was discussed in parliament, and I stated then that I contemplated, as soon as possible, to obtain a safe contractor to carry the mails and to take the service from the mounted police, but, I considered it more important to secure the performance of the service than merely to try to take the service away from the police, and that therefore, until we could safely make the transfer we intended to utilize the mounted police. I also stated to parliament that at the end of the fiscal year an account would be taken as to the cost to the police of their carrying the mails, and that the accounts so ascertained would be returned to parliament, that it would not be withheld from the public, but that it would be made known to the public. Parliament assented, and nobody dissented from that proposition. When the fiscal year closed on June 30 last, the comptroller of the North-west Mounted Police, Mr. White, was asked to make up the account of his department, and he did make up his account for the cost of the service performed by the mounted police, and that account appears on page xiii. of the departmental report. It says:

During the winter season the North-west Mounted Police performed for the Post Office Department the following services:

Sixteen trips from Bennett to Dawson.
Thirteen trips from Dawson to Bennett.

It goes on:

The total value of the service so rendered has been fixed by the Comptroller of Mounted Police at \$47,400.

Then, a detailed report of the revenue and expenditure of the department for the year is set forth on page 14. It says :

The post office revenue for the Yukon and Atlin districts for the year amounted to \$10,846.61.

And the expenditure was a very much greater sum.

Mr. WALLACE. How much ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. \$69,350.39.

Mr. WALLACE. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. CAMPBELL. One at a time.

Mr. WALLACE. There are some hon. gentlemen who have an intellect no larger than to howl out 'one at a time,' like a parrot if two hon. gentlemen get up. I want to ask the hon. minister whether the \$69,000 was charged in the accounts of the expenditure of the Post Office Department.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Everything in connection with the Yukon is charged in the accounts of the Post Office Department with the exception of the amount of the service rendered by the North-west Mounted Police.

Mr. WALLACE. Does the hon. minister mean to tell us that this portion of the legitimate expenditure that he said he was so anxious to ascertain from the Department of the Interior so that it might be charged to his department, because that could be the only object of ascertaining it, was not charged against his department ?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. During my tenure of office, when I had occasion to open a post office which cost us a large amount of money and really produced no revenue at all I did so. I remember that \$9,000 was expended under one contract, I think, in the Peace River district. In any case it was one of the new regions. Under such circumstances if we received only \$10,000 or \$5,000 or \$2,000 my department came down and stated it in the estimates. We called for estimates, a contract was given to A, B, C, or D, and that contract cost Canada so much. The hon. gentleman has admitted exactly the whole point of my argument. I repeat to the hon. gentleman that he has had the work of his department done and paid for by the Interior Department, and that no doubt he made a saving in that way. If the Postmaster General can get every other department to pay for the work of his department, it is quite an easy matter for him to make a saving, as compared with his predecessors in office. The Postmaster General is not right in telling the country that he expended so much money in his department, when the fact is that he expended a great deal more. I have the figures to prove that

the North-west Mounted Police were carrying the mail bags on their shoulders, and that his good and well-intentioned friend, the Minister of the Interior was paying all this expenditure, so as to enable the Postmaster General to tell parliament that he made a saving of nearly \$250,000. We will have another opportunity of discussing this matter, and that opportunity, I will not fail to take advantage of. If you take the expenditure paid for him by the Department of the Interior, and the money he has made by peddling out new postage stamps, together with the statutory increases unjustly deducted from the civil servants, his surplus will disappear. This extraordinary system of book-keeping in the Post Office Department ought not to be tolerated by this parliament.

Mr. N. C. WALLACE. Before we get away from this (and we do not intend to get away from it until we know all about this matter), I would like to ask why the expenditure for the year in the Post Office Department, was not charged to the year. I want to know why, in making a financial statement of the receipts and expenditures for the financial year ending June 30, 1899, the Postmaster General has omitted \$11,000 from one side of the account, and omitted \$69,000 from the other side of the account, leaving a balance of \$58,000. I think it is a deliberate misleading of the people of the country in presenting a bogus statement like that. This report says :

The post office revenue for the Yukon and Atlin districts for the year amounted to \$10,846.61.

The expenditure, including the sum so fixed as the value of the services of the North-west Mounted Police, amounted to \$69,350.39, the cost thus exceeding the revenue by \$58,503.78.

Every year during the existence of the postal service, new routes are opened, and long distances must be traversed to settlements; and that mail service, of course, is run at a loss, but these expenses are honestly included in the accounts every year. Why should there be any difference made in reference to the establishment of post offices in the Yukon? Here we have a dishonest statement, because we have \$11,000 on one side and \$69,000 on the other suppressed. I do not think we should have such a statement of the case from the Postmaster General. The minister in charge of a department is bound to present a fair statement to parliament and to the people. That statement should be presented whether favourable or unfavourable, and the minister can make whatever explanation he pleases in regard to it, but the House and the country must have a straight presentation of the case, and they have not got it here. The report of the Post Office Department tells us :

The financial operations of the year ending June 30, 1899, not including the revenue and

expenditure in respect of the service in the Yukon and Atlin districts, as above mentioned (the same being above set forth), have resulted in a deficit of \$398,917.79.

Why did they not present a proper statement, and say that the deficit is \$398,917, plus \$58,000, amounting to \$456,000, instead of presenting a statement of the case which is untrue, unfair, and misleading in every way. The Postmaster General knows that the deficit is \$456,000, and he knows that the \$69,000 expenditure in carrying the mails to the Yukon, and the \$11,000 receipts, are just as essential to be placed in the receipts and expenditure respectively, as are the expenditures on the mail service to Toronto, or Ottawa, or North York, or anywhere else in the Dominion. I would like to hear the Postmaster General give us an explanation of that, and when he is done with that, we have several other problems which we are going to present to him.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Considering the explanations already offered, it would seem scarcely necessary again to refer to the subject; but since the hon. member for West York asks me to explain it, I will try to meet his wishes. He states—I will not quote his words, which are extreme, violent and unwarranted—that these accounts are not correct; and I referred him to the very frank statement on pages xiii and xiv, and to the statement on page 4.

Mr. CLANCY. What the committee is most anxious to know is why that frank statement is put in there, and not charged up properly.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. If I may be allowed to make that part of my explanation, I will proceed to do so. I explained before that the Yukon and Atlin service was regarded as a special service. In former days, at the opening of the North-west Territories, it was customary to put all such items into one account and charge them as expenditures in connection with the North-west Territories. That is what I am informed by the comptroller of the mounted police. With reference to the remarks of the hon. member for Three Rivers, as to the manner in which he conducted the Yukon service—

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I never referred to it. In my time the Yukon was unknown.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have heard of only one case which the hon. gentleman had in connection with the Yukon; that was the case of a contractor who was given an order to take a mail in, and who got as far as the White Pass, lost his bag, and returned. Another one made a round trip or two, I believe, and sent in his account. That was all the experience my hon. friend had of the Yukon.

Mr. WALLACE.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. That was not very good.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Now, the Auditor General, I presume, entered up in his own way, in the public accounts, in accordance with the vote of parliament, all the gross receipts and gross expenditures of each department up to the 30th of June; but in connection with this particular department, I explained to parliament how it was necessary in the public interest that we should continue to use the mounted police until we could arrange for an efficient service in another way. Parliament approved of that, and we did utilize the police. Any one who turns up *Hansard* of last year will find that I said that I did not ask parliament for a vote, because I had no idea what the service would cost, that we were not inviting tenders, but that when the mounted police ascertained at the end of the fiscal year how much it had cost them to carry the mails, we would report that in the Post Office Report. That has been done, and the report has been extremely careful to present a frank statement to public. On pages xiii and xiv it is stated that the service was performed by the mounted police, and that \$47,000 was charged to us on account of that service. In this report the accounts are not dealt with as the Auditor General deals with them, but a paragraph, under the heading of 'financial operations,' shows how the revenue and the expenditure of the department for the year compared, and states that the result is a deficit of \$398,917.79, over and above any deficit that might occur by reason of the Yukon mail service, and the deficit of the Yukon mail service was \$58,503.78 in addition. As if that was not sufficient, you find on page 4 of the report a statement of the gross revenue and the net revenue of the department for the year, and the gross expenditure for the year; and a foot note states that the revenue set forth here does not include the revenue of the Yukon and Atlin districts, and that the expenditure set forth does not include the expenditure for the Yukon and Atlin service. So that you find that the net deficit on the Yukon and Atlin services for the year is \$58,503, and the deficit on the balance of the service is \$398,917. This makes it perfectly clear to any person what the financial results of the department for the year were.

Mr. WALLACE. What is the total deficit?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman can find out for himself by adding together those two figures.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It is as clear as mud to my mind. The more the hon. gentleman explains, the more difficult it is for me to understand; I have no doubt it must be my fault. Nobody complains of

the hon. gentleman making use of the mounted police for the Yukon postal service. It may be that in the conditions of that country it would be impossible to get up a service as efficient as the service the hon. gentleman organized; but what is a surprise to the country is that the hon. gentleman takes the revenue from that service as a part of the increased revenue of his department, but does not charge against it the total expenditure. Now, the country is entitled to know how much the Postmaster General spends per annum in his department, and how much the revenue of that department is. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman to pose as an economical minister, but when he gets the mounted police to do postal service, and gets the Interior Department to pay the expense, that is not a saving affected in the postal administration. The cost of the mounted police, when employed in the postal service, should be charged against the hon. gentleman's department.

When I had charge of the hon. gentleman's department, I remember having given out a contract that cost some \$8,000 for establishing a postal service in a new country, which at the outset only gave \$2,000 of postal revenue, but I was able to show that the increase in customs dues and inland revenue collections in that district more than recouped us for the loss in operating the postal service, without which that district could not have been developed at all.

Mr. PRIOR. I wish to call attention to the item of \$215 for allowances paid to officers of the dead letter office, because of the increased cost of living in Manitoba and British Columbia. No doubt the cost of living there is greater, and I am glad to see that the hon. gentleman still continues to pay a provisional allowance to post office clerks and carriers, but it seems to me that the phraseology of this item might well be altered. We are trying to get as many people as we can into those provinces, and do not want to send out to the world, in an official blue-book, the statement that the cost of living there is greater than elsewhere, as such an official statement might be the means of keeping some people away. I would suggest that the item should read instead: 'Because of the exceptional circumstances of the service in those provinces.'

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I have no objection to adopt that phraseology, although the item is worded as it has been for years.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do not see how the wording can be changed, because the allowance is based on the statement of fact that the cost of living is larger in those provinces than in the others.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the hon. minister prepared to say, how much saving was effected in his department last year in consequence

of the statutory increases not having been given?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. There cannot be said to be a saving when we do not give the statutory increases. If the hon. gentleman wants to know the total amount that might, under the law, have been paid out in statutory increases to the various clerks, he could easily ascertain that by taking the staff and seeing how much each member of it would have obtained, but a calculation of that kind does not enter into our accounts at all.

Mr. PRIOR. With regard to the clerks and letter carriers in the Victoria post office, they were all given statutory increases in 1895-6. But in 1896-7 and 1897-8 the Postmaster General saw fit not to give them their increases, whereas in 1899 he did. Is there any reason why those men should have been kept out of their ordinary statutory increases in 1897 and 1898 and not in 1899? If justice were done, they would be paid the amount kept back in 1896-7 and 1897-8. The statutory increases can not have been kept back because they did not do their duty, and they went into the service expecting these yearly increases. I should like to have the hon. minister promise to see that these people are given their back pay.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am not able to go into the figures of 1897-8. No doubt it was then discussed.

Mr. PRIOR. No, it was not.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. That would be the hon. gentleman's own omission. The whole subject was then threshed out from day to day. As to the question whether we propose to give these men back pay, I do not think that is a fair way to designate the non-increase in salaries. We are to-day increasing the allowance to the letter carriers by some \$60 per year. The allowance which was formerly given them, under the late government, was \$10 and we have increased that to \$15 a month. We have increased them \$55 or \$60 a year; so that, even if we did not quite carry out the hon. gentleman's idea in adding to their remuneration in one way, we perhaps have gone a little better than he in another respect.

Mr. PRIOR. I suppose the hon. Postmaster General gives that as a reason why the back pay should not be given. The fact is, the post office inspector went to Vancouver and Victoria to see how the post office department was carried on, and reported that owing to the excessive cost of living at Vancouver, an increase of \$5 a month should be given to the post office officials there. But he did not report the same as to Victoria. I think *Hansard* will show that I brought this subject up in the House and asked why the increase was given to Vancouver and not to Victoria. I am glad to say that the Postmaster General looked into the matter—I suppose—and pro-

mised it should be given, and since then it has been given. But, I do not think that that is a reason why the statutory increases on the regular salary, which were withheld in 1897 and 1898, should not be given now. When I said I thought the matter was not discussed, I believe I was mistaken—it was discussed, but no reason was given by the Postmaster General why the increases should not be given, except that it was not mandatory, that it lay with the Postmaster General to say whether they should be given or not. There are a number of points I wish to bring forward with regard to the post office service in British Columbia, but they may be more appropriately discussed on other items. But, as to the point now under discussion, I am of opinion that when men go in expecting that they will get these increases, the Postmaster General should give them, whether the law is mandatory or not.

Mr. CLANCY. A rather new doctrine was laid down by the Postmaster General to-night, and that is, that if the statutory increases have not been made, we did not make a demand for them. That is the sum and substance of his argument. Will he adopt the rule, that when a demand is made he will admit that he has no longer an excuse for refusing them? What we contend for is that there should be some regular system adopted in this matter. Now, coming back to the answer that the hon. gentleman gave me, it was to the effect that if I wanted the information asked for I could figure it out myself. I have been under the impression that it was the Postmaster General's duty to give such information as I asked for before he got his estimates through. I think my question was not unreasonable—namely, to state to the committee what the saving has been by reason of not giving the statutory increases to a portion of his staff, or the whole of it, as the case may be. If he does not like the manner in which the question was put, I am willing to modify it in any way to suit his taste.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I did not wish to be lacking in courtesy to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy); but he put a hypothetical case—

Mr. CLANCY. Not a hypothetical case.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL—supposing you had increased the salaries of so many officers, how much would it have amounted to? Well, there is nothing in the law to say that we shall increase them by any particular sum, the increase may be whatever parliament chooses to vote. He puts a hypothetical case; let me put another. Let him figure out what he thinks each clerk should receive by way of increase and tell me the total. That proposition has nothing to do with the financial accounts of the government; because we have not proceeded in that way to increase

Mr. PRIOR.

salaries, but have increased them according to our own construction of the statutes.

Mr. CLANCY. But the hon. gentleman and his friends are boasting that they have made great saving in his department. For instance, he shows what they have saved in mail contracts. I am not putting a hypothetical case, but am asking a plain matter of fact. In some cases, increases have been made, and in some cases they have not, and the hon. gentleman knows whether there is a saving by that method or not. The question seems to me so reasonable that the hon. gentleman can scarcely refuse to give an answer. The policy he is pursuing may be one affecting the efficiency of the service.

Mr. HAGGART. Perhaps I may be able to give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) the information he wants. The clause in the Post Office Act under which the post office clerks are entitled to increases, is entirely distinct from the Civil Service Act. He speaks of having the opinion of the Minister of Justice. Perhaps it was an opinion on the Civil Service Act, but not on this clause in the Post Office Act. If the increases were given as they were ordinarily made, at the rate of about \$70,000 a year. Had this been done, the estimate he would have required over his present estimate would have been about \$200,000.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I will not attempt to contradict the hon. gentleman's statement to-night; but, just for the sake of elucidation, when my supplementary estimates come up—and I shall have some increases to discuss—I shall be prepared with a statement showing what would have been the disbursements of the department if we had proceeded as he proposes. I think the hon. gentleman's estimate is wide of the mark, but I need not discuss that now.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I might save the hon. gentleman some trouble by giving him the exact figures. The amount is \$74,217.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Probably the taxpayers of Canada will approve of my policy a little.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do not think they will. The taxpayers of Canada do not approve of a policy that will keep a salary from any man who has earned it.

Mr. DAVIN. Is the Postmaster General doing anything to place the mail clerks in the North-west Territories in the position they were in when he made a cut in their salaries?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am not aware of having made a cut in the salaries of any clerks in the service.

Mr. DAVIN. Whether that be so or not, I think the original allowance they did have should be restored. The Minister of Customs has been up to the North-west

and finds that the rate of living is so much higher than it is in the east, that he has decided to increase the salaries of the officers in his department; and I think the hon. Postmaster General should take the same facts into consideration, and increase the salaries of the mail clerks.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. When the hon. gentleman asks me to restore to the mail clerks the allowance originally granted them, he does not know what he is asking for. Let me tell him that the extra allowance paid them was 10 per cent of their salaries. Well, the average salary of mail clerks in the Territories is composed of the salary and mileage. The average salary of a mail clerk, leaving out his mileage, is \$700. 10 per cent of that would be \$70. Instead of increasing their special allowance by 10 per cent, which would be only \$70 a year, I have increased it to \$10 a month, or \$120 a year. I do not think the hon. gentleman wants to go back to the former scale of payment.

Mr. DAVIN. I want to ask the minister what mileage he allows the mail clerks at present?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Their mileage is fixed by statute. I think it is one cent per mile during the day, and one and a half cents a mile during the night. The rate is found in the appendix in the schedule of the Post Office Act.

Mr. WALLACE. The minister said he was informed that in the olden days it was the custom to put the carrying of the mails in the Yukon country into the regular charges. Can he tell us any one year in which that was done, or quote us a specific precedent? If there were such a precedent it would not be justification for a misstatement of the case. In his report he explains the deficit was a certain amount of money: 'The financial operations of the year ended June 30, 1899, not including the revenue and expenditure in respect to the service in the Yukon and Atlin districts, have resulted in a deficit of \$398,000.' Well, I asked what was the total deficit, and the Postmaster General told me, with his usual urbanity, that I could add up the figures for myself and ascertain. Of course I could, and I have, and I have ascertained that his statement is a falsehood, and that the House is being misled by that report of the Postmaster General. The statement I have from the public accounts which is one thing, his statement is another thing, and neither of them is the truth. Now, I turn to the public accounts for the year ending June 30, 1899, giving a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the post office for that year. I have the book here before me. The revenue is \$3,196,776 and the expenditure \$3,584,848, the difference between the revenue and expenditure being \$388,072. That

is the deficit, according to the report of the Minister of Finance. But, Mr. Chairman, are these figures all wrong because the hon. Postmaster General makes a different statement? Here we have the figures from the Postmaster General in his report for the same year, and he quotes \$398,000, which is \$10,000 more. But this is a false statement, because there is a deficit of \$58,000 in addition in the Yukon. Why should the Yukon be separated from the statement of the business of the postal department, because the expenditure, I see, is very large and the revenue is pretty small? There are some places where the receipts are pretty large and the expenditures pretty small. They do not separate them, but they give the whole expenditure under the law, as the hon. member for Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron) tells us. You ought to have a proper statement of the affairs of the Post Office Department. We have not got that. The hon. Postmaster General says further, that: We decided to put this matter into the hands of the mounted police and employ them to carry the mails. He said that parliament approved of that course. I would like to know when it was submitted for the approval of parliament, when parliament approved of it and in what way parliament approved of it. I am speaking to the hon. Postmaster General. The Postmaster General is too high and mighty to pay any attention to criticisms or remarks.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am listening.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. Postmaster General is not listening; he is attending to other work. I will wait until he is through, and then I will resume my remarks, because I think every member of this House is entitled to some courtesy, even from the Postmaster General. He might take a lesson from his leader (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who never fails in courtesy to the humblest member in the House, while the hon. Postmaster General has never given any courtesy to any member of the House. But, it would seem that he does not know the rules which should guide the ordinary intercourse of gentlemen one with another.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. He is not a Frenchman.

Mr. WALLACE. I think he might, with advantage to himself, go and live among Frenchmen for a while, and learn from them those lessons of politeness for which they are noted.

Mr. DAVIN. Or take dancing lessons like the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

Mr. WALLACE. I am afraid he has not those graces that would qualify him to take dancing lessons. But, there has been a deficit of \$398,000 plus \$58,000, and we want to know why the hon. gentleman does not

present a fair statement of the deficit, and why he did not include the Yukon expenditure as one of the regular expenditures of the department which should be included. The hon. Minister of Finance tells us that there has been a deficit for the year of \$388,000. We have the statement of the hon. Postmaster General saying that the deficit is \$10,000 more, or \$398,000. But, when we accept the polite invitation of the hon. Postmaster General to add up the various figures and ascertain for ourselves what the deficit is we apply to the reports and we find that the deficit in the Yukon is \$58,503, and that it has not been included in the statement of the financial operations of the Post Office Department for the year. But, when we add them together we find that the deficit is \$457,420. These are the figures after all, when they come to be analysed. I say that we want accuracy, and we want a fair presentation of the case by the hon. Postmaster General. I would like to ask the hon. Postmaster General a question now. How many deputy ministers to-day are drawing superannuation allowances?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I do not know how many the late government superannuated, and who are yet alive. I think I remember one. I superannuated one officer who had been some fifty years in the service. If the officer superannuated by the hon. gentleman's government is still alive, that would make two.

Mr. **WALLACE**. The hon. minister tells us that he does not know the simplest affairs of his department. We have an exhibition of ignorance of affairs of his department which is acknowledged by himself when he says he does not know. He says that the Conservative party superannuated one. Well, I think he might have told us that he was not satisfied with one superannuation, but that he superannuated another one himself and one well able to perform the duties of his office and who, I am informed, did not wish to be superannuated, but who was both able and willing to perform the duties of his office. I think the hon. Postmaster General has a very efficient deputy to-day. I have not one word to say in derogation of the present Deputy Postmaster General, but I do say that the country has come to the conclusion that the hon. Postmaster General found that the able Deputy Postmaster General was likely to supplant him in the affections of the people of North York, and in order to prevent that he asked him to accept the position of Deputy Postmaster General. I am told that the hon. Postmaster General is an exceedingly wealthy man. But he is taking the money of the country in order that he may serve his own ends. I see the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin), a gentleman who has grown gray in the service of his country and of his party. Although

Mr. **WALLACE**.

he is not a millionaire he would not serve himself at the expense of his country in the way that I have indicated that the hon. Postmaster General has done. I know the disinterested and patriotic service that the hon. member for South Grey has given to his party and to his country and I would like to see the hon. member occupy a position on the Treasury benches for which his ability, his services and his experience eminently qualify him.

Mr. **LANDERKIN**. You are getting to be quite a good speaker.

Mr. **WALLACE**. It is customary for members of the House to address the Chair, and not to make personal remarks across the floor. I hope the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) will not spare his blushes at the recognition of his eminent services to his party and his country.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. And the empire.

Mr. **WALLACE**. Yes, and the empire at large. The Postmaster General has told us he does not know how many he has superannuated, but he ought to know. He superannuated his deputy minister when there was another Deputy Postmaster General living and drawing his superannuation allowance. Are there not two superannuated Deputy Postmasters General drawing their superannuation allowance at the present moment?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. They do not draw their superannuation allowance from the Post Office Department.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I am aware of that, but the Postmaster General should know about it.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I do not know that any fatality has happened to the gentleman whom I superannuated, and so far as I know the Deputy Postmaster General whom the Conservative government superannuated many years ago has ever since continued to draw the allowance which the government of the day voted him.

Mr. **WALLACE**. I am glad to know that these two gentlemen are still living, and I am glad we got a satisfactory answer at last, although we are not accustomed to getting satisfactory answers from the Postmaster General. Now, as to the salaries of the country postmasters. The custom has been to ascertain the legitimate business done at the country post offices, and to give 40 per cent of that as remuneration to the postmaster. But, in the case of thousands of post offices through the country, the reduction from three cents to two cents has caused a decrease in the income. The increased business is much larger in cities and commercial centres than it is in the rural districts, and we will take it that in a post office where the business was formerly

\$1,000 a year that business is now \$666, if the same number of letters passed through. Forty per cent on \$1,000 would yield a salary of \$400 a year, but if the revenue is only \$666, the revenue at 40 per cent would be only \$266. The Postmaster General has said: Oh, we have not disturbed the salaries of these post offices. But that is not an answer to the question, because there must be some principle on which the Post Office Department is proceeding. The Postmaster General cannot himself adjust all these matters in the thousands of post offices throughout the Dominion, but he must lay down a general principle which will guide the officer who has this matter in charge. Now, what is the principle? Here is a post office where the business was \$1,000 and the salary of the postmaster \$400, and the Postmaster General says: We are not going to disturb that. But another place grows up rapidly, and the revenue is increased from \$100 to \$1,000 in a few years, and what is the officer who has the regulation of the salaries to do about that post office? The postmaster in the old post office gets \$400, but in the new place, where he does the same amount of business, the income is \$666, and 40 per cent on that would be only \$266 a year. Will that postmaster get the \$266 or will he get the \$400 a year, the same as the postmaster in the longer established office?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman states that the reduction of postage has, in his opinion, resulted in an increase of revenue, but he thinks it is chiefly in the city post offices.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It has not increased at all.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Well, that will appear at the end of the fiscal year. But, I would say, speaking generally, that I think the reduction in postage has led to a fairly ratable increase in revenue throughout the country. Perhaps it may be more marked at great trade centres. The principle on which all postmasters are remunerated, is not one established during the regime of the present government, but has existed since confederation—in fact, prior thereto; that is, that postmasters are paid a percentage on the revenues of their offices; as the revenue fluctuates, the salary fluctuates correspondingly. Changes in postal rates are constantly going on; they went on during former governments. On many occasions, hon. gentlemen opposite, claimed, and rightly claimed, to have reduced postage; and I am not aware that in any case, they adopted any special principle on which to deal with new appointees. New appointees came in under the rule I have stated. As to whether or not previous governments did as I have done, that is, maintain the salaries of the existing appointees at the time of the re-

duction, I do not know. I have never heard of their having extended special consideration to postmasters in office at the time of any reduction, by providing that if the reduction of rates resulted in a reduction of revenue, that would not be followed by a reduction of salary. They may have made such provision; I do not know whether they did or not. So far as the postmasters in office are concerned, their positions were protected in the way I have stated. New appointees come in on a percentage, according to the custom that has always been maintained.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I wish to say a word in reference to a remark that has fallen from the lips of my hon. friend, and has been taken up by the Postmaster General. I have not a word of complaint to make of the present deputy. I have not the pleasure of his acquaintance, as I had of the former one; but I can say that a better deputy to the Postmaster General, than Col. White, Canada could not very well find. He was trained in the Post Office in London, and was brought out here as a very young man; he grew up with the growth of the country, and he knew every branch of that department perfectly. Mr. Griffin, who was superannuated before I was Postmaster General, but who was in the office when I was Minister of Militia, was a very old man. He had rendered good service to the department. The building up of that department has been accomplished through the combined efforts of Mr. Griffin and Col. White, and nobody contributed more than Col. White to make it the successful department which it became. In the creation of the money order department and the savings bank branch, a vast amount of experience and knowledge of the requirements of the country were required, and Col. White was equal to every emergency. As he is superannuated, and as he was under me for some time, I wish to give my certificate at least, not only to his qualifications for that high position, but to the manner in which, day in and day out, he was always prepared to work for the country which paid him. I think he should not have been superannuated. Of course, the hon. gentleman, when he came into that department was new, and being a member of a Reform government, he supposed that it was absolutely necessary for him to make some reforms—he may have made them in the wrong direction. Still I say that of all the men who have been Deputy Postmasters General, Col. White is entitled to great credit for having carried on the work of that department in the manner he did, showing that he was the right man in the right place.

Mr. WALLACE. The Postmaster General tells us, in reply to my statement about the changes in the salaries of postmasters, that changes were made in the past, under Conservative governments, and that he does

not know whether alterations were made in the salaries of postmasters then or not. Surely it is not a satisfactory answer for the Postmaster General, in reply to questions, to tell us that he does not know things which he ought to know. At any rate, he ought to know what his own programme is. He says that new appointees will have to take their chances. The Postmaster General has not told us what he proposes to do in the case of postmasters who went into office under certain conditions which have since been changed—men who perform the same amount of labour, while the receipts from their offices are so much less. If the receipts of an office are the same as before, the work must have increased about 50 per cent. In that case, does he propose to increase the salary 50 per cent?

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I should like very much if the government could see their way clear to change the Act so as to allow a little more to country postmasters. A great many men are conducting post offices for a mere scanty pittance: they do not get half what they are entitled to. At the same time, I think the criticism of my hon. friend from West York (Mr. Wallace), is hardly fair. The percentage now paid to postmasters is paid under the same law that existed when my hon. friends opposite were in power, and under which the postmasters are paid 40 per cent of the receipts. When the postal rate was reduced from five cents to three cents by the hon. gentlemen opposite, I presume the same laws was in existence.

Mr. WALLACE. You presume, but there is no evidence.

Mr. McMULLEN. The probability is it was, and there was then nothing said regarding the reductions in the case of postmasters who are paid by percentage instead of salary. These men knew the conditions under which they took office, and had no cause of complaint. Then the present Postmaster General decided to reduce the rate from three cents to two cents, and the postmasters are treated on the same basis as they always have been. It is impossible to put a law on the statute-books that will mete out the same measures of relief to everybody. In my opinion, the city postmasters are paid altogether too much. I think that their salaries should be reduced, and those of country postmasters, some of whom get only \$12 to \$15 per year, should be increased. The whole system should be recast, and I hope that this will be the next reform which my hon. friend the Postmaster General will accomplish. There is not a minister who has secured to a greater degree the admiration of the people for the reforms he has accomplished without impairing the public services, and for the ability with which he has administered his department, then my hon. friend. No

Mr. WALLACE.

doubt hon. gentlemen opposite realize this, and no doubt also that is a cause of the severe criticism to which they are subjecting him. I must say that when my hon. friend opposite (Sir Adolphe Caron) presided over the department, he was very courteous. I endorse all that he has said with regard to the deputy, but at the same time my hon. friend must admit that his deputy was getting up pretty well in years, and the change has met with general approval. I do not wish to flatter the present Deputy Postmaster General, but was glad to hear the remarks made from the opposite side with regard to him.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman seems to be under the impression that this is a back country school-house and not a parliament, judging by the lengthy remarks he has just made. I was not aware that it was incumbent on him to rise in his place and explain the administration of the Post Office Department. In so doing, the hon. gentleman seems to imply that the Postmaster General himself was not equal to the task. I desire to ask a question regarding the reductions in the emoluments of postmasters by reason of the reduction in postage rates. Take, for instance, the post office at Wallaceburg. In 1897, its revenue was \$3,660, and at present its revenue is \$3,414, or \$246 less revenue at present. The salary of the postmaster, when the revenue was larger, was \$950, but it is now \$1,000. On what system has that change taken place?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. All these arrangements of salaries are made by the accountant on a regular scale. The accountant informs me that it is impossible, from the figures here, to answer the question, because the salary includes other things besides the percentage. It includes, for instance, night allowance in addition to the 40 per cent.

Mr. CLANCY. I know that this office closes every night at eight o'clock.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The accountant also tells me that the revenue column includes, besides the stamps, other items on which the postmaster may not receive the percentage. He only receives the percentage on the revenue derived from the sale of postage stamps. The accountant would have to turn up the ledgers to get the details of the revenue and salary before he could answer the question.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. We have been voting large amounts, and particularly after having finished this enormous vote of \$250,000, I would, therefore, ask the Prime Minister if he does not think we might adjourn?

The PRIME MINISTER. It is not late, and we could go on for a little longer.

Mr. WALLACE. There is no real progress made taking up business so late.

The PRIME MINISTER. It is now only twelve o'clock, let us go on until half-past twelve.

Mr. WALLACE. You cannot take up business and dispose of it at so late an hour.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Mr. Wallace) has forgotten how, when he was on this side, he used to keep us up until two in the morning discussing estimates.

Post Office Department—Amount required balancing and summarizing depositors' accounts at close of year ending June 30, 1900..... \$3,275

Mr. CLANCY. There is an increase there.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It is due to the increase in the number of the accounts. The remuneration is based on an allowance of 1½ cents for computing the interest on each account; and it is estimated that there will be an increase of 15,000 in the number of accounts.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. That used not to be the rate—there was no estimate based on any payment of 1½ cents for an account.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The accountant assures me that this scale has always been in existence.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I recollect going before council with the estimates for additional clerks, and my recollection is that the remuneration was placed at so much per day.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Adolphe Caron) is mistaken. I certainly did not originate this system, which the accountant says has been in existence for many years.

Civil Government — Contingencies — Post Office Department—Clerical and other assistance, including \$120 to pay S. J. Carter of the dead letter office of Winnipeg, a provisional allowance for excessive cost of living in Manitoba, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$32,305

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to ask the Postmaster General if this increase is calculated to cover any increase in the cost of the service by reason of the Bill of the Minister of Finance?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No, it is not. There is an increase in this item of \$7,870. It is arrived at in this way: Four clerks resigned, or were promoted, whose salaries were \$430, \$450, \$460 and \$360. You have added to the salary list, nine clerks at \$400 each, and \$30 for a short time for one clerk, and \$4,000 estimated increase for additional writers, besides \$120 for Mr. Carter, provisional allowance. Then, for six clerks there is a addition of \$30 each. This makes up the total of \$7,830.

Mr. PRIOR. Is this increase in the number of writers altogether in Manitoba?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No. The department is a growing one in all parts of the country. As the volume of business increases, the staff must increase. That will go on continually in the Post Office Department of a great and growing country like this.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. But will the expenses of living in Winnipeg go on increasing also? Of course, before the building of railways, I could understand it; but why should living be more expensive in Winnipeg than in Ottawa?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. It is.

Mr. PRIOR. Beyond doubt, it is.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I am not discussing Mr. Carter—I do not know anything about his case. But, I say let us adjust this matter on a proper basis all around, and let us give salaries that will cover the whole requirements of living in Winnipeg, British Columbia, Montreal, Ottawa or Quebec. The civil servants themselves do not understand why one man should be paid more than another. I think that, with the facilities they have for communication, living in Winnipeg is not more expensive than it is in Ottawa, Toronto or Montreal.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I beg to say that the hon. gentleman is in error. The difference in the cost of living was recognized by my predecessors, but not sufficiently recognized. They allowed 10 per cent, but we have increased the provisional allowance to \$10 per month for persons whose salaries do not exceed \$800. Before making that change, I made a careful inquiry and became satisfied that in Manitoba, the Territories, and British Columbia the cost of living is very much in excess of what it is in the older settled parts of Canada.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I admit that when the country was undeveloped, or less developed than it is to-day, we made a difference in the salaries. But I do not see how the hon. gentleman can argue that the expenses of living at the present time are greater than they are in the east. A loaf of bread is not worth any more there than it is down here, nor is a pound of beef. Rents are much higher in Ottawa and Toronto than they are in Winnipeg. I have lived for weeks in Winnipeg, and I do not believe that the cost of living there to-day warrants the hon. gentleman in what he is doing. I think it is discouraging to the civil servants. If you have one man paid \$150 more for doing the same amount of work in Ottawa than another man is paid in Winnipeg, or vice versa, you render the latter dissatisfied. I think it is a wrong principle, and I am opposed to any discrimination in

favour of any portion of Canada, whether Winnipeg or British Columbia.

Mr. PRIOR. I may be allowed to enlighten the hon. gentleman from Three Rivers (Sir Adolphe Caron) with regard to the cost of living. I know he has been in Manitoba and British Columbia, and no doubt the way he lives he pays no more than he does in the east. When you go to a first-class hotel they charge just about as much in Quebec or Montreal as they do in British Columbia or Manitoba. Take this fact, for instance, that the least coin they have in British Columbia is 5 cents. There is nothing like the copper that we have in the east. When you buy a box of matches you have to pay 5 cents for it.

Mr. CLANCY. How much for two boxes?

Mr. PRIOR. Five cents, you can get nothing for less than 5 cents. If you want a clay pipe, it is 5 cents. Then the hon. gentleman does not seem to realize that British Columbia as yet is not a manufacturing country, and nearly everything that is used there in the way of clothing, furniture, and so forth, has to come from the east where it is manufactured, and freight is very heavy on a 3,000 miles journey. You cannot get labour at the same rate as you can here. Even your Chinese servants you have to pay \$25 to \$30 a month, besides board. The salaries that are paid to the same class of labour are double the salaries paid in Quebec, in almost any class of labour. Take the higher classes of labour such as captains and engineers of vessels. That matter came up when I was interviewing the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in regard to the salaries paid to captains on government steamers. You cannot get a captain of a steamer in British Columbia, a man on whom you can safely place responsibility, for less than \$150 a month; while down in the maritime provinces they think they do pretty well if they get \$80 or \$90 a month. It is the same all through, the scale of wages is much higher on the Pacific coast. For that reason I think it is only fair that the civil servants should get a higher rate of wages, and should be allowed a provisional allowance such as was granted by the late government, and is granted by the present government. The Postmaster General says he sent an inspector out to inquire and report on the matter, and I believe he will find beyond doubt, that the cost of living there is much higher than it is in the east.

Mr. CLANCY. I notice the name of Mr. S. J. Carter is granted \$120 for the same service for which he appears in the supplementaries.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. His name is James Carter, not S. J. His salary is \$400 or \$500 a year. He belongs to the

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

dead letter branch, and is partly in the inside service. But we have decentralized that branch, and transferred two clerks from the centre here to other places in Canada. Mr. Carter being one of them, was sent to Winnipeg. The estimates the hon. gentleman now has are for the fiscal year beginning the 1st of July next; the supplementaries contain a provisional allowance covering the time since he went up there last summer.

Mr. WALLACE. In regard to this man Carter we have been trying to find out his pedigree. It is not S. J. Carter at all, but James Carter. I always notice in connection with the Postmaster General that when you trace up and find out who a man is that he is loading favours on you will find that he is a Liberal. This one here is one of those appointed by themselves who is receiving a special favour of \$120 a year. The hon. gentleman does not propose that all of those who are living in Winnipeg shall enjoy a similar advantage in regard to salary. The salary he is getting now is \$1,000 a year. Is that the salary he is getting? Is he drawing the maximum salary of a third-class clerk?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He is not a third-class clerk, but he comes in under the heading of temporary writers.

Mr. WALLACE. We will call him a third-class clerk. He is put down as a third-class clerk.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. That is his father.

Mr. WALLACE. Then we have another disclosure. When was James Carter appointed?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. In 1890 by my hon. friend's government.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is another disclosure.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. He must be a good man.

Mr. WALLACE. I beg to contradict the hon. gentleman in the statement that he was appointed in 1890. This man does not appear on the civil service list for 1889. There is a James Carter here. I was told by somebody that it is this man's father. This James Carter is a third-class clerk and he was appointed on January 1, 1877, when hon. gentlemen were in power before. His present salary is \$1,000. He was born in the year 1846.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. A moment ago I assumed that the Carter named in the civil service list was the Carter mentioned here, and I told the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) so. I find that James

Carter is in the dead letter branch as well, but that he has been in Toronto. S. J. Carter, for whom this vote is intended is what is called a temporary writer. Temporary writers are not down on the civil service list. He was not appointed by the present government. He was appointed by the preceding government some years ago prior to our taking office.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. In the dead letter branch?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. In the dead letter branch. He was transferred to Winnipeg, and he is in Winnipeg now.

Mr. WALLACE. What salary does he get?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Between \$400 and \$500.

Mr. WALLACE. What age is he?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I understand he is the son of the James Carter who, as the hon. gentleman says, was born in 1847.

Mr. WALLACE. Was he appointed in 1890?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He was appointed prior to our taking office.

Mr. WALLACE. The statement was that he was appointed in 1890.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I understood so from the officer, but it was prior to our taking office.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. These temporary clerkships are not permanent appointments.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. No.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I cannot recall his name, although my memory is rather good in that respect, as being one of the employees at that time appointed by us. Of course, the other man I know well.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He was appointed in your time.

The PRIME MINISTER. Your memory is not perfect.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The explanation is not perfect.

Mr. CLANCY. At what time was he sent to Winnipeg? Was he there during the whole year?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. He went there upon the decentralization of the dead letter branch, which took place on July 1, 1898. His salary is \$460 a year, and \$120 and \$460 makes \$580. That will be his gross salary.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Well, then my memory is pretty good after all. It was the hon. gentleman who sent him to Winnipeg.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Certainly; I did not appoint him to the service though.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. There is no appointment of a temporary clerk. You employ him for a month, or for a year, but there is no permanent appointment. It does not come before the Treasury Board, and it was quite impossible for me to believe that he had been sent up to Winnipeg from here or that he was a permanent member of the civil service.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. When the third-class clerkships were abolished, the late administration appointed a number of temporary clerks all over the civil service. I found a number of them in this department, both in the inside and outside services. A large number of these temporary writers have never been disturbed. We have treated them the same as if they were permanent officials. It would be considered a hardship to dismiss them unless their services were not required. I have never disturbed any of them.

Mr. CLANCY. They were only allowed to remain in departments where they could not hatch up some charge against them that they had voted Tory. Some of them suffered for their opinions, and their heads went into the basket. Perhaps there are some that escaped the hon. gentleman's notice.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. The point I wanted to make was, that the change gave him this extra pay.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. \$120.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Does not the hon. gentleman think that this is really a bad principle? I cannot at all understand why a man living in Winnipeg should get more salary than a man living in Ottawa. You discriminate in favour of a man who is living in Winnipeg against a man who is living in Ottawa. I am afraid my hon. friend's memory is worse than mine, because he drove out a good many men when he came into power. There were a lot of clerks dismissed by the new government. They were not considered good enough to work under the new ministers. But, the point I want to make is, that I do not see any reason why there should be a difference in the pay of a man living in Winnipeg from the pay of a man living in Ottawa.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. What does the hon. gentleman propose?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. If you have a man living in Ottawa who receives \$500

and a man in Winnipeg who is doing the same work as the man in Ottawa. I would give him \$500 and nothing more.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. What is the business for to-morrow?

The **PRIME MINISTER.** We intend to go into supply, so as to give the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) an opportunity to amend his motion with regard to binder twine.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.45 a.m. (Tuesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, May 29, 1900.

The **SPEAKER** took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I have not had an opportunity of consulting my right hon. friend opposite (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), but I would be glad if he would consent to allow the substitution of the name of the hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) on the Committee on Banking and Commerce in place of that of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Certainly.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER moved:

That the name of Mr. Borden (Halifax) be substituted for the name of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.

Motion agreed to.

FIRE AT POINTE CLAIRE, P.Q.

Mr. FREDERICK D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Mr. Speaker, before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I desire to call the attention of the government and the House to the situation created at Pointe Claire village, in the vicinity of Montreal,

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

by the disastrous fire which took place there on the 22nd instant. In a few hours two-thirds of the village was absolutely destroyed, the damage is estimated at over \$130,000, and, as far as I can ascertain, there is not more than \$25,000 insurance; twenty-four houses were destroyed, eighteen families were left absolutely in need, in a state of distress, and over 130 people are without homes. These are, briefly, the facts connected with that fire. The distress there is so great that a committee of relief was organized immediately, and we sought to find in the place itself, in the county of Jacques Cartier, and in the city of Montreal, such funds as were absolutely necessary to relieve the most pressing wants. I thought it my duty, acting under a resolution of this committee of relief, regularly organized, to call the attention of the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to this state of affairs, and I had the honour of seeing the Prime Minister yesterday with the view of finding out whether the government could not, to some limited extent, come to the relief of these people. Of course, I am aware that unless a calamity of that kind assumes national importance, the government is not expected, in the case even of an extensive fire, to interfere, but what I emphasized when I met the Prime Minister was the peculiar situation created at Pointe Claire by this fire. We have applied for relief. This disaster occurred very soon after the great fire at Hull and Ottawa, and we found it difficult to find a sufficient sum to meet the pressing needs. The reason of that is that at the time of the great calamity here a while ago, the people of Montreal subscribed, as everybody did, most generously. When the members of the committee applied for relief, where relief was expected, they invariably met with the objection that, really the purses of the people had been depleted by their efforts to come to the relief of the sufferers by the great Ottawa and Hull fire. Under these circumstances, we are at a great disadvantage, because our disaster has come so soon after the disaster at Hull and Ottawa; in fact, I have no hesitation in saying that, although we have collected certain sums of money, we would have had four or five times the amount to the credit of the committee had this previous disaster not occurred. It seems to us fair that the government should give us some assistance. I brought this matter to the notice of the Prime Minister, who promised to consider it and give me an answer in a few days, but from the information I have received since, and which I have communicated to the Prime Minister, the matter is urgent. It is certainly a case of a quick giver giving doubly, and, under these circumstances, I hope the government will find it possible to give us some assistance. We do not require a very large amount, but, at the present moment, some money is necessary. We cannot get what we might

have expected on account of this fire that took place here. I would give the right hon. gentleman an instance. At the time of the Hull and Ottawa calamity, a collection was taken up under the order of the Archbishop of Montreal for the sufferers by that fire. That collection in the diocese of Montreal produced over \$17,000. The same authority, being fully aware of the extent of our own disaster, because, proportionately, it is just as great a disaster, ordered a collection for last Sunday, the results of which I have not been able to ascertain, but it would be extremely probable that we would get very little because of this previous collection. I deem it my duty to bring these facts to the attention of the government, and I trust that some action may be taken.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). My hon. friend (Mr. Monk), before making the remarks with which he has favoured the House, placed in my hands a petition from the relief committee appointed to help the sufferers by the Pointe Claire fire for the assistance of the government in that disaster. I told my hon. friend that it was a question in regard to which, for the moment, at all events, personally, I could not give him any answer, but that I would have, first of all, to consult the cabinet on the matter. But, apart from that answer, I represented to him, and he rather agreed with me, that the government could not, in these matters, be guided simply by the instincts or opinions of any member, that we had to draw the line, and that no help had been given by the government up to the present time in cases of calamities of that kind, unless they were such disasters as to become of the character of national disasters, and be beyond the possibility of adequate relief through private charity. I cannot say whether or not the fire which has been brought to our attention is of that character. But, I would be inclined to think that it is not. I do not know whether private charity is adequate to come to the relief of the sufferers. It is a matter which has to be inquired into. There is great force in what the hon. member says, that private charity, which might have been abundant a few weeks ago, has been rather depleted by the unfortunate occurrence in this city and the neighbouring city of Hull. All I can promise to my hon. friend is the sympathetic consideration of the government for his request, but, more than that, I cannot say at the present moment.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, as I see the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) in his seat, I would like to draw his attention to a return which I have asked for. It is a return in reference to Mr. Stumbles' visit to British Columbia on fishery matters. I would also say, that

he has brought down the return in regard to the new steamer for British Columbia. He has presented his part of it, and the other part is to be presented by the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson). I would like the hon. gentleman to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Customs to the matter.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I shall do so. I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to reply to a question put by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) in regard to the lighthouse at Pointe aux Trembles. The contract has been let for some time to build this lighthouse at this place, and as soon as some material is delivered, which is expected in a few days, the work of erection will be proceeded with.

Replying to another question put by my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Herbert Tupper), with reference to a letter dated November 15, which was referred to in a return brought down, I examined the letter—my deputy, Mr. Hardy, brought it to my notice—and it has no reference whatever to the *John C. Barr*. That is why it was not brought down in the return.

REPORT.

Report of the Experimental Farms for the year 1899.—(Mr. Fisher.)

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—NEW YORK CORRESPONDENCE OF LONDON *TIMES*.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to draw the attention of the House to a telegraphic communication to the London *Times*, from the New York correspondent of that paper. As I consider it is calculated to grossly deceive the London *Times* and the people of England, on a question of very great importance, namely, the attitude of public men in this House towards the action taken by Canada in reference to the war, a question which has excited a good deal of attention in this country and in England; I cannot allow this article to pass without comment. The New York correspondent of the London *Times* telegraphs under date of Sunday:

I have been in Ottawa since Monday. While there I met many Canadians entitled by position to speak for Canada. So impressive is their language and their attitude towards the Crown and the mother country that, needless as it is, I should like to testify to the prevailing spirit. The loyal devotion which the Canadian troops in South Africa are proving by their valiant and skilled soldiery, the Canadian people at home express in no uncertain tone. If there be Boer sympathizers among the French Canadians, as is alleged, I met none, though I met many eminent French Catholics. Sir Charles Tupper,

whom I did not see, is accused of making himself the mouthpiece of whatever discontent exists, but Sir Charles Tupper is regarded as a politician with next year's election in view, and playing, therefore, sometimes to the local political gallery with local objects in view.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Other hon. MEMBERS. Shame.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not quite see the connection which Mr. Smalley, correspondent of the *London Times* intends by this, but such is his statement.

Quebec, where, if anywhere, dissent might be expected, is thought to be as faithful as ever to Liberalism and to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, her own leader, who is also leader in that policy which have brought Canada closer to England, and England closer to Canada.

I need not trouble the House with the remainder of Mr. Smalley's statement.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Would the hon. gentleman read the balance?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Certainly, with great pleasure, if the hon. minister wants it. Although, I do not think the remainder is of much value, I shall read it. It says:

It is not thought that the Prime Minister's hold on the people of the Dominion has been shaken. Most judicious observers appear to believe that he will retain his power, and believe that it is for the interest of Canada and of the empire generally that he should do so. That the Imperial interests entrusted to the Governor General were never safer than now, I found to be the general conviction.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

An hon. MEMBER. Good for Smalley.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am glad to find that hon. gentlemen opposite, who on very frequent recent occasions have treated any American authority as utterly worthless in this House, and as a piece of Yankee impudence; I am glad to find that these gentlemen opposite make exceptions to that, and, that there are occasions, when American testimony is given, as they think, in their own behalf, on which they can ratify it by their applause here. My object is not of a party character at all. It is, in my judgment, of the greatest possible importance that the *London Times*, that great organ of public opinion of the British people, should not be imposed upon by false statements coming from any source whatever. I say that Mr. Smalley was utterly ignorant of the subject upon which he spoke, or else he wrote what he knew to be untrue.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If he had had the opportunity, as he professes to have had, of learning the opinion of Canada, and of the

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

French Canadian people, he used his opportunities very poorly, when he arrived at conclusions utterly at variance with what every one knows to be the facts, and with what I shall prove to be the facts. This is not the first time I have had occasion to challenge Mr. Smalley's correspondence in the *London Times*. I remind my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, that when he was engaged in most important negotiations, representing Her Majesty's government, on matters affecting deeply, Canada, as well as the empire, this is the same Mr. Smalley, who stated in the *London Times*, that the claim of Canada, with reference to the Alaskan boundary, was only as good a claim as it would be for France to claim that the Channel Islands should belong to France. I denounced that gross misstatement at the time, but that statement is just on a par with the statement which I have read to the House today. Mr. Smalley is a man of undoubted ability, but I am sorry to say he puts his talents to a very bad use when he violates everything he ought to know, as an intelligent man (and everything which I believe he does know as an intelligent man), by such false and calumnious statements respecting myself as he has ventured to make in that article.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not wish to interfere with the freedom of the hon. gentleman's discussion, but it occurs to me that it would be better for the hon. gentleman to confine his statement to a correction of the present matter, rather than to refer to other matters.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am endeavouring to do that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. the leader of the opposition has, of course, the privilege of setting himself right.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. And I shall endeavour to do it in such a way as not, in the least degree, to violate the rules of the House. Sir, is the statement true, that no person in Canada expresses any discontent with the action of the government, except Sir Charles Tupper, for political purposes? Why, Sir, that statement is known to be the very reverse of truth, and I will prove it out of the mouths of hon. gentlemen opposite. I hold in my hand a report of a recent meeting at St. Remi, in the province of Quebec, March 26, last, in which the following statement was made by Mr. Bourassa, a member of this House:

When men do not enlist quickly enough, a commissioner will be appointed, and he will visit your homes, knock at your door, and if it is not opened, he will break it in, for he will have the law on his side. Then he will choose your ablest son, perhaps the very one you depended on to support your family in your old age, put a uniform on his back, a rifle on his shoulder, and send him to Asia or Africa to

fight for the glory of England. While the shrieking loyalists of Toronto or Halifax will indulge in banquets and drink champagne, the poor old mother will be weeping at home for the son who has been carried off to war.

Was that inspired by Sir Charles Tupper? What more was said at that meeting? Mr. Monet, another member of this House, on that same occasion, proposed a resolution, declaring 'that the electors of Napierville protested against any participation by Canada in the wars of the empire, outside of Canada.' Mr. Monet was the first speaker:

He announced that he was directly opposed to any participation in the wars of the empire, even though England needed our help, which she did not in this case. He thoroughly approved the position taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in an interview which will go down to history. The 'Globe,' 'La Patrie' and other papers had condemned the participation of Canada in foreign wars.

That declaration of the Premier, which will go down to history was a declaration that he would do nothing to give England aid in South Africa, because he could do nothing, as it would be a violation of the constitution of the country—

Sir Charles Tupper had started this agitation for the sending of Canadian troops.

That is the statement of the hon. member for Napierville, not exactly bearing out the statement of Mr. Smalley, that Sir Charles Tupper is the only person who raises any issue on this question. Mr. Monet goes on to say:

The Premier, in his memorable interview with the 'Globe,' had taken a perfectly constitutional view of the question, but later became scared by the agitation aroused by Tupper, Clarke Wallace, Bergeron, and the other Conservative leaders, and the English members of the cabinet had forced Sir Wilfrid to consent to the sending of a contingent.

He had kept silence the more readily because the order in council provided that the sending of troops should not serve as a precedent. But when the second contingent was sent he considered it time to protest, and had offered to resign if twenty-five of his constituents asked him to do so. They had not done so, and he took it as an approval of his conduct.

It was only a trick of Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to bring about his dream of Imperial federation, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier had allowed himself and his followers to be cowed by Sir Charles Tupper, Clarke Wallace, Prior, Bergeron and the other Conservatives. The government had shown weakness in allowing their hand to be forced by Sir Charles Tupper and his followers. They should have refused to take part in the war; it was a bad precedent to establish.

Mr. Bourassa said:

He declared that he was a Liberal, and had supported Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but he had not been sent to parliament to support a Tory policy imposed upon the government by the Tupper, the Clarke Wallaces and the Bergerons.

Now, I ask my right hon. friend whether he thinks that Mr. Smalley or any other man

who knows anything of the state of public sentiment and the history of this question in Canada, is in a position to say that the only discontent at the action that has been taken in giving aid to England, is shown by me. Mr. Smalley knows, if he knows anything of the history of this question, that a member of the right hon. gentleman's government, who represents Canada to-day in the face of Europe, put the statement in the mouth of His Excellency the Governor General, that the action taken by Canada in sending aid to Her Majesty's government in South Africa, was taken with the approval of the entire population of Canada.

The PRIME MINISTER. Order. That is not the question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I am giving evidence of the utter falsity of the statement made, and I now propose to give evidence out of the mouth of a minister of the Crown.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understood my hon. friend to rise to make a personal explanation.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have no objection to putting myself in order by moving the adjournment of the House. I say that Mr. Smalley spent his time in Canada studying the position of Canadian questions to little purpose, if he did not learn that a minister of the Crown, representing this government in the face of Europe at a great international exhibition, has given the lie direct to the statement put in the mouth of the Governor General by himself and the other members of the government. What was that statement? I repeat it—that this action of Canada, in sending aid to Her Majesty's government, was taken with the approval of the entire population of Canada; and yet this gentleman, to the discredit of this government, is at this moment a minister of the Crown. When my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) brought this question before the House, I took no part in the debate, because my right hon. friend, without attempting to defend what had been said by his colleague, said it was unfair to deal with a question of that kind on a mere newspaper report; and we gave him time and opportunity. That newspaper report had the imprimatur of *La Patrie*, the paper published by Mr. Tarte's sons, and the imprimatur of *Le Soleil*, the organ of the right hon. gentleman in Quebec, which copied it with approval; and down to this hour, although the hon. gentleman has had abundant opportunity to place himself and his government in a proper light, he allows a minister of the Crown, after having committed himself and the government of the day to the policy of aiding Her Majesty's government

in South Africa, to declare the following in Paris :

It is very possible that in their own minds 99 per cent of French Canadians disapprove of the South African war, and are of opinion that the money spent by Canada on this occasion might have been expended with much more practical results elsewhere. Yes, that is very possible, but as good citizens we submit without restriction to the opinion of the majority.

A minister of the Crown making a statement so palpably and diametrically opposed to the statement made by the Governor General at the instance of the government of which he was a member, should not have remained an hour a member of this government—a statement more calculated to destroy all the benefit of what had been done by Canada in relation to that war than any statement that could have been conceived. At a time when it was of the utmost moment that the hands of England should be strengthened in Europe by the action of Canada, you have a minister of the Crown stating his belief that ninety-nine out of every hundred French-Canadians disapproved of the war and the expenditure made by Canada in connection with it, giving the most point-blank contradiction of the statement which he himself and the other members of the government had put into the mouth of the Governor General. Under these circumstances, I think Mr. Smalley has spent his time to little purpose in Canada if he has not learned that while we all rejoice in what has been done, if there is one man in this country who is not open to censure for having done anything to prevent that aid being sent by Canada to the Imperial government, that is myself. And yet, Sir, after Mr. Smalley has visited the seat of government here and professed to have learned the sentiment of the people of this country, I am to be held up as the one man in Canada who has objected and obstructed and created difficulty in connection with this matter. I have given, Sir, the answer, in the form of evidence not only from leading supporters of hon. gentlemen opposite, but from one of the members of the government themselves, that Mr. Smalley's statement is not accurate, and that he has spent his time to very little purpose in gathering such information as is calculated to mislead the people of England through that great organ of public opinion. I do not propose to permit Mr. Smalley or any person else, occupying so important a position as that of correspondent of the *London Times* newspaper, to assail unchallenged my reputation and standing in this country, in the manner in which Mr. Smalley has assailed it, and which is a perfect travesty of everything like accuracy and truth.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am at a loss, Mr. Speaker, to understand the motive which has induced

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

my hon. friend to bring this matter before the House. I fail to see the motive unless it be, perhaps, to draw a herring across the track and prevent public opinion from dwelling too severely on certain dissensions said to prevail in the ranks of my hon. friend's party at this moment. My hon. friend is troubled over newspaper criticisms, but surely he is too old a politician, and has been too long in public life to deem it his duty to reply to such criticisms on the floor of this House. We are all exposed to newspaper criticism, and I believe that life is too short to notice on the floor of the House whatever may be said for or against us in the press. I have the greatest respect for the press, although the newspapers do not always speak of me in very kindly terms. I, however, can afford to put up with that without any discomfort at all. With regard to the particular criticism taken exception to by my hon. friend, I do not know what may have induced Mr. Smalley to speak as he did of my hon. friend. Perhaps during his short stay in this country, he read the speeches which my hon. friend delivered in Quebec and Montreal, in which he warned French Canadians to be on the lookout lest they would be soon called on to contribute to the wars of the empire to the tune of \$40,000,000 annually.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have not the right to reply, and must be permitted to state that there is not the slightest foundation in fact for any such assertion. I never said anything of the kind.

The PRIME MINISTER. I hope the press will take due notice of my hon. friend's denial and will duly notify the people of Quebec that my hon. friend never gave them any such warning. For my part, I have only to thank my hon. friend for the exhibition of wabbling which he has afforded us to-day.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I was wrong, Mr. Speaker, in saying that I had not the right to reply. I find that I have, and I take this opportunity to tell my hon. friend that when he wants to find a wabblers, he will have to look closer home. I think that my record will compare pretty favourably with the right hon. gentleman's in that respect. I need give no better commentary on the position my right hon. friend occupies that his utter inability to say one word in justification of Mr. Smalley's statements to the *London Times*.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, and the fact that he sat down without the slightest attempt to defend Mr. Smalley, although I gave succinctly the facts and proved them. I rise for the purpose of correcting a state-

ment my right hon. friend made a moment ago, namely, that in recent speeches which I made in Quebec and Montreal, I led the people to expect that at no distant date they might find themselves in the position of being heavily taxed for the wars of the empire. I did nothing of the kind. I treated the proposal, under which they would be taxed, as an utter absurdity and impossibility. I was dealing with my right hon. friend's declaration, made again and again in London, when he there represented this country, that after having examined into the best means of obtaining the unity of the British empire, he had come to the conclusion, that it would be found in a parliamentary federation in which Canada would be represented, and when my right hon. friend, with longing looks to the seats in St. Stephen's, hoped to yet live to see a French Canadian there representing Canada. I was discussing that question, and instead of saying to the people of Quebec that there was the slightest possibility of such a scheme ever being carried out, I endeavoured to show that it was an utter and palpable absurdity. To illustrate the position in which Canada would be, under such a system of parliamentary federation as is only known wherever parliamentary federation exist in the world, I said that Canada would be obliged to contribute, in proportion to her population, and the fact that this year her proportion, according to population, would be \$46,000,000 for the army and navy alone, was sufficient reason to prevent the possibility of such a scheme ever being discussed.

In Montreal, where I found there was some controversy on that point, my attention was drawn to the criticism that no person proposed that the taxation would be according to the Chinese system of population, and I pointed out the fact that last year the taxation of the United Kingdom was £100,040,000, and that of that amount, Scotland, with a smaller population than Canada, contributed £13,909,000 sterling. Instead of making the statement which my hon. friend has put in my mouth, I said the very reverse. Instead of saying that this was a condition of things which we were likely to experience at no distant date, I pointed to its utter absurdity, and said I did not believe that in the bounds of Canada, a single man could be found, of position and intelligence, who had thoroughly studied that question, who would support the proposition of my right hon. friend, which would lead, in my judgment, to that severe taxation. That is the position I took, and I cannot allow my right hon. friend—to borrow his own elegant reference to my remarks—to draw this red herring across the scent by referring to some newspaper stories, which no doubt, he has been reading with great glee and delight, concerning some imaginary disintegration of the Conservative party. I may say that I

am not aware of any disintegration in the Conservative party. I am aware of this, and the country is aware of it, that when a threat was held over my head, as the leader of that party, that unless certain claims were paid, that unless a certain amount of money was paid over, a certain party would put himself in communication with my right hon. friend, and draw his attention to the advisability of having an investigation into the general elections of 1882 and 1896, I was in the proud position of being able to say to the person who sent me that threat that he might communicate anything and everything he knew. I think it was hardly worth while for my right hon. friend, knowing the prompt defiance that has been uttered by the leader of the Liberal-Conservative party to any man, from any source, who ventured to insinuate anything to the discredit of that party or myself personally—I think it was hardly worth his while to go out of the record in order to bring that matter up to-day. It would be well for my right hon. friend if he were in the same position that I occupy. It would be well for him if he had exhibited in the past that same readiness to have the most thorough investigation into the purity of elections and that same care for the maintenance of the purity of elections that I always have shown.

Mr. WALLACE. Before the question is disposed of—

Mr. SPEAKER. I have declared the motion lost.

Mr. WALLACE. I have a few words to say with regard to this matter, but I will take another opportunity to express my opinions.

SUPPLY—MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF BINDER TWINE.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I purpose pointing out to you, to the members of this House, and to the people of the country the way this government has violated the many pledges given to the people previous to the general election of 1896.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hon. gentlemen opposite laugh, but before I sit down they may laugh on the other side of their faces. I purpose more particularly to draw the attention of the people of this country to the manner in which this government have dealt with the manufacture and sale of binder twine in Kingston penitentiary. And I purpose concluding the remarks I shall

make by moving an amendment to the motion to go into Committee of Supply. Previous to the elections of 1896, the Prime Minister travelled from one end of Canada to the other making speeches, and in every speech he made promises to the people of this country. He promised, if he and his party came into power, to give a pure and honest government to the country.

An hon. MEMBER. So we have.

Mr. TAYLOR. I leave it to the people of this country to answer that when they have the ballot in their hands. But, I say this—and I think I shall be joined by a large majority of the people of this country in saying it—no government ever came into power under more favourable auspices, no government ever came into power with the current running more strongly with them. They had a return of general prosperity, and everything in their favour. Yet, in the four short years they have been in power they have brought about such a state of corruption, official and electoral, as no other government ever did. The Prime Minister promised that if elected he would surround himself with a body of business men, that he would have a competent business government. Has he done so? I will leave that to the people to say when I have concluded my remarks on this binder twine question. If they have conducted every other branch of the public service as they have conducted this manufacture and sale of binder twine—and I believe they have—you, Mr. Speaker, and the people of this country must condemn this government for not being a business government. The Prime Minister promised the people of this country that if he came into power he would decrease the national debt. Has he done so? He has increased it by about eight millions of dollars in the four years he has been in power. He promised to reduce the annual expenditure one, two, three, or perhaps four millions. Has he done so? Why, he has increased it this year over twelve millions. He promised to reduce the taxation. Has he done that? He has increased the taxation about eight millions a year. He promised to reduce the taxes on the necessaries of life and to let the taxation fall upon the luxuries. Has he redeemed that promise? He has increased the taxes on sugar, one of the greatest necessaries of life for every family in the country, and he has increased the taxes on tobacco, another necessary of life to the poor man. He promised to take the duty off coal oil. Has he redeemed that promise? Why, he sold out the Canadian business to the Standard Oil Company for a large election subscription previous to 1896. In talking to the people of the North-west he promised to take the duty off agricultural implements, has he done so? The duty on agricultural implements remains the same

Mr. TAYLOR.

as it was when the Conservative government was in power. I could refer to many other promises that the Prime Minister made and has broken, but the last one I will refer to is that he made to the people of the Dominion, but more particularly to the province of Quebec, that if returned to power he would settle the Manitoba school question. And how would he do it? He said he would immediately send a commission headed by Sir Oliver Mowat, in whom every one had confidence, to ascertain the facts, and having ascertained the facts he would grapple with the question. Did he send Sir Oliver Mowat? No. Whom did he send? He sent that trusted man who runs the government, whether he be in Paris or in Ottawa, Mr. Tarte. And what did Mr. Tarte find when he got there? I will repeat what was told to my hon. friend from Dundas (Mr. Broder) in conversation with a gentleman of standing in Manitoba last summer. This gentleman said to my hon. friend: I will tell you how the school question was settled. When Mr. Tarte came up here, he found that there were three men who had to be settled with—first Mr. Martin, then Mr. Sifton and then Premier Greenway. Mr. Tarte went to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and offered to make an arrangement under which Mr. Martin should leave Manitoba and go to British Columbia to be their solicitor there for a number of years for a consideration—

An hon. MEMBER. Ten thousand a year.

Mr. TAYLOR. Ten thousand a year, my hon. friend says. And in consideration of what the Canadian Pacific Railway was to pay Mr. Martin under this appointment, they were to get an increased subsidy on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway. They got an increased subsidy, which proves that the statement was correct. Mr. Martin went to British Columbia, the Canadian Pacific Railway employed him, and they got an increased subsidy to recoup them. Then Mr. Tarte went to Mr. Sifton and said: Withdraw your opposition, and you shall come down and be Minister of the Interior and shall have control of all the gold lands of the Yukon. You can administer that and every other matter in connection with your department without being under control of council. The Prime Minister ratified that bargain. After Mr. Sifton was made minister, the Prime Minister told the people of Canada that they had given Mr. Sifton full control to run his department to suit himself and not be subject to council. And Mr. Sifton made a bargain with his henchmen, Mackenzie & Mann, three days before parliament met, to give them all the gold lands of the Yukon for the building of 150 miles of tramway, a bargain whereby he and all his friends could have been made rich had it been carried out.

But the Senate intervened and threw out the bargain, and the country saved the gold lands. Mr. Greenway had yet to be provided for. The share offered to him was that all moneys that were deposited in trust with the Dominion government for the sale of school lands for the Manitoba schools were to be handed over to Mr. Greenway. That bargain was carried out, but the Senate refused to ratify it. And, after all, there was very little change made in the school law. They were nominally public schools, but they have what are virtually separate schools, and the government pays the money. That is the way the school question was settled. And I would refer the Prime Minister to a resolution passed in Winnipeg yesterday, and would ask him if this showed that Mr. Tarte had ascertained the facts and had actually settled the school question.

Now, I do not intend to deal at greater length with the broken promises of this government. I propose now to deal with a blue-book issued by this government, signed by David Mills, Minister of Justice. Under the late Conservative government, in fact, under all governments previous to this one, the blue-books of this country were looked upon as almost sacred: they were the Bible of the government, because they are supposed to be prepared by officers of the government, and any statement contained in a blue-book is supposed to be true, ought to be true, has been true in the past. But this government did what is unprecedented in the history of any government, they issued a blue-book signed by one of the ministers. What for? Simply to place in the hands of their election agents a book which they could show to the people of Canada and say: This statement is in the blue-book, therefore, it is true. The title of this book is: 'Action of the government in reference to the manufacture and sale of binder twine produced by convict labour, for the information of members of parliament.' Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask any member of parliament who has read that book, whether it contains one sentence of information for a member of parliament in reference to the manufacture and sale of binder twine. It is simply a campaign document produced by this government. Knowing that this is a live question with the farmers of this country, they had to meet it, and they thought the best way was to issue a blue-book which their agents can show to the people of Canada, saying that it was written by the Minister of Justice, and therefore, every statement in that book must be true.

An hon. MEMBER. And so it is.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will convince the hon. gentleman and this House before I sit down that whoever wrote that book did not do himself the credit that belongs to a third-class pettifogging lawyer, let alone a Min-

ister of Justice. When he sat in this House we used to call him Philosopher Mills; when he was transplanted into the Senate he was called Professor Mills; now that he has commenced to write books, I think he might properly be called Prevaricator Mills.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman should not apply that term to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. TAYLOR. I did not say he is a prevaricator, but I will withdraw the word. I will say this, however, that the book is a tissue of misrepresentations, and is not founded upon fact, whoever the writer is. If I prove that this book contains one false statement, then the whole book should be condemned; but before I sit down I will prove that it contains many false statements. I will make this proposition to the Prime Minister: Let him name a judge, and I will name another; let these two select a third, and let that committee read my speech and the debate that will take place here-to-day: let them take this book, and call for papers and information in the hands of the government, and if this commission does not prove that there are many statements in that book not founded upon fact, I will pay the cost of the commission, or resign my seat in this House.

The first page in that book is devoted principally to philosophy: when the minister was writing that page he was philosophising, and even on the first page he makes one statement that is not correct. This is what he says:

One of the difficult problems with which the state has to deal is—how is it to give suitable employment to its prison population? There can be no doubt that if those persons were industrious and honest they would be at large, and, by their labour, would be entering into competition with every other labourer engaged in similar pursuits in the country. But being neither honest, nor for the most part industrious—

The Minister of Justice says that there is not an honest man in the Kingston penitentiary or any other of the penitentiaries of the Dominion, and there is scarcely an industrious man. Now, that statement is not true. I know persons in the penitentiary who have been honest and industrious all their lives, but who have, in a moment of passion, perhaps, committed the crime of manslaughter or some other crime, that has landed them in the penitentiary. I know a doctor who lived to be an old man, who was honest and industrious, but who is to-day in the Kingston penitentiary; and I know a lawyer who was also honest and industrious all his life, but who is now in the penitentiary.

An hon. MEMBER. Any cabinet ministers?

Mr. TAYLOR. I do not know there are any there yet, but I think some of them ought to be there, if they got their deserts.

An hon. MEMBER. Name them.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman can name them, they live pretty close to his constituency. Now, we will turn to the next page in this book and read this clause :

The government cannot advantageously employ commercial agents, pay their expenses, and send them abroad through the country, to make sales to retail dealers, and become an active competitor, without the risk of very great loss, and without incurring very great expense.

Now, that proves the incapacity of this government. They are not a business government, otherwise they would employ an agent and send him out to sell their goods. Does not every business man in this country do that? Why cannot this government conduct its business on the same principle that every business concern in this country does? Every man who sends out an agent to sell his goods, adds a percentage to the cost of production to pay the travelling expenses of the agent, and to meet bad debts. And the binder twine business could be conducted in the same way without losing a cent, as the late government conducted it for two years without losing a cent. The hon. member for North Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), is a manufacturer of goods something on the line of binder twine; let me ask him what manufacturer in this country will run his factory for a whole year, and then send out a few circulars to friends and ask them to tender for the output of that factory. The member for North Leeds manufactures goods that he sells once a year, mowing machines and reapers. Does he run his factory for a year and then call for tenders, either in the newspapers or by circular, to purchase the output of his factory? Does he buy by tender and sell by tender? Is that the way he does business? Is there a man in this House, or a business man in this country, who conducts his business that way? That is the way this government do. They run their factory for a year, and they call for public tenders, either by advertisements, or by circulars to some of their political friends, to see how much they can get for the output of their factory. The member for Leeds and Grenville puts his agent on the road and gives him a commission, or pays him a salary, to sell goods for him, and that is the way every other business is conducted. Yet this government, for purposes best known to themselves, sell their binder twine by tender to their political friends. The Minister of Justice goes on to say :

I wish to show how our predecessors tried the experiment for two seasons, and the result of the trial was not such as to induce us to make a further experiment on the same line.

He says the late government tried the experiment for two years of sending out an agent. That would be for 1894 and 1895.

Mr. TAYLOR.

The industry was started only in 1894, that was the first year of the sale, and the Minister of Justice says the government tried the experiment for two years of selling by agents. To prove my statement as to the year when it was started, I will just read this from the *Hansard* for 1893,

Mr. TALBOT. Dispense.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman knows that before I take my seat this government and the gentlemen behind them will have to swallow a pretty hard vote.

Mr. WOOD. You will have to swallow a bigger one.

Mr. TAYLOR. And he will find that if he wants to make time, the less I am interrupted from that side of the House the better. The then hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Ouimet), speaking in March, 1893, said :

The machinery will be purchased in a short time and put in place. In the main estimates we took a vote with which to buy machinery.

Later on, he says that it seems almost impossible to get the machinery ready for the present harvest. That was on March 18. The machinery had not then been ordered, and, of course, could not be placed in position to manufacture binder twine to sell for 1893. Therefore, there was no manufacture of twine until 1893, and the twine was sold in 1894 for the first time. In the same discussion, the present hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) made this remark :

The government is taking this action with the view to employ prison labour, and at the same time keep the manufacturers of binding twine at Halifax from obtaining too high a price for their product.

These quotations which I have just read prove that the first sale of twine manufactured at Kingston, that could take place would be in the year 1894; therefore, the Conservative government only controlled the sales for 1894 and 1895. They further prove the object of the government to be twofold, in starting this industry; first, to employ convict labour, and, second, to regulate the price that farmers are called upon to pay for their binder twine. We have the proof that the instructions of the government to their agent was to sell twine on an average of 5½ cents a pound to the retail merchants of the country. This would allow the retail merchants to sell, and they did sell, at 1 cent a pound profit, and the farmers, in 1895 and 1896, got their binder twine manufactured in the penitentiaries at 6½ cents a pound. Further, the hon. Minister of Justice, in this book, says :

In February, 1896, the late government resolved to sell the binder twine by an agent to retail dealers. He was to be paid a commission of 10 per cent for his services. Let me ask by whom was this payment of 10 per cent to be

borne? Was it to be added to the price, or was it to be a loss borne by the public?

Whoever heard of such a nonsensical question as that? Is it business to ask who pays this 10 per cent? Ask any business man in this country, when he gives an agent 5 per cent or 10 per cent for selling his goods, who pays for it. He certainly pays for it, but he adds it to the price of the article. This proves, further, that this same government that were in power in 1896, the late Conservative government, employed an agent to sell for the two years previous. The late government also made a bargain to sell in 1896, they made a bargain with Mr. Kelly extending for five years, expiring in 1900. But this government came into office in July, 1896, and they cancelled the arrangement with the agent that the late government had appointed to sell on commission, for five years, the output of the Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. WOOD. Who was the agent?

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Kelly. I will read, later on, who he was, and all about him. Therefore, the complaint was made that there was no twine sold in 1896. Who is responsible? After Mr. Kelly had gone out and taken orders, and the orders had been sent in, this government refused to fill them. As I will prove by this book, and as I will prove by the statements made by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), the government refused to fill the orders because Mr. Kelly would not give security for the amount of the sales that he made to merchants.

Mr. WOOD. Or, in other words, the government would not sell on credit.

Mr. TAYLOR. Or, in other words, the government would not sell on credit. Does not every business man sell on credit?

Mr. WOOD. Not the government.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will give the hon. gentleman enough of it before I am through. I am talking about doing business on business principles. The government started the manufacture of binder twine on business principles.

Mr. BERGERON. Not this government.

Mr. TAYLOR. No, not this government, but the late government. This government aids monopolies, as they did the Standard Oil Company, by giving them special legislation. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), who is a hardware merchant, has travellers on the road. I would ask him what arrangement he makes with these men. He pays them a commission or a salary. They go out and get orders from retail men, and submit them to the house for approval. If the hon. gentleman thinks

that a merchant is entitled to credit he fills the order, but, if not, the order is cancelled. That is the way the hon. member for Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost) does. He sends his agents out through the country to take orders for agricultural implements, they submit the orders to him, and if the party giving the order is good, he will ship the implements, but, if not, he will cancel the order, and the agent simply gets a commission on the goods that are delivered. The hon. Minister of Justice had political friends in business in London. The Hobbs Hardware Company had control of the Central Prison binder twine output, they had a large stock on hand, and to assist the Hobbs Hardware Company in forming a combine, this government said: We will not sell any twine this year, and we will help to put the price up. The hon. Minister of Justice makes a further statement:

But it has been intimated, not so much that the system was wrong, as that there has been a ring formed for the purpose of bleeding the farmers who require binder twine, and of making enormous profits at their expense. No statement could be more unfounded, none more destitute of all foundation in fact.

Before I sit down I think that hon. members on both sides of the House, and, if not, I am certain the great majority of the people of this country, will come to the conclusion that a combine has been formed. Another statement was made by the hon. Minister of Justice, who writes this book, or who has had it written for him and who signs his name to it:

The experiment made by our predecessors in office in 1895 was not one in any way advantageous to the public interest, as a portion of the price is still unpaid.

Further on, he says:

Mr. Taylor also says that the government got paid for the sales which they made. This is a mistake. A part of the twine then sold is still unpaid for, and a suit by the Crown for about \$9,000 is pending in the Exchequer Court in respect to it.

I may just say here that this work, from beginning to end, is an attack on a few hon. members of this House, who have dealt with this question for several years, since this combine has been formed by this government, placing binder twine in the hands of their party friends, who formed a monopoly and squeezed the farmers into paying two or three times its real value. This book is an attack on the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson), and my name appears in it twenty-six times. I will refer to the points the hon. Minister of Justice tries to make against me as I proceed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this government, after coming into power, issued a black list against a great many merchants

of this country who they said were indebted for binder twine, and the government described these gentlemen as party heelers. On behalf of these gentlemen, I questioned the veracity of the statement that they were indebted to the government, and I brought the Solicitor General and the members of the government to book several times in regard to it. It is true that these names appeared in the Auditor General's Report, but the Auditor General's Report is published on June 30, and the binder twine was sold on time, commencing in June, so that it could not appear in the Auditor General's Report that it was paid. However, when the money was due, it was paid. Time and again the matter was referred to in this House, and I questioned the Solicitor General if these merchants' accounts had all been paid, and his answer to me was yes. Here is the discussion which took place last year. (*Hansard*, 1899, page 9900) :

The late government disposed of this twine by supplying merchants all over the country, sending their agents out and forcing other manufacturers to do the same in order to get their goods on the market.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. They never got paid for it.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, they did get paid for it. I asked the question of the government if there was a dollar due for binder twine, and the answer of the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) was that every dollar had been paid.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is my hon. friend's statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. I made the statement, and the government did not contradict it.

Mr. SOMERVILLE. This government must have collected it.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was practically all collected by the late government. The return brought down was up to the 1st of July. The twine had been sold at four months, and, of course, the merchants had not paid, but they paid their bills as soon as they became due.

The only indebtedness that stood was some disputed accounts between the government and Mr. John Connor, which went to the Exchequer Court. The government had ample security for that debt, but they postponed the trial on two or three occasions, and paid the costs, in order to get the delay. It only came to trial a short while ago, and the government got a judgment, but they were obliged to throw off the interest. Mr. Connor had a counter claim against the government which he could not get adjusted, and so he asked that the matter be sent to court in order that the matter might be settled, and that he and the Messrs. Connolly might have returned to them the ample securities which they deposited with the government for this twine. The government were not in danger of losing a dollar at any time, because they had ample security and, therefore, the Minister of Justice is not right when he says

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in his book that the accounts were not all paid, and that there was a suit pending. But even if this paltry sum of \$9,000 had been lost, how much better it would have been for the farmers of this country to get their twine at a cheap price, as they would have got it. I will prove later that the cost of the raw material did not in any way affect the price at which the twine should be sold. The government should have sold the twine each year to the farmers at from 5½ cents to 6½ cents per pound, but for two years past the farmers of Canada have been obliged to pay from 12 cents to 15 cents per pound for their twine. Would it not have been ten times better to have lost that miserable sum of \$9,000 than to leech out of the farmers of Canada hundreds of thousands of dollars for the benefit of the Hobbs Hardware Co., and other members of the combine. Why, my hon. friend (Mr. Davin), here tells me that the farmers of the Territories are paying 17 cents per pound for their twine. I want to ask the members of this House, what information this is on the manufacture and sale of binder twine, which the Minister of Justice puts in his report. He says :

Mr. Rees wrote Mr. George Taylor, the member for Leeds, asking for his support. Mr. Taylor forwarded this letter to Mr. Dickey, and accompanied it with a recommendation which stated that Mr. Rees was supported by the friends of the government in his locality. Mr. Mucklestone wrote Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Taylor forwarded Mr. Mucklestone's letter to Mr. Dickey, Minister of Justice, and he added a note at the bottom, in which he informed the minister that he had written Mr. Mucklestone, and he told Mr. Mucklestone that, in his communication to the Minister of Justice, he had pronounced him a first-class man for the position. And so Mr. Taylor persuaded both Mr. Rees and Mr. Mucklestone that he was actively supporting each of them, although he knew that the intention was to appoint but one agent. Both were grateful to Mr. Taylor for his support.

The facts are these : Messrs. Rees and Mucklestone lived in the city of Kingston—my hon. friend (Mr. Britton), will perhaps know them—and they wrote me, applying for this position, and I simply forwarded their letters to the Minister of Justice, with the memo. which Hon. Mr. Mills recites in this book. What is there in that ? What makes the Minister of Justice say that I made these gentlemen think I was supporting each of them, and that they were both grateful ? There is no foundation for the statement of the Minister of Justice. There is not a word of truth in it. I did simply what any member of this House would do. I sent the letter I received on with the recommendation at the bottom, saying : This gentleman is a good business man.' or 'he has the support of friends in his locality.' These gentlemen are not constituents of mine, and when the minister wrote that, he had no other object than to do me a personal injury. I was merely doing for these gentlemen what I would do for any citizen. I forwarded their letters to the

government, in order that the government might deal with them as they might see fit. The Minister of Justice has imported this matter into his book, solely for the purpose of making political capital against your humble servant, whom he selects specially as the one who has started up the excitement in the country, with regard to this binder twine business, and the Minister of Justice thought he would kill me if he could. Again the Minister of Justice makes this statement in reference to Mr. Kelly :

An agreement was ultimately made with Mr. Kelly to sell for the government the output of the year. The first three months of 1896 seemed to have been taken up in deciding which of the candidates for employment was to be preferred. Mr. Kelly, an employee of the Cordage Company, was to be agent for a period of five years, ending the 1st day of September, 1900.

That proved that the government, early in 1896, had selected an agent to sell the output of the binder twine for five years ending in 1900. Further on the same page, he said :

The security which Mr. Kelly offered was a security against any fraud on his part, but not a security for the payment of the value of the twine which he received for sale; he declined to be answerable for the debts of the purchasers, and so, being unable to give the security required, the arrangements made with him were terminated in August, 1896.

Who terminated that? This government did. They refused to fill the orders, this agent had taken, and they cancelled them because he would not give security for the orders he had sent in. Is there a merchant in this country who would expect his agent to be responsible for the goods he may sell? When the agent forwards the order to the firm he is working for, they can refuse to take the order if they like, or they can take the order and run chances of collecting the debt. The agent is paid his commission on the sales that he makes, and on the goods delivered and paid for.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). The point in this book which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), is reading from is : That he agreed in the first place to become responsible and afterwards refused.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend as a lawyer may read it that way, but I as a layman cannot, and the book does not say so. The book says that the security which Mr. Kelly offered was a security against any fraud on his part, but not a security for the payment of the value of the twine.

Mr. BRITTON. It says that the person shall be responsible for the aggregate value of the twine sold.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is the statement of the Minister of Justice, but not the agreement made by Mr. Kelly. He was to sell for five years on a commission of 10 per cent; and when this government came in,

they wanted an excuse to dismiss him, and they looked at the bond and said, 'Unless you put up security for the goods sold by you, we will not sell;' and the warden got instructions accordingly, and the twine was piled up there. He says further :

Yet, after this policy of a sale upon commission had been tried, and had absolutely failed, Mr. Taylor informs parliament that the sale by our predecessors in office had always been a sale by public tender in the open market, when it is perfectly clear that the course of action to which the late government was committed did not admit of tender at all.

Where does the Minister of Justice get that statement? If my hon. friend will turn to *Hansard* of 1899, revised edition, at page 9900, he will see what I did say, and I want you to put this against the statement of the Minister of Justice in this book, and then tell me who makes the false statement :

The binder twine manufactory was started at the Kingston Penitentiary by the late government for the express purpose of giving the farmers binder twine practically at what they could manufacture it for and allow other manufacturers a fair living profit. The late government disposed of this twine by supplying merchants all over the country, sending their agents out and forcing other manufacturers to do the same in order to get their goods on the market.

There is the policy I stated as having been adopted by the late government. The hon. gentleman and the Minister of Justice cannot find in the pages of *Hansard* that I made the statement that the late government always called for tenders; yet the Minister of Justice writes that palpable falsehood with my statement before him as plain as day, directly to the contrary. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I might ask you whom that book was written by—whether it was by Philosopher Mills, Professor Mills, or by the gentleman whom you called me to order for naming a short time ago—a man who does not state the facts. The next statement which the hon. Minister of Justice makes in this book is this :

Mr. Taylor said that he would prove that the government sold the output of binder twine at the penitentiary, as soon as it was made in 1896, without tender, and handed it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company. This statement is wholly without any foundation in fact. The sale was not made to the Hobbs Hardware Company at all, but to Coll Bros., of St. John.

There is the statement of the minister; he says I made the statement that it was sold to the Hobbs Hardware Company. Now, what did I say? Here is what I said, on page 9898 of *Hansard* of 1899 :

When this government were elected they immediately looked around to see how they could benefit some of their political supporters, and then went up to the Kingston penitentiary and discovered there some 500 tons of binder twine lying on hand. They did not call for tenders

and sell that binder twine at the highest price. They sold it to private friends, Coll Bros., who purchased 500 tons at a small price. Coll Bros. handed that binder twine over to the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London.

There is the statement I made which no man having even the sense of a third-class pettifogging lawyer, let alone the Minister of Justice, could so pervert as to make it read as he makes it read in this book. He says I made the statement that it was sold to the Hobbs Hardware Company, whereas I said it was sold to Coll Bros., and they handed it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company when the combination was formed.

Mr. BRITTON. That is what you say now.

Mr. TAYLOR. But the Minister of Justice does not put it that way. Lawyer and all as my hon. friend from Kingston is, he cannot pervert that statement to make it appear that the sale was made to the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London.

Mr. BRITTON. I do not want to pervert anything; but if the hon. gentleman looks at this paper, he will see that the statement is that Mr. Taylor said that he would prove that the government sold the output of binder twine at the penitentiary, and handed it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company.

Mr. TAYLOR. I did not make that statement at all. Just read on:

This statement is wholly without any foundation in fact. The sale was not made to the Hobbs Hardware Company at all, but to Coll Bros., of St. John.

That is what the Minister of Justice says, and that is what I said. I said it was sold to Coll Bros., who handed it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company. The next statement he makes in this book I want my hon. friend from Kingston to listen to, because it is the worst that we have struck yet. After saying that the sale was made to Coll Bros., of St. John, he says:

It was a sale after tenders had been publicly called for by advertisement. It was made in December, 1896.

My hon. friend no doubt understands that statement, which is quite plain. Well, I happened to move for a return, and I have in my hand the return which was brought down, and what does this return prove? Does it prove that that statement was true? Here is the agreement that was entered into between Hobbs and Coll Bros.:

Memorandum of agreement between William Richard Hobbs and Thomas Saunders Hobbs, of the city of London, in the province of Ontario, merchants, doing business under the name, style and firm of 'The Hobbs Hardware Company,' of the first part, and the warden of the Kingston penitentiary, of the second part

Whereas, by a certain memorandum of agreement, bearing date the 4th day of September, 1896, Messrs. Coll Bros., of the city of St. John, province of New Brunswick, merchants, became

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the purchasers from the warden of the Kingston penitentiary of 500 tons of binder twine, of which they agreed to take delivery, and for which they agreed to pay at the time and according to the terms and prices set forth in the said agreement, copy of which is hereunto annexed.

I may say that that copy did not come down on the file laid on the Table in reply to my motion for the return. But this copy has since then come down, and it proves that the sale was made to Coll Bros. on the 4th September, 1896, and yet the hon. Minister of Justice states in his blue-book that the sale was made in December. He sends this information out to the country in defiance of the proof that the contract was completed, and signed, sealed and delivered on the 4th September, 1896. What confidence then can we place in a government that will put such statements officially before the people, which are proved by the documents in their own possession utterly unreliable and untrue.

Then he goes on to say:

And so Messrs. Coll Bros. were purchasers, and could only be the purchasers for consumption in the following year. Now, this sale, which had been made to Coll Bros., was assigned by them on January 25, 1897, to the Hobbs Hardware Company, who were dealers in a large way in binder twine.

Mr. BRITTON. That looks as if the sale were made in December.

Mr. TAYLOR. The return brought down proves the contrary, and I will prove that it was made in September by other evidence. My hon. friend from Kingston now tries to make it appear that the sale was in December, because the contract was handed over in January. But Coll Bros. held the contract two or three months. We had it in evidence, the other day, from Mr. Connors, that the purchase was made in September. He swore to that. Again this book says:

Coll Bros. were as free to sell to the Hobbs Hardware Company as they were to any one else. The transaction, so far as I know, was one into which the parties had a right to enter, and over which the government had no kind of control. Mr. Taylor says the twine was sold by the department at 4 cents. The fact is that the contract was as follows: Sisal, 4 cents; Beaver, 4½ cents; Maple Leaf, 5 cents.

That is what the Minister of Justice says the contract was for. I had not the figures when I was discussing the matter last year, because this document had been abstracted from the file before the file was laid on the Table.

But I want, before proceeding further, to refer to a statement of the Solicitor General, to which I intended to refer when dealing with Kelly. It will be found in the *Hansard* of 1896, at page 1462:

Of that quantity ten tons were sold and 490 tons are still on hand. Kelly, the man with whom the contract was made, not having fulfilled the conditions as to security, the twine

was not delivered, and the department is proceeding now to dispose of 490 tons, and we have called for tenders.

On the 17th September, the Solicitor General made that statement. He told us why this twine was not disposed of, and that they had called for tenders. That was on the 17th September, but the record proves that the twine had already been sold on the 4th September. I ask the hon. Solicitor General to explain that, and why he did not produce the document, which was abstracted from the file I moved for. The agreement says there is a document attached, giving the prices and the date, and that document gives the date as the 4th September.

The hon. the Minister of Justice makes the statement that I said that the twine had been sold for 4 cents a pound. He will not find that I ever made any such statement. But he will find that I rose in the House to correct an article in the *Ottawa Journal*, which attributed to me the statement that the twine had been sold at 4 cents a pound. If my hon. friend will look at the unrevised *Hansard*, he will find on page 7235 the statement that I then made:

They were allowed to purchase 600,000 pounds from the Kingston penitentiary without tender last year, at 4½ cents per pound.

Then the *Journal* had an interview with Mr. Bate, and Mr. Bate, quoting the *Journal*, said I had made the statement in the House that the twine had been sold at 4 cents. The next day, the 12th July, I rose to correct that misstatement, and spoke as follows:

Before the Orders of the Day are called, I have something to say of importance to myself and the country, and to put myself right I will conclude with a motion. In the *Ottawa Journal* of yesterday the following statement is made by the writer in the gallery, I have no doubt, who reported the proceedings of this House:

'Proceeding, Mr. Taylor said that as shrewd business men, Bate & Sons knew that their action would put the government under an obligation to them. They bought the government binder twine the next year at 4 cents, and sold it at an average of 13 cents, thus making enough to pay for two or three houses.'

The statement I made in the House, as reported in '*Hansard*,' is as follows:

'They were allowed to purchase 100,000 pounds of binder twine from the penitentiary without tender last year, at 4½ cents per pound.'

So that the only place the Minister of Justice could find this figure of 4 cents was the *Ottawa Evening Journal*, whose statement I promptly corrected, and if he will refer to the discussion that took place on the Coll Bros. contract, page 10.152 of the unrevised *Hansard*, he will find what I really did say.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). In what year was the purchase made?

Mr. TAYLOR. In the fall of 1896. Here is what I said in discussing the question last year:

By that agreement Coll Bros. purchased these 500 tons of binder twine in the fall of 1896, and banded it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London.

Mr. WOOD. Had they not a perfect right to do that?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, but this goes to prove that there was a ring formed then, which ring is in evidence to-day, and before I get through with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood), I think I will prove that the hon. gentleman is in it.

Mr. WOOD. You are not able to do that.

Mr. TAYLOR. Wait until I get through to-day.

It just goes on to prove that there was a ring formed then, that ring is in existence up to the present time. Binder twine has been sold at 4 cents and 4½ cents a pound by the penitentiary, and this ring has compelled the farmers of Canada to pay from 12 cents to 15 cents per pound during the last two or three years.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). In what year did the penitentiary sell twine at 4 cents?

Mr. TAYLOR. I will give the figures each year before I sit down, and the dates. In the papers that came down, there was a memorandum of agreement between the Hobbs Hardware Company and the Kingston penitentiary, which states:

Whereas, by a certain memorandum of agreement, bearing date the 4th day of September, 1896, Messrs. Coll Bros., of the city of St. John, province of New Brunswick, merchants, became the purchasers from the warden of the Kingston penitentiary of 500 tons of binder twine, of which they agreed to take delivery and for which they agreed to pay at the time, and according to the terms and prices set forth in the said agreement, a copy of which is hereunto annexed.

And whereas, the said Coll Bros. did assign to the said Hobbs Hardware Company, by a certain memorandum of agreement, bearing date the 25th day of January, 1897, the said hereinbefore in part recited agreement, and the said binder twine therein mentioned, and all their right, title and interest, under and by virtue of the said agreement, as will more fully appear by reference to the said last mentioned memorandum of agreement, a copy of which is hereunto annexed.

After reciting the above agreement, I proceeded to say:

I may say here that there is no copy annexed, and that the prices are not given, but they are in a detailed statement, which is furnished of the receipts of the penitentiary, showing that they sold 500 tons of twine at about 4 cents per pound.

The statement I made was 'about 4 cents a pound.'

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). What did you mean by 'about 4 cents'?

Mr. TAYLOR. I will show the hon. gentleman, and he will be somewhat surprised to find what the facts are after this statement by the Minister of Justice that he had sold this binder twine at 4 cents, 4½ cents and 5 cents. That twine was handed over by Coll Bros. to Hobbs. Here is a statement of the actual money received by the Kingston penitentiary brought down in this return which has been furnished showing that the price paid was 4½ cents a pound and the contract was made on February 16, between Hobbs and Coll Bros.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). What year?

Mr. TAYLOR. I cannot furnish brains for my hon. friend (Mr. Macdonald, Huron).

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). If I wanted brains, I would not ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) for them.

Mr. TAYLOR. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, for protection against the interruptions of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Macdonald, Huron). There is the statement made by the Minister of Justice that this twine had been sold at 4 cents, 4½ cents and 5 cents, and here is a statement of the money received showing that what the Minister of Justice said is not true.

Mr. FROST. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) ought to give the year.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have told you four or five times that this was in September, 1896. This is the statement of the money received from the Hobbs Hardware Company in the spring of 1897. The Hobbs Hardware Company purchased the output. The contract dated February 16, 1897, was for the purchase of 5,078 at 4½ cents, and 5,013 at 4 cents, making an average of 4½ cents, or about 4 cents as I stated. The next statement he makes is this:

Simply this: That on the 6th of August, 1896, the penitentiary warden represented that they had on hand 1,001,550 pounds of twine—

That is the quantity accounted for in the return:

—after the harvest season was over, and when no sales could be made except for consumption in the following year, when, by the deterioration in quality, a loss would be sustained.

The minister here says that he called for tenders and sold it in December, yet the contract was dated September 4. Where was the time to advertise for tenders? The warden made his report on August 6, and it would probably arrive in Ottawa on the 15th; and the contract was signed, sealed and delivered—probably according to a bargain made some days before—on September 4, handing over more than a million pounds of twine to Coll Bros., and they, on February 16, handed it over to the Hobbs Hardware Company. He makes the statement that the twine deteriorates in value by keeping, and reiterates it over and over again in

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this book. Could not the government stand the deterioration as well as Coll Bros.? Would Coll Bros., keen business men, make a contract to buy a lot of twine in the fall if it was the goods that would deteriorate during the winter. A more nonsensical statement never was made—

Mr. WOOD. You know it deteriorates.

Mr. TAYLOR. I know it does not. We have had it in our store for two years, and it is as good as ever. It is only necessary that it shall be kept in a cool place. Why, every farmer will be able to contradict my hon. friend (Mr. Wood). Every farmer has some twine left over after his harvesting operations. Does he throw it away or burn it? No, he puts it in a bag and keeps it in a cool place, and some farmers say that it is actually better in the following year.

Mr. WOOD. It is not as good, and you know it.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will have to call my hon. friend (Mr. Wood) down if he continues his interruptions. Now, I come to another statement in this book, and I want to ask the Prime Minister why he allowed his Minister of Justice to import the statement I am going to read professedly to give information to the members of this House as to the action of the government in respect to the manufacture and sale of binder twine produced by convict labour. He said:

Mr. Taylor made a personal attack on the Prime Minister. He said that he was under obligation to Messrs. Bate & Sons. This charge Mr. Taylor was compelled to withdraw the next day. Nor were the other statements Mr. Taylor made in any degree more accurate.

Can there be any other object in importing this statement into the blue-book than to discredit me in the country. He leaves it to be inferred that I had to retract my statement because it was untrue. You, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Justice, know, and the Prime Minister knows, that when a member of this House makes a personal statement with regard to another member and that statement is contradicted by the hon. member whom it affects, the member who makes it must withdraw the statement regardless of whether it is true or false. If a member during the recess had stolen a horse and had been arrested, convicted, and imprisoned, and, after being liberated appeared in his place and were accused of having stolen a horse, if he denied that statement, his denial would have to be accepted, and the statement withdrawn even though the man who made it and the members of the House and the whole country knew the statement to be absolutely true. I took back the statement I made with regard to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice uses it in this book as an argument to prove that every statement I made dealing with this question was not worthy

of belief. My statement having been challenged, I am obliged to investigate this matter. I made a certain statement with regard to the Prime Minister and gave the authority for it. The Prime Minister contradicted that statement and I withdrew it and that should have been the end of it. But the Minister of Justice uses it as a means of discrediting me before the people of this country. And why? Because the supporters of the Prime Minister will have to go into the country and discuss this binder twine question. And when it is said on the platform that Taylor said so and so about the binder twine question, the attempt will be made to meet it by quoting from this book that I retracted the statement in this House, and that this should be made the criterion to judge every statement I made with regard to this binder twine question. I may say that the next day after the Prime Minister's contradiction of the statement that I made appeared in the newspapers, going down street I met a gentleman of high standing in this city. He said: Why did you take back your statement with regard to the Prime Minister? My reply was: Because the rules of the House compelled me to. Well, he said, it is true; I pass by the Prime Minister's residence two or three times a day, and I have seen Mr. Bate himself superintending everything that was done, I saw his men and his horses there—go down to the registry office and you will find that your statement was true. I said: You seem to be pretty well acquainted with the matter; send me an abstract of the title. I have here an abstract of the title, and I will produce it and see how it agrees with the statement the Prime Minister made. In contradicting me, the Prime Minister said:

I bought a house in the city of Ottawa. I bought it from the Leslie estate. The price agreed upon, if I remember rightly, was \$9,500. I paid down \$5,000 cash, and gave a mortgage on the balance for \$4,500.

The Prime Minister, who ought to make a correct statement, says that he purchased it for \$9,500, paid \$5,000 down, and gave a mortgage for \$4,500. After he made that statement, I spoke as follows:

I accept the hon. gentleman's statement; but I am sure he has not lived in Ottawa without having heard, as I have heard from friends of his own, sitting on that side of the House, and from many other responsible men in Ottawa, whose word for truth and veracity I would take as soon as I would that of any gentleman in this country, that what I stated last night was the fact. The statement being common rumour, I heard it time and time again, particularly since the contract for these Yukon supplies was given to Messrs. Bate & Sons without tender, and at these extraordinary prices, and also since that firm were given the binder twine, belonging to the people of this country, at about one-third of what it was sold for. This is the statement that is prevalent in Ottawa, and I think the hon. gentleman ought to be under a compliment to

me for having brought it to his attention publicly, so that he might give it a flat denial, as he has done to-day.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hon. gentlemen may laugh, but you cannot go down street and ask any merchant in town without hearing him make the same statement that I made here last night. When the hon. leader of the government sat on this side of the House, he and his friends behind him charged the late lamented Sir John A. Macdonald with having, through his wife, accepted a trinket from the then Sir Donald Smith, who was at that time, as he is to-day, connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway, and who saw fit to make Lady Macdonald a present of a gold necklace. Not only was that charge hurled against Sir John A. Macdonald, but when the people of this country made Sir Hector Langevin a present, the Prime Minister stood in his place and declared that no public man occupying the position of a minister of the Crown should receive a gift from his friends without having their names made public and laid on the Table of the House.

I was not finding any fault, but I referred to the matter to show how Mr. Bate had received such favours. The Prime Minister stated what his transaction with the property was. I accepted his statement and apologized, as the rules of the House compelled me to do. Now, Mr. Speaker. I ask you a question. If you purchase a property you remember at what price you purchased it; if you pay a certain amount down, you remember how much you paid; if you give a mortgage for the balance, you remember how much you owe, how much the mortgage is for. The Prime Minister stated, as I read in the *Hansard* a moment ago, that he gave a mortgage for \$4,500. Now, we will see what the Registry Office says.

Mr. BRITTON. What has that to do with binder twine?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I rise to a question of order. I ask if the hon. gentleman is in order in bringing these matters up in connection with the subject he has brought before the House. If the hon. gentleman can show in any way how this can elucidate the question of binder twine, I think the House is entitled to know that; but unless it can do so, I think the hon. gentleman is not at all in order in bringing these personal matters before the House.

Mr. TAYLOR. Before you rule, I would call your attention to a sentence in the book I have here, and which I will read:

Mr. Taylor made a personal attack upon the Prime Minister. He said that he was under obligations to Messrs. Bate & Sons. This charge Mr. Taylor was compelled to withdraw the next day. Nor were the other statements Mr. Taylor made in any degree more accurate.

The Minister of Justice published that broadcast against me for the purpose of discrediting my word for truth and veracity. He says that every other statement I make is like that, and I think I have a right to

answer that statement that he has published throughout the country.

Mr. SPEAKER. I confess that I cannot quite see the connection between the purchase of a house that the Premier may have made in this city and the question of binder twine. If the hon. gentleman wishes to repudiate a statement credited to him I think he has a right on personal grounds to do so; but I think it is not in order for him to enter into an extended argument in doing so, otherwise we would be led into fields of discussion that we would never get through. I do not wish to limit any member in this House from setting himself right where he feels he has been put wrong; but I think he ought to do so by simply making his own statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is all I purpose doing, and I intend to put the bare facts before the country to allow the people to judge for themselves. I am not going to say whether these things are true or not. But I say the Minister of Justice made that statement to injure me, trying to show that the statement I made last year was untrue, and that

consequently every other statement I may make is not to be relied upon.

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps the hon. gentleman misunderstood me. I do not think he can discuss that whole question of the purchase of a house by the Premier, or endeavour to show that there was something wrong about it. I think it would be in order for him to repudiate the statement from his own standpoint, and say that it was not correct; but I think it would be unfair to the House to allow him to open up an argument on another matter that was so distantly connected with the matter under discussion.

Mr. SPROULE. I think my hon. friend should be allowed to give the evidence he has in his possession to verify the statement he made.

Mr. TAYLOR. That is all I propose doing. I wish to contradict the Prime Minister, who obliged me to make an apology. I have read the statement that the Prime Minister made to the House at the time, and I have read mine. Now, here is the abstract of the title:

ONTARIO: REGISTRY OFFICE, CITY OF OTTAWA.

ABSTRACT of the Title of Lot 31 north side of Theodore Street, in the City of Ottawa, known as part of Besserer Place.

Dated at the City of Ottawa, this 28th day of March, A.D. 1900, at the hour of

No. of Instrument.	Instrument.	Its Date.	Date of Registry.	Grantor.	Grantee.	Portion of Lot.	Consideration.
		1850.	1850.				
4730	Sale.....	Oct. 8	Oct. 9	Louis T. Besserer....	Andrew Main.	Whole, &c.	£ 192 0 0
4816	Sale.....	Nov. 27	Dec. 27	Andrew Mann, <i>et ux</i>	John Leslie.....	" ..	40 0 0
			1859.				
.....	*Plan ..	.....	June 17	James D. Slater, Surveyor.	Louis T. Besserer....	" ..	\$9,500 00
		1897.	1897.				
48924	Deed.. . . .	April 13	May 7	Jennie L. Code, admx of John Leslie.	Zoe Laurier.	" ..	\$5,500 00 at 5 p.c.
48925	†Mortgage..	" 17	" 7	Zoe and Wilfrid Laurier.	Sarah K. Gooderham	" ..	
		1898.	1898.				
52448	‡Asst. of In.	Aug. 20	Sept. 3	Sarah K. Gooderham by her atty., T. G. Blackstock.	H. N. Bate, Robert Mackey and W. C. Edwards, trustees.	" ..	

* Plan of subdivision of lot C, con D. † Registered in full. ‡ See No. 48925. Reg in full.

Closed at 10.30 o'clock a.m., this 28th day of March, A.D. 1900, as No. 116. Fees 75c.

I certify that the above are correct extracts from the only instruments recorded in this office which mention or refer to the above lot, from and inclusive of 4730

This abstract does not purport to give entries from the general register.

JAMES T. MOXLEY, [Seal]

Deputy Registrar of the City of Ottawa.

Mr. TAYLOR.

The sale was made by Jennie L. Code, administratrix of the Leslie estate, on the 13th of April, 1897, to Madame Zoe Laurier, for \$9,500. Madame Laurier gave the mortgage back to Sarah K. Gooderham, on the 17th of April, for \$5,500.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. TAYLOR. Hon. gentlemen are prepared to laugh about a falsehood of \$1,000 uttered by the Prime Minister of this country—a false statement. But that it not all of it. That mortgage was given to Miss Gooderham. Who paid that mortgage off?

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). That is none of your business. If you had any shame about you you would not be doing this.

Mr. TAYLOR. The mortgage was made for five years at 5 per cent, and it was paid off by Mr. H. N. Bate, Robert Mackay, and W. C. Edwards, who paid Miss Gooderham her money, and got the mortgage signed to them as trustees, without any responsibility. This abstract proves it. Now, I leave it to the people of this country to form their own conclusions. I never would have referred to this matter were it not that the Minister of Justice dragged it again before the people and tried to discredit me. On the 3rd of September, 1898, just after the binder twine contract was completed and the Yukon supplies had been furnished by Mr. Bate, he paid off the mortgage from Miss Gooderham that had been made to run for five years.

Mr. DOMVILLE. This is disgraceful.

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes, it is disgraceful that we have a Prime Minister in this country and a government that will give favours to H. N. Bate & Sons in this manner, after the Prime Minister himself, when sitting on this side of the House, condemned the late lamented Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Hector Langevin for having received favours from men to whom they had given contracts. I say it is disgraceful to have a Prime Minister that will do it.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has stated that the leader of this government has given favours to H. N. Bate & Co., in return for favours he has received from Mr. Bate. I say the hon. gentleman is out of order. he has no right whatever to make such a statement as that without being immediately called to order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I merely ruled at the moment that the hon. gentleman had no right to make an extended statement. He, however, has gone on to place before the House an abstract from the Registry Office. I think the House will agree with me that after what he had previously said it would be better that he should do so, in order that every man can judge for himself. With regard to personal references, individual members must take the responsibility upon

themselves as to whether those references are in good taste or in bad taste.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would never have referred to the matter if the Minister of Justice had not made an attack upon me. I have given the facts to the country, the country will decide, and I do not express another opinion at all. But, I will deal with another opinion of the hon. Minister of Justice, and I want to ask hon. gentlemen opposite why they will make statements that have no foundation, and why they will applaud these statements of the hon. Minister of Justice which I have contradicted. They will be repeated on every hustings in the country, notwithstanding this contradiction, and notwithstanding the fact that I have offered to refer the matter to a commission of judges, one appointed by hon. gentlemen opposite, and one appointed by myself, and if they do not find a verdict in my favour, I will pay the costs.

Mr. CAMPBELL. You are a big man.

Mr. TAYLOR. If I do not pay the costs, I will resign my seat and walk out of the House.

Mr. DOMVILLE. You ought to be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). You have no shame about you.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I want you to call the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Macdonald), to order.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). I tell you distinctly that you have no shame about you or you would not make the statements you have been making this afternoon.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I want you to name the hon. gentleman for making a statement that an hon. member has no shame about him. When you call the hon. gentleman to order, I will proceed and not before.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). If so, you will not proceed to-night.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. The next statement the hon. Minister of Justice makes in this book, is as follows:

Mr. Taylor said that Messrs. Bate & Sons, besides purchasing the output of the Kingston penitentiary, controlled the output of the Brantford factory.

Further down he says:

They sold the twine not long after, to another party at a very moderate advance in price, and this, I believe, is the extent of their dealing in binder twine. From no other manufacturer did they purchase. So much for the talk about monopolies.

I will allow Bate & Sons to answer that, to see if the hon. Minister of Justice or Bate & Sons make a correct or an incorrect

statement. Bate & Sons make this statement in their interview in the *Journal* :

The government advertised for tenders. We replied. We do not know whether there were other tenderers or not. We got the contract in March, 1898, at an average of about \$4.50. That this was a reasonable price was proved by a purchase we made later, when prices had risen. In March, on the rising market, we bought from a private firm in Brantford 307,000 pounds of binder twine at \$4.80 per 100 lbs.

The hon. Minister of Justice says that this was the only transaction that Bate & Sons had. Bate & Sons say that they bought binder twine at Brantford to the amount of 307,000 pounds, and that they paid \$4.80 per 100 pounds. Which tells the truth, this book, or Bate & Sons? Bate & Sons say that they bought twine in March, 1898, which they did. They entered into a contract, and we have it here. On February 28, Bate & Sons wrote a letter to the Minister of Justice. They talked the matter over with the Minister of Justice before, and on February 19, 1898, the following letter was written on behalf of the Minister of Justice :

Referring to the interview between the Minister of Justice and your Mr. H. Allen Bate, I am directed by the minister to state that he is prepared to consider any definite proposal which you may submit in connection with the manufacture of binder twine at the Kingston penitentiary.

I may also inform you that we have on hand at Kingston penitentiary a quantity of three different grades of twine, and the minister will be glad to receive any offer which you may make in that connection, such offer to be treated confidentially pending a definite decision in reference thereto.

The interview with Bate & Sons was confidential. It was confidential all through. On February 28, Messrs. Bate & Sons wrote to the Minister of Justice as follows :

Ottawa, February 28, 1898.

To the Hon. David Mills,
Minister of Justice, Ottawa.

Sir,—Referring to the request contained in yours of the 19th instant, relative to making you an offer for the binder twine on hand, we beg to submit the following:

For about 60 tons of Sisal.....	\$4 50 per 100
For about 120 tons mixed Man- illa	4 95 "
For about 100 tons pure Manila	4 95 "

Subject to cash settlements on dates of deliveries at our option, f.o.b. Kingston, providing of course that the manufacturing is well done and in perfect condition.

We are, awaiting the favour of an early reply,
Yours faithfully,
(Sgd.) H. N. BATE & SONS.

On March 5, the government sent out a circular to a few of their own political friends, asking for tenders to be submitted by March 19, in about two weeks' time. On March 19, 1898, Bate & Sons wrote another letter which is as follows :

Ottawa, March 19, 1898.

To Douglas Stewart,
Inspector of Penitentiaries.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your circular of the 5th inst., calling for sealed tenders for the pro-
Mr. TAYLOR.

pective output of binder twine at the Kingston penitentiary for the current year, we beg to say you may consider our offer made on the 28th ult., and addressed to the Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice, for certain quantities of twines as applying to the output for the current year.

In regard to the deposit of \$2,000 asked for in your circular and referring to our conversation over the 'phone this morning, we will be pleased to send you our accepted cheque on Tuesday next, if desired; kindly advise us on this point, and oblige.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) H. N. BATE & SONS.

That letter was received on March 19, and no deposit with it, but, they had a talk over the 'phone. That letter was sent, and the contract was entered into on March 28, between the warden of the Kingston penitentiary of the first part and Henry Newell Bate, Herman Gerald Bate and Thomas Cameron Bate. I refer to that, just to show that the contract was entered into on March 28, 1898. That contract was signed on March 28—signed, sealed and delivered. I was a little interested in this question and I asked a question of the government. If hon. gentlemen will refer to page 3659 of *Hansard*, 1898, they will see the question that I put. It is as follows :

Has the government sold, or agreed to sell, the binder twine manufactured and to be manufactured, in the Kingston penitentiary for this season? If sold, to whom, and at what prices for the different brands? Were tenders called by public advertisement?

Now, I want the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton), to pay particular attention to this answer. Here is the answer of the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), speaking for the government. He says :

No arrangement has yet been completed for the disposal of the output for the current year, but tenders have been called for by circulars, and are now under consideration of the department.

That statement ought to be true.

Mr. BRITTON. It is true.

Mr. TAYLOR. If the hon. gentleman will look at the *Hansard* and find out when it is dated, he will find out that it is dated April 18, 1898, and that this contract was signed on March 28.

Mr. BRITTON. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), if he does not know that it happens time and time again that contracts are written out and the date filled in, and that they are not actually entered into until days and weeks after?

Mr. TAYLOR. I would ask my hon. friend to look at the correspondence I have just read, to remember the conversations over the 'phone, the deposit of \$2,000, the fact that the contract was completed on March 28, signed, sealed and delivered, and executed in the department, that I put the question on the paper, and that this government

comes down and makes the statement that they were only then considering the matter, having sent out circulars. What position does this place the government in? When members on this side of the House put questions, they expect truthful answers, but here the minister gives an answer which purports to be true, but a year or two afterwards, when we get the return, we find that the minister's statement is absolutely untrue in every respect. This was the answer given on April 18, by this government:

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No arrangement has yet been completed, for the disposal of the output for the current year but tenders have been called for by circulars, and are now under the consideration of the department.

That was on April 18. I thought I would lay a trap for the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) and he walked right into it. This proves to my mind, as it will prove to the mind of every farmer in Canada, that there was a ring in the binder twine business, and that the government were shielding that ring, and they did not want the information to get out while the House was in session, and so they gave us an answer not in accordance with the facts. Long after this the twine had been disposed of.

Mr. WOOD. How could there be a ring, if binder twine is free of duty coming into this country?

Mr. TAYLOR. I will answer that before I get through. I have a note about it, and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) will find he is interested. Here is another quotation from this book:

The only year in which the output of the Brantford factory was controlled by the purchasers of the Kingston product, was in 1895, under the preceding government.

There is another statement the Minister of Justice makes. Having already stated, on two or three occasions, that the twine was sold in 1894-5 by an agent, he now makes the statement that the government sold the output in 1895, and the same party purchased the output of the Brantford concern. How can the Solicitor General explain a statement of that kind made by the Minister of Justice, as follows:—

The government cannot advantageously employ commercial agents, pay their expenses, and send them abroad through the country, to make sales to retail dealers, and become an active competitor, without the risk of very great loss, and without incurring very great expense. I shall show you, our predecessors tried the experiment for two seasons, and the result of that trial, was not such as to induce us to make a further experiment on the same line.

There he defines what has been the policy and yet, he says in this statement, that the only year the output of the Brantford factory was controlled by the purchasers of the Kingston product was in 1895, under the Conservative government, again he says:

The experiment made by our predecessors in office, in 1895, was not one in any way advant-

ageous to the public interest, as a portion of the price is still unpaid.

And again he says:

The only year in which the output of the Brantford factory was controlled by the purchasers of the Kingston product, was in 1895, under the preceding government.

Is the Minister of Justice aware that under instructions it was sold by the agent in 1895 at 5½ cents a pound to the retail merchants of this country? How can the Solicitor General reconcile those two statements of the Minister of Justice? Now, then, we come down to 1899, the Connolly contract, and at page 10, the minister says:

With regard to the sales for the year ending in August last, tenders were asked for by advertisement in a large number of the leading papers so that the matter was made known to every one interested. Notwithstanding this, we received in the department but four tenders. The price obtained was greater than in the former years, because of the enhanced price of the raw material. The contract was awarded to the highest tenderer, and in every instance the business transacted was open and straightforward. The prices received were:

Manila	\$7.25 per 100 lbs.
Mixed.....	6.15 "
Sisal.....	6.00 "

Let us see how open and straightforward it was. Who was the highest tenderer? Mr. Connolly was. Did Connolly get the contract? Oh, no; it had to go to the ring. Hobbs got it. I have the tenders here, and I have some correspondence, and it reveals a funny state of things. Mr. Stewart, Inspector of the Kingston penitentiary, says:

The question arises as to the best method of disposing of the output of twine for the current year. There seems but two practical methods:

1. The employment of an officer of the penitentiary or other agent to dispose of the output direct to the trade;
2. The sale of the output in bulk by advertisement for tenders.

And then he leaves it to the minister to decide. The next is the form of the advertisement calling for tenders, and then we have the tenders. There is one from Bate & Sons, one from the Hobbs Hardware Company, one from Coll Bros., and last, but not least, one from Martin P. Connolly. These tenders, as it was proven, were handed into the office by the parties interested. The tender of the Hobbs Company was made out on a sheet of paper, of the Russell Hotel, the day the tenders were to be received. Hobbs was on the ground, Connor was on the ground, and tendered for Coll Bros. Bate & Sons were on the ground, and sent the tender in by one of their messengers. These three tenders were in, and they ran in this way:

Bate's tender.....	\$5 45	\$4 95	\$4 65
Hobbs "	6 25	5 75	5 25
Coll Bros. tender.....	7 25	6 12½	5 08½

That shows that Bate was out of it and that Hobbs was out of it. Connor, who, the year before, had been a partner with Hobbs,

and then with Bate & Sons in their tender, had a dispute with them. He put in a tender on his own hook, and he was higher than either Hobbs or Bate. Then a tender was signed by N. K. Connolly, with the cheque for the deposit sent in by Mr. Purdom. Hobbs solicitor. This tender was brought in before dark by a gentleman whom I now see sitting in the press gallery. What telegraphing was done to let N. K. Connolly know, or to let Hobbs know, that Coll Bros. was the highest tenderer, I do not know, but it is evident from the figures Connolly put in that there must be some telegraphing going on. Connolly is the same price as Coll Bros. for manila, namely, \$7.25, but he is 2½ cents higher on the mixed, and 12½ cents higher on the other. Remark that there was a tender brought in signed by Connolly, but Connolly was not in the country that day, for he was away down in Mexico. Who forged Connolly's name?

Mr. WOOD. The government were not responsible for that.

Mr. TAYLOR. They were responsible for their actions next day. I asked for the papers, and they were brought down, and this much was brought down. Here is a telegram from Hobbs, Toronto, to Mills, Minister of Justice, which reads:

Connolly will sign contract in Ottawa to-morrow. To keep matters straight with department? Thought it best for him to complete tender. His interest is same as ours.

That is a telegram from Hobbs that Connolly's interest in their tender is the same as theirs. This proves that the tender of Connolly was raised a few cents over Connors. How the information was got I do not know, but it must have been got in some way, because the figures prove it. All the evidence proves it, because the cash deposit sent in with that tender was the cheque of Hobbs's solicitor, or was a draft on London.

Mr. WOOD. The government got more for the twine.

Mr. TAYLOR. Oh, yes; no matter about the ring; no matter about the poor farmer. Here is another telegram from the Hon. David Mills to Mr. Hobbs:

We must have responsible person from the outset. If you want arrangement to stand, you had better come forward to sign the contract yourself.

What arrangement is that? That proves that there was a private understanding between Hobbs and the government that the twine must go into his hands, and the Minister of Justice tells Hobbs that he must come forward and sign the contract.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). How do you know there was a private understanding?

Mr. TAYLOR. Because this telegram says so.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Read it.

Mr. TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR. I have read it, but I cannot supply brains to the hon. gentleman. This is the telegram:

Toronto, March 1, 1899.

The Hon. David Mills,
Minister of Justice, Ottawa.

Connolly will sign contract in Ottawa to-morrow. To keep matters straight with the department, thought it best for him to complete tender. His interest is same as ours.

(Sgd.) T. S. HOBBS.

Next morning they came, and the contract was made out in the name of the Hobbs Hardware Company. Does that not show that there was a ring or combine to throw the product of the Kingston penitentiary into the hands of this monopoly?

Mr. WOOD. There is no evidence of that.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will read how truthfully the minister answered the questions to show whether or not he gives correct information. I put this question on the Order paper:

To whom and at what price was the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary since the 1st July, 1898, and to be manufactured up to the 30th June, 1899, sold? Were tenders called for?

The Prime Minister answered:

To the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London. Tenders were called for by advertisement in the newspapers, and the highest tender accepted.

There is the Prime Minister's answer to me, that the Hobbs Hardware Company were the purchasers of the twine that year, while the fact is that Connolly was the purchaser. A month or two afterwards, I got the information that Connolly had been the successful tenderer, and my hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) put this question on the paper:

1. Has the tender of Martin P. Connolly for the current season's make of binder twine, at Kingston, been accepted by the government? If not, to whom has such twine been sold?

2. What are the prices to be paid to the government by the purchaser of the different brands of such twine?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. The tender of Martin P. Connolly has been accepted, and a contract based upon that tender has been executed with the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London. 2. The prices cannot be given until the output has been marketed by the purchaser.

Wanting to shield the ring—not to let the country know what price they had paid for it until they had disposed of it, but giving a different answer to the hon. member for Halton from that which he gave me. The fact is, it is very little use for members of the opposition to put questions on the paper at all, expecting to get truthful answers from any member of the government. Again, the Minister of Justice says, on page 10:

If the government is to continue to give employment to convicts by the manufacture of

binder twine, it must deal with the product in a businesslike way, and upon business principles. As I have already stated, from the attempt made to create political patronage, and to deal with the retail merchants in binder twine throughout the country, the season of 1896 was lost, and when the harvest was over, the department had the entire output of the year on its hands. I need not say that it would be impossible to continue the production of binder twine upon any such plan. Binder twine always deteriorates in value by its retention. If large losses were sustained, the men who now undertake to censure the department because we are running it on business principles, and relieving the public treasury from what would otherwise be an increased charge, would be the first to condemn the government for these added burdens.

Talk about business principles, and sell the output of any binder twine industry in this country by tender. The manufacturers all employ agents and send them through the country to retail merchants and take their orders for the quantity they are likely to dispose of. But this government could not do business on business principles. They adopt a plan of their own. They hand the output over to their political friends, and allow them to make huge fortunes by charging the farmers two or three prices for what they require.

I do not purpose at this time going further with this book; but I now intend to answer a few questions which my hon. friend opposite put to me, and which I promised to answer before I got through. I may say that this year the government got frightened. They know that they had been imposing on the farmers through the ring which had the control of the binder twine in Canada. I promised to enlighten my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood), who does not appear to know that the Hobbs Hardware Company are the agents in this country for the American trust, so that they not only control the arrangements of the manufacturers in Canada, but they control the American output.

Mr. WOOD. Oh, no, no. They sell merely for one factory.

Mr. TAYLOR. Does my hon. friend know that when Coll Bros., represented by John Connor, purchased from the government in 1896 the twine on hand, he made an arrangement with the Hobbs Hardware Company of London, under which the agreement I read here was entered into by the Hobbs Company for taking it over; that at that time Connor made a written agreement with the Hobbs Hardware Company, a copy of which is in the hands of the Department of Justice, showing that Connor and Hobbs were partners in this transaction? But previous to that agreement having been sent down here, the firm of Wood, Vallance & Co., the Hobbs Hardware Company and Connor, were each to have an equal share. The document providing for that was prepared, and when it

was submitted to the solicitors of the hon. member for Hamilton, they said, 'If you go into that, it will unseat you.'

Mr. WOOD. I rise to a point of order. I say that no such statement was ever made, and no such contract was ever presented to my firm for signature.

Mr. TAYLOR. My hon. friend says he knows nothing of the agreement, that no such agreement was made so far as he knows. The man who told me was Connor himself. He says the bargain was made with the hon. gentleman's partner but when it was submitted to his solicitors, they said it would unseat the hon. gentleman if they went into it. Then, a new agreement was drawn up, a copy of which is filed with the Department of Justice, providing that Connor and Hobbs were partners in what they bought on the 4th of September, 1896, and the 25th of January, 1897.

Mr. WOOD. Will the hon. gentleman tell me when that took place?

Mr. TAYLOR. In the fall of 1896.

Mr. WOOD. I tell the hon. gentleman that such a thing never took place.

Mr. TAYLOR. It was between the fall of 1896 and the time the agreement was made with Hobbs, some time early in 1897. But, as I have stated, this year the government got frightened. They knew that there was a commotion among the farmers who had been paying two or three times the value of the binder twine; and I am satisfied that every member of the government has been deluged with letters, asking why this state of affairs existed, and why they had to pay such prices for their binder twine. They put up their faithful henchmen, the hon. member for North Wellington, this year.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. If that is out of order. I withdraw it. And they asked this question:

Whether it is the intention of the government to allow farmers to purchase binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary at or about cost. If so, up to what date might purchases be made?

That was the question the government framed and put into the hands of the hon. member.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then I will say, the question which the hon. member for North Wellington framed.

Mr. McMULLEN. That statement is entirely untrue. I framed the question myself, and the statement is incorrect from beginning to end.

Mr. CLANCY. It does seem to me that unless the debate is to be unduly limited, it

is not at all out of order for an hon. gentleman to say that the government may have framed a question and put it into an hon. gentleman's hands.

Mr. SPEAKER. I must rule, whether the hon. member feels satisfied or not, that that style of statement is unparliamentary.

Mr. TAYLOR. I withdrew it immediately, and said that the question which the hon. member for North Wellington had framed and put on the Order paper, was answered as follows by the Solicitor General :

It is the intention of the government to allow farmers to purchase binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary until the 1st March.

That was the first decision of the government. Then the Solicitor General further replied :

It has been the practice with the government 'as soon as the contract season' is over, to sell binder twine to farmers or other parties requiring it until a new contract is made.

That was the reply of the hon. the Solicitor General to the hon. member for North Wellington. Then the pressure began again, and the limit was extended to the 20th of March. Then another question was put, and the time was further extended. But the prices continued the same, in the interests of the parties who control the manufacture in Canada. The Solicitor General's reply was very plausible. He said :

It has been the practice with the government to sell to the farmers every year after the contract season is over.

Let me show by the return how much the government sold the farmers. Here I have the return from the receipts of the binder twine industry as taken from the Auditor General's Report. The small lots sold in 1897 amounted in all to \$16.68. In 1898, there was not a dollar received from any other person except Bate & Sons, Coll Bros., Connor, and the Hobbs Hardware Company—in all \$68,000.

H. N. Bate & Son.....	\$38,695 82
Coll Bros.....	7 83
John Connor	6,415 10
C. E. Gagnon.....	0 36
Hobbs Hardware Company.....	21,439 40

\$66,558 51

And in the next year, 1899, the Auditor General's Report shows that only \$20 were received in all for small lots sold from the penitentiary, but whether these consisted of binder twine or oil barrels or anything else we cannot tell. There were five items of \$4 a piece, sold to different parties, and the balance was taken by Bate & Sons, John Connor, the Hobbs Hardware Company, the Manitoba penitentiary and Martin Sullivan. So much for the answer which the Solicitor General gave, that it has always been the practice of the department to sell in small quantities to the farmers.

Mr. CLANCY.

I put a question on the paper this year. I asked the government :

Have the government sent out schedules of prices at which binder twine will be sold at Kingston penitentiary up to 1st March, 1900, as follows :

Schedule of prices.

Quantities.	Manila.	Mixed.	New Zealand.
	cts.	cts.	cts.
In lots of 50 tons and upwards..	12½	8½	8½
In car-load lots (less than 50 tons).....	13	10	9
In lots of one ton up to a car-load.....	13½	10½	9½
In lots of less than one ton....	14	11	10

Terms, in all cases, cash on delivery.

If not, at what price will it be sold in above quantities up to 1st March ?

The right hon. the First Minister replied :

Yes, the prices are correct and the time has been extended to the 20th March.

I have here two letters from a farmer out in Manitoba who wanted a quantity of binder twine. He wrote the warden of the Kingston penitentiary, and at the same time he wrote to the Consumers' Cordage Company at Montreal, and here are the replies :

Kingston Penitentiary,
Warden's Office,
Kingston, February 3, 1900.

P. R. Lamb, Esq.,
Carroll, Man.

Dear Sir,—I have your favour of the 29th ult. re binder twine, and in reply beg to quote you the following prices and terms for the different brands I have for sale.

	Manila.	Mixed.	Standard.
Lots of one ton up to car-load	13½	10½	9½

f.o.b. Kingston. Terms cash on delivery.

I am mailing you samples which you will notice have been clipped, but they are a true type of strength and evenness.

Yours sincerely,
M. PLATT,
Warden.

Montreal, February 16, 1900.

Mr. P. R. Lamb,
Carroll, Man.

Dear Sir,—Replying to your favour of the 12th inst., we would quote you binder twine, subject to change without notice :

Best manila	16 cents.
Manila.....	15 "
Mixed.....	12½ "
Golden Crown.....	11 "

f.o.b. Montreal. Terms net cash 1st October we will allow 7 per cent interest per annum for cash paid before that time.

The present unsettled value in raw material makes it hard to issue firm quotations, and though we cannot guarantee it, we look for much easier prices.

Yours truly,
CONSUMERS' CORDAGE CO. (LTD.)

The Kingston penitentiary prices are cash, and taking the discount into consideration, the prices quoted by the Consumers' Cordage

Company and the Kingston penitentiary are practically the same, proving conclusively that the penitentiary fixed the prices to suit the Cordage Company. I am prepared to show that the cost of production does not warrant any such prices. We have the statement in the official blue-book of the hon. the Minister of Justice, that binder twine can be manufactured at a cost of three-quarters of a cent per pound, and adding that to the cost of the raw material, we can easily find what it can be sold at, and there is certainly nothing to warrant the prices which the government charge.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, before you left the Chair at six o'clock, I had read letters from the warden of the Kingston penitentiary and the Consumers' Cordage Company giving quotations of the prices at which binder twine would be sold to the farmers this year, and I had promised you, Sir, and the House that I would give the price for twine for several years back, showing the cost of production and the immense profits that have been made by the manufacturers during the last three years owing to the course pursued by this government in throwing their twine into the hands of the combine, thus forcing the farmers to pay these prices. The fibre purchased in 1893-4 by the Conservative government, when they started this industry, as shown by the Auditor General's Reports—and all these figures that I give are from the Auditor General's Report, and can be relied upon as absolutely correct—was 4,200 tons in quantity, purchased at a cost of \$22,792.04, which, together with insurance and freight makes an average cost laid down in Kingston of 4½ cents per pound. In 1894-5 they purchased 31¼ tons, costing \$2,528.38; 32½ tons costing \$2,838.09; 123½ tons for \$10,904.78; 62½ tons for \$5,741.14; 54½ tons for \$5,855.21. Interest on ditto, \$67.67. Then they bought another lot of 361,452 pounds of sisal at 2½ cents a pound, making \$8,954.60; 199,368 pounds at 3½ cents, \$6,167.95; 365,939 pounds at 3¼ cents, \$11,760.16; 132,525 pounds at 3½ cents, \$4,612.47. Making a total of \$61,044.04 for twine purchased in 1894-5, or an average of 3½ cents a pound for the raw material for that year. The raw material that was bought the preceding year was under the administration of the late government, when the farmers get their twine at 6½ cents per pound. Now we come to the time of the present government. The fibre purchased in 1896 that went into the twine that was sold in 1897, was purchased from Robertson, Fleming & Company, 26 tons and 375 pounds, costing \$2,560.46; from Thebeaud Bros., 156,095 pounds of current hemp at 3 cents a pound, and 273,925 pounds of

seconds at 3½ cents a pound. Total cost, \$14,428.95, making altogether for that year \$16,984.41, or an average of 3½ cents per pound. What was on hand on August 1, 1896, and all made from then to July 31, 1897, was sold, as I have already proved by the money returned, at 4½ cents per pound to the Hobbs Hardware Company. That sale and the sale in January made an average of \$4.65 per 100 pounds for which the farmers had to pay 12 and 13 cents per pound.

Now, we come to the year 1897. The raw material purchased in 1897, that went into the twine sold in 1898, which was purchased by Messrs. Bate & Sons. It was purchased from G. Anisinch & Company, 270,538 pounds, sisal hemp, at 3¼ cents, and 117,383 pounds at 3 cents, making \$13,953.70. 324,000 pounds were purchased from F. Malcolm & Son; also 1,000 bales of manila, for \$11,507.35. There was purchased from Thebeaud Bros., 664,822 pounds of current hemp at 3 cents a pound, amounting to \$19,727.50; and another lot of 1,376,733 pounds, in all, making the total cost of raw material that went into the twine of 1898, \$47,441.51, an average of about 3½ cents a pound as the cost of the raw material that went into the twine that was sold to Bate & Sons at 4½ cents a pound.

In 1898, not a farmer in this country purchased his twine for less than 10 cents a pound, and in some cases he paid 14 cents and 15 cents a pound. Now the hemp that was purchased in 1898, and was sold to the farmers last year, was purchased, as shown by the Auditor General's Report, from W. F. Malcolm & Company, London, at an average of 4 cents a pound for 250,000 pounds. The output was sold at an average of 6½ cents a pound, owing to Connolly having put in a tender to take it away from the Hobbs Company. Now we come to this year. The twine that is being sold to the farmers this year at 14 cents a pound, what did the raw material cost? It was stated in the papers that as soon as the combination was formed, the fact that prices run up was due to the war in Manila. Where have we war prices in what I have quoted thus far? Here is the material that was bought in 1899. It was purchased, as is shown by the Auditor General's Report, from Landaur & Company, 2,149 cwt., making 240,797 pounds of New Zealand, costing \$13,678.06; from Malcolm & Company, 54 tons 458 lbs, costing \$5,451.28. There were purchased from Smith & Schipper 62½ tons of manila hemp, and 135,000 pounds of fine seconds, for \$6,995.82; also from the same firm, 263,679 pounds of the same quality for \$14,458.66. So the total cost of the purchases that year was \$39,984.72, and the average cost per pound was 5½ cents for the manila that went into the twine the government are selling this year at 14 cents a pound. Some people may say they purchased a large amount since the

Auditor General's Report was made up. In the Senate Sir Mackenzie Bowell put the question, and this is the reply he received from the Hon. David Mills :

Hon. David Mills stated that between July and December last, 53,049 pounds of sisal and 59,198 pounds of hemp for the manufacture of binder twine had been purchased. There was a large amount of raw material on hand. Sir Mackenzie Bowell said the information was valuable as far as it went. The question was the quantity, the price and the parties from whom bought. The Auditor General's Report would give them the amount purchased before last July. He understood the minister to state that it was against the policy of the department to give the price until after the output was disposed of. He had already entered his protest against this policy, and again protested, in the interest of those who wanted the information, against the policy.

There is the total quantity and cost of the raw material that has gone into the manufacture of the twine that is on the market to-day. It cost an average of 5½ cents a pound. Every person knows that in the manufacture of binder twine, about 20 per cent of oil is put in to increase the weight. Oil costs precious little, but it increases the weight 20 per cent. Therefore, the twine is manufactured, including the cost of the raw material, at 5½ cents a pound, and three-quarters of a cent for the cost of manufacturing, making 6 cents a pound, but it would not cost the manufacturer more than 5½ cents a pound, because the increase in the weight will reduce the total cost. Therefore, the twine that the farmers are being charged to-day 14 cents a pound for, costs the government to produce 6 cents a pound, at the outside, putting the material at 5½ cents. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), the other day had a simple question on the paper, in which he wanted to know whether the government were going to sell the twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary practically at cost. The government said : Yes, up to March 1, and they issued a schedule of prices quoting 14 cents, 11 cents and 10 cents, when this binder twine only costs them 5½ cents to 6 cents per pound. That is the way the government are dealing with the farmers of the country, and when the farmers come to understand the question, because I defy the hon. Solicitor General, or any other hon. gentleman, to contradict the figures I have submitted as to the cost of the production of binder twine, the farmers will see how much profit they get out of it. No wonder that the Brantford Binder Twine Company were able to pay 60 per cent dividend two years ago, and 100 per cent dividend last year. They could not do it unless there was an understanding between the government and the other manufacturers, to put the price two or three times above the cost of production, to wring money out of the farmers. They could not do it in any other way. The Brant-

Mr. TAYLOR.

ford Binder Twine Company, the Central Prison, the Hobbs Hardware Company, and the government control the output as well as the twine coming in from the United States ; therefore, they dictate the price to the farmers, and the farmers have to pay. Yet, the hon. member for North Wellington asks if the government are going to sell binder twine manufactured in Kingston penitentiary this year, practically at cost. Neither he, nor the Solicitor General, nor any one else can contradict the figures I have given, that the cost of the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary this year will not exceed 6 cents per pound. Therefore, I say, in face of these facts, that this government have not conducted the manufacture and sale of binder twine at the Kingston penitentiary on business principles, and when the farmers come to understand the question, as they will understand it when they come to cast their ballots for this, or some other government in the next election, they will say, that, if on no other question, this government ought to be condemned, as it will be condemned, for having joined the combine to force them to pay for a necessary article two or three times more than its value, for the purpose of enriching their political and personal friends, and giving employment to their heelers. This man, John O'Gorman, of whom we have heard so much about, being a heeler and a ballot box stuffer, has been the agent for the Hobbs Hardware Company, and has been engaged in selling binder twine all over the country for the last two or three years. They say that they do business on business principles and that they sell by tender. No business industry in the country, the Montreal Cordage Company, the Brantford Binder Twine concern, or no other manufacturing concern of binder twine, or of any other article, will manufacture their goods for a year, place them on the market, and sell them by tender, either by newspaper advertisement or a circular sent to their political and personal friends. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I purpose and I do now move in amendment, seconded by the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) :

That all the words after ' That ' be struck out, and that the following be substituted therefor: ' in the opinion of the House the system adopted by the government in disposing of the output of the binder twine manufactured at the Kingston penitentiary for the last three years through their political friends has imposed a monopoly upon the farmers of Canada and has forced them to pay from 100 to 200 per cent more than the cost of manufacture.

That the proposal of the government to sell the binder twine manufactured this year up to the 1st May to farmers in small quantities at the prices quoted, namely: Manila at 14 cents, mized at 11 cents, and New Zealand at 10 cents per pound, while the cost of production did not exceed 6 cents per pound, is unjust to the farmers, and that the same should have been offered for sale to the farmers, in limited quantities, at a price not exceeding 7 cents per pound for the best quality.

That it is evident from the prices quoted to the farmers for this year, and in view of the low cost of production, that such prices have been fixed in the interests of the combine which controls the binder twine trade in Canada.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Mr. Speaker, I am quite certain that we are all agreed that this is a serious subject, as are all subjects which affect that portion of the community which is engaged in the greatest of our national industries, agriculture. It is one, I am sure, that we are all agreed upon, deserves thoughtful consideration and serious treatment. I appeal to all those who have listened to the speech made by the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), and I ask them to say whether that speech is anything except a tissue of inaccurate statements interlarded here and there with vulgar abuse of the lowest kind. He has thought proper to be what he considers, severe, in addressing the hon. Minister of Justice as a philosopher, a pettifogging lawyer, and a prevaricator, for what reason has not been made apparent up to the present time. His references to the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), I will not deal with, because I am absolutely certain that all those who are within sound of my voice, and this includes hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, with the exception of the hon. member for South Leeds, will agree with me that it would be belittling the Prime Minister to answer the insinuations made by the hon. gentleman. It strikes him as a most extraordinary thing that a man who occupies the prominent and responsible position of Prime Minister of this country should be in the position of having a mortgage of \$5,500 on his house. If I were willing to follow the course adopted by the hon. member for South Leeds, I would say that while this strikes him as most extraordinary, if the positions were reversed, these conditions would not exist. Let us deal with the facts that we have before us. The hon. gentleman has thought proper to attack the hon. Minister of Justice as a prevaricator, and to justify his statement, he has referred to a pamphlet issued over the signature of the hon. Minister of Justice in reference to the action of the government in connection with the manufacture and sale of binder twine. Of all the statements the hon. member has made, there is but one founded in fact. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has referred to the contract made with Coll Bros., and he said that in this pamphlet the Minister of Justice states that the contract was made in the month of December, 1896. It is true that that statement is contained in the pamphlet, but if my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) had desired to treat this House fairly and impartially, and had desired to be accurate, he would have gone on to say that that word 'December' is merely a misprint, because a few lines below in the same paragraph, that contract is referred to as having been made when it was made in the

month of 'September,' 1896. Therefore the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) had at the time under his hand the information necessary to enable him to see that this was a misprint and that that apparent inaccuracy did not in truth exist. But, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) had no intention of endeavouring to treat the House fairly. He had no intention of treating this question seriously. His sole object evidently has been to endeavour to cast dust in the eyes of the farming community and to create the impression that this government had dealt unfairly with them in connection with the binder twine industry. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) repeated three or four times over that he challenged any one to put in doubt the accuracy of the statements he made, and he was good enough to say that he was willing to have one judge appointed by himself and one by the government who would select a third, and to these three judges he would agree that all the facts in connection with this matter be referred. It is not necessary to have three judges; there is a very simple manner of proceeding. I here take the responsibility of saying that substantially every statement made by the Minister of Justice in this pamphlet is correct, and I tell the hon. gentleman that I shall now make some statements the accuracy of which I want him to challenge. The answer I make to his challenge is, that this whole matter be referred to the Public Accounts Committee where it will be dealt with and we will there test the accuracy of his statements and the accuracy of the statements made by the Minister of Justice.

Mr. TAYLOR. The Solicitor General referred to the word 'December' as being a misprint and said that if I had read on a few lines I would have found I was inaccurate. I ask him to read a few lines further on, and I ask him to see if he can find anything in this book which showed that the sale was made in 'September.'

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Oh yes; that is one of the many traps that my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) has left open for himself. On page 5, the statement is made:

The sale was made in December, 1896.

On page 6, about the middle of the second paragraph you will find:

A part of the twine then sold is still unpaid for, and a suit by the Crown for about \$9,000 is pending in the Exchequer Court for it, but the system has been in every way most unsatisfactory, and the sale to Coll Bros. in 'September,' 1896, of twine that ought to have been sold in the preceding February or March shows how complete a failure the system of the late government was.

Now, that reads to me very like 'September,' 1896. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has said that this pamphlet is bristling with inaccurate statements. He has told us that in the year 1899, the twine was sold at 13, 14 and 15 cents a pound.

That may be true or it may not be true with reference to the farmers, but I state that in the county of Grey up to July 15, 1899, twine was sold to the retailers at less than 7 cents a pound. If the retailers subsequently dealt it out in the way the hon. gentleman has described whose responsibility is that? Is that a responsibility on the government, or is it a responsibility on what he is pleased to call the combine, with which I shall have occasion to deal later on? I say that the twine was sold by the wholesale dealer to the retailers, up to the middle of July 1899, at less than 7 cents a pound, and I have got in my hand now a list of the persons to whom these sales were made during that period.

The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has said: That the Kingston penitentiary output of twine should be used for the purpose of controlling the price of binder twine in the country. My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) has a reputation as a business man.

Mr. GIBSON. Where?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I venture to say that no one who has heard his speech this afternoon will believe for one single instant, that if he has been honest in his statements he can have any of the elementary attributes of a business man. For instance, he said that the twine industry was installed at Kingston for the purpose of controlling the price of binder twine throughout the country. Let me point to what Sir John Thompson said on July 21, 1894. When dealing with this question he was asked by Mr. Davin as to whether or not he would send some twine to the Northwest Territories and pay the freight upon it, and here is what Sir John Thompson said:

I should very much like to be able to do so, but I am afraid I cannot make such a promise. Companies already engaged in the binding twine business are in the habit of paying freight as far west as Owen Sound, but we would not be able, without involving loss and without calling on parliament to make good that loss, to pay the freight on binding twine sent to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. MULOCK. I should like to ask if the binding twine is being sold under cost?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No, it is not. I mentioned the rates the other day, and I forget them for a moment, but binding twine is not being manufactured under cost—the price covers the cost and an allowance for the labour of the prisoners.

Mr. MULOCK. Is that calculated as free labour or as convict labour?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. As convict labour, 50 cents per day, because their hours are shorter and work lighter than free labour. The product is sold at a price covering the cost of the material, also interest on the expenditure for plant, allowance for deterioration and everything that enters into the calculation of a private manufacturer.

That is the way it was intended that this business should be run. My hon. friend

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

(Mr. Taylor) says that we are in the hands of a combine and that these goods were sold in such a way as to enable the combine to regulate the price of the twine. Let me again quote from Sir John Thompson, who said in the same debate:

In addition, I may say that we are selling the product at the same prices as the Central Prison in Toronto, the firm at Brantford, and the Consumers' Cordage Company.

That is to say that even at that time the government had made an arrangement by which they were to sell the twine at the price at which these other manufacturers of twine in the country were selling it. But that is not all. I said a moment ago that my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) had the reputation of a business man.

Mr. GIBSON. You made a mistake.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. And he endeavoured to convey to the House the impression that it was possible for us to control the price of twine in this country by the output of the Kingston penitentiary, let us see how possible that is. What is the total quantity of binder twine used in Canada? The total quantity of binder twine used in Canada, is something over 8,000 tons a year, and the whole output of the Kingston penitentiary has never exceeded 500 tons. That is about 6 per cent of the total output. I would like my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) to point out with his business acumen, how, by the aid of 500 tons, you could control the price of the 8,000 tons that are sold in Canada? My hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) has said that the present high prices of twine are the result of a combine which has existed between the wholesale dealers and the government. That statement is absolutely inaccurate: and, moreover, my hon. friend knows full well that it is impossible for us to believe that he was honest when he made that statement. What was the price of the raw material which entered into the manufacture of binder twine? In 1898, it was 4½ cents a pound: in 1899, 8½ cents, and in 1900, 13½ cents: and the hon. gentleman tells us that we ought to sell it at 7 cents a pound. The rise in price is due to the war in the Philippines. So much is that the case that at the present time the export of manila hemp from the Philippines is absolutely ended, and the manufacturers have turned to Mexico for an article to substitute for manila hemp.

Mr. CLANCY. What was sisal in 1898?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Four and seven-eighths cents a pound. In 1899 it was 8½ cents, and in 1900, from 9 cents to 9½ cents.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid the hon. gentleman has not the correct quotations when he gives the same price for sisal as for manila.

Mr. WOOD. It has frequently been the same price as manila, and even higher.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am giving these quotations, not from my personal knowledge. I have absolutely no knowledge on the subject—no personal knowledge; but I will never say, as the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) said last year, that twine was being sold, as a result of the combine, at 14 cents or 15 cents a pound.

Mr. SPROULE. I will put under oath the men in my village who sold it, and I will show my own account, showing that I paid last year 16 cents a pound. I want the minister to understand that I make no statement in this House that I do not absolutely know to be correct or honestly believe to be correct. In this case I know, because I bought it myself. I will not take back water on that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not suppose the hon. gentleman would take back water on that or anything else that he set his mind to. But, I wish to state that in the village in which the hon. gentleman lives, the village of Markdale, previous to July 15, 1899, binder twine was sold to Frank Graham at less than 7 cents a pound, and to Mr. Telford, in the same village, at 7 cents a pound.

Mr. SPROULE. That does not alter my statement at all. I am giving exactly what I paid for it, and I have still the bill receipted in my possession; so that, I can prove it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I beg my hon. friend to bear patiently with me, because there are other things to come which I think will startle him even more than the statement I have made. The hon. gentleman said that the rise in the price was due to the combine that had been entered into between the government and the wholesale dealers who bought from the government. I have pointed out what the prices of the raw material were in 1898, 1899 and 1900. Now, how did we help the combine? We helped it by taking the duty off binder twine, the result of which was that the importations of binder twine into Canada rose from 2,000,000 pounds in 1895 to 10,000,000 pounds last year. That is to say, this government has helped to keep the manufacturers of Canada in possession of this market by establishing such a condition of things as has increased by 500 per cent the importations of this article since we came into power. Now, let us deal with the question of the combines, and let me remind hon. gentlemen opposite that Sir John Thompson was frank enough to say in 1894 that in fixing the prices at which binder twine was to be sold, he had consulted the other manufacturers in the country and sold it at the same prices at which they sold it.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). What was the price at that time?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have not the faintest idea. I am going to tell you what the government sold it at to Mr. Connor.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Your friend Connor.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am quite satisfied that he should be dubbed my friend Connor. Now, let us see to what extent hon. gentlemen opposite favoured the combines, by the uses to which they put the binder twine factory in Kingston. The binder twine plant was installed in 1893 and 1894, and it first went into operation in April, 1894. The output of the whole of that year was controlled by Mr. John Connor. He was the gentleman who installed the binder twine plant at the Kingston penitentiary. He was the gentleman who, after he had installed that plant, was careful to instal his own brother as a director of that industry. He got hold of the output for that year, and got all the money that was realized out of its sale. The position was this, that he got 200,000 pounds of twine at a cost of \$12,700; that this was delivered to him during the summer season; and that, on December 9, 1894, he paid on account \$1,683.50, and gave his notes for the balance. So that, he got all that twine in that year, manipulated it to his own advantage, got the money for it, and on December 9 he was indebted for the whole amount less \$1,683.50. What happened after that? On April 13, 1895, he makes a contract with the government by which he is charged with the selling of the whole output of twine for the whole of the ensuing season of 1895. He gets the whole of the twine handed over to him, although at that time he was indebted to the government for his previous year's purchase to the extent of \$6,362.78; but that does not appear to have made any difference. The agreement by which he got possession of the whole output of that year was the result of an agreement made by him with the Messrs. Connolly in the month of February, 1895, in which agreement it is provided that the partnership then entered into shall extend to such transactions as the said parties or any one of them may have or conclude with the Dominion government in respect to the manufacture and sale of binder twine from the Kingston penitentiary; and also to extend to any business that may result to any one of the parties hereto, in respect of the Central prison output now controlled by the provincial government of Ontario; and also to include the output of any factory, leased or acquired by the parties hereto.

They made this arrangement in January, 1885, by which the two Connollys and Connor, under the name of the Continental Binder Twine Company, formed a co-partnership to control the Binder Twine Com-

pany of Brantford, and also get possession of the government output at Kingston. Where is the combine now? What was the object of handing this output over to Connor, who was then interested in the Continental Binder Twine Company? But that is not all. He then gets possession of the output, and what does he proceed to do? He has the penitentiary binder twine, to the value of \$11,000 of the whole output, shipped to this Continental Binder Twine Company—sold to this rival concern. He sells to this rival concern, in which he is interested, a large part of the binder twine of this government, for which he was acting as agent. Then we have the hon. gentleman talking of combines. But how does he qualify such an arrangement as that? Not only was that the case, but Connor then disposed of the larger portion of the balance to the wholesale dealers, so that of the whole output of that year, not more than one-third went direct into the hands of the retailers. The rest was all controlled in the way I have described.

That is pretty bad, but there is worse to follow. The hon. gentleman talks of combines, but look at those facts. They actually handed over to a member of the firm, Connor, called the Continental Binder Twine Company, the sale of our whole output of binder twine for that year, and allowed him to dispose of a large portion of it to that firm in which he was personally interested. That was bad enough, but what happened afterwards. Connor got possession of the binder twine and sold it. One million and a few thousand pounds of our binder twine, of the value of \$56,000, was handed over to Mr. Connor between the months of April and August, 1895. Over 1,000,000 pounds of binder twine left the Kingston penitentiary in that interval, on Connor's orders aggregating in value, to be precise, \$56,835.43. From the sale of that binder twine, Mr. Connor received \$26,710.97 before the 1st September, and in addition not one dollar of the quantity shipped by him to the Continental Binder Twine Company was, up to that date, paid for. That \$26,710, which had been received by him, he used for his own private purposes; and in the month of December following, 1895, when he was called upon to account for the output for that year, he gave the government two promissory notes—one of \$20,000, and the other of \$29,000—notwithstanding the fact that he had this money in his possession. And that is a condition of things to which the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) wants us to revert.

But that is not all. Mr. Connor's notes were taken in December, 1895. The notes were, of course, short date notes and never paid, and in the month of March, 1896—parliament being then in session and the government, no doubt, being anxious not to have an inquiry into the management of this industry—Mr. Connor was obliged to

make an abandonment of certain securities he then held, so as to secure the government for the amount of their claim against him, which then amounted to \$49,000. And on the 1st March, 1896, notwithstanding the fact that this man had received during the year previous over 1,000,000 pounds of our twine, and ought to have received its full value of \$56,000 for the sale of it, the government of that day had only received on account of that sale \$184.75. I trust that hon. members follow me. The output of the penitentiary was handed over to Mr. Connor in April, 1895, to be disposed of by him, as agent for the government. As a result of that, he received binder twine to the value of \$56,000 between April, 1895, and September, 1895, and in the month of March, 1896, all that he had paid to the government on account of this binder twine was \$184.75. Yet this was done by these business gentlemen who complain of the business methods of this government.

Subsequently on the 22nd of March, 1896, the sum of \$23,641 was paid on account of this twine delivered the year previous, and you must now bear in mind that I have traced three deliveries, which aggregate \$27,000, made in the months of June, July and August, 1895; and in the month of March, 1896, all that was received by the government was \$22,641. What then have we got? The balance due was \$26,000. That is to say, that, as a result of the system adopted by the Department of Justice at that time, and to which the hon. member for Leeds now wishes us to revert, as the result of the appointment of an agent to dispose of our binder twine, we find, a year after all the twine was sold and delivered, we have a shortage of \$26,000; and on account of that shortage there is still due in the vicinity of \$9,000 unpaid. There is a transaction of which hon. gentlemen opposite are, no doubt, proud.

But that is not all. One would imagine that they would have learnt a lesson by experience, but what do we find? In the month of March, 1896, the government took an assignment from Mr. Connor of certain securities in order that they might be placed in a position to endeavour to collect the balance due, which balance was still \$26,000. And then what did they do? They deliberately set to work, and, on the 6th April, 1896, they made another agreement of absolutely the same character with a man named Kelly, who, at the time, was book-keeper for the Connolly Bros., who had been interested as partners in the transactions of the previous year. Not content with their former experience with Connor, they appointed as their agent Mr. Kelly, who was at that time the servant and in the employ of Connolly Bros., and also in the employ of the Continental Binder Twine Company. Now, let me see where the combine comes in. Let me say to you that Kelly had not \$5 in the world at that time, and under this agreement it was provided

that he was to give security to the extent of \$30,000.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will see how these 'hear, hears' are going to come out. The Connolly Bros. were interested in keeping our output of binder twine out of the market for that season, and what did they do? An agreement is made on the 6th of April, 1896, and when the change of government took place in July, 1896, that agreement was not perfected. And what is the result? On the 6th of August, 1896, the penitentiary at Kingston reported to us that they had on hand, practically at the end of the binder twine season, over a million pounds of twine that ought to have been sold previously. And what then happens?

Mr. R. R. McLENNAN (Glengarry). May I ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) a question? I asked it some time ago, and he said he would answer it shortly. What was the cost of binder twine—

Some hon. MEMBERS. That was given.

Mr. McLENNAN (Glengarry). It was not given. I would like to know what was the price of the raw material in 1899 and also what was the cost of the twine. It was sold for \$4 in 1895, according to the report of the Minister of Justice, and he would not make it any less than it was. The farmers are not interested in knowing these matters that may be of interest as between the political parties, but so far as they are concerned this is a business matter in which they are interested, and what they want to know is, what did the binder twine cost.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know that the farmers are much interested in knowing what the binder twine realized to the penitentiary, but they are interested, I believe, in knowing how it came to pass that the output of the Kingston penitentiary was tied up in the spring of 1896 and was not put on the market. They are interested in knowing also how it came to pass that the late government made a contract in 1895 with the agent of the combine to control the output of the Kingston penitentiary, and in 1896 they repeated the dose, notwithstanding that there was a balance of \$29,000 still due on the transaction of 1895. How does it come to pass, if there was no combine and no desire to keep the Kingston output out of the market, that an agreement made on the 5th of April, 1896, was not executed or finally completed on the 6th of August, 1896, when the change of government took place? How does it come to pass that the whole output of the Kingston penitentiary had been, as a result of this agreement made with the agent of the com-

bine, kept in the penitentiary instead of being allowed to go on the market? What explanation have we had of it? What has been the result? Not only was this binder twine that ought to have gone on the market 'to relieve the market,' as the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) would say, in the spring of 1896, kept in the Kingston penitentiary by the department to the profit of the combine, in the interest of whom the gentlemen were acting—and I do not say that as a matter of insinuation, but I state it as a matter of fact—not only was it kept out of the market, but it was kept where it was depreciating in value and would cease to have anything like the value that it had in 1896.

Now, we had this record before us. We saw that in 1895, as a result of the management of this Kingston penitentiary industry by hon. gentlemen opposite, there had been a loss to the country of \$17,119.20. We saw that, as a result of their management during the year 1895-6, the country had suffered a loss of \$21,524.03.

Mr. CLANCY. Of course the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) sees that it is not enough for him to make these statements; he should give some proof.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am ready to give proof. As a result of the investigations I was compelled to make, in preparation of the case of the Queen vs. Connolly, I came to the conclusion that it was necessary to have a complete audit of the binder twine accounts from the beginning of the Kingston penitentiary industry. This audit was made by Mr. Mackay, accountant of Toronto; and that gentleman will be delighted to appear before the Public Accounts Committee and give his explanations before them.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) lay on the Table a report of this audit?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am prepared to put these figures on the Table.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman has quoted a document and he ought to be prepared to lay it on the Table. I would ask your ruling on that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to be quoting from an official document, but from the result of the investigation he made in a suit in which he was acting—

Mr. CLANCY. Under the authority of the department, I understand.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am prepared to meet the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Clancy's) difficulties.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) is undoubtedly right, if the docu-

ment that the Solicitor General is quoting is in any sense in the possession of the government as a public document. In that case, it should be placed on the Table.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I will meet the difficulty. I said, that so far as I was concerned, I had never managed the Kingston penitentiary binder twine industry and did not pretend to have any special knowledge on that subject. But I am prepared to say this—I will lay on the Table the complete audit, and I repeat the challenge that I gave, that if any hon. gentleman thinks there is anything inaccurate in any statement I have made, I give my authority for it, and the Public Accounts Committee is open to the hon. gentleman opposite, where the matter can be fully investigated.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the Solicitor General have any objection—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CLANCY. Hon. gentleman opposite surely can afford to keep quiet, if they have a good case. I ask the Solicitor General if he would have any objection to letting me see the report from which he has just quoted.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have just made the statement that the figures I have given were taken from a report prepared by an auditor specially appointed for the purpose of investigating the figures. I have not the full report here, but I am prepared to lay it on the Table, and, on twenty-four hours' notice, I am prepared to produce the auditor for examination under oath before the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. DAVIN. I rise to a point of order—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. I have a right to speak. I consider that the hon. and learned gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) is bound to produce that document.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think so, from the description of that document that we have had. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has gone as far as the House can ask him to go when he has stated the source of his information and the circumstances under which the document came into his hand, and has offered to make it the subject of an investigation if the House chooses.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Further than that, if I may be permitted to add a remark, the full and complete report of the auditor I am prepared to lay on the Table of the House the moment I receive it. This is an interim report that I have, but I shall have the full report within forty-eight hours.

Mr. CASGRAIN. If this is an interim report produced in a suit in which the Crown is concerned, it is a public document, and

Mr. SPEAKER.

if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) quotes from it, I take it, he must produce it.

An hon. MEMBER. That has been settled.

Mr. CASGRAIN. No, it has not been settled.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I rise to a point of order. From what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) has stated, I say this is a public document. It is a document filed in a suit by the Crown—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Nobody said that.

Mr. CASGRAIN—and it is an interim report made by a man who was officially charged with that duty by the government.

Mr. DAVIN. Here is what Bourinot says :

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. CASGRAIN. If hon. gentlemen opposite think they will advance business by this sort of interruption, they are mistaken. It has been laid down by the highest authorities that when a minister of the Crown quotes a public document in the House and founds upon it an argument or assertion, that document, if called for, ought to be produced.

Mr. SPEAKER. I may say that the statement upon which I founded my ruling was what I understood the Solicitor General to say, that in the course of a suit to recover certain moneys, he had to make a certain investigation in this direction, and he was quoting information he obtained from that document. In that view I considered he had a right to use the information without being obliged to place that document, which was in no sense an official public document, on the Table of the House. I think that when he offered to submit the accountant who made that statement to an investigation on oath before the Public Accounts Committee, with any documents he might have, he had put the House in possession of a sufficient guarantee of the accuracy of his statement. But when my hon. friend went further and said this was an interim report, I must say that unless he made a slip in the matter, the House has a right to its production.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have not the slightest objection. I have referred to certain figures which I said had been prepared for me for the purpose of investigating the Kingston penitentiary. I was asked to produce a report of the auditor, and I said I would do so. I was then asked what I was quoting from, and I said from an interim report.

Mr. DAVIN. An interim report is a public document.

Mr. SPEAKER. In what sense ?

Mr. DAVIN. In the sense of being a public document.

Mr. SPEAKER. This arose out of a suit to recover certain moneys from a certain individual on behalf of the Crown. In what sense would that make it an official document ?

Mr. DAVIN. Nothing can be more public than a record in a court of record. The Solicitor General knows well that an interim report is a public document, and he is bound to let us have it.

Mr. SPEAKER. I take the same view as an individual member in that respect. I am not a lawyer, and, perhaps, am not able to define the difference; but it does occur to me that until the Solicitor General stated this was an interim report, there was no evidence to indicate that it was an official document.

Mr. DAVIN. Is the hon. gentleman going to let us have the interim report ?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman might allow the Solicitor General to finish his statement, with the understanding that he presents the interim report as soon as he is able. It would be unreasonable to ask him to do so in the middle of his argument.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was proceeding to say that when the present government came into power in 1896, we found ourselves face to face with the situation which I have just described. An agent had been appointed ostensibly for the purpose of selling binder twine to the farmers, but in reality for the purpose of enabling him to control the output of the Kingston penitentiary as well as the output of other industries connected with the manufacture of twine, and for the subsidiary purpose of enabling him to receive moneys of the government in one year to the extent of \$12,000, and in the next year to the extent of over \$40,000, without accounting for them for over twelve months and as to a portion for over five years. In addition to that we found ourselves face to face with this further position, that the result of the binder twine industry was to give a deficit of \$17,119.20 for 1896, and of \$21,924.03 for 1896. Now, what did we do ? Were we to continue a condition of things such as that, or were we to make a new departure ? We found ourselves obliged to make a new departure. When we saw that the hon. gentlemen opposite, with that acumen and business capacity of which they boast, had produced no better result than that, we humble mortals could not expect to do anything better than they did, and we then proceeded immediately to bring about a change. We came to the conclusion that if the binder twine had come out of the

penitentiary for the sake of being disposed of by a combine, and for the benefit of persons who did not account to the government, it was better to adopt a new system. We proceeded then to sell binder twine by public tender. A notice was issued in the newspapers to the effect that a certain quantity of twine was at Kingston, and calling upon those who wished to purchase twine to make application and to put in the figures which they were willing to give. In the month of September, 1896, Coll Bros. of St. John, N.B., put in a tender, and the twine was sold to them. In December of the same year we had on hand the balance of the output of 1895, and the output of 1896, which was sold to Coll Bros. Then we had to deal with the output of 1897. Notices were published in the newspapers, and tenders were called for, and tenders were put in, and the result was that the man who offered the highest price got the twine. The same thing was done in 1898, and again in 1899. The hon. gentleman has referred to the action of the Hobbs Hardware Company in this connection. He said that in 1899 they put in a tender in their own name, and then Coll Bros. put in another tender, and another tender was put in in the name of M. P. Connolly, which was in reality for the benefit of the Hobbs Company. It is true that in 1899 a tender was put in by the Hobbs Hardware Company. A tender was also put in by Bate & Co., and another by Coll Bros.; and a new tender was put in afterwards in the name of M. P. Connolly, but which was really for the benefit of the Hobbs Hardware Company. The explanation given to us is this: The Hobbs Hardware Company said: We tendered at what we thought the market price, we put in our tender, and we soon ascertained that Coll Bros. were putting in a tender also; and knowing the relations that existed between Coll Bros. and John Connor, we were not satisfied that our tender would be fairly dealt with, and that Coll Bros. would not get the twine over our heads. We then put in a tender in the name of M. P. Connolly, and that tender obtained the twine. The result was that the government got the highest price that was offered, and the public got the benefit to that extent. Now, I challenge the hon. gentleman to come before the Public Accounts Committee and to give an opportunity to the Hobbs Hardware Company to explain their relations with this contract. I challenge them to bring these gentlemen before the committee and to give them an opportunity under oath to explain their action with reference to these tenders; and then we will get at the bottom of it, and find out how it was that the tender of Coll Bros. was only a fraction higher than the first tender put in by the Hobbs Hardware Company. We will know all about the relations of Connor with the Department of Justice. The country expects to

have an opportunity of knowing that, and we are prepared to say that it shall. Now, I will not weary the House with a recapitulation of what I have already said. I have stated the facts in connection with the relations of Connolly and Connor with the Department of Justice, and, I say that the Public Accounts Committee, and again I repeat it, is open for any examination of the Department of Justice and everybody under the control of the Department of Justice is at the disposal of the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. TAYLOR. I would just ask the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) to state again the reference to the Public Accounts Committee that he is willing to make.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am willing to make a reference to the Public Accounts Committee of every transaction connected with the binder twine industry from the first day it was begun at the Kingston penitentiary down to the present time—every transaction connected with it. I will say more than that; I will produce before the Public Accounts Committee an auditor of repute in this country, of the highest standing, who will prove that he has examined these accounts from the first day down to the last, and he will show what the condition of this industry has been up to May 1 instant. He will show, as I said a moment ago, that as a result of the management of this industry in 1895, there was a loss of \$17,000, and in 1896, of \$21,000.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman's first proposition was that he would submit the proposition I made to the Public Accounts Committee.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That will go too.

Mr. TAYLOR. I made the statement that the book published by the hon. Minister of Justice is not in accordance with the facts, and that I was willing to submit it to a court of judges. My hon. friend said that he would submit it to the Public Accounts Committee. I am prepared to submit the dealings of this government since they came into power to the Public Accounts Committee for investigation, but if hon. gentlemen want to go back and prove that the Tory government were as bad as they are, I would say that it is not a question for the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee would be a packed jury. I will submit it to a court of competent judges, the government to select one and I to select one. I will submit the book the government has issued, and the statements I have made here to-day.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman made a statement. He said that the book prepared by the hon. Minister of Justice is full of inaccuracies. He then

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

went on to say that the management of the output of the penitentiary twine by the present government was bad, that they had put the output under control of a combine which had increased the price, and he compared the management by the present government with the management of the last government. I am willing to let the whole matter of the management by both governments go to the Public Accounts Committee. I will give the hon. gentleman a report from the auditor within forty-eight hours, and he can get any auditor he pleases to examine it and test the accuracy of it. I will lay this whole transaction from beginning to end, the management by the late government and by the present government, before the Public Accounts Committee, and the farmers of this country will know how the binder twine industry has been managed and how an attempt is now being made to beguile the farmers and to represent to them that they have been improperly treated by the present government, whereas they were deluded by the late government. Not only that, but we will inquire further. I can understand that the hon. gentleman does not want the relations of the late government with the binder twine industry to be investigated, but we will inquire how the plant was put into the penitentiary, and we will find out something about the cost. We will find out how it came to pass that Connor was paid \$40,000 to instal a plant in the Kingston penitentiary when there were tenders for the same work, or almost the same work, for \$17,916. We will find out how it came to pass that the plant was installed in the way in which it was by Connor, and how it was that he came to be paid a lump sum. That I may be strictly accurate, I will say that Connor was paid \$40,000 to put in the plant, and that there were two other tenders, one for \$17,916, and the other for \$19,450, each of which was for a plant one-quarter larger than the one put in by Connor. It is true that Connor, in addition to the machinery provided for by the other two tenders that I have referred to, was obliged to instal the plant and to put in a few extra pieces of machinery. The installation of the plant and the extra pieces of machinery at the prices which existed in 1894 amounted to \$4,539, so that if my figures are accurate, the plant could have been put in for from anywhere between \$21,000 and \$25,000, while the country paid \$40,000. We will inquire into all these things, we will know about this industry from the beginning, we will ascertain where all the wrong has been and in what respect the public have been defrauded. The whole burden of the hon. gentleman's song is that it is immaterial how it comes to pass that the price of twine to the manufacturer has been at a certain figure, but it is material that the price to the farmer should be lower. I pointed out at the opening of my remarks that it was

impossible for us to control the price of 8,000 tons and over of binder twine when we simply had at our disposal 500 tons. But, more than that, hon. gentlemen have so burdened down this industry with this excessive cost at the time they installed this plant and with this excessive expenditure at the beginning that they have made it impossible for the government to sell this binder twine cheaply. Have we not to account to the people of the country at large for the management of this industry? Can we take out of the public exchequer a sum of money for the purpose of enabling us to manufacture cheap binder twine and sell it at a low price to the farmers? Is there an honest and intelligent farmer in this country who expects that we should do anything of the sort? What the farmers are anxious that we should do is, as far as possible, to make binder twine cheap to them. They want us to make binder twine cheap to them, and we have done that by taking the duty of 12½ per cent off binder twine and allowing it to come into the country free. But, we have done more than that. We have published it broadcast through the country, that the output of the Kingston penitentiary shall be at the disposal of the farmers, that they are free to take it as a small price above the cost of production, and the whole series of statements made by the hon. member for South Leeds is characterized by the statement that he made in reference to the output of the Kingston penitentiary, when he said that we could afford to sell binder twine this year at 7 cents a pound. This statement characterized his whole speech as being a baseless fabrication from beginning to end. How is it possible that we should turn out binder twine to the farmers of this country at 7 cents a pound when we have actually paid for the raw material in 1900, manila hemp, 9 cents a pound? What were we to do with the labour that we were to charge 50 cents a day for, according to the late Sir John Thompson, how are you to get the interest on cost of the plant, to provide for depreciation, interest and capital, because all these things have to be taken into account in any well managed business industry? These things go to show that the hon. gentleman did not intend to be serious in this matter. He had no desire to treat the people of this country to a serious speech on this subject, as they have a right to expect. He desired to lead them astray, and to endeavour to create the impression that the government is responsible for the rise in the price of binder twine. He did that, notwithstanding that he knew there has been this enormous increase in the price of raw material; notwithstanding that he knew that this industry was unnecessarily saddled by hon. gentlemen opposite, and without any justification, with this enormous expenditure at its inception.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). Before I proceed, Mr. Speaker, I would like your ruling on the point that the interim report which the Solicitor General has read from, should be placed on the Table. The House will, I am sure, agree, that it would be quite unfair to permit the hon. gentleman to base an argument upon that document without producing it. According to the rules of the House, it is now the property of the House, and I ask that your ruling be obeyed with respect to it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am entirely in the hands of the House. I am quite prepared to produce this interim report which is dated May 2, 1900, if Mr. Speaker orders me to do so, but with the understanding, of course, in justice to the auditor who prepared the interim report, that the full report should be produced. I again ask: Are these gentlemen willing to refer this to the Public Accounts Committee?

Mr. SPEAKER. I think it better in the interest of all concerned, that the House be put in possession of the document, with the proviso that the Solicitor General has made. For the protection of the gentleman who has furnished him with these figures, the hon. Solicitor General has a right to make that statement to this House. It would be unfair that the House should look upon that document as strictly official, under those circumstances, but I think the House should be placed in possession of it. I think, perhaps, the House should wait, as the Solicitor General has promised, to be put in possession of the complete official report. Aside from that, there is this to be remembered: That a minister has always the right to use any source of information within his reach and to exercise his judgment with reference to the production of such papers. It would be far from us to say that a minister, on all occasions, should be forced to produce official documents.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will lay the document on the Table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) propose to go on with his argument?

Mr. CLANCY. I am not quite clear yet what your ruling is.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the hon. gentleman does not proceed I will put the question. The document is on the Table and if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy), wishes to go on with his argument, perhaps the business of the House can proceed.

Mr. CLANCY. The Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), has made his speech, but like a gentleman who has made a good speech from a brief, when the brief is wrong, then the Solicitor General is wrong. The Solicit-

or General has gone a long way to blacken the character of Mr. John Connor. I am not here to defend Mr. John Connor, because so far as the merits of this case are concerned, it is a matter of indifference to me what the character of Mr. John Connor is. I would remind the House that there is scarcely a crime in the calendar that Mr. John Connor has not been charged with by the Solicitor General. Let us see what part this Mr. John Connor has played under the notice and knowledge of the Solicitor General himself. What was the first thing this government did when they took power in 1896? Why, the first thing they did was to sell to Mr. John Connor practically the binder twine output of 1896.

Mr. POWELL. The same John Connor?

Mr. CLANCY. That same John Connor, about whom the Solicitor General had so much to say. This government sold him the output of the Kingston penitentiary for 1895-6, and that output the Solicitor General correctly stated, amounted to about 1,000,000 pounds.

Mr. POWELL. And that after he made the default.

Mr. CLANCY. After he made the default, and after the Solicitor General himself had risen in this House and made that statement. After that, the bargain was closed with Mr. John Connor in the name of Coll Bros. We have it in the evidence of Mr. John Connor before the Public Accounts Committee, that he was the man who conducted the deal, and was interested in the deal; and it was known to the Solicitor General and to the Justice Department. I will state the case, and after the character that has been given to Mr. John Connor, I will leave it to the Prime Minister, who, I fancy, has not much knowledge of the transaction, owing to his other duties; I will leave it to the Prime Minister to form his own opinion, when I tell him the part that Mr. John Connor played in this transaction of the sale of twine from year to year, from first to last. In September, 1896, the binder twine was sold practically to Mr. John Connor. What followed? Mr. John Connor put up \$1,000. He was to have taken delivery of the twine in the name of Coll Bros., but we have it on his own oath, that he was the man, and not Coll Bros. The essence of the agreement was that he was to take delivery of the binder twine on December 31, and he was to pay the balance of the whole cost of the twine, and to take it on April 31st following. What followed? Why Mr. John Connor made a forfeit, and he was not entitled to a single cent according to the agreement, yet no step was taken by the Justice Department to see that Mr. John Connor or Coll Bros. had fulfilled the agreement. Then again, tenders were asked for in the early part of 1897 for the next year's output of binder twine, namely,

Mr. CLANCY.

1896-7, and who were the parties who tendered? Why, the Hobbs Hardware Company, of London, of which Mr. T. S. Hobbs, M.P.P., is the head, and the other tenderer was Mr. John Connor, but Mr. John Connor did not put up any deposit. He simply put in a blank tender. That was held until both of them went—I charge, with the knowledge of this government—to Toronto. The Justice Department was perfectly aware of the collusion between Connor and Hobbs, and it was held in that department until they went to Toronto, and secured the binder twine produced in the Central prison, amounting to one and a half million pounds. They came back, and with the knowledge of the government of the day—the Justice Department knew it; it is stated in evidence that from the minister down they knew it—they became partners. They had one million pounds that John Connor bought in 1896, and failed to pay for, which was held by the government for them; they had a million pounds sold to Hobbs Brothers, without any tender against them except Mr. Connor's blind tender, without any deposit; they had the output of the Central prison, and therefore, they held three and a half million pounds of binder twine, and so controlled all the binder twine in the province. Who were the persons? The Solicitor General states that John Connor formed one of what he calls The Continental Binder Twine Company, a dangerous corporation, a corporation for the purpose of forming a combine; and yet, with that knowledge in the hands of the Department of Justice, what did they do? They permitted this agreement between Connor, in the name of Coll Bros., and the Hobbs Hardware Company to be entered into, controlling 3,500,000 pounds, in connection with an agency of the American Cordage Company. They were able to form a combine between the Continental Binder Twine Company and John Connor and the Hobbs Hardware Company. Could there be a more complete combine? Was it because of an advance in the price of raw material that the farmers were obliged to pay from 12 to 13 cents a pound that year? There is absolutely not a shadow of truth in the statement that there was any advance in the price of raw material that year. What was the cost of the raw material in 1896? The average price was \$3.66. Adding a cent a pound, which is more than the Minister of Justice adds himself to cover the cost of manufacture, it would cost \$4.66. Now, I charge the government and I charge the right hon. first minister with having their attention drawn to the fact no later than last year that that twine was sold without tender and practically to the combine, and the twine handed over to the Hobbs Hardware Company. There was no attempt to get any other tenders, and the government was perfectly aware of this

collusion by which the country was being robbed, and twine was sold to John Connor, in the name of Coll Bros., for \$4.25, or 41 cents per cwt. less than it cost. The Solicitor General talks about it being a loss. I want no better case than for the hon. gentleman to quote here a document which he dare not produce. He has taken a position which is not creditable to him as a parliamentarian, a minister of the Crown, or a lawyer of standing: he knows that he had no right to quote a document and found an argument upon it, which he was not ready to put in the possession of the House. I charge him with knowing that John Connor was a member of the Continental Binder Twine Company, and with knowing that John Connor, as he has stated more than once, had played a part with regard to the binder twine business in former years, and that he was a dangerous man; and the hon. gentleman sat on the Public Accounts Committee and listened to evidence that there was collusion between John Connor and the Hobbs Hardware Company.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It was not within my knowledge until Connor was examined as a witness before the Public Accounts Committee a few days ago, that he had ever had anything to do with the Department of Justice, except in the capacity of a defendant, since 1896.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman should not come here with a brief to go to the country; for the hon. gentleman professes to present to the House a statement of the case in its true light, and he is now forced to acknowledge that he knows nothing about the facts. At the sitting of the committee at which the hon. gentleman was present, Mr. Stewart was examined. I will not read all the evidence, but I will read that part which is pertinent.

The PRIME MINISTER. Order.

Mr. CLANCY. I am not reading from the Public Accounts Committee of this year. I would not think of quoting from evidence taken this year. I am quoting from evidence taken in a former session:

Was it withdrawn?

Meaning the tender of Connor which was put in on behalf of Coll Bros.

A. Yes.

Q. When?—A. On February 15, about the time of the second tender.

Q. That was before the Hobbs second tender?—A. About that time.

Q. What time was that in February?—A. I think about the 15th.

Q. They withdrew it two days before the Hobbs put in their second tender?—A. Yes, just about that time.

Q. Did it ever occur to you that there might be collusion between these tenderers?—A. I knew it was, because it was definitely so stated.

Is the hon. gentleman's memory failing him? What does he think of having sat at a Public Accounts Committee when evidence of that kind was given, that there was collusion between the Hobbs Hardware Company and the man whose character he has blackened to-night as being a most dangerous man who would not be trusted by any person? But, I am going to call his attention to one thing more. The hon. gentleman professes to give an audit here to-night. I pledge my existence as a member of this House that in the presence of the hon. gentleman himself, Mr. Hughes made the statement on oath showing that for the last five years the whole output of the Kingston penitentiary, from the inception of the industry, had shown, not a deficit, but a profit of some \$5,000. My hon. friend shakes his head, but I promise to produce the evidence and give it to him. I will go further, because I think my memory is better than the hon. gentleman's. The hon. gentleman tried to defend the position of those examining Mr. Hughes by showing that there was no such profit. That was the position of the hon. gentleman then. We find him in a different position now. I think I need not do more than recount the character which the Solicitor General gives to Mr. Connor, and let the country judge whether there was likely to be a combine. I am not going to defend Mr. John Connor. It is no business of mine nor of the opposition to do so. We are not concerned in that; but we are concerned, when the hon. gentleman sets up such a model as he does to-night, in showing the part this model has played in the combine from start to finish. In 1897, as I have stated, the combine commenced. Hon. gentlemen opposite were then comfortably seated in office. That combine was permitted with the knowledge of the Department of Justice and of the government. Whether they knew it or not, they were all responsible for it. What followed? Twine went up in price. That was not because there was an advance in the cost of raw material, for Mr. Stewart said there was a decline in the cost of raw material, saying that was one of the reasons for selling the twine low. That was in the year 1896, the year of the sale to Connor through Coll Bros. Who put up the price at once 10 to 12 cents to the consumer? It is enough to say that that occurred without giving any reason for it but a combine. It would never have happened without a combine. When the prices ranged from \$4.25 in one year to \$4.64 the next year, the prices at which the twine was sold to Connor and Hobbs it would have been utterly impossible. But with the combine having control of the two years' output of the Kingston penitentiary and also the Central prison amounting to three and a half million pounds, the average cost of which was not over 4½ cents it was an easy matter to advance the price to 12 cents per pound to the consumer, the

government having facilitated the combine. It is idle for these hon. gentlemen to declare that there was no combine. Ask the farmers who were fleeced, and they will tell you whether there was a combine or not. There may have been some cases, in which a man purchased twine at a price somewhat less, but 12 cents per pound was that the average price paid by the farmers?

Mr. WOOD. Whom did the farmers get their twine from?

Mr. CLANCY. I bought some myself at 12 cents per pound from a gentleman, not worth so much, but quite as respectable as the hon. gentleman himself. I bought it from a firm in the town of Wallaceburg, who are hardware merchants and large dealers, and who are a very respectable firm.

Mr. WOOD. What have the government to do with the prices that merchants put on their goods?

Mr. CLANCY. If my hon. friend had paid attention to what I have been saying, he would know. I have pointed out that the Hobbs Hardware Company were able to secure the handling of the output of our binder twine, they had the output for two years of the Kingston penitentiary and the output for one year of the Toronto Central prison. They had the control of three and a half million pounds, and were able, in conjunction with the cordage companies of the United States, to put up the prices to any figures they liked. I am not undertaking to prove just who were in the combine, but am proving beyond doubt that the farmers were fleeced. The hon. gentleman asked what have the government to do with the raising of the prices. Well, the hon. the Solicitor General, if the statement he has made be true, must have known what kind of a man Connor was and what danger there was in permitting him to enter into that combine. This man Connor owed for twine delivered to him the year before and still unpaid for, and the contract with him might have been cancelled, yet the Solicitor General never made an attempt to secure a tender outside. And further, what was done? I believe that the hon. gentleman from Hamilton was a tenderer himself.

Mr. WOOD. No.

Mr. CLANCY. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. He was not a tenderer that year, but the next year, I believe, he did put in a blind tender. What followed? It followed that the Continental Binder Twine Company, with which this man Connor was connected, put up the prices on the farmers. I am not saying that the Solicitor General knew all about it, but it is very extraordinary if he did not. The Solicitor General was investigating the case, he had a suit in which Connor was concerned, and it is im-

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possible to believe that he was oblivious to Connor's antecedents.

This arrangement started with Connor and was shifted from party to party, each taking his turn in fleecing the farmers, and finally the whole thing ended up in a quarrel in 1899, in which the public purse did not suffer, but on the contrary, benefited.

Mr. WOOD. How could a combine exist, when there is a free market and you can buy in a dozen different factories in the United States, which can bring in their products free of duty. Does the hon. gentleman think that the farmers and merchants are fools?

Mr. CLANCY. The innocence of my hon. friend is overpowering. He says we have free binder twine, but I have pointed out the manner in which this combine was carried out. I have pointed out that the United States manufacturers were in league with the parties in the business in this country.

Mr. WOOD. That is absurd.

Mr. CLANCY. I have pointed out that the government was a party to allowing those belonging to the combine in Canada to put up the prices of the three and a half million pounds manufactured in the Central prison and the Kingston penitentiary, and furnished to parties in this country the means of forming a combine with the United States manufacturers, by which the prices of the 8,000,000 pounds imported in the same year were also put up. I am not called on to prove the existence of a combine, but I have proved that we have had the most vicious results that a combine could produce, and yet the Solicitor General never raised a finger to prevent it.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). I would like the hon. gentleman to indicate to the House how the government, in his opinion, could have disposed of our binder twine in any better way than by inviting public tenders and selling to the highest tenderer.

Mr. CLANCY. That is a very fair question, and I will give it as fair an answer as I can. I think that it is the duty of the government to ask for tenders in a public way and give the contract to the highest tenderers, if they have no reason to suspect collusion with the object of raising the prices beyond a fair figure. There was but one tender practically put in. The Hobbs Hardware Company put in a tender, and so did John Connor, through the Coll Bros., and we know the unsavory character which surrounded this man Connor, and which caused the public to look on him with, I might say, a national distaste in a financial sense, if we are to accept the description given of him by the Solicitor General. Mr. Connor did not even as much as put up a de-

posit, and it then became the duty of the government to have asked for new tenders, they should have advertised publicly for new tenders and given the public a chance of having some knowledge of what is going on, and should have refused to accept the single tender put in, when they knew there was collusion, as has been sworn to by Mr. Stewart. The very moment the government knew there was collusion, their plain duty was to advertise again for tenders. The government was not without some information. I am going to give some evidence that the government had their attention called to the facts. While Connor and the Hobbs Hardware Company were arranging the deal at Toronto, while the matter was being held over by the department here, while the whole thing was suspended for a whole month, what transpired? Mr. Hobson, a respectable dealer of Waterloo County, wrote a letter to the Justice Department, inquiring if the binder twine had been sold. He was told that it had not, but let me see what was done? This is what Mr. Hobson wrote:

Referring to your favour of January 14 regarding binder twine, I would say that your samples arrived too late for a tender to be put in your hands by January 20.

In other words, the samples were sent out so late—I am not saying designedly—that parties intending to tender found it too late to do so. I am not now going to charge that it was by design, because I have no proof of it. He says further:

Now that the department will have had ample time to consider the matter, will you please say if open for tender for, say, two cars, about thirty tons net, on terms of advertisement, 5 per cent, marked O.K., to be deposited with tender, and spot cash in full as shipments are made.

Should the matter not be closed, think I could make satisfactory proposition to you for placing the entire output, as I have connection with the trade throughout Ontario, and have twenty years' experience.

Would buy on terms stated, say number of cars with option of larger lot up to a stated date, then go on the road and place, thus arranging to place the full production.

Could satisfy you as to my ability in all respects to carry out any negotiations entered into. If still open, would call upon you and talk matters over with a view to business.

Can give names for security and ability to carry out any deal entered into that cannot be other than satisfactory from a business or party point of view, but would ask for no favours not in strict accord with business principles.

They were in possession of that while this deal was going on. What encouragement did this gentleman get? Here is the reply of the Department of Justice:

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 5th I beg to say that negotiations are pending for the sale of the entire output in one lot, but the matter is not yet closed. The minister is going to Toronto to-morrow, and it might be feasible for you to see him there and talk the matter over. In the meantime, your offer of prices

for two car-loads might be forwarded, so that it may be considered by way of comparison.

What are the questions asked Mr. Stewart following that?

Q. Did you have any further negotiations with him?—A. I do not remember that we had. I do not think there were. I do not know if he saw the minister, and I do not remember if I heard from him afterwards.

Q. You are sure that you had no communication with him afterwards?—A. I am quite sure I had no communication with him afterwards.

Now, I think I have explained sufficiently to the hon. gentleman who asked the question. The Justice Department had an offer—good or bad, I am not prepared to say—from a gentleman who said he was ready to handle the whole output, and who asked no favours or any terms other than those in accord with purely business principles.

Mr. WOOD. What was his name?

Mr. CLANCY. Hobson. I understand that he lives in Berlin, and I am told that he is a reputable business man there. But it is unnecessary to prove that; it was the duty of the government to have inquired into that, and, if they did not care to negotiate with him, knowing that there was collusion, they should have made it a public matter, and asked for tenders. I have shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that in 1897 there was a combine, and that the government knew of it, and even, according to the Solicitor General, they were warned of it. What followed in 1898? I was about to say that tenders were called for. But they were not—a very different state of things was brought about. About the last days of February, Mr. H. N. Bate, a member of his firm of H. N. Bate & Sons, had an interview with the Minister of Justice. I relate now what occurred as shown by the correspondence. The Minister of Justice directed Mr. Stewart to write a letter a day or two afterwards asking Mr. Bate to put in an offer, and he would treat it as a confidential matter. That is, Mr. Speaker, he would treat an offer for a million pounds of binder twine as a confidential offer. Why should he receive a confidential offer in a matter that concerned the public? If the Solicitor General disputes what I have stated, I will read the correspondence; but if not, I need not take up the time of the House in doing so. Mr. Stewart did write the letter he was directed to write, and Mr. Bate put in the confidential offer. The government were anxious that he should get the twine at his own price, but it was felt that some show of public competition should be made. So, what did they do? Circulars were sent out to a number of firms, but those were chosen who were not likely to disturb the peace of the mind of H. N. Bate & Son in this matter. The

first of these was Messrs. Wood, Vallance & Co., of Hamilton. I take it that the hon. member for Hamilton is a member of that firm. He knew better than to put in a tender.

Mr. WOOD. I did not hear what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) said about my firm.

Mr. CLANCY. I said that a circular was sent to Wood, Vallance & Co. The year before that, the hon. gentleman's firm had put in a tender. Does he deny that?

Mr. WOOD. I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. CLANCY. I think he had better refresh his memory. If he denies what I have said, I will produce the evidence.

Mr. WOOD. I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. CLANCY. I will let it go on the hon. gentleman's want of knowledge. He did put in a tender, and put up a deposit, and it was afterwards withdrawn. I can give the hon. gentleman the date—

Mr. WOOD. I am not disputing it; I only say I have no knowledge of it.

Mr. CLANCY. I am glad the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) does not dispute it. Of course, though a circular was sent to him, he could not put in a tender, because if he had done so, and had got the contract, he would have forfeited his seat in the House. Another firm to which a circular was sent was the Hobbs Hardware Company, one of the old combine. Of course, it was arranged that they were to have their turn at fleecing the farmers. They had had one year, and now Mr. Bate was to have his turn and the rest were to stand back. Then, a circular was sent to Mr. John Hallam. Mr. Hallam is a very respectable citizen of Toronto, a dealer in wool and hides, not in hardware at all. In a general sense, he is a good party supporter, a gentleman who will take the wink and act upon a suggestion for the carrying out of a scheme. Then there was Rice Lewis & Son. It was stated by one gentleman that they are Conservatives. I am told that the men who gave the firm its name were Conservatives, there is not a single active man in the management of the business who is not an active Liberal.

Mr. WOOD. And I know to the contrary. Mr. Arthur B. Lee, the head of the concern, is a pronounced Conservative.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) knows that Mr. Lee is not the manager, but that Mr. Martin is the manager.

Mr. WOOD. I know that Mr. A. B. Lee is the president of the company.

Mr. CLANCY. And living in England the greater part of his time.

Mr. WOOD. Not at all—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CLANCY.

Mr. WOOD. I want to correct the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Clancy's) statement. Mr. Lee is a director of the bank of whose board I have the honour to be a member, and I sit with him every week. So, I know he cannot be in England.

Mr. CLANCY. Well, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) seems to have found a sleeping partner in the firm who is a Conservative. If he takes any consolation in that let him have it; he needs it very much. A circular was sent to H. Mooers, of Kingston. I am told that he is a very active gentleman in the Liberal interest, and that he is not a hardware man at all. I am told that he takes more than an active part when the elections come on, and the boys go to see him during the campaign. He is a grain dealer and not a hardware man, and would no more be looked to to tender for binder twine than the man in the moon—who does not use much, I understand. Another firm was Dalton & Strange, of Kingston. They are Conservatives, I believe.

Mr. TAYLOR. They are not dealers.

Mr. CLANCY. I believe they are hardware men in the city of Kingston, and the information I have is that they know nothing about such a circular. Then, there is J. H. Ashdown. Perhaps the hon. gentlemen opposite know who Mr. Ashdown is. I believe he was defeated by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche) in the last election. A circular was sent to him. Well, I am sure Mr. Ashdown would not be guilty of so great a crime as to disturb the family peace by putting in a tender against H. N. Bate & Sons' private offer. Now, there is Coll Bros. Who are Coll Bros.? Mr. John Connor turns up again, one of the old combine, and a circular was sent to him. Mr. Connor knew what was going on as well as the Hobbs Company. The circular was sent to him, he was one of the chosen dozen. Then there was the Farmers' Binder Twine Company, a set of gentlemen who boasted that in that same year they made 100 per cent profit out of the farmers on their own twine. They were making twine to sell, they were in the same business, and not likely to be competitors. All they wanted was for Mr. Bate to get into the combine. Then, there was Mr. Charles Braithwaite, a very respectable gentleman, I believe, who is an inspector of noxious weeds under the Greenway government in Manitoba, and never handled binder twine, and never will. Was that gentleman likely to be a competitor? Why, the hon. gentleman, with all his ingenuity, could not have devised a better means of defeating any bona fide tenders than the selections he made of parties to whom he sent the circular. Then, there was Mr. Jas. Elder, of Virden, a farmer, who would be greatly surprised to see a circular of that kind coming to him. Well, the result of it all was that

the twine went to H. N. Bate & Sons, grocers in the city of Ottawa, men who are extremely unlikely to handle binder twine. Now, what took place? Not a single tender was put in. Everybody could see that the job was completed, everybody could see that there was no intention of putting in tenders on these circulars, everybody might have known that there would be no tenders put in. The result was that Bate & Sons got the binder twine without competition, at their own price, at a price less than what it cost at Kingston to produce it. The raw material cost, in 1898, \$3.72 per 100 pounds, adding 1 cent a pound for making it, would bring the cost to \$4.72, and Mr. H. N. Bate, on his private offer, received the twine at \$4.60, although in one of the city papers he stated, in an interview, that he only paid \$4.50. Now, what occurred in 1899? Remember that there is no possible doubt of the accuracy of these figures. There was a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, which I am afraid the Solicitor General has forgotten about, at which the original invoices were produced in every case of the material for making binder twine, from 1896 inclusive to 1899 inclusive. We learned from those original invoices that the raw material cost during the year 1899, \$5.25. Add to that 1 cent a pound, and you have the cost of the twine which was sold to the Hobbs Hardware Company for \$6.51. Now, I want to point out to the House the menace to the public interest in the way the Justice Department is managed to-day. There is no possibility of any man getting justice against this combine, they are bound to get the twine, it makes no difference who tenders. Now, who were the tenderers in 1899? Why, it was the Hobbs Hardware Company, John Connor, and H. N. Bate & Sons. These latter gentlemen put in a funny tender, in view of what hon. gentlemen opposite have said in their defence. Notwithstanding that hon. gentlemen have been stating that raw material had advanced double what it was before, Bate & Sons put in a tender in 1899 for three kinds: Sisal, mixed and pure manilla, at \$4.55 for the first, \$4.95 for the second, and \$4.45 for the third. Everybody knew that was a mere blind, that Bate & Sons never intended to get it, the figures are conclusive on that point. There was a sort of family difficulty that arose, and Mr. Connor put in a tender pretty high, away above that. The difference between Connor's tender and that of Bate & Sons, on the lower grades, amounted to \$1.35, on the next grade to \$1.20, and on the higher grade there was a difference of \$1.80 per 100 pounds. Well, the Hobbs Hardware Company had to come up to these prices, and what followed? At the last minute a gentleman rushed in and put in a tender in the name of Mr. Connolly. We had the evidence before the Public Accounts Committee that the Hobbs Hardware Company stated that that tender was theirs, Connolly

was not known in it, indeed Connolly was not in the country. I am pointing out, not that the country sustained a loss, but that the country gained by the falling out of these parties. The government cannot separate themselves from responsibility and connection with these parties. From the Prime Minister down they must answer for their conduct. They are responsible for the state of things in the Justice Department commencing in 1896, in view of the information the Solicitor General has given the House, and they know the character of some of these men, who are no better than criminals, if the Solicitor General's statements are to be relied upon, and if they are not within the walls of the jails of this country it is because the evidence that the hon. Solicitor General has in his possession has not been made use of. These men were defaulters.

Mr. WOOD. They are the men they found there when they went in.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes, my hon. friend (Mr. Wood) sleeps with them, lives with them, defends them. The hon. gentleman is here to-night as the defender of these men, and in order to justify his government, and to defend his vote on the motion he must go out upon the streets and defend, according to the Solicitor General, the criminals whose records are as black as they can be. From 1896, dealing with transactions from the time hon. gentlemen came into power up to the last moment of which we have any information, we find the Department of Justice is walking hand in hand with them. We find also that they formed a combine to keep out any proper competition, and that, when, at the last hour, a tender was put in, nothing will remove from our minds the conclusion that there was a strong suspicion attached to this transaction, a suspicion so strong, so palpable that it almost takes the form of an object you would fall over—that information was given from the Justice Department about those tenders. What Hobbs is going to make the people pay for their binder twine I do not know. We know pretty well that they are paying a high price. I do not propose to detain the House at greater length. I say in regard to the challenge that the hon. Solicitor General made that he would have the matter before the Public Accounts Committee, he has had it before the Public Accounts Committee before, and I tell him that he has not done himself or the House justice when he quotes, here, for the purpose of making a point, that there has been a deficit year after year in the past when the evidence already shows that there really was a surplus from year to year. The hon. gentleman refused to lay the documents on the Table of the House in reference to that. The hon. gentleman had a brief, but he was loaded up the wrong way. He is forced to confess that he made a speech on a subject of which he had no knowledge whatever, and if ever

there was a record against a government we have it in connection with this matter. They have acted as they have either through design or because they have failed in their duty. It makes no difference which. They are guilty in both cases no matter which side it may be. The management by the department of this industry is a disgrace to this country, the farmers will pay the penalty, and now the hon. gentlemen may defend the criminals if they dare.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I trust that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clancy) will not forget to give me that evidence which he said was given before the Public Accounts Committee by Mr. Stewart who, he said, declared on oath, that he knew of the existence of this conspiracy in 1896.

Mr. CLANCY. I will send it over to the hon. gentleman if he will be good enough to give me his documents.

Mr. FRANCIS T. FROST (Leeds and Grenville). Mr. Speaker, I have listened very carefully to the speeches of the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) and of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), and while they both agree in condemning the government for the so-called conspiracy to defraud the farming community of their reasonable due in regard to the price of binder twine, their whole argument appears to be based on entirely false premises. The natural course of the trade in binder twine during the past three or four years, does not warrant any such conclusions. The hon. member for South Leeds has been following up a phantom for the last two years, and were it not for the high price that the raw material has reached in that time he would have no ground whatever for any argument in the matter. But, unfortunately for the farmers, and unfortunately for the country, the price of raw material from which binder twine is made has, during the past two years taken a sudden jump upwards, and this has led the hon. member for South Leeds to make an attempt to gain a little political capital against the government in regard to the price of binder twine. The position of the government, as far as I can see, is practically unassailable. There is no justification whatever for any charge being brought against them, for any conspiracy on the part of any of the tenderers, or any other party in connection with the purchase of the binder twine made in the Kingston penitentiary. We are told to-night that there is a combine. We have heard this statement for the last two years. The only combine that ever was in Canada was under the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite. Look at the character of the trade in binder twine. If they will go back a few years and notice the fluctuations in the price of binder twine, if they will recall the fact that, at one time, one concern controlled

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the whole binder twine trade of this country, and that under the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, they will at once see that it was not really until after the present government came into power that the combine was practically broken, that binder twine became free, and that the farmers themselves received the great advantage which came about by the legislation of this government. We go back to the year 1890, and we find that the firm of A. W. Morris & Co., changed itself into a joint stock company, known as the Consumers' Cordage Company of Montreal. We find that at that time binder twine was selling wholesale at 13 cents a pound, and that it was sold throughout the country to the farmers at 15 cents and 16 cents per pound by the retail merchants. Immediately after this company was formed they bought up all the binder twine factories in Canada. We know that they purchased one establishment belonging to a Mr. Brown, in Quebec, for which they paid something like \$30,000, and that they closed it up. We know that they paid another gentleman in Lachute \$6,000 a year, and closed him up. We know that there had been a binder twine factory in Port Hope, that it was bought up for \$40,000, and closed. We also know that the same thing occurred at Brantford, and at one or two other points, so that by 1891 the Consumers' Cordage Company of this country had the entire trade of Canada in their own hands, and had an absolute monopoly.

Mr. DAVIN. In 1891?

Mr. FROST. In 1891. That industry flourished right along until 1896, when this government came into power. In the meantime the industry was established, as we have heard to-night, at the Kingston penitentiary, in the year 1894. The monopoly also was an object of animosity on the part of the farmers of the country, and they started a binder twine factory in Brantford, called the Farmers' Binder Twine Factory, and from that time prices began to fall. It is true that the cost of raw material began to fall. I have here the prices which had been paid during all these years for binder twine. I have in my hand invoices of twine which the company to which I belong purchased, as we were very large dealers in twine during all these years. I have selected the invoices ranging from the year 1890, when the combine was established under the Consumers' Cordage Company, and I find that these prices ranged from 13 cents down as low as 5 cents in 1897, the year following the date of the accession of the present government to power.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman give the price of the raw material for these years?

Mr. FROST. Yes, the price of the raw material ranged from 1½ to 2½ cents from 1894 to 1897. Then it began to rise, while last year it took a jump from 2½ up to 9 cents a pound.

Mr. CLANCY. I can tell the hon. gentleman that when he states it was 1½ he is entirely mistaken.

Mr. FROST. Then, I shall quote the current price of the raw material taken from a trade paper called the *Commercial*. With regard to the price of the present year, it says :

Binder twine factories in the United States are holding their prices firm at figures fixed some time ago. Current quotations are 11½ for sisal, 14½ for manila and 16 for pure manila at point of shipment. Dealers are having considerable trouble keeping on the right side of the market, as they do not wish to be caught short, nor yet with an over-supply of twine, which might have to be carried over until next year.

That is one quotation.

Manitoba jobbers are selling twine now, and have been throughout the season, on a basis of 11½ cents per pound for sisal, 14½ cents for manila (mixed), and 16 cents for pure manila twine, f.o.b point of shipment.

That is another quotation. I have still another reference to twine, which says :

The signs of the market just now are all against anything in the way of lower prices. Stocks of twine carried over from last season were comparatively small, and the twine was made so late in the year as to rank almost as high in the cost as this year's product.

Now, I will give you the price of twine as it is quoted at the present time at Minneapolis, a prominent western city, in the midst of a great agricultural country :

Pure manila	15½c. to 16c.
Manila	14½c. to 14½c.
Standard	11½c. to 11½c.
Sisal	11½c. to 11½c.

I wish to say that the stock of raw material coming from the Philippine Islands has been so scarce of late that a large amount of the sisal coming into Canada at present comes from Mexico, and in this same trade paper, it says that the cordage manufacturers have about concluded using manila hemp for binder twine purposes. It says :

Cordage manufacturers have about quit using manila hemp for binder twine purposes. The twine works engaged on what is said to be the only stock in Canada, the supply being considerably less than 600 bales. This has created a large demand for sisal hemp obtained in Mexico, which is inferior, however, to the manila product, and much heavier in bulk. Manager Thompson, of the Ontario Binder Twine Company, states that the Mexican article is now 9½ cents a pound delivered in Toronto, against 6 cents last year and 2½ cents in 1897.

I trust my hon. friend (Mr. Clancy) will note that the inferior quality of Mexican sisal is to-day 9½ cents a pound, delivered

in Toronto, as against 6 cents a pound last year, and 2½ cents in 1897.

Mr. CLANCY. We did not deal at all with the year 1900. We dealt with 1896, 1897 and 1899, and, therefore, the hon. gentleman is making an argument we did not touch.

Mr. FROST. This paper says :

Farmers will have to pay at least 12½ cents for sisal twine this year, against 10 cents last year's price. The manila cord to be placed on the market will bring 15 cents.

One characteristic of the debate on this question, both last session and this session, has been the entire avoidance by gentlemen opposite of reference to the various qualities of twine, and also to the length of the twine per pound. There is twine that will average 650 feet to the pound, and there is other twine that will average only 500 feet, and the longer twine comes a little higher than the shorter twine. In the Kingston Penitentiary the twine has not been as good as that manufactured in the United States, or as manufactured by the Consumers' Cordage Company, for the reason that they had not the same appliances for the manufacture of twine in the penitentiary, nor did they have the skilled men to put that twine through in as good shape for the market as these companies have, which have been a long time in the business and thoroughly understand it.

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Noxon swore to the very contrary. He stated that they made from manila hemp 650 feet to the pound.

Mr. FROST. I have been handling this very twine for twenty years, and I know the quality of these different twines. I can point to a member of the House who purchased prison twine last year, and he returned it from his own store and bought a higher priced twine. That is the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), and I have this information from the agent in Toronto. Now, Mr. Speaker, so far as I can see, the difference between the policy of the present government and the policy of the late government in reference to this binder twine is : That the late government put in the plant and started the factory and placed the twine in the hands of one man right through and did not get all the money paid for it. They were extending the time and giving credit, so that the present government has been compelled to prosecute to get the balance of the money due the late government. Now, on the other hand, the present government have every time put the twine up to tender, either to dealers or through the public press, and invited competition. They have taken the highest tender in every case, and in no case has there been one dollar of the money lost from beginning to end.

Mr. TAYLOR. Is that the way you sell your goods ?

Mr. FROST. No, but I hold that the government should not give credit.

Mr. POWELL. How was the late government's transactions with Connor? Was that put up to tender?

Mr. FROST. The late government's contract with Mr. Connor was given privately. He was the manager of the concern, and he formed the Continental Twine Company, and carried on business on the outside, he himself being on the outside and on the inside too.

Mr. POWELL. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? I am in a position to state authoritatively on that matter, for I was engaged in the Exchequer Court case. John Connor did not buy one pound of that twine from the government. He was the government agent, and furthermore, he was bound by the contract, if my recollection is right, that not a pound should be sold by him on behalf of the government at a greater price than 7 cents a pound. The hon. gentleman is entirely at sea when he is talking about Connor's contract as he is.

Mr. FROST. Then, how does it come that his indebtedness to the government for over one million pounds of twine was only about 5½ cents a pound?

Mr. POWELL. I will inform the hon. gentleman as to that point. The Connollys and he constituted the company, not incorporated.

Mr. FROST. A private arrangement.

Mr. POWELL. A private partnership, of course. They wanted money, Mr. Connor got it, and it was not handed over to the government. It was the government's money; but that had nothing to do with the contract. It was simply that the agent had not handed the money over to the government.

Mr. FROST. The argument I am making is practically correct.

Mr. WOOD. Did not Connor collect the money and hand it to the Connollys?

Mr. POWELL. Mr. Connor collected it and handed it to the Connollys; but they did not hand it over to the government till the month of April.

Mr. WOOD. The Connollys had nothing to do with the government; but this was the payment of John Connor's indebtedness to the Connollys.

Mr. POWELL. The hon. gentleman is entirely at sea there again.

Mr. WOOD. I am not at sea.

Mr. POWELL. Maybe the hon. gentleman knows more of the matter than I do; but I happen to have been in the case before the Exchequer Court. The money was handed over to the Connollys to enable them

Mr. TAYLOR.

to redeem certain stock that was going to be sacrificed, and they were to return it in a few days. The hon. member for Hamilton knows a good deal about it, because the firm of Wood, Vallance & Company was the largest purchaser from Connor.

Mr. WOOD. I had not the honour of a seat in the House at that time.

Mr. FROST. There is this to be said anyway, that so far as the present government is concerned, there is not a member of the opposition who can point to one particle of crookedness and prove it. I have heard them speak about it, but we have seen no proof up to the present moment.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. member not know that I read to-night from the evidence of the inspector that he knew there was collusion at the time?

Mr. FROST. Time is too short to-night to go over all the evidence of the inspector. So far as the inspector is concerned, I do not know anything about it; but looking at the whole matter from a business standpoint, the government could not do anything other than what they did. There are not more than a dozen dealers in Canada who handle binder twine in a wholesale way. There are many small retail dealers selling it to the farmers; and the government in taking the course they did, of sending out circulars to the dozen or fifteen wholesale dealers in the country took a practical and reasonable course. Of course, this year they are advertising to farmers direct; but that has not been the usual practice of the department; and for hon. gentlemen opposite to come forward with a charge of malfeasance or wrong-doing in connection with the sale of binder twine simply because the government were carrying out the ordinary practice of the department, is a very far-fetched method of bringing a charge against a government. The price of binder twine has been fluctuating for ten years. During that time it has been as high as 13 cents a pound and as low as 4½ cents. Within a year it has taken another jump to 10 or 11 cents, while in 1898 I purchased twine from the Plymouth Company in Massachusetts, for 5½ cents a pound. We made our contract in the month of January at 5½ cents, but after that stock of twine was gone and we wanted more, we had to pay 10½ cents for it. That was in the following July, and from the same firm. So that this was a matter over which the government could not have any control, because in the handling of twine you must make your contract in the fall. Our contract for this year's twine was made last November. If the government are to sell their twine to wholesalers, they must make their contracts before the 1st of February every year; but if they sell it direct to the farmers, as they are doing this year, they can keep on advertising it. But I can assure the government that they will

have a considerable amount of that twine left over in the months of July and August. They are not going to sell all their twine, notwithstanding the fact that their product is only 500 tons. Last year I heard the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) remark that twine should be kept by the government anyway as a leverage by which the price could be kept down. In view of the fact that about 8,000 tons of twine are used in the Dominion every year, 500 tons will have very little effect upon the market. Moreover, as I have already said, the twine made in the penitentiary has never been as good as the twine sold by the Plymouth Company, by Deering, of Chicago, by the McCormick Company, of Chicago, and by a dozen other firms in the United States; and that brings me to the question of a combine in the United States. We have been told that Hobbs was the agent not only of the combine in Canada but of the combine in the United States. I can assure hon. gentlemen opposite that there is no such thing as a binder twine combine in the United States. There are no less than thirty or forty distinct factories in that country, and there is a factory being started in Chicago to manufacture 3,000 tons of twine this year. We know as a matter of fact that among these men there is as keen competition in regard to binder twine as there is in regard to any other article of commerce on this continent. We have heard a great deal about profits. We heard the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) last year put the price up to 15 or 16 cents a pound. I know as a fact—because we sell twine in every province in the Dominion—that we never sold a pound of twine last year for more than 10 cents a pound, except towards the close of the season, when we paid 10½ cents and sold it for 12 cents. There is not a retail dealer in Canada to-day who asks more than 1 cent a pound on his twine, and in many cases he does not get that; but there is no doubt that a sudden demand for twine in 1899 did give some retailers who had purchased early in the season at a low price, a chance of making for the time being a snap. They cannot make that this year. The Farmers' Binder Twine Company, of Brantford, made a large dividend last year because they had a large stock of sisal which they had put in the year before, and they sold it for four or five times the price they would have got but for the sudden rise in the market. This government is not responsible for the war in the Philippine Islands, nor for the rise in the price of raw material. Nor in iron, nor in any other article of commerce. I do not think that any government can control the sudden rise, or the sudden decline in prices that takes place every once in a while. Business men can readily understand that, and there is not the slightest chance as my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Wood)

has so well said, of any combine existing in Canada in binder twine, so long as that article is on the free list. It may be possible that there was collusion among the tenderers, but how is it possible for the government to know that? Hon. gentlemen opposite will not stand up on their own responsibility, as members of this House, and charge the hon. Minister of Justice, or any other member of the government with being in collusion with these tenderers. It is very easy to say that the Hobbs Hardware Company, and Coll Bros., or Connor, were in collusion. But is it an unusual thing, in the case of government contracts, for different parties to put in different tenders, and then share up? Has not that been the practice in this country, and in every country for years? How can the government know that such a thing is being done? The government surround their contract with every possible safeguard. They call for tenders, and they give the contract to the highest tenderer, and he has to lay down a deposit, and comply with the other safeguards surrounding the contract. Therefore, I cannot see how you can charge the government with collusion with any of these gentlemen, and no business man would think of making such a charge for a moment, nor has any hon. gentleman opposite ventured to stake his seat or his reputation on such a charge. I cannot see where the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), can get one tittle of evidence against the government to show that they were in any conspiracy to defraud anybody; and so far as the farmers are concerned, they have to submit, just the same as the rest of us, to whatever prices binder twine, or cotton, or anything else they consume, may command on the market, because they cannot, nor can the government regulate the rise and fall of the market.

As I go over the prices which the government have received, I can see that they agree almost precisely with those which I have received from the Consumers' Cordage Company, and from the Plymouth Company of Massachusetts. To give you an idea of the rise in prices, let me say that my firm bought our binder twine for 1898, in the fall of 1897, and paid 5½c. per pound for it, and that was not for sisal, but for the standard twine, which is two-thirds manila, and one-third sisal, and which runs 650 feet to the pound, but here is a letter written on February 21, about four weeks later, in which the writer says:

In view of the continual rapid advance in the cost of sisal and manila fibres, we have been instructed by the factory to go slowly in taking further orders at present prices. We send you this information, not for the purpose of inducing you to give further orders, but simply for the purpose of enabling you to sell your goods accordingly, for it is very doubtful if we will be able this season to again repeat our present quotation. But you may also depend on our

prices being as low as the cost of the raw material will permit. Thanking you for past orders, and hoping to merit a continuance.

A month later, March 22—mind you we had been paying 5½ cents per pound—the same correspondent wrote as follows :

We beg to advise you to-day of the following advance in binder twine :

Plymouth.....	6½c. per pound.
Green Sheaf	6¾
Gold Medal.....	7½

It was the Gold Medal—the standard brand—free on board at Plymouth, Mass. ; terms October 1. With regard to terms, it must not be forgotten that the government were asking cash down for their twine. The Consumers' Cordage Company and the Plymouth people, and the Deering people, and all these big dealers and manufacturers, date their payments October 1, and their prices are all quoted six months or 7½ per cent off, if paid in cash within thirty days. So that taking the prices tendered by the Hobbs Hardware Company or Connors, or any of these gentlemen, and remembering that these prices were net cash, payable on receipt of the binder twine, and considering the fact that they are only jobbers and have to resell what they buy, they could not make very much on the transaction, and could not afford to give a cent more than they did. In fact I consider that for the last two years the prices which the government received for binder twine are the very best possible which they could have expected, under the circumstances, considering that these prices were net cash, and that the parties buying had to compete against the American makers and the Cordage Company of Montreal. And further it must be remembered that these parties had to pay freight to wherever they sent the twine. If they put up their binder twine in packages of one or two tons and pay the local package rates on it, sent everywhere all over Canada, you will see that after all there is not a great deal of money in it. In fact, it is very difficult to-day, in the Canadian market to get an ordinary retailer to keep on hand a little stock of twine himself, because he knows that there is not enough in it to pay for the handling ; and for hon. gentlemen to stand up here and speak of the immense fortune that some of these men are making out of the farmers, and undertaking to prejudice the farmers against the government, is the veriest claptrap. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to make all the political capital they can out of the government, when the government are handling a business transaction ; but so far as my business knowledge goes, I cannot see how the government could have acted differently or done better. I know that in 1897 and 1898 they might have offered their binder twine to the farmers direct, as they are doing this year, but that had not hitherto been the practice.

Mr. FROST.

Binder twine has to be sold early in order to get it off your hands and have none left over. I heard the hon. member for South Leeds say that it did not make any difference if binder twine was laid over. In that he was entirely mistaken, because it depreciates 15 per cent. I know that at one time the Consumers' Cordage Company bought all the binder twine that lay over in Ontario, and had to run it all through again. It has to go through a certain process of oiling, just the same as rope, and when that oily substance dries out of it, its flexibility is lost, and it will not go through the needle of the binder. That is one reason why the government have always had to take an early bid for the binder twine manufactured in the Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. CLANCY. And the hon. gentleman (Mr. Frost) was in the Public Accounts Committee and asked that question and was told the very contrary.

Mr. FROST. I do not care what anybody says, I know from my own experience that what I say is true. Binder twine that we carry over is worth only about half the price of the new twine. In 1899, when we were selling new twine at 12 cents, we were selling the old twine at 6 cents and 7 cents. The Consumers' Cordage Company have put tons and tons of their twine through the machinery again in order to oil it and get it into selling condition. Now, we have heard a good deal from my hon. friend from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) about this matter being left to the farmers. I am quite willing to go into his constituency or my own or any other farming constituency and talk the binder twine question. I do not believe there is a farmer in the country who is not conversant with the fact that the raw material of binder twine has gone up over 500 per cent in the last two years.

Mr. CLANCY. Everybody knows better.

Mr. WOOD. Yes, every farmer knows that. And when he knows that, I do not think that anything the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) can say will have the slightest weight with him.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, if the material cost 5 cents two years ago, it must cost 25 cents now.

Mr. CLANCY. That is a clincher.

Mr. FROST. I did not hear the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor's) statement.

Mr. TAYLOR. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Frost) stated that the raw material for binder twine had increased 500 per cent in two years. In that case, if it cost 5 cents two years ago, it must cost 25 cents now.

Mr. FROST. Perhaps, I was a little wide of the mark. It went up from 2½ cents to 9½ cents, which would not be quite 400 per

cent. I do not know that I need to say anything further. I simply wanted to place these figures before the House as against the sophistical argument of my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy). I do not see why hon. gentlemen should treat in this manner a plain business question. If they should make a charge, if they should say that there was collusion with any of the ministers or put the matter in any form in which we could take hold of it, their position would be stronger. But to come here and rail against the government and ask the farmers to condemn them because they have done something that any honest government would do seems to me supremely ridiculous. For my part, if these hon. gentlemen are honest in the position they take upon the binder twine question, if they were anxious as they would have us believe, simply to protect the public interest from actual or threatened injury, they would have the matter investigated by the Public Accounts Committee. Let them bring it before the Public Accounts Committee, and I am satisfied the government will give them every opportunity to go into the whole matter and investigate every detail from the beginning of the binder twine industry in the Kingston penitentiary. Then we should see which government was wrong and which was right. Then, if hon. gentlemen opposite are not prepared to accept that challenge and go into the matter in a parliamentary way so as to establish the truth or falsity of the charges, the position they take before the country will have very little weight. I am not prepared to support the amendment. I feel satisfied that the government have done their duty in this matter and that they are not responsible for the rise or fall in the price of raw material. I look upon the amendment as mainly intended to influence the farmer vote, which, I am satisfied, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) will not get in the elections. As long as the government continue doing business in a business way in binder twine or anything else, I am prepared to support them.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Frost) who has just taken his seat has told us he could not support the amendment. But there is one thing he seems determined to support, and that is the high price of binder twine. He seeks to make us believe that high prices for binder twine must rule and the people must be content to pay them. To use the language of an hon. gentleman opposite, and I think the hon. member for North Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), 'the farmers have to submit.' On our side our contention is that the farmers have not to submit to the kind of thing exposed by my hon. friend who moved the motion, and still further exposed in so masterly a manner by my hon. friend from

Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) who replied so crushingly to the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The Solicitor General used an argument, which has been echoed by the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, that the output from the Kingston penitentiary could not affect the price of so large a quantity as eight thousand tons. But the zeal with which the combine seeks to crush out the smaller competitors, is proof that a very small competitor can affect the success of their efforts to keep up prices. But the hon. and learned gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) forgot his superior in the department. In the pamphlet which he eulogized as a magnificent emanation of a master mind, this is what the writer says :

I am perfectly satisfied that it would be quite impossible for the government to appoint agents, and to make sales to retail dealers throughout the country, without serious injury to competing establishments.

The Minister of Justice himself says that if this leverage had been used, serious injury would be done to competing establishments. And Hon. John Dryden, who is a foremost man among the Liberals, speaking on January 24, 1894, at Columbus, said :

Another reason why this industry was adopted was that the farmers laboured under the burden of a monopoly, and it was thought desirable that the products of the prisoners' labour should be in the interest of the farmers.

He showed how the farmers had paid the monopolists for the ropes, wrappings, &c., at the twine price, but in future they would have a guarantee that the prison twine would be all right in quality and weight. He intended to use his influence in the future to supply the farmers with the twine at first cost. Business must of necessity be done on a cash basis. But as all farmers cannot pay cash, some means will be devised to give them the benefit of this industry.

The Minister of Railways and Canals asked my hon. friend the question, how he would dispose of the twine? The Minister of Railways and Canals seems to think that the only way was by handing it over to merchants, to gentlemen like the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), and the hon. member who spoke last (Mr. Frost). But the idea of those who started this industry in the prison, the idea that was in the mind of the Hon. John Dryden was this, that the way to benefit the farmers was to deal directly with them and not with the merchants. Once you knew there was a combine, once you knew that that nefarious conspiracy against the well-being of the farmers existed, the way was not to play into the hands of the combinesters, but to sell to the farmer directly. We have heard to-night the words 'crime' and 'criminal.' These words have been used pretty freely in this debate, and if there be criminals, the criminals are the government and the combinesters. Now, we have had the Solicitor General defending the criminals, and

we have had a speech from one of the criminals themselves. I have often heard of the skill of the Solicitor General in defending criminals, but he must have had a bad case on the present occasion, because he made a very poor fist of it. As for the hon. gentleman who spoke last—I do not say it offensively—he is, of course, one of the criminals. He did not make out a very good case, and if we are to accept all that he says, there can be no remedy for the farmer for the things of which we complain.

As for the interim report, I think the Solicitor General attached too much importance to it. I must refer to that interim report and express my surprise that we have not got the full report of the auditor. I must say that after seeing the interim report I for one do not look with any confidence to the full report of the auditor, because this interim report gives me but a very poor idea of the capacity of that gentleman. What is the last clause :

You would have had the completed report by to-morrow if it had not been for the antagonism of the officials here. I include the warden, who will not do anything until he is compelled to. You will, however, have it by Wednesday or Thursday morning at latest.

The warden is Mr. Platt, I believe, an appointee of the Department of Justice. This was written on May 2, and the following Wednesday was the 9th, and the following Thursday the 10th, and I suppose the warden is so recalcitrant that the auditor is unable to get out his report. Let me point out one peculiarity of the Liberal party. When my hon. friend (Mr. Taylor) who proposed this motion, and who has multifarious duties to perform as party whip, rose to go out, hon. gentlemen said : Wait and hear the reply. My hon. friend at once sat down and waited to hear the reply. The hon. gentleman who has just spoken, I see, has fled from his seat, and the place that knew him knows him for the time being no more. He boasted of knowing all about binder twine. He told us what the twine cost him, and what a very small profit he was able to make on it. I have no doubt there is not a single thing the hon. gentleman sells of which he would say the same thing, although he and his confreres in the business have become millionaires in a short time. Now, he tells us that binder twine will not keep, that the oil will evaporate, that it is a very delicate kind of goods to handle. But, Sir, anybody who is at all acquainted with farmers knows that the farmer will hold over surplus binder twine until the next season, and find it, instead of being dry and wanting in lubricity, is all that could be desired. So that, in the matter in respect of which that hon. gentleman professed to be able to give us expert knowledge, we find he is utterly untrustworthy. And it was simply the twaddle of a dealer. And in this matter, when trying to throw

Mr. DAVIN.

a cloud over the circumstance that in 1897, in 1898, and in 1899, the conduct of this government has dealt out a great wrong to the farmers of this country, why, Sir, the innocent way in which hon. gentlemen explained how it was that, in a promiscuous way as it were, all this fat patronage, this easy means of making money, should have been afforded the combinesters, the guileless air he assumed was really a triumph of acting on his part. It shows that although he is an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile, yet he might even deceive you, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, here is the evidence on that point. The Solicitor General is examining :

Q. What was sold in August, 1896?—A. It was the output of the factory from the 15th September, 1895, up to about the time the contract was made.

Q. Was it an inferior kind?—A. It was not, it was the ordinary grade of twine.

Q. I understand it was sold at this low price, because it was inferior twine?—A. I do not know that. I do not think that any person could have rightly said it was inferior twine, but I do know that if it had lain on our hands another year, it would be two years old, and then it would be inferior twine.

By Mr. Frost :

Q. Would that have to be gone over and lubricated again?—A. Not necessarily.

I have quoted the documents that I have in my hands just to present a point of view that I do not attach as much importance to as I do to the price the farmer has to pay, because the one thing I care about is the price the farmer has to pay. This government forewent the leverage that would enable them to have guarded the farmers against this combine. We find that in one year the Farmers' Binder Twine Company of Brantford made a profit of 60 per cent, and that in another year they made a profit of 100 per cent. In these years here is the way our government have managed our affairs. In 1897, according to this interim report, there was a loss of \$4,221; in 1898, of \$4,098, and in 1899, of \$8,234. When we look at this government's conduct in this matter, I am sorry to say that the trail of the serpent is over these things, as it is over much else. When I look back on the record of the past four years of crime and folly, it is hard to say which overtops the other, crime or folly, but I must say that whether we place this in the category of folly or crime it is an offence against the interests of the farmers of this country, an offence of such a sort that the farmers will regard it as a high crime and a great misdemeanour in which their interests were forgotten in the interest of men who contributed to party funds, and were active in elections.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). Mr. Speaker, at this hour of the night I will only say a few words. I have discussed

this binder twine question on previous occasions, and I deem it my duty upon this occasion, as I did upon previous occasions, to give a reason for the vote which I propose to give upon the question before the House. I do not intend to go into the details of the question. It is well known that the manufacture of binder twine was commenced at the Kingston penitentiary in 1894. What actuated the government at that time in its determination to enter upon the manufacture of binder twine? They felt, no doubt, that the curse of protection, which was the cause of the Consumers' Cordage Company buying up many of the different factories all through the country, and getting them into their own hands would be so manifest that when they came before the country the farmers would find it out. The farmers did know it through the Patron organizations, and they became so alarmed at the future prospects that they also organized a binder twine company. The Farmers' Binder Twine Company started up in 1893 or 1894, because they realized the results that would follow from the fact of the Consumers' Cordage Company buying up so many factories all through the country. The fact that these factories were bought up has been stated so often in this House that I was surprised that no hon. gentleman opposite mentioned it to-day. None of them even made a reference to it. I think that this was a very alarming state of things. I have mentioned the fact before, and shall not go into details now. These factories were bought up by the Consumers' Cordage Company, and it cost them \$35,000 a year to keep them closed. They commenced to buy them up, I think, in 1889, and within a year or two they had all these factories under their control. One factory alone cost them \$140,000, nearly double what its actual value would be. I do not think it is necessary to mention all the others.

An hon. MEMBER. No, no, of course not.

Mr. ROGERS. If hon. gentlemen want them, I will give them. It is surprising that hon. gentlemen opposite made no reference to this alarming state of affairs when they were speaking to-day. Of course, the Consumers' Cordage Company could not have organized this combine if it had not been for the protection of 25 per cent.

Mr. TAYLOR. Twelve and a half per cent.

Mr. ROGERS. It was cut down from 25 per cent to 12½ per cent. The government realizing the curse of protection, were obliged to reduce the duty.

Mr. CLANCY. That was less than three-quarters of a cent a pound.

Mr. ROGERS. It was enough to enable them to pay \$35,000 a year to keep these factories closed up. The Farmers' Binder Twine Company was organized to manufacture binder twine and to break the combine.

Mr. TAYLOR. They made 100 per cent profit.

Mr. ROGERS. The government of that time naturally felt that it would be a very serious thing for themselves, they concluded that they had to do something, and they started to manufacture binder twine at Kingston. Of course, I do not suppose they would like to make it known that there was an intention on their part of counteracting the evil influences of their own legislation, and they made it appear that the new industry was inaugurated for the purpose of employing prison labour. We commended the idea and were very pleased to see it. It is said that the Farmer's Binder Twine Company made from 60 per cent to 100 per cent. It is evident that they did make that, but for all that we know they succeeded in keeping down the price. I do not know where it would have gone if it had not been for them. They manufactured about 1,000 tons, while Kingston manufactured only 500 tons.

Mr. DAVIN. Eight hundred tons.

Mr. TAYLOR. They made \$65,000.

Mr. ROGERS. The Farmers' Binder Twine Company bought quantities of raw material at about 3½ cents a pound, and sold their output at 7 cents and 7¼ cents a pound for the best brands to the Consumers' Cordage Company, and to any one that wanted to buy it. They bought such a large quantity of raw material in 1898 that they had enough over to manufacture 800 tons in 1899.

Mr. CLANCY. How does the hon. gentleman know that?

Mr. ROGERS. I have it from one of the directors. They had business ability enough to buy their raw material at a cheap rate, and that is the reason why they paid such a dividend. I may say that had I been one of the directors I would have sold the twine a little cheaper. But, that is the reason why they made 100 per cent. Where would the farmers have been if it had not been for the competition of the Farmers' Binder Twine Company? I feel also that the government did not do exactly as I would have liked them to have done. But, it is evident, as has been pretty plainly shown to-night, that the late government did make quite a mess of it. I do not think they did it intentionally, but they got it into a pretty bad mess, and they left it in that condition. When I first came to the House I asked a question about the amount of binder twine left at the Kingston penitentiary. There was two years' production, and that left

about 1,000 tons to be disposed of. I always urged that this twine should be kept out of the hands of this cursed combine which existed at that time. I did think it would have been in the best interest of the country if they had left the purchase of binder twine open to public tender. It has never been shown in this House that any man who got the tender made a large lot of money out of it. They sold it at a reasonable profit. We all know that when these six or seven factories were closed up it was easy for the combine to handle the two or three factories left in existence. It was the policy of the operating factories to pay many thousand dollars a year in order to close up the others, and they were enabled to do that because of the high protection. In the year 1897, there was a good harvest and they used up every bit of twine, none being left over, and so when the government put the twine on the free list they said: We will teach those fellows a lesson, we will buy up all the twine we can, and we will force the price up. I stated to the House last year, and it is a fact, that a friend of mine was offered in the spring, tons of twine at 6½ cents, but when it got into the hands of the dealers the price was put up. How can the government be blamed for that? I do not see how. The only thing I do blame the government for is that they did not do in 1898 and 1899 what they are doing this year. Last year hon. gentlemen pointed out that there was something radically wrong but no one suggested a remedy for it. I considered the matter seriously, but I could not understand how the small quantity of 500 tons turned out in Kingston could control the price, when there are nearly 10,000 tons sold in Canada. If the government got a man to handle the twine, in justice to the country he should go to every part of the Dominion, because it would not be fair to sell it around Kingston and leave Manitoba and the lower provinces without the benefit. Of course the government could not be wise beforehand, but as they have learned a lesson, they will not commit the mistake any more that they did in 1898-9. If the government manufactured 5,000 tons of twine, instead of 500 tons they could control the market and it would be the best stroke of business they ever did. It has been said that protection encourages manufacture and that competition will level the price, but we see in this and in every line of business in Canada that the effect of protection has been to encourage these combines. People say there is no combine, but there is. I have proved to the House before, and I can prove it again, that the combine would not exist in Canada except for the curse of protection.

Mr DAVIN. There is no protection on binder twine and you say there is a combine in it.

Mr. ROGERS.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes, but the manufacturers of twine got into the hands of a combine before and they shut up all the other factories.

Mr. DAVIN. The combine is more perfect now than it ever was before.

Mr. ROGERS. Yes, but as twine is on the free list, that cannot last very long. We know that the high price of raw material is the chief cause of the present high price of twine this year. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) said, that the government charged 14 cents, when it only cost 6 cents to manufacture, but it is clear that he and his colleague from Halton (Mr. Henderson) do not agree because that hon. gentleman in his speech said:

I find that on the 1st of March, 1899, manila in New York cost 7½ cents, and sisal, according to an excellent authority, cost 6¾ cents.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Rogers) is out of order in quoting from a past debate.

Mr. HENDERSON. Although he is quite out of order, it is a good speech, and I have no objection to him quoting it all.

Mr. ROGERS. The member for Halton said the raw material cost 6¾ cents—

Mr. TAYLOR. He did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. ROGERS. He is quoting from the *Cordage Journal* of New York, which he says is an excellent authority. The ex-Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster) said that in 1900 it cost 14½ cents for manila and 9½ cents for sisal.

Mr. DAVIN. When did he say that?

Mr. ROGERS. In his budget speech.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman is out of order in referring to a past debate.

Mr. ROGERS. You quoted yourself a dozen times and I have a right to do it and I shall do it. I have positive proof that sisal cost 8¼ to 8½ cents, and manila 13½ cents for the raw material, and how could the government charge 6 cents for the finished article from that raw product? Either the statement of the member for Halton (Mr. Henderson) or the statement of the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) is incorrect.

Mr. HENDERSON. I was correct.

Mr. ROGERS. Then the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) was not correct. If the government had laid in a large stock of raw material before the price was increased as the Farmer's Binder Twine Company did, they could have sold their twine cheaper, but I doubt very much whether the government under the circumstances would have been justified in doing that. Hon. gentlemen opposite are never done talking about com-

bines increasing the cost of articles, and they never seem to remember that protection, of which they are the authors, is the father of all these combines. How the hon. member for West Assinibola (Mr. Davin), who claims to have the interests of the farmers at heart, can consistently advocate and support a policy of protection, I cannot see. I often wonder when I hear him speak on these matters.

Mr. DAVIN. If you will come to my room, I will make it all plain to you.

Mr. ROGERS. I hear the hon. gentleman so often in this House that I do not want to hear him any more. On this question I do not intend to dwell at any length. A wrong method has been pursued in handling the prison-manufactured binder twine until this year, when it has been handled in the interest of the farmers. As I said before, the farmers of this country have more respect for our public men than to believe that the government, whether Conservative or Reform, would enter into any combine to fleece the farmers. They might have done it through mismanagement or inadvertently, but they would not do it intentionally, and I do not believe any political capital can be made against the government on that score. It is very difficult for any government or corporation to prevent outsiders, who may buy the stock, from manipulating it for their own advantage. A great wrong existed in the past, and the government found that out, and did the next best thing, namely, to advertise the binder twine in the press, and let the farmers buy it direct from the government. In putting binder twine on the free list they have also made a move in the right direction. I can see no grounds for censuring the government for what they have done, and therefore I do not intend to vote for this amendment; only I say that they should have done last year what they have done this year, that is, advertise the binder twine for sale to the farmers direct.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). Mr. Speaker, the House has, I am sure, listened with pleasure to the few interesting remarks that fell from the lips of the new-found convert who has just taken his seat (Mr. Rogers). He has considered it necessary to curse that system of protection of which he was the upholder for a great many years. For reasons best known to himself, he has seen fit to change his convictions, and he is now an ardent supporter of the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite. We on this side of the House must thank the hon. gentleman for one expression he has made use of to-night, at any rate. He is the first hon. gentleman on that side who has admitted that there was a combine in connection with binder twine; but I do not suppose the hon. Solicitor General will be equally grateful. As that fact, however, has been brought to his attention by an

hon. gentleman on his own side of the House, I hope that he will now see that the anti-combine clause in the tariff is brought into effect.

Mr. ROGERS. Does the hon. gentleman not know that binder twine is on the free list now?

Mr. ROCHE. The combine exists all the same. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend engaging the attention of the House for any length of time; but as this is a question affecting the farmers of the country, and especially the farmers of the west, and representing as I do an agricultural constituency, I desire to protest against the manner in which the government has dealt with this binder twine question. When the government are challenged to point to a single promise they have fulfilled since coming to power, they point to the fact that they have put barbed wire and binder twine on the free list. They have run the whole gauntlet when they have enumerated these two articles. As the city of Sodom was to be saved if one righteous man was found in it, so the government think they can be saved from the wrath of the electorate by pointing to the fulfilment of one single promise. But if by taking off the duty on binder twine the farmer would have been benefited, the subsequent actions of the government in manipulating that industry in the interests of political favourites and party contractors, have prevented the farmer from deriving the slightest benefit, but on the contrary have resulted in increasing the price several cents more per pound than he would otherwise have had to pay did the old system remain in vogue. Now, what is the history of this binder twine question. As you are aware, it was under the regime of Sir John Thompson, and when he was Minister of Justice that he decided to install a plant for the manufacture of twine in the Kingston penitentiary—not as the present Minister of Justice says, solely to give employment to the convicts and to keep them from idleness. That to be sure was one object, but not the principal one. It was only incidental to the main object, which was to hold a lever over those who engaged in the manufacture of twine to prevent any combination that would result in running up the price to the farmers. For that purpose a plant was purchased and established in the penitentiary, the manufacture was proceeded with, and any person could purchase twine in car-load lots who desired to and who had the cash to pay for it. In those days farmers could purchase their twine very cheaply, and they had no grievance against the government for the manner in which they disposed of it. But no sooner were the Liberals in power than they changed that policy, and disposed of the twine in such a manner that their political friends, the contractors, have reaped

the benefit. Those contractors have been protected by the government to the extent even of keeping secret the price at which they sold the year's output until the contractors would have time to dispose of it to the farmers at large profits to themselves. The result is that the farmers have to pay more for their twine than they would have had to pay if this industry had been conducted by the government in a businesslike manner. When we ask why the farmers have to pay more for their twine, hon. gentlemen opposite answer that it is by reason of increased cost of the raw material; but I think it has been shown to-night that that is not the reason at all. In the year 1896, as has been shown by the invoices which appear in the Public Accounts, the cost of the raw material was \$3.66 per cwt.; add the cost of manufacture, which, according to the Minister of Justice, is $\frac{1}{4}$ cent a pound, making the total cost of the twine \$4.41. The price at which the government sold that twine to Coll Bros. was \$4.25 per cwt., actually less than cost; and Coll Bros. transferred it to Hobbs & Co. In 1897 the cost of the raw material was \$3.43 per cwt.; add the cost of manufacture, which would bring it to \$4.18, and the government sold it for \$4.64 to Hobbs & Co., while the farmers paid that year from 10 cents to 13 cents a pound for it, so that the cost of the raw material did not cut much of a figure. In 1898 the cost of the raw material was \$3.72; add the cost of manufacture, which would bring the cost of the twine up to \$4.47, the price at which it was sold to the contractors, Bate & Son, was \$4.60, but the price the farmers had to pay was from 11 cents to 14 cents a pound. In 1899 the cost of the raw material was \$5.25; add the cost of manufacture, which would bring the cost of the twine up to \$6, the price at which it was sold to the contractors Hobbs & Co. was \$6.51, and the price the farmers had to pay in that year was from 13 cents to 15 cents a pound. So that you see the reason given by the government and their supporters that it is entirely owing to the increased price of raw material owing to the war is purely a myth.

In our western country, as it is being settled more and more each year, an increasingly larger area of land is being brought under cultivation, and therefore, there will be an increased demand for binder twine, and it is most desirable that our farmers should be enabled to purchase it at lowest possible price, consistent with a legitimate business profit. Over 2,500,000 acres of land are under cultivation in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. On an average it takes three pounds of twine to the acre. If the crop is heavy it takes more, but three pounds is about the average. That makes 7,500,000 pounds of twine. Every cent of an increase in the price of twine means \$75,000 increased cost to the farmers of the west. That is to them a

very important consideration, and when they are forced to pay several cents a pound more than they should, as they have been doing, you will readily see how necessary it is that the government should dispose of this twine in such a manner as to prevent its falling into the hands of the combine who hold up the farmers for thousands of dollars over and above what they should legitimately pay.

The government are not in the twine business to make money out of it, nor to assist other manufacturers to declare 100 per cent dividends, as the Brantford factory did last year, but by disposing of it in car-load lots for cash, direct to the farmers or retailers, the profit of those contractors would be saved, the country would not be a loser, and the farmers would obtain their supply at the lowest possible price.

Now, the government tried to create the impression that by allowing the opportunity to the farmers to purchase their twine direct from the penitentiary for two or three months this spring, they were conferring on them a great boon, when, as a matter of fact, for the great bulk of the farmers, it was practically useless; and as a proof of this assertion, I have only to turn to this blue-book gotten out by the Minister of Justice, page 7, where he states:

There are several thousands of persons engaged in the retail trade, which is an accommodation to the farmer, who seldom purchases the twine until he actually needs it.

So you see, here is an admission that our farmers do not purchase their twine until they need it. They cannot afford to pay out their money months in advance of the time they require the twine; they do not know what quantity they will require, how their crops are going to turn out; and so I say it is a practically valueless concession.

Those contractors have been playing into each other's hand every year. Hobbs & Co. would obtain the supply one year direct, the next year a secret agreement would be entered into with other contractors, by which, when the contract was obtained, it would be transferred to Hobbs & Co., and being a member of the American combine, they commanded what prices they liked, and the farmers had to pay the piper. I charge the government with being parties to this combine either wittingly or unwittingly, by which the Hobbs Hardware Company were the favourites, and the fact that Mr. Hobbs was the Liberal member for the city of London, in the local House, did not militate against his firm. At any rate, he has had the big end of the stick in the deal all the way through, and his firm has been put in the position of being enabled to extract hundreds of thousands of dollars over what they should have made, if the twine had been handled by the government in a businesslike manner.

The Minister of Justice states as a result of the late government's attempt to dispose of the twine in car-load lots by means of an agent, in 1896, the whole season's output was left on hand. On page 6 of his pamphlet, the Minister of Justice says :

What, then, was the result of this effort to create a little political capital by the appointment of an agent, which ultimately failed. Simply this: that on August 6, 1866, the penitentiary warden represented that they had on hand 1,001,550 pounds of twine, after the harvest season was over, and when no sales could be made except for consumption in the following year, when, by the deterioration in quality, a loss would be sustained.

But, why was it left on hand? Simply because this present government cancelled the arrangements entered into between the government and the agent, Mr. Kelly, in August, 1896, because he would not be personally responsible for every dollar's worth of twine he sold. But, was the harvest over by August 6? That may have been so in Ontario, but the Minister of Justice admits on the last page of his book that the season when the North-west harvest begins, is only on August 15, and it is in that country the great bulk of the twine is required. So that they allowed all that time to go by, from their accession to office in the middle of July, 1896, without having taken any steps to dispose of that year's output. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, this book is a tissue of contradictions and misrepresentations from beginning to end, and I am surprised that a minister of the Crown should father such a production, and send it broadcast throughout the country in blue-book form, and that at the expense of the country, to mislead the public in his lame attempt to apologize for the government's actions in their unbusinesslike method of dealing with this question. As has already been said it is a purely campaign document, a tirade against three hon. gentlemen in this House, and I venture to say that no precedent can be found where a member of a government has ever published a political speech in blue-book form, and called upon his opponents to assist in defraying the expense and circulating them by the thousands throughout the country, in the history of Canada. And then, to add insult to injury, he states on the frontispiece that this pamphlet is for the information of members of parliament. He must have poor respect for the intelligence of the members of this House when he thinks that we cannot discriminate between facts and fiction. In this book he contradicts himself dozens of times. I have pointed out several contradictions, and my hon. friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor), and my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), have done their duty in pointing out others. I must say that this book does no credit to the hon. the Minister of Justice. It is nothing but a tirade against two or three hon. gentlemen, to whose charges it purports to be a

reply, and it is a disgrace that any member of the Crown should send such a production, one-half of which is pure fiction, broadcast throughout the country by the hundreds of thousands at the expense of the people.

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not rise to take part in the general debate, but to call the attention of the House before it adjourns to a statement which the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) made this afternoon in the opening sentence of his address. Speaking of myself, he said that I had sold out the coal oil industry of this country to the Standard Oil Company for a subscription given by them previous to 1896. I do not know what the hon. gentleman exactly meant by this statement. But I have to give it the most unqualified denial. If the hon. gentleman meant by so stating, that at any time I received any subscription, directly or indirectly, from the coal oil interest, I give that statement the most unqualified denial. I did not receive anything from the Standard Oil Company directly or indirectly; I never had any transactions with them directly or indirectly; and if the hon. gentleman has any authority for the statement he made, I call upon him to give it to the House.

Mr. TAYLOR. I made the statement in the presence of the Prime Minister on two different occasions, that I was credibly informed—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER. Give your authority.

Mr. TAYLOR. I will give my authority before I get through. I made the statement and can turn it up in *Hansard*—and will do so to-morrow before the Orders of the Day are called—that the Standard Oil Company had made a contribution of \$200,000 to the Liberal campaign fund, provided they got the legislation they asked for in allowing tank vessels; and I quoted the former hon. member for West Lambton, the present Judge Lister, as stating that if this was done it meant that the Canadian oil industry would be ruined. The government came down after the elections and carried out what I predicted they would, and made this concession of tank vessels. The report was current that the Standard Oil Company had given a subscription of \$200,000 to the campaign fund of the Liberal party; and I have made that statement twice in the presence of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and never heard it contradicted before.

The PRIME MINISTER. Mr. Speaker, I heard the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) make the statement to which he refers on one or two occasions, but paid no attention to it, because I took it to be a sort of general statement without any meaning, a simple inference without anything substantial behind it. But, if the hon. gentleman

means to say that when he spoke of me, I had received a subscription from the Standard Oil Company, either directly or indirectly, of \$200,000, or even of \$1, I give the statement the most unqualified denial.

Mr. TAYLOR. I did not intend, and I do not think that *Hansard* will show that I did, refer to the Prime Minister personally. I made the statement that the Prime Minister promised to take the duty off coal oil, and when he came into power, instead of removing the duty he continued it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor) has associated my name with that of the Prime Minister in this matter. Whatever quibble there may be about words, there is no doubt as to the purpose of the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Taylor's) charge, which was, in effect, that there was a corrupt bargain between the right hon. Prime Minister—whether he referred to him individually or in his capacity as Prime Minister, or as leader of the Liberal party, is of no consequence—and the Standard Oil Company, whereby certain legislation was to be had, and in consideration of that the Standard Oil Company was to give a contribution of \$200,000. I say that that is an infamous slander. The hon. member (Mr. Taylor), if he expects to have any character or reputation in this country, should prove his statement or have the manliness to withdraw it. I had something to do with that legislation with respect to tank steamers. I introduced it. I had, perhaps, more to do with it than any other member of this administration. It was the result of an agitation, chiefly in the lower provinces, where our people thought that we had a right to the cheapest possible means of transportation, and as water transportation is the cheapest, we know of no reason why we should not be as free to have our oil brought in a tank steamer, as the hon. member (Mr. Taylor) and others in Ontario are to have it brought in a tank car. I state that no member of the Standard Oil Company, and nobody else in the oil interest, promoted that legislation. It was promoted simply by representatives of the people of this Dominion who are interested in cheap oil. So far as the hon. member has associated the government with this alleged transaction, I repeat in the strongest terms that the rules of parliament will permit, that his statement is wholly unfounded and that it is an infamous slander. The hon. gentleman should prove it or take it back.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). I do not intend to take part in the discussion of the binder twine question. I merely wish to tell the Premier that I remember very well on one occasion he was called to task by Senator Drummond for certain statements he made as to contributions being made by sugar-refining interests to the Conservative party fund. On that occasion, I

recollect—I have not the quotation at hand, but I feel that confident that my recollection is correct—the right hon. gentleman, in reply to Senator Drummond, simply said that the statement had been frequently made and he was only repeating a statement that was current throughout the country. There was then on the part of the Premier no attempt to back up the truthfulness of his statement, and he had to back it up only what my hon. friend from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) had, current rumour. And, as to the way in which the Standard Oil Company's influence is shown, let me remind the Premier that when the present Judge Lister, who, I venture to say, stood as high in the opinion of the people of West Lambton and the town of Sarnia, where he lived, as any other man, received a majority of eighty in that town. But when the gigantic interest of the Standard Oil Company were behind the hon. gentleman (Mr. Johnston) who now represents the constituency, in the by-election that was held, his majority there, instead of being eighty, was about four hundred. It ill-becomes hon. gentlemen on that side to say that when hon. members on this side make a statement they should bring proof before the House and the country, considering the statement that was made respecting the sugar-refining interests by the present Premier, at that time in opposition. I think he will agree with my recollection that he wrote a letter to Senator Drummond, and that no proof was forthcoming, but simply the statement that the rumour was going the rounds and he had the right to use it.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have only to say that when Senator Drummond called attention to the statement and denied it, I accepted his statement without qualification.

Mr. BENNETT. I cannot speak for the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor), but I presume that after the statement made by the Premier and the Finance Minister, he will probably do as the Prime Minister did.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), moved his motion, and in his opening remarks complained of the method that had been adopted to meet his former criticisms in this House, I felt very much in sympathy with him. I do not think it is right or proper that such statements as are contained in this pamphlet 'The action of the government in respect to the manufacture and sale of binder twine produced by convict labour,' should be published under the covers of a blue-book. We should preserve the sanctity of our blue-books, preserve their character. Let us keep them as free from party influence as possible. To that extent, I felt heartily in sympathy with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Taylor), when he addressed the House. As

regards the amendment he has submitted, I feel that he has failed to justify it either by his comparisons, by his facts, or by his inferences. Hon. members in this House often make very wild statements, and I think that the hon. member for Leeds would not resent that impeachment if made against himself. But I feel very strongly that right here on the floor is the place to contradict and controvert those statements, and not in the blue-books.

House divided on amendment (Mr. Taylor).

YEAS :

Messieurs

Beattie,	LaRivière,
Bell (Pictou),	Macdonald (King's),
Bennett,	McCleary,
Bergeron,	McLennan (Glengarry),
Cargill,	Marcotte,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	Martin,
Casgrain,	Monk,
Clancy,	McIntague,
Clarke,	Moore,
Cochrane,	Morin,
Davin,	Pope,
Dugas,	Powell,
Gillies,	Prior,
Gilmour,	Quinn,
Guillet,	Roche,
Henderson,	Taylor,
Hodgins,	Tupper (Sir Charles
Ingram,	Hibbert), and
Kaulbach,	Wilson.—38.
Klempfer,	

NAYS :

Messieurs

Angers,	Graham,
Bazinet,	Heyd,
Beith,	Holmes,
Bell (Prince),	Hutchison,
Blair,	Landerkin,
Bourassa,	Lang,
Bourbonnais,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Britton,	Lavergne,
Brodeur,	Lemieux,
Brown,	Mackie,
Bruneau,	McClure,
Burnett,	McGregor,
Calvert,	McGugan,
Campbell,	McIsaac,
Champagne,	Madore,
Comstock,	Marcll,
Copp,	Meigs,
Costigan,	Mignault,
Cowan,	Monet,
Davies (Sir Louis),	Parmalee,
Dechêne,	Paterson,
Demers,	Perny,
Domville,	Pettet,
Dupré,	Proulx,
Erb,	Puttee,
Ethier,	Rogers,
Fielding,	Ross,
Fisher,	Rutherford,
Fitzpatrick,	Somerville,
Fortier,	Stenson,
Fraser (Lambton),	Sutherland,
Frost,	Talbot,
Gauvreau,	Tolmie,
Geoffrion,	Turcot, and
Godbout,	Wood.—71.
Gould,	

PAIRS :

Ministerial.

Opposition.

Scriver,	Blanchard,
Guité,	Tyrwhitt,
Macdonell,	McDougall,
Flint,	Mills,
Semple,	Kendry,
Edwards,	Bell (Addington),
McMullen,	MacLaren,
Charlton,	Tisdale,
Christie,	Roddick,
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),	Tupper (Sir Charles),
Davis,	Hale,
Featherston,	Carscallen,
Gibson,	Corby,
Snetsinger,	Reid,
MacPherson,	Rosmond,
Bethune,	Seagram,
Douglas,	Maclean,
Joly de Lotbinière	McAlister,
(Sir Henri),	
Dobell,	Wallace,
Mulock,	Foster,
Sifton,	Haggart,
Ellis,	Sproule,
Borden (King's),	Earle,
Tarte,	McInerney,
McMillan,	McNeill,
Russell,	Borden (Halifax),
Hurley,	Craig,
Fraser (Guysborough),	Osler,
Macdonald (Huron),	Ferguson,
Harwood,	Robinson,
Fortin,	Chauvin,
Bernier,	McIntosh,
Carroll,	Broder,
Préfontaine,	Klock,
Tucker,	Hughes,
Logan,	McCormick,
Belcourt,	Poupore,
Maxwell,	Ganong,

Amendment (Mr. Taylor) negatived.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Department of Customs—Additional amount required to provide for statistical returns of imports and exports, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$2,000

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). This item of \$2,000 will be followed by another item for next year, of perhaps \$20,000. It is proposed to effect a change in the Department of Customs.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. We will let it pass without prejudice to the \$20,000 item.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Of course if the committee does not want to hear the explanation, we can defer it. As I said, the object is to change the system that has hitherto prevailed with reference to the statistics that are compiled by a department of the government; and whatever hon. gentlemen opposite may think with reference to this matter, I can assure them that it is a subject that the commercial interests of this country take a deep interest in. The

committee is manifesting a disposition, and a willingness to carry this \$2,000. Hon. gentlemen have given their consent thereby to the proposed change.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, no.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. And in that case I will defer the explanation to another time. Hon. gentlemen will not expect to give a vote of \$2,000 to commence a work which cannot be completed without a supplementary vote of \$20,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How much of the \$2,000 is already spent?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. None is already spent. Some of it will need to be expended during the present year.

Committee rose and reported progress.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I would ask the hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) what he intends to take up to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will take up Bills and then supply.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I would like to say that when we reach supply I intend to move a motion censuring the government in connection with the Walsh-Carbonneau agreement which is referred to in the evidence taken before Mr. Ogilvie. I may state to the right hon. Prime Minister that the motion I propose to move will refer to the evidence of Louis Carbonneau rather extensively, and the censure of the government that I will ask the House to pass is for not having further dealt with the facts that were brought out in that inquiry, and as shown by the documents before the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am very glad that the hon. gentleman has given me notice of his intention, and I will fix a day when we shall take the question up. It is better that we should take up immediately some other business. To-morrow, we want to dispose of some of the Bills for the Senate when they resume.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What Bills?

The PRIME MINISTER. Most of the Bills on the Order paper, the Elevator Bill, the Criminal Code and the Election Bill.

Mr. BERGERON. The Election Bill will take a long time.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Oh no.

Mr. PATERSON.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I make the statement so that the hon. gentleman will know what I propose to do when we reach that stage.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will give a day to my hon. friend.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the Election Bill is to be taken up there is a point I would like to call to the attention of the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Of course, the hon. gentleman knows that under the present Act Indians are disfranchised. I do not know as regards other reserves, but on the Six Nation reserve, and I am sure the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) can bear out the statement, there is a large number of intelligent white men who are tenants and who have a perfect right to express their opinions at the polls. If some special amendment is not made to the Act these gentlemen may not be on the lists. They are not in any ward because they are on the Indian reserve, and they cannot possibly get on the list.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Are they qualified to be on the local list?

Mr. MONTAGUE. No.

Mr. R. R. McLENNAN (Glengarry). Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that lumbermen, students, and others who are away from home are allowed their votes. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman who has charge of this Bill if he proposes to give the franchise to those Canadians who are away in South Africa if they return previous to the election.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is provided for in the Bill.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 1 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, May 30, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

GRAND TRUNK AND CENTRAL VERMONT RAILWAY BILL.

Mr. LEIGHTON McCARTHY (North Simcoe) moved:

That that portion of the 49th rule which limits the time for receiving petitions for private Bills be suspended in reference to the petition of the Central Vermont Railway Company, presented

this day, authorizing them to acquire and operate the Montreal and Province Line Railway, the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway and the Montreal and Vermont Junction Railway, in accordance with the representation contained in the seventeenth report of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders; and that the said petition be read and received forthwith.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). At this stage of the session, the House should not pass a motion of that kind without some sufficient reason being given to the House for departing from the rule.

Mr. GEO. LANDERKIN (South Grey). I understand that under the rules I am prohibited from mentioning what happens in a committee of the House. I may say, however, that this is a Bill which deals with matters of a domestic character to the Grand Trunk Railway. As was stated by Mr. Wainwright to-day, it was impossible for them to bring in the Bill at an earlier period of the session, and it is of considerable importance to the interests of the people in several counties of Quebec, that this Bill should pass, and that the Grand Trunk Railway should have legislative control of these branch lines, which are really under their control at the present time. The committee felt justified, under the circumstances, in recommending, after they had listened to Mr. Wainwright, that the rule be suspended. They felt that the interests of the country and the interests of the road itself would be best conserved by making that recommendation.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). It appears to me that no sufficient reason has been given to satisfy the House that the rule should be suspended. Why was not the Bill brought in before, and why was not the petition presented before now to the House? This a most important measure. Here we are, I hope, getting near the end of the session, and we have a great many more important Bills which will come before us in the Railway Committee. I feel that we cannot give this Bill sufficient thought and study to make it satisfactory to the interests of the different parties concerned, and I, for one, cannot agree to anything of the kind.

Mr. LANDERKIN. The reasons that were given satisfied the committee, and the committee was well represented. This committee, I believe, are as anxious to observe the rules as any committee in the House, and I think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) would not have made the statement he did if he had heard what the committee heard, and which it is impossible for me to communicate to the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Not at all.

Mr. LANDERKIN. A letter from the solicitor was read, and he gave reasons which were good and sufficient, and which the committee accepted as being sufficient.

Mr. CASGRAIN. What were the reasons?

Mr. LANDERKIN. The reasons were, that they had not the arrangements completed until a late date. The letter was read by Mr. Wainwright, and it satisfied the committee, and as I have said, this committee is as anxious as any one can be to observe the rules, and to act in the best interests of the country. I do not want to hear anything said against the committee. I am only the presiding officer, and I am not responsible for what the committee does, but I am here to justify what it did in this case, as well as in every other case since I have presided over it. Since these rules were made the conditions of the country have changed. At that time news was only communicated to the community by canals, but now we have telephones and telegraphs and newspapers everywhere, and when under the constitution the House has power to suspend the rule, I do not see why they should not do so when a great interest is concerned.

Mr. J. HAGGART (South Lanark). On the face of it this appears to be something very objectionable. It is legislation which is new to this House. It is giving to the Central Vermont, an American company, the right to acquire two railways in Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No. It is the Grand Trunk Railway, not the Central Vermont.

Mr. HAGGART. That is the purport of the Bill, and it is a most extraordinary one. There is no precedent for giving an American railway company the right to acquire railways in Canada.

Mr. W. GIBSON (Lincoln and Niagara). As I was the member who presented the petition a week ago, I should, perhaps, say something in regard to this matter. There was no opposition to this Bill before the Standing Orders Committee this morning. It is purely a domestic Bill, and not at all in the direction referred to by the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart). It is well known to every hon. gentleman in this House that the Montreal and Province Line Railway, the Stanstead, Shefford and Chambly Railway, the Montreal and Vermont Junction Railway, have been under the control of the Central Vermont Railway for some time. Now, the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada have assumed control of the Central Vermont Railway, and for that reason, as stated by the chairman of the committee (Mr. Landerkin), all the negotiations leading up to the consummation of the control of the Central Vermont Railway Company passing into the hands of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, were only executed the other day; so that, if this legislation is stopped it will practically prevent the Grand Trunk Railway Company from exercising that efficient control, which

this House alone can give, over the Central Vermont Railway, which is now running into Montreal over the tracks of the Grand Trunk Railway, and which is part and parcel of the Grand Trunk Railway system.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I may, perhaps, be permitted to say, as I took exception to this without any explanation, that I suppose the intention is that this Bill shall go in due course to the Railway Committee.

Mr. GIBSON. Certainly.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The facts will all be gone over there, and we shall there be in a position to judge of the question on its merits.

Motion agreed to.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA.

Mr. B. RUSSELL (Halifax). Mr. Speaker. At an early period of this session a private Bill was passed to change the name of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax to the Royal Bank of Canada. Through some misunderstanding between the solicitor of the bank and the manager, the Bill was not passed in a form acceptable to the bank or in which the bank understood it would be passed. I want to ask the House, therefore, to suspend the rules so as to enable me to introduce a Bill to correct what I regard as a clerical error in that Bill. Of course, I would prefer that the Bill should go before the Committee on Banking and Commerce, so that the House will be assured that it is only a clerical error which I wish to have corrected; and I would ask the House to agree to a resolution suspending the orders and rules of the House, so that it will not be necessary to advertise this Bill or pay any fees upon it.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand that the hon. gentleman will propose that this Bill should go to the Banking and Commerce Committee in order to see that it carries out his purpose?

Mr. RUSSELL. Yes. I move:

That all the rules and orders of this House be suspended as regards a Bill to amend the Act respecting the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, and to change its name to the Royal Bank of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. RUSSELL moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 170) respecting the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, and to change its name to the Royal Bank of Canada.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the first and the second time, and referred to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

Mr. GIBSON.

THE NORTH AMERICAN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.

Mr. TAYLOR asked:

Who are the persons who compose the firm of the North American Transportation Company? Have they been paid for the steamer 'Eureka'? If so, out of what vote was the money taken?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Mr. N. K. Connolly is president and M. P. Connolly secretary-treasurer. 2. Yes, paid out of appropriation 'Ship channel, River St. Lawrence.'

YUKON—CLEARANCE OF SS. YUKONER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. Did the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman), on July 10, 1899, request D. W. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, to refuse clearance of the ss. 'Yukoner' until the wages of the crew were paid?

2. Did the collector of customs clear the ss. 'Yukoner' and afterwards, at the request of Mr. F. C. Wade, detain the said vessel? If yes, what are the respective dates of clearance and detention?

3. If yes, in what capacity did Mr. Davis act in clearing the said vessel, and in what capacity did he act in detaining her after clearance?

4. If Mr. Davis detained the said vessel after clearance granted, under what statute and section thereof or under what authority did he act?

5. Did Mr. Davis, in connection with the claim against said vessel, allow the firm of F. C. Wade (Messrs. Wade & Aikman) the sum of \$750 for legal services rendered to the master in the prosecution of the crew of the 'Yukoner,' notwithstanding the solicitors or the owners of the vessel had declined to prosecute under the facts alleged?

6. Did the collector of customs at Dawson receive, in his official capacity, a cheque for \$5,099.45 from the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' after tying up the ship subsequent to her first clearance?

7. Did the owners of the 'Yukoner' request an accounting and return of the said sum, or at all events that it be paid into the court of the district pending the determination by the proper court of the question in dispute between the vessel-owners and the master and mate of the said vessel?

8. Did the Department of Customs obtain any opinion or advice on the subject from the Department of Justice?

9. Did the Department of Customs, on December 16, 1899, request Mr. Davis, 'in view of the opinion from the Department of Justice,' to arrange a settlement with the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner'?

10. Did the opinion from the Department of Justice, if any, refer to Mr. Davis's conduct as 'high-handed and improper'?

11. In reporting to the Department of Customs, did Mr. Davis say he was 'submitting to all these details without prejudice,' and did he comply with the advice of the Department of Justice as above in question 9?

12. After communicating the report of this public officer to the solicitors of the ss. 'Yukoner,' did the Customs Department of Canada write to the solicitors on April 21, 1900, and

say: 'This information as received from Mr. Davis, together with a copy of further statements submitted by him in relation to this matter, has been furnished to you (without prejudice)?'

13. Does the Department of Customs, or the Crown, represented by the Canadian government, admit that it is accountable to the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' for disposal of the proceeds of a cheque made payable to the collector of customs at Dawson for the sum of \$5,099.45 in connection with the ss. 'Yukoner'?

14. Has the Department of Customs declined to account for the money in question?

15. Has the Department of Customs left the owners of the ss. 'Yukoner' to its remedy against the collector of customs personally in connection with the receipt of the said \$5,099.45, and repudiated all responsibility for his conduct in regard thereto?

16. Has the hon. the Minister of Customs declined to produce for the information of parliament the opinion of the Department of Justice referred to in question 9?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1. The correspondence laid on the Table of the House shows that the firm of Wade & Aikman on the 10th July, 1899, informed Mr. Davis, collector of customs at Dawson, that the wages of the captain and mate of the vessel *Yukoner* had not been paid, and requested that the vessel be not granted a clearance until the owners settled with these officers. 2. The correspondence laid on the Table of the House shows that the collector of customs did clear the *Yukoner*, and afterwards detained it. A protest was made by Wade & Aikman to the collector against granting a clearance to the vessel. The collector claims that the clearance was obtained by misrepresentation, which, he says, was his reason for cancelling it. The department has no information from the collector as to the precise dates of clearance and detention. 3. Mr. Davis appears to have cleared the vessel as a customs officer. Further information would seem to be necessary before giving a positive answer to the second branch of this question. 4. Mr. Davis has not informed the department under what statute or section thereof, or under what authority he acted. 5. As appears by the correspondence laid on the Table of the House, Mr. Davis states that in his private capacity as arbitrator he awarded to the master the sum of \$750, being the amount of the account of his solicitors, Wade & Aikman, for legal services rendered in prosecuting the crew and attempting to regain possession of his ship. 6. A deposit of \$5,099.45 appears to have been made with Mr. Davis, but he does not report whether the deposit was made by cheque or otherwise. Mr. Davis claims that the deposit was made with him in his private capacity as arbitrator. 7. As appears by the correspondence laid on the Table of the House, Messrs. Lewis & Smellie, solicitors for the owners of the *Yukoner* in a letter to the commissioner of customs, under date 4th November, 1899, made the following requests :

The money of the Trading and Exploring Company (Limited) having been received by the collector of customs at Dawson, in his official capacity, to the amount of \$5,099.45, the company asks the Crown to account for the same, and renews its request of August 19 last for a refund of the amount; or, at all events, that the \$5,099.45 be paid into court of the Territories pending the determination by the proper court of the questions in dispute between the vessel-owners and the master and mate of the 'Yukoner.'

8. The Customs Department has been and is in consultation with the Justice Department in this matter. 9. As appears by the correspondence laid on the Table of the House, the Department of Customs requested Mr. Davis to furnish detailed information as to his action in disposing of the moneys deposited with him, and to arrange for a settlement of the matters between himself and the owners of the *Yukoner* or their representative. 10. As this case is not yet closed, and may be the subject of litigation or of an investigation, the department thinks the hon. gentleman should not press for a disclosure of any opinion received from the Department of Justice in connection with the matter, at least at present. 11. As appears by the correspondence laid on the Table of the House the solicitors for the owners of the *Yukoner* asked for details without prejudice to the rights of the owners of the vessel, and Mr. Davis submitted such details without prejudice, as he claims he acted in his private capacity as arbitrator. In reply to the advice of the department that he arrange for a settlement of the matter with the owners of the *Yukoner*, Mr. Davis states that he acted throughout the matter with nothing but the strictest regard to the performance of his duties as an official, and the proper and honourable performance of his duties as an arbitrator, and submits that, under the circumstances he is entitled to the fullest protection possible. He also respectfully submits that if the owners of the *Yukoner* think he has acted outside of his jurisdiction, that the courts of the country are open to them, and they should be left to the courts for the proper relief, which they will no doubt get if they are entitled to it.

Collector Davis also reports as follows :

As the majority of vessels navigating on the Yukon River visit but once a year and then run to foreign ports, unless clearance is withheld when wages are due, the officers and crew are rendered quite helpless. They are left here destitute, a new crew is taken on, and the vessel leaves port. Outside of the regular transportation companies, a great many speculative concerns are operating on this river, often without capital or at a loss, and every measure possible has to be taken to protect the officers and crew. In this connection, the steamer 'Yukoner' has had anything but an enviable record. Apart from the fact of the mutiny and the scandal of the owners of the steamer seeking to protect the mutineers against British law, every effort is made by the owners of this steamer, whether ill-advised or not I cannot say, to resist the payment of wages and claims of

every kind. To show you the methods adopted, I would not say by the owners, but on behalf of the owners of this steamer, I may say that after clearing here on the occasion referred to for a United States port, she crossed the boundary and proceeded down the river past Circle City without stopping there to have her clearance papers endorsed, nor did she report at Circle City on her return to Dawson, the object being to defeat legal claims against the vessel at that port. Since that time her course has been up the river from here to White Horse instead of down. She cannot now proceed to American waters without being subject to fine or forfeiture.

12. Yes. 13 and 14. Mr. Davis does not report the receipt of a cheque. He states that the amount of \$5,099.45 was deposited with him in his private capacity as arbitrator. The department has not admitted any liability for payment of the money in question. 15. The matter is not yet closed. 16. The Minister of Customs is not aware that parliament has ordered the production of the opinion of the Department of Justice referred to.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I want to draw the attention of the hon. minister to a matter involved in the last question, No. 16. I think the hon. gentleman must admit, now that he has read to us for the first time that long letter of Mr. Davis's, in which Mr. Davis criticises, paragraph by paragraph, the opinion sent to him by the Deputy Minister of Justice, we ought to have a copy of that opinion. As the hon. minister knows, this matter will become the subject of further discussion, and it is unreasonable that we should have to discuss it without being in possession of the written opinion of the Deputy Minister of Justice to which Mr. Davis has replied, in the letter the hon. gentleman has just read. I cannot understand why the hon. minister should persist in keeping this opinion of the Deputy Minister of Justice back, particularly as he has given us Mr. Davis's reply to that opinion. I would press my request in view of the fact that, at as early a date as possible, I propose to bring the matter forward in the shape of a resolution.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I cannot control the action of the hon. gentleman, and if he proposes to bring before the House a matter that is still undecided, he is acting within his rights. But it seems to me very inadvisable to bring on a discussion without knowing what future action may be taken. When the matter is decided, then the subject can be discussed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not propose to deal with the future action of the government, but with what has passed. I do not know what will happen in the future, but I do insist that we ought to have the full record now.

Mr. PATERSON.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). I rise for the purpose of drawing attention to the statement made in the House on May 10, with regard to the closing of the Canadian section of the Paris exhibition on Sundays. It was said on that occasion that the matter was in the hands of the Imperial authorities, and that there was difficulty in controlling it, so far as the violation and action of the Canadian authorities were concerned. I see, however, in the press, a statement that the Canadian section of the exposition is to be closed on the Lord's Day. I hope that this statement is correct, as it will be received with delight by the Christian community of Canada. I rose for the purpose of asking the government to inform the House and the country as to whether this report was well-founded or not.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I understand that the Canadian section is to be closed on Sunday. I am sorry that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) is not here; and I would not like to undertake to give a definite answer in his absence. If my hon. friend (Mr. Charlton) will repeat his question to-morrow, he shall have an answer.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. LOUIS E. DUGAS (Montcalm). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to an article that appears in the *Mail and Empire* of Toronto, of May 28, as follows:

Winnipeg, May 27.—The city Catholics met this afternoon to consider what steps they should now take in view of the refusal of the Winnipeg School Board to take over the Roman Catholic schools of Winnipeg on certain terms suggested by the Catholics. At to-day's meeting reports and correspondence were read showing the terms proposed, and the inability of the Public School Board to accede to the same on account of the school law, and after some uncomplimentary remarks anent the fashion in which Sir Wilfrid Laurier 'settles' things the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the meeting:

'Whereas, the Catholics of Winnipeg have for ten long years suffered under the odious burdens imposed upon them by the school law of 1890; and whereas, the recent negotiations with the Public School Board of Winnipeg made it plain that, as the law at present stands, we can expect no relief; be it resolved, that we, the Catholics of Winnipeg in meeting assembled, hereby instruct the committee to take immediate steps to lay our grievances before the Dominion and provincial authorities, pointing out to them the severity of our long persecution, and praying them to come to our relief on the lines laid down in the Privy Council's decision.'

I would like to know from the right hon. leader of the government if he still thinks that the school question is settled, that be-

ing the statement he has made on many occasions in the province of Quebec, in this House and elsewhere.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dugas) had given me notice of his intention to ask the question, I should have had much pleasure in giving more information than is contained in the newspaper paragraph which he has just read. I understand that paragraph to be to the effect that some Roman Catholics in the city of Winnipeg have expressed the view that the settlement was not satisfactory. Had I had notice, I could have brought numerous resolutions of other meetings of Catholics expressing their satisfaction with the settlement of the school question. I have stated in this House that the settlement was the best that could be made under the circumstances, that, though it was not perfect, it was acceptable. And, in a speech delivered by Mr. Greenway on the 13th of December, 1896, he stated that he would be prepared to listen to the minority when they chose to make application to him. I notice that the Catholics referred to in the paragraph that has just been read say that they will appeal to the provincial and Dominion authorities. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Dugas) knows that the Dominion authorities have no power except to hear an appeal of an appeal; so, I suppose, we shall hear of an application to the provincial authorities, and, if those who apply are not satisfied with the decision given, that they will appeal to the Dominion authorities.

COLD STORAGE VESSELS FROM P.E.I. PORTS.

Mr. **ALEXANDER MARTIN** (East Queen's, P.E.I.). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) if any arrangements have been made for steamers with cold storage accommodation between Prince Edward Island and Great Britain. The hon. gentleman knows that during the last two seasons the service he has given there has been very unsatisfactory. I think that only one trip of one steamer has been secured during the last season. I believe that the hon. minister called for tenders some time ago for this service. I would like to ask whether he has completed any arrangement to give to that province accommodation that every other province in the Dominion have had for a number of years.

The **MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE** (Sir Richard Cartwright). As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Martin) did not give me notice of his intention to bring the subject forward, I can only reply from memory. We have been endeavouring for some time past to meet the wishes and wants of the people of Prince Edward Island as well

as we could with the sum at our disposal. Last year, owing to causes of which the hon. gentleman, no doubt, is well aware, chiefly the extraordinary demand for transport, only one trip was made. This year, I advertised with the hope of obtaining tenders, but, I suppose owing to the continued demand for steam vessels, I was unable to obtain tenders. I am now negotiating with private parties to see if I can get a reasonable number of trips in return for the sum which I propose to ask parliament to put at my disposal for this purpose. The negotiations are not quite concluded, but are still in progress.

PAYMENT OF SESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. **W. H. MONTAGUE** (Haldimand). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) for a moment to the question of payment of some of the employees of the House. The hon. gentleman knows that for a considerable time, sums have been due to certain members of the staff, some translators and others. I think the statement was made to the House, that if the item was allowed to pass in Committee of Supply, an arrangement would be made with the Auditor General by means of which the sums could be paid. That, of course, would be a little informal, but it would be quite reasonable, and it would be a great convenience to the employees. The same difficulty exists in regard to the employees of the Senate: and I notice that the matter has received some attention. And notwithstanding the fact that an estimate has not even been passed—if I understand it—for the payment of these back salaries, yet an arrangement has been made in some way by which these officers attached to the Senate who were unpaid have received their pay. In some way, the Auditor agreed to pay them. In another place, a statement has been made by a member of the government:

I might say, further, the reason I spoke about sitting longer than to-day was that I hoped that a Supply Bill would be presented to-morrow for our approval. Of that there is not any prospect now, unless we remain here until Monday. I have no doubt, if the payment of certain officers can be made without the formal sanction of this House, before we meet again, as they are officers in the public service, that the proposed payment, with the approval of the Auditor General, will be sanctioned by the Senate. Although the proceeding is not strictly regular, it is, nevertheless, one which I presume they will approve of as a matter of course.

If that statement is concurred in by the House, perhaps the Auditor will venture to carry out the wishes of the House without it being put in the form of an Act.

That was agreed to in the place to which I refer, and the sum has been paid by the Auditor, without even the item having pass-

ed in Committee of Supply under which that money could be taken and paid. Now, the Minister of Finance knows that upon May 23 a vote was taken in this House: Item 280. Legislation, Senate and House of Commons. We have there the sum voted to which I refer, for the payment of these officers of the House. I am surprised to know that the Auditor refuses to pay these sums, notwithstanding that the Senate and the House of Commons have passed the item in supply, he standing upon the strict technical procedure that no Supply Bill has been assented to, and, consequently, that no money has been legally appropriated for the purpose. I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Finance to this matter. It may, perhaps, seem a small sum, but it is distributed over a large number of employees who depend upon this pay for their living, and I am told that it is a matter of exceedingly great inconvenience to a number of employees, an inconvenience to which, I am sure, neither side of the House would wish to subject them. I may add that this money does not cover alone the salaries for the session in which we are now engaged, but it is money which is due these gentlemen for services performed in the session of 1899, so that the sum has been due to these employees, in some cases, over a year, and in some cases nearly a year. That makes the matter all the more serious and deserving of attention.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I hoped to be able to see the Auditor General this morning and discuss this subject with him, so that I could inform the House of the view which he takes, but owing to a very important engagement, occupying all the forenoon, in the Banking and Commerce Committee, I did not have that opportunity. I feel sure, however, that the Auditor General would not discriminate in the way the hon. gentleman thinks he would; he will hold the scales evenly and justly, I think, between the Senate and the House of Commons. I shall make it a point before to-morrow's sitting to ascertain the view he takes, and I hope to be able to say that the money due these employees will be paid to them.

CARMANAH LIGHTHOUSE, B.C.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.) Before the Orders of the Day are proceeded with, I feel it is my duty to call the attention of the government, and especially of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, to the state of affairs that exist on the Pacific coast with regard to the telegraphic communication between the Carmanah lighthouse and the shore. A letter was written by Mr. Daykin, lighthouse keeper, on May 6, to Capt. J. G. Cox, shipping owner of Victoria, which I will read to the House:

Mr. MONTAGUE.

Carmanah, May 6, 1900.

Captain Cox, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir,—At eleven p.m. May 2, a large steamer signalled off here. The wire was in working order to Victoria, but no attention was paid to my call, and I was unable to report the steamer.

May 4.—Large Japanese steamer signalled at 10 a.m., to be reported all well, but I could get no one east of here. I got the message as far as Cape Beale, but the wire was down between there and Alberni, at least there was no communication.

May 6, 11 a.m.—A large Russian steamer passed in, signalling to be reported. I have called over an hour, but can get no one, although the wire, I know, is working to Otter Point.

These are only a few instances. Since the first of the year I have missed reporting fourteen steamers alone. If this is going to continue, I would like to know, for it is useless for me to signal these vessels. I would like to hear from you, if that petition is doing any good.

I remain, yours truly,

W. P. DAYKIN.

Got the Russian steamer in 1.30 p.m., over two hours after she passed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious state of affairs for the shipping interest. I may say that the shipping going past that lighthouse to Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver is of an enormous quantity now. We have the large Canadian Pacific Railway steamers running between China and British Columbia, the Australian steamers, and a large number of large colliers carrying coal from the collieries to San Francisco. Besides the detriment to the shipping interest, there is an increased danger to wrecks that often take place on that coast. I am informed that the pilots going out to meet these vessels often have to get their reports from the American side. I would like the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to give this matter his attention, and see if a remedy can not be found for this state of affairs. I think some arrangement ought to be made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Telegraph Company about keeping their office open. I am informed that the office in Victoria, where these messages ought to be sent to from Carmanah lighthouse, is closed from one o'clock in the morning to eight o'clock, and that any signals that ships may make to the lighthouse cannot be forwarded between those hours. I think the government might make an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway to keep that office open so that shipping men might find out when vessels arrive. The telegraph should certainly be kept in better condition. I may also mention that Esquimalt is a large naval station, and in case of war, which may break out we never know when, it is important that a lighthouse like that should be enabled to signal to the naval authorities when any vessels enter and are coming in.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I do not want to challenge the propriety of the hon. gentleman bringing these facts to my notice in this way on the floor of the House, but it is obvious that, as I have received no notice from him, I am not able to reply to him at the moment. I had no notice whatever of the facts he mentions, and I am unable to give him any information whatever. If the hon. gentleman had communicated to me the facts which he has given to the House to-day, I might have been able, possibly, to get some information on the subject for him. All I can do now is to promise to ascertain whether any reports have reached my department of the character to which he refers, and to take whatever steps are in my power to have the evil he speaks of remedied.

Mr. **PRIOR**. I did not intend any discourtesy to the minister, far from it. These facts are stated in several newspapers in British Columbia, and I also had a letter from the British Columbia Board of Trade asking me to take this matter up, as they had notified the government or their agents.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. **J. B. MILLS** (Annapolis). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Prime Minister to invite the Minister of Agriculture, who I do not see in his seat, to lay upon the Table all papers, correspondence, telegrams, charters and agreements with reference to the chartering of the following steamships: *Massapequa*, 1,935 tons; *Janeta*, 2,197 tons; *Mantantic*, 1,760 tons; *Masconomo*, 2,738 tons; *Mohican*, 1,741 tons; *Fashoda*, 1,782 tons; *Manhanset*, 1,743 tons. I desire to have an inspection of these papers before the estimates are gone into with reference to these matters, and I take this, the earliest opportunity I have, of asking the Minister of Agriculture to have them laid upon the Table, as I wish to discuss the propriety of the government chartering these steamers largely through foreign brokers in preference to Canadian brokers.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Will my hon. friend send me a note of the information he desires to obtain, so that I can communicate it to the Minister of Agriculture?

HALIFAX HARBOUR.

Mr. **R. L. BORDEN** (Halifax). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to a report of the sub-committee of the Halifax Board of Trade respecting the desirability of improving the approaches to the Halifax harbour.

I understand that a copy of the report has been sent to the hon. gentleman. I do not

ask him to deal with the question now, but I would like to have him inform himself, so that when his estimates come up again he can give all the necessary information respecting what he has done or proposes to do in response to the statements contained in the report.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Is that in respect to the bell buoy?

Mr. **BORDEN** (Halifax). Yes, and also in respect to the lightship. The date of the report is March 16, 1900.

GRAIN INSPECTION IN MANITOBA.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved:

That the order for the third reading of Bill (No. 141) respecting the grain trade in the inspection district of Manitoba be discharged, and that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of inserting the following amendment at the end of clause 40: 'Except that in the case of each such additional warehouse the land upon which the building is to be erected and the siding or spur required to reach it shall be provided by, or at the expense of, the person or persons to whom the building belongs.'

Mr. **NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN** (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that would completely nullify the operation of this clause. I think that all this clause is intended to obtain would be greatly modified by that. It would, in fact, make some of the concessions of this clause a futility, because you never can expect that farmers who want an additional warehouse would go to the expense, or would be able to go to the expense, of putting in a siding and paying for the land. I apprehend that the danger in the mind of the railway company that this is intended to guard against would hardly ever arise, because if this Bill be made the kind of Bill it ought to be made there will be very little using of flat warehouses at all. But having the right to erect flat warehouses where there is an absolute necessity is a leverage that will place the elevator men in the position of being compelled to concede what is needed by justice as regards the farming community. I cannot concur in the amendment and will divide the House on it.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I would call the attention of the House to the Bill which we now have before us and the motion which has been made by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). Let me call attention to clause 40, and read it so that we may understand where we are. Clause 40 reads as follows:

40. On written application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within forty miles of their nearest shipping point, he may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, a flat warehouse covered with metal of not less than 3,000 bushels capacity,

with power to enlarge the same should necessity require it, at such shipping point. Such flat warehouse shall be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company shall be compelled to give such location with siding on its premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators. If, in the judgment of the commissioner, more than one such warehouse is required at a station, one or more additional warehouses may be authorized by him, and in such case all the provisions of this section shall apply to the construction of such warehouses.

I think the clause may be recast in some way so as to make it clearer, but the point to which I wish to call the attention of the House is this: The Bill, as it was introduced, provided for the erection of flat warehouses on the premises of the railway company. This provision has been made necessary because of the condition of things which now prevails in the North-west Territories. At the outset of my remarks on this matter, I would say that I think all parties in the North-west Territories should understand that there is no one interest here which ought to be independent of all the others. The producers are not independent of the carriers, the carriers are not independent of the producers, but the producers in order to have the benefit of their labour must have the assistance of the carriers, and the carriers, of course, must have their profit out of the producers—a legitimate profit it must be. But, in order to have this result it is impossible to admit that any one interest must have exclusive consideration at the expense of any other interest. The producers of the North-west Territories owe a great deal to the railway companies. Without the railway companies they would not have been in a position to have their wealth taken to the markets of the world. They owe a great deal also to the elevator companies. Without the elevator companies they would not have been able to dispose of their grain as they have been able to do. While they owe a great deal to the railway companies, and while they owe a great deal to the elevator companies, at the same time, there has arisen a condition of things in which, the elevator companies cannot supply the wants of the producers adequately at the present moment and new provisions have to be brought into the law so as to give the producers the benefit of more elevator space and accommodation. It has been found necessary, after due consideration of the matter, to give the producers of the North-west Territories the right to erect elevators of their own to be, in a manner, independent of the existing companies. The Bill, as introduced, provided for the erection of one flat warehouse at a station. The railway company has been forced to give the site, to give the accommodation and the siding which may be necessary. But, when the Bill was before the committee the other day, it was

thought advisable to give power to the farmers of the North-west Territories to erect more warehouses if they saw fit. And this amendment was introduced into the Bill:

If, in the judgment of the commissioner, more than one such warehouse is required at a station, one or more additional warehouses may be authorized by him, and in such case all the provisions of this section shall apply to the construction of such warehouses.

This Bill puts it into the power of any ten farmers in the North-west Territories to put upon the land of the railway company one, two, three, four or five elevators, or ten, if necessary. It empowers them to put their elevators on the land of the company whether it is convenient for the company or not, whether it might involve the consequence of having their whole space covered with elevators and compel them also to give all the sidings that may be necessary for the purpose. That is to give very extraordinary powers, and powers which, if carried out to their full extent, would mean confiscation. It is not in the spirit of British legislation to give power over one man's land to another man unless adequate compensation is provided for it. The object of the amendment is simply to provide that if a number of farmers want to have additional elevators, they shall have to pay for it. They will be able to compel the railway company to give them the land and to give them the siding, but as the Bill is now, it is not sufficiently provided that this shall be done at the expense of the parties who shall be benefited by it. The amendment is one which, I think, commends itself to the judgment of the House, and although it may not be final in its wording, we can change it in committee. It says:

Except that in the case of each such additional warehouse, the land upon which the building is to be erected and the siding or spur to reach it, shall be provided by or at the expense of the person or persons to whom the building belongs.

The object is not to prevent the farmers from having additional warehouses. They have only to apply to the commissioner, and if the commissioner thinks the demand is legitimate, he can compel the railway to afford them all facilities, but at the same time the amendment provides that all this should not be done at the expense of the company, but at the expense of the parties for whose benefit the work is intended. That is to say, that the company shall not be compelled to give the land and build the sidings for these warehouses without compensation. I would suggest that the whole section should be carefully considered in committee. What I call attention to now is, not so much the wording of the amendment as the spirit in which it is conceived. There is nothing in the amendment to prevent the farmers of the Territories to have one, or five, or ten, or any

unlimited number of flat warehouses which they may require. The only thing which is sought is: That this should not be a burden upon the railway company without their having proper compensation. The amendment is simply intended to carry out the principles of justice which are understood in all British countries: that no proprietor ought to be compelled to part with this property unless he receives some compensation. It is an amendment in the sense of substantial justice, and it is therefore, in the spirit of fair-play to all parties, to the farmers, who want an additional elevator on the one hand, and on the other hand to the railway companies, which shall not be compelled to give their land and labour unless they receive adequate compensation.

Mr. DAVIN. More than one warehouse could not be erected unless the commissioner would consider there should be more than one? And, of course, it is unlikely the commissioner would consent to the erection of another one unless it was needed.

The PRIME MINISTER. Suppose three warehouses are erected and the commissioner concedes the erection of a fourth warehouse to another ten men. Then the company under the Bill as it stands, would be bound to give its land and to build the siding at his own expense.

Mr. DAVIN. If the commissioner thought it was needed.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, and it is provided that in such a case the company shall not be bound to give its land until it is paid for it. That seems reasonable, and that is what the amendment asks.

Mr. FRANK OLIVER (Alberta). I wish it to be understood that I am in no way to be considered as in favour of this amendment. I am sorry that I can not see this amendment in the light in which the right hon. Prime Minister sees it. I cannot see it in the light of fair-play to the settler, nor can I see that there is not in it a desire to prevent the erection of as many flat warehouses as may be necessary or desirable. It is because I see the amendment in a directly contrary light to that of the Prime Minister, that I oppose it. I understand the purpose of this amendment to be essentially, unfairness to the farmer, and a desire to prevent the erection of any more than one flat warehouse at a certain point. I am sorry to say that I have to dissent from the view taken by the right hon. the Premier in more points than this. I deny that there are several separate interests in the North-west. The carrying interest, the mercantile, and the producing interest are identical. It is the interest of the producer, upon which the other interests depend. They can only exist by reason of the producer, and from my point of view when we consider the best interests of the

producer we thereby consider the best interests of the dealer and of the transportation company.

Now, as to the idea of confiscation in demanding the right to erect flat warehouses upon the railway property; I deny in the first place that the right of way of the railway company is the private property of the railway company, any more than any of the property of the railway is its private property. It is the property of the railway company for a purpose. The railroad is the property of the company for the purpose of transportation. It is not the private property of the company to be used as the company may please, and no more is the right of way the private property of the company to be used as the company may please. The right of way of the railway company belongs to the railway company for the purpose of being used in connection with transportation over that railway. Our demand is that we shall have the right to use the right of way for the purpose of promoting transportation over the railway. We deny that there is any confiscation in such a proposition. The railroad company does not buy property for its own private purposes; it buys property for transportation purposes under the laws and regulations passed by this House and this government, and it has no more private right in the right of way than it has in the railroad, and it has not the right to deny the use of the right of way for the purpose of the transportation of grain in the Northwest Territories. What we demand is, that the right of way of the railroad company shall be allowed to be used for the purpose of erecting the necessary warehouses for carrying on the grain trade of the country, for the benefit of the producers of the country. As to the intention of this amendment, when the House the other night decided that it was necessary that there should be a right to erect more than one flat warehouse on any certain siding, there was no idea that this amendment would be necessary. It was only after the House had reached that conclusion that this suggestion was thought of. It was admitted that there was room at any siding for one flat warehouse. A siding is from 600 to 1,000 feet in length: a flat warehouse is from 30 to 40 feet in width; and if there is room for one flat warehouse on the length of any siding, there is room for two or three or four or five. To say that there is not room is simply to say that you do not want to allow flat warehouses to be built. The whole object of desiring the erection of flat warehouses is that there shall be a cheap means of handling grain at a particular station without the investment of a large amount of capital in buildings or plant; and the purpose of this amendment is that there shall not be the right to handle grain in more than one flat warehouse at a siding

unless there is a large expenditure of money in a dead investment for siding and rails. The idea of the amendment is that instead of a second flat warehouse costing \$1,000 at a certain siding, if there be more than one these shall cost \$3,000. The figures may not be accurate, but the facts are as stated. That is the necessary result of the amendment, and I stand here, Mr. Speaker, to say that it is the purpose of the amendment. The producers of the North-west ask the elementary right to handle their grain in any way they please, and to have it transported over the railroads of the country according to the laws and regulations under which those railroads are run. That is all they ask: but they ask that, and they will not be satisfied with anything else. Talk about concessions to the people in the matter of the transportation of grain. There are no concessions asked. All the people want is the right to handle their grain and to put it on the railroad cars in whatever way is most convenient to them; and they demand the use of the right of way of the railroad company, which belongs to that company only for that purpose, in transacting their grain business.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, I think it is just as well that we should discuss this matter now, seeing that there are a large number of members in the House, as that we should discuss it later on, when it reaches the committee stage. When the Bill was before the committee the other day, the view was taken both by myself and by the hon. member for East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), than whom probably no one in the west has taken a deeper interest in this matter, that this clause 40 was the crux of the entire Bill. If this clause goes through as it is proposed in the reprinted Bill, especially if it goes through with the amendment which the right hon. leader of the House has just supported, I believe that the whole idea which the farmers of the North-west have been fighting for all these years will be utterly destroyed. Let the House remember the history of this elevator agitation in the North-west. I do not think anything has more deeply agitated the people in the west than the restrictions which have existed for years upon the handling of grain. Statements have been made in regard to the vast amount of money which it cost the farmers yearly for the handling of their grain by virtue of those restrictions and the privileges enjoyed by the elevator companies. Three sessions ago I myself introduced a Bill for the purpose of remedying the evil. My hon. friend from East Assiniboia introduced one for a similar purpose. His Bill being first on the Order paper, I gave way to him. An effort was made to prevent that Bill going through. Certain influences, not on behalf of the farmers, but on behalf of the railroad com-

Mr. OLIVER.

panies and grain dealers, were brought to bear, with the result that the Bill was not passed that session. The same agitation continued, and last session the hon. member for East Assiniboia introduced his Bill again. That Bill was referred to a special committee of this House, which listened for days to arguments presented by the grain interests and the railway interests to show why it should not become law. The result was that the Bill did not pass that session, and a Royal Commission was appointed for the purpose of taking evidence throughout the country with a view to arriving at a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. Let me briefly quote from the report of the Privy Council, authorizing the appointment of the Royal Commission:

The principal causes for the necessity of legislation being had in the nature of the provisions of that Bill were alleged to be as follows:

1. That a vendor of grain is at present subjected to an unfair and excessive dockage of his grain at the time of sale;

2. That doubts exist as to the fairness of the weights allowed or used by owners of elevators; and

3. That the owners of elevators enjoy a monopoly in the purchase of grain by refusing to permit of the erection of flat warehouses where standard elevators are situated, and are able to keep the price of grain below its true market value to their own benefit and the disadvantage of others who are specially interested in the grain trade, and of the public generally.

The Minister of the Interior further states that in the discussion which took place before the special committee above referred to, great difference of opinion was expressed respecting the actual facts of the case, and it appeared to the minister to be impossible to reach a satisfactory decision as to the necessity of legislation, or should legislation be necessary, as to the scope and tenor of such legislation without a full and impartial investigation of the whole subject.

The minister having given the subject careful consideration, is of the opinion that the subject is one in regard to which the public interest requires that there should be full and accurate information in the possession of the government, and to that end that an inquiry should be made under a Royal Commission in accordance with the provisions of chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes of Canada.

Now, let me read what the commissioners in their report say: and surely this House does not require any better evidence. They say:

We find that the grievances complained of have arisen largely from the above-mentioned protection offered by the railway company to elevator-owners to induce them to build elevators, which resulted in placing the shipping of grain at elevator points in the hands solely of the elevator owners. Owners of flat warehouses were not allowed to ship at points where elevators were erected, and their warehouses were practically done away with. No one desiring to ship grain in bulk could get it on cars otherwise than by having it handled through elevators.

So that, according to the admission of the commissioners themselves, the whole point

was that the farmers of that country should be allowed to use flat warehouses, if they so desire. The elevator owners enjoyed a monopoly, and a farmer could not ship his grain except through these elevators. Hence a great cry arose throughout the west for freedom in the shipping and selling of grain and for the right of erecting flat warehouses. The commissioners further say :

While the evidence taken leads us to believe that from a number of the causes above given, farmers have in many cases been over-docked and have realized less than they should have, it also shows that since the privilege has been extended to farmers to themselves load cars and ship direct, they have realized not only in that way, but from elevator operators better proportionate prices than they previously got.

As the result of the agitation carried on for two or three years, the railway companies allowed the farmers the privilege of loading directly on the car. A farmer living near a railway station was able to get a car set apart for him and draw his grain and load it directly on the car. But farmers, living from five to twenty miles from a railway are absolutely unable to avail themselves of this privilege of shipping a car-load at a time, because they cannot bring their grain in vehicles in sufficient time to avoid being charged heavy demurrage on the cars, and they asked to be allowed to erect flat warehouses on the sidings in which they could store their grain and ship it when convenient. What business has a railway company to dictate to the farmers how they should ship their grain? These railway companies make their money out of hauling grain, and it is their duty to afford proper shipping and handling privileges to the people who raise the grain. I again read from the report of the commissioners :

The above privilege to farmers of getting cars for shipping has, however, only partially removed the evil, as only those farmers living within four or five miles of shipping points can draw their grain fast enough to load a car within the time reasonably allowed by the railway company for such loading. This privilege of direct shipping has, therefore, given no practical relief to those living beyond that distance.

Surely this House will not go back on the conclusions of the Royal Commission itself. That commission states that while the privilege of shipping directly on to the car has been a relief to the farmers who live adjacent to a railway, it is of no practical value to those who live at any distance. That is the finding of the Royal Commission itself. The commissioners say further :

Farmers giving evidence have generally agreed that full freedom of the right to load direct on cars and through flat warehouses would remove most of the trouble. We consider that proper relief from the possibility of being compelled to sell under value, and of being unduly docked for cleaning, is only to be had by giving the fullest obtainable freedom in the way of shipping and selling grain. It is only in such

a way that the great agitation and bitterness of feeling which has arisen can be ended.

What more do we want? That is the position which the hon. member for Alberta takes; and if these commissioners, who went from one end of the country to the other and who were bombarded with evidence, from day to day, to show how bitter the feeling was, report in favour of perfect freedom in the handling and shipping of grain, surely it is the duty of this House to see that perfect freedom is granted to the farmers in this country. The report continues :

So long as any farmer is hampered in or hindered from himself shipping to terminal markets, he will be more or less at the mercy of elevator operators.

We want to place this matter in such a position that the farmers will not be at the mercy of the elevators operators.

The discontent on this point is very serious; and, without further discussing the causes giving rise to same, this discontent seems to us an inevitable result of the restrictions under which farmers have been labouring as to the marketing of their grain.

If we adopt section 40 of this Bill, we will destroy entirely the very object for which the inquiry was supposed to be held. This country must have spent \$40,000 to \$50,000 to send that commission over the country, and yet we find a clause put in this Bill which utterly destroys the value of the Bill altogether, and is directly contrary to the conclusions of the commission. If we restrict the farmers to one warehouse, of what particular value will this Bill be to them? Let me read the clause :

40. On a written application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within forty miles of their nearest shipping point, he may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, a flat warehouse covered with metal, of not less than 3,000 bushels capacity, with power to enlarge the same should necessity require it, at such shipping point. Such flat warehouses shall be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company shall be compelled to give such location with siding on its premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators. If, in the judgment of the commissioner, more than one such warehouse is required at a station, one or more additional warehouses may be authorized by him, and in such case all the provisions of this section shall apply to the construction of such warehouses.

Let me read also the last subsection of clause 40, and the House will see how the rights of the people are circumscribed :

No owner or operator of any such warehouse shall be allowed to store in or ship through grain purchased by or for himself.

You are going to tie up the operators and the owners of warehouses.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. What is the hon. gentleman reading from?

Mr. RICHARDSON. From the Bill as reprinted, subsection S, of clause 40. We struggled the other evening, when this Bill was in the Committee of the Whole, to have that clause 40 amended. As originally printed, you would be astonished to learn that the only concession allowed to the farmers was the right to build one flat warehouse with 6,000 bushels capacity. We took the view that such a provision afforded no relief whatever. Farmers may not desire to club together to build a flat warehouse of 6,000 bushels capacity. If any number of farmers—whether ten farmers or more or less—living ten miles or twenty miles from a station desire to erect a warehouse which will satisfy themselves, and in which they can store their grain and escape demurrage charges, surely they ought to be allowed to do so. I entirely agree with the commissioners in their conclusion that unless we grant these things, this bitterness will not end in the North-west. We cannot wipe out an agitation by giving the people a stone when they ask for bread. But notwithstanding the fact that we succeeded in getting this clause 40, amended in the Committee of the Whole, so as to reduce the capacity of flat warehouses from 6,000 to 3,000 bushels, and allow the commissioner in his discretion to permit more than one to be erected, what do we find to-day? We find another clause proposed as follows and it is for that purpose this House is being moved into committee:

Except that in the case of each such additional warehouse the land upon which the building is to be erected and the siding or spur required to reach it, shall be provided by or at the expense of the person or persons to whom the building belongs.

That means that there is not a farmer in the west, or any number of them, who will be able to avail themselves of this privilege. That will destroy entirely the value of clause 40. It means that a farmer must pay for a piece of railway for himself. He must buy a piece of land, though he may desire only to spend \$200 or \$300 to put up a flat warehouse in which to store his grain until he desires to ship it.

I endorse the position taken by the hon. member for Alberta. I entirely dissent from the view expressed by the right hon. leader of the government, when he says that the producers of that country owe a debt of gratitude to the Canadian Pacific Railway, or to any other railway company—I do not say the Canadian Pacific Railway alone, for this applies to all railway companies. These railway men get their charters and build roads—for the purpose of benefiting the settler? Not at all, but to make dividends for their shareholders. And let me tell this House that they have been able to make very handsome dividends for their shareholders in that country. We do not find the farmers of Manitoba and

the North-west here by the hundred and thousand button-holing members of this House to get a Bill through in their interest, but we do find the emissaries of the company here trying to convince members that the House should protect their special interest. It is not the interest of the railroads that representatives should be here to protect, but the interest of the people. And it is the people who grow the grain, who bear the burden and heat of the day, who should be protected. I cannot possibly support this clause, and I gave notice four or five days ago that when the Bill came up for consideration in the committee I would move that clause 40 should be expunged entirely, and the following substituted. And I think that if this amended clause is adopted, it will cure the evil:

The commissioners shall give permission to any person who demands it in writing the privilege of erecting, maintaining and using free of charge on some portion of the company's right of way adjoining its main track, siding or spur at each such siding or station, an elevator or warehouse for the purpose of storing and shipping grain in car lots, but the said elevator or warehouse shall not be used for any other purpose.

Now, the railroad company builds a siding. My hon. friend says it extends from 600 to 1,000 yards in length. What is that siding for, if not for the accommodation of the public? The railway companies are not our masters; it is our duty to regulate the railway companies, and to see that they provide the proper and necessary facilities for the people. I repeat that if we let the Bill go through as it is, and still more, if we adopt this damning amendment that is proposed, I believe the agitation in that country will continue, and will be increased in bitterness. Nothing but the most absolute freedom in storing, selling and shipping grain will satisfy the people of that country. The commissioners themselves say in their report:

We believe that the erection of flat warehouses will not, in all instances, be called for. The knowledge that farmers will have the right, under certain restrictions, to get the same erected, or to erect same, will lead to a desire on the part of elevator owners and employees to give fair prices for grain rather than to stir up feeling which will lead to the erection of those flat warehouses.

That has been my contention all along. If we legislate so as to allow the farmers to build all the flat warehouses they like, that will be such a corrective on the elevator owners and companies, that it will not be necessary to build large numbers of them, and this bugbear that has been raised by the railway companies will fade away. I do not believe that any large number of flat warehouses will be erected. But if by this Act, we deprive the farmer of the rights that he should enjoy under all circumstances, we shall be doing him a serious injustice. I repeat that if we allow the most

perfect freedom, we shall correct the evil, and satisfy the people of the country and this parliament will deserve the thanks of the people for having placed proper legislation on the statute-book. Anent this amendment that I propose, an hon. gentleman said to me the other day: You are proposing socialistic legislation. I have no desire to pose as proposing socialistic legislation in this House. This clause was proposed by my hon. and reverend friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas), who is neither a socialist nor an anarchist. I took it from his Bill and propose it as an amendment to clause 40 to rectify the evils that I fear will flow from the clause as it is proposed. For the reasons I have given, I shall oppose very strongly this proposition, and I shall endeavour to divide the House upon it in order that we from the west, who dissent, may be able to place ourselves on record when the proper time comes.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I call particular attention, Mr. Speaker, to the respect with which my hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) referred to the report of the Royal Commission. You heard the quotations he made from page eight and page ten. Though he was speaking rapidly, I was able to write a few sentences in which he expressed the utmost confidence in the Royal Commission. He said: The House cannot go back on the finding of the Royal Commission: It is our duty to accept the report of the Royal Commission. At the same time he used words which make me feel certain that he did not read the whole report. He said: That is all I care to read about the report of the Royal Commission. I do not wonder at all that that was all he cared to read about that report. If he had taken the trouble to read on page thirty-one at schedule 'E.' which was prepared by that commission to serve as a guide for the legislation to be adopted, he would have read these words:

That on a written application to the warehouse commissioner by any ten farmers residing within twenty miles of a shipping point, he (the warehouse commissioner) may give permission to any person or persons to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one flat warehouse of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity at such shipping point.

This does not provide for flat warehouses, such as my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Oliver) suggests, to contain as little as 600 bushels. Why, we could fancy the whole road lined with warehouses that would contain that quantity. A car has a capacity of from 600 to 1,000 bushels, so that one of these flat warehouses would hold something less than three-quarters of a single large car.

Mr. OLIVER. Why not?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Why not fill the whole station with warehouses? It is almost incredible that such

a thing should be proposed. I will show how we have taken to heart the interest of the farmers, who are justly looked upon as the hope of the North-west and the Dominion at large. My hon. friend comes with the report of the commission in hand and begs the House to adopt the report, he says the House cannot refuse to adopt the report. Then I come here with the recommendation of the commissioners that only one flat warehouse should be erected, and in order, as much as possible, to meet the wishes of my hon. friend, and to show that it was our intention to remove all subject of complaint from the farmers. I consented to an amendment providing that more than one flat warehouse could be placed at a station. But we attached a condition which I look upon as fair. I will read the section covering that matter:

On a written application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within forty miles of a shipping point, he may give permission to any person to erect, under the provisions of this Act, one flat warehouse of not less than 6,000 bushels capacity.

We consented to reduce the capacity from 6,000 bushels to 3,000, in order to meet the wishes of my hon. friend, and at the same time we added this, which was not in the first Bill:

—with power to enlarge the same should necessity require it at such shipping point. Such flat warehouse shall be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company shall be compelled to give such location, with siding on its premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators.

Now, what follows was introduced in order, as much as possible, to meet the wishes of my hon. friends:

If, in the judgment of the commissioner, more than one flat warehouse is required at a station, one or more additional warehouses may be authorized by him, and in such case all the provisions of this section shall apply to the construction of such warehouses.

What are the provisions of this section? The provisions of this section are that such additional warehouse should be erected at the request of ten farmers residing within a certain limit. But my hon. friend wanted to put in an amendment providing that an additional warehouse should be erected, not at the request of ten farmers, but at the request of any person, notwithstanding that the commissioners recommended that at least ten farmers should unite in the request before a warehouse could be erected.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The hon. gentleman will remember that I moved that clause in committee, having given notice of it. But, failing to get that, and fearing I might not get it even on the third reading, I made an effort to get the best I could on the clause as it was.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.** My hon. friend made an effort to get the best he could on the clause as it was. He says he feared he would not get anything. There was no division in the committee, and this was adopted. My hon. friend comes, now, after showing how much respect and how much value should be attached to the report of the Royal Commission, after having himself consented that no such flat warehouse should be erected except on the application of ten persons at least, residing within a certain radius, he comes coolly now and gives notice of an amendment, which appears in the Votes and Proceedings as follows, page 297 :

The commissioners shall give permission to any person who demands it in writing—

Not ten persons residing within a certain distance, but any person—I could go and get permission if I liked. I need not be a resident even in that neighbourhood.

—the privilege of erecting, maintaining and using, free of charge, on some portion of the company's right of way adjoining its main track, siding or spur at each such siding or station, an elevator or warehouse for the purpose of storing and shipping grain in car lots, but the said elevator or warehouse shall not be used for any other purpose.

Well, this is the idea of my hon. friend, after having stated he would accept the Bill as introduced on the recommendation of the Royal Commission, providing that the application should be made by ten farmers residing within a certain radius. But now he comes and says that any person whatever, he need not reside within 100 or 1,000 miles of the place, may demand the erection of a warehouse. What are we to think of him? I do not wish to speak at random, but, it seems to me, evident that the hon. gentleman is riding for a fall. He knew very well that his proposition could never be adopted. But, I dare say, when he goes back to the west he will say to the people: See what I tried to do, and the government would not consent to it.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is exactly the position that I have taken for four years. I am quite right in taking that position. I proposed my amendment, and it was voted down, and I made every effort to get the clause modified, and I succeeded to some extent, with the assistance of the hon. member for Eastern Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas).

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE.** He says he has worked for many years in the same direction, and I hope he will be able to work until, at all events, it is decided whether the people in the North-west will allow themselves to be caught by such tactics. I understand the appeal he is going to make for popularity; he expects to gain public favour, but nothing more. Now, I hope my hon. friend will turn his attention to another part of the report of the

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committee to which he objected so much. He addressed himself particularly to the leader of the opposition. The eighth subsection of section 40 he considered a gross injustice, a gross unfairness. It is this :

No owner or operator of any such warehouse shall be allowed to store in, or ship through, grain purchased by or for himself.

That is exactly the recommendation of the Royal Commission, which my hon. friend does not care to read. You will understand at once, Mr. Speaker, why this wise provision has been adopted. These flat warehouses have to be erected at the request of ten farmers residing within a certain circuit, not to the advantage of the man who erects the warehouse, but for the advantage of the farmers. The man who erects a flat warehouse erects it in order to be only a warehouseman. He is to be nothing more than a warehouseman. He is not to speculate in grain, because if he does, if he buys grain from the farmers, then the results which have been spoken of in the report of the commission will arise. I am going to read from pages 8 and 10 of the report of the commission, from which my hon. friend read :

The evidence has shown that where farmers' elevators have been erected, which do not buy, but only ship and store grain, complaints of the grain shipped out being of a lower grade than that furnished have been very few.

Hon. gentlemen can readily understand that if these men, who are allowed to erect flat warehouses, were going to build them, not for the use of the farmers, but for their own use, the danger to which the Royal Commission pointed in their report would arise. My hon. friend did not forget to mention the conveniences which have been afforded to farmers for the last year or two in being allowed to load directly from their wagons into the railway cars. My hon. friend admitted this, and it shows at once that the railway companies are glad to receive freight in any way it comes. I wish to say further, that every care has been taken, under the recommendations of the Royal Commission, to give every facility to the farmers. Clause 41, which comes immediately after the clause which is the subject of conversation between my hon. friend and myself, reads as follows :

On a written application to the commissioner by ten farmers resident within twenty miles of their nearest shipping point, and on approval of the commissioner, the railway company shall erect a loading platform suitable for the purpose of loading from vehicles direct in the cars.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you will see the way in which this convenience is to be provided. I will read to you what follows in order that you may see that provision has been made to enable the farmers to avail themselves of this privilege :

Provided, however, that the railway company shall not be obliged to erect any such platform outside the limits of the station yard.

Here is a description of the platform :

Such platforms shall be at least ten feet wide, and of such length as is in each case determined by the commissioner, in addition to the approaches at each end, and shall have on the side farthest from the track a guard rail not less than three feet high.

So that, the length is not limited. It may be one hundred or two hundred feet. It is left to the commissioner to determine the length of the platform which the railway company is required to erect. You will, therefore, see that the complaint of my hon. friend and also of the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) have very little ground. I would like to answer the views advanced by the hon. gentlemen who have spoken by quoting subsection e of section 4, which shows exactly what is the purpose of the Bill. The Royal Commission was appointed to hear complaints from the farmers of the North-west Territories on three grounds :

1. That the vendor of grain is at present subjected to unfair and excessive dockage of grain at the time of sale.

The dockage means the proportion of dirt or small wheat that is removed from the grain. The farmers complain that they have to submit to very great loss by unfair dockage.

Mr. DAVIN. The dockage is not what is cleaned out, but what is estimated will be cleaned out.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Exactly, and that is just where the difficulty comes in. The complaint is that the dockage estimated by the elevator men is too great. For instance, the elevator man will say: I will have to take one pound per bushel or two pounds per bushel from your grain to clean it. My hon. friend from Western Assinibola proposed that the sieves should be of a certain proportion, of ten wires to the inch, doubtless to ensure fair dockage.

2. That doubts exist as to the fairness of the weights allowed or used by owners of elevators; and

3. That the owners of elevators enjoy a monopoly in the purchase of grain by refusing to permit of the erection of flat warehouses where standard elevators are situated, and are able to keep the price of grain below its true market value to their own benefit and the disadvantage of others who are specially interested in the grain trade, and of the public generally.

These three were the points that were the subjects of investigation by the Royal Commission, and I will now read, in a few words, the embodiment of the policy of the government which is designed to meet these complaints. It is contained in subsection e of section 4. At the outset the Bill provides for the appointment of a warehouse com-

missioner. In section 4 the duties of the warehouse commissioner are described at full length. These are his duties among others :

To receive and investigate all complaints made in writing, under oath, of undue dockage—

This is the first item of complaint which was the subject of investigation by the Royal Commission.

—improper weights or grading,—

This is the second item of complaint.

—refusal or neglect to furnish cars within a reasonable time.

It has been said that everything is given up to the railways. If we had hesitated to deal with the railway companies we would certainly not have put a clause in like that giving the commissioner power to deal with the refusal or neglect of the railway companies to furnish cars within a reasonable time.

All complaints of fraud or oppression by any person, firm or corporation owning or operating any elevator, warehouse, mill or railroad, and to apply such remedy as is provided by statute.

I say that these provisions alone show exactly what the purpose of the Bill is. This Bill of 55 clauses and of 20 pages is only designed for the purpose of rendering justice to all parties. This is what the Bill has attempted to do, and that is what I hope it will do.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS (East Assinibola). It will be remembered that when this Bill was presented for a second reading I expressed a general approval of it, reserving my right to state my opinion upon certain clauses when it should come up for discussion in Committee of the Whole House. When the various parts of the Bill were discussed, I had ample opportunity to express my views, and I took exception to certain clauses which the Bill contains. While the Bill as a whole is in accord with my judgment, especially as far as the general interests of the trade are concerned, I regret to say that when the Bill comes to deal directly with the producers, I find that the more it is amended—it is like a pool in which men begin to puddle—the more dirty it becomes. I am exceedingly anxious that nothing, however, should be done in connection with clause 40, as it passed committee. There are it is true twenty pages of matter in the Bill dealing with the whole question, but there are only two pages that affect the farmer directly with regard to his presenting grain for sale, and the shipping of his grain for the market. I do not think that I need detain the House with any declaration of my own personal views upon the question. I have always declared there ought be on the part of the producer, perfect freedom in the shipment of grain. I would call attention to the fact that while the Minister of Inland Revenue (Sir

Henri Joly de Lotbinière) has pointed out that this clause giving the farmer the privilege of one flat warehouse is the recommendation of the Royal Grain Commission—and he seems to lay very great stress upon this as being what was really needed to meet the necessities of the case,—yet I point to the fact that the recommendation of the commission as represented in the original Bill was wholly impracticable. It would not require me very long to demonstrate that the Bill as read a second time and before being amended in committee was utterly worthless from the standpoint of those farmers who live at a distance of twenty miles or thirty miles or forty miles from the point of shipment. The time allowed to occupy a bin in a flat warehouse was not sufficient to enable the farmer to deposit the grain and to load a car. The provision in the Bill originally was of no practical benefit, and I showed how it was necessary to extend the time from four days to a full week. For instance, if I should want to load a car of 1,000 bushels, then in view of my distance from the nearest shipping point it would require me six days, driving four teams forty miles a day, in order to accomplish it within the time allowed at first in the Bill, and that is a state of things which any one who knows anything about North-west farming can easily see would be entirely impracticable. Let me emphasize this point. The work of the Royal Commission throughout the country was valuable. It has given us a mass of important evidence. I had an opportunity of being present at the great majority of the meetings; I had the privilege of having certain parties subpoenaed and I had the privilege of cross-questioning them, and I know very well the nature of the evidence that was submitted to the Royal Commission. If there was one thing more than another that marked the whole trend of the evidence it was this: That from one end of the country to the other there ought be perfect freedom of trade in the shipping of grain, and no restrictions.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Hear, hear; that is the idea.

Mr. DOUGLAS. That is the point I wish to emphasize, and I regret that I have to differ from the Minister of Inland Revenue in this: That I do not want any further restrictions to be inserted in this clause 40. The decision of the Royal Commission anent clause 40, I am satisfied, has been largely modified by the influence of the grain trade at Winnipeg. It has the stamp of the grain trade upon it. Every part of it indicates, that they meant that this flat warehouse business should be a failure, and they have surrounded it with so many restrictions as would make it a failure. We have in Committee of the Whole House, introduced certain improvements in clause 40, that will make it somewhat more presentable to the

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people, but why should there be only one flat warehouse? One flat warehouse to a radius of country extending from 10 to 30 miles is only an insult. It would not accommodate the ten parties who might make application for it. My own idea of this clause is that it should be perfectly open. There is too much specification now in clause 40. It ought be left perfectly open so that if people wish to ship their own grain in car lots they should have the privilege to do so. I could specify farmers in my own district who could save \$600 a year if they had the privilege of shipping directly through cars to the commission merchant at Fort William. They would save elevator fees, and escape the dockages under which they have laboured and under which they have complained for many years. If they have business capacity to ship their grain to commission merchants through car lots why should they not have the privilege to do so. I am opposed to any further restrictions being placed on clause 40. Apparently the idea is here that a flat warehouse is a very bad thing if it is under the control of the farmers, but it is all right if it is in the possession of an elevator company or a milling company in Manitoba or the North-west Territories. I would remind the House of the fact, that there are a number of flat warehouses in use and have always been in use by elevator and milling companies, and we hear nothing about them in this parliament. They are harmless; they are useful; they are all right. But when it comes that a flat warehouse is to be used by a farmer or by a small dealer, then it is not a thing that ought to be allowed. It is high time that this idea should disappear. I see certain reasons why the railway company should wish to change clause 40. If I were a member of a railway company I doubtless would want some change in the clause.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 146) to enable the city of Winnipeg to utilize the Assiniboine River water power.—(Mr. Puttee.)

Bill (No. 153) respecting the Western Alberta Railway Company.—(Mr. Casey.)

GRAIN INSPECTION IN MANITOBA.

Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. Speaker, in reference to the proposed amendment, I have endeavoured to point out to the House the importance of meeting the wishes of the people by granting to them unrestricted privileges in regard to shipping grain in car lots, and that in order to do this the flat warehouse is essential. A good deal of stress has been laid upon the fact that

the recommendation of the Royal Commission was inserted in section 40. We endeavoured to show that the judgment of the commission in this case should not be followed, as this clause was largely stamped with the opinions of the grain trade of Winnipeg, and the promoter of the Bill saw fit to make various changes to make it practicable. There has also been considerable made of the idea that there has been a disposition on the part of the railway companies and elevator owners to make concessions with a view to securing such a Bill as would tend to consolidate the trade and remove friction. The House should keep in mind this one fact, that whilst we are not at all desirous of offering any factious opposition to the railway company, for we are proud of the railway that makes the country, at the same time we are not blind to the fact that the people know and can appreciate the privileges and the experiences they have had in past years; and I wish to point out that the company which desires to make this amendment has not expended very much money in meeting the necessities of the country by affording ample facilities for the shipment of grain. They have terminal elevators at Fort William, which ought to command the admiration of any business man. These elevators are up to date and in every way fitted to meet the demands of the trade at that point; but further west, it is my opinion that the railway company has not to-day a single elevator or warehouse to receive the grain. So that when we ask the company to build a siding and platform on which to load grain or to allow the privilege of building more than one flat warehouse at a given shipping point, we are making no great demand on it, and the company ought to be willing to go to some reasonable expense in connection with this trade. I have been informed by the highest officials of the company that they could not afford to allow this dissatisfaction to continue, because the position taken by the western members and the western country generally was calculated to injure the company in the financial markets of the world. I would say to them what Sam Jones once said to some people in his congregation, who were not very orderly. He said: 'If you want to do well, quit your fooling.' All I have to say to the officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who are pressing for this amendment, is, that if they wish the people to be quiet and peaceful, they must consult the people's wishes, and I think that the people's wishes in this respect are not unreasonable. As citizens, they have the right to perfect freedom in shipping grain from any point they wish, provided they are willing to pay the usual charges. I am not offering a factious opposition to the railway company, but I do not think that it is in the interests of the company itself to press this amendment. And it

would be a great deal more to its credit and in its own interests, if this amendment were withdrawn altogether and section 40 left as it stands.

I wish also to point out another fact. If the proprietor of a flat warehouse has to purchase his own site and construct his own siding, why are not the owners of elevators compelled to do the same thing? Why single out the proprietors of flat warehouses?

Further, by subsection eight of section forty, the proprietor of a warehouse is not allowed to buy and ship for himself or any one else. Apparently this is intended to preserve the capacity of the warehouse for the full accommodation of the farmers, but it is also intended to shut out competition; and I would like to know what business man in the country would be willing to construct a warehouse for the revenue to be derived from the fee of one cent a bushel, as a return on the capital invested. If he is not allowed to make use of the building in any other way, he will scarcely venture on the undertaking. This is a further restriction laid on the trade in order to shut off competition. The object of this clause is, no doubt, to shut out all small buyers, and to keep the bulk of the business in the hands of the elevator monopoly.

I have no special argument to offer against the elevator system as such. All I have to say about it is that it is a most expensive system—too expensive, I believe, to be forced on the country in its present history. More than that, the fees, dockages and the drainage that the people have been subjected to in the past, have been such that three years' fees and dockages would have bought out the entire plant as it now stands, and the farmers would then have the elevators free altogether. If the fees and dockages in three years are sufficient to purchase out the entire plant, the elevator system is certainly costing the country too much money; and while we do not oppose the elevator companies in their legitimate business, they have erected too many elevators and cannot make them even now pay. We are assured, on sworn testimony taken at Winnipeg, that these elevators require to be filled up three times during the season in order to make them pay expenses, and it is found difficult to do that. This, however, is no fault of the people, and the people ought not to suffer, should these parties have been foolish in the investment of their capital. The rights of the people should not be curtailed, and the freest possible opportunities at least should be given them to bring their goods to market in their own way, and according to their own inclination. I believe, then, in the interests of all parties—the farmers, the railway companies, and the people generally—that it would be far better if this amendment were dropped, and the Bill adopted as it now stands. I am ready to give my assent

to the Bill as calculated to establish confidence and promote the general interest of the trade, but it has its defects, and these defects, no doubt, will appear in the working of the measure, and future years will bring future changes.

I might say that I have some sympathy for the railway company in its refusal to be absolutely under the dictation of the grain commissioner provided for under this Bill. There ought to be some control in the hands of the railway company with regard to the number of buildings to be constructed on its property or right of way. The company regards this as clothing the commissioner with absolute power and dictation, and putting the railway company absolutely into his hands. That part of the Bill does not appeal to my judgment. I also object to subjecting the interests of the country to the dictation of any one individual, however well he may be chosen by the government. I do not think it is safe to put so much power into the hands of a single grain commissioner. The Royal Commission, and those who drafted this Bill, followed largely the Minnesota Act, and I am surprised that they did not follow that Act more closely, and instead of asking the government to appoint a single grain commissioner, have asked for the appointment of a grain commission as is provided for in the Minnesota Act.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. At page 12 of the commissioner's report, they advise that only one commissioner be appointed.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I am only expressing my surprise that the commission did not follow the example set in the Minnesota Act, and advise the appointment of a commission instead of a commissioner. I should be glad, personally, to see a commission of five individuals, for example, a railway expert—because the railways have interests to be looked after in such work as the commissioner is called upon to perform—a legal man and three grain men. Such a board would be more likely to handle successfully the many questions which should come under the notice of such commission and do better justice to all parties than could be expected from any one individual. And we know how, when a commissioner of this kind is to be appointed, there will be a dozen worn-out politicians who will press their claims for appointment, even though they may not know wheat from barley. With such men looking after the position the interest of the country may not be properly maintained. Now, if the railway company is exceedingly anxious to curtail the demand for flat warehouses, I would like to suggest an amendment that would have that effect. In clause 53, in the third line, instead of leaving it to read as at present 'where cleaning is done, have ample opportunity, if they so desire, of personally ascertaining the net

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weight of the cleaned grain if facilities exist for doing so,' make it read, 'in all elevators have ample opportunity,' and so on. This will provide that all elevators shall have facilities for cleaning grain and this grain shall be cleaned in the presence of the man who offers it for sale. If this were done it would remove the question of dockage wholly from the region of private judgment to the region of actual fact. And I know that the opinion of the commissioners was that there should be an end to all controversy. It is objected to this proposal that it would put the milling companies to a great deal of expense. We have heard the statement made that it would require one milling company to expend something like \$200,000. I took the trouble, this forenoon, to look up the number of elevators possessed by the Ogilvie Milling Company, which is a fair example. They have no cleaning apparatus in their elevators. At present, according to the Grain Exchange Report for the current year, they have forty-five elevators. The cleaning machinery for an elevator, as manufactured and sold by the Stratford Company, which gives us the quotation, can be put on board the cars for something like \$165. That would mean an expenditure for the Ogilvie Milling Company of \$7,425. Then, to accommodate the new machinery, a lean-to would have to be added to the elevator at a cost of perhaps \$50 each; an addition of \$2,250, or a total of \$9,675. Suppose that they were asked to spend \$12,000 in putting in this modern machinery, which is capable of cleaning 1,000 bushels an hour, and the buildings to accommodate it. They have to-day much lumber which has been used in the construction of their platforms which are only a public nuisance to the farmers on account of the heavy grades they present and the difficulty of getting over them. If they took the lumber in the platforms and used it to make a lean-to for each elevator, a good deal of expense would be saved. The farmers could then drive up to the elevator on the level and empty his load into the hopper. The grain would be weighed in sight of the farmer, and he would know his gross weight. It would then be cleaned, and he would know his net weight. He would also have an opportunity of having the cleanings weighed in his presence. And all these figures would appear on the face of his certificate, so that he would return to his home with the conviction that he had received justice, that it was no longer a matter of judgment concerning which there might be difference of opinion between him and the purchaser. It would be an end to all strifes. If such facilities were provided, there would be very little demand for flat warehouses. I do not wish to detain the House longer. If the Bill is allowed to pass without amendment, I believe it will be a general public benefit; but I do not wish to see it added to or mutilated any further.

Mr. DAVIN. May I ask my hon. friend (Mr. Douglas) a question? I understand him to be supporting the contention that I made the other night. Surely, with the opinion he has expressed, he wants further amendments of the Bill.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I would have no objection to seeing clause 53 amended, but I do not want any further additions to clause 40. I would agree to have subsection 8 of clause 40 struck out.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I have listened with a great deal of interest to the statements made in favour of this proposed amendment as well as to those in opposition to it, and I must say I am not prepared to take the ground taken by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), that there is no common interest between the carriers and the producers. I think there is a common interest and that the railway companies are most vitally interested in the development of the country. There are none who are so likely to suffer from any failure on the part of the producers who are creating that country. Let production stop, let any course be taken that obstructs development or hinders the raising of grain in that great north-western country, and those who will suffer most severely are the railway companies, the carriers. I hold, as the right hon. Prime Minister has said in presenting this amendment, that there is a common interest between the producers and the carriers, and that it is desirable that the Bill shall be so framed as to be just in its operation both to the railway company and to the great farming population. I listened with great attention to the statement of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Richardson), that this matter had assumed such importance that a Royal Commission was appointed and went through the country from end to end investigating this question in all its bearings and made a report, which report he eulogized in the strongest terms and said that the House could safely rest upon the judgment of the commissioners. Well, my hon. friend the Minister of Inland Revenue took up that report and founded a Bill upon it, and we find that this Bill has been drawn upon the lines recommended by that Royal Commission, and it appears to me that fact ought to have great weight with the House. The Royal Commission have taken the whole subject into consideration, and it is quite evident to any person who peruses the report of that commission that they have given the most close and careful attention to the necessities and interests of the great farming population.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Will my hon. friend allow me to remark that there were three farmers on that commission, besides a judge, who was chairman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am obliged to my hon. friend for the information. The fact adds immense strength to the report of the commission, because a commission composed of three farmers out of four members is not very likely to fail in making such recommendations as would absolutely be to the advantage of the farming population. Under these circumstances, I feel that the greatest possible weight should be attached to the report. Now, what do they recommend? The hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) declares that the railway company should provide, not one, two, three, six, a dozen flat warehouses at a station, and he might have gone up to one hundred; he might, in fact, block up the whole station and prevent any business being done by occupying the whole space with flat warehouses. That is the very unreasonable proposal, as I think, of the member for Alberta. Having carefully listened to the discussion on both sides, I am bound to say that, in my judgment, this amendment is a reasonable one, and one that, I think, is in the interest of all classes and all parties in that country, and is calculated to secure its development. There is one provision in section 40 that I will allude to. It not only meets the recommendation of the commission, but it goes further and provides:

On a written application to the commissioner by ten farmers residing within forty miles of their nearest shipping point, he may give permission to any person to erect under the provisions of this Act, a flat warehouse, covered with metal, of not less than 3,000 bushels capacity, with power to enlarge the same should necessity require it at such different points.

That not only contains the recommendation of the Royal Commission, but it contains a provision that there may be, under certain circumstances, additional warehouses provided. But there is, I think, a necessary and proper proviso in the amendment that is offered to the House:

In the case of each such additional warehouse, the land upon which the building is to be erected, and the siding or spur required to reach it, shall be provided by or at the expense of the person or persons to whom the building belongs.

There is a provision that additional warehouses may be provided if the accommodation is not found sufficient; but, there is a further provision that the additional warehouses shall not take up the whole of the station grounds, as the hon. member for Alberta proposed to the House, but that at a convenient point the parties may be permitted to erect other warehouses, but the land on which they stand shall be provided by themselves and the railway connection shall be made by themselves. As the hon. gentleman who spoke last took his seat without having attempted to meet the argument of the Minister of Inland Revenue in support of this resolution, I come to the conclusion that it is a fair and just pro-

posal, and I shall feel bound to give it my support.

House divided on motion (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière.)

YEAS :

Messieurs

Angers,	Holmes,
Bazinet,	Hurley,
Beattie,	Hutchison,
Beith,	Ingram,
Bell (Pictou),	Johnston,
Bennett,	Joly de Lotbinière
Bethune,	(Sir Henri),
Blair,	Kloepfer,
Borden (Halifax),	Landerkin,
Bourassa,	Lang,
Britton,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Brown,	Lavergne,
Burnett,	Legris,
Calvert,	Lewis,
Campbell,	Livingston,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	Macdonald (Huron),
Casey,	Macdonald (King's),
Casgrain,	Mackie,
Champagne,	McClure,
Christie,	McGregor,
Clancy,	McGugan,
Cochrane,	McHugh,
Comstock,	McIsaac,
Copp,	McLellan,
Cowan,	McLennan (Inverness),
Craig,	Madore,
Davies (Sir Louis),	Martin,
Dechène,	Meigs,
Demers,	Mignault,
Domville,	Mills,
Erb,	Monk,
Fielding,	Montague,
Fisher,	Moore,
Flint,	Morrison,
Fortier,	Parmalee,
Fortin,	Paterson,
Fraser (Guysborough),	Ratz,
Frost,	Rosamond,
Ganong,	Ross,
Gauvreau,	Snetsinger,
Gillies,	Somerville,
Gilmour,	Stenson,
Godbout,	Tucker,
Graham,	Tupper (sir Charles
Haggart,	Hibbert),
Harwood,	Turcot, and
Henderson,	Wilson.—93.
Heyd,	

NAYS :

Messieurs

Davin,	Puttee,
Douglas,	Richardson,
Guillet,	Roche,
Oliver,	Rutherford, and
Pettet,	Stubbs.—10.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. CALVERT. I beg to call the attention of the House to the fact that the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), has not voted.

Mr. DAVIS. I am paired with the hon. member for Carleton, N.B., (Mr. Hale). If I had not been, I would have voted against the amendment.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair, I beg to move an amendment :

That all the words after 'That'—

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Order.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the point of order ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The motion has been carried.

Mr. SPEAKER. The motion that I do now leave the Chair has been carried.

Mr. DAVIN. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I want to argue the point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. DAVIN. The motion that is carried is the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER. No, let me read the motion, and the hon. gentleman will see at once :

That the order be discharged and that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of inserting the following amendment:—

And so on.

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, that is all right.

Mr. SPEAKER. That involves that I leave the Chair.

House resolved itself into committee on the Bill.

(In the Committee.)

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved that the following words be added to clause 40 :

Except that in the case of each such additional warehouse, the land upon which the building is to be erected and the siding or spur required to reach it shall be provided by or at the expense of the person or persons to whom the building belongs.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Before this amendment is carried, I would like to call the attention of my hon. friends who have opposed it, to the fact that they have, in my estimation, misconceived altogether the object which it intends to serve. We realize very well, and for my part, I think I realize how important it is that the farmers of the North-west should have every facility to carry on their business and to ship their grain in the best manner that they deem to be conducive to their own interest. As to that there can be no two different opinions. We all recognize that they should have full liberty and full privileges. The hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver), said that the farmers of the North-west Territories claimed the right to handle their grain—if I took his words down correctly—absolutely free from any trammel. Whilst it is important to concede, and whilst there is every disposition to concede to the farmers of the North-west Territories every

possible facility to handle their grain in a manner which is conducive to their best interests, free from any trammel, still, I believe the hon. gentleman will agree with me, when I say that there are some principles which, in this House, we cannot forget, and one of these principles is the sacred right of property. We find railway companies there; whether they have been subsidized too heavily or not, is not for me to discuss at this moment. I do not particularize or select the Canadian Pacific Railway for comparison, I do not care whether or not the railway companies have been too heavily subsidized. Whatever has been done in the past we recognize the principle that whatever property is now vested in the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, or any other company, is theirs, and must remain theirs under the law. There is no disposition. I am sure, on the part of the hon. member for Alberta to violate this principle of justice, of fairness, of British liberty, that every man is master in his own castle. That applies to corporations as well as to individuals. The rights which have been vested in railway companies by the power of this parliament are absolutely theirs, just as much as any property that has been bought and paid for. Here, we introduce legislation necessitated by the circumstances under which the transportation question has developed in the North-west. I stated this afternoon, and some objection was taken to my remarks, that there should be no hostility between one interest and another in the North-west Territories, that no one interest can claim to be independent of another. Under our system of civilization, every one is dependent upon his neighbour, every interest is dependent on another interest, and if you were to sever one interest from another, you would have a disruption that would lead to disorganization. My hon. friend remembers that the Plebians of Rome withdrew from the city to Mount Aventum, and they would have nothing more to do with the Patricians. A friend was sent to them, and he repeated to them the famous fable of the stomach. The stomach had to be fed to sustain the body, and everybody had to work for it, and unless the stomach was fed, the whole body would die of inanition. This comparison, trifling as it is, at the time, serves its purpose to-day, and my hon. friend must admit that in this matter, every man must look after, not only his own interest, but to some extent, the interest of his neighbour also. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), very justly remarked a moment ago, that the carriers and producers' interests are linked together. The interests of the producers are the interests of the carriers, and the interests of the carriers are the interests of the producers. And it must be so. While the railway had served its purpose to a large extent, the time has come, under the present development, when

more accommodation is required by the producers. In the same way the elevators which were constructed in the early days of the settlement of the country, had served a very good purpose, and I put it to the fairness of my hon. friend, and to every one coming from the North-west Territories: Where would be the country, to-day, west of Lake Superior, but for the construction of the elevators? They served a legitimate purpose at the time, and the farmers were glad to have them. Now, under the development of the country, it is found that these elevators no longer adequately serve the purposes for which they were intended. New facilities must be given to the farmers to ship their grain. This Bill is intended to provide these facilities. This Bill provides, although there are elevators now at every station, that it shall be in the power of any ten farmers to build a flat warehouse. That is the provision of the Bill as it was introduced, and provision was made that it should be done under very advantageous conditions indeed. What are the conditions? It has been provided that every ten farmers can build a flat warehouse. Such flat warehouse shall be erected on the railway company's premises, whether the railway company are willing or not. They have the right to their own property, but still the law steps in, and says that the railway company shall, for the purposes of the public, be compelled to give a site for this flat warehouse. We evade the right of ownership and of property to the extent of the power that we have, under the law of eminent domain, in this parliament. We compel them to do that, and they submit to it. They submit also to give the location of a siding:

The railway company shall be compelled to give such location, with siding on its premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators.

Mr. DAVIN. What clause is that?

The PRIME MINISTER. Clause 40.

Mr. DAVIN. Is it in the first subsection?

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

Such flat warehouse shall be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company shall be compelled to give such location, with siding on its premises, in some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner, at a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators.

I call the attention of the committee to the last disposition:

At a rental not greater than that charged to standard elevators.

That means to say without compensation, because at the present time the rental paid by the standard elevators to the railway companies is purely nominal, being one dollar a year. The flat warehouse shall be

allowed to come in under the same conditions :

—upon a rental to be paid not greater than that paid by the existing elevators.

Which is to say, free of charge. So that, under the law, whenever a flat warehouse is to be erected, the railway companies are bound to give the land, to furnish the site at a rental purely nominal, or free of charge. The railway companies agreed to this. But a new disposition is introduced. Some hon. members who come from the North-west Territories say that this is not sufficient, but that they want further privileges. They want the privilege for every ten farmers to build one, two, three, four, five, or any number of flat warehouses that may in their estimation, be necessary. They want the privilege to put up as many flat warehouses as they choose. But, the railway companies require their land and their yard space for their own business. The companies require a certain amount of space for carrying on their business. They claim the right to cover all the railway property at a little village with as many flat warehouses as they choose. It may be that the power will not be abused, but there is the power under the law to do this. The companies say: Very good, we agree to this, but if you are thus to take the power to evict us from our property, if you are to take possession of our property, not only to put up one flat warehouse, but two, or as many as you think fit, and if you want to build spurs and sidings, we think it is only fair that we should not be mulcted for the cost of them, we think that the party who wants to have this power should bear the expense necessary to carry out his intention. It is proposed that not only every ten farmers shall have the power under this clause to build a flat warehouse on the land of the company, but it is proposed to compel the company to give them the sidings that they need to do it. I ask any fair-minded man in this House, or out of this House: After you have compelled the company to give you a piece of land for the purpose of erecting a flat warehouse, after you have compelled the company to give you a siding also at the company's expense, is it not right and just that it should be done at the expense of the party for whose benefit it is intended?

My hon. friend (Mr. Richardson) spoke very warmly this afternoon; but if you compel a company to give up its land for your benefit and if you compel them to build a siding for your benefit at their own expense and without compensation, if that is not socialism I do not know what is. After all, socialism is taking the property of other people without their consent and without giving them compensation. If there is a principle which is embedded in British legislation ever since parliaments in Britain have been legislating, it is that every man is master of his own castle, and that you shall not compel a man to give up an inch

of his property, even for public purposes, without adequate compensation. The railway company may have to expropriate a part of a farmer's land, and if this principle were carried out which is now in the Bill, that very farmer might get back a portion of the land without cost for the building of a flat warehouse. It seems to me that it is sufficient to place this fact before parliament to see how unfair and unjust the principle is. I am quite prepared to say that the farmers shall have every facility for shipping their grain and storing it at the stations, and that they shall build one flat warehouse or four flat warehouses or as many as are needed, but in the name of British justice I ask that the party who is evicted from his property shall have compensation for it, and that is the object of the amendment we have before us. I do not know but that the amendment may be susceptible of re-drafting, but what I insist upon at the present time is, the absolute and inherent justice of the principle which is embodied in that amendment.

Mr. DAVIN. After hearing the speech of the right hon. gentleman the committee will be thoroughly convinced that if the amendment is to do anything in the interest of the farmers of the North-west, it will require considerable re-drafting. The right hon. gentleman argued that the property of a railway company is precisely in the same position as the property of a private person, and he used language very important in this connection. He said: How are you going to compel the proprietor of property to do anything with that property that he does not wish to do. In the light of that, interpret this clause and what does it mean? It simply means that while it appears to concede the right to the farmers to get a second elevator at a certain point, yet in fact and in truth, the railway company can say: We will not grant you a second elevator because we will put up a prohibitory price on the land. The right hon. gentleman was very inconsistent because he argued against the absurdity of interfering with the rights of railway property to build a second warehouse, but he has no scruple about interfering with the same rights to build a first warehouse. If the property of a railway company is in the same position as the property of a private citizen, how are you going to interfere with the rights of property for one warehouse, and to say that you cannot touch the rights of property for a second warehouse. I do not see what principle there is in that. The real truth is—if my right hon. friend permits me to say so—the real truth is, that he entirely misapprehends the character of the property held by a railway, in England or in Canada. The way railway property is held in England is different from the way it is held here, and his broad proposition in regard to rail-

way property would not be as true if applied to England. But, although railway property may be construed as of that extreme sort as the right hon. gentleman has described it; nevertheless it is a fact that under statute, and always in this parliament, we are in a position every day to interfere with that railway in the management of its property. You cannot give to a railway the right to build a line without divesting yourself of part of the sovereignty of the country. And in the case of a large railway over a vast extent of land you cannot part with that sovereignty in the same way as you part with a field, but you must part with it under conditions defined by statute, and these conditions are most vital to the community. We constantly see that railway companies in every country are fighting against the conditions laid down by parliament in the interests of the community. The right hon. gentleman made this syllogism. He said: The railway company might expropriate from a farmer a piece of land and you would compel that railway company to give that land back to the farmer. The very word 'expropriate' explains the matter. The railway company is able to get land because it is armed with powers to force that hypothetical farmer to sell that land whether he likes it or not, and to sell it at a fair valuation. Therefore, you cannot for one moment say that a railway company obtaining property in that way and originally getting a vast tract of land to run its line over, excluding every one else, is in the same position as a private person. The right hon. gentleman, as did his colleague the Minister of Inland Revenue, raised a bugaboo by stating that a village of these warehouses might be erected. You cannot erect one without having ten farmers within a radius of forty miles, and these ten would represent a large number of farmers who would use that warehouse. To get another warehouse you have to secure ten more farmers, with the number they would represent. Why, after you have your second warehouse you would have to bring your farmers from a distance that would certainly be within the radius of some other shipping point. Therefore, this bugaboo about a village of warehouses belongs to the region of the visionary and impracticable. The important point about the clause is, that really what it means is,—and you might as well put it in plain words—that no second warehouse shall be erected at any shipping point except on conditions to which as the railway wishes to agree. I will not say that that could not be argued, from the standpoint of certain gentlemen, to be a fairly reasonable arrangement, but it is not the arrangement that commends itself to the North-west Territories, and it is not the arrangement that will give the leverage which is desired. Now, I do not believe, if you make this elevator Bill what it should be, that within two years or

within one year you will have within the length and breadth of Manitoba and the Territories, a single flat warehouse, and I will tell you why. If you make this Bill what it should be, you will provide for what Mr. Whyte, the manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway, said was so important, that is, that at the point of shipment the elevators must clean the grain, and why? Because, if it is not cleaned at the point of shipment, as Mr. Whyte saw, you make the farmer pay, not merely for the dockage, but also the freight on the dirt to Fort William. I ask the attention of the right hon. gentleman to this, because with the speech we have just listened to, we are bound to accept his description of his own standpoint, that his desire is to do the best he can for the farmers of the North-west Territories. Let me read what Mr. Whyte said before the commission:

This morning I gave you my reasons for the establishment of elevators. I am not saying now that the allowing of grain to be loaded from farmers' vehicles is the proper method of shipping grain, although it was free to every one this year to do so, and I have also given evidence that instructions were issued to our agents that preference was to be given in the supply of cars to farmers who wished to load direct from their own vehicles. Last year there were 804 cars shipped in this way, or slightly over 5 per cent of the total crop shipped. While we granted that privilege, I am not an advocate of increasing what I may term an improper way of handling the crop. I also mentioned this morning one of the reasons why the railway company went into the arrangement with the elevators was that the wheat might be cleaned.

In passing, let me point out that this statement of Mr. Whyte furnishes another argument against the position taken by the right hon. gentleman and against this clause. Notwithstanding that the railway company had arrangements with the elevator companies, embodied in deeds and documents, solemnly signed and sealed, binding itself to take the grain only through them, why was it the railway company took wheat from the farmers direct? For this reason, that no doubt the lawyers of the Canadian Pacific Railway advised Mr. Whyte that no such deeds and documents could take away from the farmer his common law right of going to a common carrier and saying to him, you must take my grain. So that, the right hon. gentleman will see that the weight of the argument is very much against him. This is what Mr. Whyte further says:

The railway company believe that it is in the interest of the farmer to have his wheat put on the market in as good shape as possible. They have no wish to make money out of hauling seeds and dirt from the point of shipment to Fort William.

If the railway company has no wish to do so, a fortiori the North-west farmer has no wish to pay for hauling dirt from the point of shipment to Fort William. I thought, the other night, in the early part of the discussion, that my hon. friend the Min-

ister of Inland Revenue was going to accept my amendment; but, afterwards, when we went into committee, I saw that I had misunderstood him, for he then argued that it would be a great hardship to the elevator companies to compel them to put cleaners in their elevators. I said then that I had consulted with a scientific person, who had told me that the cost of these cleaners would be trifling; but since then I have had a friend go to those who supply such cleaners and to those who buy them, and I have found that the cost is from \$150 to \$165. The hon. gentleman who spoke on the other side seems to have got some one to make similar inquiries for him, and he entirely confirms what I stated. Mr. Whyte goes on:

Q. There are two of the companies that do not pretend to clean the wheat at all?—A. Yes, but they don't haul it as far.

Mr. Whyte is a large-minded man, and is on the spot, and he knows, speaking broadly, that the interest of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the interest of the farmer are one. But, I must say I thought the right hon. gentleman was indulging in a fallacy that must surely have been patent to himself, when he declared, as he seemed to do, that in all cases the interest of the railway, the interest of the elevator company and the interest of the farmer are one. That cannot be, because the farmer on a certain occasion is a seller and the elevator man a buyer, while on another occasion the Canadian Pacific Railway is a seller and the farmer a buyer; the Canadian Pacific Railway sells freight, and the farmer buys it. Under these circumstances I defy you to say that their interests are the same. The interests of buyers and sellers are supposed to be antagonistic, as the buyer wants to get as much as he can for his money and the seller wants to get as much money as he can for what he sells. Of course, in a large sense, the interests of a great corporation like the Canadian Pacific Railway and the interests of every man in the North-west Territories are bound up together, and I will say here, what I have frequently said before, that no corporation has ever been endowed with such powers as the Canadian Pacific Railway have been and used those enormous powers with such moderation. Mr. Whyte said:

We have a greater interest than making money out of hauling dirt. We want to see the farmers making money and contented.

Why, because the more money the farmer has the more he will travel and the more he will buy, and the more freight for which he will pay. The right hon. the First Minister's argument was in itself a fallacy, namely, that the moment a farmer goes to buy a ticket, it is in the interest of the Canadian Pacific Railway to get as much for that ticket as they can.

Mr. DAVIN.

Q. The cleaning of the wheat at the receiving point, I think, is a detriment in connection with the question of noxious weeds, because it is almost impossible to get rid of the weed seeds at these places, and it is scattered around, we find, in different districts, and blows all over the country?

Mr. Whyte.—Can't they take them back to the engine and burn them? We don't allow them to blow them out on our station grounds. It is only a little expense and trouble to convey these noxious weeds back and put them into the boiler and consume them. So that disposes of that objection.

You see what a powerful argument Mr. White is making:

Q. The objection raised is that they do not make a good fuel. Then, wheat—there is a grievance in connection with that, that the farmers lose that. They think when they pay for the cleaning of the wheat that they should get it back again, and this difficulty is raised with reference to the cleaning at the receiving elevators?

Mr. Whyte.—We have used them at Fort William and find that we can't get as good a head of steam from them as from coal, but ordinarily get all the steam we want from these foreign seeds mixed with a little coal.

I have exposed, I think, the character of this amendment. It is an amendment quite useless to the Canadian Pacific Railway because it is not needed. Let the committee know what they are voting for. It is not a concession in any way to the farmers, but the bald and plain truth is that the Canadian Pacific Railway or any other railway can, under this kind of legislation, charge what rental they like and thus prohibit the building of a second warehouse if they like.

Mr. HAGGART. A good deal of misapprehension with reference to this Bill is due, in my opinion, to the explanation of the right hon. gentleman in introducing the amendment before the committee. I thought that the amendment was intended to apply to the whole Bill, but I find it does not apply to the whole Bill, but only to all subsequent elevators, after the first one has been constructed.

As to the power of this parliament to so legislate, there can be no doubt whatever. We have the right to legislate in any direction we choose and make any conditions we like. As to the right of property that the railway has in the land, it has the right of fee simple under our statute. In this respect its right is different from what it would be in England. In England, the land expropriated by a railway company reverts to the party from whom it was expropriated unless it is used for railway purposes, but in this country the case is entirely different.

But while we have this wide power to legislate, our legislation should always be reasonable. While we have the power to make the railway companies build sidings, without remuneration in any manner whatever, we ought always to exercise that

power in a manner consistent with the rights of the company and with justice, as we would do in the case of an individual. Have we done so in this case? What more is it that is required by the people? They have standard elevators and the right to load on flat cars, and now the right to build flat warehouses. The proposed legislation gives the public the right to erect a flat warehouse on the company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company is obliged to furnish such location at a nominal rental. Surely that should be sufficient. You will not surely require that the company, besides doing this for the one elevator, shall have to do it for any number of elevators. This kind of legislation is new to the people in this section of the Dominion and is going a long way—this legislation requiring railway companies to have at their terminals, standard elevators and cleaning apparatus and all that sort of thing.

Mr. DAVIN. The Canadian Pacific Railway insisted that all the elevators erected on their line should have cleaners in them.

Mr. HAGGART. Certainly, that is in the interests of the railway company and is also a benefit to the farmers. But why should we have legislation compelling a railway company to put in cleaners. I never heard of such legislation before. Why not go further and compel them not only to clean the grain but to brush it and provide a market for it and grind it into flour? All these things should be left to the individual enterprise of the people. When it is to the advantage of the warehouseman or the railway company to do any of these things, they will do it without the need of this parental legislation.

I rose to say that the legislation is perfectly within our rights, but we ought not to exercise that right without the strongest reason. If it be necessary to expropriate property that belongs to a railway company and compel a railway company to build sidings on that property without their having anything to say in the matter at all, we should do it to the least possible extent required.

All possible requirements are provided. You have a standard elevator, you have the right to load on flat cars, now you have a flat elevator, and you want further legislation. You want, if the commissioner requires it, to compel the company to have not only this one flat elevator at a station, but ten or fifteen or twenty more.

Mr. OLIVER. I am glad to hear the cause of sweet justice championed so strongly in this House, but justice is not a one-sided affair. And, for my part, while we are considering what is justice in this matter, I would like to clear myself, if possible, from the position of asking anything that is not justice, in other words, of being a party to any socialistic proposition or any proposition to confiscate private property.

Let us get this matter down to a focus. What is the right of ownership of a railway company in its right of way? Is that right of way handed over to the railway company to do with it as it pleases?

Mr. HAGGART. They have it in fee simple under our statute.

Mr. OLIVER. Never mind about the statute. Was that right of way granted to the railway company or allowed to be acquired by the railway company to do as it pleases with it as private property? If John Smith owns a farm here, and James Brown there wants to own it, James Brown must come to John Smith and pay John Smith his price for it. But if James Brown is a railroad company and wants part of John Smith's land, he can get it under an Act of expropriation at a valuation. Why is the railroad company given that privilege? Is it, as I say, to do as it pleases with the land? No. James Brown can do as he pleases with it, because he has paid John Smith's price for it; but when the railway company is allowed the right of expropriation, it is with the understanding that it will use that land for a certain purpose in the public service, and for the public benefit. I do not care what any statute says or what the law generally says, that is the fact and there is no getting away from it. Now, the railroad owns the right of way for the same purpose as it owns its railroad; and it does not own its railroad independent of the right of legislation by this parliament without the imputation of confiscation being raised against us. This parliament has inherently, it has by understanding, and it has by legislation, the right to regulate the rates for handling the traffic over the railroad. There is no question of confiscation in that. We have an absolute right to do this in the public interest; it is part of the public business. Then, if we have such right in regard to the actual rails and road-bed, how is it that the right of way shall be in any different position? Shall the right of way be regarded as purely private property, so that the railway company might build a wall to prevent us getting at the railroad, prevent us exercising our rights in relation to that railroad?

Mr. HAGGART. This parliament has an absolute right of disposition, the right to confiscate not only the railway property but any other.

Mr. OLIVER. But I deny the 'confiscation,' and I decline to be put in that position. There is no confiscation on the part of this parliament when we regulate the traffic on the railroad. Then, there is no confiscation on the part of this parliament in regulating the use to which the right of way shall be put. The railroad is allowed to own the right of way for the purpose of carrying on the work of that railroad. All we demand here is that the right of way

shall be used for the purpose for which it is allowed to be acquired by the company—to facilitate the trade of the country. That is all we demand in demanding the right to erect flat warehouses on the company's right of way. We deny that we are confiscating the company's property; we claim we are simply compelling the company to carry out the purpose for which it was given a corporate existence, and for which it was allowed to acquire this right of way. It will be admitted that the providing of facilities for the trade of the country is the first consideration, and that that dominates the private right or the corporate right of the railroad. And, if we prove that the trade of the country demands and requires that the right of way of the company shall be used in that way, we have established our case, and there is no confiscation in the matter. Now, the evidence before the grain commission, established the fact that the grain trade of the country was hampered and hindered, that unreasonable tolls were taken from the farmers of the country by reason of the elevator system and the monopoly that was connected with it. That being established, the right to compel the company to allow the erection on its right of way of such warehouses as are necessary to carry on the grain trade of the country is established. And, so far from this parliament trespassing on the right of the company by demanding that they should use their right of way in that manner, it is the railroad company that has trespassed upon the rights of the country in preventing the right of way being used for the purposes of the traffic of the country.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am not ready to accept the doctrine laid down by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver). He resents the imputation, which even after listening to him I cannot avoid thinking is justified, that this legislation is of the nature of confiscation. He makes a comparison between the control of tolls charged by the company and the right to interfere with the right of way. There is quite a difference, and I am surprised that my hon. friend does not see it. We control the tolls and have a right to interfere with the company in this respect without compensation. And why? Because parliament, when it gave the charter, reserved that right to itself. The power of the company has been limited to that extent. Unless we had reserved that power, we should have no right to interfere between the carrier and the public or individual. When we exercise this right that we have observed, we take no right whatever from the railway company. But I ask my hon. friend: Has parliament reserved any such power in regard to the user of the right of way? Has it reserved the right to say to the company: You shall use your right of way only in such and such a manner? My hon. friend will look in vain for such power in the Railway

Mr. OLIVER.

Act or any other statute. Corporations are creations of legislation. They have to use their power in a certain way for a certain object. So far as the object is concerned, they are as much the owners in fee simple of their property as an individual is. It is true, we have the power to confiscate. This parliament can confiscate the land of my hon. friend at Edmonton and can even make it over to another party. That would be law. But, though we have the power to confiscate that property, it would not be just for us to do so. Though this right of eminent domain exists in this parliament, it is a recognized rule that when we interfere with private property, whether in the case of a railway company or a private individual, it shall only be on two conditions: First, it must be for the public service, and second, it must be on compensation. Failing these, we may have the power, but we have not the right, to take the property of any man. In this case, the railway company say: We want to serve the public; you want part of my land to store grain; here it is, but give us compensation for it. Is there any injustice in that? Does that not appeal to the sense of rectitude in every man? The company is quite willing to do this upon payment of compensation. My hon. friend from Assiniboia argued a moment ago in this way: Why, he says, there is no logic in the argument of the hon. gentleman, because the Bill provides that flat warehouses should be established at the expense of the company and without compensation to the company. Very true, but what is the reason for that? If the company agrees to give to the public one flat warehouse without compensation, there is no injustice; but the company says: Though we agree to give you one flat warehouse without any compensation, we do not choose to give you three or four or any other number. But my hon. friend made a point which seems to be reasonable. He says that in the nature of things there can be but a very limited number of such warehouses required. Let us suppose there will not be more than two or three, and that these will follow the ordinary rule of compensation. You can compel the company to give you the land, and to give you the siding; and I merely ask these hon. gentlemen from the North-west to take it for granted that the farmers will be willing to treat others as they want others to treat them, to take it for granted that the farmers do not wish to compel the company to give up their property without compensation. As I said a moment ago, I think the amendment, which embodies a fair, just and equitable principle, is still susceptible of improvement and elucidation. For my part, I do not wish that it should be left in the power of the company to charge an exorbitant compensation; therefore, I shall move this as an amendment to the amendment:

Except that in the case of each additional warehouse the applicants desiring the erection of the same shall be liable to pay a rental equivalent to 6 per cent interest upon the value of the lands taken, such value to be determined upon and fixed by the commission; and shall also be liable to pay the cost of constructing the necessary siding, the company providing the necessary rails and fastenings, and charging the applicants either the actual cost thereof, or an annual rental of 6 per cent upon such actual cost, at the option of the applicants.

It seems to me that is an absolutely fair proposition. It simply provides that for the land which is taken from the company the applicant shall pay 6 per cent rental on the value, the value to be determined by the commissioner, and the same way with the cost of the siding. Now, I ask any hon. gentleman from the North-west if he can fairly object to that. If that be not absolutely fair, I despair of making a fairer proposition.

Mr. OLIVER. There is one point which is not within the knowledge of the Prime Minister, I presume. There already exists a sufficient number of sidings and spurs at all or most of the stations in the North-west Territories and Manitoba to accommodate all the elevators and warehouses that will ever be asked for at these places. But although there are already plenty of sidings, this amendment compels a party desiring to build a second warehouse to build the spur or siding at the order of the company. If another siding or spur were necessary, then I would be willing to agree that there is an element of fairness in the proposition of the Prime Minister. But the fact is that another spur or siding is not necessary, because they already exist in sufficient number. To give the company the right to compel the construction of a further spur or siding, is simply to prevent the construction of extra warehouses, and to keep the grain trade of the country in the hands of the present monopoly.

The PRIME MINISTER. I beg my hon. friend's pardon, he is altogether in error. There is nothing in this amendment making the building of a siding or spur compulsory. That is to be left to the judgment of the commissioner. Look at the clause as it reads now :

Such flat warehouse shall be erected on the railway company's premises after getting location of a siding, and the railway company shall be compelled to give such location with siding on its premises, and some place of convenient access, to be approved of by the commissioner.

I do not say that any siding is to be built, that is to be left to the judgment of the commissioner. If the commissioner says the present siding is sufficient, that will be the last of it. Then you will have to provide for the land. That is the way I read the Bill, at all events. My hon. friend asks that whenever a new flat warehouse is built

there must be a new siding. Is that his contention ?

Mr. OLIVER. My contention is that under that Bill the railway company can demand the construction of another siding.

The PRIME MINISTER. But it is within the judgment of the commissioner to grant it or not.

Mr. OLIVER. The circumstances are such that necessarily the word of the company must go, they are the parties who are to say whether they have sufficient room or not. The commissioner cannot in reason say that there is room if the company says that there is not. Then the company has the right to compel the construction of the extra siding.

Amendment (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) agreed to.

Bill reported.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the third reading of the Bill

Mr. DAVIN moved :

That the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of inserting the following amendment to section 5:

And shall see that at each point where an elevator or warehouse is established throughout Manitoba and the North-west, bulletins shall be posted up each day from September 1 to January 1, showing the prices ruling at Winnipeg and Fort William at ten o'clock a.m. of each day.

And at end of subsection 1 of section 52 the following words:

And every elevator shall clean the grain before it is weighed, and shall have appliances by which the wheat shall be cleaned, and the cleaned wheat and the cleanings shown, and the seller shall have an opportunity of personally ascertaining the weight of the cleaned grain and of the cleanings. The proprietors of any elevator failing to provide machinery for thus cleaning and weighing grain shall be guilty of an offence under the Act.

We are now removed from the railway and we are dealing with the elevator. I have shown the importance that Mr. Whyte, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, attaches to the cleaning of grain. At all events, I think the second amendment may be accepted by the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue. Therefore, I beg to move, seconded by the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Roche)—

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Has the hon. gentleman made his motion ?

Mr. DAVIN. I think it would be better to vote on each motion separately.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. Therefore, I beg to move that the following words be added to section 5 :

And shall see that at each point where an elevator or warehouse is established throughout Manitoba and the North-west, bulletins shall be posted up each day from September 1 to January 1, showing the prices ruling at Winnipeg and Fort William at ten o'clock a.m. of each day.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We discussed this question at some length the other day. My hon. friend says, referring to section 5 of the Bill: If the mover of the Bill wants to be logical, the consequence of section 5 is that he will adopt my amendment. But, there is a wide difference between the two. Nearly all of this Bill has been based on the Minnesota legislation. They have preceded us a good many years in the production of wheat, and they send an enormous quantity away compared with what we send from the North-west Territories. Naturally, the Royal Commission inquired into how they were conducting the business in Minnesota, and they followed the system there to a considerable extent. Section 5 is as follows:

The commissioner shall keep on file for public inspection in his office in Winnipeg, publications showing the market price of grain in the markets of Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto, Montreal, New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Duluth.

It will be his business to keep all these different publications connected with the grain trade at his office, so that the public may become acquainted with the different movements of the trade. My hon. friend proposes to add the following clause:

And shall see that at each point where an elevator or warehouse is established throughout Manitoba and the North-west—

I am not ready to say how many stations there are in the North-west Territories. We know that there are many of them, and there are several elevators at each station.

—bulletins shall be posted up each day—

Each day.

—from September 1 to January 1, showing the prices ruling at Winnipeg and Fort William at ten o'clock a.m. of each day.

What is the purpose of these bulletins? It is to enable the farmers to follow the motions of the grain trade and find out the prices at which they should sell their grain. Naturally, these bulletins must be issued under the responsibility of the government; otherwise, they would be of no use whatever. It will entail considerable expense to issue these bulletins, telegraph them over the country and post them up at each shipping point, but what is worse than the cost is the responsibility put upon the government of issuing these bulletins upon which the farmers and buyers will base their transactions. It would be perfectly useless to issue these bulletins if somebody is not responsible for their correctness. I think it would be wrong to assume such a

Mr. DAVIN.

responsibility on the part of the government. I will tell the hon. gentleman the conclusion that they have come to in Minnesota. There it is not at all the issuing of the bulletins every day under the responsibility of the authorities. My hon. friend goes further than the Minnesota law when he wants us to publish a government bulletin every day because the Minnesota law only asks for a bulletin once a week, and then the farmers have to pay for it. For my own part, I would not care to assume the responsibility of doing that, and I shall oppose the amendment.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negatived on a division.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The question is now on the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. DAVIN. I beg to move—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman has not the right to move again without the unanimous consent of the House.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. It was agreed that the amendments should be taken up one after the other.

Mr. DAVIN. I beg to move:

That all the words after 'That' in the main motion be left out, and the following substituted therefor:

And every elevator shall clean the grain before it is weighed, and shall have appliances by which the wheat shall be cleaned, and the cleaned wheat and the cleanings shown, and the seller shall have an opportunity of personally ascertaining the weight of the cleaned grain and of the cleanings. The proprietors of any elevator failing to provide machinery for thus cleaning and weighing grain shall be guilty of an offence under the Act.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Does my hon. friend (Mr. Davin) wish to give any more explanation?

Mr. DAVIN. I think I have given sufficient explanation. One of the hon. gentlemen opposite made a very strong argument in favour of this clause this afternoon.

Mr. CAMPBELL. At what does the hon. gentleman estimate the cost of this cleaning arrangement?

Mr. DAVIN. One of the colleagues of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) showed that the cost of putting in one of those cleaners would not be more than from \$150 to \$165.

Mr. CAMPBELL. It would clean, how much?

Mr. DOUGLAS. One thousand bushels an hour.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I have some experience, and I venture to say that you cannot get one in for \$1,000.

Mr. DOUGLAS. I will read to the House a letter which I received from the Stratford Milling Company.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman had better hand me over the letter to read, because if he reads it, and I give way, then I cannot speak again.

The PRIME MINISTER. Nobody would believe that.

Mr. DAVIN. Here is the letter :

Stratford, Ont., May 26, 1900.

Hon. Senator Perley.

Dear Sir,—In response to your esteemed inquiry of May 23, beg to say that we can furnish you a receiving separator, with capacity of about 1,000 bushels per hour, for the sum of \$165 f.o.b. here. You do not state in your letter the capacity of the machine you require. If it is for a handling elevator where you simply take grain in and ship it out again, you might require a larger machine; but if for a storage elevator, this size would be plenty big enough.

We shall be glad to receive your order, and to give you such further information as you may require. Thanking you for the inquiry,

Yours very truly,

THE STRATFORD MILLING CO.

(W. Preston, Prop. and Mgr.)

Even suppose it should cost \$1,000, as my hon. friend (Mr. Campbell) says, what signifies \$1,000 face to face with the vast interest of doing efficient justice to the mass of the farmers of a great country like the North-west.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How many elevators are there in the North-west ?

Mr. DAVIN. Four hundred and forty-seven, but all of those on the Canadian Pacific Railway have cleaners.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How many without cleaners ?

Mr. DAVIN. I think some three-fourths of them have cleaners in.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Oh, no.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. All the elevators on the Canadian Pacific Railway include both the Lake of the Woods and the Ogilvie elevators, none of which have cleaners. The Standard elevators have cleaners.

Mr. DAVIN. Here is the Ogilvie Milling Company, a millionaire company, immensely wealthy, and all of that wealth made out of the North-west, and is it unreasonable to ask them to put cleaners in their elevators ? It would be disgraceful to this parliament if we allowed this Bill to pass without providing that the elevators shall be of the efficient character that the Canadian Pacific Railway, in its wisdom, in its interest in its business, and in its interest in the farmers, insisted should be found in elevators erected upon their line. Let us say that half of the elevators have cleaners.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If my hon. friend brings a case before the

House he ought have figures. It is no use making guess-work.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, Sir, even if not a single one of the 447 have cleaners, this House would be justified in demanding that they ought have them. When my hon. friend (Mr. Campbell) spoke of \$1,000, I think he spoke in the large language of the earlier gods, which he is inclined to use in argument.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I was well within the mark.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, suppose it cost \$1,000. Then, in view of the fact that you are giving these elevators such an opportunity of making money, is it too much to ask them to make their elevators so efficient that they will clean the grain of the farmer and save him the extravagant dockage and the freight on dirt to Fort William, a thing which Mr. Whyte has said is so important in the interests of the farmers ? I hope this clause will be adopted.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend was much more reasonable the other day, because he then proposed that his motion should apply only to elevators to be built in the future. There are at present 447 elevators, and the Bill provides means which will be as fair as possible for discovering the amount of dockage to be made. But my hon. friend, by the section he proposes, wants to compel every elevator at once to provide cleaning machinery. An hon. gentleman who has experience of cleaning machinery says this would cost at least \$1,000 for each elevator. What my hon. friend proposed the other day was much fairer.

Mr. DAVIN. Will you accept that ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. That it shall only apply to elevators to be built in future ? I think I can take upon myself to accept that, provided that it is made clear that it will not apply to any existing elevators.

Mr. DAVIN. Well, we will compromise on that, for half a loaf is better than no bread.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Will my hon. friend alter his amendment in that way ?

Mr. CAMPBELL. If the hon. minister will allow me, I think that after the thorough discussion this Bill has had in the committee and in the House, it would be very foolish now to make any amendments in it without due consideration. It seems to me far better to let the Bill go through as it is, and if after a year's operation there are found to be any defects in it, they can be remedied; but to pick it to pieces at the last moment and to make amendments that have not been duly considered would, I think, be a great mistake. So far as these clean-

ers are concerned, I do not think they could be put into the elevators in the North-west for less than \$1,000 on the average, if it could be done for that. I have had a good deal of experience in these matters, and every one who knows anything about machinery knows how necessary it is to have it new, and to have proper shafting, and this is all very expensive. I hope the minister will not consent to any other amendment now.

Mr. DAVIN. But the hon. minister has accepted it.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. My hon. friend must not take advantage of the willingness with which I met him without giving any serious attention to his proposal; but the moment I hear a gentleman of such experience in such matters as my hon. friend (Mr. Campbell) who has just spoken. I certainly think I acted too promptly, and I will withdraw my consent.

Amendment (Mr. Davin) negatived.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I want to propose the amendment of which I gave notice some time ago. I do not intend to make any remarks on it as I discussed it very fully this afternoon. I might merely say that I still hold the view that under the Bill the farmers will not be accorded the utmost freedom in shipping and storing their grain. For that reason, I beg to propose the following in substitution of clause 40 of the Bill:

The commissioners shall give permission to any person who demands it in writing, the privilege of erecting, maintaining and using, free of charge, on some portion of the company's right of way adjoining the main track, siding or spur at each such siding or station, an elevator or warehouse for the purpose of storing and shipping grain in car lots, but the said elevator or warehouse shall not be used for any other purpose.

I may say that this is the main clause of the Bill which has been proposed the last two sessions by my hon. friend from East Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas). It is a clause to the framing of which he gave the greatest care, and I believe that if it is adopted as a substitute for clause 40, it will remove the occasion for agitation amongst the farmers of the North-west.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, in support of the motion, that I consider this clause 40 to be the important section of the Bill; and as it stands, I for one as a western member cannot give my sanction to its going through the House without expressing my views on it. Ever since this question has come before parliament, it has come on the one ground of a demand by the people of the North-west to be allowed to market their grain as they please and as is most convenient to them. The subject was brought before the House

Mr. CAMPBELL.

three sessions ago by the member for East Assiniboia, and by one means or another his efforts were defeated. It was brought before the House last session by the same hon. gentleman, and again his efforts were defeated. It appears before this House this session; and if this Bill is carried, again those efforts will be defeated. The most important demand made by the people of the west, through their representatives, during these three years, is absolutely and in so many words refused by the last subsection of clause 40 of this Bill. I want to say on behalf of the people I represent, that the main demand which they have made upon this parliament from year to year is absolutely and point blank refused by subsection 8 of section 40. That is, the right of any man to buy grain from a farmer and ship it over the railway, as it may be convenient to him, or as the railway may allow. In the report of the commission on the first page, this complaint is set forth:

That the owners of elevators enjoy a monopoly in the purchase of grain by refusing to permit the erection of flat warehouses where standard elevators are situated, and are able to keep the price of grain below its true market value, to their own benefit and the disadvantage of others who are specially interested in the grain trade, and of the public generally.

There is rather a misrepresentation there, because it is not the elevators but the railway companies which refuse to permit the use of their right of way for the erection of flat warehouses where standard elevators are situated.

I am bound to say that the evidence submitted from one end of the country to the other bore out to the last degree the assertion contained in the clause I have just quoted. Is that a matter of importance or is it not? If it has been possible for grain buyers to depress the price of wheat throughout Manitoba and the North-west to an average extent of two cents a bushel, it is easy to estimate the loss. The output of Manitoba and the North-west was 26,000,000 bushels during the past year, and the loss to the people by this depression of two cents in the price amounts to over half a million dollars.

On page 8 of the report of the commission we find the commissioners declaring:

We find that the grievances complained of have arisen largely from the protection afforded by the railway company to elevator owners to induce them to build elevators, which resulted in placing the shipping of grain at elevator points in the hands solely of the elevator owners.

That is to say, for the depression in prices the commission lay the principal part of the blame on the monopoly given the elevator owners, and the prohibition against the free buying and selling of grain by men of small capital at points throughout the country. On page 11 of the same report, the commissioners point out:

We consider that proper relief from the possibility of being compelled to sell under value and of being unduly docked for cleaning, is only to be had by giving the fullest obtainable freedom in the way of shipping and selling grain.

There can be no question as to what has been the trouble in the North-west, and there is no question as to the definiteness of the report of the commission on the subject. The commission report that the great need is perfect freedom to buy and sell grain—a free market for grain—and yet in response to the report, we are enacting a measure, which, in one of its clauses, provides :

No owner or operator of any such warehouse shall be allowed to store in or ship through grain purchased by or for himself.

How the House can agree to pass such a provision as this, in the face of the report of the commission and of the evidence placed before the House from time to time by the members from the North-west, I cannot understand, and I cannot understand how they can expect that such legislation will result in benefit to the country either west or east.

The interest of the eastern producer is a dominant interest ; those of the trader and the carrier are subsidiary interests. They succeed or fail just as the producer succeeds or fails. They are not independent but dependent interests. They do not exist except by the success of the producer, and every man throughout the Dominion is interested directly and indirectly in the success and prosperity of the producers of the North-west. If the western producer does not receive that fair value for his produce to which he is entitled, there is a loss of trade to the country generally, and there is a discouragement to further production. The best encouragement that can be given to production in the west is to give the farmers the best possible return for their labour, and when you say to the men who produce 26,000,000 bushels of wheat in a year : You shall not have the right to buy and sell that wheat in the way that will give you the best return, you are applying a brake to their enterprise. When you legislate in so many words to say that wheat shall be handled by a monopoly which your own commission had reported had unduly depressed the price of wheat, which, in all probability, has meant the loss of half a million dollars to the people of the West in one year, you do not legislate in the interest of the people of the North-west, or the people of the country.

The PRIME MINISTER. Though I have done so two or three times already, I will address myself once more to the sense of fairness and judgment of my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver). The condition which has existed up to the present time is one that must be remedied. We all agree upon that. The question is whether the remedy provided by this Bill is sufficient or not. I

think it is sufficient, and I think I shall be sustained by the House on that point. My hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) says it is not sufficient. Now, what are the points and what are the arguments ? He bases his report altogether on the report of the commissioners. I understand that he says that the report of the commissioners shows that the monopoly that exists up to this time has depressed the market, and that the direct loss to the farmers has been, at least, two cents a bushel. We have only to look at the first page to see this. It says :

3. That the owners of elevators enjoy a monopoly in the purchase of grain by refusing to permit of the erection of flat warehouses where standard elevators are situated, and are able to keep the price of grain below its true market value to their own benefit and the disadvantage of others who are specially interested in the grain trade, and of the public generally.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. That is one of the complaints.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is, at all events, one of the complaints investigated by the commissioners ; and they found that there was a system of monopoly which had to be put an end to. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) says : Why do not you follow the commission ? I was surprised that he should use this argument, when we have done what was recommended by the commission and more. How is it that he will take the report of the commission declaring that there is a monopoly to be broken, and when we accept that report and follow the very method indicated by the commission to break that monopoly, he tells us that it is not sufficient ? If you take the report of the commissioners, you take it in its entirety. What is the way they have suggested as a means of doing away with this monopoly ? They propose that the farmers should have the privilege of erecting their own storehouses. The Bill provides that any ten farmers shall have power to put up an elevator of their own with a capacity of 3,000 bushels, and, if that is not sufficient it can be extended. The recommendation of the commissioners goes no further than that. With this granted, the commissioners think, the monopoly would be broken. But we have gone further, we have provided that any ten farmers may club together and put up an additional elevator. What more is wanted ? The suggestion of my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) in his amendment is this :

The commissioners shall give permission to any person who demands it in writing the privilege of erecting maintaining and using, free of charge, on some portion of the company's right of way adjoining its main track, siding or spur at each such siding or station, an elevator or warehouse for the purpose of storing and shipping grain in car lots, but the said elevator or warehouse shall not be used for any other purpose.

Now, Sir, if this amendment were allowed it would go further than is proposed by the commissioners or anybody else. It would give every farmer or every combination of farmers the privilege of having warehouses upon the land of the company. Can any one imagine such an amendment seriously proposed—that we should give to every farmer the power to build flat warehouses wherever he chooses upon the land of the company without any conditions of compensation, and force the company, without compensation, to provide facilities. This is socialistic legislation; it is not British legislation as we understand it. The amendment that has been adopted is one that we can understand. Ten farmers club together and put up a flat warehouse, paying only a nominal rent of \$1 a year for the land. But, if ten more want a flat warehouse, they can get it on paying for it. Here is substantial justice done to all parties. And, so far as doing away with the monopoly in the purchase of wheat in the North-west is concerned, we can safely rely on the report of the commissioner, which has not been challenged, as safe guide in this matter.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I would like to call the right hon. gentleman's attention to page 11 of the report, which says:

We believe that the erection of flat warehouses will not, in all instances, be called for. The knowledge that farmers will have the right, under certain restrictions, to get the same erected, or to erect same, will lead to a desire on the part of elevator owners and employees to give fair prices for grain rather than to stir up feeling which will lead to the erection of those flat warehouses.

The point is, that if we get the privilege, a means will be afforded the farmers of compelling the elevator owners to treat them properly.

The PRIME MINISTER. I can only reply that the report of the commissioners which states that argument makes recommendation for the building of one flat warehouse by any ten farmers, which, in the opinion of the commissioners is sufficient.

Mr. RICHARDSON. To what the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says, I would reply—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Richardson) has no right to speak again.

Mr. DAVIN. I think we have here proof of what a great mistake was made by my hon. friend (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière), who has charge of the Bill, in not accepting my amendment respecting the cleaning of grain. I call the attention—

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I do not think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) ought to resume a discussion of a question on which we have just voted.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. DAVIN. I argued that before in its connection with these flat warehouses. I say that if this Bill were made the Bill it ought to be, within twelve months there would not be a flat warehouse in Manitoba and the North-west Territories. And, that motion having been rejected, a moderate one dealing with the case on the lines suggested by an hon. gentleman (Mr. Campbell) on the other side, who is interested in milling—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has a right to refer to a question which has just been decided.

Mr. DAVIN. Very well, Mr. Speaker. I believe that this Bill, which is about to go into law, will be found insufficient to get rid of the agitation that the commissioners desire to get rid of. Let me say this, with reference to the argument of the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The right hon. gentleman argues that they have in all respects acted on the recommendations of the commission. I will not admit that, but suppose it were true. Is it supposed that three or four gentlemen, who are not legislators, can prescribe a Bill that we must accept, excluding all suggestions from this House? All this commission had to do was to supply the evidence and give their report. Unfortunately the evidence is not printed, but I have had the privilege of going over it, and I had the privilege of attending a great many sittings, and I know that the cry that ran through the length and breadth of the North-west Territories was this: Freedom for the farmer in the shipment of his grain. But looking at the Bill I am sorrowfully afraid that it will not meet the great need that was felt in the North-west.

Mr. OLIVER. I have not been able to find in the report of the commission anything in support of this subsection 8 of section 40.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes, you will find it on page 31.

Mr. OLIVER. Might I explain that I do not understand that the commission understood that that was to debar the purchasing of warehouses, as this Bill certainly does.

Amendment (Mr. Richardson) negatived on division.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE moved the third reading of the Bill. He said: I have read the Bill over carefully, word by word, and I find in it a number of small clerical errors, to which I draw the attention of the law clerk to have them corrected.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time, and passed.

CRIMINAL CODE (1892) AMENDMENTS.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 137), further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I wish to move the amendment of which I gave notice. But in the first place, I desire to call attention to the Criminal Code as it existed before the Bill was introduced, that is now under consideration in the Senate. Section 205 of the Criminal Code of 1892 related to lotteries, and in that clause there were exceptions. Section 6 reads as follows :

This section does not apply to—

(a) The division by lot or chance of any property or joint tenants or tenants in common, or persons having joint interests in such property ; or

(b) Raffles for prizes of small value at any bazaar held for any charitable object, if permission to hold the same has been obtained from the city or other municipal council, or from the mayor, reeve or other chief officer of the city, town or other municipality wherein such bazaar is held and the articles raffled for thereat have first been offered for sale and none of them are of a value exceeding \$50 ; or

(c) Any distribution by lot among the members or ticket holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other work of art produced by the labour of the members of, or published by or under the direction of, such incorporated society.

The Bill as introduced in the Senate had all these exceptions, and clause (c) of the original Act of 1892 was retained in the Senate Bill, but was modified. Clause (c) contained three qualifying provisions :

1. Such paintings, drawings or other works of art are themselves actually and bona fide so distributed ; and

2. The members or ticket holder is not given the option of taking in place of any work allotted to or drawn by him a sum of money or something else of value ; and

3. No other such distribution has taken place among the members or ticket holders for a period of two months less one day next preceding the date of or the date fixed for such distribution.

In the original Bill it was six months. Now, my purpose is to go back to the original Bill as it was introduced in the Senate. Of course I take it that the Bill was carefully looked into by the Justice Department before being introduced. I understand that the purpose for which these three subsections were added to clause c was to make it impossible that there should be any misunderstanding as to what was intended. The understanding that the distribution by lot among members or ticket-holders of the incorporated society for the encouragement of art, had been misused ; and in place of the original intention being carried out, money was taken for the ticket in place of

a work of art. Consequently, the Senate Bill qualified it, making it impossible that that should be the case, and limiting this distribution by these three clauses, so that nothing could occur under the clause as introduced in the Senate, as I understand it, except the regular distribution that is known in other countries. The first condition in clause (c) is that the incorporated society, whether incorporated by the local legislature or by this parliament, is established for the encouragement of art or of painting. I am given to understand that under that certain persons used the power wrongfully. Well, I submit that the original Act was a considerable protection, because the first point that had to be established, and could be established, if there was any wrong, was that the incorporated society was not established for the encouragement of art. The Act we had previously, and which I am now seeking to have reinstated is exactly the English Act. It has been in use in England for nearly one hundred years, and it has been used for a good purpose invariably. Under that clause c there can be no violation of the spirit of the law if the parties wish to proceed. I am bound to say that the question as to whether there should be any tickets is a question that may be discussed. This question by some is considered to be a question of morals. Clause a of the Act is certainly a clause which has very high authority in its favour. The division by lot or chance of any property was the scriptural mode of dividing the land among the children of Israel, and that is a very good authority. When I come to clause b, I cannot say that it has the same authority, but if you were to discuss the question, as a question of ethics, if it is said that those who wish to encourage art, as it is in England, are violaters of the law, what will be thought about the raffles and prizes of small value, as if the fact of their being a small value made a virtue of these things at church fairs ? There is a clear invitation given to young people all over the country to go to a church fair and under the sanction of a bishop, or of any church, to engage in a lottery. Clause b is a thousand times worse than clause c. I do not want to discuss the question on the ground of morals, but, if there is a moral furore against doing what they do in other countries to encourage art, we might turn our attention when we get too enthusiastic in the moral role to that against which there is nothing said. I am not objecting to clause b. I am not saying that clause should not be there; I am only contrasting the two. Clause c is qualified by these three sections simply permitting a distribution by lot among the members, or ticket holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art to be made every two months. I am told that in Montreal there is a misuse made of

that clause under the original Act. I am told that there are those who are not distributing art, but who are simply holding a lottery. Two conditions will follow. If the clause is not put in there is not a man in Canada who can take a ticket in the Royal Art Society of London. We could not get a single picture in Canada. I am not anxious that the people should go into the business of lotteries even in that respect, but I submit that with the example of England and other countries no legislation should be passed to compel the people not to do that which they desire to do for the encouragement of art. It is well known that this is a mode of encouraging young men and young women in the study of painting and drawing of various kinds, and if there are those who wish to contribute in this way in place of taking up subscriptions, I think they should be encouraged. I know a number of people who have taken tickets, and they are just as good people as there are in this House or out of it. I know the names of those in connection with the society of London, for all that is the good in the realm, will challenge comparison with any people in England or anywhere else. All I want is that we shall have the same opportunity here, if there is an incorporated society established for the encouragement of art and paintings, to get these paintings, as they have in the old country, or if there are those in Canada who desire to get the best efforts that there are in Great Britain and France they shall not be put down as criminals if they take a ticket in this society. The proposed amendment contains a qualification that :

Such paintings, drawings or other works of art are themselves actually bona fide so distributed.

And nothing else.

The member or ticket-holder is not given the option of taking in place of any work allotted to or drawn by him a sum of money or something else of value.

That is to say, if a picture is valued at \$100, and there are one hundred tickets of \$1 each he must take the picture and he cannot sell it for \$50 or \$60. The third qualification is :

No other such distribution has taken place among the members or ticket-holders for a period of two months, less one day, next preceding the date of or the date fixed for such distribution.

I think the Justice Department understood the Bill when they introduced it. I think they must have looked into it. I think that in this country we have all the models and all the objects that nature can give for either artists or painters to employ their best skill upon. I think, in that case, that our young men and our young women should be encouraged. We have some very fair paintings made by our Canadian artists. There are some excellent paintings that have been made by foreign artists, and there

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

will not come a time in this generation or during the generations to come in which there will not be new objects or old ones that have not been painted, and I simply want to go back to the idea contained in the original Bill and substitute that. No harm can follow, because if anybody attempts to sell tickets he cannot do it. In the first place, it must be an incorporated society and it must be established for the encouragement of art. I am not going to assume that either in Quebec or in any other province in this Dominion there is a legislature that is going to incorporate a society that is not such as should be incorporated for the encouragement of art. Because there may be those who are utilizing this privilege in a wrong way. I do not think it is any reason why we should not have a legitimate law on the statute-book such as they have in the older countries to enable us to encourage art. If there is any wrong at all, discussed as a question of ethics, it is in the previous section, but this section has been sanctioned for a long time in our code. It has not been objected to and I cannot see any reason why, in that case, there should be any objection to this. I therefore move :

That the Bill be not read the third time, but that it be referred back to the Committee of the whole House to have the following clause added:

(c) Any distribution by lot amongst the members or ticket-holders of any incorporated society established for the encouragement of art, of any paintings, drawings or other works of art produced by the labour of the members of, or published by or under the direction of such incorporated society; if—

1. Such paintings, drawings or other works of art are themselves actually and bona fide so distributed; and

2. The members or ticket-holder is not given the option of taking in place of any work allotted to or drawn by him a sum of money or something else of value; and

3. No other such distribution has taken place among the members or ticket-holders for a period of two months, less one day, next preceding the date of or the date fixed for such distribution.

Mr. POWELL. I am ignorant of the society altogether, but I would like to ask the hon. gentleman Mr. Fraser) if any of our leading artists such as Bremner, Bell or Hammond, belong to the society, or is it a society of amateurs?

Mr. FRASER. I have not the names of those who belong to it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment.

Mr. T. DIXON CRAIG (East Durham). I hope the House will not agree to this amendment. No doubt the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) has presented all the arguments he could, but all his arguments amount to simply this: That we should pass this amendment in order to encourage art. I have the idea that the real

artists of Canada would not thank him for his amendment. I do not think they need it, and I do not think the fact of passing this amendment would encourage art in its true sense. The clause came to us from the Senate, after being thoroughly discussed, and the Senate sent us the clause in the shape it did because it was shown clearly that under the existing law great abuses had occurred; abuses so gross that legislation was necessary to prevent them. I shall quote an article from the *Montreal Witness* of May 29, and the *Witness* may be presumed to know something about this matter:

THE LOTTERY FIGHT.

Few things have ever given lovers of Canada more delight than the uprising of the French press against the lotteries which have under the shallowest pretenses circumvented the law which forbids them.

I stop here to say that if the lotteries circumvented the law before, I have no doubt they could do it again. The hon. member (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) says he has provided safeguards, but it is always found that such safeguards are easily got around by those who wish to do so.

The archbishop showed himself a true pastor by denouncing resort to lotteries by the Church. Senator Dandurand has shown himself a true patriot by devoting himself to repressive legislation and he seems, or has seemed to be on the eve of a victory that would redeem the province of Quebec from being classed the world over with Monaco and Louisiana and Homburg and Honduras as a centre whence emanates one of the greatest blights that can seize upon society. So profitable a business is, however, not going to die without an extreme struggle. A postponement for even a year would be worth to it the expenditure of a hundred thousand dollars in the lobby. There probably never was more arrant hypocrisy talked across the floor of the House of Commons than the appeals which have been made to members on behalf of the young people studying art who might by the means of raffles be enabled to dispose of their productions and so pursue their predilections. We cannot conceive why artistic productions should have any gambling privileges accorded to them which are not accorded to any other industry. As a matter of fact, however, there is no such interest, and every word that has been said ostensibly on behalf of art has been said really in the interests of the lotteries which are disgracing our community. The vampires who are sucking not the money only, but the life blood, of our people, as testified by those who come most in contact with the people, have not given up heart. They are whispering into the ears of every member of parliament whom they think they can reach. Notice has been given of another endeavour to restore in the Commons the clause under which the evil would be perpetuated, and that without the limitations with which Senator Mills sought to hedge it.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). To show the character of that article: it is just exactly as Senator Mills introduced it.

Mr. CRAIG. They may have made a little mistake there.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is a sample of all the rest. As to any one coming to us, I speak for myself when I say that no one came to me.

Mr. CRAIG. I presume the *Witness* thought that no member would champion these lotteries unless he was persuaded by some one to do so.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Craig) is speaking from his own experience.

Mr. CRAIG. I do not know what the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) alludes to by referring to my experience; perhaps he will explain.

An hon. MEMBER. Explain.

Mr. CRAIG. I can tell the hon. gentleman that I have no interest in this matter.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not in connection with this matter. My reference was to the fact that the hon. gentleman will find remarks in the *Witness* about himself that he would not consider fair.

Mr. CRAIG. Yes, the *Witness* said I was a party man, and that is true. I do not think that is a reflection on me at all.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). The *Witness* may make a mistake in the one case as well as in the other.

The PRIME MINISTER. Perhaps the reflection is on the party to which you belong.

Mr. CRAIG. I will not discuss the party question just now. The *Witness* proceeds to say:

There never was in our parliament a more distinct issue between good and evil, between right and wrong, between principle and interest, between patriotism and money. It is painful to admit that in such an issue we should have any misgivings as to the result. To save our country from the disgrace of a surrender to vicious interests this would be a time for the leader of the opposition to join hands with the leader of the government in putting down a heavy foot on this attempt.

I read that article because I assume that the writer knew something about what he is writing. But I need not quote the *Montreal Witness*. Senator Dandurand proved conclusively that great abuses existed, and there are members sitting near me to-night who can endorse that. I do not agree with the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), that in order to encourage art we ought to encourage lotteries. That is the only argument he has brought forward in favour of the amendment. I do not think our young artists want lotteries, and I believe firmly the people who want them are not the artists of Canada, but are the men who are making money out of the lotteries. I do not say for one moment that any one has been whispering in the ear of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). I

do not impugn his sincerity for a single moment, but I think he is wrong this time. As a rule he stands on the side that the *Witness* believes to be right, but this time he has got on the wrong side, and I trust the House will not listen to the arguments in favour of the amendment, and restore these lotteries to a position which has enabled them to perpetrate such gross wrongs on the people.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend (Mr. Craig) for once has used the *Witness* as an authority.

Mr. CRAIG. It is not the first time.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. To my mind he has elected the worst opportunity he could to make use of the *Witness*. There have been abuses in the city of Montreal, and in Canada, in connection with lotteries. The hon. gentleman has attached more importance than he should to the whispers he spoke of which were communicated to the members of the House in reference to these lotteries. The first whisper I had about this law was from Sir John Thompson, his leader and my leader.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). He voted for it. There was not a word then.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It was introduced by Sir John Thompson after serious consideration. Now, I wish to place myself right on this question. I draw a great distinction between the Art Union, the Credit Foncier, Franco-Canadien, and institutions which sell tickets at 10 cents each, and have three or four or five or six drawings per day. The Art Union is a copy of the Art Union of Great Britain, which, as my hon. friend said, was originated probably a hundred years ago for the purpose of helping poor artists who had not the means or the influence to make use of their talent without help from outside. In the case of the Art Union, no tickets are issued under \$1, and drawings take place only every two months. It must be obvious to the mind of any man who takes the trouble to examine the question, that there is no similarity between the Art Union and these other institutions. In the one case you have a company organized with a large capital. I do not know what the hon. gentleman meant by stating that the capital had been used to influence members of the House of Commons. I was influenced the first time I voted for the Criminal Code of Sir John Thompson, and I do not often change my views. I stand exactly where I did then, and I imagine that the Senate forgot to make the distinction between the Art Union the other organizations privileged under that code, and the institutions which have been working all the harm complained of in the city of Montreal I have met clergymen there, who, when the difference was pointed out

to them, immediately stated that the great trouble was in the institutions which sold 10-cent tickets. One clergyman told me that 109 children had left school during school hours to go on the canal and pick up coals and sell them at 10 cents a pailful for the purpose of investing the money thus obtained in these institutions. That is something which no well organized society should tolerate; but between the Art Union, which uses its capital for the purpose of encouraging art, and these companies, the difference is so great that it must appeal to the judgment of parliament not to place them on the same footing. I have no interest in the matter, except that I know men who belong to the art unions of Montreal, Toronto and elsewhere, and who are not men who tolerate the gambling which we want to put down. If the clause is carefully guarded, so as to apply merely to the issuing of tickets for one dollar, and the holding of drawings not oftener than once in two months, it will be quite impossible for it to permit the gambling which we all want to see put down. I have taken this position in the House, because people who had studied the question, pointed out to me the difference between the art unions and the companies which ought properly to be put down. If these matters had been laid before the Senate, I think that they would have acted in their wisdom as the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), has acted, and instead of striking this provision out of the code, they would have retained it, as it was introduced by Sir John Thompson.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, it is notorious that lotteries have been a common evil in this country. Complaints of them come to us, not only from the city of Montreal, though chiefly from there, but from almost every other city in Canada. Under the code of Sir John Thompson, lotteries were allowed; but the evil has reached such a point that legislation has become indispensable. The amendments to the code were introduced into the Senate this year by the Minister of Justice. I am bound to say at once, that the Minister of Justice, when he drew those amendments, made an exception in favour of the lotteries of Art Unions. But protests came, chiefly from the city of Montreal, but also from other places, so loud and vigorous, that they had to be heeded, to the effect that lotteries of the worst possible form were being carried on under the guise of art unions. These complaints were made to the Senate, which investigated them to some extent, and came to the conclusion that they were well founded. It may be that there are legitimate societies of the character of the Art Union which has existed in England for over a hundred years. But whether that be so or not, it seems to be beyond dispute that there are certain societies in Montreal ostensibly for the promotion

Mr. CRAIG.

and encouragement of art, which are, in reality, nothing less than art lotteries. Such being the case, the Senate came to the conclusion that art lotteries ought to be put under the ban of the law, like every other kind of lotteries. Perhaps the measure is drastic; perhaps it goes further than it should go, but the majority of the Senate came to the conclusion that the evil that existed in Montreal could not be eradicated, unless the whole system of lotteries, whether for art or anything else, were put an end to for the time being. This view was accepted by the Minister of Justice, and the Bill comes before this House in its present shape, that is, with a provision prohibiting lotteries of all kinds. The proposition of my hon. friend from Guysborough, is that we should restore the Bill to the shape in which it was introduced into the Senate by the Minister of Justice. That is to say, that we should exempt lotteries which are known to be for art purposes. I do not think the House ought to assent to this proposition. Although I am not an unbounded admirer of the Senate, and believe that it might well be reformed, still I think it will be admitted by both sides as a general proposition, that when a Bill has been carefully considered by that branch of the legislature, it should be accepted by us, unless we find that the Senate has proceeded on false principles or under misconception of the facts. The Senate were induced to prohibit art lotteries as well as others by the fact, established by evidence, that such lotteries were liable to great abuse and made a cover for lotteries pure and simple. That has not been seriously disputed in this House. If the lottery to which my hon. friend from Guysborough has alluded were of the character of the Art Union of England, if it were composed of artists or encouraged by men of that class, there would be no objection to exempting it from the operation of this Bill. But we have no evidence that it is, and I therefore, think the House would do well to leave the Bill as it has come to us from the Senate.

Mr. BRITTON. I would be much more pleased if subsection *b* had been dropped as well as the one referred to in this discussion. But it is too late to do that now. I tried my prentice hand in a good many ways to get amendments made to the code, and with some degree of success, but not as much as I desired. As to the amendment proposed, it is quite clear that it might be abused and be made use of for the purposes of a lottery pure and simple, and not at all for the encouragement of art. It is quite true that the amendment will not allow of the option to take money instead of a picture, but there is nothing to prevent any one taking the work of art or picture having an understanding with the parties who are running the lottery, under which they will give so much money for what is drawn.

Mr. J. H. BELL (P.E.I.) I am opposed to the amendment of my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), partly on the ground of its liability to abuse and partly on the ground of principle. I should have been better pleased if the whole lottery business had been prohibited without exception. In the United States they had the same difficulty to contend with, and in all the states except one—and I think now in all the states—there are laws making lotteries of every description illegal. That is the kind of law I would like to see passed by this House. If you permit a lottery for any purpose—you are doing that which breeds the evil and perpetuates it. You cannot expect that the lottery spirit will die out of young people as long as we have lotteries in any form. There is where the evil begins and is perpetuated, and for that reason I would have preferred that all these exceptions had been struck out.

Mr. RUSSELL. When this Bill was before the House I was rather inclined to the opinion that we should support the views of the hon. member for Guysborough, but with an amendment that would make the clause less open to objection. If I had been present when the Bill was in committee, I would have endeavoured to frame such an amendment. It may be too late to do that now. I think the amendment would need to be drawn carefully and wisely so as to avoid any danger of the law being abused. The hon. gentleman is proposing to change the terms of the drawing from six months to two months. This has, I think, an element of danger, and I do not see my way to supporting him on that point. I think, however, that we are not going to accomplish very much in the city of Montreal by simply amending the law, for, I understand, that the law as it stands, if it had been properly enforced, would have prevented the evils which have arisen there. I think that those who pay attention too exclusively to the mere drafting of laws make a mistake if they think thereby to effect moral reforms. I cannot conceive of what has taken place in Montreal arising through fault of the law itself. The facts as they have been brought to our notice could not have arisen under the law properly administered. For instance, under the law, it was provided that a drawing should not take place less than six months after the preceding drawing. There could be no justification under such a law for drawings taking place three or four times a day, as we have been told they did. So, the evil in Montreal is due to lax administration, and not to imperfect legislation. At the same time, I think that the amendment proposed by the hon. member (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) would be open to some of the objections pointed out, and for that reason, I am not inclined to support it.

Amendment (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) negatived.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Before the motion for the third reading is carried, I desire to move that the order for the third reading be discharged and that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of making certain amendments, which I have already brought to the attention of my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The first amendment which I propose is one which was discussed in this House. This was for the purpose of making it an indictable offence to put up at a hotel or boarding-house with the intention of defrauding the proprietor of the amount chargeable for board. The hon. member for North Perth (Mr. MacLaren), in a very commendable manner, brought this to the attention of the House and urged it on the attention of the government on at least one occasion when I was present. After discussion with him and with the Solicitor General, my hon. friend from North Perth agreed that he would substitute for the provisions of his Bill, if it could be adopted as an amendment to the Criminal Code, the provisions of an English Act, which, I think, is a move in the right direction. The English Debtors' Act, 32 and 33 Victoria, passed in 1869, contained this provision:

Any person shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and on conviction thereof shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year, if, in incurring any liability, he has obtained credit by means of false pretenses or any other fraud.

The section proposed here would follow section 359 and would read as follows:

Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to one year's imprisonment who, in incurring any debt or liability, has obtained credit by means of false pretenses or by means of any other fraud.

It will be seen that this is almost in the terms of the English statute. It seems to me that this supplies something that is wanting in our Act. It is now a criminal offence to obtain by false pretenses anything which can be the subject of larceny. There is no good reason why the same rule should not apply to fraud used to obtain something that is not capable of being stolen. A person is just as much a criminal who obtains credit by means of false pretenses as the man who obtains money or goods by false pretenses.

The next amendment that I wish to present is an amendment to section 679. Section 679 makes provision for issuing a subpoena to a person in another province than that to which the court issuing the subpoena belongs. There is provision in that section that the court issuing the subpoena may take proceedings for contempt or otherwise against any person who may disobey such subpoena. It has been brought to my attention by a member of our bar, Mr. Hector McInnes, that difficulty is experienced in enforcing such proceedings for contempt or otherwise. For example, in a late case

in our province a witness was required from Prince Edward Island. Fortunately he attended; but if he had not done so, it would have been very difficult indeed to enforce proceedings against him, whether for contempt or by way of any other process. For this reason I suggest the following subsection be added to section 679. A portion of this is taken from a section of the Winding Up Act.

The courts of the various provinces and the judges of the said courts, respectively, shall be auxiliary to one another for the purposes of this Act; and any judgment, decree or order made by the court issuing such writ of subpoena against any such witness for contempt or otherwise may be enforced or acted upon by any court in the province in which such witness resides in the same manner and as validly and effectually as if such judgment, order or decree had been made by such last-mentioned court.

That is, if a court takes proceedings for contempt and makes an order for that purpose, that order can be enforced in the province in which the witness resides. It does not seem to me it could be validly enforced by the court issuing the original subpoena. Another amendment which I suggest is to add a subsection to section 683. This section 683 provides that:

Whenever it is made to appear, at the instance of the Crown or of the prisoner or defendant, to the satisfaction of the judge of any superior court, or the judge of a county court having criminal jurisdiction, that any person who resides out of Canada, is able to give material information relating to any indictable offence, for which a prosecution is pending, or relating to any person accused of such an offence, such judge may, by order under his hand, appoint a commissioner or commissioners to take the evidence, upon oath, of such person.

Subsection 2 provides:

Until otherwise provided by rules of court, the practice and procedure in connection with the appointment of commissioners under this section, the taking of depositions by such commissioners, and the certifying and return thereof and the use of such depositions as evidence at the trial, shall be, as nearly as practicable, the same as those which prevail in the respective courts in connection with the like matters in civil causes.

I have pointed out to the Solicitor General, when we discussed an amendment to the code some time ago, that in the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia a good deal of difficulty had been found to exist about the use of these depositions before the grand jury. An order which provided that such a disposition could be read before a grand jury was discharged by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia on appeal, and afterwards the trial judge decided that the deposition could not be read before the grand jury. I propose to add as subsection 3 to section 683:

Subject to such rules of court, or to such practice and procedure as aforesaid, such depositions, by direction of the presiding judge, may be read in evidence before the grand jury.

I think it desirable that these words 'by direction of the presiding judge' should be inserted in order to impose upon him the duty of seeing that the commission had been regularly taken before directing that the deposition should be used. I therefore, move that the order for the third reading be discharged, and that the Bill be recommitted for the purpose of making these amendments.

Motion agreed to, amendments adopted in committee, and Bill reported.

Mr. McCARTHY. I think we should provide by a special clause for appeals pending in Ontario, when this Act comes into force, in view of the suggested change with reference to appeals in Ontario.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think the Bill ought to be referred back to the committee for the purpose of amending it in the sense indicated by the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), and also for the purpose of adding a subsection in the sense suggested by the member for Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy).

Motion agreed to, amendments agreed to and Bill reported.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think a provision ought to be made that this Bill should not come into force until the 1st of January next.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Some hon. gentlemen, I think, desire that it should come into force on the 1st of September.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Bill will not be printed before the 1st of September; so if the object is to give the Bar information as to the nature of the amendments, it would be better to fix the coming into force on the 1st of January.

Mr. LAVERGNE moved that said Bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole for the purpose of inserting a clause fixing the time that the Bill should come into force.

Motion agreed to.

(In the Committee.)

Amendment (Solicitor General) agreed to.

Mr. POWELL. While the Bill is in committee I will mention that I have been asked by some people, whose names it is unnecessary to mention, to move that section 183 be amended by extending its provisions somewhat further. At present the section only provides a punishment for whoever seduces or has illicit connection with any woman or girl employed in a factory, mill, workshop, or store.

The PRIME MINISTER. I think my hon. friend is out of order. Under the instructions of the House the committee can only amend the Bill in one direction.

Mr. POWELL. I think now that we have the Bill in committee, we are at liberty to amend it in another direction. However, I will call attention to the words that these people wish to have added. They are: 'or as a domestic servant.' They think that a domestic servant ought to be protected as well as a girl working in a shop or store.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Bill has been referred back to the committee for the special purpose of amending it with reference to the time of putting it into force, and I do not think we can consider the amendment suggested by my hon. friend. I would remind him, however, that we have extended the scope of that section quite far enough by the amendments that we have already adopted, and perhaps it would be better for us to wait and see how the section, as amended, will work before we go any further. Under the circumstances I would ask the hon. gentleman not to press his amendment, in the first place, because I think it is out of order, and in the second place, because it is perhaps extending this section a little bit further than is necessary at the present time.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, before you report the Bill, with the permission of the committee, there is a question which, perhaps, should have been brought up earlier in the discussion of this Bill, but which I have discussed with the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), and that is in regard to the forgery of copyright. I have a Bill before the House, which is No. 15, proposing an amendment to the Criminal Code, and I believe the hon. Minister of Agriculture is prepared to accept it. It says that the code shall apply to copyright on the same basis as it does to trade mark. A man who infringes a trade mark is liable to criminal proceedings.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy) in order?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Flint). The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy) is out of order.

Mr. McCARTHY. If hon. gentlemen desire it, I can move that the Bill be referred back to the committee.

Mr. POWELL. Is the hon. gentleman strictly out of order? I may be wrong in my view of parliamentary practice, but in ten years I have known in the legislature of New Brunswick, and afterwards here, that when a matter is committed to the Committee of the Whole House, it is open to them to modify it in any way they see fit.

The CHAIRMAN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy) is out of order. I had occasion to look up a similar case with the Clerk of the House this evening, and the rule is distinctly laid down.

Bill reported.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, before the Bill is read the third time, I would move that it be referred back to the Committee of the Whole House for the purpose of considering certain amendments contained in Bill (No. 15), which is to place copyright on the same basis as trade mark. As I have said, I have already discussed the matter with the hon. Minister of Agriculture, in whose department the jurisdiction is.

The **SOICITOR GENERAL** (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I cannot agree to the Bill being referred back for the purpose of considering the hon. gentleman's amendment. I think the object of the Bill is not a matter that appertains to the Criminal Code. There is an amendment to the Copyright Act under consideration, and when the amendment is being made the hon. gentleman may move the amendment that he now proposes.

Amendment (Mr. McCarthy) negatived.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY—DISMISSAL OF POSTMASTER GASS, MOOSEJAW.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, I gave the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) notice that at this stage I would call attention to the dismissal of Postmaster Gass, and to the incidents connected therewith. I asked the hon. Postmaster General why Mr. Gass was dismissed, and he stated that Mr. Gass was dismissed in consequence of the report of the inspector who had gone up and made an inquest into certain charges against Mr. Gass. Now, frankly, I do not think that was the reason why he was dismissed, and I will tell you why. I asked the hon. gentleman to bring down the report, and the date of the report is October 2, 1897. Well, this is the year of our Lord 1900—May, 1900; November, December, January, February, March, April, May—a year and five months afterwards. It is certainly an extraordinary thing that for a year and five months the hon. Postmaster General should incubate the decision that he would form on the report of his inspector. This report should have been read in this House before, because a reference was made to it and a promise was given that it would be read, but it was never read. I am going to read the report.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I said that I would read the part referring to Mr. Gass; I did, and it is in *Hansard*.

Mr. DAVIN. I did not mention the hon. gentleman's name.

Mr. POWELL.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I was the only person that promised to do it.

Mr. DAVIN (reading)

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Winnipeg, Man., October 2, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to return herewith the letter from Mr. Alexander Dalgatty preferring certain charges of offensive political partisanship against Mr. C. A. Gass, postmaster at Moosejaw, West Assiniboia, which you referred to me on the 9th ultimo for inquiry and report.

On the 21st ultimo I accordingly attended at Moosejaw and held an investigation into these charges, timely notice of which was given to the parties interested, and I beg to inclose copies of the evidence as taken by the office stenographer, Mr. J. R. Simons, whom I found it necessary to have accompany me.

Notwithstanding that Mr. Dalgatty, the complainant had a full week's previous notice of the inquiry in which he was requested to have his witnesses in attendance I was surprised to learn, upon meeting him on the train at Pasqua, on the morning of the day of the inquiry that he had taken no action whatever towards preparing his evidence or notifying his witnesses in the case and upon meeting Moosejaw, I had at his pressing request, to hurriedly prepare letters to a number of witnesses, some of them living 15 miles away, desiring their attendance. Mr. Dalgatty claiming that the witnesses would not appear without this being done.

The charges were in effect:

1. That immediately before the general election, in 1896, Mr. Gass, the postmaster, in company with another party, canvassed the coventry settlement in the interests of Mr. Davin, one of the candidates.

2. That previous to said election Mr. Gass, in company with Mr. Baker, canvassed the Stony Beach district in the interests of Mr. Davin, and took part in organizing a young people's Conservative Association in the district;

3. That a few days prior to the said election Mr. Gass accompanied by a Mr. Gordon, visited and attempted to bribe one Pierce Hans to vote for Mr. Davin;

4. That during the campaign Mr. Gass drove the speakers in Mr. Davin's interests to meetings in the Caron and Point Elma districts.

5. That Mr. Gass used his influence in securing the appointment of deputy sheriff for a Mr. Brecken, a Conservative, in opposition to Mr. O. B. Fish, a Liberal.

It was further charged that in the discharge of his duties as postmaster Mr. Gass showed preference to one class of the community over another; that mail matter was at times thrown out of the office through the wicket on the floor to persons applying; that Mr. Gass celebrated the withdrawal of the election protest against Mr. Davin's return, and further, that a few days before the election of 1896, Mr. Gass wrote a postal card to Mr. Davin at Regina asking that 'more stuff' be forwarded to assist in the election campaign.

I call the attention of the House to this: That the charge was that Mr. Gass had written a postal card to me, asking for some more stuff. I will show you, from the report of the inspector, that the statement is false, and I will show you that the lying press bureau that is here in Ottawa, or more likely still a gentleman who is proprietor of the *Moosejaw Times* who was here, has

sent out that same falsehood to the *Moosejaw Times*, although on the face of the documents before parliament, it is proven to have been untrue.

Mr. Delgatty also complained of the conduct of the postmaster in regard to a letter to him from the department, which you had lost after receiving it from the post office, and which had been handed to Mr. Gass by a Mr. Little, who had found it on the road.

The charges having been read over to the postmaster, he declared them to be all untrue, and asked permission to state, at that stage, with regard to the complaint that mail matter was thrown out on the floor to parties applying, that nothing of the kind had ever occurred to his knowledge, but that he had known instances of school children applying for mail, of same being placed under wicket, and in the scramble of some fifteen or twenty of them for it some of the mail matter would fall on the floor; further, that he treated all persons on post office business alike. Regarding the letter from the department which had been found by Mr. Little and handed to him open, and which he retained for some time, he wished to say that Mr. Little handed him the letter on the street, and after some conversation, he asked and obtained Mr. Little's permission to show the letter to Mr. Brecken. Upon Mr. Little returning to him for the letter in a day or two, and Mr. Little offering it to him to be mailed to Mr. Delgatty in an open condition, he advised Mr. Little not to post it in that condition, but to put it under a new cover, which was done. He did not give the letter to Mr. Delgatty when the latter applied for it, for the reason that he had received it from Mr. Little and considered it his duty to return it to him.

Regarding the first charge, the evidence showed that Mr. Gass was in company with Mr. Baker in the Coventry settlement, and that the latter was canvassing, but it was not shown that Mr. Gass actually took part in this. Mr. Coventry testifies that Messrs. Baker and Gass were, as far as he could see, canvassing for the election, but that the talking was done by Mr. Baker, Mr. Gass not saying anything. Mr. Gass affirms that he and Mr. Baker went into the Coventry district, the latter on election and himself on private business, and that he did not do any canvassing.

With respect to the second charge, that Mr. Gass, in company with Mr. Baker, canvassed the Stony Beach district in the interests of Mr. Davin, and also took part in organizing a young people's Conservative association in that district, the evidence went to show that Mr. Gass was present on the occasion, but that he did not take any active part in canvassing or the organization of the association.

The third charge, of attempting to bribe Pierce Hans, was not clearly substantiated.

In connection with that, there is a letter from Mr. Gordon, saying that Mr. Gass could not possibly have done this, and, therefore, that charge is also disproved.

Mr. Hans swore that money was offered him for his vote, but whether by Gordon or Gass, he was unable to state, nor could he state what the amount offered actually was. Mr. Hans' evidence was not at all satisfactory. Mr. Gass denied, in a very positive manner, this accusation.

I inclose for your information a letter, dated at Silverton, B.C., the 28th ult., from Mr. J. G.

Gordon, who accompanied Mr. Gass on the visit to Mr. Hans, in which reference is made to this charge.

The fourth charge, of driving speakers in Mr. Davin's interest to Caron and Port Elma, is denied by the postmaster, and was not established. It was, however, shown and admitted that Mr. Gass became responsible for the hire of a rig to take some persons to a meeting at one of these places.

To be responsible for the hire of a rig for some friends to go to a public meeting; that is a very different thing from the charge, and surely it was a perfectly innocent thing.

Mr. Gass also denied on oath the fifth charge, of using his influence in securing the appointment of Mr. Brecken as deputy sheriff, and there was no direct evidence to show that he had gone to Regina in this connection, as charged.

Mr. Gass could not have done anything of that sort, and if he did, he would have to influence a man who is the leader of the Grit party in the North-west Territories, for Mr. Ross is the member for the Moosejaw district, and he had the appointment of the deputy sheriff. If he wanted to influence Mr. Ross, who certainly is politically—I do not say personally—an enemy of mine; politically he is the strongest enemy I have, and if he went to influence Mr. Ross, it would not be with my name on his lips.

Concerning the remaining charges, there was nothing submitted to justify the allegation that the postmaster showed preference to one class of the people over another, or that the mail matter was wilfully thrown on the floor to children or others, nor was it proven that Mr. Gass celebrated the withdrawal of the Davin election protest.

We have, therefore, the report that a number of these charges are utterly untrue, and I will read petitions from all the leading Liberals of Moosejaw against this man's dismissal, and in favour of his retention:

The charge that Mr. Gass wrote a post card asking for 'more stuff'—

I call attention to the extraordinary report of Mr. McLeod. I know Mr. McLeod. He is a very intelligent man, but it is quite clear that his notion of reporting on evidence, is very crude:

The charge that Mr. Gass wrote a post card to Mr. Davin at Regina asking for 'more stuff' was in the main sustained.

He never wrote to me a postal card, and, therefore, that charge could not be in any way sustained.

The communication was not by postal card to Mr. Davin, but by letter card, asking for 'What we were speaking about' to a Mr. Hamilton, barrister, who, it is understood, was chairman or president of the Conservative Association at Regina, the card itself, marked Exhibit 'B,' was produced, and is herewith sent you.

Here is the card, and it is not addressed to 'My dear Hamilton,' or 'Dear Hamilton,' but 'Dear sir':

Moosejaw, June 17, 1896.

Dear Sir,—We received word from Wood Mountain to-day by a man from there, who said there was only about four or five there going to vote for Mr. Davin, and the rest was for McInnes, you had better wire Thomson, also send that what we were speaking about by morning's mail or lend some.

Yours in haste.

C. A. GASS.

Mr. Hamilton,
Barrister,
Regina, Assa.

Is it to be supposed for one moment that that letter addressed to Mr. Hamilton could in any way be connected with me, or is it to be thought of that a man of mature years, and a sensible and able man like Gass would write about a criminal thing like money to be used in an election on a card, and he, the postmaster with letters and papers and stamps at his hand. But, Sir, the most monstrous thing of all is if a man were to argue that because some person coming up from Wood Mountain were to say there were only a few there in my favour, therefore there were only that few; but still more absurd if some one were to go on and argue that there were only that few, and that if more than that number voted for me, money must have gone down to bribe those people. I say, in the face of these documents there is not a tittle of evidence that money was so used; and I know as a fact that not a single cent went down to Wood Mountain from myself or any from any person being an agent of mine or from any member of a committee, and for two good reasons: I certainly would not sanction it, and if I would sanction it, I had no money, and having no money was the best reason in the world why it could not be sent.

Previous to its production, Mr. Gass, whose evidence regarding the part took in election matters was not as open and frank as it should have been, swore, as will be seen, as follows:

'I did not have any communication with Mr. Davin or any party in Regina in connection with the running of the election.

There is not the least doubt that is correct. I know it is correct myself. I know that Mr. Gass took no part. I wish he had. If he had taken part in the election, in one place where I did not get a single vote, and where he had the strongest possible connections, I should have had a large vote.

I do not know who Mr. Davin's representatives on the committee in Regina were. Mr. Hamilton may have been one, but I did not write him or any other person on the subject to the best of my knowledge.

I was told by one person that what he wrote about undoubtedly was some literature. I do not know anything about that; but it is perfectly clear that it could not have been about money.

Upon being shown the card he recognized the writing as his, admitting sending it and that it was upon election matters, and stated that he

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had nothing to say in explanation except that he had forgotten about it.

This card together with the accompanying notice, 'exhibit A' signed 'C. A. Gass, President,' concerning the annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association, in February, 1895, and his presence at various political meetings go to show that Mr. Gass was to a considerable extent mixed up in election matters.

Now, fancy the reasoning of Mr. McLeod: because Mr. Gass attended political meetings as a listener, he was therefore mixed up in election matters.

The action of the postmaster regarding the Delgatty lost letter from the department, 'exhibit C' herewith, was somewhat extraordinary. He, it appears to me, should not have taken the letter from Mr. Little nor should he have read it or showed it to any one, but to have immediately instructed Mr. Little to promptly re-mail it in another cover or hand it to the owner. It will be seen by Mr. Little's evidence that the postmaster after reading the letter, asked permission to keep it till Mr. Little called again at the post office.

Further comment regarding this matter seems unnecessary.

I would respectfully invite your perusal of the accompanying evidence.

I should state that my inspection of the office showed the affairs thereof to be in an excellent condition.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
W. W. McLEOD,
Post Office Inspector.

I will now read the letter of Mr. Gordon, in company with whom Mr. Gass was most falsely charged with corruption.

J. G. Gordon,
Mining and Real Estate Broker,
Conveyancer, Notary Public.
Silverton, B.C., September 28, 1897.

W. W. McLeod, Esq.,
Post Office Inspector,
Winnipeg.

Dear Sir,—I have just received the Moosejaw 'Times' of the 24th instant. In it I observe an account of an investigation into the course of C. A. Gass, postmaster at Moosejaw. I was not aware that there was going to be an investigation and had heard nothing about it until I saw the report of it in this paper.

I see that my name appears in the report brought in connection with a visit to Pierce Hans, of Caron. If the report is correct, Hans lies in his evidence. I canvassed Hans. I was from five to ten minutes with him. All the canvassing was done by me, Gass not being with us. He (Hans) told me he was a poor man and wanted something for his vote. He would vote for Mr. Davin, so he said, if I would give him a small sum, he came down as low as three dollars, or leave an order for that amount of groceries for him. I would not buy his vote, but as he was, as I thought, under obligation to me, I thought I could get it for the asking of it. I alone did the canvassing.

Had I been in Moosejaw on the occasion of the investigation, I would readily have given this evidence.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) J. G. GORDON.

Here is the notice referred to :

Important Notice.

The annual meeting of the Liberal-Conservative Association for the district of Moosejaw will be held in the dining-room, Ostrander Hotel, on Wednesday the day of February, 1895, at o'clock.

Election of officers and other business of great importance is to be brought before the meeting. All members are requested to attend, and all wishing to become members.

C. A. GASS,
President.

Would his being president of that society, of which he had been a prominent member before he was appointed, make him an offensive partisan? Evidently it did not in the opinion of the Postmaster General, who continued him in his office and spoke to him as a trusted officer. Now, with these documents which I have read before the House, fancy the villainy of a newspaper writer who will write in the *Moosejaw Times* as follows :

Last Friday the recent dismissal of postmaster C. A. Gass, of Moosejaw, was up for discussion in the House of Commons. Our member, Mr. Davin, did the government the kindness to insist that the correspondence relating to the dismissal he brought down. To satisfy Mr. Davin the correspondence was accordingly laid on the Table.

Why, Mr. Speaker, one would think it was a thing I should be ashamed of to ask for this correspondence. Mr. Gass is not ashamed of that correspondence, nor am I; but the fact is that the Postmaster General was very ready indeed to bring it down, and he or somebody else was very quick to get copies of it and place them in the hands of members, as though there was something in it which by some way of representing it would tell. I have placed the whole thing before the House, and they can judge.

In replying to Mr. Davin on the alleged West Huron and Brockville election frauds, Mr. D. C. Fraser said that before sitting down he would show that money was spent in Davin's constituency and it was by the aid of that he held his seat.

On that occasion, I believe the hon. gentleman went a good deal further than any evidence would justify, but I do not think he dared to go that length.

To do this he referred to the correspondence which had just been brought down in regard to the postmaster at Moosejaw, C. A. Gass, an old Nova Scotian. He was dismissed for partisanship, and Mr. Davin insisted that the correspondence was brought down to satisfy Mr. Davin. It disclosed that Gass had been taking an active part in endeavouring to secure the return of Davin.

Whereas that correspondence shows, by the emphatic words of Mr. McLeod, that Gass had not been taking an active part to secure the return of Davin. Here is an infamous heading, utterly false on the part of this man. Here is an infamous slander, utterly

false. It is a lie. There is nothing to justify it.

There was a copy of a letter in the correspondence which showed Gass wrote to Mr. Hamilton, Q.C., Regina, asking for 'stuff.'

There is not a word about that in the epistle. It is quite false.

So that more votes could be secured for Davin. Gass said that at Wood Mountain there were only four or five votes for Davin, and he wanted them changed if Davin was going to get elected. . . . Mr. Fraser said he had shown that there was a very much stronger case against Davin than any one he had yet heard of in the debate.

I believe that Mr. Fraser did say something like that, but I cannot refer to a previous debate. He did not, I think, dare to go so far, but the documents I have placed before the House, shows how unfounded is any such assertion.

Mr. Gass is in possession of a letter written by the Postmaster General to a gentleman in Moosejaw, stating that the reason Gass was dismissed was, not because of this report, but because of the pressure put upon him by Mr. Sifton. I am bound, as a man of honour, not to give evidence on my own behalf, or I could prove that it was not because of that report that Gass was dismissed, but my mouth is sealed. Here I have a number of petitions. There is a petition :

Moosejaw, Mar. 12, 1900.

To the hon. Postmaster General.

We, the undersigned supporters of the present government, having heard with regret that C. A. Gass, postmaster at Moosejaw, was dismissed from office without real cause, request that, on account of the satisfaction he has given in such office to the public, you would reconsider the matter, with the view of retaining his services as postmaster at Moosejaw.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The first name to this petition, is that of a prominent and wealthy farmer and a leading Liberal in the Moosejaw district, Mr. J. J. Gilmour. And other names of prominent Liberals follow, to the number of forty-one. Then the Canadian Pacific Railway employees, to the number of fifty-eight, sent in a petition to the Postmaster General to prevent his carrying out this unhappy stroke of Siftonian policy. Then comes petition No. 3, from one of the Moosejaw settlements, one of the most prosperous settlements in Canada. Thirty-seven of the leading farmers doing constant business in Moosejaw, petitioned against the wrong that was about to be perpetrated against the country, against Moosejaw, against the Liberal party itself. Then comes the fourth petition :

The Honourable
The Postmaster General,
Ottawa.

We, the undersigned residents of the town of Moosejaw and surrounding district, hereby beg to affirm and petition as follows :

1. That it is with regret we learn of the proposed dismissal of Chas. A. Gass from the position of postmaster at Moosejaw.

2. That C. A. Gass has, since the time of his appointment as postmaster in March, 1889, ever proved a capable, painstaking, courteous and efficient official.

3. That his dismissal from the office of postmaster will, in our opinion, act as a detriment to the present efficient transaction of our postal business.

4. That we, the undersigned, believe and know the dismissal of Mr. Gass is contrary to the wishes of a large majority of the citizens of the town of Moosejaw and surrounding district.

5. That the order for the dismissal of Chas. A. Gass from the position of postmaster be rescinded.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

How many names are signed to this petition? One hundred and fifty-seven, and I need hardly say that if this man were not an efficient postmaster, such a petition could never have been obtained. The *Moosejaw Times*—a paper which, while professing to be independent, is a deadly enemy of mine, and is certainly most untrustworthy in any of its reports of what takes place in this House, whenever I am concerned—this paper thus speaks of this matter:

A Hurried Transfer.

Considerable inconvenience might have been saved the people of Moosejaw had the post office inspector taken a little more time in transferring the post office at this place last week. Inspector Phinney arrived Wednesday morning and relieved Mr. Gass. A dray was then ordered, and all the government belongings piled thereon, transported to the new office, and what a couple of tables would not hold was piled on the floor. In the meantime the carpenters were at work on the fittings, which at first consisted of a board partition with a couple of delivery wickets. Consequently, for the first few days our postmaster had to assort the mail without even a pigeon-hole. Had it been a small country office, the hasty manner in which the transfer was made might not have caused any inconvenience, but as the Moosejaw post office is one of the most important in the Territories in point of revenue and volume of business done, we think that the inspector could have afforded to devote at least a couple of days to the transfer, and thus have given time for the installation of at least some office convenience to facilitate the public service. However, chaos is now giving place to order, a number of lock boxes have been put in, other fittings are being added, two assistants have been secured in the persons of Messrs. W. D. McIntyre, of Sidney, Man., and Ed. Sington, and with a few more days' experience, the new incumbent should be on to the 'run' of things, and the public will have a right to expect a first-class service.

To give you some idea of the sense of indignation and disgust that seized this community when Mr. Gass was dismissed, here is a letter written to the *Sentinel*:

Moosejaw Post Office.

To the Editor of The Sentinel.

Dear Sir,—With the present chaotic condition of affairs in our new post office, consequent upon the dismissal of Mr. C. Gass from the posi-

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tion, I deem it expedient to bring before the minds of the public some of the manifold adverse results of such a change, to give some facts gleaned from certain indisputable sources, a brief resume of the existing circumstances, and the reasons leading to the deplorable state of incompetency which now exists.

On March 10 Mr. Gass was advised that the Moosejaw post office would be transferred to Mr. J. H. Grayson on April 1. Immediately this information was learned, several leading Liberals drew up petitions asking that Mr. Gass's services be retained, on the ground that he had ever proven a faithful, efficient and courteous official. These petitions were inspired by a feeling of British fair-play and justice, which predominated in the minds of these gentlemen, and they met with a hearty reception wherever the petitions were presented, not less than 162 names being voluntarily placed on this one petition. The independent element, desirous of having a voice in the matter, supported by some Conservatives, placed their wishes on record by enrolling 188 names on a general petition setting forth their protest to the dismissal of Mr. Gass. These petitions (containing names of 350 bona fide residents of the town and district surrounding) were forwarded to the Postmaster General at Ottawa on March 20. On the same date (March 20) Mr. Gass received advice from the department that owing to some changes in the original arrangement, the Moosejaw post office would be transferred at once. Mr. Phinney, post office inspector, arrived by next train, and made the transfer on March 21.

To even a casual observer, the cause of the 'change in the original arrangement' is at once apparent. No charge warranting Mr. Gass's dismissal could be produced, and the fact of his dismissal having aroused the just indignation of the people here, as evidenced by their petitions, the few prime movers for his dismissal—doubtless aware that no government could possibly ignore the emphatic petitions about to be presented—communicated the fears to the Minister of the Interior, who at once saved the position by the speedy use of his 'cold steel,' thus eluding all but the 'three chosen' at Moosejaw from having a voice in the matter.

'And where that frown of covetousness darkly fell,
Hope died and Justice sighed farewell.

From private sources we learn that a friend of Mr. Gass, at Ottawa, interviewed the Postmaster General as to the direct cause of Mr. Gass's dismissal, and was informed that personally there was nothing against Mr. Gass, but the dismissal was made on the demand of Mr. Sifton, who, being the western minister, his demands had to be complied with. The 'young Napoleon' doubtless had to have his unquenchable thirst for political opponents' gore satiated before retiring to hibernate on the banks of the Danube—doubtless aware that the storm of indignation which he had aroused would have so adjusted itself that on his return revenge on such a puny creature as himself would then be esteemed contemptible, the principle of striking a fallen foe being at present confined to the aborigines of South Africa.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Oh, oh.

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) laughs as though this was a comical affair, the treatment of Mr. Gass. Mr. Gass belongs to a Nova Scotian family, as respectable as that of

any man in this House, and there is nothing to laugh at.

Judging from the philosophical manner in which Mr. Gass takes his dismissal, he is in no sense the somnambulist of a shattered dream. On the contrary, he expresses himself as being surprised that the deceitful tactics of his opponents, who dare not face an open investigation, have not sooner been prolific of some good to themselves. The opportunity, however, presented itself in Mr. Sifton's willingness to perform their dirty work, under cover of his position as minister of the Crown. Its execution was well timed, as he will ere this have reached his desired 'Alsatian retreat,' or city of refuge.

Yours faithfully,

JUSTICE.

Moosejaw, March 26.

Mr. GIBSON. What is his first name?

Mr. DAVIN. My hon. friend from Lincoln (Mr. Gibson) asks me who wrote this. I do not know, but I will say that we have in Moosejaw, and also in other parts of the North-west, able men quite equal to writing admirable letters like that, and it is one of the best letters in the way of newspaper correspondence that I have ever seen.

Mr. GIBSON. I am afraid it was sent from Regina.

Mr. DAVIN. I am telling the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson) that I do not know—

Mr. GIBSON. Of course, I am not saying that you did it.

Mr. DAVIN. I do not suppose the hon. gentleman thinks I should equal anything like that.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is very much like what I have heard from you.

Mr. DAVIN. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) wants to know if I had anything to do with it, I can tell him—and I am sure that will fully satisfy him—that I do not know any more than he does who wrote it. Now, I think I have shown that the Liberals of Moosejaw, the Conservatives of Moosejaw and the whole people of Moosejaw have a crying grievance against the Postmaster General, and against the Minister of the Interior. The country has a grievance against them. Justice, whose sacred name is assumed by the eloquent writer of this letter, has a grievance against them for what has been done. After an investigation had been had and a report made, after that report had been dwelt upon and pondered over, after the Postmaster General had shown, by treating Mr. Gass with favour and confidence that he regarded him as an official to be trusted—after a year and seven months Mr. Gass is dismissed. And he is dismissed for a reason outside of the report, and aside from any question of efficiency. For Mr. McLeod found that he was then a good officer. These petitioners, of all political creeds, knew that he was a good officer, and that he was

dismissed for reasons other than those found in the report. That reason is one not justified by our tradition or our constitution. Why, it is not even according to the rule that to the victors belong the spoils; because if that had been acted upon, his head would have fallen long before it did. It is not justified by any rule of administrative action that can be devised. The only reason that he was dismissed was that some local wire-pullers who have got the ear of the Minister of the Interior, and who want to throw such men as Mr. Fish and other leading Liberals on one side, said to the Minister of the Interior: We want this man dismissed. And the Minister of the Interior went to see the Postmaster General, and I can fancy what took place. 'Gass must be dismissed,' cries the Minister of the Interior, with his meat-axe in his hand. The Postmaster General has flashes of justice that do him credit. We can understand him saying: Why, Sifton, he is one of my best officers, I have found him an admirable man, I have not a complaint against him, how am I to dismiss him? I must have his head, cries Sifton. I must have this man's place, one of my henchmen want it. But how can I justify it in parliament, says the Postmaster General. Why, says Sifton, can't you say you have dismissed him on the report of Mr. McLeod? And so he comes here and tells us it is on that report, although Mr. McLeod's report would not and did not justify Mr. Gass's dismissal. That the Postmaster General could not justify it is proved by the fact that though he had notice he is not here tonight. Sir, it is not only a wrong only against Mr. Gass, but it is a wrong against his friends. Mr. Gass has relatives in Nova Scotia occupying high and respectable positions. His family would naturally feel that they had some claim upon this government because, though their traditions are Conservative, it is well known that they gave help to the Liberal party in the last election, owing to the great question that was then uppermost. The return for the substantial help they gave the Liberal party is the dismissal of Mr. Gass without rhyme or reason. Then, in order to justify this atrocious act, they slander the man; they put up some men in parliament to slander him and to say he is a briber. They set some of their journalistic assassins at work to stamp him as a corrupt man, and at the same time they attempt to slander Davin as well as Gass. I say it is a scandalous proceeding, and it is one that may fittingly occupy this House, even at twelve o'clock at night, on the eve of going into Committee of Supply. It is a grievance not only of the people of Moosejaw but of the people in other parts of the country. It is a grievance that justice has against a Postmaster General that could behave in such a manner, and against the Minister of the Interior that could tempt him to such a deed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I rise for the purpose of saying that I think I have not been fairly dealt with by the government. Yesterday, as a matter of courtesy only, I told the government that to-day when they moved the House into supply, I proposed to ask the House to consider an important question, the purport of which I explained. I have been in parliament for some time, and this is the first occasion when the government, after holding the attention of the House until twelve o'clock at night, have then moved the House into supply. Of course, under the circumstances, I do not feel justified in going into a question of so much importance at this hour. After this, there is only one course left for me to take, and that is to choose my own time, and not, by giving notice, to suffer this treatment at the hands of the government.

The PRIME MINISTER. I am surprised at the hon. gentleman saying he has not been dealt with fairly by the government. At this period of the session we cannot adjourn the House at twelve o'clock, and therefore we moved the House into supply, not expecting that the hon. gentleman would move his motion at all. I thought, after the conference I had with him, that he would find it convenient to move his motion to-morrow afternoon. Nobody expected that he would take it up at twelve o'clock at night. The hon. gentleman will have an opportunity of doing so to-morrow, if he chooses, or at any other time.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Civil government—Department of Agriculture..... \$54,842 50

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the cause of the increase of \$2,000?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). That is due to the statutory increases, and to the establishment of one second-class clerkship. Last year the money was voted for a clerkship, but it was not used. It was intended to pay one of our new patent examiners. The patent examiner who was intended for this position has left the service, and this year I hope that one of the young men who have come in will reach that experience which will entitle him to an appointment as a second-class clerk. I have already appointed two second-class clerks among these new patent examiners, and there is another one who is working under contingencies now, and who, I think, during the year, will be entitled to this position.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In making the statutory increases, will the minister tell us what system he follows?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I consulted with my deputy, and gave sta-

Mr. DAVIN.

tutory increases where it seemed the responsibilities of the position were hardly compensated by the salaries enjoyed, or where unusual efficiency and interest in the work had been exhibited. Fifteen statutory increases were made.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has the hon. gentleman a report from the deputy as to these?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Only a verbal report, having discussed it with him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How many are entitled under the law to statutory increases?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Twenty-nine.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman give me the names of those who are getting the increase?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Jackson, chief clerk; Mr. Brymner, chief clerk; Mr. Jarvis, chief clerk; and Mr. Lynch, chief clerk; first-class clerks, Mr. McCabe, Mr. St. Denis; second-class clerks, Mr. Gerin, Mr. Bate, Mr. Doherty, Mr. Taché, Mr. Chittick, Mr. Casey and Mr. Thompson; third-class clerks, Mr. Powell, Mr. Bonneville.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is there anything against the other clerks?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, simply they did not seem to be singled out in any way for promotion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Were their names discussed?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman give me the names of the other clerks?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. George Johnson, at the head of his class and not eligible; Mr. Routhier, same; Mr. Bailey, Mr. Dauray and Mr. Caron, Mr. Hanright, Mr. Ide, Mr. Richard and Mr. McGill. Messrs. Verner, Copping, Morrison, Wilkins, Gravel, Tremblay, and Skead were at the head of their class. Miss Reiffenstein, Mr. Duff, Miss Steacy, Mr. Desjardins, Mr. Walsh, Miss M. Loyden and Miss Graham did not receive the statutory increase.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When did this discussion take place?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. When the estimates were being prepared.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What does Mr. Bailey do?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He is one of the patent examiners.

Mr. MONTAGUE. He is a very excellent man, is he not?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He has had long experience. The reason that he was not given an increase was that he had six months' leave of absence with full pay last year, and I thought that was quite sufficient allowance for him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Ide is a very excellent clerk.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. His case was very similar to that of Mr. Bailey. He was away on leave of absence with full pay owing to slight ill-health.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Then, the hon. gentleman, unless there was some special reason, gave the increase.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, on the contrary, unless there was some special reason I did not give it. Mr. Ide is a good clerk who does his work well, but in consequence of the favour that was granted to him I did not think that it was necessary to give him an increase.

Mr. CLANCY. What is the name of the clerk that the hon. gentleman proposes to appoint as a patent examiner?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It is Mr. Campbell.

Mr. CLANCY. How long has he been in the service?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Nearly a year.

Mr. CLANCY. Surely the hon. gentleman is not promoting clerks who have been a very short time in the service. I do not care what their technical qualifications may be; as a matter of fact, it generally takes a young man about a year to get used to the office even though he may have some special qualification. This practice of promoting a clerk under the name of having technical qualifications may result in the advancement of clerks who are utterly undeserving to the injury of others who are deserving. I am not saying that he has not the qualifications that the hon. gentleman would probably state he has. But at the same time I know there are others long in the service who may have quite as good qualifications and who are not promoted. I think that the practice of taking a person who has practically only entered the service and promoting him under the name of a man who has special qualifications, is a subject that ought to be carefully inquired into.

Mr. DAVIN. Does it not require special knowledge to examine these patents?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Certainly.

Mr. DAVIN. When the hon. gentleman is replying to the hon. member for Bothwell, I hope he will tell us what special qualifications this gentleman has?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. This gentleman is a university graduate, who took his degree in natural and applied science and he is specially adapted for the work which has been placed in his charge. I have made it a rule of only accepting university graduates for these positions. I obtained the services of several young men at salaries of \$600 a year, but in consequence of an offer to go into another service one of them left me and the others refused to stay. I had to hold out hopes that shortly I would be able to give them permanent positions of a good character, and it is in consequence of that that I have already given three gentlemen second-class clerkships. They are men of special qualifications, who have shown aptitude and ability in their work, and consequently I had to face the question whether I should retain them by paying them more or lose them and take in inexperienced men. I cannot retain men properly qualified in the service at the salaries which we can give except by appointing them to these clerkships. Mr. Campbell is one of these who came in a little later, and he has been working out his probationary term. It is only in cases where they are found to be thoroughly satisfactory that I propose to advance them.

Mr. CLANCY. How many of those who have been selected for the statutory increases were appointed by the present government?

The PRIME MINISTER. Two of them have been appointed by the present government.

Mr. CLANCY. In what year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. One is a young patent examiner appointed three years ago, and the other is my own secretary, who was appointed when I came into office myself.

Mr. CLANCY. What was his salary three years ago?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He commenced at \$600 a year, was raised to \$800, was then given a second-class clerkship at \$1,100, and now he is given a statutory increase which will make his salary \$1,150.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How does the examination of patents compare numerically with what it was in 1896?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We have a very large number of applications for patents. Until about eight or ten months ago we made very slight gains. When I came into office, I found a staff of three examiners and I found that they were falling into arrears with their work. I made some changes which involved a good deal of delay. Mr. McCabe, who has been a long time in the service, has been ill a

good deal during the last two years and has been doing less work than he used to do. Mr. A. E. Caron, who is one of the examiners, and a very competent and quick worker, I was obliged to take off and put at the work which comes under the head of the classification of patents. I found that the classification of patents was very important and necessary for the proper carrying out of the work. This has been going on and is going, and I trust, as it progresses, it will facilitate the work very much although it has not yet made enough progress to assist the work to the extent that it will in a short time. But, we have been making great improvements and we have brought the examination of and the dealing with patents down to within a measureable distance of being up to date. I regret to say that we are not yet up to date, but I trust that from the gain that has been made recently that by a year from now we will be up to date.

Arts, agriculture and statistics \$492,500

Mr. MONTAGUE. With regard to these estimates the government are anxious to make some progress, and it is getting pretty late. While we may have some discussion upon them, I think it is the desire of gentlemen upon this side of the House to facilitate the work of the House as much as possible, provided the Prime Minister will specifically agree that one item be reserved, and that when the discussion takes place upon that item the discussion shall be open on all the items without being ruled out of order.

The PRIME MINISTER. Certainly, with great pleasure.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And that the fullest information will be given upon all the items.

The PRIME MINISTER. Certainly.

Mr. CLANCY. We can have information on all the items the same as if they had not been passed.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I see that the *Patent Record* has cost more.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It costs more as the number of patents increases. In fact I will have to take a supplementary estimate to cover the expense this year.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is it still printed at the Bureau?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Criminal statistics \$1,800

Mr. MONTAGUE. Does not the minister think it is time to drop this in connection with his department?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I would like very much if a method could

Mr. FISHER.

be devised by which we would get agricultural statistics from all over the country. I hope that, perhaps, if I am continued in office much longer, I will be able to devise some such method. I do not think that these criminal statistics are of very much value.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My judgment is that these statistics are a fraud. I do think it would be of great value if the minister could get a bureau of statistics organized for the purpose of collecting crop information which would be very valuable to the agriculturists of Canada, and would have its effect upon the markets.

Statistical Year-Book..... \$3,000

Mr. CLANCY. What distribution is to be made of this book this year?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I discussed the matter with Mr. George Johnson, the statistician, and we agreed that as many copies should be sent to the members as possible, after the ordinary distribution. Last year I ordered three copies to be sent, but this year I hope to be able to send members as many as six or seven.

Mr. CLANCY. Last year the minister promised that some system would be adopted with regard to distribution because then some members got a great deal more than others. The minister should adopt a system in this matter. Can the minister state how many are required for the general distribution?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not the figures, but I will get them later. The members seem to look upon this book the same as the other blue-books which are placed at the disposal of hon. gentlemen. The difference, however, is, that this is taken from a special vote for the printing of this special book, and it is not as in the case of the blue-books got from the distribution office, published by the order of the House. The *Statistical Year-Book* is published under a special departmental vote, and that is the reason why the books are not available to members for distribution as the ordinary blue-books are.

Mr. CLANCY. Did the hon. gentleman cut the vote down?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cut it down slightly when I first came into office, but it has been the same for the last three years. It used to be \$4,000. Although the vote was larger formerly, yet I was able to make some economies in the printing and preparation of it by cutting out duplicate tables, and for the smaller vote. I have been able to distribute a larger number of copies than was the case before this government came into power. I have been able to secure all the useful information that was contained in the book, and at

the same time to reduce the size of the volume and the cost of printing. Although the vote is \$1,000 less, for the last two years I have been able to distribute more copies of the book than were distributed when we came into office.

Experimental farms..... \$80,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. I suppose the same sort of work is carried on as in 1896 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There have been some changes. The chief change has been the appointment of the agriculturist and the setting apart of about half the area of the farm, some 200 acres, to be worked as a farm, and not as experimental plots. I have given it over to the agriculturist to deal with as a stock farm, and have instructed him to deal with it as nearly as possible as a farmer would deal with the land for his own profit, utilizing as far as possible the information that has been obtained in past years on the farm.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is the work of experimenting practically the same as in 1896 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Yes.

Mr. CLANCY. I should judge from what the hon. gentleman says that the experimental work is abandoned.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not at all. The parts of the farm which have been set apart to be worked in this systematic manner had been used for raising grain, just as a farm, and not for experimental plots. There is, in fact, a larger area devoted to strictly experimental work than ever before. The 200 acres which are set apart to be worked as a farm in connection with the keeping of stock are to be worked without any extraneous aid, and no work is to be done on it which a farmer could not do on an ordinary well-conducted farm.

Mr. CLANCY. Will this affect the distribution of grain ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not at all. On the contrary, we are distributing very much larger quantities of grain.

Printing and distribution of reports and bulletins of farms..... \$4,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is the same as in 1896 ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I may say that we have been sending out, during the last year especially, a very large number of bulletins. I thought it better to send these out as we obtained the information rather than wait for the annual report. I think we have sent out last year fourteen or fifteen bulletins.

Mr. CLANCY. I have not yet seen the Commissioner's report.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The commissioner has not prepared a report yet this year. His reports are somewhat intermittent. The last was made in 1897. The evidence which the commissioner gives to the Committee on Agriculture has been generally considered as a resume of the work of that branch ; but, he is now preparing a report, and I hope within a few months to have it ready to put in the printer's hands, so that it will be printed in time for the opening of next session of parliament.

Mr. CLANCY. We should have a report this year, as he has not given any evidence before the committee.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He will be here before the end of the session. He is to sail on Saturday, and I expect him to be in Ottawa in about ten days.

For classifying all Canadian patents and preparing drawings of same for classification, and for exchange with the United States in return for their patents..... \$4,100

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is new work.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It has been going on for about two years.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How is it getting along ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Fairly well, I think. I gave it in charge of Mr. Caron. It requires technical knowledge and a good deal of care, and I could not see my way to putting it in the hands of any man who had not a good deal of experience in examining patents. We require to make copies of the drawings of our patents.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Who is making the drawings ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. They are done by Mr. Desjardins in the department, by a photographic process.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Are you renting a model room now ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There is a room rented on Sparks Street, in which a portion of the models are on exhibition.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is not necessary.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not think it is.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What rent is being paid ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot tell off-hand. It is rented by the Public Works Department. I think the rent is \$1,200 a year. It was felt by a good many people that the model room was one of the sights of Ottawa, and that it would, perhaps, be unfortunate to do away with

it altogether. When the changes in the Langevin Block were made, the large rooms in the upper part of that building were utilized for offices, and the models were taken to the building on Sparks Street. For a number of years we have not required models with the applications for patents, so that these are old models. The examiners tell me that they can get along very well without models, although they are useful.

Census \$150,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. What day does the hon. gentleman propose to begin taking the census ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. It cannot commence until January 1, 1901. The last census commenced, I think, on April 5.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will you take it on the same date ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have not yet formed any plans ; I thought that it would be time enough to do so after July 1. I have consulted with the officers, and they tell me that they can easily prepare all the necessary schedules after that date.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The reason I ask the question is, that I saw an article in the paper published by the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Oliver) in which he outlines a line of procedure to be taken by the government. It appears we are not to have the election just now, but that we are to have the census started January 1, and then have another session and redistribution based on the new census. It is rather important that we should know the date.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will carefully read the article, and see whether I can get any enlightenment from it. Would the hon. gentleman promise to let the Redistribution Bill through, in case we should have another session. If an arrangement of that kind were made, I might begin the work of the census very early.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the hon. gentleman would go to the country now, the probability is, he would not be in office to make the census.

Mr. CLANCY. Will this cover the whole expense of the census ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. No, the expense of the last census was nearly \$500,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is the system to be followed, the de jure or the de facto system ? I suppose it is not intended to make any change.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The census has always been taken by the de jure system, and the probability is that that system will be followed.

Mr. FISHER.

Paris exhibition..... \$50,000

Mr. CLANCY. Is that all the hon. gentleman will require to finish that service ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am afraid not. When this vote was prepared, some months ago, I was in hopes it would have been sufficient, but I shall have to ask the House for supplementary estimates this year, and possibly also for a slight supplement to this vote next year.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman be prepared to give all the details of the expenditure ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot bring down all the details, because I have not received all the details from Paris of the money spent there, but will bring down all I can.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Who is representing us now ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Tarte is the chief commissioner in Paris. He has with him Mr. Perrault and Mr. Jardine, Mr. Scott, and Colonel Gourdeau, of the board of commissioners. Professor Robertson was there for about a month on some work in connection with the cold storage exhibit. Professor Saunders will go over a little later to represent Canada at the Horticultural and Agricultural Conventions. Possibly Dr. Dawson may go over for a short time, though he does not wish to. We have, besides the commissioners, a number of employees, of whom I will give a list.

Mr. MONTAGUE. A list of the people he sent from Canada ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I have already given it to the House, but will give it again.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is Mr. Pinault on the list ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Pinault has no connection of any kind or shape with our commissioners in Paris.

Mr. MONTAGUE. His work was done in Boston.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not know anything about his work. His name was never submitted to me by anybody in connection with the Paris exhibition.

Towards compiling historical data in regard to Canadian families in Canada.... \$1,400

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Mr. Gaudet is doing that work. He was professor in St. Ann's College, and recommended very highly by a large number of Acadians and others, as being specially adapted for that work. A large petition, signed by members on both sides, was presented to the government asking that he be appointed. He has been at work for

over a year. When appointed, he said he hoped to get through in about two years, but I have had a report since, saying that he has found a great deal more work than he expected, and it is quite possible he may not get through in that time.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If this work is well done, I think the money will be well spent. All historical works, that fire our young people with patriotic feelings, is good work, but why should it be done for the Acadians and not for the United Empire Loyalists? It is well known that, perhaps, the noblest lot of settlers that ever came into Canada were the United Empire Loyalists. Large parts of the province of Ontario are full of information with regard to these pioneers, information that will not be available soon, as those who possess it are passing away. If the government are going to take up the work of collecting historical data, I do not think it could do better than to begin in Lincoln, Haldimand and Hamilton, for instance,—

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) is rather selfish.

Mr. MONTAGUE. No, I was just going to say—or many other parts of Ontario, as well as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, where information concerning the United Empire Loyalists is to be had.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman forgot to mention the province of Quebec in which also there are many United Empire Loyalists. In my own particular section of the eastern townships they form a large percentage of the population. The hon. gentleman's suggestion is one worthy of consideration, and, in the course of time, no doubt such a work will be undertaken.

Mr. MONTAGUE. If it is to be undertaken it should not be delayed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE—
and possibly before the end of this session, something may be heard of it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Has the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) read the work of Mr. Richard, on the Acadians. He is a pioneer in researches of this kind, and published a book, I believe, at his own expense, without subsidy from any government.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Where does the gentleman reside who is to do this work?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. For some months he has been making his headquarters in Prince Edward Island. I believe he came from Shediac, and was professor in St. Anne's College.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How did the arrangement come about?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. In consequence of a petition largely signed by leading Acadians asking that this work be undertaken and entrusted to this gentleman. Some of the officials in the college in which he had been employed took the initiative, I believe.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not wish to offer any objection; I am only anxious that the work should be well done, and I suggest that it should be carried into a wider field.

Mr. GIBSON. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) might have suggested also that a similar work should be carried on amongst the loyal Indians on the banks of the Grand River.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I do not profess to make a judgment as to this gentleman's qualifications. I have the word of those who recommended him. He was recommended by a large number of leading men among these people, and their recommendations appeared to be in every way justified.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson) mentions the Indians apparently without thinking of the feelings of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson), who parted with them so recently by reason of adopting the provincial franchise. However, I merely rise to say that we shall expect very definite information with respect to the item covering the creameries in the North-west, information as to the return payments.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will see that that is prepared.

Mr. MONTAGUE. As to the suggestion of the hon. member for Lincoln, I shall be quite satisfied to have the government spend some money in gathering the materials for the history of our Indian tribes. They deserved it, not only by reason of their original ownership of our soil, but because they fought for Britain in her time of trouble, and even recently there were two companies of Indians anxious to go to the Transvaal—members of the 27th Battalion.

Quarantine—Salaries and contingencies of organized districts and public health	
in other districts.....	\$55,000

Mr. CLANCY. I did not understand the question of quarantine was to be taken up.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The latitude will be the same as in the case of the other item.

Mr. CLANCY. But I am afraid we shall have the latitude without much substance.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I may say that I am going to ask for a supplementary vote for these organized districts for the current year, and there will

be abundant opportunity to discuss everything in connection with that item.

Quarantine—Tracadie Lazaretto... .. \$5,500

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has the hon. minister decided with regard to the lepers of British Columbia ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The question has not been opened lately except on questions of my hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Prior). My hon. friend (Mr. Montague), who preceded me in office, knows that the British Columbia people have been asking to have these lepers taken over and dealt with by us. I have never been convinced that the government at Ottawa was called upon to do that, and have not acceded to the request. No new arguments have been given that would cause me to change my opinion.

Mr. PRIOR. I understand that there will be an opportunity later on to discuss this matter. On that understanding, I shall reserve what I have to say on the subject.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the cause of the increase of \$300 in this vote ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. A slightly increased allowance to the nuns who take charge of the lepers there. They have been asking for it for some time, and, in consequence of a report of the superintendent general of public health, I thought it wise that it should be given.

Cattle quarantine..... .. \$30,000

Mr. CLANCY. I would ask the minister if he has considered the question I brought up last year, namely, the question of making compensation partially or wholly where diseased herds have been slaughtered for tuberculosis ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The question to which my hon. friend alludes will come up on a special vote for tuberculosis. However, I may answer him by saying that he will remember that when this vote for tuberculosis was first granted by parliament there was a distinct understanding that it should not be used for payment of compensation. I have felt all along that the vote as placed on the statutes would be utterly inadequate if we once commenced to pay compensation anywhere. The vote would have to be increased probably at least twenty-fold, and I do not think parliament would be disposed to make that increase. Moreover, our experience in paying compensation for hog slaughter and the Pictou cattle disease, has not been such as to induce us to continue it.

Mr. CLANCY. I admit that this would entail probably a new charge upon the public purse, but it is something that the government will have to deal with. I am con-

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vinced that this is a very important service, and is entitled to a very considerable expenditure.

Carrying out the regulations concerning the health of employees on public works under the Public Works (Health) Act, 1899..... .. \$5,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. Who is going to spend this money ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I suppose it is in my department. The regulations are drawn up, but no officers have been appointed. I may say that the medical superintendent will be Dr. Montizambert, the superintendent general of public health. In addition we will have to have some local officers on public works to examine and report to the Superintendent General of Public Health.

Mr. CLANCY. I suppose the remuneration will be somewhat nominal, and there will be a considerable number ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. We have not yet organized the matter. But the remuneration will have to be adequate for the service performed, and no more.

Mr. CLANCY. Is it proposed to have any of the persons appointed take up their whole time ? If their whole time is employed, this vote would pay for a very limited number.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Without binding myself to a scheme, my present idea is to have, besides the Superintendent General of Public Health, some man who would be permanently employed to go about the country and examine the public works, a man who might be considered a representative of the labourers who are engaged on those public works. In addition to that it may be necessary to employ some local men temporarily from time to time upon a particular work. But the scheme has not been worked out in all its details yet.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not feel inclined to pass that item to-night. My own idea is that it is an absolute waste of the \$5,000. I do not think the money spent in the way the hon. gentleman has outlined would do five cents worth of good. What are you going to do with one man going around the public works of this Dominion looking after the health of the employees ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He will see if the regulations that have been published are carried out. But we will let that item stand.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). While the House has done excellent work, I think in view of the great news which has been received of the surrender of

Pretoria, the hon. gentlemen should be permitted to go out into the streets and join in the general festivities. I move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 2 a.m. (Thursday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, May 31, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 171) respecting the Central Vermont Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

POSTING PRIVATE BILLS.

Mr. LANDERKIN moved:

That for the remainder of the session the time for posting private Bills, under rule 60, be reduced to three days, in accordance with the recommendation contained in the eighteenth report of the Select Standing Committee on Standing Orders.

Motion agreed to.

THE TRACADIE LAZARETTO.

Mr. PRIOR asked:

1. Are the two cases of leprosy from Manitoba, and the one case from Nova Scotia being kept at the Tracadie Lazaretto at the expense of the Federal government, or are the provincial governments of Manitoba and Nova Scotia paying for their respective patients?

2. Were the transportation expenses of these lepers paid by the Federal government or by the provinces?

3. How much did the expenses of transportation and other expenses incidental thereto amount to?

4. Does the amendment to the Quarantine Act of 1872 apply equally to Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Yes. 2. By the Federal gov-

ernment. 3. Total expenses, \$1,497.65. 4. Yes.

THE STEAMER KATHLEEN.

Mr. TALBOT asked:

1. Does the department of Agriculture pay the salaries and board of the crew of steamer 'Kathleen' during the season and while doing quarantine service?

2. Does the department furnish the coal?

3. How many men will compose the crew?

4. What is the salary paid to each?

5. How much coal will be consumed per month?

6. How much is allowed for the board of each man?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. The department pays salaries, but not the board, of the crew of the steamer *Kathleen*. The men working on that steamer, not especially its crew, are engaged to do what work may be required of them in connection with the Grosse Isle quarantine station. 2. Yes. 3. There are three new men engaged at the quarantine station—one engineer, one stoker and one deck-hand. They are not the crew of the *Kathleen*, being engaged for other work. If more hands are required, they are taken off the quarantine steamer *Challenger*. 4. The pay is \$60 per month to the engineer, \$40 per month to the stoker, and \$40 per month to the deck-hand, for eight months in the year. 5. The amount of coal consumed depends on the amount of work done by the vessel. 6. The men board themselves.

PURCHASES OF HORSES AND HAY FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Mr. FOSTER (by Mr. Bergeron) asked:

1. Who is performing Prof. Robertson's duties during his absence in Paris?

2. Are the purchases of horses and hay for the British government made through this official of the Dominion government?

3. Has the government any record of hay having been purchased from J. C. Malone, of Three Rivers? If so, what was the price paid for it?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Nobody in particular is doing Prof. Robertson's work here. The work in the department goes on as usual when Prof. Robertson may happen to be absent for a short time. 2. There were no purchases of horses by any official of the Dominion government for the Imperial government. The hay which was purchased by the department for the Imperial government, acting as the agent for that government, was managed by Prof. Robertson. The work was all finished before he left. 3. My department has no record of any hay having been purchased from J. C. Malone, of Three Rivers.

YUKON—INSTRUCTIONS TO MR. W. H. LYNCH.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. What instructions were given to Mr. W. H. Lynch, referred to in Sessional Paper No. 80, 1899 ?
2. What is the date of his instructions ?
3. Where is the 'main report,' referred to in his letter of March 20, 1899, in above return ?
4. When will the government bring down the 'main report' in compliance with the order of this House of March 29, 1899 ?
5. How long was Mr. Lynch employed by the government in this connection ?
6. When did his services begin and when did they terminate ?
7. What remuneration, if any, did Mr. Lynch receive ?
8. Out of what vote or appropriation was he paid ?
9. Under what authority and by whose was Mr. Lynch engaged ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In reply to the first question, I beg to say that he was instructed to make a special study of the mining regulations and to report to the Minister of the Interior upon what he might consider to be necessary amendments to the mining law. 2. July 12, 1898. 3. The report has been mislaid, but I have asked for a copy. 4. As soon as a copy can be procured. 5. Seven months. 6. July 9, 1898, February 9, 1899. 7. Two hundred dollars per month and expenses. 8. Yukon Provisional District Association. 9. Under the authority of the Minister of the Interior.

THE PLAINS OF ABRAHAM.

Mr. MARCOTTE asked :

1. Has the government under consideration any application in relation to the purchase by the state of a property in the vicinity of Quebec known as the Plains of Abraham ?
2. By whom has the application been made ?
3. Is the government aware that the last battle fought, in 1759, between Generals Wolfe and Montcalm did not, as a matter of fact, take place on the tract of ground which the government are now asked to purchase ?
4. Is it the intention of the government to purchase the said property ?
5. If so, on what ground ?
6. For what purposes ?
7. What is the price asked, and the superficial area of the property ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The government has received no application from any one offering to sell to the government, the property known as the Plains of Abraham, but representations have been made to us by several public bodies and several persons to purchase that property, which belongs to Les Dames Urselines at Quebec. This property contains about eighty-five arpents, and no price has been mentioned. The government are dis-

Mr. FISHER.

posed to buy that property, if it can be had for a reasonable price, and make it a public park in commemoration of the great historic event.

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With reference to the Royal Commission to investigate the electoral frauds, I said the other day that we were awaiting the return of the Minister of Justice before issuing the commission. I am sorry to say that my hon. colleague has not yet returned, but whether he is still further detained by illness or not, the commission shall issue Monday next.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Would the hon. gentleman furnish us with the names of the judges and the instructions given them, and the time when we may expect them to enter on the discharge of their duties ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not think I could be called upon to give the instructions issued, because that is a matter on which we want the advice of the Minister of Justice. As to the names of the judges, they shall be given on Monday next.

PARIS EXPOSITION—SUNDAY CLOSING.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). I rose to ask a question yesterday, with reference to the closing of the Paris Exposition on Sunday, and was requested by the right hon. leader of the government to repeat my question when the hon. the Minister of Agriculture was in his place. On May 10, when this subject was brought before the House, the Minister of Agriculture said that the attempt of the government to secure the closing of the Canadian portion of the exhibit had been unavailing, that the matter was in the hands of the Imperial authorities, and that the action of the Imperial authorities in the premises had prevented the wishes of Canada being acceded to. This, of course, was an outcome greatly regretted by the Christian people of Canada. I have since received communications from many organizations of the Lord's Day Alliance, and others having to do with this matter, and when I saw, a few days ago, a report in the press that the Canadian exhibit would be closed on the Lord's Day, I felt very much relieved, and I rise for the purpose of asking whether the report is correct ?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I am happy to be able to inform my hon. friend that the efforts which have been made by my hon. colleague (Mr. Tarte), the chief of the commissioners at Paris, for the Canadian government, have been successful, and the Canadian pavilion

at the Paris exhibition will be closed on Sunday. The Canadian exhibit is in three parts—one in the Colonial building, specially erected for the colonies of the British Empire. That building is occupied most largely by Canada, and also contains an exhibit from Tasmania and Western Australia. That whole building will be closed. In addition the Canadian Commission has a building for the display of agricultural implements in the park at Vincennes. That building also will be closed on Sundays. In addition there are Canadian exhibits scattered throughout the general building, along with the exhibits of other parts of the British Empire. Those exhibits cannot be closed, as the buildings are under the control of the commissioners at Paris, and the individual exhibitors have no control, and nothing can be done. But I am glad to say that last Sunday the Colonial pavilion and the Canadian pavilion at Vincennes were closed, and will in future be closed on Sundays.

Mr. MONK. Are the buildings of the United Kingdom closed on Sunday—the British building proper?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There are no British buildings proper in the exposition.

Mr. MONK. I mean the English exhibits.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The English exhibits are scattered through the general buildings, and those buildings will be open on Sundays.

SCHOONER JAMES BECKWYTH.

Mr. J. A. GILLIES (Richmond). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the hon. the Minister of Marine a question in connection with an inquiry I put to him on Monday last, concerning the schooner *James Beckwyth*. The fishing bounty was withheld from that schooner, for some reasons or other, by the department in 1899. The owners are William Levesconte and Sons than which there is not a more reputable or respected firm doing business in the lower provinces. The application for the bounty was regular in every respect. It was sworn to, and all the regulations prescribed by the department were complied with. The time in which vessels are required to be engaged in fishing before they can get the bounty was fully occupied by that schooner. The owners were somewhat surprised that the bounty should have been withheld, and I put the following question upon Monday last:

1. Was fishing bounty paid the schooner 'James Beckwyth,' of River Bourgeois, owned by William Levesconte and Sons, for the season 1899?

2. If not, why has the bounty been withheld?

The minister said:

To the first question the answer is 'no,' and to the second question the answer is: Because she was not engaged the length of time in fishing required by law.

The length of time is three months. That she was engaged in fishing for that length of time is sworn to by the master and corroborated by the statement of the owner, Mr. Levesconte, who is known to me and whose word will be accepted wherever he is known. I asked the minister if he had a report from his officers to the effect that she had not been engaged the length of time in fishing required by the law and his reply in effect was that he had. I asked if he would bring down the report, and he said he would inform me the following day.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). No.

Mr. GILLIES. I will read the answer:

Mr. GILLIES. Will the minister give me an answer to-morrow whether that report will be laid on the Table or not?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is not a promise to bring it down.

Mr. GILLIES. I did not say the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies) promised to bring it down; I said he promised to inform me the next day whether it would be brought down or not. I wrote a note to the minister across the floor of the House asking whether he could tell if the report would be brought down. I did not get the information I sought, and the matter seemed to have escaped the hon. gentleman's memory. I reminded him of it yesterday, and he said he did not know whether the report would be brought down or not. I would like to know whether the report will be laid on the Table, and I cannot see any reason why it should not. The master has made a sworn statement and all the regulations of the department have been complied with; yet, in the face of that the department is withholding the bounty to which this vessel is entitled.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I can only say that I am not yet in position to state positively whether I will bring down the report or not. It is a confidential report on which action may have to be taken. I may have to consult the Department of Justice as to whether action should be taken or not. I have not had an opportunity to consult with Mr. Kent, the head of the fishing bounty bureau yet; and, until I have had an opportunity of consulting with him and, pos-

sibly, with the Minister of Justice, I cannot say whether the report will be brought down or not.

Mr. GILLIES. I do not appreciate the position taken by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. However, I will await a few days the action of the minister. I hope he will see his way to bring down the report. So doing cannot prejudice him in the least degree even if he takes the step which he indicates it may be necessary for him to take.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That remains to be seen.

PAYMENT OF SESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldmand). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) if he has arranged anything in connection with the amounts due to the House of Common staff?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, I cannot report any arrangement as made. Yesterday, I sent for the Auditor General; and he assured me that there was no foundation for the impression that, so far as he was concerned, there was any discrimination between the Senate staff and that of the House of Commons. He did not seem willing to agree to the arrangement for payment that had been suggested, but he said he would put me in possession of a memorandum on the subject, which I hope to receive before this sitting is over. At present, I cannot give the House any assurance that the amounts will be paid until we can get a Bill through.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Does the minister state of his own knowledge that the Senate employees who are in the same position as members of our own staff have not been paid?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, but the Auditor General assured me—though I did not need his assurance—that, so far as he was concerned, he made no discrimination but is treating both the Senate and House of Commons alike. There may have been found some other means which I do not quite understand by which the Senate employees are paid. Some time during the present sitting, I hope to have the Auditor General's memorandum which will explain the matter.

SUPPLY—ADMINISTRATION OF THE YUKON.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House do in resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, the rejoicing throughout the empire to-day brings many happy thoughts to the minds of Her Majesty's subjects. Perhaps, I may be forgiven if I break in upon that manifestation of feeling in view of the resolution that I propose to lay in your hands, as it relates to an evil which, as manifested elsewhere, was one of the causes that brought about the conflict of arms in South Africa. In that connection there is an unfortunate comparison to be made, not wholly to our advantage, with the government under the auspices of the present administration in a portion of Her Majesty's Dominions controlled by us. I need dwell on that aspect of the case but briefly, because we have threshed out on the floor of this House many of the conditions obtaining in the Yukon territory. Unfortunately many of the evils, as I believe, still exist. I will call attention to a criticism made by a gentleman who went to South Africa and investigated the causes and effects of the war there. Mr. J. A. Hobson, in a very impartial work reviewing the causes of the war, refers to the incompetency and corruption of a considerable part of the officials as among the grievances of the Outlanders, and said:

Set, in many of the most important and lucrative places, having no intention to live permanently in the country, they acted as officials have always acted under such circumstances—they sought at once to satisfy a lust for power and to feather their nests.

And, further, at page 79, he makes some observations the application of which will be understood as reaching beyond the continent of Africa:

But that a widespread practice, and even system, of corruption, largely by direct money bribes and blackmail, prevailed among minor officials, could not be questioned. The difficulty was to discover how widespread it is. On this head, the evidence I got was not vague, but perfectly definite, and given in many instances by men whose statements I did not doubt. I am inclined to believe that among the officials on the Rand, the secretaries and clerks in offices concerned with legal documents, the inspectors connected with mining and other industries, the police and detective services, and others, there was a wide prevalence of corruption. A good deal of this was of a comparatively venial character. For instance, a business man often told me that he could not get a matter of legal form pushed through without bribing at every turn; but on closer examination, it appeared that the payment of money was to induce celerity, or, in most instances, priority of attention, not to procure such official assistance or assent as ought not to be given at all. The Johannesburg business man was in a hurry, and had plenty of money, and was wont to spend it freely in getting what he wanted. The Boer official was naturally, and after due education, purposely slow; hence, a practice grew up of quickening the pace of official business by private presents. There is reason to believe that this form of habitual corruption was confined to the mining business of the Rand.

Now, the correspondent of the *London Times* paid a visit to the Yukon district; and the impression formed by the correspondent of that leading journal, for whatever it was worth, was, perhaps, more unfavourable than the impression formed by Mr. Hobson in the case of South Africa. I refer now to a statement of one of the most moderate of the critics who has passed any opinion upon the charges I ventured to prefer in this House against the Canadian administration, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). He might be excused on the plea of ignorance, because it is impossible to believe that the Minister of Finance had ever read, let alone listened to, the charges that I ventured to put in evidence, when he ventured to make a statement in New Glasgow, in the county I have the honour to represent, on November 28, 1899, on this subject, in which he observes, referring to myself:

His attempt to impress the country that he believed that there was any serious wrongdoing in the Yukon, has proved a total failure. The universal verdict to-day, after the long speeches of Sir Hibbert on them, is that it was a case of much ado about nothing.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Well, the hon. gentlemen who so readily shout 'hear, hear,' and give their assent to that statement, will, I think, be not so ready to give that shout when I have finished the speech that I propose to make on only one aspect of these serious charges. The speech to which the Minister of Finance referred was undoubtedly long, but my excuse is a reasonable one, and ought to satisfy reasonable men, that the crimes and misdemeanours committed under the auspices, and almost with the direct and open countenance of this government in the Yukon, have been many, and no man could attempt to deal with them in a short speech if he proposed to cover to any extent the ground. And so, in order to accommodate my hon. friend the Minister of Finance, I propose to direct his attention to only one of the charges which he treated so lightly, and to ask him, and to ask his colleagues, and the gentlemen sitting behind him, who just interrupted me, whether they are prepared to say before the people of this country that in their serious opinion, even in connection with only one of these charges, there has been much ado about nothing.

Before coming immediately to that point it is only right that I should deal with another criticism that the Minister of Finance took from the *Toronto Globe*. It appears that a gentleman in the Yukon had published a correspondence that he had with me, and that he was a United States citizen, and expressed surprise that I should have written to him for information. The Minister of Finance—it is true it was an

after dinner speech, is only fair I should say so—went thus far, referring to myself:

From every possible quarter where he thought information could be obtained he solicited it, not hesitating even to ask citizens of the United States to give testimony against the government of his own country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is not treating me fairly, for the Minister of Finance is unable to give the slightest evidence, because it would be wholly contrary to the fact, that I ever solicited evidence, that I ever endeavoured to place myself in the position of a private detective. But the evidence was borne in upon me to such an extent, living in a certain part of the Dominion, coming in contact with men who knew that country, who had spent their money and a great portion of their time in it, it was impossible for me not to sympathize with them, and not to do, as I felt it was my duty to do, under the circumstances, on the floor of this House, to ventilate their grievances. In connection with the correspondence to which he refers, there was a Mr. Morgan. I did not know his nationality nor did I care, but one of my informants told me that Mr. R. J. Morgan, of the city of Dawson, could give valuable information concerning the maladministration by the government of that territory. I wrote to that gentleman, and he, for reasons best known to himself, wrote back and expressed surprise that I should write to him, a colonel in the United States army and a citizen of that great country, to obtain information against the government of my own. Now, it is only right, since the public have had this letter, and since the Minister of Finance has attached such importance to it, that I should give my answer. On the 6th of September, 1899, I wrote to Mr. Morgan as follows:

R. J. Morgan, Esq.,
Dawson City, N.W.T.

Dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of the 31st July last received by me yesterday, for which I am obliged, and I am glad to observe that your experience in Dawson has been so pleasant.

I note your expression of surprise in receiving a letter from me asking you for information touching the maladministration of public affairs in the Yukon district, and I regret that at this moment I am unable to give you the name of the person who referred me to you; but I may say that I was not aware that you were an officer of the United States army, nor did I know that you were a foreigner. I may add, however, that these considerations would not have deterred me from seeking information at your hands. In this country foreigners are not regarded as incredible witnesses either in our courts or before Commissions of parliament.

I may give an additional reason for considering these men as much entitled to be heard as the reason I have given from the speech of the Minister of Finance at New

Glasgow, the fact that a great majority of the miners in that district have not been citizens of Canada, but they have been foreigners, and of course, in regard to any facts there of public notoriety, they would naturally be found among the list of witnesses in any event.

But I want to refer to a gentleman that was, perhaps, the sole reliance of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) last session, in order to convince the Minister of Finance that he has not treated me fairly if he had ever followed the debate of last session. Instead of there being much ado about nothing, whether he considered the charges I made were exaggerated or not, he will recollect, I am sure, that a Mr. Treadgold was one of the chief witnesses, if not the only witness, who was called by the Minister of the Interior to justify the course of the government, and to rebut the assumption that might be made from the facts I had brought forward. To-day I asked a question concerning this gentleman, and the government ordered it to stand, but I received this copy as a member of parliament from the Department of the Interior, this pamphlet published in 1899, price 50 cents. I have not the slightest doubt that when the Minister of the Interior is able to overtake that question he will inform this House that Mr. Treadgold has received a large amount of Canadian money since he became the only witness for the Minister of the Interior in connection with the administration of the Yukon. But even in that pamphlet, if you turn to pages 75 and 76, you will find that Mr. Treadgold not only admits there were real grievances, but gives the most positive contradiction to that light and airy statement of the Minister of Finance. It is headed in large type: 'The genuine grievances of the Klondike.' Mr. Treadgold points out the following respects in which that district has been misgoverned:

1. Unequal taxation. (The miner pays nearly all the taxes—he was the easiest to tax, &c.)
2. Want of publicity of claim records. (Every miner should be able to see what claims have been recorded in the district and that with as little delay as possible.)
3. Want of surveyors, following with a criticism on that point.
4. Certain obvious defects in the mining laws.
5. Want of roads.
6. Want of adequate mail service.
7. Want of recording officials on every creek.

This, he says, is a 'formidable list of grievances,' and those hon. gentlemen who followed me last year will remember that I argued from what had happened, from the other testimony brought forward, that it was this disorderly condition of the public offices, this want of publicity of the public records, this crowding of officers during office hours, that enabled the officers of the government in that country to com-

mit the serious abuses they undoubtedly did commit, and to more than double and treble the salaries that were paid to them by the government out of the people who dealt with them. You will find in support of my statements that the hon. Minister of the Interior relied largely on this witness. You will find in *Hansard* of last year, what he said in regard to him, and the great importance attached to the statement of Mr. Treadgold was due to the allegation that he had no pecuniary interest in making these statements. There was no reward for doing it, but, unless I am greatly mistaken, and the government can correct that in this debate, Treadgold, whatever he had obtained before he made these statements in this pamphlet for the benefit of the government, was paid after he made these statements, as were also nearly all of the men who had been used to whitewash the record of the government. Mr. Ogilvie was paid, and handsomely paid, after he had gone through that farce of the so-called Royal Commission. Mr. Clement for backing him up and for bullying the witnesses, was handsomely rewarded after the work had been done, and so it was with Treadgold. In that connection I asked a question about W. H. Lynch. He does not seem to have been so handsomely treated. His report does not seem to have been paraded before the House, it has not been at any time, and yet, strange to say, this gentleman was commissioned to go into the Yukon, and he went into the Yukon. He had reported before the hon. Minister of the Interior made his speech last year, and when the order of this House passed directing that we should be put in possession of his report, to see what the impressions were of this paid officer of the government, all the government have so far brought down to the House is a skeleton of that report. This shows on its face that it is only supplementary to the main report. There is a mystery about the main report, it has apparently gone astray, it has not been produced, and all that has been produced is simply a code of mining regulations, which Mr. Lynch explains in the return are to be read in connection with his main report. That report of an officer of the government who was sent up to perform an important duty at an important time would be most valuable for the information of the House, and yet, a year has gone by since the House requested its production. Its absence, I claim, is very significant. In order not to pain the sensitiveness of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), not to weary him with a long speech, not to weary him with all the charges I have, and I have, unfortunately, a long list of charges, I propose to deal with one of the charges in the light of the evidence in the hands of the government, in the light of the returns on the Table of the House, in the absence of all that as-

sistance I asked, in the absence of that co-operation that this government, at the public expense, so quickly granted to the hon. Minister of the Interior when he was not a member of this House, in the absence of the assistance of Mr. Howell, and of all the Grit lawyers of Winnipeg, in the absence of all the detectives who swarmed over the province of Manitoba to fish for evidence. I want the hon. Minister of Finance particularly to consider some of the facts connected with the direct and explicit charge made on my own responsibility last session, and to say whether he would venture to tell the House, in connection with that one, for example, that there was much ado about nothing. I am not proposing to take up one charge and not to run away from the others, but I am proposing merely to meet the views of the hon. Minister of Finance and those who think with him, to take up one at a time. I will follow this motion with other resolutions, in which I will show this House, that, without the advantages that I think I was fairly entitled to, there is much to make the country and the House ponder, and to consider whether the government were wise in their extraordinary treatment of most of these notorious facts last session. I had received this information in regard to an important matter; I had received information that Major Walsh, the commissioner appointed by this government, had gone into that country under a government commission, that he had used his power largely to exploit the Yukon for the benefit of himself and his family, that, at the public expense, at the cost and charges of the people of the country, he had taken a staff, composed of Indians and cooks, men whose services he could use in a rough country, that instead of these men going simply to discharge, under his supervision, the duties for which they were paid by this country, he took advantage of them, and indirectly entered into grub-staking agreements with many of them, that he not only did that, but, in order to carry out his fell purpose and design, he violated the laws of the country, that he made changes utterly without authority in regard to one of the most valuable creeks and localities in order to play into the hands of those who were really his servants paid by us. I had such definite information that I made a definite charge, to which I will refer in a moment. But, let me give you in some succinct form, the very serious statement made of what I know to be facts, from the public records, as to Major Walsh's illegal action in closing Dominion Creek. This statement came to me from a reliable source. It is as follows:

In September, 1897, Walsh took from Fort William, at the head of Lake Superior, six Indians of the Fort William Mission Band, in charge of a head voyageur, whose name was Coreytte.

The Indians stayed until October, 1898, when they were sent home at the expense of the government. This was according to the terms of their engagement. They each took up a mining claim—

These claims were on Dominion Creek. This is in advance of the returns, to which I will refer, in advance of the other facts, but it was borne in upon my conviction that it was a very serious charge, and one in which there was enough to warrant me in bringing it before the House.

They each took up a mining claim, and according to the best information, claims were on Dominion Creek. On the same information, these claims were taken by Major Walsh in the names of the Indians, who transferred them after their arrival home, to Lewis Walsh, a brother of the Major's. Lewis Walsh and Phillip Walsh another brother left for Fort William to exploit these claims about May 10, 1899. Phillip Walsh is said to be in the employ of the Dominion government. A large quantity of camping outfit, such as bags, blankets, furs, &c., were taken by the two brothers, and according to information, these were purchased by the Department of the Interior.

Before we go to the most extraordinary system of accounting, I want the House to observe that the charge was made in as small a form as possible and as direct. I charged:

That Major Walsh, while acting as chief executive officer of the Canadian government in the Yukon, was guilty of the crime of misbehaviour in office.

That Major Walsh was guilty of doing acts directly contrary to the design of his office as chief executive officer of the Dominion government.

That in September, 1897, Major Walsh employed six Indians from Fort William Mission Band, upon an engagement to send them home in October, 1898, at the expense of the government of Canada. That Phillip Walsh, a brother of the said Major Walsh, and employed by the government, was in charge of the said Indians (Return to Senate, March 17, 1898, No. 38B). That these Indians located and recorded mining claims for and on behalf of Major Walsh. On the return of the Indians these claims were transferred to Lewis Walsh, another brother of Major Walsh; and Lewis Walsh and Phillip Walsh, aforesaid, left Fort William on or about May 10, 1899, to look after the said claims.

There is no one in this House who has ever said that that was not a serious charge, there is no one in this House who has ever said that it was not a specific charge, there is no one in this House who has ventured to say that if there was truth in that charge it was not a most disgraceful condition of things in connection with the administration of affairs in the Yukon. The Minister of the Interior has never said that. The public accounts of this Dominion show that all the time they were in that country, the wages of these Indians and others were paid by the people of Canada. The wages

of the men were increased when they became useful. Their wages were increased after they had reported claims for the Walsh family. They went in at comparatively low wages, but after they had served the purposes of the Walsh family their wages were in many cases nearly doubled. In the public accounts of this Dominion for 1898, we find the names of J. Collin and S. Collin and S. Serret, and it is quite clear from the accounts that Collin is sometimes called Callum. I find the Collin boys entered for salary from September 25, 1897, to September 25, 1898, and Ambrose Seret, in the same way. It is true they are not quite to October, but from August to a late date in September. The Minister of the Interior has been often asked questions by me in this House, and his answers do not always agree. Those who care to look at the returns, and in the answers given to the House will find that in some returns these Collin or Callum boys appear as guides, and in others as packers, and so on. From a statement by the minister in the *Hansard* of February, 1898, we find that Carbeno was employed as Major Walsh's cook at \$600 a year. After Carbeno had grub-staked for the Walsh family, Louis Walsh and Phil Walsh, and under the direction of the major, Carbeno's salary went up from \$600 to \$1,200 a year, which was paid by the people of this country.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When were the agreements signed?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I will come to that later. There is only one grub-staking agreement in evidence, and there is no contradiction of this evidence, that with Marcil and the other Indians there were similar agreements with Louis Walsh, and this agreement was signed on the steamer where the Minister of the Interior was when he was going up to that country. But remark that it is dated Port Arthur; it is ante-dated, and it was signed by order of Major Walsh, and as the evidence shows these men were paid by increased wages, and the only complaint Carbeno makes is that he was promised \$125 a month and only got \$100. That is an extraordinary feature in connection with the evidence which is in my possession. In the *Hansard* of April, 1891, page 871, you will find authority for the statement that Carbeno's salary went from \$600 to \$1,200. This year again in *Hansard*, there is a statement in regard to all these drivers and packers and cooks. At page 161, we have some more information from departmental sources, which says:

Philip Walsh entered service 25th September, 1897, at \$60 a month; and left 31st August, 1898, when his salary was \$100 a month. No extra allowances were paid apart from actual travelling and living expenses. (b) Louis Carbeno entered service 25th September, 1897, at \$60 a month;

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he is still in the service; his allowance for living expenses is \$100 a month. (c) Two men named respectively E. V. and M. McBeth were employed as dog drivers. The former was employed in December, 1897, and January, 1899. His pay was \$40 a month. The latter was employed from the 13th January, 1898, until the 13th March, 1899. His pay was at first \$40 a month, but was increased to \$45. Both received rations. (d) There is no record of boys by the name of Callum being employed; but two Indians named Isaac and Simon Collin were employed by Major Walsh from the 25th September, 1897, to the 25th September, 1898. They were both paid at the rate of \$1 a day except during the months of May and June, 1898,—

There we come to what will be referred to later; the grub-staking time:

—when they received \$10 each in addition to the \$1 a day, and the months of July and August, 1898—

After they had grub-staked for the major's family:

—when they were paid at the rate of \$40 a month instead of \$1 a day. Their living was provided.

Again, in view of the susceptibilities of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), I must hurry on. I come to the place in which this company exploited, for it is important to remember where these people were proven to have operated. Dominion Creek is one of the most valuable spots in the whole of the interesting gold country. If any one doubts that I quote the authority of Mr. Treadgold, the authority of the Minister of the Interior, who in that little pamphlet apparently published at the public expense, says at page 30:

As already proved to be, in places, rich, we may accept Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Bear, Gold Bottom, Dominion, Sulphur Creeks; and there are about 75 miles of gravels of varying width in these creeks, at any point in which rich pay may be expected, though not always found. Bonanza has been most worked, Sulphur least.

Again, at page 36:

On Dominion the few claims at work showed an average of not less than two ounces per cubic yard, over an area of gravel nowhere less than 120 feet wide.

On the proved creeks (Gold Bottom, Bonanza, Eldorado, Bear, Hunker, Sulphur, Dominion) we may allow about 75 miles of auriferous gravel out of a staked length of about 120 miles on these same creeks.

In the report of Mr. R. G. McConnell, an officer of the Canadian Geological Survey; that very interesting preliminary report of the Klondike gold fields of the Yukon district, published at the Printing Bureau, I find at page 36 there is the following:

Mining has been greatly hampered by the excessive freight rates and consequent high cost of supplies and machinery, and the net product of the creek during the past season proved some-

what disappointing, notwithstanding the large gross output. A good wagon road has now, however, been constructed by the government, and prices will no doubt in future be materially reduced.

It is strange—from my standpoint it is not strange—but from the standpoint of any doubter it is strange that of all the places closed from location to the public; closed to the hardy miners who had worked their way into that country braving all the dangers of climate and travel; Dominion Creek was the only one on which Major Walsh put his hand in that illegal manner, contrary to the law of the land. In answer to a question put by me in the House of Commons, it was stated that Dominion Creek was the only locality closed in this way of which there is any record in the Department of the Interior. The creek was so closed by order of Major Walsh on the 15th of November, 1897. In the case of Nelson & Donnelly, which has been heard before the Minister of the Interior here, one of the officers, R. B. Craig, a clerk in the office of the gold commissioner in the Yukon district, who has been there since July, 1897, gives this testimony:

Q. Do you know Dominion Creek?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know of any order issued by the gold commissioner closing this creek to the public?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the closing of the creek?—A. No further records would be received on the creek.

Q. Was it a written or verbal order?—A. Verbal, so far as I know.

Q. Tell us what that order ordered?—A. My instructions from the commissioner were that I was to receive no documents pertaining to Dominion Creek from Upper Discovery to 120 below Lower Discovery.

Q. What date was this order?—A. Middle or end of November, 1897.

Now, while he got his order from the commissioner, who was Mr. Fawcett? Mr. Fawcett under oath has explained, as we shall see later on, that he got his order as to the hills and benches of the creek from the commissioner, that is, from Major Walsh, and he protested against the action in the interest of the public. He protested until he was severely reprimanded by Major Walsh, as the sworn evidence proves. It had no effect, however, because there was a reason, which was transparent all through, for the action of Major Walsh, and we shall see what it was. It is difficult to deal with this case unless we deal also with the case of Mrs. Koch, who, Mr. Fawcett swore, was a personal friend of Major Walsh. The Minister of the Interior has endeavoured to belittle that case, and make out that there has been much about nothing. What did the Minister of the Interior tell us in regard to the Koch case? Having in mind that that creek was closed, so that no location could be made upon it

legally, as was believed, and no record of any location could be kept in the office after the 15th of November, 1897, it is almost incredible, but it is in no way contradicted by the Minister of the Interior, that this woman, a keeper of a restaurant, a personal friend of Major Walsh, was able not merely to obtain a personal and formal permit from the gold commissioner to go in and locate on this creek, which was closed to the whole public, but Major Walsh, knowing that she had got a permit and that the public could not get one, knowing that he had ordered the public to be refused, never attempted to have it cancelled, and under that permit she got a claim. With that serious case proved so that it could never successfully be contradicted, let us see what the Minister of the Interior said, and what Mr. Ogilvie, so closely connected with it, was bold enough to report. On page 6150 and 6151 of *Hansard*, of 1899, you will find what the Minister of the Interior said:

After a careful examination of the evidence, I say that with regard to that transaction, there is nothing in the evidence that shows complicity or impropriety on the part of any one, not the least. Here is a woman who, like other people there, was trying to get ahead of every one else. They all knew about this Dominion Creek; they were all trying to get claims, and the Indian servant overheard Major Walsh talking about it; the news leaked out; this woman got the permit from Mr. Fawcett, and Mr. Fawcett admits he was wrong in giving it. But where is the suggestion of dishonesty? Is there a suggestion that Major Walsh profited by that claim being registered? Is there a suggestion that Mr. Fawcett profited by it? And if they did not, and if it is not suggested, where is the question of dishonesty? Here is simply a question of official information leaking out to a servant, and of a mistake being made by an officer such as might happen under any circumstances or at any time, by the most honest officer in the world.

Now, there is the minister's statement, the best that can be said about the evidence to which I will direct your attention. I want to go further and show what the Minister of the Interior's commissioner says about that case while we are at it. At page 8, of Mr. Ogilvie's report, in return 87, he says:

The evidence shows that Mr. Fawcett misunderstood this woman, who didn't at the time she applied for the permit use very good English. The act of granting the permit was, we will admit, improper, but there was nothing to show that Mr. Fawcett in any way benefited by it, or any of his friends, Mrs. Koch being an utter stranger to him.

That is all that this commissioner says in relation to that transaction. There is not an intelligent man in this House or anywhere in the country who will read that evidence and consider that Mr. Ogilvie was attempting to do his duty when he ventured

to conceal in that report the extraordinary reflection on the conduct of Major Walsh in this matter, whatever might be said about Mr. Fawcett—and his administration in that connection was most lax; but, according to the evidence, Mr. Fawcett was bullied from day to day by Major Walsh in this Dominion Creek matter; and when this woman came and whispered to him that by order of Major Walsh she should get the permit, she got it. But, why was she permitted to keep that permit? Why was it not cancelled? Why did she tell Major Walsh that she had it? And with his knowledge she staked a claim and got it, and enjoyed the fruits of that advantage. It is a thing not explained, and not dwelt upon by this most extraordinary commissioner. Now let us see some of the evidence, which both Mr. Ogilvie and the Minister of the Interior overlooked in dealing with this matter, which is so closely connected with the subject in hand. Mr. Fawcett tells us that Mrs. Koch came to him on May 7. In the evidence quoted on page 5984 of *Hansard* of 1899, Mr. Fawcett said:

I told her to bring me a written order from Major Walsh saying that a permit should be granted. I had had time to think the matter over a little. Major Walsh came down a few minutes later, and he said: 'Did you give Mrs. Koch a permit?' I replied: 'She came and told me you said she was to have a permit.' He says: 'I will have to get it from her; we will have to appoint a time for the issuing of these permits, and there will have to be public notice given.'

That is what he said to Mr. Fawcett. He knew he could get the permits back. If this thing had been obtained improperly, if this woman had lied to Mr. Fawcett, the permit was not worth the paper it is written on, and Major Walsh had his remedy. But instead of having the permit cancelled, this woman was allowed to retain it.

Then the woman Koch was examined and testified:

I heard in my restaurant the Dominion would be thrown open, and it would be a good thing to stake. Everybody had the fever at the time, so I got it too. I made up my mind to go and try and get a claim on Dominion. On the morning of June 28, word was sent me very early in the morning by Dr. Arrabella Merrill, 'I shall not go out without a permit. It needs a permit.' Do I have to tell who sent the news? It was from the Indian of Major Walsh, Ambrose Serett.

Serett was one of the grub stakers for the major, who grub staked under great advantage.

He heard the major talking in the tent over it—

I am reading from the evidence quoted in *Hansard*, of 1899, column 5985:

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So I went to the office and asked where the gold commissioner was.

Q. Mr. Fawcett, you mean?—A. Yes.

She told the major's brother that she had the permit. She said to him:

See what I have got. He opened it and said: Where did you get it from? I told him I went to the gold commissioner and he gave it to me.

Then again:

So I got a letter written to the major.

In that letter she gives the major a chance to take the permit back.

If it is wrong or any trouble, he will please take back his permit, but if it is possible and he can help a poor woman along, he should let me have a permit, but if it makes any trouble to send for it by eight o'clock. If not, I will go to Dominion and stake—

She acted with honesty at this stage.

—and then after I stake, I will fight for it. So I went over on Dominion and staked.

This evidence shows that this claim was recorded, and that though Major Walsh had the opportunity, he dared not take the permit back. He dared not interfere with that woman's desire in that connection, when she was simply one of those enjoying extraordinary favours through his illegal and improper course all through.

At page 5987 of the same *Hansard*, we will see what Craig, the witness, to whom I have already referred, said on this point:

Q. Do you remember Major Walsh coming to me that morning after the lady came for the permit?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you recollect what he said?—A. He said he thought that the most simple solution of the difficulty would be to issue permits for a specific time for parties to prospect—something to that effect.

I need not comment on that. Again:

Q. Do you know of any understanding between Mr. Fawcett and Mrs. Koch about this permit, why it was given?—A. Not unless it was given on Major Walsh's suggestion?

Q. Have you any reason to know it was given on his suggestion?—A. I know Major Walsh came to the office to see Mr. Fawcett shortly before this lady came back the second time.

So that with every opportunity, with an offer from the woman to give the permit up, Major Walsh allowed this permit to be used, contrary to the rules enforced and the orders given to the rest of the public.

In connection with this, and coming immediately to the subject in hand, we find that after that creek had been closed against the public, a meeting of the council, that we understand something about, took place. At that meeting a resolution was passed on June 27, 1898, and on the 30th, notice was

given publicly that Dominion Creek would be open on July 11, 1898, so that any one in Dawson, who intended to go to that valuable district, could go to other parts of the territory in the meantime, understanding that if he were up by July 11, that would be time enough, and the only time when he could obtain his location, and take up his claim. But on July 8, there was a notice cancelling this announcement and declaring that the place would be opened on July 8, three days before the date of the last notice, saying it would open on the 11th. On that date, July 8, this notice was sent down by one of the policemen or guides to be printed, and on the evening of the 8th, before it was published, this man, under the employ of the government, or under agreement with the Walshs, started out for Dominion Creek. There is evidence to show that the secret leaked out and that other people started for the creek also. Then we have the evidence of Louis Carbeno. If any one will take the trouble of studying that evidence carefully, be he a lawyer or layman, he will find it impossible to exculpate Mr. Ogilvie from the most transparent favouritism shown, due to his connection by marriage to the Minister of the Interior, and from an open desire to shield the Department of the Interior at all hazards. I will have, however, on another occasion, something to say about Mr. Ogilvie and the manner in which he discharged his duty.

But I want to point out that here is an officer of the government, Mr. Fawcett—no ordinary man on the street who had a suspicion of Major Walsh merely, but a man who had served under Major Walsh—calling Carbeno to prove the whole of this corruption. Carbeno was examined by Fawcett without the slightest assistance of any kind from Mr. Ogilvie or his so-called legal adviser, Mr. Clement. He was called by Mr. Fawcett, and never questioned by the commissioner on points on which he should have been interrogated. For instance, there were bills of sale, and not one of them put in evidence. There was nothing followed up, nothing in the way of a searching inquiry, though Mr. Fawcett had produced this man and examined him. But notwithstanding that, there came out some facts to which you will find no reference in the report of Mr. Ogilvie. He shuts his eye to all this connection of Major Walsh in the Koch case, and to this extraordinary traffic with employees and Indians at the public expense and to the advantage of his family. Not a line in the two reports of Mr. Ogilvie, will you find on that subject. With that evidence there, produced by the gold commissioner, there is not an attempt to palliate it by any one from any quarter. Here is Carbeno's evidence. This man went out on the 8th, and staked a claim in the morning of the 9th. He went out to the creek late in the evening of the 8th, and staked his

claim on the 9th. He went out with the Collum boys and Marcil, and they had the same contract as he had with Lewis Walsh. This agreement, which some hon. gentlemen have asked about, is found at page 259 of the evidence :

Port Arthur, Sept. 23, 1897.

This agreement, made this day, between Lewis Walsh, known as the party of the first part, and Louis Carbeno, of the town of Brockville, known as the party of the second part.

Witness that in consideration of the party of the first part furnishing the party of the second part with an outfit, and paying all expenses necessary for the working of any claim that the party of the second part may discover or take up in the Yukon district, in the North-west Territories, the party of the second part hereby agrees to give to the party of the first part a one undivided three-quarter interest in the said claim, reserving to himself a one-quarter interest.

LEWIS WALSH.
LOUIS CARBENO.

Witness.

PHIL. WALSH.

Instead of being at Port Arthur, the witness, who is uncontradicted, says that he was ordered by Major Walsh to sign that agreement on the *Quadra*, as she was on her way up the Pacific coast toward Dawson. The Collum boys and the Indian Marcil had similar agreements. Major Walsh's brother told Carbeno that the creek was to be opened. That is uncontradicted. That claim was turned over, if you please, Mr. Speaker, to Phil Walsh, and a bill of sale, which is not in evidence, but which he says he has, is referred to in court. The witness says: 'Major Walsh told me to make that bill of sale to Phil.' That is not the agreement. He is asked: 'Why did you make that transfer?' And the answer is: 'Major Walsh told me to.' Major Walsh, through the whole business, was using the names of his brothers. He went up to that country using these men as his tools. And what do we next find? I am not surprised at it, in view of the protection that he has received from the government. He is found openly trafficking in the advantages which he gained by his position. When Carbeno was asked why he signed such an agreement, he said that he had to sign it in order to go as cook and get \$100 a month instead of \$60. He was promised \$125; but his reasons for making a fool of himself was to keep his place and get \$100 a month.

Mr. McINERNEY. And he was threatened that if he did not sign he would be sent back on the next boat.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As my hon. friend suggested, he says that he was threatened to be sent home on the next boat if he did not do it. And that man is still in the employ of the government. Apparently, they dare not touch him, or there will be more trouble for the Walsh

people. And so we have the rush to that creek of the Walsh entourage, including Mrs. Koch, who was a friend of Major Walsh. And we have no report on that nefarious transaction. If Carbeno is worthy of the slightest credence, if he is not simply a blackmailer under oath, how is it that Mr. Ogilvie never refers to his testimony in his report, never says anything about this agreement. And if you look at the order in council of August 17, 1897, you find that this government directed—and it was one of the conditions of the appointment—directed Major Walsh to report to the government from time to time on all these matters of public concern. And all the reports of Major Walsh have been brought down, so the government says; and you will not find a syllable from the pen of Major Walsh in regard to any of these transactions, explaining, for instance, why he closed this creek, opened it again, closed it again and opened it again, so that he could let this gang in ahead of others, to his own advantage and the advantage of his family. There is not a report in regard to this matter of policy, though his duty, according to the formal terms of the order in council required him to report on such matters fully. Now, in his last report, with the evidence he has referred to before him, Mr. Ogilvie ventured to say this:

How did these rumours stated become to be so generally credited? In reply, I may state that there is a large percentage of the population here who are watching for a chance to make something. If they are forestalled by some one else—

And then he goes on to invent a theory for there being a general feeling in the community for these charges getting started; and so, he endeavours to minimize the feeling in this case by putting the query, how it is that these things start. To show the position in which this gentleman found himself, it is only necessary to look at page 163 of the unrevised *Hansard* of this session. I am not hitting below the belt—I have commented before on his connection with the Minister of the Interior, and the minister's responsibility for all these actions on the part of his employees, and have pointed out the reasons which should have made it impossible for any self-respecting government to put a man in the position in which they put Mr. Ogilvie. Mr. Ogilvie was in a position in which he could do much for the government, or, by conducting this inquiry properly, possibly put them in a very serious position. And they did not hesitate to treat Mr. Ogilvie in this manner, as shown by answers given February 7. I asked:

1. Has the salary or have the emoluments of William Ogilvie, Esq., Commissioner of the Yukon district, been increased since his appointment? 2. If yes, at what date was provision made therefor, and by what authority and what was the amount of such increase?

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The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR (Mr. Sifton). 1. Yes. 2. The increase was granted under authority of an order in council of October 14, 1899. The amount of the increase was \$1,000 per annum, and its payment dated from July 1, 1899. Under an arrangement made on September 15, 1899, instead of the government providing rations and supplies, Mr. Ogilvie was granted a living allowance of \$2,000 per annum. In addition to this he is allowed \$250 a year for house rent and \$60 a month for a house-keeper.

And, at page 4878 of the same unrevised *Hansard*, there is in this connection a further reference to this subject. I asked:

1. Did the hon. the Minister of the Interior, on April 4, 1899, when referring to the Commissioner of the Yukon district, state in this House: 'I think the salaries are good; Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner, gets \$5,000. When he was employed by the late government he got \$1,800 . . . now be it known that the government furnishes for their men both quarters and provisions'?

2. What does Mr. Ogilvie now get?

There is the reward. There is the evidence of that man's utter unfitness for the position in which he found himself. His salary was large, but, for that position, no one objected to it. But, we find it suddenly increased, increased after parliament separated, and increased by virtue of an order in council without a direct vote of parliament. And I say, there is one of the reasons for the payment, the conviction that they could get a man who, in the face of the evidence of Louis Carbeno uncontradicted, would make a report in which he never referred to that question in any way, shape or form. Now, we have a pledge from the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) which, like all the other pledges of this government, whether made collectively or individually, is honoured more in the breach than in the observance. We have his pledge, at page 6147 of the *Hansard* of last year. I need not read it. But, in order to establish confidence on the part of the House, he said that this evidence would be carefully weighed and considered. I am quoting from memory now the substance of what he stated, when he said he would undertake that the matters would be followed up. There was an undertaking and a pledge that, under the circumstances of course, it was reasonable and natural that he should make. Will hon. gentlemen take the trouble to remember the often quoted case of the Manitoba election frauds so-called, the information that was before the government at that time, the money they spent, and the searching investigation they made? Will they remember, for instance, the appointment of Mr. Archer Martin to investigate into the conduct of the officials, and the management of the New Westminster timber office out in British Columbia, where everything was ransacked for specific charges, where Mr. Martin was given a roving commission, where he tumbled everything from top to

bottom in that office, where he travelled over the province to pick up evidence here and there, and which ended in his turning some of the head officials out of office, and the institution of some suits for the recovery of money due to the Crown? Will they remember the evidence on which this government plunged quickly and by telegram into an inquiry into the conduct of Judge Spinks? Will they recollect how quick the government was to look into that; and then consider how extraordinary it is that this matter has not been dealt with? On that point, as *Hansard* shows this session, the Minister of the Interior said to me, in answer to a formal question, that no action had been taken by the government in connection with this transaction. There was the grossest misbehaviour in office, if these facts were established, laid at the door of Mr. Walsh, not merely by the charge that I have made, but by the uncontradicted evidence and statements to which I have referred, and there, on the part of the government, is a condition of absolutely refusing to do anything, taking the responsibility of doing nothing. And remember all their officers in the service saying: If you have the good fortune to be favourites of this administration, you may plunder, you and your friends, you may rob, you may defy the law, you may do all that is dishonourable and disgraceful, and there will come no trouble to you; but you must stand in with the government in some way. Now, I hesitate not to say—I have no proof of it—the Minister of the Interior asked me one one occasion if I made a direct charge against him in connection with some matter—I have no proof that he shared in this transaction, I have no proof that he got a dollar out of the Indians' work, as the Walsh's did; but I do say this, that if the government are afraid—and if there be no other reason—of following these matters up and of punishing the culprits, if they are not satisfied as to the innocence or guilt of men so implicated as Major Walsh, then the presumption would be that the Minister of the Interior, if not others in the administration, were equally guilty with Major Walsh in the whole business, and shared and profited in these improper transactions. It is only an inference, it may be unfair, it may be prejudice, it may rest on political feeling, but nevertheless the reasons for it I have given.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to dwell further on this phase of the serious case that I have brought under your consideration. I have prepared rather a long resolution containing the facts shown by the public documents, and I ask in that resolution the censure of the House upon the government for the responsibility that they have assumed in saying they would take no action, or that they had taken no action, in the premises in connection with these matters. If this debate is at all protracted,

I wish to give a warning to three of my hon. friend's opposite. I need not dwell on the fact that the government last year, whatever their intentions are now, did not show any keen desire to have a prompt, thorough and searching inquiry into my charges of maladministration. It was suggested to me, I think on that occasion, that these were not matters for judicial commissions; it was suggested, too, I think pretty openly, that if an inquiry were to be made it was a matter for a committee of the House. This year, however, we have seen a reversal of that position; and I want solemnly to warn the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell) and the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), lest something should happen, that the very thing they did not wish to happen, last year, has happened, and that is a judicial inquiry. For this year, in the case of Brockville and West Huron elections, no sooner did these three gentlemen prove to their own satisfaction in this House that there was nothing in these charges, that they were based upon the utterances of a self-convicted liar, that the charges were without foundation and could never be proved, by this reasoning they induced the Prime Minister to show a little back bone and to say he was ready to send them to a judicial commission, to have a prompt, thorough and searching inquiry. So I warn these gentlemen that if, in meeting these statements they argue that there is nothing whatever in them, they will share with me the responsibility, probably, of a judicial commission. It is only, as I think, when the government believe that a case can be proved that they will not grant a judicial commission; but it may be said that when three of their most intelligent legal minds are convinced that there is not a shadow of a case then we may expect a judicial commission. Now, unless I am compelled by the House to do otherwise, I will put this resolution in your hands without reading it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Read.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Let the clerk read it.

Mr. SPEAKER (reading):

That all the words after the word 'That' be left out, and the following added instead thereof: 'during the session of parliament in 1899, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, a member of the Privy Council of Canada and a member of this House, stated from his place in parliament that he was credibly informed and believed that with the same co-operation (and through the supervision of the Department of Justice) as was given by the government of Canada to the Hon. Clifford Sifton in the case of the so-called Manitoba election frauds, he could establish before a commission comprised of eminent judges and clothed with the proper and usual powers, the following, among many others facts and charges:

That Major Walsh, while acting as chief executive officer of the Canadian government in the Yukon, was guilty of the crime of misbehaviour in office.

That in September, 1897, Major Walsh employed six Indians from Fort William Mission Band upon an engagement to send them home in October, 1898, at the expense of the government of Canada.

That Philip Walsh, a brother of the said Major Walsh, and employed by the government, was in charge of the said Indians. (Return to Senate, March 17, 1898, No. 38B.)

That those Indians located and recorded mining claims for and on behalf of Major Walsh. On the return of the Indians, these claims were transferred to Lewis Walsh, another brother of Major Walsh; and Lewis Walsh and Philip Walsh, aforesaid, left Fort William on or about May 10, 1898, to look after the said claims.

That the following names of officials in the employ of the Department of the Interior in the Yukon were given to this House on the 14th day of February, 1898. ('Hansard,' 1898, p. 481.)

Louis Charbonneau, cook, with Major Walsh, salary, \$600.

John B. Marcelle, guide, with Major Walsh, salary \$365.

Isaac Collin, guide, with Major Walsh, salary \$365.

Toussaint Collin, guide, with Major Walsh, salary \$355.

That the following particulars appear in a return to an Order of the House of Commons asking for a statement of all persons appointed to office or assigned to duties of any kind in the Yukon district since August 1, 1896, giving the names, post office addresses, rate of salary and allowances or expenses of each person, the duties assigned, the date of his appointment, the date of resignation or dismissal, and the reason therefor in the case of each resignation or dismissal.

That the following note is appended to said return:

Note.—In regard to the payments made by Messrs. Fawcett, Walsh and Ogilvie, it is impossible to dissect the expenditure so as to apportion the amounts chargeable to each of the officials of the government who formed members of the parties going to Dawson with the commissioner. Major Walsh received advances amounting to \$3,000 when he left Ottawa, and out of that sum he paid the travelling expenses of the officials and Indians who were with him on the trip to Dawson. Sums were also advanced to Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Ogilvie when they left, and they paid the expenses of all those who were with them.

A complete statement of the expenditure in each case, supported by vouchers, has been received from the commissioner, but to pick out how much of the expenditure should be charged to each member of the party is not possible.

That it appears from public documents and answers made in this House to questions put by members, that Philip Walsh, aforesaid and hereinafter mentioned, was employed from the 25th September, 1897, as timber agent at Dawson, N.W.T., with a salary and living and travelling allowances to the end of August, 1898.

That Louis Carbeno, aforesaid and hereinafter mentioned, was, on the 25th September, 1897, employed by the government as cook to Major Walsh and party in the Yukon, upon wages and living and travelling allowances, and was in the government employ on February 7, 1900.

That E. V. and M. McBeth, hereinafter mentioned, were employed as dog-drivers under said Major Walsh.

That two Indians, Isaac Collin and Simon Collin, hereinafter referred to as Cullum or Cullom boys, were employed at the rate of \$1 a day, except during May and June, 1898, when they received \$10 each in addition to the \$1 a day, and the months of July and August,

Name.	Date of Appointment.	Address.	Rate of Salary.	Allowance or Expenses.	Date of Resignation or Dismissal and Reasons therefor.
	1897.			\$ cts.	
Philip Walsh..	Sept. 25	(?) Timber Agent at Dawson..	\$60.00 p. m.	116 45	Temporary employed to 31st August, 1898.
Major Walsh..	Aug. 15	Brockville. Commissioner at Dawson.	\$5,000.00 ...	(See note.)	Services terminated 30th September, 1898.
Louis Carbeno	Sept. 25	(?) Cook, Commissioner's party, engaged by Commissioner.	\$60.00 p. m.	41 00	
Joseph Crow..	" 25	Fort William. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	\$1.00 p. diem	62 50	Temporary employed to 28th September, 1898.
J. B. Marcelles	" 25	Rat Portage. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	"		Temporary employed to 10th April, 1898.
A. Cyrette....	" 25	Fort William. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	"		Temporary employed to 25th September, 1898.
Isaac Collin...	" 25	Fort William. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	"		Temporary employed to 25th September, 1898.
Simon Collin..	" 25	Fort William. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	" ..	12 50	Temporary employed to 25th September, 1898.
T. Collin.....	" 25	Fort William. Packer, &c., engaged by Commissioner.	" ..		Temporary employed to 25th September, 1898.

1898, when they were paid \$40 a month. Their living was also provided.

That Dominion Creek hills and benches in the Yukon district were closed from the location of claims by order of Major Walsh, contrary to the protest of the gold commissioner (page 79, evidence taken before the commission appointed to investigate charges of alleged malfeasance of the officials of the Yukon Territory), on 15th November, 1897 (page 80).

That on the 14th February, 1900, the government stated in this House that this is the only case of the closing of a creek that is of record in the Department of the Interior.

That the following minute was drawn up at a meeting held in Major Walsh's office, 30th May, 1898, and the following evidence relating thereto was given by the gold commissioner:

'Any location made on a creek after it has been closed will not be recognized or put on record; this includes hill and bench claims as well as creek claims.

'Dominion Creek having been closed since the middle of November last it has been decided that the creek shall remain closed until further notice. This decision applies to hill and bench claims, as well as to creek claims.'

Mr. Fawcett.—I may say that this was moved by Mr. McGregor in council, and he gave as his reason for bringing up this resolution that he had told people on the creeks that the hills were not open, and said he was not going to be made a fool of, and so he presented this resolution.

Q. You were present at this meeting?—A. I was present.

Q. Did you object?—A. I did.

Q. On what ground?—A. On the ground that men had gone up there under my permission and had prospected, staked their claims, made applications at the office, and their applications had been accepted, and I thought that this would simply throw them out, undoing the work I had done. It was no longer the rule of the gold commissioner; I was overridden by the council. That occurred on the 28th of May, and the creek was considered closed then.

That Mr. Fawcett, the said gold commissioner, testified further:

By the Commissioner:

Q. Have you got a copy of the notice?—A. I have a copy of the notice which the council passed with reference to the issuing of permits.

Q. What is it?—A. I will find it in a minute; it is a notice of a meeting prior to that held on the 27th of June.

Q. What was resolved at that meeting?—A. I don't know whether it was passed on that evening or not; but I think it must have been, or on the evening following. The date is not given, but it says: "A meeting to discuss the questions of administration. Present: Major Walsh, Commissioner of the Yukon district, and Messrs. Fawcett, Wade, Bliss and McGregor, T. D. Pattullo, secretary to the commissioner. Agreed, that on the opening of Dominion bench claims for location, permits to be issued to prospect the ground, after which the claims may be recorded if the work has been done to the satisfaction of the mining inspector.

Agreed, that notice be given on Thursday, 30th inst., to the effect that permission to prospect bench claims on Dominion Creek will be issued at the office of the gold commissioner on and after 10th July, 1898. T. D. Pattullo, secretary of the commissioner. Yukon district."

The date 10th July, has been changed to the 11th.

Mr. Fawcett.—I don't know but what that was the last meeting of the council.

Q. Well, then, were the hill-sides open after all?—A. They were open upon the publication of that notice (pointing to the notice).

Q. What led to the issuance of this notice?—A. There was a good deal transpired between; there was a notice posted in June notifying the people that after a certain date permits would be issued.

Q. What date?—A. I think it must have been about the end of June, or somewhere near this; it was to have been posted on the 30th June or the 1st of July, stating that permits would be issued on the 11th.

Q. Have you a copy of that notice now?—A. No. The first time I noticed that notice with my name in large print was when I saw the notice posted up. My objection to the whole thing was, their considering that I didn't say anything that would seem to be in favour of my idea that there was no occasion for closing the hill-sides.

Q. Was that your signature?—A. Yes.

Q. Did you issue it?—A. Well, on one occasion Mr. Pattullo came with a notice asking me to sign it; it was in relation to closing the hill-sides, but I objected on the ground that I considered there was no basis for the hill-sides being closed; I still maintained my objection to what had been done in council as gold commissioner, and I refused to sign the notice. Major Walsh sent and summoned me before him, and he gave me a very strong reprimand. As near as I can remember he said: "Mr. Fawcett, I want you to understand that it is impertinent on your part to question anything that has been decided in council, and when I sent that notice for you to sign, I want you to sign it." On the spur of the moment I signed this notice without reading it.

Q. What was in this notice?—A. It stated that on and after the 11th July that permits to prospect bench claims on Dominion Creek would be granted—for prospecting and staking, and I think there was something that applications would be accepted if approved of by the mining inspector.

That touching the following notice:

Notice.

The notice recently issued regarding permits to be given of 11th July, 1898, is hereby cancelled and the following substituted therefor:

Hill and Bench claims of Dominion Creek are now open for location and prospecting by all free miners.

Those claims shown in the appended sketch, with one exception, will be open only to those who made application for them prior to the completion of the survey, which application was filed at the office of the gold commissioner.

Dated at Dawson, Yukon district, the 8th day of July, A.D. 1898.

By order,

THOMAS FAWCETT,
Gold Commissioner.

Mr. Fawcett testified: The words 'The notice recently issued regarding permits to be given on the 11th July is hereby cancelled' refers to the first notice; as far as I remember I put no date on it myself; the typewriter put a date on the notice. Of course what I had in my mind was that this notice would not be printed and would not be published on the date on which the permits would be given, and after when people came for permits they would be confronted with the notice: that is what I had in my mind, but it happened otherwise.

Q. What was the date of the issuance?—A. Dated Dawson, 8th July. By order. Thomas Fawcett, gold commissioner.

Q. Well, there was a clause there, 'These claims are now open?'—A. Well, had this been published on the date which I expected, on the date on which the permits were to be given, posted up on that date, then no one would have had any grievance, because instead of getting permits they would see they had permits already—they were open at the time.

Q. According to the purport of that notice they were open on the date they were printed?—A. That was my understanding of it; this was printed before I intended it.

Q. How did you understand it?—A. I handed it to Major Walsh simply as an exhibit to show the form of the notice that I thought would be fixed up on the morning of the 11th at the office.

Q. You say there were three days, so that those who had knowledge could take advantage and those who were ignorant would not know the creek was open until the 11th?—A. Certainly; I have already considered that that was a blunder and an oversight. I submit that it was an oversight primarily on my part, but I had nothing to do with getting it published. As far as I was concerned I submitted that notice merely as an exhibit to Major Walsh as to whether it would be extended or not. The date was put on by the typewriter himself, not by me.

Q. You didn't date it at all?—A. I didn't date it at all.

Q. And the executive part of it you left to others?—A. Yes.

Q. Well, under that notice had you any knowledge of any one taking advantage of the terms of it?—A. Well, at least, I heard some one saying people were starting for Dominion.

Q. Any before this was published?—A. The night of the 8th.

Q. Was that published on the 8th?—A. It was published on the morning of the 9th.

Q. Well, then, were they starting on the night of the 8th?—A. So it was reported; people were on the trail, and over there already, thinking it would open on the 11th.

Q. Did you have any knowledge of any one?—A. I have no knowledge.

Q. You didn't instruct any one?—A. None, and no one in connection with the office started.

Q. You gave no advice?—A. No.

Q. Didn't suggest to any one to take advantage?—A. No; there were two men working on my party who started about two o'clock on the 9th.

Mr. Fawcette.—If you wish to know whether I knew of any parties who had information, I think I knew of a person who I subsequently heard had information, who went and staked a claim and left Dawson on the evening of the 8th.

Q. Who was he?—A. Mr. Carbeno.

By Mr. Galpin:

Q. Does Mr. Fawcett know that before this notice could have effect with the public on the outside, that private information was given to somebody? Does he know that people were out stampeding before this notice was put up in town?—A. I don't know, I heard they did; I believe they did, and am going to call a witness who will probably know something about the matter.

That the following evidence was also given in this inquiry:

The Commissioner.—Mr. Carbeno, will you stand up? Can you give the names of those men who accompanied you out to Dominion Creek?

Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. Carbeno.—The Collum boys.

Q. Can you say if they are in the country?—A. No, sir, they are not; they went out with Major Walsh. There was a man name Marseille; he didn't come into Dawson with us, he went out from Bennett.

Q. Do you know if he staked a claim elsewhere?—A. He staked a claim on Phil Walsh Creek, below the Big Salmon.

Q. Have you any personal knowledge that he was in the same contract that you were?—A. Yes, the same agreement was drawn up.

Q. And he had likewise to give a three-fourths interest?—A. He drew up an agreement on the typewriter, as I remember it, and Marseille got an agreement.

Louis Carbeno, called and sworn.

By Mr. Fawcett:

Q. Where were you on the 8th of July?—A. Well, I was in camp until about ten o'clock.

Q. Where?—A. It would be at the hospital.

Q. In what capacity were you working?—A. I was working for Major Walsh.

Q. Were you there all that day?—A. Yes, sir, I was.

Q. On the evening of the 8th of July?—A. Until evening.

Q. Where were you later on in the evening?—A. I was up Bonanza.

Q. For what purpose?—A. Going up to Dominion.

Q. Why were you on the way to Dominion?—A. Because I was informed that it was going to be open on the 9th.

Q. Informed when?—A. About five o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. On what date?—A. The 8th.

Q. Where did you acquire the information?—A. I received that from one of our dog-drivers.

Q. Who?—A. McBeth.

Q. Is he here now?—A. Yes; he is an Indian.

Q. And he told you it was open?—A. Well, he didn't tell me; it was rumoured about the camp. I asked Major Walsh's brother if the creek was going to be thrown open on the 9th, and he said he thought it was.

Q. Where was McBeth at this time?—A. He had been down the street.

Q. Where was he when he gave you this information?—A. In camp.

Q. Where was McBeth?—A. He had been down the street, and he came back to camp.

Q. Was Major Walsh present?—A. No.

Q. Was McBeth working for Major Walsh?—A. Yes.

Q. And he told you that the creek would be opened on the 9th?—A. He said he heard it would be opened on the 9th.

Q. That was on the afternoon of the 8th?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you how he came by that information?—A. No, sir.

Q. When did you stake your claim?—A. I staked it on the 9th about 10.30.

By the Commissioner:

Q. In the morning?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Fawcett:

Q. You subsequently recorded that claim?—A. Yes.

Q. What time did you start?—A. At 10.30 on the evening of the 8th.

Q. Would anybody have any interest in giving you any information as to this creek being opened on the 9th?—A. No, not that I know of, except Major Walsh's brother.

Q. What interests had he?—A. He didn't have any interests. I suppose it was his interest, in one way, to give me information.

Q. What arrangement was there between you and Major Walsh or any of his brothers with reference to any claims you might stake?—A. There was a document drawn up between him and his brother to give me a three-fourths interest in anything I got in the country, providing he paid all my expenses, and the working of any ground I took up in the country.

Q. Would you recognize that agreement if you saw it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would you tell me if this is the document?—(showing an agreement between Louis Carbeno and Lewis Walsh)—which reads as follows:

Port Arthur, September 23, 1897.

This agreement made this day, between Lewis Walsh, known as the party of the first part, and Louis Carbeno, of the town of Brockville, known as the party of the second part.

Witness that in consideration of the party of the first part furnishing the party of the second party with an outfit, and paying all expenses necessary for the working of any claim that the party of the second part may discover or take up in the Yukon district, in the North-west Territories, the party of the second part hereby agrees to give to the party of the first part a one undivided three-quarter interest in the said claim, reserving to himself a one-quarter interest.

LEWIS WALSH.
LOUIS CARBENO.

Witness,
PHIL. WALSH.

Q. That is your signature?—A. Yes, sir; that is the agreement between me and Lewis Walsh.

Q. Where was that made?—A. That was drew up and signed at the Big Salmon last winter.

Q. Where was it drawn up?—A. In port Arthur.

Q. When did you sign it?—A. Last winter; there was another agreement which his brother drew up and I wouldn't sign it.

Q. Phil. Walsh drew it up?—A. This was made at Port Arthur and forwarded to Big Salmon.

Q. Why was it dated the 24th of September?—A. That was the date on which we made the arrangement.

Q. You were at Port Arthur on the 23rd of September?—A. Yes; that was dated then.

Q. You didn't sign it till last winter. Who was the witness?—A. Phil. Walsh.

By the Commissioner:

Q. You staked the claim in the way you said?—A. Yes.

Q. What did you do with that claim?—A. I turned it over as I agreed.

By Mr. Fawcett:

Q. According to that agreement you made for part of that claim, did you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To whom did you convey that?—A. To Phil. Walsh.

Q. Is that something like the bill of sale? That is the bill of sale?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That was given after this agreement which you signed?—A. Yes, sir.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Why did you give this to Philip Walsh and not to Lewis?—A. Because Major Walsh instructed me he did not want Lewis' name brought into the office, and it would be just as well to have the property made over to him. I told him that it was not proper; that the agreement would not stand law and I couldn't get anything, and

asked him to make out another agreement. He argued the point, and I told Mr. Pattullo, and Pattullo drew that agreement up; he said it would be all right, and I went to work and signed it.

Q. What consideration did you receive?—A. Not a cent.

Q. What were you to receive for the three-fourths; you were to receive one-fourth instead of what belonged to you?—A. He was to look after it, and pay any expenses of any mine I took up.

Q. Had this agreement been made before you left down east?—A. We talked the agreement over, but the agreement hadn't been drawn up, and it had to be signed at the Big Salmon.

Q. Did you think at that time that this was a fair agreement?—A. I didn't.

Q. Why did you sign it?—A. Because I was in a position, and I couldn't very well get out of it; I didn't want to go out of the country.

Q. If you had refused what would have been the result?—A. I wouldn't have been permitted to go; I would have had to have gone out.

Q. What position did you hold?—A. He promised me the position I have now—cooking for the officials, and I suppose if I hadn't signed that document I would not be in the position I hold now.

Q. Who promised you?—A. Major Walsh.

Q. Do you think you would have been in the same position now if you hadn't?—A. No, I don't think I would; nothing said about that.

Q. Was there any compulsion of any kind used to make you sign that?—A. He laid in his tent not over fifteen feet away; he knew it was wrong and I knew it was wrong.

Q. He didn't in any way try to compel you to sign it?—A. No.

Q. What reason have you for saying that you did not think you would be here?—A. I said I wouldn't have held the position I am holding now if I had not signed it.

Q. What were you doing then?—A. Cooking.

Q. How much were you getting?—A. \$60 a month.

Q. What now?—A. \$100 per month.

Q. When did you get an advance in your wages?—A. Last August; but he told me he would give me \$125, then he cut it to \$100. I said I would take the \$100 and stayed on.

Q. You don't mean to connect his saying that with this bill?—A. No; I told his brother, when they drew it up, it was not right.

Q. What value would you place on the consideration you got for this?—A. The agreement was that we were to receive a prospecting outfit.

Q. What value would you place on the outfit you got?—A. Well, I couldn't say very well; my expenses the government paid coming in. What I spent on the outside of that—I mean on this trip to Dominion and back.

Q. The government paid your wages and living expenses so that has nothing to do with the case?—A. I think about \$40 or \$50.

Q. You would place the value of an outfit to stake a claim at \$40 or \$50. Well, before you left the camp to go on that trip did you ask Major Walsh's permission?—A. I did.

Q. Did you tell him what you were going for?—A. I told him I was going to Dominion Creek.

Q. What did he say?—A. He said yes.

Q. Did you tell him you were going to stake?—A. I did not.

Q. Do you think he knew?—A. Yes, he would not think I was going for a walk; that was in the evening between eight and ten o'clock.

By Mr. Tabor:

Q. Did any other officials go with you?—A. Yes, one, an Indian; and when I had gone five or ten miles I was joined by another Indian.

Q. Were these Major Walsh's Indians?—A. Just the two of them.

Q. Who were they?—A. Two of the Cullum boys.

Q. In saying an outfit worth \$40 or \$50, what do you mean?—A. Going to Dominion Creek and coming back.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Have you any personal knowledge of the standing of these Indians; were they going to stake on the same terms as you did?—A. Yes, going on the same terms; I don't know whether they signed a contract or not; I know there was an agreement, but I am not positive about the contract.

Q. Similar to yours?—A. Similar to mine.

Q. Did they transfer a three-quarter interest to Philip Walsh as you did?—A. Yes, you will find duplicates there in the recording office.

Q. Have you any other knowledge of any other person on behalf of any official of the government?—A. No, sir, I have not.

Q. No knowledge of any other but yourself and these two?—A. No other; that is all that went or came.

Q. Were these men employed in the camp?—A. They came in with us.

Q. Were they employed around the camp?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They would have to get permission from Major Walsh, the same as you did?—A. Yes, sir.

By Mr. Fawcett:

Q. In your examination yesterday, Mr. Carbeno, in answering one of the questions, you stated that you thought that your present position was the result of signing that agreement, or something to that effect?—A. Yes.

Q. Was there not part of the evidence in that connection which you forgot to give us yesterday?—A. I forgot to say that other papers were drawn up and I would not sign them.

Q. When was this?—A. Coming up on board the 'Quadra.'

Q. You would not sign them, why?—A. I said the papers were not legal, and would not sign them until I got the legal ones. That afternoon I was called to Major Walsh's stateroom, and he asked me if I had made an agreement at Port Arthur before I left.

Q. You said you did?—A. He said, 'Why didn't you sign the papers?' I said I didn't because they were not legal. He said, 'If you don't sign those papers when this boat goes back, I will send you back on it.' That was all that was said until we got to Big Salmon, then other papers came on and therefore I signed them.

By the Commissioner:

Q. Why did you consider those papers illegal?—A. Because they were not drawn up by a lawyer. He drew them out with a lead pencil.

Q. Who?—A. Phil. Walsh.

Q. Where were they drawn up?—A. On board the 'Quadra' when we came out.

Q. You had made an agreement with Lewis Walsh, at Port Arthur?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why were these not signed at Port Arthur?—A. Because he said he had not time.

Q. The document is dated the 23rd. It is the document we have here?—A. No. The document he drew up on board the 'Quadra' was not the same as I agreed to it.

Mr. SPEAKER.

Q. What was the nature of the terms?—A. He left it where I was to be paid my expenses in coming into the country, and furnished me with an outfit.

Q. How could that be, when the government was paying your expenses?—A. That was stated in the agreement before I left.

Q. That was understood at Port Arthur—that they were to pay your expenses to come into the country?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. At the same time you were employed as a government servant. Don't you think it was inconsistent to offer to pay your expenses if you came in as a government employee?—A. Well, I was giving the way it was agreed to.

Q. Then this lead pencil document admitted that?—A. Yes, it is in this way, only. (Mr Carbeno reads the document.)

The Commissioner.—There is no reference there for your expenses to be paid into the country. It would grant the expense of working the claim but not the expenses in connection with your entry here.

By Mr. Fawcett:

Q. You refused to sign this lead pencil document on board the 'Quadra'?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you were told if you didn't you would be sent back?—A. Yes, sir; and I said I would not sign any until a proper one was drawn up.

Q. When you signed this at Big Salmon did it seem strange to you that it was dated at Port Arthur?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the actual date of the signature?—A. I could not exactly tell you. I think it was in June some time.

Q. Three months after the agreement had been entered into?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any cause—was the question mentioned at all? Was it dated at Port Arthur—why not at Big Salmon?—A. Well, I didn't ask any questions; they brought in the document, and I signed it; that was all. I saw the signature, and I knew it came from him.

Q. Whose signature was it?—A. Lewis Walsh's. His signature is on the bottom of it.

Q. Have you reason to know his signature?—A. Yes; I will swear to it.

Q. You have no reason to assign why the document was dated 23rd September, and executed at Big Salmon some time in June?—A. No.

Q. This agreement you entered into at Port Arthur?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. This document you refused to sign, on whose behalf was that made?—A. Lewis Walsh's.

That on the 14th February, 1900, many months after the said evidence had been before the government, and in reply to a question as to whether it, or any department or official thereof, had taken action upon 'the action of Carbeno and other paid officials in staking claims, in Dominion Creek, and the Walsh agreement for staking of claims,' the Honourable the Minister of the Interior stated: 'No action has been taken in these cases.' ('Hansard' unrevised, 1900, pp. 454, 455.)

That the failure of the government to take any action in reference to the conduct of Major Walsh under the foregoing circumstances merits the censure of this House.

Mr. DECHENE. I want to have the motion read in French, if you please.

Some hon. MEMBERS. En français.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am pretty well conversant with the French language myself, but would not venture to

make a translation off-hand of this document, and it would perhaps be unfair to ask the clerk at the Table to manufacture a translation.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would suggest that we should allow the hon. the Solicitor General to proceed with his remarks, and we will have a translation made and the members put in possession of it before the vote is taken.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I shall probably occupy the attention of the House until six o'clock, and we could have a translation prepared by eight o'clock.

Mr. TALBOT. I respectfully submit that we ought not to proceed unless we have a translated copy of the said resolutions in our hands.

Mr. SPEAKER. It is not essential for the use of members in this stage of the discussion, and if the members are put in possession of a translation before they are asked to vote, that ought to be sufficient.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Having disposed of this incident, I may say that it seems to me that my hon. friend from Pictou, in common with all the other members of this House, must regret very sincerely the absence of my hon. colleague the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton), because in view of the experience we had last session, when the same subject was under discussion, I am quite satisfied my hon. friend must be convinced that the Minister of the Interior would have given him as full and satisfactory an explanation on the points raised as he did last year. But in the absence of my hon. colleague, I shall endeavour to deal very briefly with the particular charges made by my hon. friend from Pictou. I do not propose to follow my hon. friend in his peregrinations to South Africa and the Yukon, and from the Yukon back to West Huron and Brockville, and finally to Manitoba in connection with the Manitoba election frauds. I do not know that I would be even disposed to follow him in his search for evidence, in which search he thought it necessary to appeal to a gentleman occupying a prominent position in the United States army, and who is supposed to have special knowledge with reference to these alleged irregularities in the Yukon. But as he was good enough to refer to this gentleman, I think it but right to give to the House the answer which my hon. friend got from Major Morgan, the American gentleman in question, to whom he applied for information on the administration of affairs in the Yukon. The letter is dated the 31st July, 1899, and is in answer to a communication from my hon. friend, dated 26th May, the same year, and the letter is written from Dawson City, where this American gentleman was at the time:

My dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of May 26, asking me if

I would kindly furnish you with such information as I might possess with regard to the maladministration of public affairs in the Yukon. As an officer of the United States army, I was somewhat surprised to receive such a request from a member of the Canadian parliament.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (reading):

In the United States it would, to say the least, be considered very undignified for a member of congress to seek information of the nature which your communication suggests from a citizen of a foreign country on a matter of internal economy. For your information, however, permit me to say that I have seen some of the reports which have been published in the newspapers—

I presume that would include my hon. friend's speech.

—in which exception has been taken to the administration of governmental affairs in the Yukon territory, and in which officers who were sent in here by the Canadian government were charged with incompetence, corruption and misbehaviour in their conduct.

Regarding the public administration of affairs in the territory, I do not say that there is absolutely no room for criticism; that is a matter of opinion; but in a territory situated so far from the seat of government, where communication with the outside world has been so difficult, and in a territory where perfectly new conditions presented themselves, to which could not be applied legislation long established by precedent, I cannot see any reason to doubt that the Canadian government acted upon the best information which was obtainable under the circumstances, and which they considered most suitable to conditions existent, and I am sure that such legislation has been enacted subject to adjustment, as circumstances might advise and experience teach. That is all one could rationally expect. As far as the conduct of officers of the government is concerned, I might say that I have been in Dawson since July, 1897, except when business called me to the outside. During my sojourn here I have acquired in the neighbourhood of fifteen or more mining interests—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (reading):

—and in consequence have had business to transact with most of the officers sent in by the government; with the commissioner of the territory, the gold commissioner, the Crown attorney, the Crown timber and land agent, and others, and have also met them outside of business circles. I have always, with one solitary exception, been treated with the greatest courtesy by every officer of the government with whom I came in contact, and my business was transacted in a most satisfactory manner. That solitary exception was an underling in the gold commissioner's office, now no longer in the service of the government. On behalf of the company I represent, I had particularly to consult Major Walsh, and on those occasions not only was I treated with every courtesy, but my business was put through in an expeditious and businesslike way, and I have always considered that he upheld the dignity of his office as a gentleman should.

As far as the charges of corruption are concerned, I have no knowledge whatever of any

corruption on the part of officers of the government. I am at a loss to know from whom you could have learned my name, to write to me in this matter, but may say that I can refer you to any of the leading men of Seattle, as I was for several years deputy sheriff of King County, Washington, and also chief deputy collector of customs, No. 1 division, New York City.

I am, sir, respectfully yours,
R. J. MORGAN.

Hon. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Ottawa, Ont.

Coming now to the matter in hand—it seems to me that it is fair to draw attention to the fact that the investigation as a result of which a very serious attack has been made on Major Walsh was carried on in his absence, after he had left the country, and after he had ceased to be a government official, and that he was not represented at it, nor was any opportunity given him for the cross-examination of witnesses or for putting in any explanation of what had been said. Bearing the facts in mind, let us consider the matter with which my hon. friend has dealt at such great length. The statement was that Major Walsh went into the Yukon country for the express purpose of benefiting himself personally, and that he actually prostituted his office for his own personal advantage. That is the most serious charge that could be made against a gentleman occupying the responsible position of Major Walsh, and a man who has heretofore enjoyed in this country an unimpeachable reputation; a man, who, previous to this attack by the hon. member for Pictou occupied a position in this country which, I venture to say, was of such a high character that when he was appointed to the Yukon his appointment met with the approval of both Liberals and Conservatives. And in this connection, I would call attention to the fact that after Major Walsh had been assailed in this House in a manner which seems to be almost incredible, knowing, as I do, the character of my hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) for fairness—I can scarcely believe it possible that he should have made such an attack—within a month after this serious attack had been made and the evidence, obtained in the manner I have indicated, Major Walsh having no opportunity of examination of witnesses or for explanation, quoted the neighbours and friends of Major Walsh the men with whom he had lived all his life were appealed to, and he got there a verdict that they believed that Major Walsh deserved well—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Does not the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) know that this country is in a state of the most profound indignation at the infamous gang that was sent into that riding to steal the election which Hon. Peter White had fairly won?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper),

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

knowing very well what is in store for him as a result of the judicial inquiry which will take place in a short time, is endeavouring to forestall that result. That is an old trick, well known to those—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I suppose that is why the hon. gentleman introduces the subject just now. He wishes to get the benefit of the Brockville election before the judicial commission exposes how it was obtained.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was going to say that was an old trick not known as such to the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), of course, but well known to those who are expected to present cases in court—when you have a bad case, you must throw as much mud as you can on the other side. But let us deal with the case we have in hand. Major Walsh was appointed as commissioner to the Yukon, I understand, in the month of August, 1897, and started for the Yukon country in September. I wish to draw the attention of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to the dates, because, after all, there is nothing like dealing with the facts in chronological order. Facts speak eloquently at times, and if we deal with facts and leave insinuations alone, we are likely to arrive at something like the truth. Major Walsh started in September, taking this man Carbeno with him. He started from Brockville, where, I understand, he engaged Carbeno. On the way to the Yukon, he stopped at Port Arthur; and, on the 23rd of September, 1897, an agreement which was read by my hon. friend a few minutes ago was made. This agreement is on page 259 of the evidence taken before the commissioner:

Port Arthur, Sept. 23, 1897.

This agreement, made this day, between Lewis Walsh, known as the party of the first part, and Louis Carbeno, of the town of Brockville, known as the party of the second part.

Witness that in consideration of the party of the first part furnishing the party of the second part with an outfit, and paying all expenses necessary for the working of any claim that the party of the second part may discover or take up in the Yukon district, in the North-west Territories, the party of the second part hereby agrees to give to the party of the first part a one undivided three-quarter interest in the said claim, reserving to himself a one-quarter interest.

(Sgd.) LEWIS WALSH.
LOUIS CARBENO.

Witness.
PHIL. WALSH.

What is the effect of that? Carbeno was at that time on his way to the Yukon country, and he entered into an agreement under which Walsh agreed to advance to Carbeno money for all the expenses necessary, or that might be incidental to his selecting any mining claim in the Yukon country. Walsh goes further and undertakes to provide the money necessary for the develop-

ment of the claim which Carbeno may come into possession of. And it is provided that Carbeno gets for his interest one-quarter of the whole thing. What does that mean? Walsh takes all the risk. If the claim obtained under these circumstances turns out to be valueless, turns out to be what mines almost invariably turn out to be, a mere hole in the ground, all the money that Walsh spent to acquire and develop that claim so as to show what it was worth would be lost money. If it turned out to be valuable, Carbeno would get one-quarter, and the other three-quarters would go to Walsh. This was an agreement one part to which was a man who lived at Port Arthur, and at that time did not go into that country at all. From that point Major Walsh and the rest proceeded to the coast, and so on to the Yukon country.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that the agreement was made at Port Arthur?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The evidence is to the contrary.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Absolutely.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not quite. The document was drawn at Port Arthur, and signed by Walsh at Port Arthur, and Carbeno says the agreement was signed by him not on board the *Quadra*, as my hon. friend stated, but on the *Big Salmon*. As a matter of fact, the document was made where it was dated and signed by one of the parties, and that was at Port Arthur. Major Walsh and his party, after the agreement was signed, proceeded to the coast and up to the Yukon. Now, I wish to draw attention to one fact, and it is well, even in the absence of the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to be a little accurate about this. My hon. friend says that Dominion Creek was closed by Major Walsh. He made that statement.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I did.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As a matter of fact, it was closed on the 15th of November, 1897, by Mr. Fawcett before Major Walsh reached the country at all.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) would be good enough to look at the reference I gave in the resolution read from the Chair, he will understand that there is no discrepancy between the statement I made and the fact. Mr. Fawcett swore that he had done this under the direction of Major Walsh. It was not necessary for Major Walsh to be in Dawson to give directions to

the officials in Dawson. Mr. Fawcett did this against his own protest.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The information I have is that it was done on the 17th of November, 1897, before Major Walsh went into that country, and that it was done not by Major Walsh, but by Mr. Fawcett. That is the information I get from the officials of the department. Now, Mr. Walsh proceeds to the Yukon and arrives in Dawson somewhere towards the end of May. After he reaches there a meeting is held of this so-called council to which my hon. friend refers, and on the 30th June, it was determined—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Would the hon. gentleman oblige me, as this is a serious matter, by telling me the name of the officer in the Interior Department, who informed him that Dominion Creek was closed, not by the order of Major Walsh, but by the order of an officer who never pretended to have such authority, and in fact never had?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. What I said a moment ago is information that I got from Mr. Ryley. I do not know who the gentleman is at all. It is to the effect that on November 15, 1897, Dominion Creek was closed by the gold commissioner, Thomas Fawcett. I give the information that was given to me. I do not want to romance about it—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman will see that he went a little further than Mr. Ryley has gone. The order is carried out by this man, there is no dispute about that, but the order was given by the commissioner to Mr. Fawcett, who swears he protested against it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand my hon. friend to say that my statement is inaccurate, because Mr. Fawcett swore he did this on the order of Major Walsh. My information does not enable me now to point out that portion of Mr. Fawcett's evidence, where this statement is to be found. It is likely I may have to go over it after six o'clock. I would be obliged to my hon. friend, if, in the interval, he will find out that statement. Now, Dominion Creek was closed as a result of the report made, as I am informed, by Mr. Fawcett, to the effect that people had gone in and taken possession of Dominion Creek, that the claims overlapped, that it was impossible to determine who was entitled to any particular portion of the creek, that it was absolutely necessary, under these conditions, in order to satisfy all the claimants, that the creek should be closed, should be surveyed, and that afterwards it should be opened up to the public. Mr. Walsh assuming that to be the case. I proceed now with my argument. Mr. Walsh reached Dawson somewhere towards the end of the month

of May, it was then determined that as this creek had been surveyed, it would be advisable to open it up for settlement. On June 30, 1898, this council was held out in Dawson, and it was then determined that the creek should be thrown open on July 11, following, to all those who would have permits. So there was no secret about it, the whole country knew it, everybody there knew that on July 11 following, that creek would be thrown open to those who wished to go in, and who had permits for the purpose of settling. What did that mean? As I am informed, reading the regulations, I must admit, somewhat superficially, that meant that a man would have to take a permit out before going up to Dominion Creek, and then when he was on the ground he would fix a location, he would then stake out his location, and upon one of the stakes which determined the limits of his location, the number corresponding to the number which was on the permit he had previously obtained from the gold commissioner's office in Dawson City.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Would the hon. gentleman allow me to give the reference now? It will be found on pages 78 and 79 of the evidence:

Mr. Fawcett.—The charge is true, inasmuch as he deviated from the said notice, for at the time this permit was given no arrangement had been made by the council with reference to issuing permits, and no notice had ever been made public or passed. The facts of the matter are these: From the beginning there was a difference between myself and the commissioner in reference to the closing of the Dominion Creek hills and benches. People had been permitted by myself to prospect these hills and have their applications at the office. Nothing prevented them from renewing their certificates except that the returns of the survey had not yet come in, and these returns would aid in identifying these hills, and show where they were; pending that, everything that was necessary to be done had been done with reference to persons prospecting and receiving their claims, so that on that ground I had objected to this notice, or this so-called legislation, if you wish, stating that Dominion Creek hills and benches were closed. I objected to that on the ground which I have stated, because had they been closed, it would have prevented those whom I had permitted to prospect from having their claims put on record and throwing their claims open with the rest, so that after going on and prospecting with my permission they would have no protection whatever; probably many of them would lose their claims.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was aware of the existence of that evidence, that reference to the dispute which took place between June 30, and July 8, when it was determined that instead of issuing permits, all could come up and occupy them, without any permit at all.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He does not say so. I accept the sworn statement.

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not want to make this as a matter of statement, I make it as a matter of inference, which I gather from the whole evidence. Of course, I may make it a matter of statement by and by, if I can get the necessary information from the department. But my hon. friend will remember what took place at the time that this question of permits was discussed. He will remember that the resolution was adopted at a meeting on June 30, that Mr. Walsh was on one side and Mr. Fawcett on the other. Mr. Fawcett wanted the location to be open to the first comer, and Mr. Walsh wanted the permit system. That is the whole trouble, as I will have occasion to point out a little further on, that that was the origin of the trouble, and that is the trouble to which the witness referred. My hon. friend will realize that in the autumn of 1897, Mr. Walsh could not have given these instructions, because he was then on the road to the Yukon; he did not give them, and he never was consulted about them, and Mr. Fawcett never acted under his instructions at all.

Now, we find that on June 30, it was determined to proceed by way of the permit system. It appears that the matter was referred to Judge McGuire, and to the legal adviser of the council, whose name I have forgotten. It was decided that it would be illegal to proceed by way of these permits, and as a result of that decision, on July 8, the notice about which there has been so much dispute, was issued by the commissioner, Major Walsh. Now, we have come to the point of the difficulty in this case, a point that requires some consideration. I would now state to the House that at that time, on July 8, Mr. Walsh then had this notice on the permit system, which was originally intended to be published, handed to him by Mr. Fawcett. That, it appears, is the true construction of the evidence. When this notice was given to him, it bore no date, and it is not apparent how it came to pass that the notice passed from the hands of Mr. Walsh or Mr. Fawcett, into the hands of the printer. But, however, that may have been on the night of July 8, the notice was handed over to the printer, type-written, for the purpose of having it printed and distributed around, to the effect that Dominion Creek was then open to prospectors for occupation. We have now reached July 8, and here is the argument of my learned friend. He says that this agreement had probably been formed in the month of September previous, that Dominion Creek, instead of being thrown open, as it was intended on July 11, was, in reality, thrown open on July 9, the 9th being a Saturday, the 10th being Sunday, and Monday being the date fixed almost a month previously. Now, what happened about it? The notice was issued on the night of the 8th, it came into the printer's hands, and it remained there until the morning of the 9th, when

it was distributed throughout the country. The result of that was that instead of Dominion Creek being open for occupation on the 11th, it became ipso facto open from that time, in fact it became open from the 8th.

Now, my learned friend says that this man Carbeno had previously acquired knowledge which enabled him to go up to Dominion Creek and settle there, and get possession of a location, and that as a result of his getting possession of this location under an agreement with Lewis Walsh, Major Walsh benefited, and that is the justification for the serious charge which is made against him, to the effect that he prostituted his position for his own personal advantage. It was known throughout the whole territory, from June 30, that Dominion Creek would be opened for occupation on July 11. So much is that the case that Carbeno swears that he was going into the country on the night of July 8, and on the morning of July 9 he passed over 150 people going the same way. He goes further than that: Carbeno swears that he got information about the creek being thrown open for occupation from a dog driver, whose name I have forgotten, who communicated the information to him on the night of the 8th, in some part of the city, so that this information that came in this way, and which was general public property in Dawson at that time, was communicated to him, not by Major Walsh, but by this dog driver whom he met accidentally on the street. Then, he proceeds and stakes this claim, and from that day to this no charge or assertion has been made to the effect that a single dollar of profit has been derived by the occupation by that man of this claim on Dominion Creek. It is not established that Major Walsh derived any benefit, it is not established that Lewis Walsh derived any benefit from it, but the fact is, that Lewis Walsh, in attempting to go in and develop that claim, lost \$5,000 or \$6,000.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Where does that appear?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is a statement I make. It does not appear in the evidence.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, when you left the Chair at the dinner hour, I was stating briefly what I considered to be the position taken by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). As I understand, he argued that the agreement of September 23, 1897, was entered into between Lewis Walsh and Carbeno for the purpose of enabling them to get, with the assistance of Major Walsh, some un-

fair advantage, and that in execution of that agreement and for the purpose of enabling them to accomplish their design, Dominion Creek was closed by Fawcett as the result of a conference with Commissioner Walsh, and that it was opened afterwards in the month of July, 1897, again by Mr. Walsh, for the express purpose of carrying out the design which existed in the minds of those who entered into the agreement in September, 1897. First, what about Dominion Creek? Was Dominion Creek closed by Major Walsh or not? My information is that Dominion Creek was closed on November 15, 1897, previous to the coming of Major Walsh into the country, and further, that Dominion Creek was closed at that time without the intervention of Major Walsh. The answer made by my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is, that there is evidence in this report of Mr. Ogilvie to the effect that Fawcett stated that Dominion Creek was closed on November 15, 1897 by him, he at the time acting under the control of the commissioner, and in support of his statement my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) refers to page 79 of the evidence. I would like all those within the sound of my voice to have this evidence before them at the present time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Before the evidence is read—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I know the Solicitor General will show me the courtesy which he has always shown in debate to every one in this House. In order that the Solicitor General can meet the point from my position, I want to state what evidently he has not grasped, as I spoke hurriedly to-day. In the use of the word 'creek,' the Dominion Creek is a name that covers three different kinds of claims and that is where the confusion occurs. It covers the creek claim proper in Dominion Creek, the bench claim proper in Dominion Creek, and the hill claim proper in Dominion Creek. According to the evidence, and there is no contradiction as to this, Mr. Fawcett did, as a matter of fact, alone undoubtedly close the creek claims of Dominion Creek, not dealing at all with the hill or bench claims, and he swears that Major Walsh, to whom he reported immediately, endorsed that action. Now, the creek was still open to prospectors for the hill and bench claims and they were proceeding to record. Major Walsh in May ordered the hill claims and the bench claims to be closed also, and Mr. Fawcett protested on the ground, as he gives, of the confusion that would follow from the action he had been taking. Therefore, when I used the term that Major Walsh closed the creek, I did not mean that he closed the creek claims (except in endorsing Mr. Fawcett's action) but by closing all that was left of

Dominion Creek, that is the bench claims and the hill claims, he and he only against Fawcett, closed Dominion Creek.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I must confess that the evidence so far as I have been able to appreciate it, as taken by the commissioner, is exceedingly lacking in clearness, and it is not very easy to come to any positive conclusion on any particular point, and especially upon this point that my hon. friend suggests. But, I cannot allow my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) to escape from this position. I asked him to state where he got his evidence that the creek was closed by Fawcett, acting under the guidance and control of Major Walsh, and he referred me to page 79 of the evidence. They were dealing with the case of Mrs. Koch, and in reference to something that occurred on July 11, 1898 :

Mr. Fawcett.—The charge is true inasmuch as I deviated from the said notice, for at the time this permit was given no arrangement had been made by the council with reference to issuing permits, and no notice had ever been made public or passed. The facts of the matter are these: From the beginning there was a difference between myself and the commissioner in reference to the closing of Dominion Creek hills and benches. People had been permitted by myself to prospect these hills and have their applications at the office, nothing preventing them from renewing their certificates except that the returns of survey had not yet come in, and these returns would aid in identifying these hills to show where they were; pending that, everything that was necessary to be done had been done with reference to persons prospecting receiving their claims, so that on that account I had objected to this notice.

Now, everything turns on the notice. What is the notice? It is a notice that was issued as the result of this conference on June 30, and in order that there may be no doubt about that I asked my hon. friend to refer to page 92 where, dealing with this very subject, Fawcett has succeeded in changing the programme that had been settled on June 30, so as to open the creek to any person who wished to go in and locate without the necessity of permits being issued. It is evident that Fawcett did not act under the instructions of Walsh, but that Walsh acted under the instructions and as a result of the conference with Fawcett. Let there be no doubt on that because here is the evidence :

Q. According to the purport of that notice, they were opened on the date they were printed?—A. That was my understanding of it; this was printed before I intended it.

Q. How did you understand it?—A. I handed it to Major Walsh simply as an exhibit to show the form of the notice that I thought would be fixed up on the morning of the 11th at the office.

Q. Did you mention that after to Major Walsh?—A. I didn't, because, I suppose, I felt a little intoxicated at having succeeded in my contention.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

That is to say, he felt a little intoxicated in succeeding in convincing Walsh that Fawcett's contention was right and not Walsh's.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. To do away with the permits?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, certainly, and there is no evidence to show that the creek was closed except in the month of November previous.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Oh yes.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) will see that it is a question between Fawcett and Walsh as to which controlled the other, and it is quite apparent from the evidence given by Fawcett that it was Fawcett who controlled Walsh and not Walsh who controlled Fawcett. Let me now refer to Carbeno. Here is the fact that this notice was issued on July 8, and it was handed to the printer on the evening of that day. It came back out of the printer's hands on the morning of the 9th. The argument of my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is, as I understood, that as the result of the change Carbeno received information which enabled him in execution of the agreement entered into in September previous, to get possession of a valuable claim on Dominion Creek. If it were the intention to enable Carbeno to get possession of that claim he would have got some information about this change from Walsh, but what does Carbeno say about it. On page 258 of the evidence he says: He was informed that Dominion Creek was opened upon the evening of the 8th; he was informed about five in the afternoon.

Q. On what date?—A. The 8th.

Q. Where did you acquire the information?—A. I received that from one of our dog-drivers.

Q. Who?—A. McBeth.

Q. Is he here now?—A. Yes; he is an Indian.

Q. And he told you it was open?—A. Well, he didn't tell me; it was rumoured about the camp. I asked Major Walsh's brother if the creek was going to be thrown open on the 9th, and he said he thought it was.

There is the extent of Major Walsh's interference in the matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will my hon. friend go on and read further, where he shows how he got the information?

Q. Where was McBeth at this time?—A. He had been down the street.

Q. Where was he when he gave you the information?—A. In camp.

Q. Where was McBeth?—A. He had been down the street, and he came back to camp.

Q. Was Major Walsh present?—A. No.

Q. Was McBeth working for Major Walsh?—A. Yes.

Q. And he told you the creek would be opened on the 9th?—A. He said he heard it would be opened on the 9th.

Q. That was on the afternoon of the 8th?—A. Yes.

Q. Did he tell you how he came by that information?—A. No, sir.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It seems to me that does not add much either way.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think so. He was one of the men in the employ of Major Walsh.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were many men in the employ of Major Walsh. Now, we have to deal with this Koch matter. I do not think it is advisable or necessary, nor do I think it will interest the House, to have a rehash of that matter. I would refer any one who is interested in knowing the exact state of the case to page 14 of the speech delivered during last session by the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, in which the whole matter is satisfactorily explained. Now, I do not wish to detain the House any longer. It is proper, however, before I conclude, that I should apologize to the House for having taken up so much of the time of the members on this subject; and I am quite satisfied that I owe an apology to the friends of the hon. member for Pictou who sit about him, because, after all, I am sure that he has convinced them, as well as everybody else, that if this matter is not what my hon. friend the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) called it, much ado about nothing, it is, at least, the old story of the mole hill taking on the proportions of the proverbial mountain.

Mr. G. V. McINERNEY (Kent, N.B.) Mr. Speaker, it is because I believe this is a matter of considerable importance that I venture to say a few words on it, even in reply to the hon. Solicitor General. I believe it is an important matter because I apprehend that there can be nothing in connection with government of more vital importance to the state than that men entrusted with functions of government in any part of the country, especially in remote parts, should have the white light of parliament turned upon their conduct, and should receive either blame or praise according to their deserts. It may not be out of place to refer to the fact that the greatest feats of eloquence that have been handed down to us from ancient times have arisen out of just such cases as this, where men sent out from the Roman Empire and the Republic to govern remote provinces maladministered the affairs of those provinces and were brought to book before the tribunals of Rome to answer for their misconduct. But for this we never would have had the great speeches of Cicero for Milo. If I might be allowed to diverge for a moment, Milo said that if Cicero had really delivered those speeches, he would not then be eating sardines at Marseilles. In this case we have an

accuser as Milo had at that time. We have an accuser in the person of the ex-Minister of Justice, the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), a man who has launched his charges boldly against Major Walsh and this government whose official he was. We have Major Walsh, an administrator of public affairs in a remote part of this country, as the accused; but I fail to find in the Solicitor General a Cicero. I admit, Sir, the ability of the Solicitor General to turn a corner; I think he is an adept at that sort of thing, and at special pleading. His whole defence in this matter has been a piece of special pleading. Is it any defence of Major Walsh to say that the electorate of Brockville had acquitted him? Would that be a defence to set up in a court of law to any charge like this levelled against a defendant? I rather think not, and it does not reflect any credit on the Solicitor General to make use of the argument, that because the electors of Brockville elected their present member, Mr. Comstock, instead of the Hon. Peter White, Major Walsh, who happened to be a resident of the town of Brockville, is vindicated. But, Sir, I make bold to say that there never has been, during the eight or nine years that I have been in this parliament, a charge levelled with more precision than the charge levelled by the hon. senior member for Pictou; and never has there been in this House a weaker or more technical defence than the defence set up by the Solicitor General. It must be that his cause is weak, because we all know that he is a man of ability and a lawyer of the very first standing in this country. It is not, Sir, the weakness of the advocate; it is the weakness of the cause that has paralyzed the ability of the Solicitor General; and, Sir, a man of even greater ability than he is would, I admit, fail in the face of a charge so made and so substantiated by evidence as this has been. We have, I say, a grievous charge against a public administrator, and a very brief reference to the evidence will prove that the charge is made out up to the hilt. The evidence is uncontradicted. Major Walsh started out to administer the Yukon country, and took with him several men as a bodyguard, and other paid servants of this country. Among those were Louis Carbeno, John B. Marcil, Isaac Collum and Toussaint Collum. One case will decide the whole of this matter, and I will confine my remarks entirely to the case of Carbeno. Major Walsh took these men with him to that country as public servants, at the expense of the country, to do public work, he himself being the administrator of that country. It is a singular thing, which must strike every one, that at the outset, on his way out to form an administration, he endeavoured to intimidate, and, in fact, did intimidate, those public servants under him into signing contracts by which his

brother was to obtain from these men three-fourths of all the stakes they should locate. There can be no doubt about that at all, and that seems to me the first important fact. Louis Carbeno swore to it, and his evidence is uncontradicted. Before they started this proposal was made to him, and he swears that on the *Quadra* this agreement was placed before him to sign. Where was he when asked to sign it? In the stateroom of Major Walsh, the administrator of that country. This servant was brought into Major Walsh's stateroom on board the steamer *Quadra* and asked to sign that agreement, and the Minister of the Interior was on the same boat as superior officer. Was that agreement signed under intimidation? It certainly was, because this man was told that unless he signed it he would be sent back on the return trip. He was told by Major Walsh himself that unless he signed that document, handing over three-quarters of the claims he might stake in that country to Louis Walsh, he would be sent back on the return trip of the steamer. If nothing else had taken place, if nothing had resulted from that, it was still enough to damn the character of Major Walsh as administrator of that country. I am not here to blacken Major Walsh's character. I hold no brief to do so, and I admit that Major Walsh, as far as I have heard, made an enviable reputation in the North-west, in many respects, as a bold and brave, and, in many cases, a just man. But, we should try Major Walsh here on the evidence we have in this case. His previous character might commute or help to change a sentence passed upon him, but it would be no evidence that this charge had not been proved against him. I am here to try him, as I think this House should try him, on the evidence offered here. He forced Carbeno, under duress, under 'force majeure,' to sign that agreement by which he was to hand over a proportion of all the claims he staked to Major Walsh's brother. There cannot be any doubt about that. There was not only the threat compelling him to sign the contract, but there was then the signing of the contract, and the reward for his turpitude in signing it. Because his wages were immediately raised from \$60 to \$100 per month. And all those other public servants, paid by this country and taken out by Major Walsh under his control, who signed those documents—each and every one had his wages raised to a proportionate amount.

The next thing we find in looking over the case is, that Dominion Creek—a very valuable creek—was ordered to be closed for the location of claims, and the order was given, under instructions from Major Walsh himself. It appears that this Dominion Creek was the only creek in all that country that was declared closed for the location of claims, and it is concerning this creek that this maladministration took

Mr. McINERNEY.

place. The case is peculiar. You may say it is a case of circumstantial evidence, but that is the strongest kind of evidence. We cannot go into the mind of Major Walsh and photograph it and see how far it shows guilt. All we can do is to produce the facts, and this House is here to draw inferences from the facts.

There was one point that the hon. the Solicitor General attempted to make. He attempted to prove that Major Walsh was not responsible for the closing of the claims on Dominion Creek. If that were true, it would be a defence for Major Walsh, but that point the Solicitor General has entirely failed to establish. What have we in the evidence? Mr. Fawcett, at page 79 of the evidence taken before the commission, distinctly swears as follows:

From the beginning there was a difference between myself and the commissioner in reference to the closing of Dominion Creek hills and benches.

Mr. Fawcett shows in different parts of his evidence that he was opposed to it. If there was a difference between him and the commissioner, the commissioner must have been in favour of it, and the evidence proves further on that the commissioner forced Mr. Fawcett's hands, and forced him into the position of sending out the notice. What have we further on? We have a resolution of Major Walsh's council read by Mr. Fawcett in evidence, on page 81. Here is the evidence:

Q. Read the resolution; this question will come up again, but I want to understand it.

Mr. Fawcett reads from the minutes of a meeting held in the commissioner's office, Dawson City, May 30, 1898, to discuss questions of administration.

And what follows on in quotation marks as being read from the minutes:

'Dominion Creek having been closed since the middle of November last, it has been decided that the creek shall remain closed until further notice. This decision applies to hill and bench claims, as well as to creek claims.'

Mr. Fawcett.—I may say that this was moved by Mr. McGregor in council, and he gave as his reason for bringing up this resolution that he had told people on the creeks that the hills were not open, and said he was not going to be made a fool of, and so he presented this resolution.

Q. You were present at this meeting?—A. I was.

Q. Did you object?—A. I did.

There is Mr. Fawcett's direct contradiction to the statement made by the Solicitor General that it was he, and not the commissioner, who had closed this creek. There is the evidence that it was the order of the commissioner in council that closed the creek, and that Mr. Fawcett objected to such an order going out. But, that is not the only evidence, because later on we find this:

Q. When were the privileges stopped on the hillsides?—A. May 30.

Q. What led to it?—A. A resolution by Major Walsh and his council.

Q. How is that council constituted?—A. The commissioner was the council himself.

Q. You recognize that as his report?—A. I recognize that as Mr. Patullo's signature.

Q. Would you read the part relating to the closing of the creek?—A. Any location made on a creek after it has been closed will not be recognized or put on record. This includes hill and bench claims as well as creek claims.

Then, the evidence goes on:

Dominion Creek having been closed since the middle of November last, it has been decided that the creek shall remain closed until further notice. This decision applies to hill and bench claims as well as creek claims.

These council meetings were held after the office was closed. During office hours all the officials were busy, and Major Walsh himself was open to the public.

These meetings, therefore, took place in the evening.

Q. Did you object to that being done?—A. I did.

And, Sir, in the face of that evidence, that sworn and uncontradicted evidence of Mr. Fawcett, that he opposed his commissioner and his council in the minute they had passed, the Solicitor General stands up and says that Fawcett was responsible and not the commissioner. I think that the only point of importance attempted by the Solicitor General in his defence has completely broken down. And if we may judge the whole case by the point which seems to him to be the strongest, we can fairly conclude that his whole case has broken down. But that is not all. It appears in the evidence at page 89:

Was that your signature?—

Mr. Fawcett was asked.

A. Yes.

Q. Did you issue it?—A. Well, on one occasion Mr. Pattullo came with a notice asking me to sign it; it was in relation to closing the hillsides, but I objected on the ground that I considered there was no basis for the hillsides being closed; I still maintained my objection to what had been done in council as gold commissioner, and I refused to sign the notice.

That is, after the council had passed the resolution of Mr. Fawcett, whom the Solicitor General blames for making this notice, refused to sign it.

Major Walsh sent and summoned me before him, and he gave me a very strong reprimand. As near as I can remember, he said: 'Mr. Fawcett, I want you to understand that it is impertinent on your part to question anything that has been decided in council, and when I sent that notice for you to sign, I want you to sign it.'

In the face of Mr. Fawcett's refusal to sign the notice even when it had passed by the council, Major Walsh calls him and gives him a reprimand and threatens and bulldozes him in the fashion I have shown. Can there be any doubt as to who ordered these claims closed? Will the Solicitor

General now, after that evidence is before him, stand up and say that Mr. Fawcett closed those claims and not Major Walsh and his council. Is there a man in this House who will endorse that statement of the Solicitor General. I do not think there is. And I know the Solicitor General well enough to know that, having heard this evidence, he would not now assert that it was Mr. Fawcett and not Major Walsh who closed those claims.

Now we come to what I consider the next important point in this matter. The notice regarding the permits to be given on July 11, 1898, and signed by Thomas Fawcett, is as follows:

NOTICE.

The notice recently issued regarding permits to be given on July 11, 1898, is hereby cancelled, and the following substituted therefor:

HILL AND BENCH CLAIMS

On Dominion Creek are now Open for Location and Prospecting by all Free Miners.

Those claims shown in the appended sketch, with one exception, will be open only to those who made application for them prior to the completion of the survey, which application was filed at the office of the gold commissioner.

Dated at Dawson, Yukon district, this 8th day of July, A. D. 1898.

By order,

THOMAS FAWCETT,
Gold Commissioner.

On the 11th July, persons were going up to Dominion Creek to take up these claims. But what happened? That notice was cancelled, and on the 8th of July notice that anybody might go and take up claims was issued. What follows? It follows that this man Carbeno—I will confine myself to his case—having, on the evening of the 8th of July, before that was published—because, according to Mr. Fawcett's evidence it was not published until the morning of the 9th—Carbeno, under this contract with Walsh made under duress with Walsh or his brother Lewis, starts from Major Walsh's camp with others of Major Walsh's servants and goes up to Dominion Creek to locate claims. It is no defence to say that they passed others on the way up. I can well understand men who thought they had until the 11th of July to get there might have been taking their time loitering on the way, and that those who had an object in getting there on the 9th would get ahead of them. This man Carbeno and the servants of Major Walsh had far more knowledge than those who had gone before. Carbeno swears that they passed men going up. Carbeno got up on Dominion Creek located the claims, and got back on Sunday to Major Walsh's camp, and, on Monday had these claims registered. And of these claims, Major Walsh's brother Lewis got three-quarters. Now, there are the facts. The Solicitor General said: How can you connect the Walshs with Carbeno's going up there? Did the Walshs tell him?

There is a piece of evidence given by Carbeno which does connect the Walshs with this case. He distinctly swears that Major Walsh's brother told him that the creek would be open on the morning of the 9th—that is, Lewis Walsh, with whom his contract was made. And remember, this contract was made in the presence of Major Walsh, on board his boat and in his stateroom, and under threat that he would send Carbeno back unless he signed the document. It is quite clear to me that the case is completely made out, that the charge levelled against Major Walsh and this administration has been completely proven. There is not one bit of evidence to contradict it. And it is idle, it is merely drawing a red herring across the trail for the Solicitor General to say that the people of this country will give their verdict in the matter. They will give that verdict intelligently, if they are intelligently informed. But they will not give their verdict in this matter in favour of Major Walsh if they read and analyse the evidence as we have it before us to-day. I am bold to state without the slightest desire to do injustice to Major Walsh, without the slightest desire to do him an injury, that he so maladministered that country that even this government grew ashamed of him. Why did they withdraw Major Walsh from that country? Why is he not there yet? Because he so maladministered the affairs of that country that even his government grew ashamed of him and brought him back home. It will not do to say that the people of this country will give their verdict. That remark reminds me of a celebrated case that I once knew of in which a leading lawyer of the United States was defending a certain clergyman for a heinous offence. Members of the congregation gathered around and offered to give evidence in favour of the accused. One good old lady said she knew the clergyman was innocent because an angel from heaven had told her so. The remark of the lawyer was: 'I wonder if we could subpoena that angel.' Subpoenaing public opinion in this matter is something like subpoenaing that angel. It is rather a far cry from this to the general elections. And, while this matter of maladministration of the Yukon, not only under Major Walsh, but under others, will be a matter the electors of this country will take into consideration when they are giving their verdict, I do not suppose that will be the only thing on which it will be given. But I do not pretend that were these matters properly understood, all over this country, the honest element in Canada will say that in sending Major Walsh to administer the Yukon and keeping him there as long as they did this government committed a fault; and that in bringing him back they attempted to wipe it out.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). We have not heard these charges to-night for Mr. McINERNEY.

the first time, and I do not think very much will come out of the additions to those charges which have been made to-day. The resolution which has been moved, is so very long, that it is rather difficult to know just what the pith and point of it is; but so far as I have been able to follow it, and connect it with the speech the hon. gentleman has made, it is this: That Mr. Commissioner Walsh went into that Yukon country and took several persons with him, having made a bargain with them to share in the profits of the mines they might take up; that having that in view he closed Dominion Creek and then gave information to his men, and particularly to this man Carbeno, which enabled Carbeno to go to this place and to take up land in priority to others who were on the way. I think so far as Major Walsh is concerned, that is the substance of the charges. But there is another charge which I do not remember to have heard included in the motion, and that is that Mr. Ogilvie was an improper person to appoint because of his relationship to the Minister of the Interior and that he had been rewarded for unfaithful public service in the Yukon. I think that charge was definitely made although it does not happen to be in the resolution, but it is derived from the speech of the hon. gentleman. It must not be forgotten that these charges have been made before, not only on the floor of this House in substance, but by the committee of the miner's union in the Yukon, and that these charges have been the subject of an investigation. Now it is well to know here just what those charges are that were made on the ground, by persons there, and what the charges are that were investigated by the Royal Commission which was issued in this matter. This Royal Commission issued on October 7, 1898. The charges were that the government officials forfeited their claim to the people's confidence and respect by their conduct in certain matters. That, of course is a general charge, and does not amount to anything in itself, but it is explained by what follows. Now these are the charges:

The gold commissioner's office is practically closed, and has been for a considerable time, to the miners who had not the means and desire to bribe the clerks in order to obtain knowledge of the records which ought to be public. It is further charged that wholesale information with regard to the unrecorded ground is conveyed to certain individuals outside the office who obtain men to stake and record the ground in consideration of an interest in the same. Our minister further stated that it is charged that dissatisfaction has arisen with respect to decisions in claim contests, particularly owing to the Crown prosecutor who, while retained as advocate by one of the contestants, was giving legal advice to the gold commissioner. The Dominion lands agent is openly charged with serious breaches of trust and malfeasance in office, and some of the officials connected with the recorder's office are alleged to be incompetent. Our said minister further submits that it is stated in the communication that hardships have

been caused to many of the claim owners owing to the want of experience of the mining inspectors. The committee further represents that the Crown timber agent has granted such concessions and laid down such stringent regulations that only a few parties have the privilege of supplying cordwood this coming winter.

These were all the charges that were made by the persons on the ground, and they were taken up and investigated by the commissioner. The results we have before us, and he who runs may read. We are not dependent upon the interpretation put upon this evidence by myself, and certainly not upon the interpretation put upon it by hon. gentlemen opposite. There is the evidence, 264 pages, and we may read it for ourselves to see to what extent this long list of eight or nine charges was proved. I take it that the result of all that evidence is placed before us in this resolution. All we can say with reference to it is that for reasons that have been given, Major Walsh went there to exploit the country, and that is shown by the conduct of Carbeno, as has been mentioned before.

Now, the first charge with regard to Major Walsh is that he took these men out under an agreement such as has been mentioned. I do not know that there is anything wrong in that. Of course, suspicion might attach to him for doing so, and persons with a tendency to suspect everything might suspect that Major Walsh was cognizant of all that took place between Philip Walsh and Lewis Walsh. But for my part, I do not think so. I speak subject to correction, but reading the evidence as I have done, I think we can come to no other conclusion but that Major Walsh knew nothing about the agreement that had been made with Lewis Walsh until this conversation took place on the *Quadra*. I do not remember that there was anything in the evidence that connects, even as to knowledge, Major Walsh with the agreement that has been mentioned and referred to. Assuming that is the case for the sake of argument, what is there on which we can attack Major Walsh? If his brother Lewis Walsh wished to make an arrangement with Carbeno or with anybody else by which he was to raise the money for the purpose of developing any mine that this man Carbeno could find, or any property that he might locate, is it a wrong thing on his part to get an undivided three-fourths of that money? It seems to me there cannot reasonably be anything wrong on the part of Lewis Walsh in doing a thing of that kind; and that is the agreement we have before us, witnessed by Philip Walsh, and made in Fort Arthur, although not signed for some time after. Now, what of it, these men having been hired to go out to the Yukon, if their names appear in the Auditor General's Report and in connection with the public accounts? Why should they not appear there? If they were hired to go out there, why should

they not be paid for it? And yet the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) parades their names in his resolution as showing that these men received public money.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. My object was to show that during all that period when these men were working under that agreement, they were paid their time by this country.

Mr. BRITTON. It is not disputed that they went out there in the employ of the government, and if they went out in the employ of the government they should receive pay for it, and if they received pay, it follows inevitably that their names should appear in the Auditor General's Report. Therefore, the object of parading their names as a part of this resolution is something that I do not understand. I do not think that the people of this country are going to be misled merely because these men's names appeared in the public accounts, and because the hon. gentleman argues there from that they are corrupt or have done something they ought not to have done.

The first point that the hon. gentleman made is that Major Walsh closed Dominion Creek. It is an easy matter to garble evidence. Perhaps the expression is not parliamentary, and I do not say that anybody did it. But, I say that it is an easy matter to do it. I do not propose to do that, but I propose to cite the evidence of this point and leave it to any man who either reads the evidence or the speeches that have been delivered in this House to say who did close Dominion Creek. Now, the evidence on that point is this; the book, as I said before, is before us. On page 11, are the charges that were made specifically by the parties on the spot, and which were placed before the commissioner for investigation. Among these charges is that Mr. Fawcett did close Dominion Creek:

That Thomas Fawcett did wilfully manipulate his powers, real and assumed, in the matter of closing and opening of Dominion Creek bench claims, to the defrauding of the miners and the benefit of officials and their friends.

Thomas Fawcett was the gold commissioner. The charge is that Thomas Fawcett did it. The statement in this House on the evidence was that Thomas Fawcett did it. The hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) says that Major Walsh did it. These people on the ground did not charge that he had anything to do with it, but they charged that Thomas Fawcett, the gold commissioner, did it. We will see what Mr. Fawcett said when he was called to deal with the charge himself. It is significant that in these charges which were heard of in the House, the result of which was the issuing of a Royal Commis

sion, the result of the Royal Commission being that we have the evidence before us, one of the formal charges was that Thomas Fawcett closed and opened these Dominion Creek bench claims—

To the defrauding of the miners and the benefit of officials and their friends.

And in that connection nobody else was charged with it. Now, I want to distinguish, and I think the hon. gentleman who spoke last ought to have distinguished, and I think all ought to distinguish, between the discussion that took place as to the permits that were given after Dominion Creek was closed and the closing of Dominion Creek itself. A discussion had arisen in regard to the permits given and in regard to persons claiming to have permits and claiming to go there after Dominion Creek was formerly closed. This discussion appears at page 79 of the evidence. I think it has been read two or three times already, and I will only read part of it simply to emphasize the point. Mr. Fawcett says :

From the beginning there was a difference between myself and the commissioner in reference to the closing of Dominion Creek hills and benches. People had been permitted by myself to prospect these hills and have their applications at the office, nothing preventing them from renewing their certificates except that the returns of survey had not come in and these returns would aid in identifying these hills to show where they were.

And so on. Without desiring to refrain from reading and yet not desiring to take up time by reading, simply referring to page 79 as to the question of permits and dealing with them in contradistinction to the question of closing Dominion Creek, I pass to pages 80 and 81, which refer to the closing of Dominion Creek. It does not seem fair for any hon. member of this House or any lawyer when this is specific on this very point to try and make the evidence apply to another matter which is referred to in another part of the evidence. It is not fair to go away from the charge that is dealt with on page 80. Mr. Fawcett is under examination. The commissioner asks :

Q. I would like to ask you a few questions about the history of Dominion Creek ; when was the creek closed—not the hills and benches ?

The answer is given without evasion or equivocation.

A. The 15th day of November was the last date on which any applications were taken.

Q. What year ?—A. 1897.

Q. Why was it closed then ?—A. Just before this I had learned that a great many claims were being relocated over others that had been put on by description, but the last of the group that I heard of was just below second Discovery—Lower Discovery ; when it was recorded number two consisted of some three claims, and A, B and C were recorded.

Then it goes on in reference to miners' claims, which I omit. I do not omit it be-

Mr. BRITTON.

cause it might not be read and properly read if no one had read the evidence, but I do it to save time. I leave out the next paragraph, and then go on as follows :

Q. You closed it ?—A. I closed it.

Q. The date of closure you have given ; did you immediately report that to Ottawa ?—A. Yes, and also to Major Walsh.

Q. Was it endorsed by Major Walsh ?—A. It was.

Q. He approved of the creek being closed ?—A. He was called in evidence on that same point in August up in court that would have been blocked on the ground.

I do not know just what that means.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
That is in Nelson and Donnelly.

Mr. BRITTON (reading) :

The question was brought up and at least one of the attorneys took the ground that the creek was never legally closed, so Major Walsh was called in. Major Walsh in his instructions had power over the mining regulations, and he was called in evidence. He was asked : 'Were you aware that Dominion Creek was closed ?' He said : 'Yes.' Then he was asked : 'Did you approve of it ?' He said : 'Most certainly I did.'

Q. That was given in evidence ?—A. That was given in evidence in the case of Nelson vs. Donnelly, and on which reply has since been received.

Q. Had you any written instructions from Major Walsh to that effect ?—A. I might have had a letter but I don't recollect at present, but I know he approved of what I had done. I have written instructions with reference to that remaining closed. There is a letter at present—

Q. That it was closed ? Did you permit prospecting to go on on the hill-sides ?—A. There was no recording or prospecting on the hill-sides until the spring, until the men were over their surveying.

Q. Then they began to prospect ?—A. Yes.

Q. When ?—A. In April—the first prospecting was in April.

Q. You received these applications, didn't you, in the office ?—A. Yes, we noted them.

Q. Didn't put them on record ?—A. No, because we were not in a position to designate them properly until the ground was surveyed.

Q. Was that privilege of prospecting and making applications for record abrogated ?—A. No, sir, that was open to every one.

Q. Was it afterward abrogated ?—A. It was under the resolution that declared the hills and benches closed.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Hear, hear.

Mr. BRITTON. That abrogation, as it is called here, is the abrogation that appears in the evidence that the hon. member for Kent, N.B., speaks of. It is something entirely distinct from the closing of Dominion Creek. Then that resolution is read. Then, some of this evidence deals with the case of this woman, Mrs. Koch. The evidence on this point comes in again at page 84. I want to deal fairly with this man's evidence. I want to call the attention of the House specially to the evidence on page 84. This particular charge against Major Walsh had not arisen then. It was

a time when the truth could be elicited without bias, or without having regard to any particular case against any one, but being dealt with as to the men who were there on the spot and who were able to defend themselves. Mr. Fawcett was the person being charged and Mr. Fawcett was there to answer for himself. The commissioner says:

The question is the closing of Dominion Creek to the public; that matter I understand. I am a surveyor and can understand why it was done. I have had something of the same kind to deal with myself; in this case I do not know what Mr. George's statements were to be, or what his contentions were to be. Whether Mr. George comes or not, the statements of these parties will be taken; I will take their statement as far as I can. It is only due to Mr. Fawcett, against whom this charge has been made.

You will see again that it was against Mr. Fawcett the charge was made for closing Dominion Creek.

For him to go out of the country without having put his view of it at least would be unfair; it would be unfair to refuse him a hearing.

Mr. Tabor.—In arguing that there should be no investigation of charges made subsequent to August 25, I do not do so with any idea of shielding anybody; I merely want to know the legal way in which evidence can be taken and the prosecution gone on with. Mr. Fawcett and the other gentlemen were anxious that these things should be investigated; they do not want this cloud resting on them. A great deal that has been said has been founded on rumour, and an investigation of this sort is the only way to get at things of that kind. I do not want the impression to go abroad that I make this objection for the purpose of shielding these officials.

The Commissioner.—I think we all regret the occasion for this.

Mr. Tabor.—I think you join with me in regretting that it had to be raised; and I think everybody else does; the fault is not with us, the fault is with the gentlemen who issued the commission; it was an oversight.

The Commissioner.—There is a charge here, Mr. Fawcett, that you closed Dominion Creek. You gave at some length statements in connection with that in a previous case. Mr. George is not here, and he laid the charge; the same charge is repeated by the aforesaid president and secretary of the miners' association as well; they are not here. I see some of the members of the miners' association here; are they willing to participate in this examination of Mr. Fawcett? I see Mr. McGregor, Mr. Galpin, Mr. Buteau. Are you willing, Mr. McGregor, to countenance this procedure?

Mr. McGregor.—On behalf of myself and some of the miners associated with me, I regret to be compelled to decline; I am not conversant with the matter—with that part of the catalogue; these other parties who were here yesterday were better up in this question.

The Commissioner.—Are you willing to stay and ask any questions of the witnesses you may see fit?

Mr. McGregor.—I have no objection as far as that is concerned, but, as I said yesterday, I beg leave to express disapproval of the commission being limited to August 25, as in doing so it would cripple the workings of the com-

mission, and consequently would not fulfil the purposes for which it was granted. The spirit of the commission, I consider, cannot be carried out by limiting the time to August 25. It is nearly six months ago, and since that a great many of the people in connection with these charges have left the place. I do not wish to make any comments on the matter.

The commissioner says, and see how important this is in connection with the charge with which we are dealing now, namely, that Major Walsh closed Dominion Creek.

The Commissioner.—As to this particular charge, that does not apply; Mr. Fawcett is charged with crime; the clerks are all here in the office or the vicinity. I don't think any objection would apply to this particular charge; it is a very serious one.

Then on page 86:

The Commissioner.—We would like to know the reason why the creek was closed first.

Mr. Fawcett.—In 1897?

The Commissioner.—Yes; please go over some of the general statements again.

Mr. Fawcett.—I had learned from persons whom I considered reliable that claims were being staked over others that were already recorded under different descriptions; that the same land was being applied for and recorded by different parties; that is, there were a great many claims which had at first been put on by description as second, third or fourth below some tributary adjoining the creek at a certain point not defined to any place where that tributary came in. That was when I first arrived in the country. I took the description as near as I could, and after probably a month I found that there was no way of being positive as to what ground was recorded unless recorded under some particular number, and even then numbers would be duplicated.

By the Commissioner:

Q. That was owing to the vagueness of the description?—A. Yes, the people didn't number their stakes; they make their descriptions refer to the confluence of certain creeks, or the nearness to other natural objects. Of course, descriptions of that kind are not reliable. At a later date I found ground recorded in that way was being staked over, or recorded under certain numbers, and in every case that came up before the creek was closed it was found claims overlapped others which were on record, and these claims were cancelled. Finding this done to a great extent, I found it necessary to close the creek, and I accepted no more applications for that part of the creek which I thought might be covered by any claims.

All that on page 87 is material. After he has explained it fully and stated that he had closed it, and had given his reasons why he closed it, and leaving no possibility of ambiguity about it in any way, shape or form, then this occurs:

Q. On account of this complication, you closed the whole creek on November, 1897. Then you opened part of it?—A. After I found that all conflict would be confined within certain bounds, I opened the rest. I left considerable space on the creeks between the closed portion and the open portion.

That is the evidence, and I have read it with as much fairness as I am able to. I

read all the points on this question which we have on hand to-night.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. You did not read page 89.

Mr. BRITTON. It has been read. I have read the particulars that refer to it with the exception of a word or two on page 98, and I will read that. This is in examination by Mr. McGregor :

By the Commissioner:

Q. That part of Dominion Creek which you closed is still closed?—A. Still closed.

Q. Still contests on there?—A. Yes.

Q. And likely to be?—A. Yes.

By Mr. McGregor:

Q. What part of Dominion Creek is that?—A. From Upper Discovery to No. 120 below.

Q. Who closed that?—A. I did.

Q. Still remains closed?—A. Yes.

Surely this evidence is just as good for the government and Mr. Walsh, as it is for the complainant, and if evidence is good for anything, I have proved out of the mouth of the witness beyond the possibility of a doubt that Mr. Fawcett, the commissioner, closed Dominion Creek, and that Major Walsh did not do it, and, therefore, there can be no charge against him. Did my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. McInerney), intend to mislead the House? I hope not, but yet he said that this agreement was signed under duress. Nothing of the kind.

Mr. McINERNEY. Read page 262.

Mr. BRITTON. I shall, it is as follows :

Q. In your examination yesterday, Mr. Carbeno, in answering one of the questions, you stated that you thought that your present position was the result of signing that agreement or something to that effect?—A. Yes.

Q. Was there not part of the evidence in that connection which you forgot to give us yesterday?—A. I forgot to say that other papers were drawn up and I would not sign them.

Q. When was this?—A. Coming up on board the 'Quadra.'

Q. You would not sign them, why?—A. I said the papers were not legal, and would not sign them until I got legal ones. That afternoon I was called to Major Walsh's stateroom, and he asked me if I had made an agreement at Port Arthur before I left.

Q. You said you did?—A. He said, 'Why didn't you sign the papers?' I said I didn't because they were not legal. He said, 'If you don't sign those papers when this boat goes back, I will send you back on it.' That was all that was said until we got to Big Salmon, then other papers came on, and therefore I signed them.

Mr. McINERNEY. And you think that is not duress?

Mr. BRITTON. No, it is not, and they were not signed.

Mr. McINERNEY. It is not duress for him to say :

If you don't sign the papers I will send you back on this steamer.

Mr. BRITTON.

Mr. BRITTON. He did not sign them and he did not go back.

Mr. McINERNEY. He did sign them.

Mr. BRITTON. My hon. friend says they were signed on the boat, because of the duress or vis major of Major Walsh.

Mr. McINERNEY. Would the hon. gentleman allow me? The next line proves it exactly :

That was all that was said until we got to Big Salmon. Then other papers came and therefore I signed them.

Mr. BRITTON. He signed them long after those were presented on the boat which were not signed. My hon. friend said that those papers were signed on the boat by reason of the duress of Major Walsh.

Mr. McINERNEY. The threat was there.

Mr. BRITTON. They do not pretend that they were. More than that, the papers which were produced on the boat, were not the papers which were signed. Carbeno said that those papers were illegal, that they did not represent the proper agreement, and he signed the papers which came on afterwards at Big Salmon. Now, I think we have this point clear, that instead of the papers being signed by Carbeno under a threat by Major Walsh, that if he did not sign them, he would send him back, we have conclusive testimony that Carbeno did not sign them. If I am correct in what I have said, then the gravamen of this charge is not proved by the evidence, namely, that Major Walsh knew of these agreements, and that it was part and parcel of a transaction between these men before they went out that they were to enter into such agreements. Carbeno was asked if he had made an agreement, why he did not sign it. He said it was because it was not legal, and it was only after he arrived at Big Salmon, that he signed it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Why did Major Walsh make Carbeno give the bill of sale to Philip Walsh?

Mr. BRITTON. I suppose he did it because Philip Walsh was on the ground.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, Carbeno swears he did that because Major Walsh forced him to do it.

Mr. DAVIN. Look at page 260.

Mr. BRITTON (reading) :

Q. Why did you give this to Philip Walsh and not to Lewis?—A. Because Major Walsh instructed me he did not want Lewis's name brought into the office.

I do not see that there is anything particular about that. If Lewis Walsh was competent to make the agreement, and Philip Walsh was there representing Lewis Walsh, it seems to me that there was nothing criminal in asking Carbeno to make this

offer to Philip Walsh who was on the ground and could deal with it. At this stage of the matter, when Major Walsh is out of the employ of the government, no one needs to hold a brief for him, or to shield him from proper inquiry. But let us look at the evidence with fairness, and see what it amounts to. If my hon. friend had supplemented his speech with proof or evidence from which a fair inference could be drawn, that money was made out of this transaction, there might be some reason for further pursuing the inquiry. But, in the absence of that, and with nothing more than we have here, the hon. gentleman shows a degree of persistency for which, if it were for some worthy object, he would be entitled to credit. But it is a persistency in the pursuit of a man whom for some reason or other, the hon. gentleman dislikes from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. That is shown by the way in which this case is presented to the House. The only other point of evidence with regard to Louis Carbeno is the fact that he acquired knowledge that these claims were to be opened on July 8. I shall not follow the evidence on that point beyond repeating what the Solicitor General said, that if 150 people were on the road to locate claims, there could not have been very much secrecy about it. They were on the road, because these claims were expected to be opened on the 9th.

Mr. McINERNEY. No, the 11th.

Mr. BRITTON. Whatever date it was after the 8th. If these men were going there to locate claims on the 11th, they would require a permit, and there is no pretense that they had a permit, or were going for any other reason than caused Carbeno to go. Further than that, Carbeno says he got the information, not from Major Walsh, but from McBeth, his dog driver, and from Major Walsh's brother, who told him he thought they would be opened on the 9th. I mention this to show that there was no secrecy about this thing. McBeth knew it, and told him, and Major Walsh's brother knew it, and 150 others knew it, and were on the road after Carbeno, to locate claims on this Dominion Creek. If that is so, it does not seem to me that there is very much to investigate.

One other word, and I have done. My hon. friend will admit that it is a fair rule in the courts, that when a man calls any witness, he vouches for the credibility of that witness; and if you get evidence from a witness called by the other side, that evidence is worth more than evidence which you obtain from your own side. Now, the hon. gentleman did call Morgan, and presented him as a credible witness; and yet this man, if his evidence is worth anything, dispels all this noise and talk, this cloud of dust and dirt attempted to be thrown

over the Yukon transactions, because he says the transactions out there were fair and square. Nobody can claim that in the administration of mining territory, of all other things in the world, in a new country, remote from courts and judges, and the ordinary officers who can be called in to settle disputes, there would not be contestations and charges of malfeasance that might have no foundation whatever in fact. From the evidence we have here, the wonder is, not that these charges have been made against the officials, but that there was not more foundation for them. To bring this matter up and take up the time of parliament discussing it, was hardly worthy of my hon. friend. He, however, has evidently ample time at his disposal, and the resolution which he has presented at such great length, indicates the greatest possible industry and zeal in the pursuit of a political opponent; but I think that unless something different from what has been yet shown, appears nothing will come of all my hon. friend's zeal and industry.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). As regards the observation of my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton) respecting Col. Morgan—I think he must be a colonel because I imagine there is no one at Seattle under that rank—the hon. gentleman says that my hon. friend from Pictou ought to be content with Col. Morgan's statement, because he had called him as witness. That is rather an extraordinary remark to come from a gentleman of the standing of the hon. member for Kingston, because what it means is this, that if my hon. friend, in preparing a case for trial, should communicate with a witness and find that witness unreliable, find him a man on whom he could not depend, he would none the less be bound by any evidence that man might give, because he had appealed to him in the first instance to ascertain what kind of a story he would tell. That is my hon. friend's view of the responsibility of a person who communicates with a witness respecting the evidence which such witness could give in a suit at law or with respect to a matter like the present one.

So far as Col. Morgan is concerned, the hon. member for Pictou wrote to him, as he might have written to any one else, asking for information respecting the condition of affairs in the Yukon, which condition had attracted the attention of the press of this country and the United States and the old country; and in response to that letter, Mr. Morgan, who happens to have some fifteen claims in the Yukon, which he did not want sacrificed, wrote back that, with some trifling exceptions, everything was very lovely. And I have no doubt that a great many other people, holding claims in the Yukon, if appealed to in the same way, and if their answers were to be used in parliament or published, would be very apt to give the same reply.

My hon. friend, the Solicitor General, read, with a good deal of gusto, this letter of Mr. Morgan, but I venture to think that if he had been dealing with a court and had not been desirous of attracting some cheap applause from hon. gentlemen behind him, he would hardly have taken the course he did. What relevancy this particular letter has to the particular point dealt with by the resolution, I cannot see. My hon. friend from Pictou suggests by his resolution that the government ought to be censured because they did not further investigate the conduct of Major Walsh. My hon. friend the Solicitor General replies by reading a letter from Col. Morgan, in which Col. Morgan expresses the opinion that it is an undignified thing for a gentleman to apply to him for information.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend will remember that our mutual friend from Pictou read his reply to Major Walsh's letter, and I thought that, in order to make the record complete, I should read Major Morgan's letter to which our hon. friend had given this reply.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend took about ten minutes in reading and discussing that letter, although he was dealing with a resolution declaring that the government deserved censure for not having further investigated the conduct of Major Walsh, and he read with a good deal of gusto the opinion of Mr. Morgan regarding a certain supposed lack of dignity on the part of my hon. friend from Pictou. I do not know that Mr. Morgan's opinions on the question of dignity are very valuable. Supposing he thought it was not dignified for my hon. friend the Solicitor General to read that letter, I wonder would my hon. friend have such a high opinion of Mr. Morgan as an authority in that respect.

My hon. friend the Solicitor General seems to think that a large portion of the sworn evidence could be disposed of by the statement of a gentleman, to whom he referred as Mr. Ryley. He did not give us much information about Mr. Ryley. I supposed at first that he was the same gentleman that kept the hotel, but apparently not. And this gentleman's statement apparently is to dispose of all the evidence and relieve the government from any obligation to investigate the conduct of Major Walsh. My hon. friend would not deal in that way with this matter before a court. It may do very well for the purpose he intended, and I do not for a moment say that it was not the best thing he could have done. I know the ability of my hon. friend, and I know that sometimes he has possibly to undertake tasks he does not care very much about, but, I do not think that, on consideration, he will say that any statement of that kind made by Mr. Ryley would outweigh the sworn testimony referred to by my hon. friend from Pictou.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax)

I do not quite understand what the position of my hon. friend the Solicitor General with regard to this matter really is, when I come to consider the attitude of my hon. friend from Kingston (Mr. Britton). The Solicitor General says that Major Walsh's conduct was not being investigated at all, that he had no opportunity of defending himself, and that he had gone away. But my hon. friend from Kingston seems to think that this was an investigation of Major Walsh.

Mr. BRITTON. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That was the argument.

Mr. BRITTON. Not at all, and I must have been exceedingly obscure if I conveyed that impression. My point was this, that these men on the ground made charges against Mr. Fawcett, that there was an investigation into the charges against Mr. Fawcett, and that in that investigation Mr. Fawcett admitted that he was the man who closed up the creek.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I accept the explanation of my hon. friend, but I heard him state distinctly, over and over again, that these charges, which my hon. friend from Pictou made last year, were being investigated before this commission. Does he deny that he stated on the floor of this House, within the course of the last hour, that the charges which the hon. member for Pictou made last year were being investigated before that commission? I do not think he will deny that.

Mr. BRITTON. So far as the general charges are concerned, they were investigated by that commission, but I was dealing with the particular charge as to the closing of Dominion Creek. That is why I use the evidence given before the commission, and it was that evidence I referred to. But, speaking generally, I gave the charges before the commission, and said they were investigated by the commission.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I thought that my hon. friend really said exactly what I said he did, and I do not understand his statement just made to be very different. I certainly took a note of his words at the time, and *Hansard* will show to-morrow what he really did say. The hon. gentleman understands now that the charges made by my hon. friend from Pictou last year, included charges against Major Walsh but were made after the commission had nearly completed its work. Nine-tenths of the evidence had been taken before the hon. member for Pictou brought this matter up in the House, yet my hon. friend from Kingston is dealing with the matter as if that commission had been investigating the charges which were made last year, and

one of which is now supported by the evidence from public documents this year.

Mr. BRITTON. They were only repeated by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am not aware that any such charge as that the hon. gentleman refers to respecting Mr. Fawcett was made by the hon. member for Pictou last year at all. I may be in error, but I do not understand that the same charge was made, either in the same terms, or of the same character. I do not understand that the same charge, or one in the same terms was made before. My hon. friend the Solicitor General was good enough to give another very cogent reason. The government, if you please are perfectly justified in refusing to investigate the conduct of Major Walsh, because the development of these claims which have been acquired by the Walsh Bros. has resulted up to the present in a loss of \$5,000. In whatever straits the hon. gentleman may have been in the past, I think he never before was in such straits as to be compelled to resort to such an argument as that. I think he will admit that, because he is very fair. Was it from Mr. Ryley that he got this information about the loss of \$5,000.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Oh, no.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Not from Mr. Ryley? The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) may have some secret mode of informing himself of these matters as to which he has not saw fit to advise the House. I cannot suppose that the government are still in communication with the Walsh Bros. with respect to these mining claims. I suppose he did not get the information from the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland) or from the real Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton). I really think it must have been from Mr. Ryley that he got the information. If it was not from Mr. Ryley or from the department I think he should be good enough to give the House the information. One further circumstance the Solicitor General mentioned, which, as he indicated, completely exonerated the government from any duty of investigating the case of Major Walsh, namely, the fact that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Comstock) who now represents Brockville was elected by a substantial majority. Well, what will he say as to the Minister of the Interior being on his trial in the late local election of Manitoba, when he went in his own constituency of Brandon, which he represents in this House, and was snowed under by a thousand majority. If the government were on trial in Brockville I suppose the government and the Minister of the Interior were on trial in Manitoba; because the Minister of the Interior went there and asked the electors of Manitoba to make it a personal matter between himself and the leader of the opposition; and he wanted the electors of Manitoba, and particularly the electors

of Brandon, to give the leader of the opposition his answer. But the Minister of the Interior got the answer instead of the leader of the opposition. And, eventually, after the battle was over, and the smoke of conflict had rolled away, Mr. Greenway, the late Premier, said the whole difficulty with regard to his government was the conduct of Mr. Sifton, who went into his constituency and made it a personal matter of his record as Minister of the Interior which record the people of Manitoba, particularly those of the constituency of Brandon, were not prepared to endorse. I was surprised, when my hon. friend the Solicitor General, who is usually a very modest man, had the hardihood to refer to the election in Brockville. I should have thought that the election in Brockville would be the last thing that he would have referred to in this connection or any other.

Mr. COWAN. How about Birmingham?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend (Mr. Cowan) wants to know about Birmingham. I would like to know from him what he thinks about Pritchett; and particularly I would like to know what he thinks about his own legal opinion given the other evening, that Pritchett could not be proceeded against for perjury or could not be proceeded against for offences under the Election Act, because his offences had been barred by the statute. The same argument was put forward by the Solicitor General. I say that such a statement has not the slightest foundation in fact. If any gentleman wishes to inform himself, on that subject, let him turn to section 117 of the statute. It does give a limitation of one year; but the very gentleman who raised that question previously stated that Pritchett was an absconder from justice, in which case, the statutory limitation does not apply. This the Solicitor General should have known—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, Halifax) kindly explain what has become of the warrant for Pritchett?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). That question ought to be answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. This discussion is not in order.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am prepared to answer the Solicitor General's question if I am permitted. Under the statute which was misquoted by two gentlemen in this House, it does not make any difference that a year had elapsed because Pritchett had absconded and the limitation does not apply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Order.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Where is the warrant?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It makes not the slightest difference—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I have already decided that this discussion is not in order.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the point of order?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The hon. gentlemen are referring to a past debate.

Mr. FOSTER. If you would allow me a moment, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, and I will not refer to a past debate. Now, the point I make is, that the question whether the government should have ordered an investigation or not does not depend on trifling matters as to whether this agreement was signed at Port Arthur or on the Big Salmon, or anywhere else. It does not depend on whether a particular document written in lead pencil and submitted to this man Carbeno was signed, or whether another document drawn up under the same inspiration was the one signed. The point is that Major Walsh went into that country with practically the powers of a dictator, taking with him four ignorant men who were his servants and who were under his control, taking also his brother, who was a servant of the government and paid by the government, he having in that country already another brother. The point of the charge is that he used these servants as instruments whereby he and his brothers could obtain mining claims in that country secretly under cover of their names. And I ask my hon. friend the Solicitor General and every other hon. member whether he is prepared to say that that is the right kind of conduct on the part of an officer having the powers which Major Walsh had in going into that country. Is it right that a man having the powers of a dictator should use ignorant men in his service who may be discharged by him, whose salaries could be increased or decreased by him at will—is it right that he should take these men, and, under cover of their names, acquire mining rights in that country? I say that the proposition, irrespective of these other considerations, that conduct of that kind does not require investigation seems to me a monstrous proposition. But that does not cover all the circumstances. You have the further fact that these men are actually coerced. According to their uncontradicted evidence, they are told that they will be sent back if they do not enter into an agreement to carry out this scandalous scheme to which I have referred. Does my hon. friend the Solicitor General venture to say that conduct of that kind is not one to be investigated? Does any man on the other side of the House say

Mr. FITZPATRICK

that in justice to Major Walsh himself, that is not a matter which should be investigated? The Solicitor General says Major Walsh has had no opportunity of defending himself. I say that if the government have the reputation of Major Walsh at heart they should give him an opportunity of defending himself in this matter. It is due to Major Walsh as well as due to the country that this officer who has been coercing his servants for his own benefit, in the way which is shown by the evidence, should be given an opportunity of showing why it was, under what circumstances it was, for what reason it was, that he departed from the principles of good administration to that extent.

But that is not all. We have the fact that a particular district called Dominion Creek is closed so far as the hill and bench claims are concerned, in May, 1878. It had been previously closed so far as the creek claims are concerned in November, 1897, so it was completely closed by May, 1898. Then we have the fact that no claims are to be granted to any person in that particular district, and a woman described as very friendly with Major Walsh, described as the person who cooked for him, is granted a permit during the period when that claim is absolutely closed to all persons who might desire mining claims in the Yukon. I think that my hon. friend the Solicitor General exercised a very wise discretion in not making the slightest reference to that circumstance, and his example in that respect was followed by the hon. member for Kingston who made no reference to it. Now, what possible excuse is there for the government not taking some proceeding to investigate Mr. Walsh with respect to that? Is the whole administration of the Yukon, without regard to right or wrong, without regard to law or justice, without regard to rule or reason, to be left to Major Walsh, and proceedings of this kind to be carried out by him, and the government of this country to say that it is a matter which is not to be investigated?

But that is not all. Then we have this particular district of Dominion Creek to be opened on the 11th day of July, 1898.* The first project, so far as I understand the matter, was that it should be opened by means of permits, but Mr. Fawcett says it shall not be opened by means of permits, but shall be opened generally for location of claims, and he persuades Mr. Walsh to adopt that course. One would think that the course would be to give such a reasonable notice that every one, for a reasonable time beforehand, might become aware that on that particular day that district would be opened to location. What is done? Mr. Fawcett prepares a notice and the date of opening the district is left blank. The typewriter, under the direction of some one, fills in the next day. Now, is it not desirable to find out under whose direction the next day was filled in as the date of

opening. What was the result of it? The result was that through information obtained from Major Walsh's own brother, through information obtained from Major Walsh's own servant, these men who were to take up claims for Major Walsh's benefit, started out on the evening of the 8th and located claims which were opened on the 9th, without any previous notice to the public at all. A great deal has been said by the Solicitor General and by the member for Kingston with regard to a statement that a number of people were passed on the way by those persons who had that private information which was to be used for the benefit of Major Walsh and his brother. Why, the very circumstance which has been alluded to by these gentlemen indicates that these people imagined that Dominion Creek was not to be opened until the 11th. These people were passed by the people who had private information that it was to be opened on the 9th, they overtook them, got ahead of them, and staked their claims. The Solicitor General says, from some private information which he has not disclosed to the House, that the Walshs have lost \$5,000 in this enterprise. He has not seen fit to inform the House at what price the Walshs are holding these claims at the present time. Perhaps my hon. friend would be good enough to enlighten us with regard to the figure at which they are holding their claims at the present time. My hon. friend's information does not extend that far. Well, I am sorry for it, because it would be extremely interesting to the House if we were put in possession of that information.

Well, under these circumstances these people take up these claims and take them up for the benefit of Major Walsh. Now, in the first instance the agreements are made under the direction of Major Walsh, they are made in his favour. We know that claims have been taken up there to be held to the extent of a three-fourths interest for Lewis Walsh. Mr. Lewis Walsh was not in the employ of the government. I think he was at Port Arthur when Major Walsh went there. At all events, this curious circumstance which directly connects Major Walsh with the matter is to be found in the evidence, that after this claim was taken, Major Walsh, in contravention of this agreement and altogether apart from it, ordered this man Carbeno to transfer his claim to Philip Walsh, the brother of the director of the administration of the Yukon. Now, will my hon. friend the Solicitor General, or will the member for Kingston inform me by what right or by what principle of good administration Major Walsh, the dictator of the Yukon, had to go to this man Carbeno and order him, his servant, liable to dismissal at his command, to transfer the particular claim which Carbeno had taken up, to Major Walsh's brother, Philip Walsh? Is that not a matter which in all fairness both to Major Walsh and to

the government, should be investigated? If it is not, I fail entirely to appreciate the significance of these statements that have been made to the House by the member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Now, Sir, I am sorry to have detained the House so long. I have merely another word to say in conclusion. This matter has been dealt with both by the Solicitor General and by the member for Kingston as if Major Walsh were on his trial here. It is not Major Walsh who is on his trial here, it is the government which is on its trial. The question is whether the circumstances which my hon. friend from Pictou has drawn to the attention of the House, were a sufficient ground for the government at once to order an investigation into the conduct of Major Walsh. That is the question. Major Walsh may be able to clear himself absolutely, but the point I make is that under the circumstances which are disclosed, every one of them by public documents and embodied in the resolution of my hon. friend, a case is made out which absolutely demands an investigation by this government. But this government did not make this investigation, therefore, I say that in my opinion, the government, not having made that investigation, not having satisfied the country with respect to these matters, deserves the censure of this House.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). I intend to detain the House but for a few moments. The hon. gentleman who moved this resolution makes a very long speech and writes a very long resolution, so long, in fact, and so involved that it is difficult for any ordinary person to understand them. But I have been looking over this resolution, and I find that among the statements of the hon. gentleman is this one, that Dominion Creek hills and benches in the Yukon district were closed for the location of claims by order of Major Walsh, and contrary to the protest of the gold commissioner, on the 15th of November, 1897. The hon. member for Kent, N.B., (Mr. McInerney) also appeared to be very positive from the information he thought he had that this was a true statement, and on that ground he asked this House to vote censure upon the government. I think when a statement is made as serious as this, the hon. gentleman who makes it and who asks the House to vote for his resolution, ought to bring such evidence as would lead one to believe that the statement was reasonably true, or that there were reasons for believing it to be true. I do not think that he has done that, but on the contrary, I think that I can show clearly and beyond doubt that this statement on which he asks us to vote censure on the government is not true. In that case I hope the hon. gentleman, when he knows the true facts, will not press his motion. There is only one statement of any importance in this resolution, and I want to present some

evidence in contradiction of statements made by hon. gentlemen, who have taken a little section here and there of the evidence, who have tried to prove them by the evidence, that was given, not perhaps relative to the present case, and who have tried to prove, in some way or other, that there was some foundation for the statement made in this resolution. The hon. senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), seemed, for some reason or other, to make some insinuations against, or to make light of, the character of Mr. Ryley, who was referred to in the debate. All I have to say, is that Mr. Ryley is an able, efficient, capable and trusted officer of the Department of the Interior.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. senior member for Halifax has gone out, but I am quite certain the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland), has misunderstood his references to Mr. Ryley. There was a reference by way of a joke—I followed him very closely—in regard to the old rhyme, that went something like this:

Is this Mr. Riley

They speak of so highly?

Is this Mr. Riley who keeps the hotel?

It was in the humorous sense.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He had that joke, but he spoke seriously afterwards. He made several allusions to Mr. Ryley, and tried to belittle Mr. Ryley, but all I have to say, in answer to that, is that I am informed, and believe, that Mr. Ryley is a most efficient, capable and trustworthy officer of the Department of the Interior. He has risen to the position he occupies, by his straightforward conduct and application to the business of the department. I wish to read the following evidence to show the House clearly, that the statement made in the resolution, now in your hands, Mr. Speaker, is not true. The examination of Mr. Fawcett, made by Mr. Ryley, which I desire to read, will show that very clearly:

Q. At what date did you discontinue granting entries for claims on Dominion Creek?—A. November 15, 1897.

Q. What was your reason for closing the creek? A. A great many claims had been re-located over those that were recorded, but under different numbers as fractions, and to avoid still greater confusion and trouble, I decided to close the creek.

Q. At what date were the surveyors, Messrs. Cautley and Gibbons, instructed to make the survey of the creek?—A. They left Dawson about the 17th of April, 1898.

Q. When did they return to Dawson?—A. About the 28th of May.

Q. At what time did Major Walsh instruct you to reserve all the claims on Dominion Creek from entries?—A. I received verbal instructions sometime in May, 1898, and received written instruction on the 26th of July, 1898.

Now, the hon. gentleman, in his statement, says that Major Walsh gave instructions to close Dominion Creek, contrary to the protest of the gold commissioner, on November 15, 1897.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Hear, hear.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is proved clearly by Mr. Fawcett himself, that the statement is not true. I do not require to argue, as the Solicitor General so clearly pointed it out, that it was quite likely impossible, because Major Walsh was not in the country at that time. However, to show the House clearly that the statement I make is correct, I want to read the acknowledgement of these written instructions by Thomas Fawcett himself:

Gold Commissioner's and
Mining Recorder's Office,
Dawson, July 26, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favour of July 26, instructing me to withhold from entry all unrecorded creek claims on Dominion Creek, in addition to all fractional claims. I have duly noted the contents of your communication and will be governed thereby until further instructions are received from the Minister of the Interior.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) THOMAS FAWCETT,
Gold Commissioner.

So, I say there is no question as to the facts. I cannot understand the hon. gentleman's position. The charges might be serious if there were any foundation for them, but when the hon. gentleman places in your hands, Mr. Speaker, a statement upon which he asks us to vote, he ought at least to furnish some evidence that the statement is true. He has not been able to do that, but on the contrary, I have been able to show clearly by Mr. Fawcett's own evidence, and by his own letter, that the statement upon which the hon. gentleman founds his resolution is untrue. It is to be regretted that the hon. gentleman, or any hon. gentleman in this House, would be willing to make charges against a reputable citizen or against the government, without better foundation than he has for this resolution that he has brought forward tonight.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Mr. Speaker, as regards the defence of the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland)—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would not reply to that. If that is the best answer of the Interior Department, I would let it go.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You are afraid he will make it worse.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Speaker, in regard to Major Walsh, I can have no personal feeling, because Major Walsh has been and is to this day, a personal friend of mine. I knew him well out in the North-west Territories, but I say here, as was said by the speaker who preceded the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland), who has just taken his seat that any one who reads this evidence, cannot but feel that there is a cloud over

Major Walsh. Major Walsh is placed in the position, by the evidence of Carbeno and others, of having gone up there—occupying the highest position that could be held by any one entering the Yukon, representing Her Majesty, even, in a way—representing this government with the fullest possible powers—of having gone up there with relatives of his and three or four others, of having co-operated with them, and if the evidence be true, of having misused his position, in order to place his brother in the way of getting wealth, and getting wealth improperly. Under these circumstances in the interest of Major Walsh there should have been an inquiry. There should have been an inquiry in the interest of the government, and in the interest of the people of Canada, because if we are to come to this that when grave charges are made against a high officer, like Major Walsh, the government are to laugh them off, it will be a very pretty pass to come to indeed in this country. What have we seen here to-night? There has been nothing but an attempt to laugh it off. Reference has been made again and again to the great ability of the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), and I have no doubt, that he is a most persuasive advocate. I heard him speak, but, after he was done, he left the case presented by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), precisely where it was, and during this whole debate, he has done nothing but try to laugh all this off. Notwithstanding what the hon. member for Pictou has said: I will just refer to the attempt at a defence made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland), who is representing the Minister of the Interior. What have we in answer to the charge that is now tabled, and in answer to the able speeches made by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), by the member for Kent (Mr. McInerney) and by the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), why in reply to these serious indictments, we had weak and unfounded statements and from the member from Kingston (Mr. Britton) we had a reply that was the most pitiful wobbling that any one ever witnessed in the course of debate. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) who represents the department which contains all the knowledge in regard to these matters, declares these charges to be founded on the statement that the creek was closed up at a certain time in November. That is not what the charges are entirely founded on. The charges are founded on the evidence of witnesses who declare that Major Walsh misconducted himself, and if the evidence is to be believed Major Walsh did misconduct himself. Yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) comes forward and says that all this structure rests upon the statement that a certain thing took place in November, when, as he alleges, it did not take place. To prove that it did

take place I will read from page 80 of the evidence:

Q. I would like to ask you a few questions about the history of Dominion Creek; when was the creek closed—not the hills and benches?—A. The 15th day of November was the last date on which any applications were taken.

Q. You closed it?—A. I closed it.

Q. The date of closure you have given; did you immediately report that to Ottawa?—A. Yes, and also to Major Walsh.

Q. Was it endorsed by Major Walsh?—A. It was.

If it was endorsed by Major Walsh who at that time had complete control, was it not closed by Major Walsh? If the subordinate of Major Walsh closed it and Major Walsh endorsed his conduct, is it not done by Major Walsh? And yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) gets up and he thinks that because he says Major Walsh had not done this, that the indictment made against the government here to-night has been brushed away. My hon. friend from Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) puts into my hand a *Hausard* in which there is an answer made by the Minister of the Interior to a question asked by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and perhaps this will convince the doubting acting minister. The minister replied:

The department approved of the action of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory in closing Dominion Creek. This is the only case of the closing of a creek that is on record in the department.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That proves in addition to what I stated, that the statement made in the resolution is not true. Did you read the resolution?

Mr. DAVIN. Oh, yes, I have read it twice, and I say that the evidence is a conclusive answer to the position taken by my hon. friend (Mr. Sutherland). I shall refer for a moment to what the Solicitor General said, as to the answer of Brockville. I was in Brockville.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That does not account for the result, does it?

Mr. DAVIN. No. If it did there would be no point in what the Solicitor General said. The Solicitor General said that the answer was given in Brockville by the neighbours and friends of Major Walsh. Sir, that was going very far afield, indeed, but let us refer to the verdict given in Brandon. I was through Manitoba; I spoke at thirteen places in Manitoba, and the one thing that affected public opinion most was the indignation of the people of Manitoba that this government refused inquiry into the scandals connected with the Yukon. That feeling was very strong in Brandon, and why? Because from that, the constituency of the Minister of the Interior, McGregor and other operators in the Yukon had come, and the attention of the public there was directed more than in any other part of Canada to what was going

on in that northern region. They knew the character of the men that the Minister of the Interior associated with himself, and the character of the men he sent there, and this affected public opinion in that contest as nothing else did. And, Sir, since last session, wherever I have gone in the Northwest and Manitoba, I have found nothing stronger against the government of Canada than its refusal to grant an inquiry into these charges of maladministration. The Solicitor General referred to the answer Mr. Morgan made to the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper). He told us in the same breath that Mr. Morgan has fifteen claims up there. I have talked with gentlemen who had not fifteen claims, but only one or two claims, and after those men had told me of grave and serious and criminal matters taking place in the Yukon, they put me on my honour that I would not let their names be heard of. And why? Because they said it will injure us; it will injure our partners; it will ruin our business, but if you have an inquiry subpoena us and we will give the evidence. Probably Mr. Morgan did not know my friend from Pictou, and he was afraid to put on paper what perhaps he knows, but regarding which he would be ready and willing to give evidence. We need not be surprised that he was not ready to say anything that would compromise him, loaded down as he was with fifteen hostages to fortune in the shape of Yukon claims. Mr. Speaker, I shall not further occupy the time of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIN. I am glad to hear that. Can I call that a cheer? It is a kind of a howl, and I would like to know what kind of animals usually give vent to such an utterance as that. An hon. friend has reminded me about the signing over of these claims on the boat. Can you fancy anything with a complexion of greater wrong-doing than this signing over the claims on that boat? Can you fancy anything worse than saying: I want you to give this to one brother, because I do not want the name of another brother brought into office? Can you fancy anything more suspicious than the whole circumstance? I did not want to go into that nor do I want to go into the unsatisfactory character of the tribunal before which this evidence was taken. Let us see what Mr. Ogilvie is paid:

Salary	\$ 6,000
Living allowance	2,000
Servant as housekeeper	720
Rent allowance, \$250 a month....	3,000

Total\$11,720

Well, Sir, a man who gets \$11,720 a year, from a minister who could dismiss him tomorrow, is not a very satisfactory tribunal to investigate his conduct. This government cannot persuade the people of Canada

Mr. DAVIN.

that that was a satisfactory tribunal to investigate these charges, and it cannot persuade the people of Canada that if the skirts of the Minister of the Interior were clean he would not be here. Why is he not here? Why has he gone to the continent of Europe?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Order, order.

Mr. DAVIN. Why, Sir, I know what is the matter with the Minister of the Interior. Nobody will speak with greater delicacy in regard to the infirmity of any man than I will; but everybody knows that the aural affection from which he suffers is incurable, and he chooses the session of parliament to go to Europe to be treated for an incurable affection. We have the best aurist in the world in Montreal, Dr. Buller, a man who went to London and performed operations which excited the admiration of the world. Why is it that the Minister of the Interior stops away so long? He has been in Rome, in Paris, in London, and he has been enjoying himself on the continent and I am glad of it; and he will come back after the close of the session having stopped away because as in the case of the Minister of Public Works it was to the interest of this government that we should not have these men before us to face the charges which we could make against them. The people of Canada are aware of it, and nothing has dragged this government down to the state of discredit in which it at present wallows as the conduct of these two ministers, who have hardly dared to show their faces here this session.

House divided on amendment of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.

YEAS:

Messieurs

Beattie,	Ingram,
Bell (Pictou),	Kloepfer,
Bergeron,	Macdonald (King's),
Bennett,	McDougall,
Borden (Halifax),	McInerney,
Broder,	McNeill,
Cargill,	Mills,
Clancy,	Monk,
Clarke,	Montague,
Cochrane,	Moore,
Craig,	Morin,
Davin,	Osler,
Dugas,	Pope,
Foster,	Roche,
Ganong,	Rosamond,
Gillies,	Taylor,
Gilmour,	Tupper (Sir Charles
Gillet,	Hibbert), and
Haggart,	Wilson.—38.
Henderson,	

NAYS:

Messieurs

Bazinet,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Belth,	Legris,
Belcourt,	Lewis,
Bethune,	Livingston,

Borden (King's),
Bourassa,
Bourbonnais,
Brodeur,
Brown,
Bruneau,
Burnett,
Calvert,
Campbell,
Champagne,
Comstock,
Cowan,
Davies (Sir Louis),
Dechene,
Demers,
Dupré,
Ellis,
Erb,
Fielding,
Fitzpatrick,
Flint,
Fortier,
Gauvreau,
Geoffrion,
Godbout,
Gould,
Harwood,
Hurley,
Hutchison,
Johnston,
Joly de Lotbinière,
(Sir Henri),
Landerkin,
Lang,

Mackie,
MacPherson,
McGregor,
McGugan,
McHugh,
McIsaac,
McLennan (Inverness),
McMillan,
Madore,
Marcil,
Martineau,
Meigs,
Mignault,
Mulock,
Parmalee,
Paterson,
Fettet,
Proulx,
Ratz,
Rogers,
Rcsc,
Russell,
Rutherford,
Savard,
Semple,
Somerville,
Stenson,
Sutherland,
Talbot,
Tolmie,
Tucker,
Turcot, and
Wood.—74.

PAIRS :

Ministerial.

Scriver,
Guité,
Macdonell,
Bell (Prince),
McMullen,
Angers,
Lavergne,
Holmes,
Britton,
Fraser (Lambton),
Charlton,
Dyment,
Christie,
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),
Davis,
Featherston,
Gibson,
Snetsinger,
Frost,
Fraser (Guysborough),
Logan,
Dobell,
Joly de Lotbinière,
Edwards,
Fisher,
Casey,
Fortin,
Maxwell,
Domville,
Penny,
McCarthy,
Stubbs,
Costigan,
McClure,
Blair,
Sifton,
Tarte,
Préfontaine,
McLellan,

Opposition.

Blanchard,
Tyrwhitt,
Casgrain,
Earle,
Maclean,
Wallace,
Robinson,
Klock,
McAlister,
McIntosh,
Tisdale,
McCormick,
Roddick,
Tupper (Sir Charles),
Hale,
Carscallen,
Corby,
Reid,
Sproule,
McLennan (Glengarry),
Prior,
Bell (Addington),
Quinn,
Poupore,
Hodgins,
McCleary,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),
Ferguson,
Seagram,
Marcotte,
Robertson,
Martin,
LaRivière,
MacLaren,
Powell,
Kaulbach,
Hughes,
Chauvin,
Kendry.

Amendment (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper)
negatived.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

To provide for the enforcement of the Alien Labour Law \$9,000

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) We want an explanation of this.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The amount demanded is the same as last year. In 1897-8 the amount expended was \$114; in 1898-9, it was \$1,093.38; and in 1900, \$28.02, or a total of \$1,635.40.

Mr. FOSTER. How is the \$428 for this year spent?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. Keyes, of Montreal, is supposed to be an agent charged with the enforcement of the Act, and he got \$405. Mr. McMurrich, of Toronto, was paid \$23.02.

Mr. FOSTER. What did Mr. Keyes do?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He is supposed to keep the department informed of any infringement of the Act in Montreal.

Mr. FOSTER. That is what he is supposed to do; what did he do?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As to whether he made any reports or not—which, I suppose is the point to which my hon. friend refers—I am not in a position to say; but I am prepared to allow that item to stand until I get the information.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, we want full information on that.

Mr. CLARKE. May I ask the Solicitor General if he will bring down correspondence with the United States authorities with regard to enforcing the Alien Labour law on either side?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will endeavour to get all the information we have in the department. There are a number of reports which may or may not be of interest; but I will have the records so that we can refer to any piece of information the hon. gentleman wants.

Mr. CLARKE. Were expenses made by other departments of the government?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Department of the Interior expended sums amounting to \$980.87, which expenditure was incurred in 1897-8. I have a detailed statement of that expenditure, and can give the amounts and persons to whom these were paid.

Mr. CLARKE. That is the only other department.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, so far as my information goes.

Administration of Justice—Office for the clerk of the court and judges' chambers, Prince Albert \$240

Mr. DAVIN. I would like to ask my hon. friend the Solicitor General whether it has been decided who is to be chief justice of the North-west?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not in a position to say that; but there is a Bill of which I have given notice which is intended to provide for the appointment of a chief justice of the North-west Territories.

Mr. DAVIN. That is passed, is it not?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, it is not passed yet, because I thought we should be obliged, probably, to make another amendment to the statute respecting provincial judges, and I want to incorporate the new amendment with the Bill providing for the North-west Territories.

Mr. DAVIN. That would involve an increase of salary?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, because the suggestion is to put the gentleman who may be chief justice of the North-west Territories in the same position, with reference to salary, as the chief justice of Manitoba.

Mr. DAVIN. Do I understand that the hon. gentleman is going to interfere with the Bill which has been passed by both Houses?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, the Bill is not yet before the House.

Mr. BERGERON. I find here, and it was the same thing last year, we provided salaries for thirty-two judges of the Superior Court of Quebec. I wish to ask if there is that number. I think there are only thirty-one. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) bring down the names of the judges?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I speak from memory of what occurred a year ago, and do not wish to be understood as speaking with certainty. Last year we amended that portion of the statute which refers to the provincial judges. We always did provide for thirty-two judges, whereas the Act called for only thirty-one. But I think the Act was so amended as to make it thirty-two.

Mr. BERGERON. The hon. gentleman's explanation is very good. But I think the case was last year that there was an intention to appoint one judge; but he was not appointed, as the royal proclamation was not issued by the province of Quebec. I do not see why we should vote salaries for thirty-two judges when there are only thirty-one. However, I ask the hon. gentleman to bring down the names.

Mr. MONK. Is it the intention of the government to introduce legislation to carry

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

into effect the Quebec statute, and increase the number of judges in the city of Montreal?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That matter has been under consideration for some time, and I understand from the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that it was his intention to consult the Minister of Justice on his return as to the introduction of legislation on the subject. I understand that the matter is substantially settled, but the Prime Minister knows the circumstances better than I do.

Administration of Justice—Supreme Court of Canada—Reporter \$1,950

Mr. BERGERON. There is an increase here.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I do not object to that. But I would like to ask as to the assistant reporter, Mr. Coutlee, whose salary has been standing for some years at \$1,500, and why he is not given the usual addition. I think he was appointed at \$1,500 in 1895.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Of course, my hon. friend will realize that I know little of the reasons that may have influenced those who give the statutory increases. I think he will find that we have gone very far with respect to the increases in the Supreme Court. I know no reason why the statutory increases is not granted, except the exercise of the discretion vested in the Minister of Justice. I know this official, and know that he performs his duties well. But they are not the same as those of Mr. Masters, the reporter. He is the reporter simply as far as the province of Quebec is concerned.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But the reporter for Quebec or any other province must be a qualified man. I think the Solicitor General will agree that Mr. Coutlee is eminently qualified for his position, and is a faithful officer. I think the government should take some notice of the testimony borne by the Solicitor General, who practices in that court, and is personally aware of the qualifications of Mr. Coutlee and his claims to some recognition. The government should give some reward for capacity and assiduous attention to duty. I would make no disparaging remarks about the reporter; he is also a qualified officer of long experience. But the disparity between the salaries of the reporter and the assistant is too great. Practically one is the chief reporter for one district of Canada, a very important and a very large one, while the other is practically the chief reporter for Quebec.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I might add in reference to Mr. Coutlee, that as the reporter for the province of Quebec, he is obliged to be master of the two languages,

and thus have additional qualification to those that the chief reporter must have.

Mr. HAGGART. Are these officers entitled to the statutory increases. I thought the salaries were fixed for these positions, and that these officers did not come under the Civil Service Act?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Civil Service Act respecting the statutory increases applies to them as to others.

Mr. BERGERON. Since I spoke a short time ago about the number of judges, I find by the Auditor General's Report there are only twenty-nine who receive a salary of \$5,000 and \$4,000, and two who receive a salary of \$3,500. But here we are voting for thirty-two judges, therefore we are voting money for men who are not yet appointed. Are the government making appointments without changing the Act, appointing new judges merely by Governor in Council?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman forgets the three circuit court judges in Montreal.

Mr. BERGERON. That is a different thing altogether. At page 25 we find the salary of the chief justice and of the senior and puisne judges of Montreal. Then there are fourteen judges at \$5,000 each, fourteen judges at \$4,000 each, and two at \$3,500 each. There are thirty-two judges. So we are actually voting more money than is needed.

The PRIME MINISTER. It has been so for years.

Mr. BERGERON. No, the right hon. gentleman knows the whole history very well. We always voted thirty-one. Last year we were called upon to vote thirty-two, and I did not like it.

Mr. CLARKE. I do not know whether this is the place to ask for information respecting the memorial that has been presented to the Department of Justice by the junior judges of the county of York, Ontario, asking for an increase of salary, and giving statistics as to the volume of work they do in comparison with that done by others. Is it the intention to increase their salaries?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot say it is the intention to increase the salaries of those three county court judges. I know that representations have been made, and statistics have been furnished which go to show that these gentlemen really have to do a great deal of work. I know this is a matter that is seriously engaging the attention of the Minister of Justice, and has been for some time. I draw attention to the fact that the senior of the three judges, because of certain

emoluments which he receives in the capacity of senior county court judge for the county of York, is in receipt of a much larger income than would appear by the vote.

Mr. CLARKE. There is no complaint as to the emoluments that are paid to the senior court judge. Statistics show that the junior county court judges seem to be underpaid in view of the immense volume of business which they have to do. The senior judge is one of the hardest worked men on the bench. I understand a memorial has been presented to the department showing that the volume of work done by the junior county court judges is also largely in excess of that done by the junior judges in other counties who receive a salary almost equal to that paid to them. So far as I can gather, they have made out a strong case and have presented it to the Department of Justice. I would be happy to know that the representations they have made would receive the favourable consideration of the Minister of Justice.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A strong case has been made out by those who represent the judges, and I do not think that case will be in any respect weakened by what has been said here to-night.

Mr. MONK. I hope the Solicitor General won't forget at the same time the memorial which I think is in his department since prior 1896, about increasing the salaries of the judges in Montreal. I think their case is as pressing as that mentioned by my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Clarke).

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If I could distinguish between my position as Solicitor General and my position as a member of the bar, I would have something to say with reference to an increase of the salaries of the judges all through the country. If there is a class in this country insufficiently paid it is the judges. That is my personal opinion.

Clerk in the office of the Registrar, second-class clerk \$1,200

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would like to draw the attention of the Solicitor General to the case of Mr. Lawson whose salary we are now considering. He is a very faithful and efficient officer, and I would be glad if the hon. gentleman could see his way to increasing his salary. My experience in court has been that he is a very faithful, obliging and diligent officer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not sure that he has not had an increase within the last three years. Certainly it seems to me that Mr. Lawson deserves great consideration, but we must endeavour as far as possible to keep within some bounds, especially when we bear in mind the

natural desire of members of the bar to assist those who work in concert with them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I had something to do with Mr. Lawson when I was at the head of the department. He entered the service in 1881. I think \$1,200 is a small salary for an officer having his responsibilities. If the Solicitor General will make some inquiry he will find that Mr. Lawson's salary has stood for many years at that figure, and I think he has an almost implied promise that under certain conditions it would be increased. I think if a satisfactory report is obtained from the registrar the course would be easy. I took the opportunity of asking the good offices of the hon. Minister of Finance as Mr. Lawson happens to come from Halifax. I have known him since boyhood, but I am very glad to believe that since I have known him here he is deserving of the good opinion of his superiors. I will add my word to that of the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Borden) and ask my hon. friend to be kind enough to bring his case before the Minister of Justice.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think my hon. friend can avail himself of the opportunity he now has of making an arrangement between himself and the hon. Minister of Finance. If he will only arrange that trifling matter, I will be responsible for the remainder of it.

One third-class clerk \$1,000

Mr. FOSTER. Who is that ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. R. J. Davis. He is a very competent man ; in fact, I do not know that there is any one more competent than another.

Printing, binding and distributing Supreme Court reports..... \$3,500

Mr. BERGERON. Who are these reports distributed to ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. To the members of the bar who subscribe for them, the members of the bench, and the general public.

Mr. BERGERON. If they are paid for why should the members of the bar subscribe for them ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This amount is not sufficient to pay for the printing and binding.

Mr. CLARKE. Is this a contribution made by parliament towards the printing and binding of books for the use of certain people ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, the books are intended for the use of the general public. It is open to the general pub-

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

lic to pay for them and get them. The circulation is not large enough to make this a self-sustaining work. I think my hon. friend will realize that the publication of the reports of the courts is assisted in all of the provinces.

Mr. CLARKE. It is really a contribution towards the printing of these reports ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. BERGERON. Where are they printed ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. At the Printing Bureau.

For the purchase of law books and works of reference for the Supreme Court Library \$4,500

Mr. MONK. Why should there be this increase ? It seems to me that \$4,000 is ample for the yearly addition to the library and out of this \$500 something might be done to give sufficient remuneration to the assistant reporter, Mr. Lawson.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we have a library at the Supreme Court now that is a credit, and one which is extremely useful. The reason of the addition of \$500 is, that we wish to have a few more French text books. I think that if there is a weak spot it is in so far as the French law of the province of Quebec is concerned. That is the reason of the increase.

Improvements to library, &c. \$3,000

Mr. FOSTER. What is that for ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Those who have occasion to go to the Supreme Court library realize how crowded it is, and they admit the absolute necessity for either increasing the space occupied by the library, or endeavouring to provide more space within the walls by husbanding the space we have already. The intention is to substitute for the present cumbersome shelves iron shelves, which will give us considerably more room.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the shelves now ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They are cumbersome wooden shelves, which take up too much room.

Mr. BERGERON. Will these improvements be made by tender ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know. These shelves have been in existence since ever I have been going to the Supreme Court.

Mr. BERGERON. But, will the new ones be the subject of tender ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is a matter to be disposed of by the Public Works Department, and, of course, it will be done very properly by that department.

First-class clerk, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$1,600

Mr. FOSTER. This needs some explanation.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This means a statutory increase for Mr. Morse from July 1, 1900, and for the previous year, in fact, statutory increases for two years. I think those who have occasion to see Mr. Morse in the Exchequer Court will corroborate what I say, that he is an extremely competent man.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He has been in the service many years?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. CLARKE. The same thing applies to the gentleman whose case was discussed upon the previous item. This gentleman gets two statutory increases at once.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He has professional ability of a high order.

Mr. CLARKE. I have no doubt that he has, and I have no objection to this increase. But I think the same rule should apply in the other case. What plan is adopted in giving these statutory increases?

Mr. BERGERON. There is no plan whatever.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, there is some plan, because reference must be had to the work done. There must be the recommendation of the superior of the official to whom the increase is granted, this has to be considered by the deputy minister and finally by the minister. Mr. Morse certainly earns all he gets. He is an extremely competent man, and a very much better man than you would expect to find in the position he occupies.

Messenger \$500

Mr. BERGERON. Is that a statutory increase?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, of \$20. That brings him up to the limit of his class, \$500. This messenger's name is Labelle, and he has been in the service for a long time.

Contingencies, judges and registrars, travelling expenses, salaries of sheriffs, &c., printing, stationery, &c., and \$50 for judges' books \$4,000

Mr. BERGERON. Is the judge bound to spend that same amount always?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know that there is any legal obligation to

do so, but he manages, as far as possible, to reach the limit of \$4,000.

Additional to registrar as editor and publisher of Exchequer Court reports..... \$300

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As we have now come to the last of these items, I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General whether anything has been done in regard to the question I brought up at an early day this session respecting the deduction that was made by the action of the British Columbia government from the salaries of the county court judges there? The right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was good enough to hear what I had to say, but, of course, the papers contained a great deal more on that head. They have been laid before the House and they show that the hon. Minister of Justice very properly came to the conclusion that there had been a breach of faith with these judicial officers on the part of the government of British Columbia. I do not wish to go into the matter, but suffice it to say at this stage, that having made an arrangement in old times with the British Columbia government to provide certain salaries for these judges, and the other party to the bargain breaking it, this Federal government, having authority over all judges, the question that the right hon. gentleman promised to consider was whether, having regard to all the circumstances this government would assume the liability that was on both governments, although the British Columbia government tries to evade their share.

The PRIME MINISTER. I remember the case very well. I know it has been engaging the attention of the Minister of Justice, but I am not in a position to-night to say what action he is taking. I shall be very happy at a future stage to give the information to my hon. friend.

Exchequer Court—L. A. Audette, increase of salary \$275

Mr. FOSTER. What does that mean?

Mr. BERGERON. How much does that make his salary now?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It would appear that the salary is \$2,000, and that he gets a special vote every year.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the reason of the increase?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot give that now, but we will let the vote stand.

Penitentiaries \$477,000

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Will the Solicitor General make a general statement in regard to this \$60,000 increase in the vote for penitentiaries?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The explanation which I have from the Inspector of Penitentiaries in regard to Kingston, is : That there is an increase in officers salaries of \$1,900, because of the amended schedule to the Penitentiary Act passed last session ; an increase of \$7,000 in prison equipment, for new electric light plant ; \$1,000 increase due to improvement in heating system, and \$17,000 increase, owing to advance in cost of binder twine ; and an increase of \$1,000 in buildings. With reference to St. Vincent de Paul, the salaries of a stonecutter instructor, and five additional guards, are added, owing to an increase of population. The balance in the increase of salaries is under the schedule. There is an increase for the police mess, which was underestimated last year. There is a provision for seventy-five additional convicts : provision for an electric light plant, increase in working expenses, and price of material, and an amount to purchase some additional land, if it can be obtained at a reasonable price.

Mr. BERGERON. What about the electric plant ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We are putting in an electric plant. At present the penitentiary is lit by coal oil lamps, and that is not desirable in a penitentiary.

Mr. BERGERON. Is the government erecting the electric plant themselves ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I presume the contract will be given as is customary.

Mr. MONK. What amount is provided for electricity at St. Vincent de Paul ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot give my hon. friend the exact figures, but he will find that the equipment is increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000 ; and the inspector says that this increase is necessary to make provision for an electric light plant.

Mr. MONK. Does the government intend to generate electricity there or do they intend to get the electric power from Montreal ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I really cannot say. The Minister of Agriculture who has some special knowledge on this subject, says that while the plant is being purchased, the labour used to instal it is convict labour to a large extent.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. How is it there is no report from the Inspector of Penitentiaries this year ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think there is.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. There does not appear to be. It is not in the report of the Justice Department as usual.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I certainly was under the impression that the report was printed and published. I went on with the estimates, presuming that that report was before the House.

Mr. WILSON. What is the estimate made by the architect, for this electric light work, will it be done by contract or by day's work ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There must have been an estimate made and tenders called for, and the contract awarded. I will get that information.

Mr. CLARKE. Is the work being done ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This provision is made for the work now in progress, as I understand. Lest, I might be astray, I would like this to stand over till I get the exact information.

Kingston Penitentiary \$190,400

Mr. CLARKE. I understand that you are making some improvement in the electric lighting at Kingston.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, substituting a new plant.

Mr. CLARKE. Is the work being done now ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is something I cannot tell.

Mr. BERGERON. Has the population increased there, too ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is an increase of six.

Mr. FOSTER. On these important points the Solicitor General has not the information in detail as we would like to have it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Unfortunately the Inspector is absent, or I would have him here to help me.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I understand that the Inspector makes a report, and that report has always been of great assistance to the committee, as it gave a complete resume of all the work done in the different penitentiaries in the previous year.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You will find his report at the beginning of the report of the Minister of Justice.

Mr. WILSON. I think the Solicitor General ought to be able to give us full explanations of the reason for any increases that are made.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I agree to that, and the best way for me to be able to answer as to the details is to have the Inspector here.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I had seen the document which the Solicitor General refers to in the report of the Minister of Justice ; but for the first time in the history of these reports the Inspector has apparently contented himself with covering the warden's reports. That of course will be a very serious departure if it has the sanction of the head of the department, because just the information which we want has always been contained in the regular and proper report of the Inspector, which gave an outline of the policy of the department, the improvements proposed, and so on. All that is absent, and Mr. Stewart simply says: 'I have the honour herewith to submit—not my report—but reports and statistics of the penitentiaries and jails for the different years;' and then he simply fastens together all these reports which he used to review, adding his own suggestions. He had a free hand, which I think was a good thing for the department, and certainly a good thing for the public. Many a time the committee, sitting here as we are doing, had a chance to contrast the recommendations in that report with the views of the minister, and it gave a healthy tone to the conduct and management of these important institutions to find an Inspector, untrammelled by any departmental rules or directions, giving his views freely as he went from institution to institution. He is very little good if his advice is not worth considering, and he should acquire expert knowledge. From what I know of Mr. Stewart, I should have expected that by this time he would have been a man whose views in regard to the administration of the different penitentiaries would have been well worth having; and it was for that reason, having seen this report, which is not at all what we have hitherto been accustomed to, that I wanted the Solicitor General to enlighten us as to whether this was done under the direction of the minister, and whether there is to be a departure, and this is the only kind of report we are to have.

Mr. BERGERON. I want to ask my hon. friend if he will be kind enough to give me, when he comes again, the tenders called for and the tenders accepted for the leather and supplies generally for the five penitentiaries for the last year. I might ask my hon. friend how many convicts there are at Kingston and how many at St. Vincent de Paul, because I see that the salaries are increasing rapidly at both places.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You can find the number of convicts at page 9 of the minister's report. At Kingston there are at present 771 convicts, and at St. Vincent de Paul 447.

Mr. POWELL. How many at Dorchester ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. At Dorchester there were, on the 30th June, 1899, 226, an increase of one.

Mr. CLARKE. Would the minister give the names of the parties from whom tenders for the electrical equipment were asked ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will get that.

Mr. WILSON. On what principle are the gratuities distributed ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Civil Service Act does not apply to the penitentiaries, and when a man has reached a certain age, and it is found necessary to dispense with his services, he is provided for by means of gratuity, which is given in proportion to his salary and the length of service.

Mr. BERGERON. How much did the investigation at St. Vincent de Paul cost ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will ascertain and give the figures to my hon. friend.

Mr. MONK. We also want the details about the electrical light plant.

Mr. FOSTER. There is an increase in the industries at Kingston of \$17,000, and we ought to know how that is accounted for. Then the increase in the salaries at St. Vincent de Paul is more than what would arise under the special Act. As regards the maintenance of convicts, there is \$3,000 additional, and the hon. gentleman has not told us how many convicts have been added. The increase in building and lands of \$2,500 also requires explanation. Then when you come to Dorchester penitentiary there is a number of increases, and in the Manitoba penitentiary there is an increase of \$9,000 in walls, buildings and lands. Better let the whole item stand over until we can have full details.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The increase of \$17,000 in the working expense at Kingston penitentiary, is due to the advance in the cost of fibre. We pay three or four cents per pound more this year than we did last year. The increase is not in machinery. In St. Vincent de Paul, the increase in salaries is due to the appointment of five additional guards, who are required on account of the increase in the number of convicts. That increase is twenty-nine, and it is well to remember that some of those came from Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. BERGERON. How many guards at St. Vincent de Paul ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That can be got from the Auditor General's Report. In the explanation given to me by the in-

spector, he justifies the increase of \$3,000 by saying he wants to make provision for seventy-five additional population over last year, but according to the report of the superintendent, the increase was but twenty-nine. It is intended to buy additional land to add to the farm, as there is no other work but farming to be given to the convicts in the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose that piece of land will be bought after advertisements are issued ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The intention will be to buy the adjoining piece of land to the present farm.

Mr. BERGERON. Of course, that piece of land would be bought after advertisement ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not see how that could be done. I suppose if we want to buy land, we should have to buy that adjoining what we already own.

Mr. BERGERON. I see there is the same amount for uniforms this year as last year, though there are more guards. Will the new appointees be properly dressed ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, I think I can promise my hon. friend that.

Mr. BERGERON. The Solicitor General treats this in a jocular way, but it would seem from this that there is not to be an increase in the guards or else the amount is not large enough.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will have to get that information along with the rest.

Mr. POWELL. There was formerly a very stringent rule with regard to guards' age and physical capacity, and so on. Is that still in force ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand so, and there has been no departure from it. Of course, unless such a rule was observed it would be impossible to maintain discipline in the penitentiaries.

Mr. CLARKE. Do the guards undergo a medical examination ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They have to be up to a certain standard of height and weight, and less than a certain age.

Mr. POWELL. I know that that rule is transgressed in respect to Dorchester penitentiary. A guard was appointed last year who, I understand, is about sixty years of age. I know that he is old enough to be my own father. A medical inspection was made of the guards of Dorchester penitentiary a year ago, and some of the guards were dismissed, but I understand some have

been put on again. How has that occurred ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is not within my knowledge. I will have to get information on that point also.

Mr. POWELL. When the senior member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was Minister of Justice there was a regulation fixing the salary of officials, including the teamsters, who were given about \$400. This was a statutory regulation, not a mere regulation of the department. But, I understand that the rule has been introduced under which, last year, the teamsters waked up one morning and found themselves of quite military dignity, being horse guards or stable guards, with the result that their salary was increased to \$500. The law was evaded in this way.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There was the schedule to the Act at the time the hon. member for Pictou was Minister of Justice. It remained in force until it was extended last year. It is proposed to remodel it this year also, but there is no provision for horse guards or teamsters, and never has been. However, I will inquire as to the matter my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) refers to.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). There are some items in my own department which are not of a controversial character and which I would be glad to have passed if the House would agree.

Charges of management..... \$163,793

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is an increase there in the printing of Dominion notes, \$5,000. This is due to the increase in circulation. In the case of several of the officers in the assistant receiver general's office some small increases will be allowed. In the case of the country savings banks, there is a reduction, owing to the fact that in one case we have abolished the agency.

Mr. FOSTER. Where ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. At Bridgewater, in the county of Lunenburg, the business being referred to the Post Office Department after the usual practice.

Mr. POWELL. I see that the increase in the cost of printing notes is a serious matter. Last year we had an increase of \$10,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think my hon. friend (Mr. Powell) is mistaken.

Mr. POWELL. No ; I have the estimates of last year before me, and they show that the estimate for 1898-9 was \$40,000, while the estimate for 1899-1900 was \$50,000. And now it is \$55,000.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The cost of printing notes is not increased, except as due to the quantity. Practically, we are paying about the same amount as formerly and obtaining very much more work for it. The usual amount for this service is about \$50,000. The expenditure in 1898 was \$44,935, and in 1899, \$49,943. There has been a very large increase in the circulation, as the hon. gentleman must know, owing to the expansion of business.

Mr. **WILSON**. Would the hon. minister explain how he pays for these notes—so much a thousand?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. All the papers are before the House. It is so much a thousand, if my recollection serves me well.

Mr. **WILSON**. I suppose the price is the same no matter what the denomination of the Bill may be?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. There is a price fixed for each distinct note.

Civil Government—Department of Finance and Treasury Board \$50,137 50

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. This is the usual vote, with several statutory increases. There are four statutory increases to clerks, \$50 each, and one to a messenger, \$30. Statutory increases are to be granted to Messrs. Garland, Jenkins, Saunders and Boville.

Mr. **CLARKE**. How long have they been in the service?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. They have been in the service for many years.

An hon. **MEMBER**. Were others eligible?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. Three others were eligible, Messrs. Fraser, Treadell and Burns, but they are not receiving the increase.

Office of the Auditor General—Clerical and other assistance, \$4,500; printing and stationery, \$1,250; sundries, \$700..... \$6,450

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I desire to make a reduction in that item of \$4,500 for clerical assistance, to \$3,700. We propose, if the present Civil Service Bill should pass, to make some changes in the way of appointments to junior clerkships, and in that case, we will need a less number of temporary clerks. It is a change in the form. We reduce the amount here, but in the supplementary estimates we shall have to add it in another form.

Committee rose and reported progress.

ADJOURNMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I would like to know what business will be taken up to-morrow, as there are some members who take more interest in certain departments than in others, and who would like to know beforehand?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. The acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland), will take his estimates, and subsequently the Minister of Agriculture will follow, and others, if time permits.

PAYMENT OF SESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). I promised to ascertain the views of the Auditor General on the question of the payment of certain officials, and he has sent me a letter, and I think he has also sent a copy to the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague), who is interested in the matter. He writes me:

I inclose a copy of a letter which I have just sent to the Clerk of the Senate, which I hope satisfactorily explains my position, although we are all sorry that the public servants concerned are inconvenienced by the delay in receiving their salaries.

The letter to the Clerk of the Senate is as follows:

Your attention has been drawn to the discussion in the House yesterday regarding payments which have been made in the Senate, for which there are no appropriations.

Until money has been provided by an Act of parliament for any purpose, no expenditure can be made legally. Whenever direct applications are made to me for payments under such circumstances, I am obliged to refuse to pass the applications, as I have no authority to put myself in the place of parliament. When credits are given, as in your case, repayments must be made to the bank, no matter whether the drawing of the cheques was justifiable or not. However, after I have notified those in whose favour credits are given that it is illegal to make payments of a certain kind, and when they do not carry out the instructions which I feel it my duty to give, I have no alternative but to decline renewing their credits. I trust, therefore, that no such cheques will be drawn by you in the future.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. L. McDUGALL,
Auditor General.

S. E. St. O. Chapleau, Esq.,
Clerk of the Senate.

Without discussing the position of Mr. McDougall, who, I am sure, is only doing what he believes to be his duty, it is apparent that if the officials of the Senate have been paid, it is not by Mr. McDougall's

direction, but with funds drawn from a credit, to which he takes exception.

THE FLAG ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Mr. FOSTER. Before the House adjourns, I would like to read a telegram sent to me from Bathurst, N.B., this morning :

Caretaker public buildings refused to raise flag at relief of Mafeking also to-day.

There is no reason in the world why the caretaker of a public building should not raise the flag on such joyous occasions as the relief of Mafeking, or the capture of Johannesburg. Citizens there feel aggrieved that the refusal was made. I think I raised the same question from the same place when the Minister of Public Works was here, and he said that he had given general instructions that flags were to be raised on such occasions. The instructions do not seem to have been carried, or this caretaker does not seem to have carried out the instructions.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). I do not know anything of the former incident, my hon. friend alludes to, that may have occurred at the relief of Mafeking. But so far as the present occasion is concerned, I may say that this morning I instructed the deputy to telegraph to the caretakers of every building in Canada, to hoist the flag, and through him every officer in Canada received these instructions. I not only gave these instructions, but I subsequently asked the deputy minister if he had sent the telegram, and he told me that he had done so. I do not consider it ought to be incumbent on the minister to give detailed instructions of that kind, but caretakers should, of their own motion, be alert on proper occasions to raise the flag. Occasional omissions of this kind may occur, but it seems that in this case some citizen had called the caretaker's attention to his duty, and he may have omitted to do it. However, I will inquire into it.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.20 a.m. (Friday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, June 1, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

THE COPYRIGHT BILL.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I want to draw the attention of my right

Mr. FIELDING.

hon. friend to a matter of very great importance, and that is the Bill now down for the second reading in reference to copyright. The question of copyright is one that has always been regarded as of very great importance, and concerning which, down to the present, there has been but one opinion in this House. The government of the late lamented Sir John Thompson, when dealing with this subject, had the very hearty support of the late Sir James Edgar, who practically represented the Liberal party on that question. It was one to which he had given a great deal of attention and on which he spoke with the support of gentlemen on that side of the House, then in opposition. The question was regarded as one affecting the power given under the British North America Act to Canada. By that Act, Canada was given the control of the question of copyright, and that matter was the subject of discussion and controversy with Her Majesty's government. I do not think there is so much difficulty in settling that point as in meeting the immense pressure that can be brought on the British government by the parties interested in that subject. The Department of Justice sent a very able gentleman, its deputy minister, to England to discuss that subject fully with the Colonial Office, and he was able to report that in Lord Herschell's Bill there was a clause which would protect the claim of Canada to absolute jurisdiction in that matter. In the meantime, Lord Monkswell's Bill has been introduced, and I am anxious to know whether the government have obtained from the Department of Justice its opinion as to whether that Bill contains the same protection for Canada's rights. If the Department of Justice has not looked into the matter, it should immediately do so, and should report thereon, and lay its report on the Table. It would be a very anomalous thing if, under the Lord Monkswell's Bill, now before the Imperial parliament, the powers which Canada claims may be possibly invaded and weakened.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I may say to my hon. friend that I quite agree with him in the views he has expressed. In fact, I never knew of any divided opinion in this House as to the paramount power of Canada over the subject of copyright. These powers, however, as my hon. friend knows, are disputed by the English authorities, but Canada has always insisted on standing by its own rights. The Bill which I intend to introduce is quite consistent with that view. What I would propose is, that we should have the views of the House on that measure, and, if possible later on, have the opinion of the Department of Justice before we submit it for the third reading.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Every one knows that this is a most complex subject, laden with techni-

calities, and it was a great advantage to have the report made by the Department of Justice, a year or two ago, as to the effect of Lord Herschell's Bill in connection with the rights of self-government which we claim, and as to the necessity of any action on our part and what might result from our taking no action. We ought to have a copy of this report, and also of Lord Herschell's Bill and Lord Monkswell's Bill, laid before the House.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would ask whether Sir John Thompson's memorandum has been laid before the House?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Yes, his very full and extensive report on the whole subject was brought down to parliament and is printed in the sessional papers. In view of the very strong influence in the Imperial parliament of the English publishers and authors, we require all the assistance of the eminent legal minds we have at our disposal, and without such assistance I do not think we could pretend to deal with so complicated a question across the floor of this House in a discussion of the government measure on its second reading. But they take that Bill and send it to a select committee. I think that, without exception, every time they have had to deal with any amendment of the copyright law, that is the course that has been pursued. In Lord Herschell's time, in connection with his Bill, and also in connection with Lord Monkswell's Bill, they referred the matter to a special committee, and before that committee they called all the experts on that subject—and they are within easy reach—and so learned the wishes and opinions of the men who are best able to judge of the effect of the proposed legislation. Now, I for one do not wish to stand for a moment in the way of any safe compromise on this subject. I understand the Minister of Agriculture is promoting a Bill, which he believes is a safe compromise—otherwise, of course, he would not venture to introduce it. But, knowing the difficulty of the question, having had to deal with it officially at one time, I think it would be asking too much of the House for the Minister of Agriculture—who, himself, does not profess to be an expert on these matters, either on the whole question of copyright or on the complicated questions of law that surround it—to say that we should thresh the question out without the great advantage of knowing the opinion of those men who have specially followed it. May I, without being wearisome, just conclude by pointing out how much advantage it would be, for instance, to have Mr. Newcombe's report. We have a report from Mr. Newcombe in connection with Lord Herschell's Bill. I do not ask this because Mr. Newcombe is Deputy Minister of Justice, but because he has given

special attention to this question. With the general approval of the House, he was sent to England when the late Sir James Edgar was giving great attention to the subject, to conduct a stage of the negotiations, which, unhappily, had been interrupted by Sir John Thompson's death. Mr. Newcombe was in communication with the expert of the Colonial Office, Mr. Jenkins. They together endeavoured to bring about some solution of the difficult questions consistent with Canada's claim, which is far and away more important than the interest or wishes of any publisher or author in Canada. A tremendous constitutional question is involved. They endeavoured to find some middle course consistent with Canada's position on that question. So Mr. Newcombe had the great advantage of preparing himself for that subject and the further great advantage of meeting this expert, who advises the British government. Consequently, when the Minister of Agriculture read his opinion as to the effect of Lord Herschell's Bill, I think it quieted the mind of nearly every one in the House—it certainly had great weight with me. I would very much like, instead of embarking on a discussion which, perhaps, would be unnecessarily long, in the absence of such opinion—for we should be to some extent in the dark—that the government would deem the suggestion worthy of following, that the opinion of the Department of Justice be obtained, so that we might know exactly the view of the department as to the effect of this Bill on the claim presented by Sir John Thompson, for Canada. That claim was presented by Sir John Thompson, not as Minister of Justice, speaking for the government, but as representing both Houses of parliament. For it will be remembered that the very important step was taken by our parliament of adopting a unanimous address, asserting, above all the interests of the trade or the authors, the right of Canada to legislate on this as freely as we do on the subject of patents. I, therefore, venture to add to what has been said, this earnest request which, I think, would save a good deal of discussion.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Referring to what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), has said, I may say that in the Bill that is now before the House, but one point is raised in connection with the great copyright question. That question, as my hon. friend has just said, is a most complex and far-reaching one. But, I was in hopes that this particular phase of it might be dealt with without bringing in the general question. I should be very loath indeed, at this stage of the session, to undertake to deal with the broad constitutional question of Canada's right to legislate on copyright, or to bring in the very complex questions

involved in these different laws. But I had thought that the particular point dealt with in this Bill might be dealt with this session in response to the requests of those who are particularly interested in this part of the copyright question. It was only on that account, and for that reason, that, at this comparatively late stage of the session, when their views were put before me, I prevailed on council to agree with me in introducing this legislation. I may say, in reference to what the hon. gentleman has brought up as to Mr. Newcombe's memorandum, that it is true that two years ago in this House, I did read a short extract from that memorandum which Mr. Newcombe had placed in my hand. But, discussing the question with Mr. Newcombe since that time, I learned that this memorandum was looked upon by him as a confidential departmental document. I understand that, a part of it having been read in the House, it must be laid on the Table, if demanded by any hon. gentleman; but Mr. Newcombe has informed me that it was not prepared for that purpose, and he would prefer that it should not be made public, although there would be no objection to any hon. gentleman seeing it in the department. The question as to Lord Monkswell's and Lord Herschell's Bills, I do not wish to bring into the discussion at the present moment, because I venture to take the ground that we are empowered as the parliament of Canada to pass this amendment to our own copyright law, without acknowledging or without reference to the authority of the Monkswell Bill—though, I must say, in fairness, that those who asked for this legislation, based their request made to me and to the government, on the ground that this amendment is consistent with certain sections of Lord Thring's Bill now before the Imperial government; and it certainly does meet with the views of the interests in England, the Authors' Society and the publishers, who are supporting Lord Thring's Bill in the Imperial House. Those who support this amendment to our copyright law, point to the fact that, and probably for the first time, there seems to be pretty fair unanimity of opinion among all the interests specially concerned in this particular feature of copyright legislation. Under these circumstances, I felt it was only fair to those interests, and that it was in the public interest as well, that this amendment should be passed by parliament this session. Therefore, the Bill was introduced. I fear that the bringing in of a general discussion on the whole copyright question might complicate the consideration of the Bill. I had hoped that the other points in connection with the copyright law might not be discussed on this Bill. But, I receive, with great consideration, the suggestion of the hon. gentleman, that perhaps this Bill might be referred to a committee, if it is thought necessary to do so, in view of the single purpose

Mr. FISHER.

of the Bill—although, on the other hand, it might be that the reference to a committee would complicate matters and prevent the passing of the Bill.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I followed very closely the remarks of the Minister of Agriculture. I do not think he has caught the difficulty that disturbs me in connection with our claim. It might be that we could pass this Bill without injuring our case, so far as it is a substantive measure passed of our own motion for local consideration. This is a point in connection with which we have never yet taken, to use a common phrase, backwater with the British government. I have seen the Monkswell Bill, which proposes legislation on this subject for every part of the British Empire, it is just as if they introduced a customs law for the British Empire, as they have power to do, and provides how each colony should be affected. This Bill of my hon. friend will work in with that legislation, it will work consistently with the Monkswell Bill, whether we say it openly or otherwise, the two will run together. But this will be the position in Canada. After passing this Bill, not protesting to the British government against Lord Monkswell's Bill. I fear that our mouths would be practically closed. It would be said that we came, after all our discussion and our deputations, and proposed an Imperial measure. We shall be told: You practically receded from your position, and you carried legislation which undoubtedly contemplated your entire approval of the Imperial legislation, and you did not protest. Perhaps, I am exaggerating all the consequences of this measure, and on the other hand I may not. I do not profess to be able thoroughly to appreciate all the intricate points involved in this measure, and I think the suggestion the hon. gentleman let drop would be a very wise one, namely, that we should get the aid of competent men on this subject. Let Dr. Dawson, of the Printing Bureau, who is an expert, and Mr. Newcombe, give it consideration so as to set our minds at rest as to whether this Bill in its present form, or with some rider, would be a safe thing for us to pass, having regard to the other considerations that I have referred to. We might let it go pro forma to a second reading, and refer it to a select committee. But if the hon. gentleman would turn these things over in his mind I would be greatly obliged.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I fully appreciate the point the hon. gentleman has raised, but I thought that by ignoring the Monkswell or Thring Bill entirely in our legislation and in our discussion of that legislation, we could not be fairly accused of acting on the authority of the Thring Bill. Certainly, I am quite prepared, if necessary, to make the most em-

phatic statement that we do not pass this legislation upon the authority of the Thring Bill. I would do anything in that way to safeguard our position in case any such question arose as the hon. gentleman has pointed out.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In any event it would be wise to have a committee.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no objection to referring the Bill to a special committee, but I think we had better have a second reading of it, and my hon. friend will then give his reasons for proposing it.

MILITIA ACT AMENDMENT.

Bill (No. 18) to amend the Militia Act (Mr. Borden) was read the second time, and the House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

Mr. MONTAGUE. I call the minister's attention to the fact that there is not a colonel in the House.

The PRIME MINISTER. There are many in the country, though.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. After this Bill goes through there will be more. The object of this section is simply a change of form, to leave out the words of the Militia Act 'Deputy Adjutant General of Militia' and substitute therefor the word 'officer.' The committee will observe, by looking at subsection 4 in the Militia Act, that the language is as follows:

Her Majesty may, whenever it is considered expedient, change the designation or name of the officer commanding the militia in any district.

While the power was given under the original law to make any change in the name, that law itself has the name 'deputy adjutant general.' As a matter of fact for many years the name has been changed under the authority of this law to 'district officer commanding,' and it simply proposed to leave out the word 'deputy adjutant general' and substitute the word 'officer.' Then there is no inconsistency in the powers given in the concluding portion of the clause to the administration to change the name from time to time.

Mr. FOSTER. Was there a necessary rank before?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No. There is really no change whatever in this clause. The clauses which come later on affect the question of rank.

Mr. FOSTER. It seems to me that in this substitution the officer appointed will have the rank of lieutenant-colonel, that is, it precludes you from appointing any one who is not a lieutenant-colonel. Is there any change from that?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. None.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But you do not give him the title now of deputy adjutant general.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No. He has been called the district officer commanding from a time anterior to my taking charge of the department.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I must apologize to the Prime Minister for saying there are no lieutenant-colonels in the House, because I am told he is one.

The PRIME MINISTER. He is simply an honorary one.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But you have not a gun.

The PRIME MINISTER. I left that aside long ago, until I might be called upon to use it on the opposition.

On section 2,

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Under the next two clauses we propose to take power to appoint colonels, a power which is limited by the Militia Act to the appointment of lieutenant-colonels. The object of the Bill is simply to raise the authority, so to speak, one step so that instead of being limited, as has been the case in the past, to the appointment of lieutenant-colonels as senior officers in the Canadian militia the power is increased to appoint colonels.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Is that in clause 2?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Clauses 45 and 47 of the Militia Act are the clauses that are amended. I propose, instead of asking the committee to adopt the clause printed in the Bill now before the House, to adhere literally to the words of the statute as it now exists, except that I propose to substitute the words 'colonel' for 'lieutenant colonel' where it occurs in the law, and so also in the next clause, section 2, which is an amendment of section 47 of the law.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is not intended to make colonels indiscriminately?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, and I may explain that the use of the power will be limited to the creation of honorary colonels. I doubt if it will be used beyond that.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the purpose? Why is the minister proposing the change? There must be some reason?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The purpose is this: It has been the practice to appoint men who have distinguished themselves in the militia, or in the military life, or in other walks of life, to the positions of honorary lieutenant-colonels of the battalions in Canada. It is suggested that these men, particularly military men, should be rewarded after a considerable career as lieutenant-colonels and after passing off the active stage when they are made honorary heads of their regiments, by being given the rank of colonel instead of the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. It is proposed that men of that sort who have passed out of the ranks of the active militia of Canada should receive this honour.

Mr. FOSTER. That would mean that while men are in the active service they will be lieutenant-colonels, but after they get out, so that they are inactive and ornamental, they will become colonels.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, if the executive see fit to confer the honour upon them.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. minister think that this is the best way to induce great activity and real interest in the militia? I think that if I were working in the militia, and if I had an ambition for a higher title I would work better if I knew that the higher title was available while I was in the militia, rather than when I got to the period of ease and leisure of the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) at the present time. Unless it might be that it would minister a little to vanity, it would not reflect itself upon the active conditions of the force. I am afraid this is going backward. Is the hon. minister at liberty to make colonels out of men who have not served in the militia, simply honorary colonels, out of some clerk high in letters, or some person who wrote a celebrated poem or some civilian whom the minister wished to honour? Is it germane to this Bill to make such a person an honorary colonel? If so, you will have a good many men standing around who would have the semblance of adding to the military strength, but who would not add to it in reality, and you might at last come to the condition of things that the Spanish government had at one time in its existence when soldiery existed on paper and not in reality. Can you make any man an honorary colonel who has not passed through the active militia service?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, that can be done now.

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I think I have seen that in Europe a little baby is made a colonel.

Mr. FOSTER. And it adds tremendously to the importance of the army, without doubt.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Not only is it proposed to make colonels, but major-generals.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Only in time of war.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, this is a time of war.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE moved:

That section 2 of the Bill be amended to read as follows:

Section 45 of the said Act is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:

45. Officers holding commissions in the militia may be placed on the retired list with honorary rank not exceeding that of colonel, or without honorary rank according to and under regulations approved by the Governor in Council.

2. Officers from the retired list may be re-appointed to the active list or such other list as is from time to time authorized; but no officer so re-appointed shall be compelled to serve in a lower rank than that with which he retired.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Before that clause is passed, would the hon. minister tell us his opinion as to what service, outside of military service, would entitle a man to receive that distinction at the hands of the government?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think there is a regulation upon this subject now among our regulations and orders. I have not the regulations here, but I think this proposes to confer the honour upon men who have distinguished themselves in the state as well as in military life, or perhaps in letters. I think it is contemplated to apply particularly to men who have taken an active part in the development of the country, and also men who occupy positions in the old country. The honour has been conferred now upon several distinguished officers, for instance, the Commander-in-Chief, the Marquis of Lorne, the former Governor General, and I think, the present Governor General, and several others of being appointed to the position of honorary colonel or lieutenant-colonel of several of our battalions. I do not know that I can explain the matter any more fully than that. It is difficult to describe fully how wide-reaching this may be, but I think the object of any administration would be to restrict it so far, at least, as to maintain intact the honour which would be supposed to be thereby conferred.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Chairman. I understand from the explanations of the hon. minister that there are two objects contemplated by establishing the rank of

colonel. One is in order that the position of honorary colonel may be conferred upon a gentleman who has attained to such a position in the country as to be considered entitled to the compliment at the hands of the government. Another, I presume, is to make it more easy to remove lieutenant-colonels from the positions they hold without retiring them, so that they may be given an additional honorary rank. I suppose these really are the two main objects that are contemplated by the adoption of this Bill. I believe they are both practised in other countries. In England the rank of honorary colonel is conferred very much upon the same principle, and it is also used as a means of giving an honorary position or honorary rank to a party who may be leaving the active service.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Chairman, I do not object to the first proposition, but I think we ought to curtail the second. I do not see very much sense in calling a man a colonel who could not drill a company. I submit that this may be carrying the thing to the same extent as it is carried by our neighbours to the south of us. I remember one time having the privilege of going through the United States; I started in Maine as a captain and ended up in California as a general. But, coming back I began in California as a general and ended in Maine as a captain, and the fall was great. Everybody there is a colonel, a captain, a governor, or something else. I do not think any man unless he has military training, and after he has retired from active service and can do military work even then; I do not think he should be called permanent. Then, as to the honorary colonels of the regiments. I always understood that such an officer was a man who was a real officer beforehand, but who had retired and was made honorary colonel, in the same way as you make an honorary president of a society. This new phase of the case astonishes me. I trust the government will be very sparing in making colonels out of literary men, or indeed out of men who have added distinction to the state in civil pursuits. We have an order of precedence, and what if one of those civilian soldiers like myself, for instance, should dangle a sword at a function and fall over it, not knowing how to utilize it in the true military style. Well, Sir, this system may become ridiculous. We may have men who know nothing at all about war walking in as colonels and all that.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Perhaps it will relieve my friend when I tell him that the honorary colonels are not expected to go to the front.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). My trouble would be going to the rear with a sword, and I say that the very fact that these gentlemen cannot be called to the front makes

it all the more ridiculous. What is the use of calling a man by the name of 'colonel' if he is not fit to go to the front? Why, you will have men claiming to be colonels because they cannot get any other title. Really, these distinctions are too trifling in a body like the militia of Canada, who really do fight wherever they go and bring honour on the fair name of our country. Leave the title of colonel to the men who do the fighting and let us civilians go along gaining glory in some other way.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I hope that the attack which the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) has made upon the Minister of Militia and upon this Bill, is not intended as a reflection upon the distinction of honorary colonel having been conferred recently upon the present Prime Minister. If so, I must put in a word in defence of the Bill. Although the right hon. gentleman who leads this House has not been any more particularly noted in the military field than I have myself, yet he has had a good deal of experience in drilling a very insubordinate body of gentlemen behind him, and he is showing such admirable ideas of discipline in that respect that really he is entitled to the position of an honorary colonel.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I did not refer to the Prime Minister, but I would suggest at once that the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) should be immediately made a colonel. If ever there was a man that ought to be a colonel it is the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) at this present moment considering the insubordination of the men whom he commands. I made no special reference to any particular honorary colonel. I expressed a hope that the government should not utilize this power to too great an extent, believing as I do that in a country like this, the conferring of such titles upon men who have not won their spurs is not a good thing. There may be cases where it may be done, but there should not be very many.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). I thoroughly agree with the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser). I do not see why a civilian should be called colonel. There is no more reason why a man who has earned distinction in politics should be called a 'colonel' than there is why the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), should be called a 'reverend,' although he is probably as much entitled to that distinction as any man in the pulpit to-day. We should not pass an Act of parliament enabling the government to call one of its ministers or one of its followers a 'reverend,' nor should we enable them to confer the distinction of colonel upon civilians who never had anything to do with military life. You are doing a great injustice to the military service by passing this Bill to confer

the title on men who may or may not deserve it. It is a slur upon our militia service and upon our soldiers.

Mr. CHARLTON. May I ask for a personal explanation. I did not hear the hon. gentleman (Mr. Osler), and I would like to know whether he called the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) a 'reverend' or a 'rebel.'

Mr. OSLER. Oh, reverend, right reverend.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Why did you think he called you a rebel?

Mr. O. E. TALBOT (Bellechasse). With all due deference to the member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser), I believe that the government should take power to confer this title of honorary colonel, so that they may honour certain men in Canada who have devoted half their lifetime and spent thousands of dollars for the promotion of the militia service of Canada. Take Colonel Turnbull, of Quebec, as an example. He has spent a large amount of money and has devoted years of his life to promoting the efficiency of the militia, and it is well that the government should have power to confer this honour on a gentleman like that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Minister of Militia has now power to make any man in the militia service a colonel, but the point we are discussing is as to whether a civilian should be made a colonel. I ask the minister how many colonels have been appointed since 1896?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I will read the list: Field Marshal, His Royal Highness, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.M.G., &c., 1st Battalion Prince of Wales Regiment Fusiliers, 1898; Field Marshal, the Right Hon. G. J. Viscount Wolseley, K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., R.C.R.I., 1899; Hon. J. M. Gibson, A.D.C., 13th Battalion, 1895; J. J. Tucker, 62nd Battalion, 1897; the Right Hon. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, P.C., G.C.M.G., 3rd Battalion, 1898; the Right Hon. Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquis of Lorne, 15th Battalion, 1898; J. Munro, 22nd Battalion, 1898; the Right Hon. the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, K.P., G.C.B., K.C.M.G., 38th Battalion, 1898; the Right Hon. Lord Aylmer, 54th Battalion, 1898; Lieut.-General J. W. Laurie, 63rd Battalion, 1898; H. R. Smith, 14th Battalion, 1898; J. I. Davidson, 48th Battalion, 1898; Sir L. H. Davies, K.C.M.G., 4th Regiment C.A., 1898; W. M. Humphrey, 66th Battalion, 1898; J. B. Forsyth, Q.O.C. Hussars, 1898; J. A. Renaud, 83rd Battalion, 1898; Hon. R. R. Dobell, P.C., 8th Battalion, 1898; W. White, C.M.G., 43rd Battalion, 1898; W. E. O'Brien, 35th Battalion, 1898; R. Wilson-Smith, 2nd Regiment C.A., 1898; A. E. Curren, 1st Regi-

Mr. OSLER.

ment C.A., 1898; W. Mackenzie, 45th Battalion, 1898;—

Mr. MONTAGUE. What William Mackenzie is that?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. He was colonel of the 45th Battalion.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Not Mr. Mackenzie, of Mackenzie & Mann?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE—Oh, no. His Excellency the Right Hon. the Earl of Minto, 1898; the Right Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen, 1898; G. T. Denison, G.G.B.G., 1899; the Hon. Sir John Carling, 1899; the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G., 1899; and the last, the former colonel of my own battalion, the 68th Battalion of King's, and one of the warmest supporters of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition, L. De V. Chipman. That is all who are recorded here.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Will the minister read the list of honorary colonels made before 1896?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There was just one, the Hon. J. M. Gibson.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the remarks made by the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) and the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) have been justified by the list which the hon. gentleman has read. Evidently a new rank of titled gentlemen is to exist in Canada under this exceedingly democratic government. I wonder if we are going to have colonels as common in Canada as they are in the American republic, where Max O'Rell, speaking a short time ago, said there were sixty million people, mostly colonels. I do not know of any special service which the hon. gentleman who bungled the fast Atlantic service and who invented the bottle-necked steamships has performed for the country that he should be made an honorary colonel; and surely the Prime Minister has had enough decorations—a Cobden medal, a Privy Councillorship, a G.C.M.G., and so forth.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Do you dispute my qualifications?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not dispute the hon. gentleman's qualifications for all these decorations, which demand great courtesy and politeness; but I do not think the right hon. gentleman is distinguished as a military man.

The PRIME MINISTER. You forget my former speeches.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I know that on one occasion the right hon. gentleman threatened to bring out his musket, but it was only a threat. But, passing that by, we, of course, all recognize that the Prime Minis-

ter of this country—I speak in a general way—is entitled to any distinction which any department of the public service can confer upon him; but, it does appear to me that the hon. Minister of Militia, in his administration, is making the Militia Department somewhat ridiculous. Who wants this long list of colonels? What does the Marquis of Dufferin, for instance, care about being made a colonel in the Canadian militia? It seems to me to be absolute nonsense; and at last it appears that the hon. gentleman has been making these spurious colonels without any authority whatever. I am told that there is no authority in the Militia Act under which he can make them; and what is the Act we are passing to-day except an Act of indemnification to relieve the hon. gentleman of all responsibility for having made these spurious colonels without any authority? It appears to me that the hon. member for Guysborough and the hon. member for West Toronto have echoed the true sentiment of this country, and that the less we have of this kind of thing the better for the country, and a good deal better for the militia. The only man who ought to get the title of colonel in this country is the man who has done good service for his country in the militia, and whose time of lieutenant-colonelcy has expired. I think it is then a very graceful act, and an act which will tend to the advantage of the militia of Canada generally, to put him on the list of honorary colonels. But it appears to me to be ridiculous to proceed as the hon. gentleman is proceeding now; and he tells us that the end is not yet. He tells us that they are getting along delightfully well, so that I have no doubt that next year we shall have to have almost a separate publication besides the civil service list to contain the list of honorary colonels made under the authority of the Act which the hon. gentleman is now asking the House to pass. It appears to me that we had better confine ourselves to confirming what the hon. gentleman has already done. We would not like to take the decoration away from the Prime Minister nor from the minister without portfolio. It is an ample reward for the magnificent service which the latter gentleman has given us in connection with the fast Atlantic service.

Mr. DAVIN. 'Commodore' would be a more appropriate title.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, commodore is a naval term.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Or admiral.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It appears to me that the best thing for us to do is simply to pass an Act confirming what the hon. gentleman has already done, and then turn the faucet, and not empty out any more colonels on the country.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). I imagine, Mr. Chairman, that one of the chief objections to the measure which we have under consideration for the creation of honorary military titles, is the fact that it will lead in a short time to a very great scarcity of privates. That feature of the case has been realized already in the United States, and I think it would be a bad example to follow. We had better adhere to the practice which gives us a rank and file as well as officers. If we continue the plan which has now been entered upon, we shall have a great number of colonels, and the title will become so common that any distinction which may attach to it will be lost, and it will become somewhat ridiculous. I quite concur in the opinion expressed by the hon. member for West Toronto, the hon. member for Guysborough and the hon. member for Haldimand, that it is not in the military interest of this country to adopt this plan. The possessor of a commission should be a man who is capable of discharging the duties which the possession of that commission involves. We have had in South Africa an instance of the great necessity that exists for care in the bestowal of commissions. The man who holds a commission should be an officer capable of leading troops and discharging all the duties of an officer in case of emergency. I simply rise for the purpose of saying that I believe we have entered upon a course which will be detrimental to the militia service and become ridiculous in itself if it is followed up, as it naturally will be, and we had better drop it right where it is.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have heard the very severe criticisms of gentlemen who know very much more about military affairs and the feeling of the militia of this country than I do; but I wish to point out to the House that in every case where an appointment of this kind has been made, it has been made after the officers of the particular battalion have asked that it should be made. Most of the men occupying these high positions are looked upon by the officers and by the battalions to which they have been attached in this honorary way, as patrons. It costs something to run the militia of this country—not only the votes taken in parliament, but the time and money of the officers themselves. In many cases the battalions have been named after the gentlemen who have been selected as honorary colonels. When the battalion was founded, the name of one of these distinguished men was given it, and later on it seemed to be in accord with the fitness of things that he should be chosen as the particular patron of that battalion, and in many cases, no doubt, these gentlemen, out of their wealth and influence, are able to assist these different battalions. I, therefore, entirely dissent from the view that anything prejudicial

cial or derogatory to the militia of this country is going to result from associating with it the names of the men I have read to the committee.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I regret very much that I have to differ from the remarks made by hon. gentlemen on both sides. My hon. friends from Guysborough and Toronto deprecate the making colonels out of men without military knowledge. I entirely approve of what the Minister of Militia has done for this reason, that it is in entire consistency with the policy of the government. It is a humbug from the word go, and therefore, perfectly consistent with that policy all through.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Does the hon. gentleman get any authority in this Act for appointing to the position of colonel a man who has not been a lieutenant-colonel?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I may tell the hon. gentleman that there is power in the executive to confer the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel on any one.

Mr. FOSTER. Under the law as it now is?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the section which gives that power?

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. minister contends that under the old Act the government have the power to make honorary lieutenant-colonels, but that this government will make two bites at it, and make a civilian a colonel.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The gentlemen made colonels have not been legally given that rank, and will have to be made over again, will they not? We are told that the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) and the Prime Minister, and the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, have been made colonels, but the Minister of Militia had no authority to do that.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. They have been made lieutenant-colonels and not colonels.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I asked the hon. gentleman for the list of colonels, and he read me these names.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). How many lieutenant-colonels were created before 1896, who were not connected with the militia force?

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. None.

Mr. McNEILL. Then this is a new departure, and it seems to me a most extraordinary proceeding. I do not think it is altogether fair to the militia from another point of view. I do not see why a civilian should be allowed to encroach upon the prerogatives of the militia in this way without the militia being allowed a little chance to obtain civilian honours. Why should my hon. friend, for instance, not be given the title of archbishop or chief justice. I do not see why we should not be logical in these matters. If it is a correct thing to appoint to military rank a civilian, who is no way connected with militia, surely the militia ought to have a chance to obtain civilian honours. The whole thing seems absurd and mischievous. I would venture to ask my hon. friend not to proceed further with this matter, or to so amend the Act as to make it impossible for absurdities of this kind to be perpetrated in the future.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). The reasons given by the Minister of Militia for the retention of this clause are reasons which ought to defeat the clause. The hon. gentleman says it cost something to run the militia, and that the gentlemen who are being appointed honorary colonels, are appointed because they assist commanding officers of battalions to sustain the necessary charges in connection with their position. If that be the reason, why not give the officers power to appoint these civilians honorary members of their mess or patrons of their regiments. If the officers of the militia are not receiving sufficient sums from the public to enable them to maintain their position, their pay ought to be increased. I am entirely in accord with the remarks of my hon. friend from Guysborough. The multiplication of these tinpot titles, the distribution of honorary colonelships amongst civilians who have no military experience, is reducing the militia system to a little more than a farce.

Mr. FOSTER. I think there is a little misapprehension on the part of the Minister of Militia as to how far this clause goes. I do not believe it gives power to the Minister of Militia to appoint any one, who has not been a lieutenant-colonel in the active militia, to a colonelcy. I do not think there can be any objection, when a man has been lieutenant-colonel in the active militia and is retired, to making him an honorary colonel. But what we object to is selecting men who have never been in the militia and making them honorary colonels. We must have a large number of lieutenant-colonels in this country, very deserving men, and if there are any colonelcies to be distributed, these men ought to get them.

I would like to see the authority for this new departure. I find that previous to the advent of this government to power, there were no honorary colonels appointed from the ranks of civilians, and no honorary lieutenant-colonels. Only one was appointed and he had been a militia officer. Since that time, in two or three years, twenty-eight or thirty have been appointed. That is a tolerably swift progression, and if we go on at that rate we will soon have an army of honorary colonels, and the poor private will be neglected. I would ask the minister to point out the clause which gives him that authority.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I would like to ask the Minister of Militia one or two questions. In the first place, does he consider that after the passage of this Act, it will be possible to appoint a gentleman as honorary colonel who has not been in the militia service. Because, I think that, if my hon. friend is under that impression, he is mistaken. I find no authority in the Bill to appoint any person to the position of colonel who is not a lieutenant-colonel at the time of his appointment.

The PRIME MINISTER. I beg to differ, I have no special knowledge of this subject, but I can say, without violating any confidence, that when General Hutton was in command, he advised the appointment of a gentleman who was a civilian. I pointed out the objection, and he said that it was always done, and claimed the power to do it under the Act as it is.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I understand that the Minister of Militia proposes to take authority under this Bill to appoint civilians to the rank of honorary colonels. I am not dealing with the propriety or policy of that amendment, but I simply say I do not find in this Bill the power that he says it contains. The Bill says :

Officers holding commissions as lieutenant-colonel in the militia may be transferred to the retired list with honorary rank not exceeding that of colonel, and officers now on the retired list holding commissions as lieutenant-colonel may be promoted to the rank of colonel, under regulations approved by the Governor in Council.

There is not a word here, so far as I see, that will enable him to do that, which he says it was the object of the Bill to give the power to do. I would ask another question, which may have some bearing on the policy of the measure. What would be the relative position of a lieutenant-colonel in the active militia, and a civilian who had been appointed honorary colonel, if they met on a public occasion? Would the title of honorary colonel give him precedence over the lieutenant-colonel?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Taking the last of the hon. gentleman's questions first, I think that, unless the honorary colonel was a gentleman

who had a real substantive rank, the fact of his being honorary colonel, would not place him above a lieutenant-colonel in the active militia, and in command.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Do I understand that it would give the honorary colonel precedence?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, certainly not—in the field.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not talking about the field, but I am talking about the question of precedence on a public occasion.

Mr. DAVIN. Would it give the honorary colonel social precedence?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is what I was after.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think the rank would undoubtedly, according to the date, give him social precedence. Now, with regard to the power conferred by the Bill, while there does seem to be a limitation, I think there can be no question as to the power of the Governor General in Council, to appoint any one a lieutenant-colonel, or colonel, or honorary colonel.

Mr. DAVIN. But there is no power in the Bill.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No, but the executive have power, and, under the Militia Act, the power to appoint colonels has been limited to two cases. According to the Act, there were to be only two colonels, the adjutant general and the quartermaster general. However, that rule has not been lived up to, because I find about the time of the North-west rebellion, one or two colonels were appointed. The Deputy Minister of Militia was made a colonel, though there did not seem to be any express authority under the Act, but, on the contrary, the Militia Act seemed to limit the power of the executive to the appointment of two colonels. It is proposed by this Bill, to extend the scope of the Act, and to confer upon the executive power to appoint colonels, other than the two provided for in the Act as it is now.

Mr. FOSTER. But you have limited the class from which you can appoint such colonels, to retired lieutenant-colonels.

Mr. DAVIN. Let me ask one question. Does not the language of the Act define, after all, the power of the government in this matter? The fact that it specifies what may be done is exclusive of what it does not mention. It seems to me, that the Act gives the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden), no power whatever to do what he has done, nor does it give the government power to do what it has done.

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). Before the hon. minister (Mr. Borden), gets up

to answer that question, I would like to ask what intimation these honorary appointees got as to what their title would be? Was it not that they were to be appointed honorary lieutenant-colonels? It must have astonished the Prince of Wales, Lord Dufferin, Lord Strathcona, and the others, to find that they had been appointed honorary lieutenant-colonels.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. HAGGART. The minister says they are appointed lieutenant-colonels. I never heard of an honorary lieutenant-colonel before in my life; and I think it is something new in army circles to hear of an honorary lieutenant-colonel.

Mr. BENNETT. There is Cap. Sullivan too.

Mr. HAGGART. The only honorary title is that of honorary colonel. I do not see any power in the Act, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), who spoke before me said, that gives the Minister of Militia the right to appoint an honorary colonel, unless he has been a lieutenant-colonel. But I would like the hon. minister to say whether the intimation received by these gentlemen was, that they were appointed honorary lieutenant-colonels, and where he ever got the idea.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. As to where I got the idea, I have no hesitation in saying that I got it from the very distinguished Imperial officers who have been in the country since I became minister.

An hon. MEMBER. General Hutton?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes. I do not mind saying, from General Hutton. I confess it did not seem to me a matter of such great importance, that I need worry very much about it; I thought that these gentlemen ought to know. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Haggart), must be mistaken. I do not know that he has been following military matters very closely, and there may be some things in connection with military honorary titles that he is not aware of.

Mr. E. COCHRANE (East Northumberland). I do not pretend to be a military man, and I would not care to be one if I had to have every Tom, Dick and Harry thrust over my head after I had been serving my country to the best of my ability. It does seem to me a very strange proposition from the Minister of Militia to put the men he speaks of in the position of honorary colonels. It appears to me that the man who had a right to the title of honorary colonel, in the social scale would be ahead, but when it came to do any fighting he would be behind. Is not that the true position? I think it is a humiliating position for a lieutenant-colonel to be in for the Minister of Militia and Defence to tell him

Mr. HAGGART.

to-day that he is bringing in an Act to allow him to give honorary colonelcies to gentlemen who do not know anything about military affairs, to enable them to do—what term shall I use?—to sponge on these who have lost time by attending to their duties in drilling, and have spent their time and money to make the militia of this country efficient. I understand the Minister of Militia and Defence to say that it costs time and money, and that I know. Well, if it costs time and money for these officers to make themselves efficient, I for one as a farmer am prepared to pay them for their services. I think it is more honourable for this country to pay men for their time and services than to create honorary colonels, to reward them, to give them titles that they are not entitled to. To my mind it would be a very humiliating position for me to be in if I had been a lieutenant-colonel in the militia of this country, and had spent my time and money in the profession, as the minister tells me to-day that I would have to do in order, not only to make myself efficient, but the militia under my command, and then, when it came to attending a social affair, I would have some honorary colonel taking precedence and I would be behind.

Mr. DAVIN. Behind Cap Sullivan or Mr. McNish.

Mr. COCHRANE. I am not joking—Cap Sullivan, Mr. McNish or anybody else. This is too serious a matter to bring in such names in connection with it. I say it would be a humiliating position for any honourable man who had spent his time and money to qualify himself and to drill the men under him, to have another man promoted over him in a social way by the favour of the government. I do not say this particularly in regard to the present government, as perhaps we may be doing the same thing very soon when we get into power. Therefore, I do not want to put into the hands of any Minister of Militia and Defence the power to place gentlemen in social affairs over the heads of those who, by actual merit and the expenditure of time and money, have qualified themselves to command the Canadian militia.

Mr. OSLER. Military matters are rather serious just now, and this is no time to play with them. It is out of place at this particular time, when we are all coming to know what war means, and what inefficient officers mean, for the Minister of Militia and Defence to bring in an Act creating tinpot titles. Military titles should be given only for military service. If you are going to make a military title honourable, as it should be, it should be given for military service only, and not for political or other services as has been the case in regard to that list that has been read out to us to-day. For the present government to bring in such a

Bill as they propose now, I think is—well, it is only in accord with what they have all along been doing. If this Bill comes into effect we will have Cap Sullivan promoted to the rank of Colonel Sullivan, as well as other leaders of political organizations and henchmen of the government. I say it is a disgrace to our militia system, and I hope the minister will withdraw this Bill, and that he will advise the government not to consent to any appointment to military honours that the appointees have not earned by real service. It is very strange to find the Prime Minister and the Minister of Militia and Defence now quoting the greatest soldier that we have ever had here, Col. Hutton, in defence of what they are doing here to-day, after having belittled the great services he has rendered this country, shielding themselves on this occasion behind a gentleman who is now out of the country. I think this Act is a disgrace and a humiliation to the militia men, because it gives the government power to confer the title of honorary colonel on men for political services, or services other than military. Surely we do not want to start now where the United States have left off, after having appointed tinpot colonels all over the country and making them a laughing stock. Let us be more dignified. There is no man in the House who respects titles more than I do, no man who thinks that a gentleman like the Prime Minister is more deserving of the title that has been bestowed upon him, and who wears his honours with dignity. But to give military titles to civilians I think is very wrong. After the experience we are having in the war in which we are so deeply interested, I think it is humiliating to the country, and is a slur upon our military men who have gone to the front, that the government should take power to appoint men who will rank over them socially or otherwise.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat has discussed this subject in a manner that is altogether unworthy of the occasion. There is no occasion whatever to bring politics into this question. The object may be praiseworthy or not, but the hon. gentleman has taken upon himself to cast slurs which, even if merited, ought not to have been uttered. The hon. gentleman has stated that it would not be proper to appoint civilians to these honorary positions. That may be so or not. I am not disposed to disagree with him, because I have no opinion upon the subject at all. I am quite willing on this subject to take the opinion of military men, and if military men think this thing ought to be done, I am quite willing that it should be done; if they think it ought not to be done, I am quite willing to abide by their opinion. All I can say is that I have discussed this matter with the highest military men that we have in this country, and they tell me—I can repeat it,

because it is a matter within the knowledge of every one—that what we propose here is done in every civilized country under the sun where titles purely honorary are granted to men who are not in the profession. The hon. gentleman who is so prone to cast slurs upon other people, will, perhaps, not find fault if I tell him that if he was less ignorant of the subject he would not have made the remarks that he has just uttered, and he would have known that in England such titles are given to civilians as well as to men who are not in the military profession. But there is one thing that we should keep in mind, and that is the danger of abusing the power of granting honorary titles, the danger that they may be given to men who are not deserving of them, that they may be given so promiscuously that they cease to be an honour, and so become farcical. The hon. gentleman must have read, as we all have read, that the Emperor of Germany is made a colonel in the British army, that the Prince of Wales is made a colonel in the German army, that a royal baby of six months old is made a colonel in some regiment. These are purely honorary titles. But what is to be feared is that, perhaps, if we introduce this system we may carry it to the length that it has been carried in the United States, where almost every second man you meet is a general, or a colonel, or some other titled person. For this the government of the day will be responsible. If they abuse the power to carry it too far, they are liable to the censure of the House. But in proposing to take this power I do not know that we are doing anything beyond what is the practice in Great Britain and in all civilized nations. I do not know that we are doing anything in this matter but what has been the practice in Great Britain and in all civilized nations.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman tell me whether such a thing does really exist in Great Britain, because I am told that it does not?

The PRIME MINISTER. My information comes from the highest military authority in this country.

Mr. HAGGART. Not honorary lieutenant-colonels but honorary colonels.

The PRIME MINISTER. Our military experts in this country have informed me that it does. I discussed this matter myself with the military authorities of this country. When it was proposed to appoint a civilian, whom I do not care to name at this moment, to a position of honorary colonel, I pointed out that this seemed to be an anomaly, but I was told that it was not an anomaly, but that it was done in Great Britain.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) spoke of the Prince of Wales and of the Emperor of Germany, but it is not a fact that they are attached to special regiments in all cases?

The PRIME MINISTER. I do not know that there is any difference, so far as my information goes, if in every case they have been appointed to special regiments. If I may be permitted to be personal at all, I might mention my own case. I do not pride myself very much upon my military career. I know that my military career afforded a good many arguments for hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and that when I said I was willing to defend a minority that had been deprived of their rights, hon. gentlemen opposite based some argument upon it. When it was suggested that I should be made an honorary colonel of the 9th Battalion Voltigeurs de Quebec, I represented that there were several other gentlemen more competent than myself, but when I was told that the officers had done me the honour of selecting me, and that they desired me to accept the honour, I said: If you want to have it that way, well and good. If this be the practice in other countries, I do not see why it should not be the practice in this country. But, if it be the practice in this country the government must hold themselves responsible for the appointments which are suggested. I would not like to see the thing carried too far or to see every man made a colonel, as it is in some other countries. I believe that, in this matter, we may rely upon the good sense of the authorities themselves. But, if under this power they make every man a colonel, I think they would be legitimately liable to censure. As to the thing itself, I am informed by the military authorities in the country that we are following the example of other nations.

Mr. OSLER. Mr. Chairman, the right hon. Prime Minister has pitched into me a little strongly, but I had a sort of idea that I was talking to a democratic lot of people. I find, on the contrary, that I have been talking to the most aristocratic gentlemen, probably, that we have on this continent. They have aristocratic tendencies in England and in Germany such as I do not think we would tolerate here. I am a democrat, I think, but I should be afraid to say that I am a democrat after the democratic assumptions of the right hon. gentleman. I can quite understand that in aristocratic England and Imperial Germany we have these titles. In the court of Germany any ordinary man, a physician or other professional man, is tabooed. The greatest physician in the world is treated like a flunky when he goes to the court of Germany. That is not the case in England, thank the Lord, but still, England has aristocratic traditions. I do not want to see these traditions carried out in Canada. I am anxious that we shall throw aside a great many of the old traditions of that sort. I do not want a man to be appointed to an office of this country that he has not gained. Would

Mr. LaRIVIERE.

you, if you were undertaking to frame a constitution here, have a provision made to open the position of honorary colonels to the Prince of Wales, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Marine, and have them appointed as colonels in imaginary regiments? No, you would not. Let us come down to ordinary common business sense. You are not now trying to undo something that has been done, but you are now trying to introduce something that has not been in effect in this country heretofore. You are trying to foist upon this country false titles. You are trying to create a tinpot value for services not to the state, but services to a party. I say, it will be wrong. I do not say it in connection with the present government, but I say it in connection with any government having the power to bestow such titles as these. It is a temptation to them to confer them on undeserving and unfit men, and the effect will be to demoralize the militia and the military spirit in this country. I have the honour to be president of the Ontario Rifle Association. I accepted the position with a great deal of reluctance. I know very little about it, but I may, perhaps, be able to help them in some other ways. I consider that I would be insulting the rifle association if I were, through my connection with that association, to accept a military title. I appeal to the hon. Minister of Militia to reconsider this proposal and to provide that if military titles are to be given they shall only be given for services performed by Canadians.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Before the clause is passed, I just want to say a single word. I must say to the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) that it is very unfortunate that we cannot discuss a question of this kind without any personal references. I quite agree with the right hon. gentleman, when he was able to state to the House that the title which he had accepted as honorary colonel was accepted at the request of a certain regiment which represented to him that they would be honoured to have him occupy that position. I am quite prepared to say that that is a sufficient reason why the right hon. gentleman should accept it, and I do feel that there is great force in what he said, and what has been accentuated by a number of hon. members on both sides of the House, in regard to the difficulty of preventing a thing of this kind being abused. The fact that the Prince of Wales has been made the honorary colonel of a German regiment, and that the Emperor of Germany is an honorary colonel in the British army, is not in point. These cases are exceptional, and the very circumstances under which such a condition happens are so entirely different from the conditions in this country that I think this matter ought to be most carefully considered on its merits. I would suggest that the hon. Minister of

Militia and Defence has, I think, not clearly appreciated the position. He stated, when he first gave the explanation in reference to the introduction of this Bill, that he proposed to take the power—a power which the government have not at present—to make honorary colonels. I find no such power contained in the Bill. There is no provision whatever in the Bill. There is a provision by which a person who has reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel may be appointed an honorary colonel, and I can quite see the propriety of that. I can quite see that in the administration of military affairs in this country, cases may arise in which a gentleman has great claims to consideration, and yet, the efficiency of the militia service would be promoted by his being removed from his active position as lieutenant-colonel, and, under these circumstances, I can quite see that there might be an advantage in this officer being allowed to retire with the rank of honorary colonel. That appears to be perfectly right. We are told, that if there is no provision in this Bill, there is power without it. I deny that; I cannot see where the Governor in Council has any power that is not bestowed by law. I am not aware of the Governor in Council undertaking to exercise powers that are not justified by some statute or by any authority of law. If the government already has the power, there is no necessity for incorporating it in this Bill. However, I do not think there is any power in the hands of the Governor in Council to appoint any person a colonel. The Militia Act not only made no provision for the appointment of an 'honorary colonel,' but it actually limited the power of the government to conferring the rank of lieutenant-colonel. That being the case, it is fatal to the claim, that the executive power of this country could deal with this matter without a statute. This Bill, in my opinion, should be reconsidered. I would not interfere with any action that may be taken to confirm what has been already done; but in future this rank should be confined to the promotion of lieutenant-colonels in the active service, and means should be taken to prevent the abuse of this power, as it will be abused if succeeding governments are to rival each other in the number of titles they shall distribute in the country. This proposition requires more thought and consideration than has been apparently given to it, and it should be carefully reviewed in that light. Suppose a gallant officer of our militia returns to Canada covered with distinction and having done great honour to this country in the South African war, that we trust is now approaching its termination; suppose he returns and he finds that in social life, although he has shed his blood in the defence of the empire, some gentlemen not of very marked prominence—I do not make any in-

vidious distinction, but I run my eye over these appointments that have already been conferred and I find that there are some who have not been greatly distinguished above all others—suppose this brave officer returning to Canada finds himself playing second fiddle to a gentleman who has never rendered service to the Canadian militia; what would be thought of that? I do not think the Prime Minister would like to have a Bill passed that would bring about such a condition. I would suggest that the Bill should not be proceeded with at present, but that the government should carefully reconsider it in the light of this discussion, and amend it so as to enable them to promote lieutenants-colonels of distinction to the rank of colonels. The government might also consider how this very high distinction could be bestowed on others, without running the risk of making this power take a shape that it ought not to. I have no objection to bestowing the title on the right hon. the leader of the House under the circumstances, but if it is to be the policy to make such appointments, they should be restricted as they are in Great Britain and in Germany and other countries, to persons who by the consensus of the public opinion of the country are entitled to the position.

Mr. JAMES DOMVILLE (King's, N.B.). We have heard a great deal from the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) about honours, and no doubt the members in this House who have titles got them in one way or another. None of us feel unhappy because these gentlemen happen to have something flourishing in front of their names; although how they did get the title is sometimes very funny. I could go into the history, not only of Canada, but of England, and show some extraordinary instances of how titles were conferred. Some men want to have a title, and they are not particular what it is so long as it is a title. We have all seen the play of *Bombastes Furioso*, where the prime minister Fusbos had performed certain services and had asked for an honour, and when his sovereign conferred upon him the Royal Order of the Puppy Dogs, Fusbos was happy, and went around glorying in the honour of wearing the Royal Order of Puppy Dogs on his breast. Well, a good deal of this is puppy dog business all around. Now, while this system of conferring of titles may be abused, there are certain instances where it is all right. When our brave officers return from South Africa, the leader of the government and the Minister of Militia will reward them properly irrespective of politics, and if they do not we will all join together to insist that they shall. I have introduced a Bill into this House which will enable officers of the militia to take their places in the Senate or the House of Commons the same as they do in Eng-

land. My hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) wants to debar our brave militiamen from honours, why should not the man who has shed his blood in South Africa, or the man who was willing to do it, not receive honours? Why, I believe that the hon. member for Cape Breton (Sir Charles Tupper) would himself go out in defence of the empire if there was any scrapping to be done. The Minister of Militia is right when he says he is anxious to place the militia of Canada on some firm and sure basis. In the past our militia has been played with in bringing men from England that we do not want here. When we have gallant Canadian officers who have distinguished themselves in the service of the empire in honour of the country, why should they not have the right to command our militia force. The trouble has been in the past that there was no inducement for our young men to go into the militia and little compensation to them for doing so.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Every one agrees with what the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) says, but the point we are discussing is that this Bill takes power to make colonels out of men who have never been in the militia.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I have no objection to make you one, but I do not want you to tell me what I should say. This Bill covers the whole of the Militia Act of Canada, and it is a deserving Bill. It is a shame that at present a man should spend his whole lifetime in perfecting and equipping his battalion, and then at the end of five years when his usefulness is about commencing, that he should be deprived of his command.

Mr. MONTAGUE. These are the men who ought to be made honorary colonels.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Certainly. Will the hon. gentleman say that any officer shirked going to the front? I have too much respect for Canada and Canadians to believe that we have men in the militia ranks that would not go to the front when duty calls them. If they have complied with every military requirement which the law demands, are you going to debar them on the ground that it is necessary to have a belted knight from England? No, Sir; we have peers in Canada by intelligence as well as peers in England—peers like Mr. Gladstone, who was too proud to go around with any title attached to his name, and he was a much greater man than many men who have titles. But that is not the point. The point I wish to make is that it is an inducement to men who have had to work up a regiment, to allow them to retire with an honorary title when the time has come when they can no longer remain in command of their regiment; and why should not these men have the proudest honour which Canada can bestow on them? I

Mr. DOMVILLE.

hope to see the day when we shall be able to provide Canadians for even higher positions than the command of the militia. I hope to see the day when Canada will be producing governors for Australia, New Zealand or Tasmania. Canada exists as a partner in the realm, not as a colony. We are not a colony at all, and we have shown it in this war. We have shown that Canadians can take their share with the rest of the empire in fighting, and if need be, dying for the cause. These are my views, given without consultation with anybody. Canada has taken a position in the world such as she has never before occupied, and I believe there is enough patriotism in this House and in this country to do anything that will advance the position of the Canadian militia in the eyes of the world. The militia of Canada no longer exists as a militia. Under the law, perhaps, we are unable to designate it as an army or an active force; but the word militia, as it was understood five or ten years ago, has no longer any application to our force. It is the first line of defence of Canada, and the first line of defence to join with Great Britain's first line of defence. I think both sides of the House should join together in endeavouring to produce some system that will make the militia effective in any hour of need. There is no doubt there have been many things to complain of in the past. I have never had anything in it myself except regard for what was best for the country. When my hon. friend throws a slur on the colonels of these various regiments, I tell him he is not doing justice to the country, for I can tell him that ninety-five per cent of these very colonels that he would turn down are of his own stripe of politics. Is that correct?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I was not speaking to the hon. gentleman; I just noticed the entry of Colonel Davies.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Well, Sir, we might go further and make an Admiral Davies. I do not think there is any politics in this question, and I hope that this Bill will go through, and that those amongst us who have not received any title may come in like those in the play of 'Bombasto Furioso,' as belonging to the Royal Order of Puppy Dogs.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). Although I do not happen, at the present time, to belong to the militia, I have had the honour to serve in that body for a number of years in all ranks, from full private up to holding a commission, and therefore, I may be excused if I take a small share in this debate.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Not a colonel.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I was not a colonel—not a full colonel, at any rate.

Mr. MILLS. They get full sometimes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. The question under discussion is as to the advisability of appointing honorary colonels in the militia of Canada, and precedents have been quoted, and statements made to show the loss of dignity that would be caused to the Canadian militia if any such course were pursued. It has been stated that the custom prevails in Great Britain. That has been denied except in the case of three crack regiments, of which three European potentates are honorary colonels. But we find that in every regiment of the British militia, in all branches of the service, there is an honorary colonel; and these honorary colonels are civilians. They are not always noblemen, but in many cases country gentlemen without any military qualifications or connections. So much is this system recognized that in the army list, not only the names of the honorary colonels appear, but in the case of a regiment which has not an honorary colonel, the title is inserted and a blank space is left for the name. That is to say, the office is recognized as being one proper to every regiment of militia. If that is the case in Great Britain—and our militia is modelled very largely on the militia of Great Britain—and if we consider ourselves, as my hon. friend (Mr. Domville) has said, as part of the first line of defence of the British Empire, I do not think our Canadian militia is going to suffer in any way by adopting the same system. Although some hon. gentlemen opposite have ventured to criticise this proposal, I consider it a source of strength to many of our militia regiments to have an honorary colonel, who would take an interest in the regiment, not necessarily financial, who would see that it is encouraged in every possible way, and who would assist in promoting a public spirit in the district to give the regiment that support which we are all agreed our militia regiments are entitled to. I merely wished to rise to correct the impression that this custom does not exist in Great Britain, where it has been thoroughly recognized.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. My hon. friend might have cited the state of Dakota, where there are lots of colonels—I do not know whether they are honorary.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. My hon. friend knows that it is not necessary to have any rank in the United States to get a title. A man graduates into it. I have no doubt that if my hon. friend went to the United States, he with his portly presence, would become a colonel in six months. The only possible danger is that the power of appointing men to this position might be abused; but I do not think the American argument applies for a moment. We have a great many judges in North and South Dakota, and a great many colonels, but they are not men who have any right to the title whatever.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa). I did not rise to discuss questions concerning military hierarchy or military ethics, because, I am free to admit, I know very little about them. The question seems to me not one of military ethics, but of the meaning of plain, ordinary English. The Bill, as I read it, does not contemplate the doing of that thing which has been under discussion for nearly two hours, but it simply purports to give the rank of honorary colonel to officers holding commissions in the militia of Canada. The section cannot mean anything else, and I fail to see why we should have been discussing these two hours, whether civilians should be made honorary colonels.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman has demonstrated that he has not listened to the discussion. There can be no question that the Bill purports to do just exactly what the hon. gentleman has stated and no more. But if he had listened to the discussion, he would have known that in practice, the government have gone a great deal further.

Mr. BELCOURT. I did listen to the discussion, and heard all that has been said, and I still persist in the opinion that hon. gentlemen have gone outside the Bill altogether. The appointment of civilians to the rank of honorary lieutenant-colonel's may be a subject for blame and censure; and if the hon. gentlemen had come forward with a motion blaming the government for making these honorary appointments, I would understand the debate. But we are here discussing a Bill that has nothing at all to do with the matter we have been discussing at such great length.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The government have been making honorary lieutenant-colonels, and the Minister of Militia has been trying, without success, to find authority in this Bill, or somewhere else, for that action. Under this Bill, the government are taking power to make honorary colonels out of those men whom they have made honorary lieutenant-colonels.

Mr. BELCOURT. They must hold commissions in the militia.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But when a man has been appointed an honorary lieutenant-colonel, he holds a commission in the militia.

Mr. BELCOURT. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Then what is the Bill wanted for. There is a regular medley of opinion. We have the acting Minister of the Interior saying it means one thing; we have the hon. member for Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt), saying it means something else; and we have the Minister of Militia trying to find out what it does mean. If it does not do what I have said it was intended to do, then it does not do anything. No one objects to a man, who has served his country in the militia and served it well, being made an honorary colonel, but what we have been

objecting to is that men outside the militia force entirely—men who want to get tin-pot titles, who want the privilege of wearing a tin sword, and taking precedence on certain occasions, before those who have actually done service in the militia—should, through their pull with the government, be able to get the title of honorary lieutenant-colonel, and then, under this Bill, the title of honorary colonel.

Mr. DOMVILLE. It is not in this Bill?

Mr. MONTAGUE. No, but we are discussing, in connection with this Bill, the practice of the government. Take the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies)—a very gallant and a very distinguished gentleman, a gentleman who has done splendid service for his party, who sometimes gets a little bit excited, too excited, I think, to command a regiment, but nevertheless a gentleman to whose promotion to any honorary place in the honour roll of the country we are not inclined to object. For some reason or other, which we have not had explained to us, he was made honorary lieutenant-colonel. He never performed any service in the militia, he does not come on the list that the hon. member for King's (Mr. Domville) spoke about, yet he was made an honorary lieutenant-colonel, and now, under this Bill, he will be made an honorary colonel.

Mr. DOMVILLE. He was a lieutenant-colonel of militia now, without the Bill. Under the Act to-day, he is a lieutenant-colonel in the militia.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Just so, and he can be made an honorary colonel. Take gentlemen absolutely outside the government circle, take gentlemen who have never held any prominent political or militia positions, some of them are now honorary lieutenant-colonels, and may be made honorary colonels—is the distinguished and gallant lieutenant-colonel from Prince Edward Island, going to take second place to these gentlemen in large receptions, is he going to walk behind them, as lieutenant-colonel, while they go in front as colonels? It is absurd, he will have to be made a colonel. If there are any honorary colonels to be made, the list must include the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the minister of the fast steamship line. The hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce is certainly entitled to the title of honorary colonel. And the hon. the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), he surely ought to have the title.

This whole question of the introduction of these honorary titles is not only absurd, but calculated to cause, through political pressure, titles to be given where they were never intended to be given.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is not fair to say that there are any politics in this. Take, for instance, Colonel Curren, of

the city of Halifax, who was a life-long Conservative—

Mr. MONTAGUE. But he was in the militia, and the same thing applies to Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson, of Hamilton.

Mr. DOMVILLE. And Sir John Carling.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I did not know he was a militiaman.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). What ails Sir John Carling?

Mr. CLANCY. I think what ails him is that he has been made a colonel.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I do not know whether this Bill would cover the case, but I am perfectly satisfied—whatever we may think of the wisdom of making the appointments—that the government have the power to do so. All you have to do is to go back and reason the thing up. The sovereign can declare war, and she is the only power that can. The sovereign is the only power that can declare war; and on declaration of war, if Her Majesty sees fit, she can claim the position of generalissimo. So, the authority in this matter lies in the Crown. The government, the Crown, has perfect authority, without any Act of Parliament, to create any position in the army.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Who exercises these prerogatives in Canada?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I take it that the Governor General, being Her Majesty's deputy here, is in the same position as Her Majesty, as far as that is concerned.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) is wrong. He can only exercise such powers as are expressly designated.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I take it the Governor General has the power.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman is wrong about that.

Mr. COCHRANE. What do you want the Act at all for?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). We have the Militia Act; we have separate independent power, so far as that is concerned.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then, the hon. gentleman does not want the Bill at all. He objects to it in the strongest way.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Not at all.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Understand—I object to the use made of this.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the Bill is intended to cover what the minister said it is, to appoint private citizens colonels—

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I rose for the purpose of saying that I trusted that the government would be exceedingly conservative in making such an appointment.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I made the statement, and I make it now, that distinction of that kind should only be given to those who have fought and those who have the training. I stated specifically that I trusted that this government, or any government, would be exceedingly conservative in these appointments, and if my views prevailed, there would be none at all appointed. But, I feel satisfied that, so far as the inherent power is concerned, the power of making these appointments is in the Governor General.

Mr. HAGGART. Some time ago I asked the Minister of Militia under what authority he appointed honorary lieutenant-colonels, and I said that an honorary lieutenant was something I had never heard of before. I understood, and I understand now that, under the Militia Act, a person may be placed on the retired list with an honorary advance in title or promotion.

Mr. DOMVILLE. No.

Mr. HAGGART. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) will read the Act, he will probably not be so ready to interrupt. It says :

Officers holding commissions in the militia, may be placed on the retired list with honorary rank, not exceeding that of lieutenant-colonel, or without honorary rank according to and under regulations approved by the Governor in Council; and Her Majesty may appoint officers from the retired list to commissions in the militia; but no officer from the retired list shall be bound to serve in the militia in a lower grade than that of the rank with which he retired.

I asked the minister by what authority he appointed honorary lieutenant-colonels.

Mr. DAVIN. Honorary colonels.

Mr. HAGGART. No, honorary lieutenant-colonels—that is what he called them. I asked further whether in granting the commissions, the title given was left lieutenant-colonel or colonel. I said it was a new thing to grant the title of honorary lieutenant-colonel to such persons as the Prince of Wales. I said that the evident intention of the minister was to amend the Militia Act so as to give him power which he intended to exercise in the giving of these commissions. But he does not get the power under the Bill which he is introducing. In answer to me the hon. minister said that this was a small matter, a matter of not much importance. He puts me in mind of a conversation I had at one time with several distinguished gentlemen. I think the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright) was at the meeting. The conversation turned on the subject of birthday honours, and one of the

gentleman present, who was an officer, colonel, I believe, in the Bengal Native Infantry—I will give no names, for that would hardly do—described the excitement manifested in military circles in India when the *Gazette* comes out giving the birthday honours. He described a couple of gentlemen going over the *Gazette* and finding colonel this and colonel that knighted, while they asked one another, 'What has that fellow done that he should be knighted?' But, finding that they had been made Knights of St. Michael and St. George, they both chimed in at once, 'It served them right.' While there are exceptions to the rule, that seems to have been followed by the government, I think they have reduced this honorary colonel business to about the same level. When the thing has been made use of to make an honorary colonel of our bottle-nosed friend in the government, I think people will be inclined to say, 'It serves him right.' And then there is my hon. friend the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). I do not know what he has done particularly to have the title foisted on him; but, I have no doubt it served him right. I notice the right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) was very careful about taking his commission. It is dated September of last year, at which time he held the idea which he expressed, I think, in October, in the celebrated interview of the *Globe*, as to sending Canadian soldiers to South Africa. He had the opinion that the troops would not be sent to South Africa, and he evidently thought he would be perfectly safe in taking his commission. I would like to find out from the hon. minister what it is that he wants. Does he want to make honorary colonels? If so, this Bill does not confer on him the power. He had not power under the Militia Act to make honorary lieutenant-colonels of the gentlemen to whom he gave that title unless they were serving in the militia. I am not aware of any civilian ever getting the rank of honorary colonel in any of Her Majesty's regiments. That title is always reserved for some old officer or some foreign potentate. The appointment of honorary colonel in the militia is sometimes made. If a gentleman takes an active interest in the volunteers or the militia of his county, he is, perhaps, made honorary colonel of a militia regiment; but that never applies to the regular service. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden, King's) intends to give the title to the people who are deserving it, I have no objection. For instance, it might be well that it should be given to gentlemen who have filled the position of Governor General of Canada, and who have taken an active interest in the militia of our country. It is quite right to give it to a gentleman like Lord Strathcona, who has taken such an interest in the military force of Canada and the empire as to raise a regiment for service. But, there is no power conferred un-

der this Bill to appoint such gentlemen. If the hon. minister wants that power he should confine it as much as possible to those who have been in the active militia, and to those who are distinguished in the highest degree. It ought to be an honour instead of being made so common that when a party is appointed honorary colonel he will be apt to be pointed out on the street by people who will say 'It serves him right.'

Mr. DAVIN. May I ask the minister if he has pointed out yet under what authority he made these gentlemen honorary lieutenant-colonels, or honorary colonels? Is he of the opinion that he has power under the Act, and if so, would he point out under what clause?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I was about to refer to that point. I have already said that we believed we had the power under the Act to appoint honorary lieutenant-colonels. I call the attention of the committee to the fact that the militia of this country is not only controlled by the Militia Act, and by the rules and regulations which we formulate from time to time, and which we have the authority to do under this Act, but it is also controlled by the Queen's regulations and the Army Act, in so far as we have no special regulations of our own conferring the authority. I take the view that under the Queen's regulations we had authority to do what we have done. But I felt this, that as we had no power under our own Act to confer the substantive rank of colonel except in the two cases prescribed or limited in the Act to which I have referred, that is, the case of the adjutant general, and the case of the quartermaster general, if we were going to confer an honorary rank under the Queen's regulations, or under our own regulations, we should extend our power and take power to appoint substantive colonels in our Militia Act. That is the position which I take, rightly or wrongly. I am not a lawyer, but I may say this—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think the Minister of Militia and Defence is going away from that point. Has he consulted the Justice Department at all on that point?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Did he consult the Justice Department as to whether his Bill was right without this legislation, in the appointments already made, and what was the opinion?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I am not able to lay that opinion on the Table of the House, and I cannot say if that opinion has been formulated in writing; but I know that my deputy has conferred with the Department of Justice

Mr. HAGGART.

on this point, with regard to this Bill. Now, as the question has been asked under what authority this action has been taken, it is under No. 56 of the regulations and orders of the militia of Canada, and I understand—I have not verified this view—but I understand that the general officer commanding practically copied this regulation from the Imperial regulations:

The appointment of one honorary colonel or lieutenant-colonel to each regiment of cavalry, brigade of field artillery, regiment of garrison artillery and battalion of infantry or rifles, will be approved under the following conditions:

(a) The appointment will be purely honorary, and will not confer any right to command.

(b) No expense to the public will be incurred thereby.

(c) The appointment of honorary colonel, or honorary lieutenant-colonel of a regiment or corps will, in future, be reserved for special cases. This distinction will be conferred only upon individuals who become eligible by reason of high standing in the state; by honourable and faithful service to the country of an exceptional nature, or by distinguishment in the field.

(d) Honorary colonels and honorary lieutenant-colonels will be exempt from the operation of paragraph 45, part I., regulations and orders for the militia, 1898.

(e) Official applications for this high distinction are not necessary.

That is the authority under which I have acted.

Mr. DAVIN. In England, who would sign the commission for such honorary colonels as he describes there?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Why, the Queen, I suppose.

Mr. DOMVILLE. The Secretary of State for War.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman, therefore, in order to have the power to do what he has done, would have to place himself precisely in the position that is described in England. Did he do that? Did he have the approval of Her Majesty?

Mr. HAGGART. Before the minister answers that, let me draw his attention to this fact, that if there are such rules and regulations, they are beyond the power that the statute gives him:

Officers holding commissions in the militia may be placed on the retired list with honorary rank not exceeding that of lieutenant-colonel, or without honorary rank, according to and under regulations approved by the Governor in Council. Where do you get authority beyond that clause?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I will give the hon. gentleman the authority. The 82nd clause of the Militia Act says:

The active militia shall be subject to the regulations and orders for the army.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is not going far enough. The hon.

gentleman should give us the Queen's regulations under which this is done. There has been an attempt to adopt, as he says, one of the Queen's regulations for the obvious reason that these regulations do not cover the case of this kind in Canada. I think if he consulted the Department of Justice or any of his colleagues who are learned in the law, they would tell him that one reason for introducing this Bill is to make valid the acts that he has done without authority. It is quite clear that our statute does not cover the ground, and the hon. gentleman seeing that, falls back upon this regulation. Now, this regulation gets no force whatever from the Queen's regulations; there is no regulation there that contemplates an order of that character in Canada by the officer commanding. The officer commanding here makes regulations only by virtue of the powers given him under our Act. In connection with many powers in the Army Act in England, of course, they have to exercise the Queen's authority and powers by the exercise of her prerogative. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) suggested that, perhaps, as a justification for these appointments. But any one who looks at the abstract of the letters patent and the instructions to the Governor General, will see that the delegation of this royal prerogative is limited to comparatively few subjects, but in no case is that prerogative delegated. I do not think myself, speaking from anything I have heard to-day, that the hon. gentleman had any authority to confer those appointments, and therefore, I assume that one of his chief reasons for obtaining the legislation now is to give him power in future.

Mr. HAGGART. The hon. minister quotes the authority. The Act says:

The active militia shall be subject to the Queen's regulations and orders for the army; and every officer and man of the militia shall, from the time of being called out for active service—

And so on:

—be subject to the Army Act passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom.

But, it specially excepts any parts of that inconsistent with this Act, and it is inconsistent with this Act where there is a special clause in the Act which states in what manner officers shall be appointed to honorary rank. It says:

The Army Act passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom and of all other laws applicable to Her Majesty's troops in Canada and not inconsistent with this Act.

Mr. DOMVILLE. The hon. gentleman is utterly mistaken.

Mr. HAGGART. I am giving you the wording of the Act.

Mr. DOMVILLE. There is nothing in this Act that we should get excited over. The

Militia Act of Canada, under the British North America Act, places everything in the hands of the Queen, and the Queen is represented here by the Governor General. It says:

The command in chief of the land and naval militia and of all military and naval forces of and in Canada is vested in the Queen, and shall be exercised and administered by Her Majesty personally or by the Governor General as her representative.

Mr. HAGGART. Hear, hear.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Let us go on:

There shall be a Minister of Militia and Defence who shall be charged with and be responsible for the administration of militia affairs—
Then it goes on to say:

Mr. DAVIN. What is the clause the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) is reading?

Mr. DOMVILLE. Do not interrupt me; you are always interrupting somebody. It does not make any difference to you; you do not understand the question. I am quoting section 4, subsection 3, of the Militia Act:

The Governor General in Council shall, from time to time, make such orders as are necessary respecting the duties to be performed by the Minister of Militia and Defence.

The Governor General has the right to make regulations for the militia. They are the regulations that we have for the militia to-day. These regulations are got up by the department, they are passed by order in council, and they have been sanctioned by the Governor General. They become the law because he has the power to sanction them. The law itself is incomplete in every respect. If you undertook to run the militia of Canada under the Militia Act without the regulations and orders, you could not do it. These are clearly the regulations and must be. I do not think that anybody would controvert the fact that they are the law of the land, because, without them you cannot enlist a man, or pay a man, or form a camp, or do anything else. Now, the General Officer Commanding, I do not know who he was—the last one has got out of the country—brought these before council in order and the Governor in Council had a right to make them.

Mr. HAGGART. Well, then what does the hon. minister want the Bill for?

Mr. DOMVILLE. The Bill is not dealing with private individuals at all.

Mr. HAGGART. To prevent mistakes, I suppose.

Mr. COCHRANE. Would the hon. gentleman read the clause?

Mr. DOMVILLE. No, because you would not understand it either.

Mr. COCHRANE. I do not think you would either.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I do not think you would know what it meant.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) should not address an hon. member.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I am replying to the hon. member (Mr. Cochrane).

Mr. MONTAGUE. You are ?

Mr. DOMVILLE. Yes, I have a right to reply.

Mr. COCHRANE. I feel very much humiliated at asking the hon. gentleman for information, because I see that he cannot give it.

Mr. DOMVILLE. I am glad you are humiliated sometimes ; it is not very often you are humiliated. It is all right ; he is a pleasant gentleman. I think a great deal of the hon. gentleman. The Bill, as I read it, does not give the government power to create colonels of private individuals. I do not see it.

Mr. COCHRANE. Put on another pair of glasses.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not know what else it is for.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Has my hon. friend (Mr. Montague) a different Bill from that which I have ? The Bill says :

45. Officers holding commissions as lieutenant-colonel in the militia may be transferred to the retired list with honorary rank not exceeding that of colonel, and officers now on the retired list holding commissions as lieutenant-colonel may be promoted to the rank of colonel, under regulations approved by the Governor in Council.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It has been changed.

Mr. DOMVILLE. Here it is :

Officers holding commissions in the militia may be placed on the retired list with honorary rank not exceeding that of colonel, or without honorary rank according to and under regulations approved by the Governor in Council.

2. Officers from the retired list may be re-appointed to the active list or such other list as is from time to time authorized; but no officer so re-appointed shall be compelled to serve in a lower rank than that with which he retired.

That has nothing to do with people outside who are not in the militia.

Mr. HAGGART. Let us get through before six o'clock.

Mr. DOMVILLE. There is no hurry. You have been talking all session, and I want to take part in this myself. Well, if you want to pass the Bill, I will give way.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman—

Mr. DOMVILLE. No, no ; I have not taken my seat. I am going on. I intended to have said nothing more except to point out that I believe in a great deal that has

Mr. COCHRANE.

been said by the opposition as to selection. I am not always pleased with some of the selections that are made. Six o'clock.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, I think, Sir, that we need a change of the Militia Act when such things as we have listened to can be lieutenant-colonels. I still hold that the clauses from 42 to 48, clearly show that the hon. Minister of Militia and the government have not the power to make the appointments they made.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I give the hon. minister notice that I am going to move the six months' hoist when we reach the third reading of the Bill.

Mr. KAULBACH. I will move that the Bill be recommitted when it comes to the third reading.

Bill reported.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 157) to incorporate the St. Lawrence and Terminal Steamship Company.—(Mr. McIsaac.)

Bill (No. 170) to amend the Act respecting the Merchants Bank of Halifax, and to change its name to the Royal Bank of Canada.—(Mr. Russell.)

CANADA NATIONAL RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT COMPANY.

Mr. CAMPBELL moved that the House resolve itself in committee on Bill (No. 115) to incorporate the Canada National Railway and Transport Company.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I desire to draw attention to the fact that a clerical error has taken place in the printing of the Votes and Proceedings. Yesterday afternoon I gave notice of an amendment which I proposed to move when the House went into committee on this Bill. Through some oversight or clerical error the amendment has not been printed in the Votes and Proceedings.

Mr. SPEAKER. The clerk informs me that it is no fault of the hon. member (Mr. Clarke) so that the House can either proceed with Mr. Campbell's consent or the Bill can lie over.

Mr. CAMPBELL. We have no notice of that motion.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman gave notice.

Mr. CAMPBELL. It is not our fault that the members of the House have not notice of it, and therefore we should not suffer.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In that case the Bill will have to stand.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Not at all.

Mr. CLARKE. It will not be seriously contended by any hon. gentleman I hope, that after I have complied with the rules of the House, I should be debarred from moving the amendment because of a clerical error.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself in committee on Bill.

(In Committee.)

Mr. CLARKE. I beg to move that the following clause be added to the Bill.

Her Majesty may, at any time, with the consent of parliament, on giving to the company one month's notice in writing, take over the undertaking, property, rights and franchises of the company.

The notice may be given by the Minister of Railways and Canals, and upon the expiration of the period of notification the said undertaking, property, rights and franchises shall vest absolutely in Her Majesty.

Compensation to the company shall be fixed by the Exchequer Court upon information filed by the Attorney General of Canada, and shall be based upon the reasonable value of the undertaking, property and rights of the company at the time of the giving of the notice, but shall not include prospective values or prospective profits.

The court shall, from its valuation, deduct all subsidies or bonuses paid to the company under the authority of the parliament of Canada, and judgment for the balance of such valuation shall be entered against Her Majesty.

In so far as they are not inconsistent herewith, sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 and 32 of the Expropriation Act, chapter 13 of the statutes of 1889, and sections 29 and 30 thereof as amended by an Act of the present session, shall apply to any action taken under this section.

The compensation adjudged shall stand in the stead of the said undertaking, property, rights and franchises; and any claim to or incumbrance upon such undertaking, property, rights and franchises shall, in so far as Her Majesty is concerned, be converted into a claim to such compensation money or a proportionate amount thereof, and shall be void as against Her Majesty, and as against the undertaking, property, rights and franchises vested in Her Majesty under the provisions of this section.

I may say that when this Bill was being considered by the Committee on Railways and Canals, it was pointed out that another set of incorporators were applying for a privilege similar to that which is being asked for under this Bill. These gentlemen were somewhat later in applying for incorporation than the gentlemen who are asking for this Bill, and an effort was made by the committee to get the interests to unite and to have a Bill passed with the approbation of both parties. The gentlemen who are seeking incorporation under the Bill now being considered, refused to make any concessions that would be satisfactory to the other parties. I may say in this connection that the other parties are gentlemen who have been

largely identified with the transportation question, and who have been making efforts for the past year or two, to obtain a satisfactory solution of that question; and they have memorialized the government of Canada on more than one occasion, drawing attention to the possibility and the utility of adopting the Toronto and Collingwood route as one of the transportation routes of the country. They sent a deputation last year to wait upon the right hon. Prime Minister; they laid the case before him; and they reported that he was very favourably impressed with it, and promised to bring the matter before his colleagues. They have also interviewed the Minister of Public Works, and that gentleman has spoken time and again in the most approving manner of the scheme. It is plain to those who are in a position to judge, that if a properly constructed railway were built between Collingwood and Toronto, when the work of deepening the harbours at both of those places is completed, a very large portion of the traffic that now finds its way by the upper lakes to Buffalo, would come by Collingwood and Toronto, and thence through the St. Lawrence canals to Montreal and Quebec. The gentlemen who have been seeking incorporation under the other Bill, have given a great deal of time and attention to the project, and have spent considerable money in making surveys and other preparations; but their notices were not given in time, and their Bill did not reach the House as soon as this Bill. These gentlemen have been prompted to ask for incorporation for the construction of this railway, because they feared that the recommendations they made to the government had not impressed the government as being sufficiently important to justify the government in building this road themselves. They have striven to present, in the most forcible way they could, the advantages that would accrue to the country, especially to the city of Toronto and the province of Ontario, from the construction and operation of this railway by the government; but failing in impressing the government with the necessity of building the road, as a government work, they have made application for this Act of incorporation; and failing to make a reasonable arrangement with the gentlemen who are named as the promoters of the Bill under consideration, they have agreed to a clause being inserted in their Bill when it reaches the committee stage, that the government shall be permitted to take over the road if the necessities of the country demand that that shall be done. I may say that before the Bill now under consideration passed the committee, the committee had the same assurance from the gentleman who is the sponsor for this Bill, the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell). He agreed also to accept the proposition that under certain conditions the government of Canada might take over and operate the road, and he went

so far as to prepare a clause with that object, which was presented for consideration to the committee yesterday morning. The committee, however, in its wisdom, decided to report the Bill without that clause. Several draft clauses were submitted to the committee by different members; and at the request of the committee, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), agreed to draft a clause embodying the views held by those who thought provision should be made for government operation of this road. Neither clause, however, was entertained by the committee yesterday, and the committee decided to report the Bill without either of them. I have, therefore, given notice of the clause which I propose to have added as clause 13. It differs slightly from the clause prepared by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, because it provides that the consent of parliament shall first be obtained before the government can take over the road. It is claimed that this is an exceptional condition to impose upon gentlemen seeking incorporation—that a clause similar to this does not appear in any other railway Bill which has passed this House for many years. Admitting that to be the fact, I think it will be agreed by those who have given the question of transportation, by this route, any earnest consideration, that this is an exceptional Bill; that the territory between Toronto and Collingwood, some seventy miles, is the natural portage between the upper lakes and Lake Ontario, that the facilities for building and properly equipping a road between those two points are limited; and that if a road is constructed and aided by the government of Canada, and the government of the province of Ontario, that road should have embodied in its charter the special condition embodied in the clause which I have moved. I do not desire to take up the time of the committee at any great length. I need not point out the advantages which, it is claimed by the business men of the city of Toronto and the province of Ontario, will accrue to this province, and to the people of the Dominion generally, by the adoption of this route. It is known to most hon. members that it is some 300 miles shorter than the all-water route by the Welland Canal, therefore, a saving of 600 miles would be effected on the round trip; and it is held that the economic advantages in the matter of transportation are so great, that this Collingwood-Toronto line ought to be built and operated as a government work; and in the event of the government failing to undertake it, if a franchise is given to a private corporation to do so, that franchise ought to be surrounded with the most stringent conditions. Objection has been taken, in the Railway Committee, to this clause, that it would have the effect of preventing the flotation of bonds and the making of the necessary financial arrangements. I do not know whether that is the case or not; but the amend-

ment which I have suggested has been submitted to the solicitor who is acting for the members of the Board of Trade of the city of Toronto, who are asking for a Bill similar to this, and he has authorized me to say that his clients are prepared to accept a clause similar to this one, or to the one which was drafted and given notice of by the hon. member for Kent, if the Bill which they have before parliament receives our approval. I have no desire to take up the time of the committee or attempt in any way to prevent a decision being reached upon the merits of this clause. But, I emphasize the fact that the situation, so far as this road is concerned, is unique; that those who are asking for this charter are not asking for a charter under ordinary circumstances or conditions, but for a charter to establish a link between the great waterways from Lake Superior to the St. Lawrence, and under these circumstances it is the duty of parliament to place every safeguard around this charter, so that if it should be found that the road is not being operated in the public interest by the gentlemen who are asking for the privileges contained in this Bill, it may be taken over and operated by the public in the public interest. I may say that the feeling in the west, and especially in the city of Toronto, has been for many years very strongly in favour of the construction either of a canal or of a railway as a part of the great national route from the west to the seaboard, and charters have been given again and again for the construction either of a canal or a railway. But the depth of water at Toronto as well as at Collingwood, has rendered it impossible for the gentlemen who have those charters to construct a road under those conditions. But, now that the government have undertaken to deepen Collingwood harbour and Toronto harbour, this link becomes of very great importance; and it is for that reason I venture to submit we are justified in asking parliament to hedge around this franchise with more stringent provisions and restrictions than are usually found in a Bill of this kind. In view of the fact that the Bill was passed by the committee very largely upon the assurance that this clause, or a similar one, authorizing the government to take over the road, would be inserted, I think I have good ground for asking that this committee shall concur in the amendment I have proposed, and that this clause shall be added to the Bill.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent). Those members of the House who have been attending the meetings of the Railway Committee and have followed the discussions that there took place on this Bill, know very well the thorough discussion it received in this committee. I venture to say that there has not been a Bill introduced in this House in the last twenty years that has been more

bitterly opposed than the one now before the House. No less than five whole days were taken up in its discussion, and it is most singular that the obstruction—if I may use that word—was headed and led by the members from the great city of Toronto. It is singular that the members from that city—a city that, above all cities in this country, demands the construction of this railway and will benefit by it—it is singular that after five long days have been spent in thoroughly discussing this question, and in which this very resolution was voted down, they should again attempt to delay the passage of the Bill.

Mr. DAVIN. Do I understand the hon. gentleman to say that this clause was voted down to the Railway Committee.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Certainly it was.

Mr. CLARKE. No.

Mr. CAMPBELL. It was voted down when the committee voted that the Bill should be reported without amendment. I am surprised that the members from the great city of Toronto, should offer the most bitter opposition to this measure. One member from that city declared that the Bill was not worth the paper on which it was written. Another member from that city led the opposition to the Bill in the committee, and now leads the opposition to the Bill in the House. Let me say that the gentlemen who are asking for this charter are men of undoubted standing and wealth in this country and the United States. So far as their financial ability is concerned, they are quite able to go on with the work, and are of as good standing as the gentlemen who are asking for the other Bill. After the very thorough discussion this Bill has received in the Railway Committee, I want to see it passed and do not intend to delay the House any longer, and I certainly hope that this committee will not further delay the passage of this Bill and that to-night we will give it its third reading.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I do not think that the hon. gentleman was strictly accurate in saying that this clause was voted down in the committee. The amendment was moved in the committee, but it did not come to a vote. The motion of the hon. member for Hamilton was that the Bill be reported without amendment.

Mr. WOOD. Is not that tantamount to killing the amendment?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I suppose in a sense that was really a vote against this clause, but the clause itself was not put to the vote. I think that there is a very great deal in the position taken by my hon. friend from West Toronto, and this much is certain. The hon. member for Kent assumes a spirit of bitterness towards those who are

opposing the Bill, that is not conducive to getting it through any more quickly than he would under ordinary circumstances. It is quite true that a very bitter fight has been made on the Bill. But why? It has not been made out of any hostility to the hon. gentleman or to those connected with it. So far as I am concerned, I do not doubt the ability of the gentlemen associated with the hon. member for Kent to go on and construct the road, but the hon. gentleman knows that very strong opposition has come from the city of Toronto to it. He knows that the opposition made by the two members for West Toronto and the other members for Toronto has not been a factious opposition. He knows that they were simply voicing the sentiment of a very great part of the largest, strongest and best capitalists in the city.

Mr. WOOD. Not at all.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not think that my hon. friend can dispute that statement. We have had practically the opinion of the Board of Trade of Toronto. The hon. gentleman, it is true, has a resolution of the Board of Trade of Toronto.

Mr. CLARKE. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. At least of the City Council of Toronto, but that resolution does not say a word about the hon. gentleman's Bill. What it does do is to favour some Bill which will do what either of these two measures now before parliament contemplate. It favours the principle of the construction of a road as part of a great national highway from the prairies of the west down to the St. Lawrence River, but makes no special reference to the hon. gentleman's Bill any more than to the Bill of the hon. member for Kingston, so that to say that it is a resolution in favour of the Bill of my hon. friend from Kent is far very wide of the mark indeed. Now, what is the difference? What is the difference? The only difference between the two contending factions is this—the gentlemen represented at the committee by Mr. Watson and the gentlemen for whose side the member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) and his colleagues had been contending, contend that when that great link in the national highway is to be constructed, it shall be constructed with the greatest possible safeguard to the public interest; in other words, that the public interest shall be served rather than any private interest. Now, I do not attach blame to hon. gentlemen in this House or out of it who desire to go on and develop private enterprises, who take a certain amount of risk—who take, sometimes, very grave risk—and who ask that some protection shall be given in regard to their expenditure if their work is to be afterwards taken over by the government, but the position is this—we have the gentlemen supporting

the Bill of the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) who say to parliament practically, these words: Put into the Bill of the hon. member for Kingston under which we seek to get an entity any clause you like—

Mr. WOOD. Too liberal altogether.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My hon. friend (Mr. Wood) must not judge of the motives of other people, but must take the offer as it is made. They say: Put into this Bill any clause you like that will protect the public interest, that will have the effect of enabling the government at any time to take this railway over as part of the government system of transportation, and we will accept the Bill. The hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), when that suggestion was made to those promoting the other Bill, said: I will do the same thing. But when we came to vote on the question, the hon. member for Kent voted against his own resolution and refused to accept the very amendment which he himself proposes;—because, if we in the committee voted down the amendment that has been moved by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) we also voted down the amendment which was moved by the hon. member for Kent, and consequently the hon. member for Kent voted against the very amendment which he said he was willing to accept and which he proposed to have put in the Bill as an additional safeguard to the public interest. For my part, I am agreed pretty well with many of the suggestions that are made as to a certain amount of uselessness attaching to certain of these amendments; I do not know that they can be worked out to serve the purpose intended by those who move them. But this much is certain—they cannot possibly do any harm to the public, and it is possible they may serve the public interest in a very important respect at a very critical moment in the future. And, if such is the case, it is my opinion that it is the duty of parliament, especially after the offer of the hon. member for Kent, to put one of these amendments in, and more especially after his promise to put one of them in, on which, it is asserted—I was not present at the meeting of the committee and cannot state it as a fact, but it is asserted—a number of members in the committee voted to adopt the general principle of the Bill.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). One point I wish to call attention to, and that is that no matter what may be the willingness of the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) to accept any proposed amendment, the representatives of the people generally have something to say as to whether that should be accepted by the committee or not.

Believing, as I do, that this amendment is wrong in principle I shall not support it. I desire to call the attention of the com-

Mr. MONTAGUE.

mittee to another point, which may be urged at greater length if this passes the committee and the matter comes before the House—that is, that the resolution is out of order, because it practically interferes with the privilege of the Governor General to recommend all legislation that directly or indirectly controls the expenditure of public money. I shall not elaborate the point; I rise to give notice that it may be raised at a later stage.

Mr. DAVIN. What part of the resolution is the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) referring to?

Mr. FLINT. The whole of it. That resolution commits the parliament of Canada irrevocably to the purchase of that road at any time that the government sees fit to make that purchase; and, without further appeal to parliament, it gives the government the credit of parliament for the appropriation of as much money as may be necessary to purchase the road. I shall call attention to the decisions and authorities upon the point which strongly support the view that neither directly or indirectly can private members commit the credit of the Crown without the consent of the Governor in Council.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Having reference first to the remarks of the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint), I must say that I cannot agree with the view that he has suggested as to the constitutional or legal effect of the words that are contained in the amendment. I do not think that the original amendment as it was drawn by me at the request of the members of the committee, without the words which have been inserted by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clarke) who moves it, would have the effect which my hon. friend (Mr. Flint) fears. I think that the most that could be said with regard to the legal or constitutional effect of the clause is that it operates as a binding obligation upon the company which accepts the charter, but it in no sense involves the conferring of power upon the government of the day at any future time to exercise the authority to purchase. The only effect would be to impose upon the company that takes this charter the conditions contained in the clause.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It compels them to accept.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It closes the mouth of the company from saying that the conditions which are embodied in that clause are not operative against them in the event of parliament at a future time authorizing the government to take the expropriation steps which are referred to in it. So, I do not believe in the reality of the difficulty that has been mentioned by my hon. friend

from Yarmouth. But I must say, however, that having been present at several meetings of the committee during which this Bill was discussed, I have felt, and I still feel, that it has evoked an amount of discussion altogether out of proportion to the importance of the Bill itself. I do not think—of course it is a matter of judgment in which others may differ from me—that the time will ever come when it will be the opinion of the government or the parliament of this country that a railroad constructed across from Collingwood to Toronto will be able to secure traffic from the west which cannot be secured and cannot be carried by the natural water route which we have under existing conditions. I do not believe that that time will ever come, and I pointed out to the committee during the time these Bills have been discussed, the reasons why I felt that that time would not arrive. The hon. gentlemen who are promoting this Bill, and those who are promoting another Bill that I imagine will be under the discussion of parliament before the close of the session, seem to be impressed with the idea that there will be a failure of our canal system, that the route by water from Fort William, Duluth, Chicago, and those points, will fail; and that it would be to the advantage of the country that we should expend, either through a corporate body or as a government work, an enormous amount of money to construct these forty miles of railway across that peninsula, and that we will thereby secure a traffic which will otherwise find its outlet through foreign ports. I cannot think that this result will ever happen. If you will look for a moment at the question of cost alone you will see that, judging from all past experience, it is only 375 additional miles of water route to be traversed.

Mr. CLARKE. The shortened distance is more than 300 miles each way.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I am speaking of the actual distance between the points where you would defect in order to take Collingwood, and where you would again reach the common point at Toronto. The difference in distance is 375 miles. I grant it is 375 miles shorter by the Collingwood and Toronto route than it would be by the waterway and by the Welland. But, hon. gentlemen on all sides admit that it would cost seven millions of money to build the railway in question, and to equip the harbour in order that this transfer may take place. Now, you would have to be able to carry grain as cheap or cheaper by that route than you would by the existing water route in order to make it of equal advantage with the water route, and I will show you why I arrive at the conclusion that this railway route cannot be cheaper or as cheap. In the first place, it is going to cost half a

cent per bushel at the very least to make the necessary transfers, and it is going to cost half a cent per bushel upon 35,000,000 bushels in order to pay interest at 5 per cent upon the cost which will be entailed by the construction of that railway. You have, therefore, got one cent a bushel upon 35,000,000 bushels, and that is a greater quantity than that railway will ever carry.

Mr. CLANCY. Does the hon. gentleman expect that it will stand at 35,000,000 in the future?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think this railway would not be capable of carrying 35,000,000 bushels, I am well satisfied it would not. That is my judgment as to the outside quantity; and if I am not correct, it will cost 1 cent a bushel more at least to transfer and carry that grain and to pay a moderate rate of interest upon the original cost of construction as compared with the water route. So, I cannot see for myself any reason why there should be such a strong desire in certain quarters, either to see that road constructed, or to see either of these Bills passed and the charters granted.

But, beyond that, it appears to me, coming down to this motion before the committee, that there are good reasons why the amendment as it stands ought not to be approved by parliament. I was present, as I have said, during many meetings of the committee when this subject was discussed, and during the discussion particularly, I think, in the fourth session of the committee, motions were made by two different gentlemen of the committee desiring to add a clause to the Bill imposing upon this company the obligation to accept expropriation by the government, and, at the same time, and as part of the expropriation principle, to deduct from the value of the road, as found by the tribunal appointed for the purpose, the amount which the Dominion government might give by way of subsidy in aid of the undertaking. Two different amendments were moved, and neither of them appeared to me to express in proper form the ideas which those who moved this motion desired to see embodied in the Bill. I pointed out what I thought were objections to them, and I was requested by members of the committee to draft clauses embodying the ideas which were in the minds of the gentlemen who moved those amendments. I consented to do so, but I did not thereby, as I said at the time, commit myself in favour of the principle, but was merely preparing amendments at the request of these gentlemen, if they desired to move them. An amendment was drafted by me, and among the clauses of the amendment was one which provides that out of the value, as it should be ascertained by the Exchequer Court, is to be deducted the amount, if any, which the parlia-

ment of Canada may have given by way of subsidy in aid of the undertaking. I pointed out to the committee in reading the resolution that I had framed, that I felt it would have a very serious effect in respect of financing the undertaking. I thought it would prejudice it very much, and I did not favour the idea myself. Therefore, I was not, and am not prepared to-night to vote for that clause. There would be no objection, I think, to incorporating the rest of the amendment as moved by the hon. gentleman. I do not think it would do any harm to do so. If the views I have expressed should prove ultimately to be erroneous, and it should turn out there were good reasons to expect this undertaking would prove useful and profitable, then it might be well that there should be conditions attached to the granting of the charter now, so that if the government in future desired at any time to expropriate the property they could do so upon conditions which would not ordinarily apply in expropriation proceedings. I do not think it would be wise legislation for us to include clauses which provide for the deduction of the value of the amount which the government might give in bonuses. The effect might be to reduce the amount which would be going to the bondholders, perhaps even below the amount which the bondholders might be entitled to. It may be said that is a risk the company would have to take, and so they would, but would the charter be of any value if what I have pointed out as likely to occur should occur, and if that should be anticipated by the men who are likely to undertake the enterprise? You will see there is good reason why those who are anxious themselves to see this work go on, who have faith in its prospects, should hesitate before accepting a charter or before asking any other company to accept a charter which contained a clause of this description.

I will add just one word. It has been pointed out that the hon. member for Kent, Ont., (Mr. Campbell) who is promoting this Bill, promised, when the matter was under consideration of the committee, that he would accept a clause of this character. I think he did say so; but I think it is only fair to the hon. gentleman to recognize that, not being versed in the law himself, and not knowing what the effect of any such assurance might be, he could not fairly be expected to stand to any such statement, particularly when he afterwards informed the committee that he could not do so. I think he put himself in a very fair position before the committee, and believing, at all events, that that portion of the amendment is likely to prejudice the Bill, I, as a member of this committee, could not vote in favour of the amendment.

Mr. CLARKE. Mr. Chairman, I would be very sorry to see the principle embodied in the amendment which I have presented.

Mr. BLAIR.

defeated here to-night. After listening to what the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) has said, with the permission of the committee, I would be prepared to strike out the subsection dealing with bonuses that may be given by the Dominion parliament or by the legislature of the province of Ontario. It is due to myself and to the committee to state that after I took my seat I received a message from Mr. Watson's firm. I wrote to Mr. Watson yesterday telling him the action the committee had taken, and Mr. Watson advised me by telegraph, or his firm did, that, of course, if the committee will not impose on the gentlemen who are seeking incorporation, the same provisions which are contained in the amendment submitted by me, they would expect to be relieved from similar conditions when their Bill comes before the committee. I am perfectly satisfied that the gentlemen who are anxious to have this road constructed would be prepared to accept the amendment with the clause which the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has taken exception to stricken out. I desire to offer the most emphatic protest against the statement which has been made here to-night and made two or three times previously without any cause, by the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), as to our offering opposition and obstruction to this Bill. There has been nothing further from our views or desires. The hon. gentleman has never taken any interest, so far as the public are aware, in the matter of securing the construction of a short line between the Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario until within the past few months, and it does not become him, or any other gentleman to say that the members from the city of Toronto are obstructing this Bill, when, as a matter of fact, they are endeavouring to present the views and sustain the hands of the leading merchants and business men of Toronto who have been struggling for two or three years to bring before the attention of the public the importance of the Georgian Bay route, and the necessity for having a short line constructed to join the city of Toronto with the town of Collingwood. I just want to say two or three words more as to the views which the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), entertained and expressed in respect to this matter. I find in a speech delivered by the hon. member for Pontiac (Mr. Poupore) in the House in 1899, that he quoted from an address delivered by the hon. Minister of Public Works at the Monument National in Montreal in the previous year, in which the hon. minister was dealing with the best way of solving this transportation problem. The hon. gentleman is reported to have said then that:

Negotiations were going on between the government and the Grand Trunk for a route between Collingwood and Toronto, so as to bring the upper lakes in direct communication over the Grand Trunk Railway with the Intercolonial

Railway and the maritime seaboard. The Minister of Public Works says that he would recommend the future deepening of the Toronto and Collingwood harbours if the Grand Trunk, instead of carrying its trade to Portland, would take it to Montreal and deliver it to the ocean steamers in the summer.

The hon. Minister of Public Works two years ago was impressed with the importance of shortening the route from the west to the seaboard and he evidently placed some value on the Toronto-Collingwood route as one desirable to be constructed. I find also in the same speech delivered by the hon. member for Pontiac, in 1899, that he quoted a letter which the hon. Minister of Public Works had written to the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool in which these words were used :

The Toronto Board of Trade and a great many far-seeing public men believe that the construction by the government of a railway connecting Collingwood with Toronto would shorten the distance between the great lakes and the St. Lawrence route, and thereby develop a very large traffic.

I wish to place these views, held by the hon. Minister of Public Works two years ago, in respect to the importance of the Toronto-Collingwood route, before the committee, that it may realize that the charter which is being asked for by the hon. member for Kent is not an ordinary railway charter, but is a charter to construct a railway over the neck of land which is the missing link at the present time in what we believe to be the best and most direct, and which will be the cheapest route and means of communication from the North-west to the seaboard. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals says that it would be impossible to compete with the all-water route when the deepened canals are opened for traffic. But the fact remains that during the past two or three years a large volume of grain has been hauled hundreds of miles through Ontario from the Georgian Bay to Montreal in competition with the Welland and other canals. I am satisfied that if the committee were seized of all the facts in connection with the advantages which would be obtained by the construction of this route, they would see to it that the reasonable safeguard which we are prepared to accept is placed in this Bill. I would be prepared to strike out the clause to which the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has taken exception respecting the return of bonuses that have been paid by the Ontario and Dominion governments to assist in the construction of the road.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment of the hon. member for Toronto (Mr. Clarke).

Mr. CLARKE. If the committee will permit me to strike out clause 4, the one to which the minister has taken exception, and vote on the other clauses, I will be prepared to strike out that clause.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It must be with the unanimous consent of the committee.

Amendment (Mr. Clarke) negatived.

Mr. DAVIN. Before you report the Bill I would say that I consider that a very unreasonable spirit has been manifested by the gentlemen who are promoting this Bill, and especially by the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell). The hon. member for Kent intimated in the committee that he would put into the Bill a clause that would enable the government at any future time, should it desire to do so, to lay hold of the work.

Mr. WOOD. The committee voted it down.

Mr. DAVIN. On that condition—many members—and if there was only one member it is enough—many members supported it. The hon. gentleman from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) thinks he is making a point when he says that the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), could not bind the committee or bind this House. I grant that the committee as a whole was free to say it would have nothing to do with such a clause. But there was one member of the committee who was not free to take that course, and that was the gentleman who had declared that if the committee would support his Bill, when the time came, he would be ready to adopt such a clause.

Mr. WOOD. He never accepted the clause which was presented.

Mr. DAVIN. Now, Sir, one of the views that was presented to the committee and that I would like to present to the Committee of the Whole House is, that here is a national undertaking, and a minister of the Crown (Mr. Blair) was one of the members of that committee who declared that because it was a great national undertaking that, therefore, the nation should have the safeguard of such a clause as this. For my part, I consider that it amounts to almost a breach of faith on the part of the member for Kent, not to put in the clause that he agreed to.

Bill reported.

SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 166) to incorporate the British America Pulp and Paper Company.—(Mr. Landerkin.)

Bill (No. 171) respecting the Central Vermont Railway Company.—(Mr. Gibson.)

THE BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

The House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 163) to amend the Bank Act.

(In the Committee.)

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). This Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

as the House will remember. We had a very large meeting, and it was carefully considered and gone over, and I think I am safe in stating that the Bill in its present state is likely to meet with the general approval of the committee. An hon. gentleman opposite desired to move one particular amendment, and I assured him that the third reading of the Bill would be postponed to enable him to do so, if on deliberation he wished to move the amendment.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Picou). Was it suggested in the committee that where a clause was amended, the whole clause should be struck out and re-enacted; a course which is very wisely followed in some of the government Bills. If this be done, instead of having to turn up the old Act and the new one, you have in the amended Act, the law, as it is.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is no doubt that is the better form, and the point was raised in committee, and in most cases that very excellent rule has been adopted. The amendments in some cases were so slight that it was not thought necessary to do so.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I raised that point, and I still think that whether the amendment is slight or not, we should re-enact the full section in an important Bill of this kind, so that any person looking at the Act will know exactly what the law is without having to turn up the statute. However, the changes in this case are very slight.

On section 10,

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. A change was made in this clause. The clause as it stands now provides that where a bank has suspended, it shall not be at liberty to issue notes during its period of suspension. The point was taken that a bank might resume business nominally, proceed to issue its notes, and suspend again, and thus defeat the purposes of the clause. To prevent that possible case, we have inserted the following amendment:

If, after any such suspension, the bank shall resume business without the consent in writing of the curator hereinafter provided for, it shall not issue or re-issue any of such notes until authorized by the Treasury Board so to do.

On section 15,

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Is that the same as before, or has it been recast?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. A change has been made to enable the bank to take security for liability as well as for money actually paid.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That is a very important section of the Act, and is constantly referred to in business and in the courts, and I should have

Mr. FIELDING.

thought that that was one which might well have been drafted in the way suggested, so as to make it complete.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I think the hon. gentleman will find that section 15 really explains itself. I think the intention is apparent on the surface.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. If the hon. gentleman knew how often these apparently simple matters are discussed over and over again in connection with mercantile transactions, he would appreciate the difficulty that suggests itself to my mind.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If the point is of real importance, I shall have the clause recast; but otherwise I think it would be a pity to delay the Bill.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. My difficulty is not in understanding the action; but it is a nuisance in everyday life, to have to refer to these different Acts.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Of course, unless one re-enacts the whole measure, it would be necessary to read both Acts at any time to some extent; but I thought we had minimized the difficulty in this Act. At another session we may consolidate the several Acts.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Where changes in the law are made, I think the whole section should be re-enacted, for two reasons: First, you are less liable to make mistakes, and, secondly, it is much easier for reference. All the late books on drafting say that the section should be re-enacted. I think it would be an excellent idea to have all the banking Acts consolidated into one Act.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister if his department has received any complaints from merchants with respect to defaced coin, a large amount of which is circulated and has become a great nuisance. Either it should be called in or something done to remedy the evil.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not think we have any complaints recently on the subject. It is a thing that will always happen to some extent where you have a metallic currency.

Mr. INGRAM. In the city I represent, we have a large number of defaced coins which are becoming a public nuisance. Some people are willing to take them and others refuse them, and in many cases the banks do not like to refuse them. It is quite a common thing to receive a coin of which one-fourth has been taken off by some parties to be used for their profit. Something ought to be done to prevent this.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I shall be glad to look into the matter. If the

thing becomes a serious evil, the people have the remedy in their own hands, and that is to refuse to take it. I shall inquire if there is any thing in the situation which calls for action by the department.

Bill reported.

THE COPYRIGHT ACT.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved second reading of Bill (No. 167), to amend the Copyright Act. He said: Perhaps before the motion passes, it would not be out of place if I should make a short statement as to what led up to the introduction of this measure. The copyright question is a very broad and complicated one, and I do not wish to raise the numerous points which might easily be developed. But this Bill aims at just one particular point in connection with the copyright law. Its object is to enable the publisher holding a copyright in Canada, and who has made a contract with the writer of a book, to be protected from the importation of the same book printed in other countries, including the other parts of the British Empire. At present an author who obtains a copyright in the United Kingdom has the right, under our law as well as under the Imperial Copyright Act, to have the book printed in the United Kingdom and copyrighted there, imported into Canada. It has become the practice of late years for authors to make a special arrangement with the publishers in Canada for the Canadian market. This is due to the increasing importance of the Canadian market for literary work, and to the enterprise of the Canadian publishers, who have shown themselves especially of late years, increasingly well able to issue editions of the works in Canada in very good style, on good paper, well printed and well bound, and in every way suitable to the demands of the public. At present in the United Kingdom, a work published in Canada, under Canadian copyright, cannot be imported into the United Kingdom when an Imperial copyright for the same work exists there. It, therefore, seems only fair that the same protection should be given our Canadian publishers under their contracts with writers as is given the Imperial publishers in the United Kingdom, and this Act is intended to give that protection to our publishers here and the authors who have made contracts with them. Demand for this has arisen from both sides of the business thus outlined. The Authors' Society both of Great Britain and of Canada, have asked for this amendment. The publishers of Canada have asked for this amendment. And, in addition to this, we have from the Toronto Board of Trade, the Manufacturers' Associations and the Printers' Association of Toronto, resolutions endorsing this amendment to our copyright law. It was only the other evening

that the Royal Society of Canada, representing the writers and literary people of the country, passed a resolution in favour of this amendment, which they had before them for discussion, declaring that it was the interests of both parties to the agreement and in the interests of the United Kingdom and Canada. I do not wish to dwell upon disputed questions of our constitutional right to pass legislation of this kind. I think that there is no single public man in Canada who is prepared for a moment to question or doubt our constitutional right to legislate upon copyright questions. I make this motion to amend our copyright law with the full intention of asserting the right of parliament to pass this legislation, a right inherent in us under the British North America Act; and there is nothing in this Bill, and there is no intention in proposing this Bill, to derogate from that contention of our constitutional right, or in any way to minimize that right. And, in any future discussion which may arise as upon that phase of the question, I do not think that the passage of this Act can be cited as lessening our constitutional rights in copyright legislation. I do not wish to take up the time of the House. I would only say that I have under my hand a number of letters and copies of resolutions forwarded by the different organizations I have mentioned, and correspondence with the authors in England, and the Authors' Society here. I may say that Mr. Gilbert Parker, the well-known Canadian author, now resident in England, who is a member of the Society of Authors of the old country, with Mr. Herbert Thring, the secretary of the Society of Authors, visited this country last fall. They endorsed the principles contained in this Bill, and said we might feel assured that the Authors' Society, and the literary people of the United Kingdom, as well as the publishers, are thoroughly in accord with the proposals in this Bill. The reason of this, I think, is that, as our market in Canada for literary work is developing, the authors making arrangements with the publishers in the old country, have found that they could make more satisfactory financial arrangements, by making a contract with the publishers there for the other parts of the empire, and making a special contract with the Canadian publishers for the Canadian market. So they have found it to their interest to do this, and this Bill enables the Canadian publisher, having made such a contract, to retain for himself the market he has bargained for. Some people might say that this involves the question of monopoly for the Canadian publishers. But copyright involves necessarily, to a certain extent, the element of monopoly. It is a bargain by which certain individuals shall have the exclusive right of publishing certain works. A copyright would be of no value to the publisher otherwise, as there would be no security for any return as a result of

a contract. In clauses of the Bill there is a sufficient safeguard erected for the public interest, so that the publishers who are getting the benefit of the provisions of this Bill, and are enabled by means of it to secure their rights in Canada, must serve the Canadian public sufficiently well, to secure the prohibition which would be brought about by the provisions of the Act; and if they do not serve the public here in a satisfactory manner, there are provisions in the Bill for the raising of the prohibition which the Act is intended to bring about. I do not know that it is necessary for me to proceed further in my explanation; but if there are questions to be asked in regard to the provisions of the Bill, I shall be glad to answer them before you leave the Chair. When the Act has received its second reading, which I trust it will without prolonged discussion, I propose to move that it be referred to a special committee, composed of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Mr. Borden (Halifax), Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Russell, and the mover.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I was about to suggest the name of the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Robertson), as a member of that committee, as he has taken great interest in the subject; but I am informed that he has gone to England.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE moved:

That the Bill be referred to a special committee composed of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Mr. Borden (Halifax), Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Russell and Mr. Fisher, with power to send for persons and papers.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY—ADMINISTRATION OF THE YUKON.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). Before you leave the Chair, Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the hon. acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sutherland), what information he can give with regard to the delayed report of Mr. Ogilvie, in connection with the Yukon district. It seems really an extraordinary thing that the department is unable to get any word from this gentleman to whom, I believe, the hon. acting minister sent a telegram on May 3, and that the hon. acting minister is unable to give the House any idea as to when that report will be brought down. I do not suppose that the hon. gentleman proposes to ask any supplies in connection with the Yukon district until we get that report. I would like him to state how that matter stands, and also, if he can, when I may expect a report and the papers

Mr. FISHER.

in connection with the water-front questions which I mentioned last night?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. As to the last question, I hope I shall be able to lay the papers on the Table at the next sitting of the House. As to the report of Mr. Ogilvie, a telegram was sent, as I informed the House, I think on the very day the subject was under discussion. I cannot account for the delay any more than the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) can. Surely we shall have an answer in a short time. Of course, despatch in these matters depends somewhat on the message catching the boat for Skagway, from which it is to be sent to Dawson. I do not think that report makes any material difference to the estimates.

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

To meet expenses in connection with the superintendence of insurance \$8,500

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). There is here an apparent increase in the vote, last year it being \$8,000. But it is not really an increase, it is rather a vote in the interest of economy. There is a charge for printing which at present goes into the general account, and we propose to bring it as a special charge into the insurance department, and then we can reclaim the amount from the insurance companies upon whom we levy a tax for the support of that office. So, the increase of \$500 will be repaid by the insurance companies.

Civil Government—Department of the Interior, including \$2,400 to T. G. Rothwell and P. G. Keyes, \$2,200 to G. U. Ryley, and \$1,800 to J. White, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act \$102,524

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I want to see if I can make an arrangement with the Minister of the Interior which would expedite the business of the evening in regard to one item about which I propose to raise a discussion, and that is the salary of Mr. Ryley. I want to know whether he will agree that that shall stand over. There is a proposal to increase Mr. G. U. Ryley's salary from \$1,850 to \$2,200. I would like Mr. Ryley to have an opportunity, through this notice, of knowing what I propose to say in regard to him, and for the purpose of raising the point. I would move that this salary be struck out altogether. I think it would be only fair to him that he should be in a position to meet what I have to say. I propose to discuss two memoranda that have been read in this House, on the score that they were not at all candid, that they were written in an improper spirit for an officer in the service of the government, that they show that he allowed himself to be used by the head of his department for the pur-

pose of affecting a debate in this House, and that he suppressed in the first memorandum very material points in order that his minister might make a point against myself. I am speaking now of what occurred last session, of the memorandum which was read by the hon. gentleman, in which he deals with the observations I made as a member of the House of Commons, and which enabled his minister to make a misstatement to this House in order to contradict me. It is fair to him that he should have an opportunity to contribute to this discussion another memorandum.

I want to point out that, in connection with the statement that I made having reference to a return to this House touching the Philp leases and the means that Philp used in order to obtain dredging leases, he prepared a memorandum upon which his minister made a statement, that a return this session has shown to be absolutely incorrect, that is, that Philp had not obtained a lease at all. He suppressed in that memorandum the important consideration that although Mr. Philp, in many cases in the return to which I refer, did never obtain a lease, he had obtained what was tantamount to a lease by virtue of an arrangement that came into force for the first time under his supervision of the timber and mines department. That is what he calls an option. The acting minister has told me the date at which these so-called options were given. They were for all practical purposes leases, they are referred to time and again in the department as leases, they are negotiated as leases, they are as much leases. For instance, as in the case of the water front where no formal document was drawn up, still the party had all the rights and interests, and negotiated them. In the case of Philp, as the returns brought down this session show, he had the exclusive right of obtaining a formal lease covering various periods, extended from time to time from January 12, 1898, down until he offered to take the thing altogether for a fee of a considerable amount. He actually had leases, he had a hydraulic lease, and he had a dredging lease. I must be careful of what I say, because if, in speaking of these matters one makes a slip, he is liable to be branded in an unpleasant manner on the floor of the House, simply because some clerk will make a statement that is not complete and fair. Now, I can show by the returns brought down and by the correspondence in the department to which Mr. Ryley belongs, that there were these documents that are recorded as leases, that are sold and trafficked in as leases with the approval of the department, and Philp, one of the gentlemen who did the trafficking in them, walked off, for instance, with an option to Chicago and interested people in it; then, when he sells this option these leases are granted in form. Now, after all that comes up, this

gentleman is not fit for the service, Mr. Ryley ought to be dismissed. He made a statement without any qualification whatever, a very serious statement used in debate, and which had an important effect on the minds of members of this House, namely, that I had made a mistake. I candidly admitted in debate that I had made a mistake, and endeavoured to show there was no bad faith on my part, because the return itself, through no fault of any one, was a bit misleading. It purported to be a return of the leases granted, and I did not watch the narrow column at the top where, in part of the document, it stated a number of miles leased, and then a blank. In going by that I did, according to that return, make a misstatement. He endeavoured to show it was a material misstatement, but it was sufficient for me to prove that one lease was granted, which would be the inducement to the charge that I then made. Then Mr. Philp went abroad and hawked options around, using the name of the minister. I am making a statement so that Mr. Ryley may have the advantage of it. Now, then, it became a very serious point if this man did anything which should bear upon the minds of all who took part in the debate that there was very little in the charge founded upon that introductory averment. Though no formal lease of these different properties had been issued to Philp, either in the name of Mitchell or of his wife, or in the names of others, still, he had the exclusive right to one, he had an exclusive option, he was using this exclusive option in a way leading up to a lease, so that a lease would be got as in certain cases leases were got, and if the House had known this it would not have been misled. Take the Parish case. The effect would have been very different in the minds of hon. members of the House if they had known of this statement. So that I say if I can make out, as I believe I can, from the returns that have come down to the House, that Mr. Ryley not only deceived parliament, but deceived his minister, that he, on the strength of a memorandum, made a positive statement to this House which is proved to be largely inaccurate by the returns of the department, that gentleman is not fit for the service. It is said by the hon. gentleman that we appointed him, that he was a Conservative, and all the rest of it. So far as I am concerned, I only knew him to be an officer of the very best standing in the department by repute. I never knew anything in regard to him that would warrant me in stating that he was making an unfair statement to prejudice any one. However, when this statement came down I accepted it myself at the time. I could not believe that there was anything kept back, but the return placed before this House put the matter in a very different position. That was an extraordinary use of any officer of the department. I do not believe that

Hansard or the records contain a case where a minister dragged in an officer, supporting him in a report like that in his criticism of a speech made in debate, in order to extricate himself from a difficult position before. But, this session, and I call the hon. acting minister's attention to it, another use was made of Mr. Ryley. A memorandum was prepared, the hon. acting minister made a statement upon it, and the accuracy of that memorandum I challenge. I say that the statement was unfair and misleading, and it is contradicted by sworn evidence in the possession of Mr. Ryley, as well as in the possession of this House. These are two statements made by this gentleman which are inaccurate and misleading. But, in connection with another aspect of his memorandum, to my certain knowledge another statement was inaccurate. I had some experience with the hon. Minister of the Interior and with Mr. Ryley, professionally. I went myself last session to the office where Mr. Ryley is in charge, and asked for certain information. I applied on behalf of a client for a lease of timber limits, and finding that there was an option covering these limits, I asked for information. I wanted to know who the parties were. The people that I represented were in such a hurry that they were perfectly willing to submit to buying limits, as others had to do, under the system by which people who have not put up any money, held options, and to my amazement and surprise this officer could not give me that information. He was in the position of the officers of the Klondike; these were secrets. I remonstrated for a moment with him, but he pointed out that he was only an officer of the department and, of course, I recognized that at once, and went to the minister. I said that I would go to the minister in order to obtain the information. I was referred to the minister by him in connection with the administration of this branch of his department, and I got from the minister the authority that alone enabled this gentleman to deal with me and give me that information. I got authority in writing from the Minister of the Interior, and it was not until this that I could obtain that information. Remembering that the hon. acting minister read over a statement where he represents the minister as having practically delegated the authority and discretion and as having handed over to this gentleman the administration in these matters. They were so troublesome, so numerous, and his time was so occupied that Mr. Ryley was the man who was dealing with these things, that Mr. Ryley was the supreme head of the timber and mines branch of the department. This is not consistent with the experience I had in that one case. I point to these three instances, and I propose to deal with this subject by a motion to reduce the vote by the amount

asked for Mr. Ryley. Under these circumstances I think the hon. acting minister ought to agree to have that item stand tonight so that he can show *Hansard* to Mr. Ryley and have his explanation, whatever it may amount to when he brings this up again.

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). I do not think there can be any objection to allowing the item to stand at the request of the hon. gentleman, and under these circumstances, I do not think it is desirable that I should say anything in reply to the hon. gentleman at this time farther than this: I can hardly think it possible that a gentleman occupying the position that Mr. Ryley does, and which he has occupied for so many years in the department, and whose character is so high, would be guilty of bringing down what he thought to be in any way an improper report. I may say that I do not believe the department desires that any such conduct on the part of officers should be carried on. No department would be properly conducted unless it were done in the most business-like and frank way, so far as the officers of the department are concerned. I do not encourage, nor would I defend, any action on the part of any official of the department that was not perfectly straightforward in regard to these matters. I feel perfectly satisfied in my own mind, from what I have seen and heard of Mr. Ryley, that, in the transaction of the business of the branch of the department with which he is charged, no accusation of improper conduct could be made against him. He is one of the hardest working men in the service, and he is giving such great satisfaction, so far as my information goes, that I think my hon. friend will be able to see that he will give a very satisfactory answer to him in regard to the matters to which he has brought the attention of the committee.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No one would be more delighted than I if a satisfactory explanation will be given. Although I have a strong feeling on the subject, because I suffered myself from an official statement of that kind, I am not so blinded by resentment as not to be ready to make the most complete and the fullest withdrawal of any imputation against Mr. Ryley in this matter if he can satisfactorily explain it. I know nothing else against Mr. Ryley in any way, shape or form, but, according to the information before me, I think this is a very serious case.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I believe it is the duty of every officer in the department to give full information and to defend the transactions of the department. While the ministers are responsible for what takes place they have to depend a great deal upon the ability and honesty of the officials of the department.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Does the whole item stand?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No.

Mr. DAVIN. I have not as strong a complaint to make against Mr. Rothwell as my hon. friend (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) has against Mr. Ryley.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Surely the hon. gentleman will be satisfied to make it when we come to the item.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The understanding is that so far as Mr. Ryley is concerned the item stands, otherwise we dispose of it.

Mr. DAVIN. The whole item with the exception of Mr. Ryley is before the committee.

Mr. FOSTER. The whole item must be before the committee because it is one item.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understood that my hon. friend from Pictou was ready to allow the whole item to pass reserving the power to discuss Mr. Ryley.

Mr. FOSTER. You cannot do that.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Perhaps not technically; but you can discuss the rest and leave Mr. Ryley's case over.

Mr. DAVIN. Very well then. I have not such a heavy charge to make against Mr. Rothwell as my hon. friend had against Mr. Ryley. But Mr. Rothwell in a letter which is published in the Auditor General's Report makes a statement,—and I believe he is a lawyer—for which there is not the least foundation; a statement which is altogether contrary to the fact. First, there was a misstatement made in a letter written by Mr. James A. Smart to the Auditor General. Mr. Smart made the statement that a letter had been written to me by an officer of the department with regard to a small amount connected with the *Leader Company* (Limited), of which I was the managing director, and he says I took no notice of it. The truth was that the moment I received the letter I at once wrote the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and Mr. Rothwell the moment he saw this writes to the Auditor General and says, it is in consequence of a mistake of his that the deputy minister had fallen into the error. Mr. Rothwell says:

Dept. of the Interior,
Ottawa, Nov. 9, 1898.

Dear Mr. McDougall,—My attention has been called to-day to an incorrect statement in the letter which the deputy minister wrote to you on the 8th October last, with regard to certain payments made to the 'Leader' Company (Limited) and to the 'Leader' Company for the printing of a volume of the North-west law reports. I may say that I am responsible for the error myself, as I prepared the letter referred to. It is stated in that letter that Mr. N. F. Davin, M.P., was advised on the 16th August last that the 'Leader' Company, of

which Mr. Walter Scott is manager, had established that company's rights to be paid \$259 for printing the volume referred to; that when the payment of \$175 was made to the 'Leader' Company (Limited) no money was due to that company for printing, and that such payment of \$175 should, therefore, be refunded. It was further stated that no reply to that letter had been received from Mr. Davin. This is the incorrect statement I refer to, as Mr. Davin replied promptly to the letter of the 16th August last by a letter dated 20th of that month, of which I inclose a copy for your information.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. G. ROTHWELL,

Acting D.M.I.

The Auditor General.

Mr. Rothwell here says:

Mr. Davin was advised on the 16th of August last that the 'Leader' Company, of which Mr. Walter Scott, is manager, had established that company's right to be paid \$259 for printing the volume referred to.

Now, as a fact, Mr. Walter Scott or his 'company' did not establish anything of the sort, and there is no record of his establishing or being asked to establish anything of the sort. What happened was this. The old *Leader Company* (Limited), sold its business and good-will to Mr. Walter Scott, and subsequently agreed with him to stand in the shoes of the old *Leader Company* (Limited) in regard to the contract with the lieutenant-governor for the printing of the Supreme Court Reports, and Mr. Walter Scott agreed, (as he has admitted in his sworn evidence) to allow the lieutenant-governor \$175. Mr. Walter Scott wrote to the managing director of that company subsequently—who happened to be a member of parliament—that the work had not come and that it might be pertinently asked why the work had not come and that the judges were asking for it. Mr. Walter Scott never gave the least notice that he did not intend to carry out his agreement until after the change of government had taken place, and then I suppose he thought that he could revise his contract with impunity and success. When the work was finished he sent in the work to the lieutenant-governor, with the bill for the full amount. The lieutenant-governor sends back, that that should not be paid unless credit is given for the \$175. It is sent to Mr. Justice Richardson acting for the lieutenant-governor. Mr. Justice Richardson says that that shall not be paid unless the legal adviser declared that Mr. Walter Scott was entitled to the full amount. The legal adviser, Mr. Rimmer, who is now in the employ of the Department of the Interior, who was as legal adviser, an appointee of Mr. Sifton, and who was during the last election a very active opponent of mine, reported to the acting lieutenant-governor at that time as follows:

The following case, which is supported by facts, was placed before the legal adviser of the lieutenant-governor for his opinion. All reports of the Supreme Court of the North-west

Territories had been printed prior to Vol. 2, No. 1, by the 'Leader' Company (Limited), a company incorporated under the company's ordinance. On the 12th December, 1894, the lieutenant-governor made an advance to the 'Leader' Company (Limited) of \$175 on account of printing the law reports for 1894, upon an express agreement by Mr. Davin, the then manager of the 'Leader' Company (Limited) to print the reports at the rate at which previous reports had been printed, and that at the time of payment it was expected that the reports would be ready to leave the hands of the reporter in a very short time, if they were not then complete. The reports for 1894 were afterwards ascertained by the reporter to be insufficient to comprise one volume, and that it became necessary to incorporate the reports for June term, 1895, thus necessarily causing delay in publication, the copy for the printer only leaving the reporter's hand about June, 1896. I am going to ask the right hon. gentleman's attention to this because there are circumstances connected with it that I will say that I do not think if he knew them he would countenance.

That in August, 1895, the 'Leader' Company (Limited) sold its plant and good-will to Mr. Scott, who has since carried on business under the style of 'The Leader' Company, but that prior to the printing of the reports the lieutenant-governor had no notice of the terms of the sale.

That the 'Leader' newspaper was before the sale and since has continued to be published from a building which now bears only the sign 'Leader,' 'the "Leader" immense circulation,' and the words 'The "Leader" Company' built into the front of the building. That by merely dropping the word 'Limited,' Mr. Scott does not identify himself from the company (limited), as the company did not adhere to the requirements of the ordinance with regard to the use of the word. In adhering to the old name and the old premises, Mr. Scott appears desirous of all the benefit which may accrue from the old connection.

In December, 1895, Mr. Hamilton, the court reporter, went to the 'Leader' office; and seeing Mr. Scott said, 'I suppose you will print the reports at the old rates,' or words to that effect. Mr. Scott offered to let him have quotations later in the day. Mr. Hamilton had no notice of the agreement between the 'Leader' Company (Limited) and Scott.

It is admitted by Scott that in December, 1895, he had an interview with Davin, who admitted the payment of \$175, and suggested to Scott that since there was money in printing the reports Scott had better do the work, giving credit for \$175, and thus maintain the connection. It is admitted also by Mr. Scott that he verbally assented to this; and that he made the tender of 14th December, 1895, with the intention of crediting the lieutenant-governor with \$175.

The lieutenant-governor was informed by Mr. Davin verbally that the reports would be printed by Mr. Scott, he (Scott) giving credit for \$175.

About July, 1896, in consequence of disagreement with Davin, Mr. Scott informed the latter that he would not print the reports in question, allowing credit of \$175; but the lieutenant-governor was not so informed either by Scott or Davin.

The 'Leader' Company (Limited) has not been wound up, and Mr. Davin is still the manager thereof.

Upon this case, the legal adviser held the opinion that whether Mr. Scott entered into a

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sub-contract with the 'Leader' Company (Limited), through Mr. Davin as manager, or contracted direct with the lieutenant-governor, was not material. That in case of sub-contract he could only claim through the 'Leader' Company (Limited); and in case of separate contract, the facts pointed to the conclusion that the terms of the contract were not entirely stated in the tender, but they were partly verbal through Mr. Davin, who, for the purpose of announcing Mr. Scott's readiness to credit \$175, was Mr. Scott's agent. That Mr. Davin's failure to communicate Scott's subsequent wish to withdraw from the arrangement did not bind the lieutenant-governor, whose agent Davin was not. That following the principle, *Lake vs. Duke of Argyll*, 6 Q.B., 477, it was a question of fact, which on the evidence might be found against Mr. Scott whether he, in carrying on business as the 'Leader' Company, and in signing his tender as manager of the 'Leader' Company, did not hold himself forth to the lieutenant-governor as being the then manager of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), and thus accept liability of the 'Leader' Company (Limited) to fulfil the subsisting contract entered into in 1894.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Richardson, then acting as administrator in the absence of the lieutenant-governor, was advised that, under the circumstances, Mr. Scott should be left to establish, if he thought proper, before the competent court, that his contract was entirely independent from that entered into by the 'Leader' Company (Limited), upon which \$175 had already been paid, that payment of more than \$84, the balance of the 'Leader' Company's account, after crediting \$175, should not be offered.

On instructions from the administrator, the legal adviser tendered \$84, which was refused; and he was informed that proceedings would at once be taken. He still retains, in accordance with instructions from the administrator, \$85 on the amount paid him for purpose of tender, which sum will be available in the event of legal proceedings.

Now, although I have the papers, I am not going to trouble the committee, at least at present, with all of them.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Will my hon. friend permit me to ask: Is not this matter now a subject of inquiry before the Committee on Public Accounts, and if so, is it wise to have a discussion of it here?

Mr. DAVIN. I have a great grievance. There were two items. I cannot characterize the proceedings within this House, but in one of the newspapers my name is in a ruffianly manner connected with one of the items with which I had nothing whatever to do, which is perfectly regular and correct, but yet with which I had practically no connection. When a gentleman in this House who found, just as he did with regard to this item, he was driving himself against a snag, what happened? Ever so long a time has elapsed since there was a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, and there is no meeting called; but in regard to this item I think the inquiry was closed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do not desire to raise the point of order, but I ask the hon. member to consider whether it is

fair for him to continue discussing this question when it is before the committee?

Mr. DAVIN. How do I know that there is ever to be a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee again? I have the correspondence in this blue-book, and I want to put before the public at the earliest moment a complete refutation of the statements made by professional slanderers. Now, what happened?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I put it to the hon. gentleman, that it is quite impossible for the House to form any conception of what the facts are until they see the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee or the report of the committee based upon that evidence. At present we have no data at all to go upon.

Mr. DAVIN. I am perfectly in order. I am not going to refer to what has taken place in the committee.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It is not the point of order that is being taken: but the hon. gentleman is being appealed to as to whether we can properly discuss the question which he is introducing now until the evidence taken before the Public Accounts Committee is submitted to the House.

Mr. DAVIN. If you do not discuss it now, you can discuss it at some future time. But just as I took the first opportunity to tender my testimony, and to ask to be sworn, although the man who was conducting the inquiry, as he stated, for the government would not call me, I want to take the first opportunity of putting the facts before the House and the country. I do not believe, if the Prime Minister knew what an abuse has taken place in this House, that he would sanction it. Now, subsequent to this, Mr. Walter Scott writes to the department, and he receives an answer from Mr. Smart, embodying this opinion of Mr. Rimmer, and saying that he would not pay it. Then, for some reason of which we have no means of judging, after Mr. Rimmer reports against it, and he, the Deputy Minister himself, in a reasoned and unwarrantable reply, refused to pay it, it is paid, and there is no evidence that there was any reference whatever to the Department of Justice. Now, Sir, what happened, as we have it here set out on the pages of the Auditor General's Report? The very moment I got a letter from Mr. Reginald Rimmer in August, as will be seen at the bottom of page H-63Q, I at once wrote:

Regina, N.W.T., August 20, 1898.

Sir.—Replying to your letter of the 16th August, 1898, I beg to say that the \$175 referred to therein was advanced to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), on account of printing the reports of 1894. Nobody supposed any money was due to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), at that time, for, though the official reporter had the MSS.

ready, it had never been delivered and could not be delivered without direction; but the 'Leader' Company had the contract and was promised the MSS. immediately. In 1895, the 'Leader' Company (Limited), made an arrangement with Mr. Scott to print those reports and credit the lieutenant-governor's office with the \$175. The lieutenant-governor's office had notice of this agreement. If, therefore, the \$175 has been paid to Mr. Scott it has been improperly paid.

Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) NICH'S FLOOD DAVIN,
Man. Director, 'Leader' Company.

The Asst. Sec., Dept. of the Interior.

That letter was not before the Auditor General when he wrote me on October 9, 1898:

Audit Office, Ottawa, November 9, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to inclose herewith a copy of correspondence between this office and the Department of the Interior, with reference to certain payments made to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), and to the 'Leader' Company for printing law reports. Please make the refund of \$175 without delay.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
J. L. McDOUGALL, A.G.

I wrote the following letter in reply which appears on pages H-46 and 65:

Regina, N.W.T., November 5, 1898.

Sir.—Referring to your letter and inclosures I might well content myself with saying that the 'Leader' Company (Limited), will make no refund of \$175; and the letter of Reginald Rimmer, one of your inclosures, might have suggested a doubt as to the propriety of the demand, Mr. Reginald Rimmer having been legal adviser to the lieutenant-governor. But, as in the letter of Mr. Smart, the material statements are quite incorrect, I think I will state facts which will be at once material and true. The 'Leader' Company (Limited), had a standing contract to print the Supreme Court reports at a certain figure. On the 11th of December, 1894, the lieutenant-governor sent, asking the managing director to see him. His Honour told that person that he intended to have the reports for 1894 published forthwith, and volunteered an advance of \$175, and said the reporter would be directed to furnish the copy forthwith. In consequence the 'Leader' Company (Limited), kept its staff at a strength it would otherwise not have done, and this right on to August, 1895, when it disposed of its plant and business interests to Mr. Walter Scott.

In November, 1895, the 'Leader' Company (Limited), made a contract with Mr. Scott to print those reports and to allow the lieutenant-governor for the \$175 advanced to that company. The managing director wrote the lieutenant-governor and his secretary, Mr. R. B. Gordon, that he had made this contract with Mr. Scott. In December, Mr. Hamilton, the official reporter, was instructed not to call for tenders, but to learn Mr. Scott's price. I made a point of asking Mr. Hamilton many months ago; I made a point of asking him to-day, and he re-asseverates that he did not call for tenders, and that what he was told was to ascertain the price, I suppose to see that no higher rates would be charged than the figure of the old company. That he had no authority to ask for tenders is proved by this, that no contract took place, that Mr. Scott seems never to have known of any contract except the one made between himself and the managing director for some seven months afterwards, that the late lieutenant-governor, who

was in office at the time and for some years afterwards, and who would have direct knowledge of the facts, refused to pay his bill unless credit was given for the \$175.

Some time towards the close of December, the managing director of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), had a conversation with Mr. Scott, in which the latter referred to the contract made between them, to the fact that Mr. Hamilton had asked for the price, but he (Scott) never indicated that he regarded it as asking for tenders, and he expressed a wish that the copy might come along.

On February 3, 1896, Mr. Scott wrote a letter to the managing director at Ottawa, referring to the arrangement made between them to print these reports, complaining that they had not yet come to the office, and suggesting that the managing director might ask 'pertinently why they are not printed.' In the summer of 1896, Mr. Scott having then received the copy, and having repudiated a written contract binding that 'Scott will in any event until after the next general election, and therefore until after the expiration of the balance of the said term of three years . . . support, with the paper he shall publish in Regina, and which shall be called the 'Leader,' to the best of his ability, Davin and the Conservative party generally, and will during that time give Davin full control of the first two editorial columns of said paper,' told the managing director of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), that he did not intend to abide by his contract to allow the credit of \$175; but he gave no such reasons as appear in Mr. Smart's letter, but reasons which admitted the contract to allow the \$175. On the face of the documents inclosed by you, it is quite evident that nobody ever heard of this supposed contract connected with the inquiry of Mr. Hamilton in December, 1895, until after there was a change of government; that Mr. Scott presented his bill for the full amount to the lieutenant-governor and payment was refused unless \$175 was allowed, and, therefore, the supposed contract was repudiated by the only party who could make a contract; that no such contract would be acknowledged or regarded as having any foundation whatever was additionally shown by the fact that the legal adviser was told to offer Scott, and did offer him in legal tender, the balance of \$85. The second paragraph of Mr. Smart's letter is incorrect. I inclose you a copy of my reply to the letter of the 16th of August. In the third paragraph of Mr. Smart's letter we are told that a decision had been come to that Mr. Scott was entitled to be paid \$250. The statement made in the eighth paragraph, that Mr. Scott tendered, and that the tender was accepted, is not correct. The official reporter says it is not correct; the lieutenant-governor, who alone at that time had authority to make a contract, repudiated it in the most formal way; Mr. Scott seemed to have no knowledge of such a contract until the summer of 1896. In paragraph 10 we are told: 'It was therefore decided that no value whatever had been given at the time of payment, or was given after payment, to the 'Leader' Company (Limited), for the amount of \$175.' This is not true. The value given by the 'Leader' Company (Limited), was to keep a staff under pay, which it would otherwise not have kept on, ready to do the work from the 12th of December right on until August, 1895, when it sold its property. The statement in the 11th paragraph has been shown cumulatively to be untrue. By the 12th paragraph it is assumed that no contracts whatever were or could be made by the corners of the written agreement. This is an absurdity on the face of it, and is contrary to fact; witness

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the agreement already described; witness dozens of arrangements in regard to subscribers, &c. I consider that the payment advised has been improperly made, and I think the following facts should have made Mr. Smart leave Mr. Scott to his proper remedy if he had a just claim, where it could have been thoroughly sifted. Mr. Scott is not merely the editor of the Liberal organ, but is the known and avowed distributor of patronage for Western Assiniboia.

Mr. P. McAra, jr., of Regina, is administering the estate of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), and there are ample funds uncollected to meet any claims against the company.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

N. F. DAVIN.

I do not intend to pursue this matter further at this time, because I think it is better to wait until we have the report of the committee. But the facts are now sufficiently before the right hon. the Prime Minister, and he will be able to judge whether a proper use has been made of the Committee of Public Accounts in regard to these matters.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). It seems to me that this is not a proper time to bring this matter forward and discuss it, for the reason that the case is still before the Public Accounts Committee. The hon. gentleman from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has treated us to a rehash of his own letter and some portions of the letter written as I understand, by Mr. Smart, to the Auditor General. That \$175 should have been paid to the hon. gentleman without any work being done then or for several months afterwards appears to me a very strange way of doing business. I do not think that governments generally do business in that way. I understand from the letter the hon. gentleman quoted that the lieutenant-governor of the North-west Territories of that time sent for the manager of the Regina *Leader*. I suppose I am not at liberty to say what took place in the Public Accounts Committee, but I can refer to what I have seen in the newspapers. This letter to which I have referred says:

His Honour told that person that he intended to have the accounts of reports of 1894 published forthwith, and volunteers to advance \$175.

As I understand the newspaper reports, they say the ex-lieutenant-governor of the North-west Territories, when placed on the stand, flatly denies that he sent for the manager of the Regina *Leader* Company.

Mr. DAVIN. Then, newspaper report is not correct, for the ex-lieutenant-governor did not flatly deny it.

Mr. DAVIS. According to the newspaper reports, the ex-lieutenant-governor said that he did not send to the managing director of the *Leader* Company to offer him this work, the managing director of the *Leader* Company came to him.

Mr. DAVIN. If this is to be gone into, I have here the sworn evidence of ex-Lieutenant Governor Mackintosh.

Mr. DAVIS. I think I have the floor.

Mr. DAVIN. I think I should be allowed to read the sworn evidence.

Mr. DAVIS. I did not interrupt the hon. gentleman—

Mr. DAVIN. I was not out of order.

Mr. DAVIS. I maintain that it would have been better to leave this question until all the evidence before the Public Accounts Committee had been taken and submitted to the House when we could discuss this question intelligently. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has seen fit to read a lot of statements that, so far as the House knows, have no foundation in fact. The House is not in a position to know whether he entered into a contract with Mr. Walter Scott for the completion of that work or not.

Mr. DAVIN. I have Mr. Scott's sworn evidence, in which he admits it.

Mr. DAVIS. The deputy minister states in the letter that there was no contract so far as he knew, that the work had been given to Mr. Scott after he had purchased this paper from the *Leader* Company and he was entitled to be paid. The \$175 was paid to the managing director of the *Leader* Company the cheque endorsed by that hon. gentleman, and, I suppose, the money went to him, and no work had been done when he sold out to another party. There is no agreement produced to show that he entered into an agreement with any party to do the work. The hon. gentleman may talk of a verbal agreement made on the street corner. He has no written agreement that we know of. This is a dispute between this hon. gentleman and Mr. Walter Scott, and the time of the House should not be taken up with that. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) entered into a contract with the lieutenant-governor to do certain work, and before any work was done, before a scratch of the pen was made, the lieutenant-governor handed him \$175 of the public money; and the hon. gentleman takes that money, puts it in his pocket and sells out his paper to another party, who declares that he knows nothing about the payment made, that he had done the work and wanted to be paid for it. And the government, I suppose, has had to pay the party who did the work. I think that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), in order to put himself right, should have handed back a cheque to the government for that money, and, if he had a grievance against Mr. Walter Scott, he could take the proper course to collect that \$175 from Mr. Scott. In the meantime, this should be left until the evidence is all brought down. The hon. gentleman has made what he calls a clear statement; but the House will not accept that statement, and the hon. gentleman will find that after the committee reports he will have to go into the evidence.

If he can clear his skirts afterwards, nobody will object. The idea of taking up half an hour of the time of the House when there is no evidence before it at all, I submit, is absurd.

Mr. DAVIN. This hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) tells us that we should not discuss it, this thing—and then proceeds to discuss it to an extent that I did not discuss it. He says that there was no agreement between me and Mr. Scott. Unfortunately, there was a written agreement—

Mr. DAVIS. What I said was that there was no written agreement before the House, and I think the House understood me. If there is an agreement it should be produced at the proper time.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) said, as though he was making a strong point, that there was no written agreement between me and Mr. Scott, meaning that if there was a written agreement it would have a binding effect upon Mr. Scott that an agreement by word of mouth would not have. I had the most solemn written agreement, for which good substantial value was given, that this man was to support me and the Conservative party for three years, that he was to give me an absolute control of the first two columns of the paper. Yet, in the face of an election, in the midst of the battle, he broke away from the agreement before twelve months had elapsed. What good would a written agreement be with a man like that? Was it an extraordinary thing, in regard to a paltry sum like this, that I should not have thought it necessary to make a written agreement with Mr. Scott? He was at that time in the most intimate relations with me that one could be with a public man. He was the editor of my organ, bound to me by solemn agreement; and up to that time and some time afterward, I could not find the least fault with him. It would be interesting to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) and others in this House to take up the *Leader* of that time and look at the articles written by Mr. Scott discussing me, and telling the public what his estimate of me was. I have had a good deal of flattery, as I have had a good deal of abuse; but his articles were about as warm and as eulogistic as any one who might desire praise or might think journalistic praise necessary to a public man could wish them to be. So, it was not unnatural that I should not have thought it necessary to have a written agreement in regard to so small a matter with a man who stood to me in such intimate relationship. This hon. gentleman also suggests that I should have handed a cheque. Why should I do it? Why should the *Leader* Company (Limited), do it if it did not owe it? To have done it would have been to acknowledge that it owed the money. Do you suppose that the *Leader* Company (Limited), was in

such a poverty stricken condition that it could not pay \$175 if that was due? At the present time I am told by the gentleman who is administering it that there are thousands of dollars still outstanding that can be collected at any time. I will not refer to the insulting tone the hon. gentleman has adopted; but I can assure him that the people of the North-west know him, and when this thing comes to be fairly sifted, they will find that a member of parliament, and a friend of a government for seventy years in power, one who had the confidence of the political leaders and their personal friendship, in regard to him it cannot be found that he ever benefited himself in one iota. I am able to say here and to defy contradiction that during all those years I never spoke to a minister or a deputy minister of my own motion, and never but once, at the instance of another, and that about the veriest trifle of any matter in which I was personally interested. And now, one of these clever fellows finds that for the sake of \$175 I boodled; they have taken the language of a man that I will not characterize, but it will be shown by and by what kind of a word he has. They have taken his ribald utterances, which he withdrew and apologized for when he was about to be placed on his trial; they have taken the ribald misstatements of that man as statements of fact, and an hon. gentleman gets up in this House and moves to have a reference to the Public Accounts Committee to make inquiry of that sort, in face of the opinion of Mr. Rimmer, the law officer, that the money was not due Mr. Scott. I will not refer to what has taken place in the committee at the present time; but I have done here what I did in the committee, I have taken the first opportunity of letting the public know what the facts are. The hon. gentleman who has just sat down has quoted a statement, which of course is a misstatement, that the lieutenant-governor denied that he sent for me. The lieutenant-governor said frankly that he did not remember, and he said he might have sent for me. It was very necessary that I should take the first opportunity of bringing all the amount of fact that I can bring without infringing on the rules of the House.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman has taken exception to the language that I used in discussing this question. I do not think I said anything that is not parliamentary. The hon. gentleman takes exception to my making a statement on the word of Mr. Walter Scott. I wish to draw the attention of the committee to the fact that Mr. Walter Scott last winter published a letter in his newspaper that was scattered all over the North-west Territories and the Dominion of Canada, an open letter to the hon. gentleman. I have it here under my hand, and it is very nice reading. Now, when a letter of that kind is scattered all over this country

Mr. DAVIS.

accusing a member of this House of boodling, and when the member takes no steps to contradict this party who signs his name to this letter, and to drag him over the coals before a court of law, I think any gentleman in this House is justified in taking Mr. Scott's statement. Here is the letter, several columns long, published on the 9th of November, 1899, and from that time to the present the hon. gentleman never took occasion to contradict that letter. Now he complains that I have moved a resolution to have this account referred to the Public Accounts Committee. I think I have a perfect right to do so as a member for the North-west Territories when a letter of that kind is published. I do not want to inflict the reading of this long letter on the committee, but it sets forth the agreements between the hon. member for Western Assiniboia, as managing director of that company, and Mr. Scott. The hon. gentleman cannot deny that he is openly accused of boodling.

Mr. DAVIS. Will the hon. gentleman read that?

Mr. DAVIS. Do you want me to read the whole letter?

Mr. DAVIS. Read where he says that he accused me of boodling.

Mr. DAVIS. I will just read the paragraph in which he uses this strong language:

I am, therefore, driven to the necessity of repeating former tactics, and to again allege against you that in or about the month of April, 1895, you did, as managing director of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), obtain payment of the sum of \$400 of public money of Canada to the said company for alleged advertising for immigration purposes in connection with the Territorial Exhibition, which said advertising had not been done nor such service rendered; and you further allege that on the 12th day of September, 1894, you did, as managing director of above-named company, by representing that the work was done, procure payment to the company of \$175 of public money of Canada, for alleged printing of the law reports of the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories, when, in truth, the work was not done. I allege further that you nor your company never did the work, and unless you have recouped the public treasury within recent months, which I doubt, you still retain that \$175 of the public money of Canada. Common people might think that these payments savored of boodling. I myself have to admit that they bear a suspicious approximateness to that offensive term. Yet I would not go the length of calling you a boodler—it is a very indelicate appellation.

That is pretty strong language, I think. Now, when a letter of that kind has been scattered all over this country and the hon. gentleman accused takes no steps to contradict it from the 9th of November last down to the 1st of March, I think I was perfectly justified in bringing this account before the Public Accounts Committee. Here is a member of this House accused by a newspaper editor, over his signature, of having taken \$175 in one instance of the

public money of this country, while he was a member of this House, for which he returned no services; and in another instance of having taken \$400 of public money while he was managing director of that paper and a member of this House, for which he returned no services. Of course the committee has not reported yet, but I think when the evidence is brought down the hon. gentleman will perhaps change his tune. Now, Mr. Scott is not here to answer for himself, and it is easy for the hon. gentleman to make statements of that kind; but, Mr. Scott is known in Regina and all through the North-west Territories, and I venture to say that his word will be taken any time as against the word of the member for Western Assiniboia. He tells us about having been fifteen years in this House and having had the confidence of the leaders of the Conservative party. Why, it is within the memory of all of us that on a certain occasion he came down here and told the members of the Conservative government that they were men without brains, that they were antiques. Now he speaks about Mr. Walter Scott as if this gentleman was a very ordinary kind of a man, and not to be believed. As far as I understand this transaction, which the hon. gentleman has gone into, I think if there is any person with a grievance, it is Mr. Scott. He said that he agreed, at a certain time, that he would sell this paper to Mr. Scott, and that Mr. Scott was to support the Conservative party, and to support himself. He says that Mr. Scott did not do that. I understand that Mr. Scott bought the paper for a certain sum of money, and that when the time came to hand over the paper, the hon. gentleman refused to carry out his contract with Scott, and insisted on mulcting him another \$1,000. Now the hon. gentleman gets up and says that Mr. Scott refused to carry out his contract, and he gives us the language that Mr. Scott used in his paper in regard to himself. But, he seems to have taken a different ground more especially on November 9, of last year. I submit that it would be better to defer this discussion until the papers are before the House, and then we can have a general discussion of the question.

Mr. DAVIN. The hon. gentleman wants to know why I did not notice that letter of Mr. Scott. There are four good reasons. In the first place, Mr. Scott had put it beyond his power by any slander or calumny to injure me. In the next place, I am well known in the North-west Territories; people know my character, and I can laugh at attacks of that sort. In the third place, these very statements that are made there were retracted by Mr. Scott, and in the fourth place—

Mr. DAVIS. Were they retracted after he published that letter? That is a fair question, and I want an answer to it.

Mr. DAVIN. Mr. Chairman, will you keep that gentleman in order? There is another reason. These statements are a rehash of statements that were made, and for which I brought an action of criminal libel against Mr. Scott. He fenced off for more than a year, and I could not get him down to trial. He used every chicane of the law, and when we were going to get to the trial he withdrew it all. How could a man injure me or any one by making statements that he had withdrawn, and said there was no truth in? He could not injure me. No matter what any man might say against me in this country now, I would never bring an action for libel against him because I consider that action is as good as dead the way the law of criminal libel is at present. For more than twelve months I tried to get that case before the jury, and for more than twelve months Mr. Scott fenced it off through his lawyer. For these four reasons, why should I bother myself about the letter? This hon. gentleman seems to think I should not have taken Mr. Scott's unwritten word. But I may say, in regard to a solemn contract, a contract made in writing, for which he got a most substantial consideration, that he, before twelve months had passed, in the face of a great battle, when he thought it would be fatal to me, having pledged himself to support me and the Conservative party, turned around and left me in the lurch. I do not know whether that is the conduct of a man whose word is very good, and I am not dealing with that. I did not know that when I made an arrangement with Mr. Scott. He had been during part of his apprenticeship in the office of which I was the managing director, and I had a high opinion of him. He himself had spoken of my unfailing kindness to him, and nothing had occurred up to the early summer of 1896, that would lead me to think that Mr. Scott was not a man with whom it would not be safe to make a verbal contract. I made a contract with him; all the circumstances show that I made a contract, and he does not deny it. However, I am not going into that. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davis) says, we will have that later. But I think it is desirable that we should have the facts. The hon. gentleman says, that with statements like that, when a libel is uttered against a member of the House in a newspaper, another member is justified in moving what is a county court matter into the Public Accounts Committee. I do not think that would commend itself to the right hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I do not think it would even commend itself to the Prime Minister to say that it would be a right thing that anything like even the view of the facts that the hon. member for Saskatchewan presents should be moved into the Privileges and Elections Committee, but to move it into the Public Accounts Committee is monstrous.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman has said that Mr. Scott had retracted the statements made in this letter, but he has not told us whether it was done previous to the printing of the letter or after the letter was published. It appears to me when I read this short paragraph that Mr. Scott has not retracted anything. Of course, it is a question of veracity between the hon. member for Western Assiniboia and Mr. Scott. But, here is what Mr. Scott says in connection with it:

Regina, Nov. 1, 1899.

N. F. Davin, M.P.,
Regina, N.W.T.

Sir,—Following the transaction known as the 'Leader' deal between you and me in 1895, the exciting parliamentary session of the winter of 1896, and the incidents of the succeeding general election, you paid me the attention on the floor of the House of Commons in the first session of the new parliament of charging dishonourable conduct against me in connection with the aforementioned 'Leader' deal. You made the charge, as I thought, in a cowardly way, under your parliamentary privilege. So far as I could appreciate the circumstances of the deal, and the after incidents in its relation, your charge was absolutely unwarranted. I could not proceed directly to obtain redress. I determined, however, to make an attempt to obtain satisfaction. I decided, if possible, to lure you into a court of law, at the risk of a great deal of trouble and expense to myself, where I hoped to be able to make you swallow your false charge. With this end in view, I deliberately published an article making charges against you which, even if true, was libellous, and which, if untrue, would render me liable to heavy damages or imprisonment. My plan succeeded. You took the bait. I felt certain that if I once had you fairly into court in a case in which the 'Leader' deal might be sifted, I could abundantly show that if there were dishonour in the transaction it was not attached to my skirts. The preliminaries dragged on for a year. You made a big showing of fight. You played the game of bluff for all that was in it. But when it came to the show-down you wilted. At the very court door, on the morning of 23rd December, 1897, after the jury had been called, and when the judge was donning his gown, you sent me a letter retracting your false charge. I was satisfied. I had done that which I had set out to do, namely, choke your lie down your throat. I, a mere private individual, had compelled a member of parliament, shielded though he was by privilege, to reluctantly but publicly withdraw a slanderous statement uttered on the floor of parliament. I had compelled you to publicly acknowledge that you had violated and disgraced your oath as a member of parliament. I do not know that the incident has a parallel in the history of parliaments. I was satisfied. We shook hands at the court-house on that Wednesday morning and mutually said, 'Let bygones be bygones.' Since that date until now I have never uttered a word in breach of our compact. By it I deemed myself bound to avoid reference to the irregular money transactions you had had in connection with government printing and advertising that had formed the basis of the charge with which I lured you to the court-house door. I treated the whole matter of the transaction, case and surroundings as, between you and me, a sealed book.

Mr. DAVIN.

It appears from this letter that when Mr. Scott said at that time that he wanted to lure the hon. gentleman into court it was in connection with that charge about the \$175 and the \$400. He, however, was satisfied to withdraw the statement he made about Mr. Scott in this House if Mr. Scott would say nothing more about the \$175 and the \$400.

To-day in your organ, 'The West,' you publicly reopen this subject. I have been aware for months that you were privately pouring tales into people's ears which you lacked courage to relate to a jury of your fellow citizens. To-day you publicly break the compact, and I deem myself no longer bound by it.

It is a peculiarity of yours that whenever you make a libellous statement you make it from under cover of some sort. You either abuse the immunity afforded to members of parliament, or get under cover of a publishing company. Were I to take action against you for the libel contained in your organ to-day you would at once, and no doubt successfully, deny responsibility.

I have no doubt about that, because the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) has said more than once in this House that he has nothing to do with the *West*, although Mr. Scott says it is his personal organ.

I am, therefore, driven to the necessity of repeating former tactics, and to again allege against you that in or about the month of April, 1895, you did, as managing director of the 'Leader' Company (Limited), obtain payment of the sum of \$400 of public money of Canada to the said company for alleged advertising for immigration purposes in connection with the territorial exhibition, which said advertising had not been done nor such service rendered; and to further allege that on the 12th day of December, 1894, you did, as managing director of above named company, by representing that the work was done, procure payment to the company of \$175 of public money of Canada for alleged printing of the law reports of the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories, when in truth the work was not done. I allege further that you nor your company ever did the work, and unless you have recouped the public treasury within recent months, which I doubt, you still retain that \$175 of the public money of Canada. Common people might think that these payment savoured of boodling. I myself have to admit that they bear a suspicious approximateness to that offensive term. Yet I would not go the length of calling you a boodler,—it is a very indelicate appellation.

In your organ to-day you publish a paragraph from a document dated August, 1895, which standing by itself would seem to show that I agreed to give you and the Conservative party political support for a term. Your organ further alleges that I got 'good and substantial consideration' for such agreement. It is further asserted that I broke said agreement. Now, Mr. Davin, you ought to be perfectly well aware that the above statement of the matter as a whole and in each of its details is misleading and false. You ought to remember that as between you and me, man to man, I did not 'bind' myself to support you or the Conservative party. You certainly know that nothing was paid me and no consideration given me for such agreement. And you ought to know that the agreement, such

as it was, was not departed from by me until I had received your assent. To bring to your knowledge and recollection these facts, I shall be compelled to relate some of the circumstances.

Notwithstanding that you had good reason to know that I was strongly inclined to Liberalism in politics, you had often held out to me inducements to join the 'Leader' staff. In 1888 you sent Mr. Young, your manager, with an offer of higher pay than I was receiving, which offer I declined. In 1889 you personally made an offer which I accepted, and I worked for sixteen months in your office as a printer. While you were absent at Ottawa, in 1890, I was refused an increase in salary to which I thought I was entitled and quitted the staff; on your return you told me it was contrary to your wish that I was not given the increase. In December, 1891, by your direction, your manager offered me inducements to join the 'Leader' editorial staff—in fact to take charge during his and your absence at Ottawa—which I declined. In 1893, you made propositions to turn over the paper to me, which I did not accept. In December, 1894, when I was living at Moosejaw, you wrote that you wished to see me and, when I saw you, asked me to make an offer for the outright purchase of the 'Leader.' Without consideration I said: 'I'll give you \$4,000.' You said: 'I'll take it.' I said: 'Well, allow me until afternoon to see just what I can do about payments.' You said: 'Very well.' In the afternoon you said you wished a few days to think over the matter. When I saw you a week later you raised the price to \$8,000, and I said: 'Good morning.'

I made the statement here that the hon. gentleman raised it \$1,000, but it appears from this letter that he agreed to sell the paper for \$4,000, but in a few days afterwards he said he must have \$8,000. Yet, the hon. gentleman says in this House that every one in the North-west would believe his word before Mr. Scott's. The hon. gentleman said that the *Leader* Company was never hard up, but if that be the case, it is queer that it should be taking from the lieutenant-governor \$175 and \$400, for work that was never performed. Generally speaking, that is not the way that business men who are not hard up do business.

It was in the intervening week, I believe, that you made the scoop of \$175 alluded to above from the lieutenant-governor. When a printing office proved its ability to get government money for work not performed it certainly had a right to be considered more valuable. In the following April, that is to say in April, 1895, you again wrote to me at Moosejaw that you wished to see me. The following agreement was the result of our interview:

Regina, April 8, 1895.

The 'Leader' Company (Limited), agrees to sell and convey to Walter Scott the 'Leader' plant and machinery, type, forms and paper and good-will of the company for the sum of \$4,000, payable as follows: \$1,000 down on execution of conveyance, \$1,000 eight months from date of conveyance, \$1,000 sixteen months from date of conveyance, and balance twenty-four months from date of conveyance with interest until and after due at 8 per cent; N. F. Davin agrees to

lease the cellar and ground floor of the 'Leader' building for one year to Scott at \$40 per month payable in advance, Davin to pay one-half of rates and taxes on real estate; Scott will take the goods above mentioned on the terms above mentioned and will execute the proper conveyances in connection therewith; he will accept the building on said terms and will execute lease to this effect; it is understood that the engine and boiler and appurtenances thereto are now fixtures and included in a mortgage now on the building, but the company will convey its interest and when the mortgage on the building is paid the engine, &c., shall be considered chattels and the property of Scott, and may be removed by Scott on termination of lease; Scott is to assume and pay outstanding notes and indebtedness on the part of the goods now ordered and not yet arrived or opened; property to be clear except as hereinbefore mentioned; the value of the engine, boiler and appurtenances thereto to be retained out of balance of purchase money until the said mortgage is discharged or the engine is released from the mortgage; Davin, or the 'Leader' Company (Limited), will not run another paper in the town of Regina for five years or publish or edit one directly or indirectly; Davin and the company will pay proportion of taxes for 1895 up to date of execution of conveyance; interest on land mortgage to be paid to date of conveyance and proof furnished; if interest on land mortgage falls in arrears during Scott's tenancy Scott is to be at liberty to pay same and credit payment or payments on his mortgage to 'Leader' Company; the oil engine now in basement of 'Leader' building is not included in the goods above referred to; Scott is to pay the company's proportion of premium on the unexpired portion of insurance and to keep the goods insured for the amount now carried; Scott is to have the option of purchasing for the sum of \$2,000 over and above said sum of \$4,000 the subscription books and all outstanding accounts, he, Scott, to assume all the 'Leader' Company liabilities, his, Scott's, decision to be given before six o'clock on April 16th inst. If this offer is accepted it is to be paid in three equal payments added to the three subsequent payments before mentioned; Scott pays half taxes on realty and the taxes on the personality; the 'Leader' Company and Davin will pay their total rates and taxes for 1895, on building and personality up to entry into possession by Scott. (Sgd.) 'Leader' Company (Limited), N. F. Davin, Mgr. (Sgd.) N. F. Davin. (Sgd.) Walter Scott. Witness: (Sgd.) N. Mackenzie.

The hon. gentleman says, that he was only managing director of the *Leader* Company, but he appears here as N. F. Davin right through, and the *Leader* Company is in the background. That is the true agreement between the hon. gentleman's company and Walter Scott, and I fail to see one word about law reports or the \$175 in that agreement. The letter goes on:

You observe, Mr. Davin, that you agreed to transfer the 'Leader' to me absolutely and unreservedly for the sum of \$4,000. By the agreement you were not to retain any interest or control, political or otherwise.

There is nothing in that agreement about supporting the Conservative party that I can see.

The transfer was to be made immediately, that is to say, within a few days. Was it made? Did you honour your solemn agreement, your solemn bargain? By pleas and excuses you blocked the transfer, and dishonoured your signature. I instituted legal action, but your attendance at a session of parliament stayed proceedings until August following. Meanwhile I successfully tendered for the North-west Assembly printing for a session to open in September. About the middle of August I saw you and you protested your inability to fulfil your bargain, but when I showed you my printing contract and assured you that I would have a third plant in Regina within ten days unless you carried out the April agreement, then you hurriedly changed your mind and offered to fulfil the agreement of transfer—

He is alluding now to the printing contract from the North-west Territories which Mr. Scott had applied for, and obtained on the strength of getting the paper.

—but you pleaded that the price was low—that crop prospects were good, that my printing contract made the property more valuable to me; and to save haggling and delay, I said that I would give an additional thousand dollars. By your agreement in April you had led to my abandoning other interests I held in Regina; you had injured my financial position; for four months you had kept me out of what was mine by agreement. You claimed that the fault was not wholly yours. Let me admit your claim for a moment. Would an honourable man not have endeavoured to fulfil his contract to the letter? Did you so endeavour? No. You used circumstances to squeeze another thousand dollars. However, let that pass. For a consideration of \$1,000 you agreed to rehabilitate your honour and fulfil the terms of your solemn bargain. I repeat that upon my consent to pay an additional thousand dollars, you agreed to do what you were in honour bound to do. It was settled that the April agreement should be altered to stipulate payment of \$5,000 instead of \$4,000, and then to be carried out by you immediately. Undoubtedly I could have forced the fulfilment by you of the April contract by legal process, but time had become important to me, and I consented to be mulcted in the sum of \$1,000 to save delay and trouble.

Now, there is the statement made by Mr. Walter Scott, that when he got this contract from the North-west Territories for a lot of printing—and of course he had to have a paper and a press in order to do the work—then the hon. gentleman swoops down on him and says: We must have another thousand dollars before we fulfil the agreement, although the agreement had been signed. Mr. Scott could have got possession by legal means, but in the meantime he would have lost the printing contract, and it was worth a thousand dollars to him to get the immediate possession of the paper, which he did.

Before you effected the transfer a further hitch arose. I note that just now you are very insistent that four years ago I was a Conservative. Well, have it so. I would prefer to concern myself more with principles than names. But four years ago I do not think you believed that the name 'Conservative' was quite applicable to me. Certainly your chief supporters

in Regina did not consider me a Conservative. They objected to your selling your paper to me; and why? For the very reason that I was not a Conservative. And notwithstanding that you had made a solemn agreement to sell, and notwithstanding that you had renewed—for a consideration of \$1,000—that solemn agreement, you again listened to the objection of your supporters. Then you suggested that we should put into the contract the clause which you quoted to-day in your organ. I flatly refused. Finally, again to save delay and the trouble of forcing fulfilment by legal process, I consented to the insertion of the clause on the distinct understanding suggested by you—to which Mr. Jas. A. McCaul, you and I were parties—that as between you and me the clause was to be a dead letter; it was inserted simply to still the fears of your objecting supporters. I took possession of the 'Leader' with no other intention than to support you politically, but I took it in the full belief and confidence that my political action was wholly within my own control, and that I was absolutely independent, which I would not have been had the clause in the contract quoted by you been what it purported to be. I say that not only did I not receive valuable consideration or any consideration for the agreement to support you, but on the contrary that behind the apparent agreement you and I had an understanding that it was void and of no effect. No one realizes so fully as myself the mistake I made. I can plead, however, that when I took the 'Leader,' I did so in the full belief that I was in reality as free and untrammelled as the April contract left. I most solemnly state that I should never have taken the paper under other conditions. To save delay might have been worth \$1,000 to me, but could not have been worth the sacrifice of independence. You were under contract to make absolute transfer to me for \$4,000. You now contend that you made only a limited transfer for \$5,000. Do you not see that you are convicting yourself of a breach of contract? What position do you stand in to talk about any man's honour?

I have said that I will not quarrel with you over the statement that four years ago I was a Conservative. I have said that I bought the 'Leader,' intending to support you. Perhaps that entitled me to the name Conservative. As I say, I choose to be less concerned with names than with principles. When I concluded to support you, I simply did what many Liberals were thinking of doing. It was generally thought at the time that the contest in West Assinibola would be between you and the Patron candidate. Your attitude on the school and tariff questions was such that I felt I could support you without sacrifice of principle. You can bandy names now, but I challenge you to name a question on which my attitude now or since 1896 is or has been different from my attitude in 1895. In supporting you in 1895 I was supporting Manitoba's freedom and reform of the tariff. I continued to support you until April, 1896, not because I felt in any way bound to do so, but simply following the decision I had come to of my own accord. In April, 1896, did I change or did you change? The fact is so well known that the question needs no answer. You deserted Manitoba's cause. I refused to desert. Frequently between August, 1895, and April, 1896, I had asked you to erase the 'political support' clause in the August contract in conformity with our private understanding. You deferred. Your vote for the Remedial Bill brought matters to a crisis. Technically I did not violate the clause, but I plainly told you that were the clause strong or weak I could not

continue to support you. But your accusation that I broke the agreement is false. The 'Leader' did not oppose your election. I could not follow you in your somersault on the school question, but I endeavoured to be not only just but generous. I gave your friends the 'Leader' to be used as an organ to fight for your election.

Mr. FOSTER. Dispense.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman thinks I should dispense. I just wish to tell him that some strong statements have been made by Mr. Scott, and as Mr. Scott is not a member of this House, I think this letter should be placed before it.

Mr. DAVIN. Read on.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Scott says substantially that when the election came on, he handed the paper over to the Conservative party for the purpose of fighting the election. As he was opposed to separate schools being forced on Manitoba, he could not conscientiously support the Conservative party, and, therefore, he handed the paper over to the political friend of the hon. gentleman. Mr. Scott has published all the correspondence and agreements, and in an open, manly manner, has placed all the facts before the public. Here is the agreement:

Regina, May 14, 1896.

Agreement between Walter Scott, of Regina, publisher, and William Cayley Hamilton and James Allan MacCaul, of Regina, gentlemen.

Said Scott agrees to transfer control of the Regina 'Leader' newspaper to said Hamilton and MacCaul until and including 23rd June, 1896, it being understood that all space now occupied as advertising space or that may be regularly contracted for as such shall remain under the control and for the benefit of Scott. The space for reading matter outside advertisements shall not be limited to less than eleven columns. The newspaper shall, while under such editorial control in its general departments, be maintained by said Hamilton and MacCaul in its usual state of efficiency. All editorial matter for the week is to be furnished not later than four o'clock of the Wednesday in each week preceding the day of issue, and all other matter shall be supplied with such regularity and promptness as not to interfere with or delay the regular issue of the paper. Scott agrees to allow office accommodation for one person to be placed and kept in the 'Leader' office for the purpose of this agreement until the expiry of said term. Security by bond or covenant is to be furnished by said Hamilton and McCaul to the effect that no defamatory article shall be published in the portion of the said newspaper placed under their charge, and that in the event of any such article being published, the said Scott will be fully indemnified against all claims for damages by reason of such article. After the coming election Scott is to be at liberty to pursue any policy he may choose in the 'Leader' newspaper, notwithstanding the agreement heretofore entered into between Scott and Davin and the 'Leader' Company, and said Hamilton and McCaul have Davin's authority for agreeing hereto on his behalf.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it in order, Mr. Chairman, for an hon. gentleman to keep us here

all night reading an old newspaper from Regina. If so we can be kept here for any other old thing. It opens up a wonderful vista, if this kind of thing is to be allowed.

Mr. DAVIS. The hon. gentleman raised no objection while the hon. member for Assiniboia read letters, but when I want to read other letters he says that our time may be occupied with any old thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I was not here when the discussion began, and would like to have an explanation as to how it relates to the item before the House.

Mr. DAVIS. In the Auditor General's Report there is certain correspondence between him and the hon. member for West Assiniboia and the Deputy Minister of the Interior and other parties in connection with the payment of \$175. When the item came up for the payment of a certain amount to Mr. Rothwell, one of the chief clerks in the Department of the Interior, the hon. member for West Assiniboia objected to the payment because he had grievance against Mr. Rothwell for some correspondence which appeared in the Auditor General's Report, and he proceeded to discuss the whole matter although told he had better leave the question over until the report of the Public Accounts Committee was brought on.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. My opinion is that the item we are now discussing will not allow of the discussion which is now going on and has been going on for some time.

Mr. DAVIN. I hope, Sir, that you will allow the hon. gentleman to go on. I wish to say—

Mr. DAVIS. If I am to be choked off, I object to the hon. gentleman taking up the matter again.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. This discussion is not in order just now.

Mr. DAVIN. After you have allowed the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman, to make a lot of statements respecting me, you surely cannot rule that I have not the right to reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. When an irregular discussion takes place, I am bound to give a ruling as soon as attention is drawn to it.

Mr. DAVIN. Am I to understand that an hon. gentleman can read a letter addressed to me containing a tissue of falsehoods and make a lot of comments of an offensive character and I am not to say anything.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I am bound by the rules of the House and must rule the whole discussion out of order.

Mr. DAVIN. I will take another opportunity of dealing with this matter in this House. But, I find to-night that I am not only confronted with ruffianism, but with cowardice as well.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I suppose the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin), does not, in these expressions, refer to any hon. member of the House. If he wishes to refer to members of the House, I shall have to ask him to withdraw the expressions.

Mr. DAVIN. I adopt the precedent set by the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte) and sanctioned by yourself, Sir, on a similar occasion when I, on a question of privilege brought his language before the House. He said: I have used a general expression. And no one on the Treasury benches called him to account.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not know what happened on the occasion referred to or what precedent may have been set; but I take it that the expressions of the hon. member (Mr. Davin), on this occasion are not parliamentary, and I would ask him to be kind enough to withdraw them.

Mr. DAVIN. I have said that I used a general expression. And it is on record, that the Minister of Public Works, on a similar occasion, used the same expression.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understand that the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Davin's) words do not apply to anybody in particular.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. After this long discussion, I may say that in view of the fact that Mr. Rothwell's duties have been increased lately, and that he now acts as deputy minister during the deputy minister's absence, I think he is quite entitled to this increase.

Mr. FOSTER. Where is the deputy minister?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I said that Mr. Rothwell acted for him when he was absent.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the acting minister say that he is giving Mr. Rothwell a sum of money to recompense him for doing the duties of the deputy, when the deputy is absent, but drawing his salary?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No, I did not say that. I said that in view of the increase of business of the department, Mr. Rothwell's duties were very heavy. And I understand that it is customary in every department, that there is some officer who takes the place of the deputy when the deputy is absent through illness or on duty. And, for the past year, when the deputy has been absent, Mr. Rothwell has assumed the responsibility of acting in that capacity, and will do so in future.

Mr. FOSTER. And this is compensating Mr. Rothwell for doing these duties—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not at all. I simply gave this as the additional reason. Formerly, during the absence of the deputy, the secretary acted in his place, and he received a salary of \$2,800. That has been changed, and Mr. Rothwell acts, and the salary here proposed is \$2,400.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the acting minister is entirely wrong in this. This is a grave case. It used to be the practice when the lower officer performed the duties of a higher officer in the absence of the latter, to give him an additional sum, to compensate him. But that gave rise to grave abuse.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster), surely will accept the statement I made. If he understood me as saying what he states, I can only repeat that I did not say that. I said that Mr. Rothwell's increased responsibility, was an additional reason for giving him this increase—not that he is paid anything for acting as deputy minister.

Mr. FOSTER. Then the acting minister takes back the statement he started with?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) understood me as saying what he has stated—certainly.

Mr. FOSTER. I am glad of that, because the hon. gentleman's position was not tenable. Now, why should Mr. Rothwell be given an increase of \$400 in one year? Mr. Rothwell came into the service in what year?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In 1883, I think.

Mr. FOSTER. And he now receives \$2,000. He has had fairly rapid increase, I think, and his salary is at a good figure. It is proposed now not to give him a statutory increase, but to give him \$400 of an increase. I do not think the acting minister has given any good reason for it.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am informed, and I know of my own knowledge, that Mr. Rothwell's duties are very heavy, and he works many nights after hours. It was thought by the minister and the department that he was quite entitled to the salary here provided, and from my own knowledge of his work, and his close attention to his duties, I think he is well entitled to a salary of \$2,400.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Here we have an illustration of the extreme undesirability of running a department without the minister who is responsible. What can we say to the acting minister? The acting minister simply says: I am not the head of the department, but the minister thinks that this officer should have so much. Now, I would like to have a good reason why the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is not in his place in this House. No good reason for it has been given. Nor can it be said that we on this side have pressed

this point ; we have refrained from pressing it. But it is a thing unknown in the history of government that during an important session like this, two of the most important ministers in the government, should be absent from the House during the whole session, without any good reason given. The hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Tarte), the head of one of the most important departments in the government, is also absent. A good reason for his absence would be if he were unable to do his work here, and had gone away for rest and medical treatment. But, is that the case? Everybody knows that it is not. What is he doing? He has taken a position which, if he is able to perform its duties will throw upon him more worry and responsibility than if he had remained here with his officers about him and had conducted the affairs of his department. It is most important in the public interest, that a minister, at the head of so great a department, should be in his place in the House, above all during a session like this, the last before an election campaign. There were other men who could have performed the duties of looking after the exposition in Paris much better than the Minister of Public Works could do. It cannot be because he is so much required there that he is absent from this House. What, then, is the reason? And, even, aside from these two ministers who are out of the country, we have been treated almost every day to the spectacle of almost empty ministerial benches. There never has been a session of parliament since I entered this House in 1882, when that abuse has been so completely the rule, instead of the exception, as it has been this session. Now, why is it that the minister is not here? The acting minister says the minister knows, and he thought he ought to be recommended for \$400 of an increase, but no good reason is given. I think we are entitled to an answer as to why the minister of one of the departments is not present to attend to his work.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I do not know that this is the proper time to discuss the question that my hon. friend has raised, but since he has done so I have no objection to give him the information to which he thinks he is entitled, though it has been given before. I will commence what I have to say by answering his reference to the minister of Public Works. My hon. friend was here at the opening of the session, and has been ever since. He saw the Minister of Public Works in his seat at various times from the opening of the session up to the time he left for France, and I think if I were to put the question to my hon. friend what he thought of the health of the Minister of Public Works, he would answer that he thought he was in poor health. It is notorious that the Minister of Public Works went to France last summer, where he under-

went a serious operation ; it is notorious that in less than six weeks after he had undergone that operation he came back to Canada and resumed his official duties. That his health should be poor under the circumstances would not seem unlikely to anybody. Everybody would agree that Mr. Tarte would have consulted his own interest better if he had remained longer in France and continue to receive medical treatment. That he had a relapse, that the wound did not heal as rapidly as was expected, that his general health suffered, is not at all surprising ; on the contrary it was, in my estimation, the unavoidable consequence of what I thought at the time an imprudence on the part of the Minister of Public Works. He certainly was in very poor health at the time he left for France in March last. It is true that Mr. Tarte is very active in France, more active than I would like him to be. I think Mr. Tarte, with his usual impetuosity of character, does not consult his own interest. When he left Canada for France he did so under medical advice that a change of air and a change of work would benefit him if he followed the advice with circumspection. We all know that in many cases a change of air and a change of occupation is beneficial for a man who is subjected to a great mental strain. My hon. friend has come to the conclusion, perhaps, that Mr. Tarte's health is not very bad ; but he certainly knows the Minister of Public Works too well to be surprised that his activity and energy do not permit him strictly to follow the instructions of his medical adviser. So much for Mr. Tarte.

Now, I come to Mr. Sifton. Everybody knows that Mr. Sifton whose general health, I think, is fair, is afflicted with a chronic infirmity. Mr. Sifton spoke to me some time before the session, saying that he found to his alarm that this chronic infirmity was increasing, and he was advised that unless he consulted a specialist the consequences might be serious ; and it is not extraordinary that a man under such circumstances, a man in the prime of life, as he is, should desire at the earliest moment to seek the best treatment before it was too late, as in these matters prompt action is of the greatest importance. Of course under the circumstances, I had no hesitation at all as head of the government, in advising Mr. Sifton to seek further treatment. Accordingly he did so. After he reached Vienna his medical adviser had to go to Paris, and Mr. Sifton followed him to Paris in order to pursue a treatment which, as I understand from a letter I have received from him, has to be repeated every second day. Under these circumstances, I appeal to my hon. friend if he thinks he is justified in commenting so severely as he does upon the absence of the Minister of the Interior. For my part, I think that a man who is still under forty years of age, and finds this in-

firmity growing upon him, is more than excusable if at the earliest opportunity he seeks the best medical treatment he can find in order, if possible, to avoid the very serious consequences to his future in case that infirmity became incurable. This is the reason why the Minister of the Interior is absent. I can assure my hon. friend that if he regrets the absence of Mr. Sifton from the floor of this House there is some one who regrets it still more, and that is Mr. Sifton himself; and I can assure him that if there is any one who regrets it more than Mr. Sifton, it is myself. I think it is in many respects, unfortunate that he cannot attend to his duties, but the reasons that have been given for his absence seem to me so conclusive, that they should not justify the severe criticism that we have heard this evening.

Now, I come to the matter that we have in hand, the increase of salary to Mr. Rothwell. Mr. Rothwell is an officer of seventeen years service, who occupies an important position in the department. My hon. friend who has taken charge of the department in the absence of Mr. Sifton, says that Mr. Rothwell's duties are increasing. The hon. gentleman must know that the duties of all the officers of that department are increasing very rapidly, even if there were no other extra cause than the administration of the Yukon which belongs to that department. Now, how are we to treat a meritorious officer? The hon. gentleman knows that there are some officers who are good, some who are better than others, and some who have specially important duties to perform; and if the minister thinks that an officer who has to render important services in the department is entitled to an increase of salary, then the question is submitted to the judgment of the committee whether the increase ought to be voted. In this case, I think the increase is justified. In addition to these general reasons for the increase of work, the acting minister states that the position of Mr. Rothwell is one of the greatest responsibility, as when the deputy minister is absent, Mr. Rothwell has practically to take charge of the department, being next in rank. Those are the reasons which have been given for the increase of the salary of Mr. Rothwell, and I think they are sound and sufficient.

Mr. FOSTER. There is one part of my observations that the First Minister did not touch, he has not given a sufficient reason why there is such a continuous absence of ministers who are here in the city and at the seat of government, while matters pertaining to the department are under discussion.

The PRIME MINISTER. I can assure my hon. friend that the members of the government would find it more to their convenience, more agreeable to attend to their duties here on the floor of the House than to be constantly receiving delegations and

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

deputations and having to answer questions. That is the only reason I have to give my hon. friend, and that is a reason which I prefer not to exist. But my hon. friend knows that there is a growing tendency with increasing publication, telegraphs, telephones, and postal and railway services to bring to Ottawa all the time a greater number of people to speak with ministers, and to have interviews with them. We are constantly besieged by people who wish to see the ministers on public business. I have sometimes, myself, engaged my colleagues to be as much as possible in their seats in the House, and this is the invariable reason I have received. If they are not in their seats it is not that they are out through indolence or neglect, but it is because they are attending to their duties.

Mr. FOSTER. Deputations come and deputations have to see the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) as well. There is not a minister probably in the departments that is so frequently and generally here as the right hon. gentleman. The hon. minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) is here very generally, and I suppose there are not two more important ministers as regards deputations than the right hon. gentleman and the hon. Minister of Finance, and there are a great many hours when they are in their seats. It is the duty of a minister, I think, to the representatives of the people and a duty to the business they are called upon here to discharge, leaving their own homes, to come and spend the time here to carry it out. I am not speaking of this in any way of harsh criticism, but it has been notorious this session that the government benches have been vacant, and they have been vacant to a remarkable degree. The effect upon the House has been that the House has got into a completely careless and listless state. I never knew in my experience a session in which there has been less go, less business, less hand upon anything in the House than during the present session. Why? Because the ministers are not here, and if the ministers are not here the back bench members are not here, and there is not a minister who seems to care fiddle-de-dee whether business is done or not. There is another matter, and it is a matter of courtesy as well. My hon. friend behind me (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) was discussing an important question in reference to the Yukon, when the hon. Minister of the Interior is away. The hon. acting Minister of the Interior did not think that it was necessary to remain and listen to what was going on.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I was only out a short time.

Mr. FOSTER. The right hon. First Minister listened a while but he thought it was not his duty to remain when a charge of that kind was being pressed home. He went out also, and most of the time I do not think

there were more than two or three representatives of the government here. That is an instance of what is taking place over and over again. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock) is out of the House three-quarters of the time and more. When questions are asked information cannot be got because ministers are not here to answer questions. That all has its influence upon the interest in and work of the session; you take the whole spirit, the energy and the business out of the session. It has been taken out of this session. There has been a doleful lagging of business. Let us come to the statement that has been made in reference to Mr. Rothwell. Mr. Rothwell is a good servant; we will acknowledge that. So are very many; so, I believe, are most of the civil servants, but neither the hon. acting minister nor the Prime Minister has given any sufficient explanation of the work that Mr. Rothwell is doing. The extension of salary is a large one; it is a tremendous leap in the remuneration of a high salaried officer from \$2,000 to \$2,400. Why is it that a fair increase could not be made? Mr. Rothwell, the year before last and the year before, worked his hours, late hours and long hours, and he got his regular increase. I do not suppose that he has worked any more hours this year, and it has not been shown that his duties have been such as would justify such an addition to his salary. I do not criticise the absence of the ministers severely out of any feeling of animosity to the ministers. It is not that, but the Prime Minister knows that the country and the House remark upon this. If the hon. Minister of Public Works' state of health is such as to allow him to go to Paris and undertake with his peculiar temperament the headship of the Canadian representation at the Paris Exposition, with trips through the provinces, going to Belgium and addressing public meetings, being one night in Paris and the next night in London, the reason for his absence completely falls to the ground. The hon. minister is not away on account of debilitated condition, or of ill-health. He is away doing more active and more consuming work, I should think, for a man of his temperament than if he were to remain here. I grant that the right hon. gentleman is entirely right in saying that he returned from his first visit to Paris too early. If he had taken more time he would have given himself a fairer chance for recuperating. Instead of putting him in charge of the Paris Exposition the right hon. gentleman should have used his influence to have him go somewhere where rest and quiet could be got. But surely, if he is well enough, if a man like the hon. Minister of Public Works, with his temperament, is standing the strain of that peculiar work in Paris, if he can attend the multitude of banquets which are a necessary concomitant of it, if he can take these flights through the provinces, going to Belgium and addressing meetings, he is

perfectly able to stand his work here, and if he is able to stand his work here, here is where he ought to be instead of there. And then, as to the hon. Minister of the Interior; the hon. gentleman, as I read the matter, and as I understood it, has good general health. His indisposition is a serious one, and he requires treatment for it. But it is not a sudden thing. The hon. minister was looking well, and one would have thought that at the end of last session when his infirmity was of just about the same character and seriousness as it was later, because his affliction, and unfortunately a great affliction it is, has been with him for a long number of years, he could have taken the opportunity of going for medical advice. But, he did not do it. Neither did he take any extra advice or any care. On the contrary, he engaged in very heavy work. In the early autumn and winter he undertook a large contract, in the first place, making a tour of Manitoba and the North-west Territories and going to British Columbia. I believe, on a general speaking tour in company with some of his colleagues, and then plunging with all the vigour that he is possessed of into a red-hot campaign in Manitoba. Then, coming back to parliament looking very well as a matter of general health and with the peculiar infirmity that follows him not accentuated, he immediately slides out from the whole work of the session. He immediately slides out from the whole work of the session, and leaves the department in which is the Yukon and the Interior and the immigration business, just at a time when it is of the utmost importance, from a public point of view, that he should be here. A man cannot be a minister and do just the same as he would do if he were a private person. He has duties towards the House and duties towards the public, and the pity of it is that in this case he had not chosen the holiday interim for his treatment and absence, when he could have been better spared than he could at the time of the session. I think that is not an unfair criticism to make in reference to these two ministers. I made it, not in the spirit of animosity, but because I think the business of this House has been most seriously interfered with by their absence, and besides, I think it was a very bad precedent that men shall undertake the responsibilities of cabinet ministers and then not consider that they are under very great obligations to be in their places, most especially at the time of the session of parliament.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Coming to the case of Mr. Rothwell, there seems something extraordinary in this \$400 increase at a time when a great many meritorious men in the service cannot get even the ordinary statutory increase of \$50, no matter how long they work or how arduous their duties are. What seems extraordinary in all these increases in the

Interior Department is, that when we learn that the favoured person is in some way connected with the Yukon, then at once he comes under the favouring smile of the head of the department. Take the case of Mr. Rothwell. He is called chief clerk and law clerk; he entered the service in 1883. Go to the Justice Department, that has the heavy responsibility of the legal work, and you will find there Mr. Fraser, a gentleman much Mr. Rothwell's senior, and one of the ablest men in any department, who was appointed during the Mackenzie administration. Mr. Fraser is an exceptionally able man and a splendid officer. He has had the confidence of every one who has been in that department, and with that man's ability and long service, being the second officer after the deputy in the department, he is only receiving \$2,400 a year to-day. The comparison becomes extraordinary if you look over the different departments in order to ascertain how it is that Mr. Rothwell is so favoured. For a long time, and until a year or two ago, when he got \$2,400, the chief engineer of the Marine Department only received \$2,000. The chief clerk of that department, who has been almost a lifetime there, is only receiving \$2,400, while the chief clerk who has to deal with legal matters and all the shipping matters in the Department of Marine is getting but \$2,000 after all his years of service. I do not want to go over all these different names, but I have mentioned officers holding at least as important offices as Mr. Rothwell, and who have longer service, and this favoured treatment is not meted out to them. It does seem extraordinary that on the reasons given, Mr. Rothwell should jump from \$2,000 to \$2,400 at one fell swoop.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not agree that there is anything extraordinary in the comparisons made by the hon. gentleman. It may be possible that some of the officers he has referred to have not received full justice, but I do not think there is any comparison in the amount of work they have to do as compared with Mr. Rothwell.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Would you compare Mr. Rothwell with Mr. Fraser?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The ex-Minister of Justice has more knowledge of the work in the Justice Department than I have, but I can tell him that I believe Mr. Rothwell has to deal with legal matters requiring legal ability affecting the interests of the people of this country and involving a much larger amount of money, than has, perhaps, any officer of any department, outside the deputy ministers.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What, for instance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. We will take the appeals from the Yukon, and there are a great many of them.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What has he got to do with the appeals?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Surely as an ex-minister the hon. gentleman knows that it depends a great deal upon the officers of the department—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Mr. Rothwell has not a particle of right in law to interfere in an appeal from the Yukon. It has never been pretended in this House, that when the judicial discretion was vested in the minister, that he could call in the assistance of the chief clerk of his department. It is monstrous.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman is not going to be so unfair as to intimate that he has not called in the assistance of the Deputy Minister of Justice or of Mr. Fraser. What right had he as Minister of Justice to ask these officers to look into points of law and to draw up documents for which he was responsible?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The cases are not similar. I am speaking of the anomalous functions in connection with the appeal given to the Minister of the Interior. There is no similar case in the Justice Department.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, there is.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What?

The PRIME MINISTER. Here is an appeal given to the Minister of the Interior as to conflicts between claimants and so on, in the Yukon. The minister must have the facts reviewed. He cannot undertake himself to read all the documents. He has his officers to look over the case and prepare a synopsis, and the minister may discuss the law points with him. Take the case of the Minister of Justice. The minister has to revise a death sentence. The record is sent to Mr. Power, an officer of the department. Mr. Power reads it all, makes an abstract of it, annotates it for the minister, and even will discuss it with the minister. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) knows very well that the minister has not the physical time to do all these things. He cannot do the work unless he has some one to take the record, analyse it, and put the work before him. That is the work Mr. Rothwell is doing.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Nothing could illustrate better the absolute absurdity of this system whereby appeals are taken to the Minister of the Interior. The Prime Minister says it is physically impossible for the minister to give such time to that which would enable him to deal with it as a judge would deal with it.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is not what I said. I said it is impossible for the minister to do the work himself unless he

has an officer to go over it to study the record and to make an abstract of it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then I say it is a scandal. It is nothing but a downright scandal that a man who is constituted a judge, an appellate court in connection with the rights of litigants, should resort to a brief, or discuss that case with any man outside of counsel. The hon. gentleman will not say that in the courts of this country the judges are assisted by the advice of clerks attached to those courts in regard to cases that have to be argued before them. It has never been suggested that such a thing happens or could happen. It would be a fearful scandal if any parties could approach or be in a position to approach the judge. The right hon. gentleman smiles.

The **PRIME MINISTER.** Yes, I do.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then, I will discuss the subject a little more fully, because the hon. gentleman should take a more serious view of it, and the public will do so whether he smiles or not. The minister acting as a court gives a decision which is not the result of the deliberation of the judge after counsel on both sides have been heard, but the result of the work and the assistance of a gentleman who has had an audience with the judge after the counsel have gone away or before they have appeared. It is the result of an ex parte hearing or an ex parte consultation behind their backs.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE.** Suppose the minister did not happen to be a lawyer.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. What has been done by Mr. Sifton, who is a lawyer, is to call in the Minister of Justice to assist him. No one pretends that this man is called in and sits with the minister. No one has ever suggested that he should call a clerk in to advise with him. Think of the dangers that such a system suggests. This overworked Mr. Rothwell, this man whose hands are so full, might also on the same principle get other assistance, and the rival parties on their part might induce favourable views and favourable authorities to be sent in to the minister. I venture to say that none of the parties litigating before that tribunal have ever dreamed that its decision was prepared by Mr. Rothwell, who gave to the minister the assistance that Mr. Power, for instance, gives in totally dissimilar cases. The judicial work is always ended before these capital cases come before the Justice Department at all. The question of right is all settled, the question of liberty is begun, the punishment has been inflicted, and the question there is not a judicial one at all. It is a question of the exercise of the clemency of the Crown; and there, just as

other matters are prepared for council the minister gets the assistance of his officers; but it is not suggested that the minister is ever acting between rival parties or rival interests who have a public judicial hearing before him. So that I think the attempted illustration is a most unfortunate one; but it strengthens a view which is rapidly obtaining, that that tribunal is totally unsuitable for the very important work that has to be performed. That work, according to the law of parliament, is the work of a judge or a minister put in the position of a judge, and, I think it will come with a shock to the public that this work is disregarded, not by the head of the department assisted by a colleague sitting in court, but is the result of the work of Mr. Rothwell. Now, what other work does Mr. Rothwell do? These law clerks are not in every department; there is one in the Railway Department, and there is one in the Interior Department; and up to this date it has been explained in parliament—whether by this administration or not I will not say, but by the last administration it certainly was—that these law clerks are appointed merely to prepare cases for the consideration of the department responsible for the law of the government, that is, the legal Advising Department; and that in the Railway Department, for instance, the law clerk has been used for the performance of simple work, though of a technical character, while the responsibility for legal opinions in any important matter always rests on the Department of Justice. The work of these law clerks is practically that of a solicitor, such as conveyancing or preparing a case for the opinion of counsel. What other work of the high character suggested does Mr. Rothwell as law clerk do?

The **PRIME MINISTER.** My hon. friend will pardon me, but I must tell him frankly that I am more than surprised at the criticism which he has made of the duties performed by Mr. Rothwell in connection with appeal cases. First of all, I disclaim the statement which the hon. gentleman has placed in my mouth, that Mr. Rothwell practically makes the opinion of the minister. What I say is that the Minister of the Interior would be lax in his duty, in connection with the important duties which devolve upon him in these appeal cases—putting aside the question whether he is or is not a lawyer—if he did not avail himself of the ability of a lawyer to prepare for him an abstract of the case and put the question in issue before him. For instance, here is a bundle of cases that come from the Yukon. There may be in the bundle a great deal of material which is important to the issue or not important, relevant or not relevant. He has an officer who goes over the record, prepares an abstract, and puts the case to be argued by counsel. Can it be pretended that the minister should

not avail himself of the advantage of having a person versed in the law to prepare a statement of the case to be argued and on which counsel may be consulted? The hon. gentleman says there is no similarity between this case and the cases which come before the Minister of Justice involving the question of life or death. The hon. gentleman says that in such cases there is no question of right to decide. Can there be a greater right than the question of life or death?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Before it comes to the minister, the right is absolutely gone.

The PRIME MINISTER. I deny it. It is not a matter of the caprice of the minister to say that this one is to be pardoned and that one is not. I am surprised that the hon. gentleman should speak in that way. He has been a Minister of Justice himself, and he knows that there are no more important duties to be performed by the Minister of Justice than to decide whether the sentence of death is to be executed or not; and in deciding that question the Minister of Justice is not guided by his own caprice or his personal sentiment. He has to follow the rules just as much as the judge at the trial. How is he to arrive at that conclusion? He as an officer of the department, versed in the law, to look over the case and make a precis of it, and draw the attention of the minister to this point or that, which may aid him in coming to a conclusion, whether or not he will advise the Governor General to exercise clemency. That is the important work done by Mr. Power, and it is the kind of work that, in a lesser degree, Mr. Rothwell has performed for the Minister of the Interior. He has to prepare a precis for the minister, call attention to the points of law and fact involved, so that when the case is argued before the minister, he will be in a position to more clearly follow it, and make up his mind as to what weight should be attached to the arguments. Apart from these duties, he has to discharge the duties which every law clerk has to perform.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does Mr. Rothwell actually prepare a precis of the cases argued before the Minister of the Interior, and put that before him before the counsel appear?

The PRIME MINISTER. I understand that he goes over the matter and prepares the case so that the minister may familiarize himself with it, and call the attention of counsel to the points involved. There are some papers in the record which are relevant, and others which are not, some which are important and others not, and the minister would be lax in his duty if he had not the record sifted so that he might know what documents were really important before counsel came before him.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman will agree with me that I have some ground for surprise at his statement. Would it not be a scandal that a factum should be prepared by the clerk of the court, in cases appealed to, say, the Supreme Court, and this factum be put before the judges?

The PRIME MINISTER. I have not said that Mr. Rothwell prepares a factum. But, taking the case of the Supreme Court, whenever an appeal is taken to that court, the clerk prepares an abstract of the record before it goes before the judges, and that work requires to be done by a lawyer. The clerk does not prepare a factum, but an abstract.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I would like to know just what Mr. Rothwell does in connection with an appeal to the minister. Does he analyse the evidence or what does that abstract mean to which the Prime Minister refers?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I regret exceedingly that my hon. friend should put an explanation into my mouth, that I did not give. If Mr. Rothwell were responsible for the judgment of the minister, that would be a scandal, but I never said anything of the kind. I simply said that the increased business of the department had entailed considerable increased work on him, and I cited the business of the Yukon as an illustration.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I have asked a very important question. We know what Mr. Power does in connection with capital cases, and I would like to know what Mr. Rothwell does in connection with these appeals from Mr. Senkler, the gold commissioner in the Yukon?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have said that Mr. Rothwell's duties were increased, and the hon. gentleman evidently misunderstood my remarks since he has so very vigorously misrepresented me. The policy of sending these appeals to a minister is not under discussion, and there are many appeals to the minister in which counsel do not appear at all, and in cases where counsel do appear there is nothing that Mr. Rothwell does, that would influence the mind of the minister in the matter at all. The minister can use his own judgment, after hearing what is said on both sides, but there is considerable work to be done of a clerical nature, and which at the same time demands a trained legal mind, and which the minister himself could not be expected to do. It is a great convenience, not only to the minister, but to the counsel, to have a synopsis of the regulations prepared, so that they may know what regulations were in force at the time the dispute arose, and some very eminent counsel are very glad to have this work done. But, I do not wish to be understood as having said

that Mr. Rothwell assumes the position of judge or in any way acted as a judge in connection with these appeals. I know that his duties have been very much increased. Since I have been connected with the department, he has had to work until late at night every day to get up his work in connection with the department. As the hon. gentleman has been discussing this theory of referring everything to the Department of Justice, I would say, from my own experience, that that is utterly impracticable, and would cause great dissatisfaction. If every little matter in controversy were to be referred to the Department of Justice, the parties interested would be dead and gone in many cases, before a decision could be had, because that department could not possibly get through the work. It is much better to have an efficient officer in each department, and I am satisfied that the hon. gentleman has not cause for complaint at all of the way the business has been conducted in the department, with regard to these important matters.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As the Solicitor General is not here, it is hardly fair to say that the Department of Justice is in such a condition, that the other departments cannot afford to refer important questions to it, because the delay would be too great. However, that is not the point we were discussing. The Prime Minister said that he understood—and I want to get it from the acting Minister of the Interior, as the Prime Minister was not very certain—that Mr. Rothwell prepared an abstract of these appeal cases for the acting minister or the minister. I wish to find out if the Prime Minister was correct in that regard.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know what the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) calls an 'abstract.' But, whatever it may be called, it does not affect the case in the way the hon. gentleman suggests. If Mr. Rothwell is asked for information by the minister he prepares it for him. In many cases he makes an abstract. I know he has done so for me. The preparation of these cases involves a great deal of work, and it is work that can only be done by a capable, responsible man.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Sutherland) knows what an abstract or precis of a case is. But he has avoided the question I put, and that was, whether the Prime Minister was right in saying that Mr. Rothwell made an abstract of the cases coming before the minister for appeal. For instance, he told how Mr. Power made a precis of cabinet cases which is laid before the Minister of Justice. That is very close to a factum of the case. If the question involved is one of fact, it means reviewing the evidence bearing upon that question; if the question is one of law, it means the selection

and arrangement of the authorities. Now, is that the class of work performed by Mr. Rothwell, either in cases where no counsel appears or in cases where counsel appears?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know that he does this to the extent indicated by the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then, what does he do? If the hon. gentleman is going to ask \$400 additional for an officer's salary, he should be able to tell what his duties are.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think I have explained very fairly to the House and that the House has understood me. The hon. gentleman has made some comparisons, and I leave it to the House to say whether even on the basis of the comparisons he has made these other officers are not receiving larger salaries, in proportion to their duties, than Mr. Rothwell.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Then, what does he do?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend must be reasonable. I expect to give all reasonable information with respect to every item. But I cannot be expected to be as familiar with all these details as one who has been in the department for a long time.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. But you have had some cases.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Quite a number. Every member of the House is entitled to all reasonable information, and, so far as I am concerned, he shall have it. I shall not ask to be excused. I may not give it with the same ability as the minister himself (Mr. Sifton), but I will take care to acquire all reasonable information for every hon. member. In this case, I think the hon. member (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) is particularly unreasonable in expecting me to go into every detail of what an officer does day by day. I suppose the members of the House must, to some extent, accept the statement of the minister with regard to the duties of an officer in his department without furnishing in the merest detail every duty he performs. I say, from my observation and knowledge since I have been in the department, that Mr. Rothwell's duties are very numerous, onerous and responsible. The hon. gentleman has been a member of the House for some time, and I am sure he never heard of such a thing as making a minister go into details in such a matter. The business of the department has increased very much indeed, due largely to the business in the Yukon. These duties are such as the head of the department thinks it is necessary for Mr. Rothwell to perform. When an

officer of the department is asked to furnish regulations referring to a certain matter—

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Orders in council—

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, orders in council, for instance, or statutes, and so on; these things must be done correctly. I have found Mr. Rothwell very diligent and very faithful. In cases I have asked him, he produced the statutes, which it must take him a considerable time to find, the regulations and so on. That facilitates the hearing of the case when the counsel have come and puts the minister in a much better position to deal intelligently with the matter than he otherwise could. Then, I have explained in a general way, that Mr. Rothwell takes the place of the deputy minister when the deputy is absent. I do not say he is entitled to remuneration directly for that, but being so called upon increases his responsibility. And I may also point out that, notwithstanding this change that has been made, there is a reduction on the whole item. The salary received by Mr. Hall before was \$2,800, and the sum of \$800 is divided equally between two officers, Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Keyes.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The hon. gentleman has whittled down Mr. Rothwell's work in this appellate court almost to the fine end of nothing. It was a heavy job as the Prime Minister told it; Mr. Rothwell had to prepare an abstract of these cases, to select what was relevant and what was irrelevant on these questions of fact and so on, so that it seemed surprising that Mr. Rothwell could perform these duties, or act for the deputy of the department with so many other things to do. Now, the acting minister left us with the impression that if there are counsel in the case Mr. Rothwell is careful to abstain from any interference; if there is no counsel, all Mr. Rothwell does is to show the minister where the orders in council can be found. Then he finds out the statutes—there are not many of them, and the experience probably in one case would enable him at the touch of a bell to do all that work in a very few minutes. Therefore, in regard to this judicial work my alarm is largely allayed; the Prime Minister alarmed me, when on his explanation, I inferred that this gentleman was sharing a large amount of the judicial work thrown upon the shoulders of the Minister of the Interior. Now, I am not going to be unreasonable. Here is a gentleman whose name is up for a large increase, and it cannot be for that work. What other work does he do as a law clerk in the department?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I suppose my hon. friend is somewhat familiar with the work of that department. Mr. Rothwell has a great many troublesome questions to deal

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

with, especially in regard to the half-breed claims to land. Many matters also come from the Yukon that require a decision by the minister, and in his absence Mr. Rothwell has to deal with them. There are numerous matters to attend to in regard to titles to land, preparations of leases granted by the hundred daily, as it appears to me.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
On a printed form.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Even if they were in printed form, they require to be carefully examined and filled up.

Mr. FOSTER. Did he draw up that of Philp?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman has talked so long and so often on that subject, that I am not sure whether he ever got a lease or not.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In the work of advising on titles does the Minister of the Interior take his opinion direct and act upon it, or is the matter referred to the Justice Department?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He reports either to the deputy or to the minister.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
And that is acted on directly?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think in most every case that comes under my notice they are referred to the Department of Justice when it is thought necessary; but in regard to titles, where he makes his report the deputy minister is satisfied and acts upon it.

Mr. CLANCY. I have been listening for some good reason for this increase that might not just as well apply to any other clerk in the department. I do not know a single clerk in any of the departments that the reason alleged by the hon. gentleman might not just as fairly be applied. We are told that Mr. Rothwell works well, that is to be assumed; that he is courteous, that is to be assumed; that he has increasing work, that is to be assumed. If a clerk starts out at the foot of the ladder in the third-class and goes to the maximum in the first-class, it is presumed that he has had increasing duties all the time that entitled him to an increase. If that be not the case I entirely misunderstand the reason for the advancement of these clerks. I have heard no reason alleged why Mr. Rothwell should be singled out as a special case to be given an advance of \$400. I assume that Mr. Rothwell is a very efficient clerk, but that is not a sufficient justification. When the hon. gentleman had concluded his attempt to show what Mr. Rothwell's enormous duties were I had about made up my mind that he had no duties.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend must know that in all the departments of the service these increases are asked on the responsibility of the minister, and I am satisfied that this man is entitled to an increased remuneration. From my own knowledge of the work that he has to perform and the responsibility placed upon him, I think he is entitled to this at least, and in my opinion to more.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, what does the minister say with reference to the next one? Here is a man, Mr. Keys, to whom we are asked to vote \$2,200, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act.

Mr. FOSTER. Whose place does Mr. Keyes take?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He succeeds Mr. John R. Hall.

Mr. FOSTER. What became of Mr. Hall?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was placed on the retired list.

Mr. FOSTER. At what age?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. His age was fifty-three.

Mr. FOSTER. And he got what allowance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He got \$1,456.

Mr. DAVIN. A year?

Mr. FOSTER. What did Mr. Keyes get?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. \$1,550 in his former position.

Mr. FOSTER. What reason can the hon. minister give for taking a man who was getting \$1,550 and giving him \$2,400?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I suppose it would not be fair for me to ask the hon. gentleman who was responsible for the salary of his predecessor, which was \$2,800, I understand that Mr. Keyes has been twenty odd years in the service. He had worked up, and was thought well qualified to occupy this important position made vacant by the retirement of Mr. Hall, who received \$2,800. He has received this promotion.

Mr. FOSTER. That is no reason at all. Does the hon. minister mean to take the ground that when an old officer retires anybody who gets his place has his salary immediately put up to that amount? The point is that Mr. Keyes was getting \$1,550. That was the salary of a first-class clerk, not at the maximum. The maximum salary of a first-class clerk would be \$1,800. So that it would take \$250 to reach the maximum by regular grades of \$50 each, which Mr. Keyes had to earn if he had been promoted in the line of a first-class clerk. Then, the hon. minister knows that the next rank is that of a chief clerk, and a chief clerk commences, not with a salary

of \$2,400. Does not the hon. minister think that it would have been quite a sufficient raise if Mr. Keyes had been made a chief clerk with the minimum salary of a chief clerkship instead of giving him \$850 of a raise and making his salary \$2,400? What justification has the hon. minister for giving Mr. Keyes an advancement of \$250 to allow him the maximum of a first-class clerkship, and then adding this large amount to bring his salary up to \$2,400. Why would he not put it at the minimum of a chief clerk?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The position is a very important one. I do not know that the salary is fixed at all except by precedent. Therefore, in positions of that kind there is no rule as regards salaries. Whatever parliament thinks fit to fix the salaries at has been accepted as the amounts at which these salaries should properly be fixed. I can give no other explanation than that Mr. Keyes has been for a great many years in the department. He was picked out as an officer who is qualified by experience and by ability in every way for the position. I suppose that if one who had never been in the department had been appointed, it would have been reasonable to have fixed his salary at a lower amount than one who had been in the department, and particularly one who had been for so many years in the department, whose ability and character are so well known. Mr. Keyes being the best man to appoint, I think, it is reasonable that he should be paid this salary, which does not approach to the salary of his predecessor within \$400 a year.

Mr. FOSTER. And it is quite a little less than the First Minister gets.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am inclined to think that the duties of the office and the ability of the man entitle him to this amount.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. minister has missed the point entirely. The minister thinks that these salaries are fixed at the caprice of parliament. But we have a civil service system, and when you get these first-class clerks or chief clerks they commence at a minimum and go up to a maximum by certain grades. If Mr. Keyes had been at the head of the first-class, the natural step would have been to have got a promotion to the chief clerkship, and to have commenced at the maximum salary. But, he was given \$250 of a raise to get him to the head of his own class, and then given \$600 more, and paid \$2,400. There is no justification in the world for that. This is a case simply of the minister doing just what he likes and expecting the party to do as his whim dictates. No reason at all has been shown why you should take Mr. Keyes from \$250 below the maximum

of a first-class clerk, and then, not contenting yourself with making him a chief clerk at the minimum, you give him \$600 above the minimum. Here is Mr. Hall, who is fifty-three years of age, and \$1,400 is paid to him for superannuation. You save in salary, but by this inordinate jump, you are paying Mr. Keyes \$600 beyond the maximum of a first-class clerk.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend is hardly fair to a man who has been so many years in the service, and who is so well qualified to occupy that position.

Mr. FOSTER. How many years in the service?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Twenty-two years.

Mr. FOSTER. Cannot the minister run his eye over the civil service record and find scores and scores of men who have been there twenty-two years, and who are not getting \$2,000 or \$1,800?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. And perhaps ought not to be there at all.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, it is the minister's duty to hunt them out. I venture to say scores of men are in the departments who have been there longer, and who are just as good clerks as Mr. Keyes.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think my hon. friend will find that to be the case. There may be many who have not advanced in their positions. If a man is fitted by ability and character after long service to fill an important position, why should he not have it?

Mr. FOSTER. But the chief clerkship commences with \$1,800.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. As secretary of the department he has a great deal of responsible work.

Mr. FOSTER. Would not \$250 have been a good advance for a single year?

Mr. DAVIN. I come from a country where we have mainly farmers, and in the interests of these farmers in other days, from these benches the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. McMullen), the hon. member for North York (Mr. Mulock) and others, howled against superannuation, howled against the statutory increase of \$50, and here we have in one case an increase by promotion of one-fifth of a man's salary, and in another case a still greater increase given, and a man in the prime of life superannuated at \$1,400 a year. That is the style of thing we have to deal with in the Interior Department. It contravenes every principle of economy and goes in the teeth of all the professions made by the Liberals when in opposition.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Prime Minister say that such an increase is going to be made the rule? Here is a gentleman not

Mr. FOSTER

at the head of the first-class, and he is made a chief clerk, the minimum of which is \$1,800, and which would give him an increase of \$250. That would have been sufficient for this young man in the first year. But, what justification is there that he should be raised from the first-class, put into the next class above it, and put at the maximum of that class?

The PRIME MINISTER. There is an easy answer.

Mr. FOSTER. Easy if you want to do it.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, the thing is not without precedent. This young man has been appointed secretary of the department, and he is given the salary attached to the position. Suppose, that instead of being promoted from the service he was brought in from the outside, he would have been given the salary attached to the position also. Here is a precedent in point. Mr. Burgess was an officer in the department who had a well-deserved reputation for ability. Mr. Burgess was taken into a relatively inferior position in 1876. He had risen somewhat when the position of deputy minister became vacant, and he was given the position. He jumped at once into the position, and he got the salary of \$3,200 which is attached to it. Mr. Keyes gets the salary attached to the position.

Mr. FOSTER. The right hon. gentleman is quite wrong. There is no salary attached to the secretary of a department as secretary. You can make a first-class clerk secretary if you like. The deputy minister gets a minimum of \$3,200 according to law, and Mr. Burgess, an old servant, came in at that.

The PRIME MINISTER. He was a young servant.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, he got the salary of \$3,200 attached to the position, but there is no salary of \$2,400 attached to the position of secretary.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is no statutory salary as in the case of a deputy minister, but my information is that the secretary always gets more than \$2,200. The salary of Mr. Hall was \$2,800.

Mr. FOSTER. He came into the service in 1865.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He served three years more than Mr. Keyes, and still you paid Mr. Hall \$2,800 for years, so that, you must have considered it an important position. The position of secretary of the Interior Department is very responsible, and the salary asked is not high in comparison with the \$2,800 paid for several years to Mr. Hall.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Hall was in the service in a responsible position; but Mr. Keyes was a second-class clerk. You ad-

vance him from one class to another, and then you put him at the maximum of a new class instead of allowing him to work his way up. He gets very nearly what Mr. Hall got after having been a long time secretary of the department. The fact is that the minister (Mr. Sifton) helps his favourites to large increases of salary. They do his bidding, and there are men in that same department who work just as faithfully and just as well, and they cannot get even the \$50 they ought to get as their statutory allowance. But the minister has favourites, and the minister has to pick and cull and choose, and he does so from his favourites in that department. He is doing it now, and he has done it from the time he came there. He commenced by penetrating a gross injustice on some of the best officers in his department, and then he picks out his favourites and advances them at the rate of \$600 or \$800 a year. Every one knows that this is eating all life and ambition out of the civil service and out of the department. The minister has not shown that Mr. Keyes is a man of such great ability that he must be put up by a leap of \$850.

The PRIME MINISTER. Some one must be secretary of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. And some one could be secured at \$1,800.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, I do not think that will do. There is a salary attached to the importance of the position, and the salary ought to be more than that. Mr. Keyes apparently is a good officer, and he has been promoted to that position, and a salary is given to him, which he ought to have.

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to ask the acting Minister, when Mr. Hall was made secretary of the department?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. In 1883. I think.

Mr. CLANCY. Did he receive \$2,400 then?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am not in a position to answer that.

Mr. CLANCY. If the hon. gentleman could show that Mr. Hall commenced the secretaryship of the department at \$2,400, then the right hon. Prime Minister would probably have something of a case; but if Mr. Hall discharged the duties of the office at a lower salary, then there is no salary in particular attached to the secretaryship.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My hon. friend must see that that would be no fair comparison at all. In the last three or four years the business of the department has more than doubled; and it is not fair to say that the salary paid twenty years ago to an officer occupying the same position, would be a fair salary to-day, when the duties are ten times as great. There is no foundation for

the statement that the minister has been picking out favourites.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I see that Mr. Roy, the secretary of the Public Works Department, only gets \$2,100.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If any one can dispute my statement that the duties and responsibilities of this man are heavy, and that is the reason we ask for a fair remuneration for him, that would be a fair matter for discussion. But my hon. friend will go through with the whole list, and he will find that in no case has any question of politics or favouritism entered.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose other secretaries have a good deal of work, too. Here is a secretary in the Department of Public Works see what an immense amount of business is rolled in on him, with the minister away, and he only gets \$2,100.

Mr. TALBOT. He is fresh, just coming in.

Mr. FOSTER. The one that went out was not fresh, and he only got \$2,100. Then, there is a secretary in the Department of Railways and Canals, who has been a secretary since 1896, and he only gets \$2,200. So that you cannot say that the secretary of the Department of the Interior is overwhelmed with business, and that other secretaries are not. The fact is that most of these secretaries came in as about first-class clerks, and worked themselves up by the increases; but this man is put at the head of the list at the start. Who is the secretary of the Finance Department?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Mr. Treadwell.

Mr. FOSTER. He only gets \$2,100. I am satisfied the Minister of Finance will not allow any invidious comparison to be made between him and Mr. Keyes, and Mr. Treadwell is an old officer. I venture to say that he does just as much work as Mr. Keyes, and does it just as well.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He is a good officer.

Mr. FOSTER. But he must be satisfied with \$2,100, because he is under a minister who has some conscience in these matters, or is restrained by his deputy, I do not know which, while the other has no conscience and is out of the arena. No deserving man who is at work in the departments, doing an equal kind of work and getting less salary, but will feel aggrieved when he sees you putting a man at a jump above the rest of his class, when you first put him in office.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. What must they have felt like when my hon. friend paid his predecessor \$2,800, while we are only asking \$2,400?

Mr. FOSTER. Can the hon. gentleman not see a difference between a man who is in his first year in the secretaryship, and a man who has been in it many years ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. When the hon. gentleman first paid Mr. Hall \$2,800, the number of letters written in the department was 60,680, while last year, the number was 186,899.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister has established his case ; Mr. Keyes has written 186,899 letters.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not say that.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not believe you can establish that Mr. Keyes writes a single letter more than Mr. Hall did. In fact, neither of them writes the letters.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not object to the questions of the hon. gentleman, but I would appeal to him, if it is fair to put words into my mouth that I did not use. I said that I simply wished to show by these figures the increased business of the department ; and even if the secretary does not write these letters, he is responsible for them.

Mr. CLANCY. Upon the same ground, has the hon. gentleman increased the salary of every clerk in the department ? Because they all had their share of the increased work.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. We have asked increases for a number of them. The duties and responsibilities of all the officers have not increased in the same proportion.

Mr. FOSTER. Does Mr. Keyes's name as secretary, go at the foot of every one of these 186,000 letters ? I think the minister is under the impression that Mr. Keyes reads all these letters, or signs them all.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think that Mr. Keyes does a bit more because the number of letters has increased.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The business of the department has increased largely, and consequently the duties of these officers.

Mr. FOSTER. It is an indefensible increase. Who is the accountant ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The late accountant, Mr. Pinard, died. He received a salary of \$2,350. His assistant, Mr. Beddoe, was promoted. He was receiving \$1,800, and now gets \$1,850.

Mr. FOSTER. Why did Mr. Beddoe only get his statutory increase. Mr. Keyes was promoted to the maximum of a first-class clerk, and given \$50 increase. And Mr. Beddoe was only given the \$50 increase over his former salary. Why was he treated differently from Mr. Keyes ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

The PRIME MINISTER. To prevent the criticism of my hon. friend.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Beddoe has been in the service since 1883, and all he got on his promotion was an increase of \$50, although he took the place of a man who was getting \$2,350. Is it because he had not the pull that Mr. Keyes had. What about the increase to Mr. King ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think that any exception can be taken to the increase of \$100 to Mr. King, the chief astronomer.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. King is a very competent man ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Would you think he was as competent as Mr. Keyes ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. For his particular duties he is very much more competent, but he has not anything like the hours or the responsibility of the other man.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. King is a man of the highest class of technical service, but he has to be satisfied with \$2,200. But Mr. Keyes, who has none of these qualifications, but is simply a clerk, gets \$850 of an increase, and is made chief clerk at the maximum of a chief clerk's salary. Is that a fair way of rewarding real merit ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am willing to admit that, so far as Mr. King is concerned, he is a man of exceeding ability, but I think there is a very great difference between him and Mr. Keyes in the hours and class of work, and that sort of thing.

Mr. FOSTER. No doubt the difference is that Mr. King does not do the work Mr. Keyes does, and consequently has not the big pull. He is simply a scientific man.

Mr. CLANCY. We had the Minister of Agriculture the other day urging an increase on the ground of technical qualifications, but here we have the acting Minister of the Interior saying that such qualifications do not count for as much as qualifications of an inferior kind.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is Mr. White ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He is the geographer in the department. We are giving him \$1,800. He was transferred from the Geological Department at that figure, but through some error last year the proper amount was not voted him, and I will have to ask for \$200 to be paid him out of the supplementary estimates.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has Mr. White been in the service ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Fifteen years, and he is a very competent man, highly recommended by Mr. Dawson.

Mr. FOSTER. Here is a thoroughly good man who has been sixteen years in the service, and you make him keep himself and family on \$1,800, but Keyes jumps from \$1,550 to \$2,400. Is that treating real merit properly.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If I were to express my personal opinion, I must say that I do not think scientific knowledge receives from the government or the universities sufficient remuneration. It is unfortunate that men of such high scientific attainments can be engaged at these salaries, I believe that they are entitled to more—however, this is not a time to discuss that.

Mr. FOSTER. Did the acting minister inquire whether there were others who would take Mr. Keyes's position at \$1,800 or \$2,000?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman must know that while it would be easy to get a man to take the place, it is not easy to get the man of the ability to fill it.

Mr. FOSTER. Is not Mr. King's character well known?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am not saying anything against Mr. King: on the contrary, I have said that the salaries of scientific men are low.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. acting minister had an opportunity to show his fairness. The minister is away taking no interest in things. Here is the chief astronomer of the Dominion, a man who is known throughout the hemisphere, who receives a less salary than is given to Mr. Keyes. He might have given less salary to Mr. Keyes and added to that of Mr. King, and if Mr. Keyes did not like it, but decided to leave, it would be easy to get a man to fill the place equally well.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If I can get my colleagues to agree, I do not know but that the hon. gentleman may hear more of that.

Mr. DAVIN. In 1884, Mr. A. M. Burgess, first-class chief clerk in the Interior Department, received only \$1,800.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. What position did he hold?

Mr. DAIN. He is called secretary of the department. His ability was recognized by everybody, and the late Sir John Macdonald showed his appreciation of it by promoting him. He was appointed to the same position as Mr. Keyes, with \$600 less salary than Mr. Keyes gets. I say this shows a perfect recklessness in dealing with the funds of the public.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are the three first-class clerks at \$1,800?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. They are Mr. Clayton, Mr. Pereira, and Mr. Witcher.

Mr. FOSTER. How long has Mr. Clayton been in the department?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Twenty-eight years.

Mr. FOSTER. He is a good clerk is he not?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. He has been in the department since April, 1872. He was there six years before Mr. Keyes, yet he is kept as a first-class clerk at the head of his class.

Mr. LANDERKIN. He was there before Mr. Burgess.

Mr. FOSTER. I would not have thought of that if the hon. gentleman (Mr. Landerkin) had not pointed it out. Mr. Clayton is a good officer and older in service than Mr. Keyes, yet he is kept at \$1,800, and does not even get a statutory increase.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not this year.

Mr. LANDERKIN. And Mr. Clayton was there longer than Mr. Burgess during the administration of hon. gentleman opposite, and he was not promoted.

Mr. FOSTER. Was not he?

Mr. LANDERKIN. He was not promoted as rapidly as Mr. Burgess, and yet the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) never complained. What makes him complain now? His own salary must have been cut down.

Mr. HAGGART. Mr. Burgess was appointed a first-class clerk by the Reform government.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I am glad that hon. gentlemen opposite were so considerate of those appointees. The fact that Mr. Burgess was an appointee of the Reform government shows that he was a good man.

Mr. FOSTER. Are there increases among the first-class clerks?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. Checkley gets an increase of \$50, from \$1,650 to \$1,700.

Mr. FOSTER. There is one here at \$1,600, one at \$1,500, and two at \$1,400. Are there any increases to these?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Are they not good clerks?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. They do their duty.

Mr. FOSTER. These clerks have been a long time in the service, and they have worked well, and they do not get even the \$50 increase that they are entitled to, while

these large increases are given to Mr. Rothwell and Mr. Keyes.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. In the distribution of statutory increases, the increases were not given to those with the larger salaries.

Mr. FOSTER. Those that get lower salaries do not get any increase.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The increases are not universally allowed.

Mr. FOSTER. In the second-class clerks, who gets a statutory increase?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. Cote, Mr. Peletier and Mr. Steers.

Mr. FOSTER. There are others that are eligible with lower salaries. What is the reason they do not get any?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The great majority of those in that class receive \$1,400. Those who get the increase, I suppose, were recommended as specially efficient men.

Mr. FOSTER. Now, what about the third-class clerks?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Twelve third-class clerks receive the increase.

Mr. FOSTER. On what principle were these selected? Was it on the recommendation of the deputy that these were fitted for it and deserving of it, and that the others were not? Was there a report of the deputy on the matter?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am informed the deputy did make a report and recommendation.

Mr. FOSTER. Then, probably the hon. gentleman could find out what reasons were given why a large number were not given their increase.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman will see that the same policy was adopted as prevails in the other departments. The increases were not given by reason of favouritism, but they were given in almost every case on account of the efficient manner in which the clerk had performed his duties, or the extra intelligence which he had shown.

Mr. FOSTER. Was there an increase given to all whom the deputy recommended?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think not.

Mr. FOSTER. It would be interesting, then, to know on what principle the judge acted after the abstract had been prepared by the deputy. How many private secretaries has the acting minister?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. Collier is the private secretary of the minister. My own

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private secretary is Mr. Hunter. It has been my custom ever since I have been a member of this House to bring my own secretary to Ottawa during the session. I pay him out of my own pocket, and still continue to do so, although a member of the government, and acting Minister of the Interior.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know that that is a thing a minister without portfolio ought to do. If he takes an active part in administrative work, I think he is entitled to a secretary paid out of the public funds. How many secretaries has the Minister of the Interior?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. One.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Campbell is one, Mr. McKenna is one.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think Mr. McKenna is acting in that capacity now.

Mr. FOSTER. Miss Crawford is a private secretary.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. She is a stenographer.

Mr. FOSTER. And Miss Ellis is a private secretary, and Miss Hawley.

Mr. DAVIN. They are not in the department now, are they?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think they are as private secretaries.

Mr. DAVIN. I suppose they are on the banks of the Danube.

Mr. FOSTER. If the acting minister will just inquire into that. The Department of the Interior as such has one private secretary, and there may be an extra, but I would like to know about the whole number that are actually doing private secretary work. Who is Mr. Marchand, second-class clerk?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He is a new appointment in the accountant's office, a resident of Ottawa. I understand he was an experienced accountant.

Mr. FOSTER. Whose place did he take?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He took the place of Mr. Pinard who died.

Mr. FOSTER. Did Mr. Marchand take his place?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No, I do not think so. Mr. Beddoe was appointed accountant and Mr. Marchand assistant accountant.

Mr. FOSTER. When Mr. Beddoe was appointed accountant, Mr. Marchand was brought in?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Was inquiry made as to whether there was any person in the department who could have taken the place by way of promotion? It does seem hard, where you have such a large body of servants as you have in the Department of the Interior, when a chance of promotion presents itself, that deserving clerks should not get that promotion.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think if my hon. friend will look over the list, he will see that he is not correct in saying that there are many clerks available for promotion. A position of that kind requires special qualifications. I have no special knowledge of the qualifications of many of the second class clerks, but I am informed that there are none in the department getting less than the amount at which Mr. Marchand was appointed.

Mr. FOSTER. There are thirty-eight clerks over whom Mr. Marchand was placed, who are looking for promotion and working up in their class. Mr. Marchand was brought in and placed over all of them. Consequently, a step forward was denied to those who had been working for years. There are some good clerks there evidently. I do not want to name them, but there are numbers that have reached the maximum of a third-class clerk.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I did not understand my hon. friend as referring to third-class clerks. While possibly they may be well fitted for their work, they have not the special qualifications for this office.

Mr. FOSTER. What was Mr. Marchand's business?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was a bookkeeper and accountant by profession.

Mr. FOSTER. In a business place in Ottawa?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was in one of the wholesale houses in Ottawa before he was appointed.

Mr. FOSTER. The minister must remember that when you have a system of civil service, and promotions are not very many, it is rather a grievance when you go beyond men who are qualified and bring in a man from outside. There are thirty-eight clerks in this class, and I have not the least doubt that there are some of them well qualified. It seems hard that an outsider should be brought in, and that promotion should be kept from those who are old servants.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There is a great deal in what my hon. friend says, but I take the responsibility of saying that there are none in that class.

Mr. FOSTER. If I were the minister I would not take that responsibility.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I take the responsibility on the information of the officers of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. I would recommend the minister that he be as refreshingly candid as the mayor of Montreal in regard to the appointment of Mr. McShane. While he could not justify it on its merits, he said that it was one of those political appointments that had to be made. If the hon. gentleman does, he will say the same thing in regard to this one.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If that was the case I would say so. I would be perfectly justified in making the appointment of a political friend to the department. But, I was not thinking of the appointment from a political standpoint at all. I told the hon. gentleman that the report of the deputy was that he did not think there were any clerks in the department qualified for that position. There are many clerks who have no special training as accountants whatever. I have given an answer as honestly as I can, and I believe it to be honest.

Mr. FOSTER. We have to take the minister's statement, but we are able to think our own thoughts in reference to it. I suppose this is simply and solely a political appointment?

The PRIME MINISTER. Not at all. I do not know Mr. Marchand, but I understand it is a good appointment.

Mr. CLANCY. Where there is a chief accountant, I am sure that the Prime Minister will know that any person who is a fairly good writer, and has ordinary qualifications, such as are possessed by one of the clerks in the department, when he is under the direction of the chief accountant, he can do the work. It does not require an expert accountant.

The PRIME MINISTER. Is that the case in Bothwell?

Mr. CLANCY. It is the case here. I am not willing that the right hon. gentleman should think that we require a lower qualification there than here.

The committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What is to be taken up on Monday?

The PRIME MINISTER. The same order as that for to-day, Bills and supply.

Mr. FOSTER. What supply?

The PRIME MINISTER. We will finish the Department of the Interior.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. On Monday, when we reach supply, I will move a vote of censure on the government in connection with the case of the *John C. Barr*.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 2.10 a.m. (Saturday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, June 4, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 172) respecting the Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Company (Limited).—(Mr. Casey.)

YUKON—STEAMSHIP YUKONER.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER moved:

That sessional papers 33q., being correspondence in re ss. 'Yukoner,' be printed forthwith, and that rule 94 be suspended in relation thereto.

Motion agreed to.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to call attention to some motions for returns that have not yet been complied with. I thought I had a memorandum of them, but, as I have not it under my hand at the moment, I will mention those I remember. One is the return asked for from the Department of Railways and Canals of correspondence with the Canadian Pacific Railway with respect to the arrangement between the Intercolonial Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway on their passenger and freight arrangements. This was ordered a long time ago, but has not yet been brought down.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Is the hon. member (Mr. Foster) sure that that order has not been complied with?

Mr. FOSTER. Quite sure—not a shadow of doubt. Then, the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) has not brought down the

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balance of the correspondence on the canteen business.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). No.

Mr. FOSTER. No. But, I would like to have that. I do not recall the others at the moment.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) desired a supplementary return with respect to the representation of the Yukon. I would be glad if he would let me have the first return, which I understand is in his possession, as I desire to compare it with the other.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not see the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) here; but, I would be glad if the First Minister would take a note of another return required—the papers in connection with the arrangements with the Bank of Commerce respecting the Yukon Commission. Part of that correspondence was brought down last year, and I should like to have it supplemented before the item with respect to it in the estimates comes up.

Mr. JOHN B. MILLS (Annapolis). On May 30, I asked for all papers, correspondence, telegrams, orders and agreements with reference to the chartering of eight steamships, one steamship for two trips, making nine trips altogether. An attempt has been made to comply with my request, but I have only about three or four letters, with no charters or agreements; and surely the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) will not say that this small return which he has laid upon the Table constitutes all that I have asked for. I would ask that that return be supplemented.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) will send me a memorandum of what he wants, I will try to meet his wishes.

Mr. MILLS. I sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier).

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I understood from the First Minister that what was wanted was the letters in regard to the chartering of vessels for carrying hay to South Africa.

Mr. MILLS. This is part of the memorandum that I sent to the Prime Minister: 'All papers, correspondence, telegrams, charters and agreements, with reference to the chartering of the following steamships,'—and then I named them. These papers refer to the chartering of only one steamship, the *Manhanset*, and very little about her.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) kindly send back the letters, and I will see that the return is completed.

ELECTION FRAUDS—JUDICIAL IN- QUIRY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would say I understood that the Prime Minister would give us to-day an explanation with respect to the proposed commission.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I was just rising for that purpose when my hon. friend rose. I do not know that I can better convey to the House information with regard to this commission than by reading the order in council on the subject :

On a memorandum dated June 2, 1900, from the Minister of Justice submitting that whereas allegations have been made that during and for several years prior and subsequent to the general elections of 1896 for the election of members to the House of Commons of Canada, frauds were committed by returning officers, deputy returning officers, or other parties, in several of the electoral districts either while the votes were being polled or thereafter by the spoiling of the ballots marked by the electors, or by the fraudulent substitution of other ballots for those so marked, or by other fraudulent conduct in respect of the ballots at any time before and up to the return of the writ, and it being most desirable that all such alleged frauds should be investigated, and the recurrence thereof, if any, prevented, to the end that the return may show the actual vote by the electors who vote in each electoral district :

And whereas, it is desirable to appoint a commission with full power to make inquiry, investigation, report and recommendations as hereinafter set forth :

Therefore, the minister recommends that under the provisions of chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, entitled 'An Act respecting inquiries concerning public matters,' the Hon. Sir John Alexander Boyd, Knight Bachelor and president of the Supreme Court of Judicature for Ontario, Chancellor of the province of Ontario (to be chairman), the Hon. William Glenholme Falconbridge, one of Her Majesty's judges of the said Supreme Court, and a member of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice for Ontario, and His Honour Duncan B. MacTavish, judge of the County Court of the county of Carleton, be appointed commissioners under the said Act in respect of the election of members for the House of Commons of Canada, to inquire into and investigate any alleged fraudulent alteration, defacing, marking, spoiling, substitution or tampering in respect of election ballots, or by reason of any fraudulent conduct in respect of the poll books, ballot boxes, or the lawful contents, or what should have been the lawful contents of the ballot boxes, whether by way of fraudulent alteration, addition, withdrawal or otherwise, during and until the close of the election, and until the return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery :

That the said commissioners have power to hold such inquiry and investigation in every case in which they consider reasonable grounds have, in their opinion, been shown to them for holding the same;

That the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery do produce before the commissioners all poll books, voters' lists, and all other papers, letters, docu-

ments and memoranda, and ballot boxes, in connection with any such election whenever the same may be called for by the commissioners for the purpose of any such inquiry and investigation :

That the said commissioners have power to appoint two of Her Majesty's counsel learned in the law, to assist them in such inquiries and investigations, and also a registrar of their proceedings and necessary stenographers; that for the purpose of making such inquiries and investigations they may prescribe such rules and regulations governing the practice and procedure as seem to them proper for the initiation and conduct of such inquiries and investigations, and that in making such inquiries and investigations, they exercise all due despatch, proceeding in each case undergoing inquiry and investigation *de die in diem* unless for special and sufficient reasons they otherwise determine, and at the close of each inquiry and investigation they report to the Minister of Justice the result thereof :

That the said commissioners be vested with the power of summoning before them any witnesses, and requiring them to give evidence on oath, orally, in writing or on solemn affirmation, if they are persons entitled to affirm in civil matters, and to produce such documents and things as such commissioners deem requisite to the full investigation of the matters into which they are appointed to examine :

That such commissioners have the same power to enforce attendance of such witnesses, and to compel them to give evidence as is vested in any court of record in civil cases :

That whilst for the purpose of such inquiry and investigation, the attention of the commissioners is specially directed to a period including and subsequent to the general elections of 1896, still such inquiry and investigation is not limited to such period if they deem it advisable to extend the same to a period prior thereto :

That at the close of such inquiries and investigations, the commissioners make such recommendations for amendments to the law respecting the conduct of the elections as are calculated, in their judgment, the better to preserve the sacredness of the ballot, and to enable the electorate in the most effectual manner to exercise their franchise :

And generally that the said commissioners may report any facts, circumstances or opinions that to them seem proper in respect of the matters hereby referred to them.

The committee submit the above recommendations for Your Excellency's approval.

Clerk of the Privy Council.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am glad that my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has been able to fulfil the assurance that he gave to the House in reference to this matter. It is quite impossible to follow with exactness a lengthy document of that kind read for the first time. I would suggest, therefore, that this order in council be printed, and I would ask an opportunity to-morrow to offer any suggestions that may occur to me as to means to more fully attain the objects as we all seek, if I find any such suggestions necessary.

The PRIME MINISTER. I move that the document just laid on the Table be printed for the use of members of the House.

Motion agreed to.

CANADA NATIONAL RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT COMPANY.

Mr. A. CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont.) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 115) to incorporate the Canada National Railway and Transport Company.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto) moved in amendment that the said Bill be not now read a third time, but that it be referred back to Committee of the Whole for the purpose of amending the same by adding the following clause :

13. Her Majesty may, at any time, with the consent of parliament, on giving to the company one month's notice in writing, take over the undertaking, property, rights and franchises of the company.

(2). The notice may be given by the Minister of Railways and Canals, and upon the expiration of the period of notification, the said undertaking, property, rights and franchises shall vest absolutely in Her Majesty.

(3). Compensation to the company shall be fixed by the Exchequer Court upon information filed by the Attorney General of Canada, and shall be based upon the reasonable value of the undertaking, property and rights of the company at the time of the giving of the notice, but shall not include prospective values or prospective profits.

(4). In so far as they are not inconsistent herewith, sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31 and 32 of the Expropriation Act, chapter 13 of the statutes of 1889, and sections 29 and 30 thereof as amended by an Act of the present session, shall apply to any action taken under this section.

(5). The compensation adjudged shall stand in the stead of the said undertaking, property, rights and franchises, and any claim to or encumbrance upon such undertaking, property, rights and franchises shall, in so far as Her Majesty is concerned, be converted into a claim to such compensation money or a proportionate amount thereof, and shall be void as against Her Majesty, and as against the undertaking, property, rights and franchises vested in Her Majesty under the provisions of this section.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I desire to ask whether that amendment is in order. We have had no notice of it.

Mr. SPEAKER. Yes, it was printed in the Journals of Friday last.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I desire now to press the point of order which I raised when the resolution was introduced the first time. Although the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) appeared to believe that from the peculiar form of this resolution it evaded the provision of the British North America Act, limiting to the action of the government measures involving the expenditure of money, yet I venture to think there is more in the contention I raised than at first glance might appear. Hon. gentlemen are familiar with the provision of the British North America Act.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. SPEAKER. Let me draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to the first line of the amendment: 'Her Majesty may at any time with the consent of parliament.'

Mr. FLINT. I noticed that phrase, Mr. Speaker, but I respectfully submit that that does not seriously alter the question. That this resolution, if adopted, does commit parliament and the government to an expenditure of public money, I think, is quite apparent from the amendment; and that such expenditure of public money should be first recommended to parliament by the government of the day as a matter of public policy, can scarcely be denied. Looking at the form of this resolution, I think we can clearly see that if it is adopted, and if this amendment is adopted, without any further action by parliament than that provided for by this Bill, the House may commit the country to an expenditure of three or four million dollars. The resolution is :

Her Majesty may, at any time, with the consent of parliament, on giving to the company one month's notice in writing, take over the undertaking, property, rights and franchises of the company.

The notice may be given by the Minister of Railways and Canals, and upon the expiration of the period of notification the said undertaking, property, rights and franchises shall vest absolutely in Her Majesty.

Compensation to the company shall be fixed by the Exchequer Court upon information filed by the Attorney General of Canada, and shall be based upon the reasonable value of the undertaking.

And so on. If this amendment is made to this Bill, I contend that parliament is ipso facto giving its consent to the assumption by the government and to further action by parliament in the direction of carrying out the form of the resolution that it is proportionally binding on parliament and on the government as well as upon the company, and I think, in a case of that kind, no step should be taken without the previous sanction of the Governor in Council and the permission of this House. I think the House will generally agree with me that this is a radical departure from anything that has ever taken place here before. Without quoting all the references that could be found on this particular point, and they are very numerous, I may say, in a general way, that Bourinot lays down, in reference to this very clause of the British North America Act, the principle, very broadly, that the adoption of a measure which either directly or indirectly involves government or parliament in the direction of an expenditure of public money should be recommended by the Crown. At page 532, he observes :

The constitutional provision which regulates the procedure of the Canadian House of Commons in this respect applies not only to motions directly proposing a grant of public money, but also to those which involve such a grant. The Canadian Commons, indeed, observe the

rule respecting such motions with very great strictness. A member who has not received the permission of the Crown has not been allowed to move the House into committee on a resolution providing for the purchase and exportation by the government of certain depreciated silver coinage then in circulation. In 1871 it was proposed to go into committee on an Address to the Queen for a change in the Union Act, so as to assign the debt of old Canada to the Dominion entirely, and to compensate Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in connection therewith; the Speaker decided that it was just as necessary to interpose the check of a message before adopting an address which may be followed by legislation imposing public burdens, as in the case of a Bill or motion within the direct control of the Canadian parliament.

No cases can be found of any private member in the Canadian Commons receiving the authority of the Crown, through a minister, to propose a motion involving the expenditure of public money. No principle is better understood than the constitutional obligation that rests upon the executive government of alone initiating measures imposing charges upon the public exchequer.

All of the decisions and references that I have been able to find in the short time that I have been able to give to the question bear out that proposition very thoroughly. This resolution, in my humble opinion, comes within the spirit, if not within the letter, of the British North America Act, and I believe it will be found that this is the interpretation given to this Act by jurists, constitutional writers and others who have to deal with the subject. The incorporated action of this company under the Bill involves its clear assent of parliament to future action by the government and the adoption of the principle of the acceptance by the government of this public work without the previous sanction of the Governor in Council, and I therefore, think it should be held to be out of order.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Flint) has raised the question it becomes necessary that you should express an opinion and make a ruling upon it, so that it would be desirable that the view which I expressed the other evening may be stated that it may be in your mind when considering the question that has been raised. I admit that my hon. friend has presented his argument in a very plausible form, and I think that to non-professional gentlemen and perhaps, even to some professional gentlemen, it might appear that the hon. gentleman's argument does not admit of any satisfactory answer. But, there were some considerations which suggested themselves to my mind which appear to be a complete reply to the contention which has been raised, and I will state them briefly to the House at the present moment. It appeared to me that the question which had arisen in respect to the Bill was a question as to private legislation. I take it that it is arguable that the clause

of the Bill is similar in sense and meaning to the meaning which are attached to these words: 'The company hereby consents or is willing that the government should give notice and should follow certain provisions to expropriate the property of this company and will submit to such expropriation upon the following conditions': I would take it that it simply means that. The government may do that, not as thereby conferring upon the government, in the exercise of their constitutional powers to take any such expropriation proceedings, but that the company in their charter consent that whenever the proper steps are taken and the proper machinery is used the expropriation of their property will be satisfactory to the company. In other words: We will submit to the terms and conditions which are embodied in the Bill, as the terms and conditions which are to bind us when and if expropriation proceedings are ever taken. I do not think that the clause necessarily means anything more than that. Other Bills of very much the same character, involving precisely the same question, and intended to confer the same powers, have several times passed this parliament for instance, the St. Clair Canal Bill, and the Bill connecting the waters of Lake Champlain with the St. Lawrence. There are two or three Bills which to my own knowledge have passed during the last eight or ten years, and which contain a clause similar to this. If it had been seriously thought by any gentleman on either side, that the inclusion of such a condition in the charter powers went any further than to settle the question as between the company and the government, no doubt the question would have been raised and the legislation stopped. The question is perhaps new so far as the discussion is concerned, but it appears to me that it is clearly arguable that the view which my hon. friend (Mr. Flint) presented is not the view which ought to be taken.

Mr. G. E. CASEY (West Elgin). I am not familiar with the instances referred to by the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair) in which clauses something similar to this have been put in private Bills; and it would be interesting to know what was the phrasing of these clauses. It is quite certain that to put in a private Bill any clause which in so many words appears to authorize the government to deal in a certain manner with the public moneys, is a very grave innovation, and is contrary to the spirit of the legislation of this House. The idea of authorizing action on the part of the government in a private Bill seems to me to be quite absurd. If, as the Minister of Railways correctly says, words can be found to simply indicate the willingness of the company to submit to action of that kind, were it taken, I do not know that we could raise any objection; but when the clause begins by saying: Her Majesty may do so and so,

and Her Majesty may use public money for so and so—whether with or without the consent of parliament—I think we are going outside the limits of private Bill legislation. The question raised by the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) as to whether this clause, if passed, would authorize the government to spend this money without further legislation is a somewhat difficult one to decide. If it would, there is no doubt that the motion is out of order. Indeed, there is great reason for arguing that the particular words used might confer that power. If the amendment were phrased something like this:

Her Majesty may agree to expropriate this railway and pay for it out of moneys already voted for that purpose by parliament,

the objection might be removed, because such moneys could not be voted without the recommendation of the Crown and without the responsibility of the government of the day. As the clause stands, it certainly gives a great deal of colour to the contention of my hon. friend (Mr. Flint), that it professes to give power to the government to act in a certain way with the public moneys. Apart from that particular contention, it seems to me that the matter of the amendment is so incongruous with a private Bill that it does not appertain to that class of legislation at all, and therefore should be ruled out of order as an amendment to a private Bill. Private Bill legislation is legislation regarding the company interested, and not legislation regarding the handling of public money. *Ipsa facto*, and in the nature of the amendment, it is incongruous and therefore out of order.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York). On this question of order, I would like to point out that the proposed amendment is something that binds the company, but does not bind parliament. It is to protect the public interest as regards the company, but in no way does it commit parliament as regards the expenditure of public money. On that ground alone, the question of order raised by the hon. member (Mr. Flint) and the hon. member (Mr. Casey)—

Mr. JAMES SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). In what way does this amendment protect the public interest?

Mr. MACLEAN. In this way: That if it is seen that on a subsequent occasion that the government of this country should control this railway, then, the provision is in the original Bill securing that control to the country and to parliament.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not at all. At most it could only be considered by the railway company as a notice that under certain conditions they might expect this to be done. Parliament has the power to do with this

Mr. CASEY.

matter all that is necessary to do, and perhaps with more advantage without this amendment than with it.

Mr. MACLEAN. That is the old story. We are told here time and again that we are proposing to interfere with vested rights without any notice to the company concerned. This provision retains to parliament the right of taking over this road if it wishes to do so. In no way is parliament committed to the expenditure of a single cent. You cannot hold up the interpretation of the constitution prohibiting the introduction of a money measure unless the money is specifically voted, and there is no proposal in this amendment to vote money. It only proposes that in the event of something happening, this parliament can interfere with this private company, in any right it gets under this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not propose to deal with the right to put in a private Bill a provision to give the government power to make an expropriation. That is not the point before the House. I draw the attention of the hon. member from Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) to the two particular examples he quotes from Sir John Bourinot, as to the precedents in this matter. The hon. gentleman has referred to the resolution introduced into the House providing for the purchase and exportation by the government of certain depreciated silver coinage then in circulation; and, the hon. gentleman's other citation was: An address to the Queen for a change in the Union Act so as to assign the public debt of old Canada to the Dominion entirely, and to compensate Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in connection therewith. It seems to me that those were direct examples of cases in which it was necessary to immediately make provision for additional cash burdens falling upon the community. The silver that was depreciated could not be exported without loss, and the debt could not be assumed without a direct public charge upon the Dominion treasury. This resolution, to my mind, does not impose anything on the Dominion, except in the one distinct statement: 'With the consent of parliament.' Taking that view, I am obliged to hold that with that provision, it is competent for the hon. gentleman (Mr. Clarke) to move the amendment.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Having settled that point, I may say to the House that the only objection I have to inserting this clause in the Bill is that I am advised by legal gentlemen, and also by the Minister of Railways (Mr. Blair), who is acknowledged as an authority on these questions: That this amendment will cast as it were a cloud upon the title and prevent the issuing of bonds of the company. If it will have the effect that the bondholders would be unable

to float their bonds, it would perhaps prevent the carrying out of this project. I am extremely desirous that this road should be constructed. I believe it will be of enormous advantage to the great city of Toronto as well as to the province of Ontario and the North-west. The Bill had been thoroughly discussed in the committee for four or five days and a large majority decided that it was not in the interest of the company that the amendment should be inserted. Being advised that it would throw some doubt upon the project, and perhaps prevent the company from floating the bonds which will be necessary in order to construct the road, I ask the House not to insist upon the amendment, but to let us have this Bill, as all other private railways have been granted legislation this year, without any blot upon their charters. Neither this company nor any other can ever build that road unless they are able to float their bonds, and everybody knows how very sensitive the money market is, and how very loth capitalists are to invest their money in any project upon which rests any doubt. I think it would imperil the undertaking and perhaps defeat the object we all have in view if this amendment were added to the Bill, and for these reasons I hope that it will not be carried.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Mr. Speaker, there is a good deal more in this proposition than at first sight appears. The circumstances under which this clause came to be prepared by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals are substantially these. A Bill was introduced by my hon. friend who has just addressed the House for the purpose of obtaining a charter for this company to construct a line of railway from Collingwood to Toronto, and a large body of gentlemen who were relied upon to furnish the means for accomplishing this work were foreigners: they were gentlemen who did not live in the country at all.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Six Americans to fourteen Canadians.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am not speaking of the Bill as it stands now. I am speaking of it as it was introduced by my hon. friend.

Mr. CAMPBELL. They were then six to eight.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The gentlemen belonging to Canada whose names were attached to the Bill, as introduced by my hon. friend, I do not wish to disparage, but I believe they are not regarded as eminent capitalists. All the financial weight that lay behind the enterprise was furnished by American citizens. Under these circumstances, the Board of Trade of Toronto, represented by one of the ablest men, I have

no hesitation in saying—for he is so regarded both in this House and out of it by gentlemen who know him—Mr. Kemp, the president of that body, appeared before the committee and urged very strongly that they should not grant this charter precipitately, because he, as president of the Toronto Board of Trade, represented a body of eminent capitalists in Canada who were anxious that if this work were to be undertaken, it should be undertaken and carried on as a Canadian enterprise, under the control of Canadian citizens. The Railway Committee naturally looked for guidance and advice in a matter admitted to be of such great importance to the company, to a gentleman who occupies a position at the right of the chairman of the committee, not as representing any party, but as representing the government of the country: I refer to the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair). The Minister of Railways and Canals expressed his decided opinion that it was rather premature to undertake this work at all, giving a very substantial reason for that opinion, and one which I supposed would have had a good deal of weight with this House. That was that it is only just now, after the expenditure of an enormous sum of public money, that the great waterway of Canada, the greatest line of inland navigation on the surface of the globe, connecting the head waters of Lake Superior with the Atlantic Ocean, has been completed to a depth of fourteen feet: and he suggested that it was a question how far any company should be allowed to tap that line of communication, by a line of railway intersecting it. So much weight was attached to that statement that a motion was made that instead of the committee proceeding precipitately with this Bill, and handing over, as we were asked to do, to a body of foreign capitalists, if they were capitalists, belonging to the United States of America, the control of so important a line of railway, the subject should be carefully considered: and the Bill introduced by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) on the part of the Board of Trade of the city of Toronto, and on the part of a body of Canadian capitalists of the very highest standing and character, together with the Bill introduced by the hon. member for Kent, Ont., (Mr. Campbell) should be referred to a sub-committee of the Railway Committee, for the purpose of hearing evidence, if necessary, and affording an opportunity for a combination of the two parties. I am happy to say that on that occasion the Minister of Railways and Canals and myself were found on the same side. We were both of opinion that under the circumstances it would be wise to have a measure of such admitted importance considered by a sub-committee. But we were defeated by the committee, and the hon. member for Kent was extremely pressing that not a moment should be lost, that no

consideration should be given to anything except this one question, and that no further light should be thrown on the subject from any quarter. But when he was met by the statement, on the part of the Toronto Board of Trade and the body of Canadian capitalists who were anxious to have this important work kept in Canadian hands, that they were willing not only to amalgamate with this company, but to give them a majority of one, that one being the hon. member for Kent himself, that proposal was rejected. They also stated to the committee, as meeting one of the points raised by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, that they were prepared to have a clause inserted in their Bill under which the company would agree to hand over the enterprise to the government of Canada at any time, upon receiving a return of the money which they had actually expended upon the work. My hon. friend, the member for Kent, who has been promoting this Bill with such energy and success—for I have never seen a Bill engineered through committee with more energy and success than this one—met the occasion promptly. He got up and said that if the charter were given his company, he would be perfectly willing to accept a clause of that kind, and it was upon that pledge the majority voted down the proposal to refer the Bill to the committee. Subsequently they withdrew their support, because they said that they had given their vote in consequence of the pledge given by the hon. gentleman to accept that clause. The next step was the proposal, when the Bill had passed through the committee, that the Minister of Railways and Canals should be requested to draw up a clause that would carry out what had been the agreement on all sides. When the committee next met, the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals proposed a clause, not, I frankly admit, as embodying his own views, but to carry out the object which the promoters of both Bills had expressed themselves willing to accept. But the promoter of the Bill, the hon. member for Kent, then refused to accept the clause submitted by the Minister of Railways and Canals, and moved himself a clause in different words, but containing the same essential principles, namely, that the government should be in the position to assume this work and take it over on paying the value of the work to the company. No decision was reached, and when the committee next met it curiously occurred that the Minister of Railways and Canals was absent—no doubt called away by very important business. But in his place were the hon. the Ministers of Finance (Mr. Fielding) and Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Davies), who had hitherto taken no part in the discussion and given no attention to the committee. There is an old saying that it is better to trust the devil you know than the devil you do not

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

know, and without insinuating anything of the kind with regard to any of those gentlemen, we had lost the one we did know, and in whose attitude we had previously concurred and found his place taken, not by one, but by two we did not know. Under these circumstances, my hon. friend was able, with that engineering talent which he possesses, and which almost lead one to suppose that he has missed his proper vocation, to get the committee to overrule the very pledge he himself had made. No doubt he had wisely strengthened his hands by suddenly promoting to the important position of director two hon. gentlemen who are very influential members both of the committee and this House. But, at all events, by whatever means it was brought about, we found ourselves in a minority, and the very clause which my hon. friend had himself moved, was rejected. That is the position, and under the circumstances it becomes very well worthy, even at this late stage of debate, to consider whether a measure of such admitted importance should not contain a clause that would enable the government, without any undue expenditure, such as they are generally obliged to make when they expropriate a public work, to take over this enterprise. Supposing this American influence which stands behind this Bill—and it was upon the capital furnished by these gentlemen mainly the committee were asked to rely—supposing at any time the interests of the United States and of the gentlemen connected with this enterprise became antagonistic to Canadian interests, it becomes a grave question, whether we should not protect ourselves by inserting such a clause in the measure as the one proposed, and to which my hon. friend had given his consent. I am happy to see American capital and enterprise coming into Canada at any time, but I infinitely prefer giving scope to our own capital; and when you have a Bill now before the committee, sustained by the Toronto Board of Trade and bearing the names of fourteen gentlemen of the highest standing and character as capitalists and men of business and Canadians of both parties in this country, it becomes a very grave question whether we should not keep the promoter to his pledge, and embody either the clause proposed or some modification of it in the Bill, so that in case at any time the Canadian government should feel it was in the interests of the country that this important enterprise should come under their control, they should be put in the position of being able to take control of it.

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I think the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), has used rather strong language with reference to my hon. friend from Kent (Mr. Campbell). He has practically said my hon. friend had bought up the committee—that he appointed some parties directors in this company, and

for that reason he got the charter through the committee. I believe that is what the hon. gentleman said, and I think the language is rather strong. But, I suppose the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper), has been a pretty good manipulator of railroad charters in the past; and we know the old saying: 'Set a thief to catch a thief'—he is evidently after the scalp of the hon. member for Kent. It is interesting to know that the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), has seen new light. I, myself, have heard the hon. gentleman denounce government ownership of railroads. I remember that on one occasion, he took the hon. member for Yale and Cariboo (Mr. Bostock), to task on that very point and loftily told him that all young men who come into this House have a fad, and the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Bostock's) fad was government ownership of railways. I think my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Maclean), is once more to be complimented. We can remember how on one occasion he dragged the hon. leader of the opposition into rising and opposing a proposition which he had publicly favoured before it came under the attention of the House. It is evident that he has converted his leader now to the idea of government ownership of railways. I am glad that hon. gentlemen on the other side have at last repented of their sins—and they have a great many to repent of. They controlled the legislation of this country for eighteen years, but I never heard their proposing the adoption of this principle before. Look at the immense quantity of public lands that they have given away to railroad corporations—about 64,000,000 acres—besides money grants. Now, after the steed is stolen, the leader of the opposition and his friends turn around and want to lock the stable door. That is practically what it means. I am bound to say that if the leader of the opposition and his friends had adopted that principle before, we should have been better off to-day. But it is rather late in the day for these hon. gentlemen to work up such a fad in connection with this tu'penny-ha'penny bit of a road from Georgian Bay to Toronto. I would remind the hon. leader of the opposition that, two years ago, we had before us a Bill relating to a main artery of communication from the great west, the Rainy River Bill. I never heard at that time of the hon. gentleman getting up and talking about the government ownership of railways, though the hon. member for East York and some of his friends did. If the hon. leader of the opposition had taken on that occasion, the stand that he does to-day, it might have been some advantage to the people of the west. But he rises now and proposes to apply this new principle to this little road on the plea that it is going to be a great advantage to the west. He, and his friends care very little about what the people of the west need. When the

ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart), was discussing the railway problem, some time ago. I was surprised at one statement he made, which was:

I think that in considering this question, the inquiry should be limited to the transportation facilities from the head waters of Lake Superior.

That is, they were all quarrelling, like dogs over a bone, about what should be done with the wheat that had been raised by the farmers of the west, after it had reached the head of Lake Superior. Every man had his own particular fad, his own particular scheme for carrying it eastward from there. But the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals gave the whole thing away, because he made it apparent that they did not want to interfere with their friends, the railway corporations in the west, and so they would consider the question only from the time the wheat reached the head of Lake Superior. I have on previous occasions drawn the attention of the House to the fact that we were paying 14 cents a hundred, for hauling wheat from Winnipeg to Lake Superior, while from Buffalo to New York, which is about the same distance, it is carried for 4 cents a hundred. If the hon. gentlemen were sincere in the views they expressed with regard to this transportation problem, they would do something to get a reduction of the freights in the west. But as a panacea of all the ills that the west suffers from, they come forward with this fad—fake. I might call it—of having the principle of government ownership of railways applied to this little bit of link from Georgian Bay to Toronto. I must say that the opposition is like the Irishman's flea—when you put your finger on them, they are not there. I have heard them more than once denounce the principle of government ownership of railways, and point to the Intercolonial Railway as an object lesson. But the leader of the opposition, when he was in Winnipeg, said he was ready to adopt the principle as far as possible. But now he comes before us, like a lightning-change artist, ready to advocate the whole principle with regard to this little bit of a link of railway. I would like to know where we are to find him. For my part, although a great many people in the west are in favour of government ownership of railways, I am willing to say that I am not. I do not believe it is to the advantage of the country to have government ownership of railways. I believe that all the railroads should be controlled, the freight rates, passenger rates, tolls and everything else, should be controlled by the government, and we should have a railroad commission, to see that they are properly controlled. But to talk of having government ownership of railroads, why, it would simply mean that the poor people would have to pay more than they are paying to-day. The man with a pull, is the man who would get the advantage. The man who had

a good political pull would get his freight hauled cheaper, and would get free passage for himself and his friends, and whatever the railroads lost in this respect would have to be made up out of the public chest, and eventually it would all come out of the farmers. Therefore, I say I do not believe that it would be a good principle to adopt. The government should control, in every possible way, the railroads under a good and efficient railroad commission, who would put into force any regulations that are introduced in their charters. But as for the government owning the railroads themselves, the thing is simply a farce. Look at the Intercolonial Railway, and the money that has been spent there. Why, it has paid no interest on the bonds. It has been run at a loss. It has been run chiefly by the late government as a political machine, as a means of enabling them to capture votes in the lower provinces. That road has cost some \$50,000,000, and though it may have been of some accommodation to the people on the line, it has chiefly been used during the regime of the Conservative government as to help keep themselves in power. It has never paid any profit, except that I think last year there was a small surplus of \$64,000. Just imagine \$64,000 income on an expenditure of \$50,000,000. Still, in view of all these facts, the hon. gentleman gets up now, on the eve of an election, and because he thinks a few people in the country believe in it, he goes back on all his record, as can be shown from the *Hansard*, from time to time, and tells us that he believes in adopting the principle of government ownership. So far as I am concerned, I do not believe in the principle, and can not vote for it, when applied only to this piece of road.

Mr. MACLEAN. I would point out to the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), who says it will prevent this company from floating their bonds, if this legislation is carried, that, on the contrary, it will help them to float their bonds. It will be considered as a good proposition that the parliament of this country should reserve the right to take the road over some day should it see fit. I have only to point to this fact that the present government, a short time ago, put certain conditions on the Crow's Nest proposition, and yet that in no way interfered with the floating of the bonds under which the road was built. There would have been, in a measure, a breach of faith on the part of the member for Kent, if he had agreed to accept this proposition and then had withdrawn that acceptance. But, he is not the only delinquent; I say that the delinquents are the government. They pledged themselves some time ago, that, in any railway proposition that controlled a portage, or an important link in the solution of the transportation problem, they would ask parliament to make provi-

sion to retain control over such road. Now, they have gone back on that. The hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), speaking here the other evening, expressed himself as being altogether opposed to the principle of the government ownership of railways, and the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) seems to-day to control the government policy in regard to railways. They laid down the policy in the Crow's Nest Pass Railway agreement, that running rights should be given to other roads, and they said: We have retained the right to this country to control that railway. They laid down a similar policy in regard to the Rainy River Railway. How far that legislation secures control of that railway to the country I do not know, but I know that the government have gone to the people and claimed credit for it. Here is another important link between Toronto and Collingwood, and the most important link of all. Instead of carrying out the policy that they have laid down, the government have allowed the hon. member for Kent to dictate a policy to them, and in this they are delinquent to the pledges they gave to the people in regard to these portage railways. This is an important link in the railway system of this country, and it ought to be kept under the control of parliament. In connection with the question of government ownership of railways, which was condemned so strongly by the previous speaker, I would like to point out that in every country where government ownership has been adopted, the people do not desire to end it, but they desire to continue it. They are retaining and extending the control of public railways wherever the principle has been adopted. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) said that if you take up the question of government ownership, you must take it up as a general question and apply it to every railway in the country. I do not agree with the hon. gentleman, but, on the contrary, I say that we should take up each railway as it presents itself to our consideration, from time to time, and I say that the real solution is this: The government ought to retain control of the Intercolonial Railway, and the Intercolonial Railway should be extended through Ontario, to the Niagara and Detroit Rivers, and to Georgian Bay. The Intercolonial Railway can be made a paying road. If it is extended into Ontario, to the Georgian Bay and to the Niagara and Detroit Rivers, it will have more freight than it can possibly get now, because it ends nowhere. In addition to this, you can connect it with a line of steamers carrying produce from the North-west Territories at a small expense. This is the solution of the railway question in this country, and it does not involve any great expense. We would then have a government system and a paying line from ocean to ocean. That is the only way that relief will come.

We cannot afford to buy the Grand Trunk Railway or the Canadian Pacific Railway. As the country grows, as population increases, as the cultivated area of our farm lands increases, we will have more important work for the railways to do, and a government-owned road alongside of the roads of these two great corporations will regulate freight rates and will be in the public interest. Government ownership is a question of growing importance, not only here, but the world over. Government ownership is coming in England to-day; it has been justified in Germany, in Italy, in Austro-Hungary, in our sister colony of Australia, and there is an agitation in the United States in favour of government ownership that eventually will come. It will come in this country, not as a broad sweeping measure, but on the line of keeping our present national road, extending it in various sections of the country and retaining control of the various portages. This railway between Toronto and Collingwood is a complement to the canal system, not opposed to it, and it ought to be under the control of the government. The portage railway between Toronto and Collingwood, if owned by the government, would furnish a large amount of freight for the St. Lawrence canals and the St. Lawrence River route. If that road should fall into the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway, or the Grand Trunk Railway, it would be of no assistance in the matter of providing freight for the St. Lawrence canals or the St. Lawrence River route, but, keep it under the control of the government and there will be a new industry established in this country. There will be a great forwarding industry in connection with the St. Lawrence River and the St. Lawrence canals, and not only will a great transportation industry be built upon the railway lines and canal routes of this continent, but relief will be given to the North-west Territories so long as the government control this railway. I do not wish to make this a party question. I am sorry that the hon. gentleman who preceded me took a party view of it. I apologize for even appearing to take that view of it, but I do hold the government responsible in view of the statements they have made, in view of the statements made by their organs and the credit they have claimed for themselves, that they were doing something to keep the control of railways in the hands of the government. I charge that they are going back on their railway policy, and that they are allowing the hon. member for Kent to dictate the railway policy of the country. It is not in the interest of the public that such a policy should be adopted, and I appeal to hon. gentlemen to-day, although I have appealed to them in vain before, to keep their pledge and insist upon the amendment offered by the hon. member for West Toronto being adopted.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Maclean) who has just taken his seat, but I leave him to continue in the enjoyment of the opinion he entertains in regard to the government and in regard to their policy in connection with this question. I rise at the present time for the purpose of making a remark, or two, upon the question which is really before the House. I do not complain at all of the statement of what transpired before the committee which was made by the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper). The question came up in this form, at least, it presented itself to my mind in this manner: Several gentlemen from Toronto and the west, interested in a number of Bills, at least, there were two different Bills, I think, providing for the construction of a railway from the Georgian Bay to Toronto, Collingwood being the harbour on the Georgian Bay. There were very strong expressions of opinion that this was the most desirable route for connection between the waters of the Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario, and at the same time there were very decided opinions that the time would come when that route would be found to be necessary and of very great advantage to the country as a means of carrying the products of the west to our Canadian ports in competition with American ports. From that point of view, I, myself, not being prepared to pass any decided opinion upon the question, not knowing whether this route was the most preferable of all the routes that could be selected between the Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario, not knowing what the advantages were that would accrue from such a railway, but taking the statements which these gentlemen who prepared this Bill made to the committee, I thought that the time had not arrived when such a railway could be turned to advantage. I thought it was premature, as the hon. gentleman has said, but I said, that if the view that these gentlemen entertained upon the subject was well founded, and if this railway was likely to be a valuable means of transporting the products of the west, and could accomplish what could not be accomplished by our great waterways, by way of competition with United States ports, I felt that that route should be under the control of the country. I still entertain that opinion. I do not think we are in possession of the information yet, we do not know whether there is a likelihood of this particular railroad between these particular points affording opportunities and facilities for the transport of western products superior to that which will be supplied by our great water route. Therefore, I think the proposition is premature. But assuming to be true what these hon. gentlemen who are promoting this Bill with such energy and zeal seem

to believe, then I think that railway ought to be in a position in which it can be taken over by the government upon reasonable and favourable terms, not upon such terms as we would have to pay to the owners of that property in franchise and prospective profits, profits which they might be able to convince a board of arbitrators they could earn out of the future operation of that railway, but giving them the actual value of the property at the time when the expropriation was made. That being my opinion, and the hon. gentleman having eliminated from his resolution what I conceived to be an objection to it, I feel it my duty to vote for the amendment as proposed by him. I think we protect everybody's interest when we assure to them the value of the property. Nobody can complain. I do not think financial men will go into it less readily, because there is a probability that the government may take over this railway on those terms. I believe that if we included the other clause it would have a very injurious effect upon the financing of this enterprise, and therefore, I am prepared to vote for the resolution. I think we give every protection the government and parliament can afford. If we desire hereafter to give aid to this undertaking, no matter in the hands of what company the construction of the road may pass, we can grant that bonus, annexing to it a condition that on the sale of the property that bonus shall be refunded. The government have every means of protecting themselves in that regard without doing any serious damage to the financial prospects of the company. I had hoped the hon. gentleman would accept the amendment as it had been proposed, because it strikes me it carries out the idea which was commonly entertained by the committee that a clause of this kind might in future be useful, and it would be well to incorporate it in the Bill.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I have listened to the statements made by the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Davis), and I do not think they require any reply, they were so utterly irrelevant and inaccurate, as is usually the case with the statements of that hon. gentleman. Now, with reference to the statement made by the member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), I am amazed to find a gentleman who in the Committee of Railways and Canals made the statement: We will give you the opportunity of buying out this road, we will have a clause put in our charter to carry that out; and to-day he utterly repudiates it and says: Why not give us this as in all other Bills, without any blot on its charter. As has been so well pointed out by the Minister of Railways and Canals, it is no blot on the charter; on the contrary, it gives strength to his charter, it gives stability to his charter; it shows the government

Mr. BLAIR.

are contemplating the acquisition of this road, and that therefore, men may with confidence invest their money in this enterprise. But from start to finish, what is it? It is only a bogus concern. Look at the original promoters. I do not speak of those gentlemen, members of parliament and others, but particularly of the members of parliament who have so brazenly affixed their names to this charter at a later period when they thought there was something in it. I think it is high time that the attention of the people and parliament should be called to the fact that members of parliament do not think it beneath their dignity or their sense of propriety, to get up in this House and advocate Bills in which they are personally interested; and voting those Bills through committee and advocating them. I see our friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), the member for Kent, and the member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood)—all these gentlemen adding their names to this charter. What for? Because they think there is something in it for somebody. I point out to the committee that the names of these gentlemen were before the committee as going to build this road. There is one of the promoters of this Bill who was named to this committee as an eminent capitalist, who was going to build the railroad almost out of his own pocket, and I was in a court not long ago and heard him say that he had borrowed \$300 to run his election, and he had not returned the money yet. And this is the man who is going to build a railroad costing millions.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Name.

Mr. WALLACE. I can tell him the name. W. J. Hill, M.P.P. for West York. I did not desire to name him, but the hon. gentleman insisted on it. I was in court when I heard him make that statement. Now, the hon. gentleman can take the responsibility of having his friend's name paraded before the country. Well Sir, this railway, I consider, should be under the control and guidance—

Mr. LANDERKIN. Did he not carry West York, without money and without price? He must be a good man.

Mr. WALLACE. No, it was by means of a series of scandals and disgraces that he carried West York.

Mr. CAMPBELL. You were seventeen days trying to prove it, and you could not prove a single case.

Mr. WALLACE. It was proved up to the hilt.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Do not speak disrespectfully of the judges.

Mr. WALLACE. It is a matter of the utmost importance that this road should be under the complete control of parliament. We have to consider whether the control of an important link like this should be placed in the hands of the American people. We are told that American capitalists are going into it. I do not know whether they are or not, but if they are, then they will control a link in a great communication that takes the grain that comes down the lakes, transports it across this portage, lands it at Lake Ontario and sends it down to the seaboard. It is part of an important line of communication, and I think that line should be under the control, at any rate, of the Canadian people. I contend, Mr. Speaker, it would be better to have it under the control of the Canadian government, because it is essentially a national line. The Minister of Railways and Canals says we have built the canals at an enormous expense, and therefore, we should not start to-day to build a rival line to the canals before we see by experience how this fourteen-foot channel is going to work. There may be something in that, but at any rate, if we are to have that communication built, and I am strongly of the opinion that it should be built, it should be built and controlled by the Canadian government. The next best thing would be to keep it under the control say of the city of Toronto, or portions of municipalities whose interests are public interests, say, the counties through which it passes and the city of Toronto, or something like that. Their whole object would be the patriotic one of promoting traffic on this line of railway to connect with the waterways on each side. That is an important matter which should not be lost sight of. But, the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) proposes that there shall be no such power, and that this line of railway shall be used as a weapon if necessary. The city of Toronto, which is most largely interested, has been promoting this enterprise for a long while, but they have been proceeding cautiously, because the time has not arrived for the construction of the work. Now that the canals have been deepened to 14 feet this road becomes an urgent necessity. The city of Toronto through its municipal corporation and board of trade, are now prepared to go on with the work, but another company steps in ahead of them and says: Why did you not go on before? The answer to that is, that they were proceeding cautiously and in a business way, and were not discounting too largely the wants of the future. This company now comes in and says: We are ahead of you a week or two, and we will keep ahead.

Mr. WOOD. Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. I can quite understand why the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr.

Wood) says 'hear, hear,' because he is one of the crowd who got in. It is another evidence of how much this company has the interests of the city of Toronto at heart, when they get the member for Hamilton to help them. We know there is a rivalry between these two cities, and that the one is not assisting the other to build up its business to any great extent. If it were desirable to have members of parliament at all, and I do not think it is, it would seem to me that they might secure the support of a member from Toronto rather than the support of a member from Hamilton. I say, that the control of the road should be given to the government itself, or to the corporation of Toronto and the municipalities through which it runs.

Mr. LANDERKIN. There are rivals in Toronto too, are there not?

Mr. WALLACE. If the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Landerkin) has anything to say relative to this question, he will have an opportunity of doing so. If he has something to say that has no reference to it at all, he can do as he pleases about that.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I am just waiting until you get done.

Mr. WALLACE. We on this side are not afraid of anything the member for Grey may say. Now, Mr. Speaker, this line of railway should not be controlled by a private company, but by those who are directly interested in maintaining it as a part of our canal system. The city of Toronto has that interest in the undertaking. At all events, I contend that the line should not be placed in the hands of foreigners whose interests may be directly antagonistic to Canadian interests. The member for Kent (Mr. Campbell) gave his pledge that he himself would propose that the government would have power to acquire this railway at any time, but now when he thinks he has a sufficient number of members of parliament at his back he goes back on that pledge made voluntarily to the committee. I call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that there are four members on the opposite side of the House on their feet while I am speaking. Three of them have their names on this charter, and I will now resume my seat to hear what these gentlemen have to say.

Mr. PETER MACDONALD (East Huron). I attended the five sittings of the committee at which this Bill was discussed, and I wish to express the opinion I arrived at after hearing the pros and cons on both sides. We are all agreed that this is a most important national work. We found two parties who wished to obtain charters for the same road, and one of the parties

had its Bill before the House six weeks prior to the other. Other things being equal it was the duty of the committee to give its consideration to the first proposition made to parliament. It appeared that a compromise was sought to be arrived at between the parties, but that that idea was not successfully accomplished. Now, Sir, the committee had nothing to do with that compromise. It did not matter a fig to that committee whether the parties made a compromise or not: their duty was to act in the public interest. The real question before us was: Whether the first parties to apply were financially capable to give us a reasonable assurance that the work would be accomplished. That, I think, was apparent to all. I am sorry to say, and I say it advisedly, that the discussion turned practically into a party issue, and the committee invariably separated upon party lines. I found, on inquiry into the incorporators of both Bills, that the board of trade proposition is largely supported by the Conservatives of the city of Toronto, and it would appear also that the members from Toronto supported that contention. Perhaps, on the other side there was an element of the same kind, but that I cannot say. Our duty was to decide what was in the best interests of the country, irrespective of these two parties. If the railway is considered to be for the advantage of Canada it does not matter to us which of these companies should build it. If the company which first applied was competent to construct the work, then it appeared to me that that company was entitled to our consideration. The hon. leader of the opposition urges as an objection that amongst the incorporators of the first company, a number of foreigners were associated with a number of Canadians. Well, Sir, to my mind, that, instead of being a weakness is a great strength. This is not simply a local road from Collingwood to Toronto. It is a great international transportation route, and if it gets freight it expects to get it from the Western States as well as from Manitoba and the North-west. It is therefore of some importance that we should have prominent men from the Western States connected with this railroad, so that it may have the benefit of their influence to divert to this railway the trade which now goes via Buffalo and the Erie Canal. If men on the other side who are worth millions, and who are largely engaged in transportation, become interested in this enterprise, will not their influence be used for the purpose of directing trade through the very channels which we are establishing, which influence we would not have if the enterprise were wholly Canadian? Then, the hon. leader of the opposition said that there were about an equal number from the United States and from Canada connected with this company. But, we are not now considering the Bill as it originally

came before the committee; we are considering it as it is before us at the present moment; and I understand that there are now fourteen Canadians to six Americans; so that his argument does not count for much at this particular period. Then, the hon. leader of the opposition gave the opinion of the hon. Minister of Railways that it was not in the interest of the government to expend money on this road while the deep waterway is under test. So far as that is concerned, the hon. Minister of Railways is perfectly right. It was urged in the committee as well as out of the committee that the government should make this a government road; but, I think, the government would not be discharging its duty if it did so until it had tested the deep waterway on which we have spent so many millions. I am not in favour of the government having anything to do with this railway. It is a private enterprise; and if this company came to-morrow to ask for a bonus for it, I would be one to vote against granting a bonus. I think the government should not bonus a road of this kind until it tests the deep waterway which it has constructed. Nor do I suppose that for four or five years at any rate the government would be asked to take this road over. Suppose this company had fourteen steamers on the upper lakes and sixteen or eighteen steamers on the lower lakes, with all the appurtenances belonging to them, who would agree to the government taking over such an enterprise and trying to run it in the interest of the country? Not a single soul. Why then do hon. gentlemen urge an amendment in favour of the government taking a position which no one would endorse? Why encumber this Bill with a proposition which the Minister of Railways says would compromise the floating of the enterprise by private energy? Then, again, supposing that for the first ten years, instead of making money, the company should actually lose money; because it would take those ten years to divert sufficient trade to compensate them for their investment; and suppose that at the end of those ten years, besides having expended \$5,000,000 on the original cost of the road, they had expended \$2,500,000 more in establishing it on a paying basis, would it then be right for the government to give a month's notice of their intention to take over the whole enterprise, and leave the company with a large loss as the result of their energy, enterprise and perseverance in placing it on a paying basis? I do not think the government would be justified in doing so. Then, the principle contained in this amendment is not usual. One or two measures have been mentioned to-day to which a somewhat similar condition has been attached; but it is not usual. The government have power now to appropriate any public work, and if they have not the power they can secure a special Act giving them the power; so that at any fu-

ture time that they may wish to do so, they can take over this work or any other work in the interest of the Dominion, by the general power inhering in them as a government. Why then provide special powers in this Bill, which would probably have the effect of compromising the floating of the bonds and defeating the enterprise altogether? Believing that if this amendment were attached to the Bill it would compromise the floating of the bonds and the construction of the road, believing that the number of Americans connected with the company as corporators will be a source of strength instead of a source of weakness, and believing that the amendment will not place the government in any better position than it now occupies in regard to expropriating this or any other property in the public interest, I have concluded to vote against the amendment.

Mr. R. L. RICHARDSON (Lisgar). Mr. Speaker, when this Bill was considered by the committee, I was greatly surprised that this amendment or the one submitted there as a substitute did not carry. I regard it as of the greatest importance that an amendment of this character should be placed in this Bill, more especially as this is a very important line—one that is sure to become a highway for the carrying trade of the west. I think an exception might very well be made in this case, because it may become extremely desirable that the government should take possession of this road at a later day. If so, why should not the parliament of Canada now insist on a clause being inserted in this Bill providing that if at any future time parliament deems it desirable in the interest of the country to take possession of this road, it may do so on the conditions laid down in the amendment of the Minister of Railways? That amendment struck me as a very fair one. I differ from my hon. friend from West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) in regard to omitting the clause providing that if this were done the public subsidies given to the road should be deducted from the price. If the city of Toronto or the parliament of Canada choose to give subsidies to this road, I do not see why they should be held to belong to the company. These public subsidies are given for a public enterprise, and if at any time the public desires to take over that enterprise, I do not see why the price paid for it should not be exclusive of those subsidies. I have no sympathy whatever with the contention that no precedent should be made, and that it would be monstrous or extraordinary for us to take this opportunity to establish a precedent. It has been said, why not pass a general Act? That might be well enough, but I fear we should have great opposition to such an Act. Here is a very important railway, and why should we not place in the Bill such a clause as the

promoter of the Bill himself agreed to? Why should we not create the precedent? Is the parliament of Canada going to let it go abroad that it is not willing to establish any precedent, or make any progress? I think that would be a monstrous proposition. It is a fair condition to attach to this Bill that the government of Canada may, with the sanction of parliament, take possession of this railway at any time, if it deems it in the interest of the public to do so. We are granting what may prove a very valuable franchise, and why not grant it subject to this condition. The ex-Minister of Railways (Mr. Haggart) takes the position that the parliament of Canada has power at any time to assume possession of all the railways. That may be quite true, but the conditions under which the parliament of Canada may take possession of these roads will be limited. But here we have the opportunity of saying what the conditions shall be, and it is most important that we should serve notice on the bondholders that the government may take possession of the enterprise at any time. But this, we are told, will prevent the selling of the bonds. I do not think it will. It just takes away from the charter a speculative value and makes it impossible for this company to dispose of its charter as railway exploiters have been doing with other charters for years back. This parliament has no desire to give any set of promoters any valuable franchise out of which they can make a large sum of money. If the franchise is valuable let it belong to the people. The people the world over are beginning to realize the value, not only of state ownership of railways, but of a municipal ownership of all franchises in the municipality. These franchises become valuable because of the existence of large centres of population and of people who live along these lines of railway, and if these railways are making money, let that money go to the people. That government ownership is an advantage to the people is shown by the experience of Austro-Hungary, Germany and the Australian colonies. People point to our experience with the Intercolonial Railway, but that is not a fair criterion, because that road has been managed very largely as a political undertaking. Why could not the Intercolonial Railway be managed by a commission of independent men with powers entirely apart from the parliament of Canada. Put these men beyond political control at all, and if necessary disfranchise every man connected with that railway. Is there any reason why men of experience and ability should not manage that railway in the interests of the people? If it has not paid, it is simply because it has been managed as a political road. Must we admit that the parliament of Canada is unable to manage any enterprise intelligently and hon-

estly? If we do, we have come to a pretty pass in this country. Therefore, I claim that this parliament should not hesitate to glance in the direction of government ownership of railways. That, I believe, will be the great issue in this Dominion within the next decade, and I regret exceedingly, as a Liberal, that any hon. members on this side should apparently appear as antagonistic to that view.

I entirely dissent from the view taken by the hon. member for Saskatchewan when he twitted the hon. leader of the opposition for supporting a measure of this kind. I am delighted to see any great party take up a reform of this kind. When we had a similar question up last session in connection with the Rainy River road—a road which is bonused to an enormous extent by the people of this country—I moved a clause similar to the one under discussion, namely, that parliament could at any time take possession of the road. Yet, notwithstanding the fact that such large subsidies were given that road, that motion of mine was voted down, not only by members on this side, but by members on the other side as well. I feel very deeply on this question and will give my warmest approval to the amendment before the House.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). My hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Richardson) is no doubt very sincere, but it is very clear to any one, who has any experience in the building of railways, that the hon. gentleman never was a railway builder, that he never built a mile of railway in his life and knows nothing about it. He has been hoodwinked into supporting the amendment introduced by the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) for the purpose of killing the Bill. In the committee, when it was found that the other Bill, which these hon. gentlemen are promoting, could not go side by side with this one, they made every possible objection, and the hon. leader of the opposition drew on his enormous fund of tactics to obstruct in every way the passage of this measure. Any one who has any knowledge of the floating of bonds or the negotiations of loans upon railways will understand that a franchise which would be clouded by such an amendment as the one proposed could not float a bond. I would like to know whether the Canadian Pacific Railway would be willing to accept the intrinsic value of its entire line from the Atlantic to the Pacific. That road has cost the Canadian Pacific Railway an enormous amount in addition to the actual cost of construction, in the working up of its business and the establishing of connections, and it is only after years of effort that it has succeeded in reaching the creditable position it now occupies. Would the paying of the actual intrinsic value of that road recoup that company fairly and honestly for the expenditure it

Mr. RICHARDSON.

has undergone? It certainly would not. There is nothing to prevent parliament taking over the Canadian Pacific Railway at any time, and if you pass this Bill, without the clause proposed, the government can take this particular road over when it chooses. There is another point and that is this. By this amendment you will fetter the government in taking over this line. I contend that the passing of this particular amendment would commit parliament, if it should decide to act on it, to take over all that this company possesses.

The hon. leader of the opposition objects to Americans having anything to do with the Bill, and thinks that the scheme should be in the hands of citizens of the Dominion. He was not of that opinion when the company for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway was incorporated. He was a member of the cabinet at the time, why did he not seek to keep out all Americans? He was quite ready to allow Americans and other foreigners to construct the Canadian Pacific Railway. But, it suits his purpose for the moment to use the connection of these foreigners with the scheme as a bugbear. My hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair) had said something with regard to the great waterways. We all hope to see our great waterways a success. But, if any person will look at a map of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, he will see that but a very small portion of that country is now under cultivation. Even with so little under cultivation, from twenty-five to thirty million bushels of wheat has been exported. This has tested the carrying capacity of our canals. This being the case when so little development has taken place, what should we look for when half or two-thirds of the wheat belt is under cultivation? It will test the carrying capacity of every canal and every railroad, including the one under consideration, to carry that wheat to the seaboard. I do not see why this clause should be forced on this committee. It has never been incorporated in the charter of any other line. As I said, the government have the power to take over this road the same as any other public property. I do not think that a specific clause of this kind should be inserted, because it will undoubtedly cripple the company. The object of the hon. member for West Toronto and the hon. member for West York is to kill the Bill. They may accomplish that, if they can get this clause passed. They think that with this clause inserted the company will be so crippled that it will not be able to float the scheme for the construction of the road. The Minister of Railways and Canals has expressed, no doubt, what are his own opinions. But, I feel sure that he does not express those opinions as a member of the government, nor do the members of the cabinet

unite with him in his opinion. He may possibly have reasons for holding these views; but there is no just reason why this Bill should be crippled when other companies have been chartered without this limitation to their privileges. I am struck with the bitter, determined opposition of the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) to this Bill. In the Railway Committee he was on his feet nearly the whole time it was before the committee, and as soon as the third reading is proposed here, he makes a long speech. I think I can see the reason for it. No doubt he hopes, if returned to power, to transfer his Chignecto Ship Railway from Nova Scotia and lay it down over the route from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario. That may be the end he has in view. The ship railway is a monument of folly where it is, and I suppose he would hope to use it to transfer ships from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario. But, if it should come to that, it will cost the country vastly more than this company will. I do not see how the hon. member for West Toronto can face his constituents and justify the position he has taken. The hon. member for West York made some reference to the fact that the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), and myself appear as directors. I can only say that the promoters of the other Bill were anxious to add these names to their Bill, and the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), in order to meet them so far as that is concerned, suggested that the names should be put in his Bill. I had no desire to go on the Bill, but I went so far as to meet the request of my hon. friend. I know that the promoter of the Bill only went on the Bill himself as a guarantee of good faith and at the earnest solicitation of some members from Toronto, as well as others who were here. So, there is no scheme in that. I have been in parliament a good many years, and I have never benefited to the extent of ten cents. It comes with very bad grace from the hon. member for West York to insinuate that there was some attempt on the part of some members of this House to line their pockets out of a scheme of this kind. I may say I have never bought ordnance lands at a quarter their value and sold them afterwards at ten times what they cost me. I never went to the Minister of Railways and Canals and coaxed him to sell me property that I might sell it afterwards at ten times what I paid for it. When the hon. gentleman catches me in any transaction of that kind he can charge me with doing what is improper, but he need not make such insinuations when he himself is the man who used his position here as a member of the House and supporter of the late government to advance his own interest. He had better not try to make any insinuations with regard to the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), a gentleman who has a clean

record, a record which is a credit to him. The hon. member for Kent has promoted this Bill from the start as a matter of pure patriotism and with a desire to do what he could for the city of Toronto, and he is getting a poor reward from the hon. member for West Toronto and the hon. member for West York for the gallant manner in which he has fought to get this Bill through. I believe that if the Bill goes through, as it should, the enterprise will be a success, and it will be a great advantage to the city of Toronto. And I believe the time will come when my hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) who insists on the passage of this clause will hide his face in shame, and will regret that he has played into the hands of men who are merely trying to prevent the success of this enterprise in order that their little scheme may come in, and the hon. member for West York and the hon. member for West Toronto may some day in the future take part in the scheme or get their friends in to control it in place of my hon. friend from Kent.

Mr. GEORGE GUILLET (West Northumberland). I desire to take this opportunity of saying that I am in favour of government ownership of railways as far as practicable and of the application of that principle by this amendment, and I have not heard any sound argument why it should not be adopted. I am not desirous of killing the Bill as has been charged from the other side of the House. I believe the whole discussion of this Bill proves that the promoters of this amendment desire that when parliament are granting such powers a reservation should be made in the charter that if at any time public interest should demand it the government may resume those charters. This is a national enterprise. This Bill provides for diminishing the distance between the points of shipment and ocean ports by 300 miles. That is no small matter especially when we consider that it will also avoid the most dangerous navigation of the water route. There is this important advantage in this route that not only will it save time but it will diminish risk of danger and loss of property. We know that the navigation on the south part of Lake Huron and the navigation on Lake Erie to the canal is the most dangerous part of the route that is to be traversed by shipments from Duluth, Chicago, Port Arthur and other points west to the St. Lawrence. This company will also be able to carry freight by vessels of an enormous capacity from these points in the west to Collingwood, and will thus be able to carry it much cheaper than smaller vessels and therefore much cheaper than it can be done via the canal. This being the case I think it desirable that the government should control that route in order to prevent discrimination in favour of an American route against our own ports. For instance the route via Ogdensburg to New York. A

syndicate is now establishing in Montreal extensive elevators and would be able in conjunction with such an enterprise as this, if they should combine, to control the export trade of grain to the exclusion of independent shippers or at least be able to discriminate against them in the way of charges. If that should be found to occur at any time in the future it would be most important that the government should have power to take control of this enterprise. If we found in future that our own ports were being discriminated against we would then have it in our power to prevent it. I think we should preserve in our own hands the powers that the amendment of the member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) provides for reserving in the hands of the government.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I would not take part in this debate but for the remarks made by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace), who said that I was in this Bill for what I could make out of it. I tell the hon. gentleman that I am not there for that purpose. I joined my hon. friend from Kent, Ont. (Mr. Campbell) for the purpose of building the road, and if any of his friends in Toronto, in case the Bill passes through the House and the company is formed, wish to take my place, I would be glad to resign in their favour. The member for West York is much concerned because I, as a representative of Hamilton, should be doing anything that would assist the city of Toronto in enlarging its borders in any way. I may say to the hon. gentleman that the boats connected with this road are supposed to start from Hamilton, therefore Hamilton has an interest in the success of this undertaking. I may also say to the hon. gentleman that I have considerable interest and considerable property in Toronto, perhaps a good deal more than he supposes, and in promoting this Bill I am advancing my own interests in Toronto just as much as in Hamilton. But we must give the hon. gentleman a little leeway in his remarks, because he has just returned from an expedition through the country where he has been treated by a number of clubs in a most enthusiastic manner. Of course he comes back here highly elated after having been greeted as a conqueror up west. I congratulate him on obtaining once more the position he has held for so many years among his friends, and I hope he will long continue to enjoy the enviable position of grand master. The leader of the opposition has spoken strongly about the wealth, respectability, responsibility, and so forth, of the gentlemen who were connected with the other Bill. I have not a word to say against the respectability individually of the gentlemen connected with the board of trade. The board of trade seems to be in his estimation the very strength and

Mr. GUILLET.

essence of that company. Well, I may say that perhaps he does not know all about the board of trade in Toronto. There are certain things connected with that organization that possibly, if they were known, would not increase his estimation of it. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) knows what I refer to, therefore, I need say nothing more.

Mr. CLARKE. If the hon. gentleman knows anythings derogatory to the character of the gentlemen who were applying, he should be man enough to say all he knows about them.

Mr. WOOD. I say nothing about the gentlemen—

Mr. CLARKE. Yes, you have.

Mr. WOOD. If the hon. gentleman wants to answer me, let him wait until I get through my speech. I simply say this, that there are some things about the board of trade at Toronto that the most respectable people of this country would not care to have attached to themselves.

Mr. CLARKE. Now let us hear what it is.

Mr. WOOD. The hon. gentleman knows quite well what it is, and he need not ask me the question. He is fully posted.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Explain.

Mr. WOOD. Well, if the hon. gentlemen will apply to the member for West Toronto, he will explain it to them. I was simply going to remark to the leader of the opposition that all the wealth, and all the energy, and all the respectability are not bound up in the board of trade of Toronto. There are many men of means, many men of energy and enterprise outside of that board of trade. Some of the gentlemen connected with my hon. friend's Bill in Toronto are quite as able financially to finance a large scheme like this as any gentleman connected with the board of trade. I can only say that the gentlemen connected with the board of trade are certainly very respectable gentlemen, and when they come down here and bring their Bill before the House, I am quite satisfied it will receive fair treatment, but, if they were willing to accept a clause in their Bill that would simply make it useless, I am inclined to think they would show a great want of business knowledge. I have had some experience in building railways and floating bonds, and I can say that it would be utterly impossible to float a bond on the English market with any cloud over the bonds of the road such as this amendment of the hon. member for

West Toronto would place upon them. To do such a thing as we are asked to do by the hon. gentleman would be to show that we really did not know what we were about, and did not understand our business. I am quite satisfied that in the hands of the hon. member for Kent and his friends, the enterprise will be vigorously pushed forward. Although several of the gentlemen seeking incorporation are Americans, they are the very men who are able to furnish traffic for this road, and they can do it far better than men connected with the board of trade. I believe that these Americans, with the assistance of the Canadians who are connected with the enterprise, will make this route the success that in other hands it would not be. We have been told that these men have been working at this enterprise for three, four, five or six years. They have had several opportunities of coming before the House, but they did not make their appearance until the hon. member for Kent brought forward his Bill. I can quite understand that the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) is anxious that this Bill should not go through. He is afraid that this Bill might give a little eclat to the hon. member for Kent who, I understand, is going to meet him in West York, and therefore, he is doing his best to clip the wings of the hon. member for Kent and prevent him from getting this measure through the House. I think that if the hon. member for Kent goes into West York it will be the last we will see of the hon. member for West York. The man with the knife will take care of himself. The promoters of the Bill that has yet to come before the committee will have an opportunity of showing their good faith in the building of the road by joining my hon. friend's company. They can go in and subscribe for the stock, and if they subscribe for a sufficient amount of stock, I am sure that the hon. member for Kent will feel quite pleased to give them a seat at the board, and he will have their assistance and energy in pushing this thing to a successful conclusion. I did not intend to take part in this discussion but for the references that were made to my name in a way that I do not think my hon. friend intended, because I think he knows me too well to suggest that I am in this to make any profit out of it. I hope the businessmen in this House will see the absurdity of accepting such an amendment to the Bill as will prevent the road from being built. If this amendment is put in it will simply kill the Bill, and make it impossible for the promoters to push the road through.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, the members of the House know that no private Bill that has come before parliament for a number of years has created the interest that this Bill has

created, and I think the House ought to have some declaration of policy upon two or three points from the government of the day. We have had this amendment drawn by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), to meet the views which prevail in the committee, but we are without a declaration of policy by the government on that amendment. Then, there is another matter which, it appears to me, we ought to have the declaration of the government upon, and it is this: This Bill is for an enterprise for the possession of which we have seen capitalists on the American side and capitalists on the Canadian side reaching out. We are led to believe that this franchise is valuable, and that this is an enterprise that will pay. The hon. Minister of Railways in speaking upon the question, goes rather against the contention I am making, by saying that it has not been demonstrated that the road is necessary, because the canal system has not been tried. There are these two views, first, that it is an exceedingly valuable franchise, and next, the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals that the enterprise is not necessary just at present. In view of either fact, in view of the fact that it is very valuable, or in view of the fact that it is not necessary at the present time, I, for one, would like to know how the government will treat a request for a subsidy for this line. It appears to me that this, perhaps, is a more important matter even than the amendment moved by the hon. member for West Toronto.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Better wait until we pass it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, then, we will accept the declaration of the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), that he does not intend to apply for a subsidy.

Mr. WOOD. He did not say so.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) says that he did not say so, and that is an admission that he intends to apply for one. It is a simple matter for the government to deal with. Here is the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, who says that the time has not come to deal with it, here we have a company promoted by hon. gentlemen who say that they do not intend to try to make money out of it. I am not charging that they do, but I think the House ought to receive a declaration from the government, because it appears to me that it would influence the House a great deal in giving a vote. Does the government intend to grant a subsidy to this road in view of the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, or does it not? It appears to me that this is a matter of im-

portance, and that this House should have an answer to the question.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I may say to my hon. friend (Mr. Montague) that I do not view this question at all in the light in which he views it. It is not a question that the government, as a government, have anything to do with. It is simply a question of the private Bill, of a private company for the construction of a railway. We have dozens of applications every session of this character. The only new feature that is introduced into this Bill is that the provision is incorporated in it, that the government, at some future time, if they choose, may acquire the charter and all that depends upon it. If there were here a question as to the ownership of railways by the government, or even the introduction of the principle, it would require very serious consideration at the hands of the government, and I do not at all accept the statement made by the hon. member for East York (Mr. Maclean) a moment ago, that the government have pledged themselves to the principle of the government ownership of railways. The government never did anything of the kind, nor is the principle of the government ownership of railways introduced in the amendment of the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke). The amendment of the hon. member for West Toronto, as it has been properly characterized, is simply a notice to those who invest their money in their enterprise and to the promoters of the road who invest their money, that, at the proper time, if parliament or the government so determine, their franchise may be acquired by the government. The amendment does not go further than that; that is what it is in a nutshell. As to the duty of the government, I have to say to my hon. friend, that it is not a question for the government to consider at all. The Bill has been discussed before the Railway Committee, and they have determined upon it in a certain way. The position I have always taken upon Bills that come from the Railway Committee, is, to sustain the decision of the committee as far as I possibly could do. I do not say that this is a principle that should be adhered to, under all circumstances, because there may be exceptions in this case as in any other. But I have more than once submitted to the House, that upon questions which are referred to any of the Standing Committees, it should be the policy of the House to sustain the decision of the committee, unless—and in no other case—there is a very strong case made out that the committee has erred in some gross manner. There is no evidence in this case that the Railway Committee has been in error. There is as much to be said on one side as upon the other, and,

M. MONTAGUE.

for my part, having listened to the discussion very attentively, I have come to the conclusion, that in this instance, I should support the decision of the Railway Committee.

Mr. WALLACE. Before the question is disposed of, I ask the indulgence of the House to make a personal explanation in reply to a statement made by the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). His statement was: That I used my position in parliament; that I went to the government and bought some lands at one-tenth of their value, or one-tenth of what I sold them for—one-tenth of their value too, and that I, therefore, defrauded the government of the country. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will just state the circumstances of the case and nothing more. We had bought a property comprising a number of acres on the canal bank outside the city of Ottawa, and we discovered that there was a narrow strip between it and the roadway that runs along the canal bank. This narrow strip started at a point and ran to a few feet in width. It amounted to a quarter of an acre or half an acre of land, or something like that; I cannot remember the quantity. We applied to the government to purchase it, because it was between our property and the roadway, and was only four or five feet in width. It could have been no possible use to any one else; no one else could possibly desire to purchase it, and the government did not want it. We asked the government to place a price upon it, and the government did place their price upon it. We had nothing to do with fixing the price. We paid them that price, which, according to my recollection, was about the same price as we paid for the other portion of the land. The land was of no value whatever to the government. The government fixed whatever price was fixed, and we paid that price and purchased it from the government, as we had a right to do. It was a fractional part of an acre of land. The government got the price they themselves fixed, as the proper value for it, and everything was done fair and square, and the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), and some other gentlemen investigated the matter at that time, and tried to make a scandal. This was many years ago, and they utterly failed in their attempt.

Mr. McMULLEN. No.

Mr. WALLACE. They utterly failed in their attempt.

Mr. McMULLEN. Not at all.

Mr. WALLACE. They utterly failed to prove a single particle of wrong-doing. They bring the matter up to-day when it is ten

years old. They failed ten years ago to prove a single particle of wrong-doing, because the facts are as I state them now, and there was no wrong-doing or intention, or desire of wrong-doing on our part, in any way, shape or form whatever.

Mr. McMULLEN: As the hon. gentleman has misrepresented me, I might be allowed to say a word.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman stated that he—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. McMULLEN. Hon. gentleman opposite evidently fear a threshing out of this question.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wallace) represents that he bought a strip of land as the owner of the adjoining strip of land, and that the Railway Department put a price upon it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman knows that the owners of that land tried to buy that strip from the Railway Department, and they would not sell it to them until after he bought the land.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. WALLACE. What the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMullen) states is not true.

Mr. RICHARDSON. I rise to make a personal explanation in reference to the statement of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). It is not true that I have any desire to block the Bill. I told Mr. Campbell that I certainly would vote for this Bill. I intend to vote for both Bills, and I refrained the other night from speaking, lest the Bill might be prevented from going through. I intend to vote for the Bill, although I will support the amendment which is in line with the course I have taken for a considerable number of years.

Mr. CLARKE. I desire to add one word—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, spoken.

Mr. CLARKE. I merely moved the amendment and did not speak.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, spoken.

Mr. CLARKE. I am sure that the people of Toronto—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. CLARKE. I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER. If it is a word of explanation to the House, I do not think the hon. gentleman should be denied the privilege.

Mr. CLARKE. The question of order was immediately raised when I presented the amendment, and before I had time to say a word about it. I do not desire to take up the time of the House more than a minute, because I presume it would suit every one's convenience to take the vote before six o'clock.

The PRIME MINISTER. The hon. gentleman can give a personal explanation, but he has no right to speak on the general question.

Mr. CLARKE. If I have no right to speak I will take my seat and let the division be taken.

Mr. MACLEAN. The question of order was raised—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order. Question.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question is on the motion for the third reading of Bill (No. 115), and Mr. Clarke's amendment thereto.

The House divided on the amendment.

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bell (Prince),	Kloepfer,
Bennett,	LaRivière,
Bergeron,	Macdonald (King's),
Blanchard,	Maclean,
Britton,	McDougall,
Cargill,	McInerney,
Caron (Sir Adolphe),	McNeill,
Casgrain,	Martin,
Clancy,	Mills,
Clarke,	Montague,
Cochrane,	Prier,
Craig,	Puttee,
Davin,	Richardson,
Ferguson,	Rosamond,
Foster,	Taylor,
Ganong,	Tupper (Sir Charles
Gillies,	Hibbert),
Guillet,	Wallace, and
Ingram,	Wilson.—38.
Kaulbach,	

NAYS :

Messieurs

Seith,	Lang,
Bethune,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Borden (King's),	Lewis,
Brodeur,	Livingston,
Calvert,	Macdonald (Huron),
Campbell,	Mackie,
Casey,	McGugan,
Christie,	McHugh,
Copp,	McIsaac,
Cowan,	McLennan (Inverness),
Davies (Sir Louis),	McMillan,
Davis,	McMullen,
Domville,	Morrison,
Douglas,	Mulock,
Erb,	Oliver,
Fielding,	Paterson,

Fisher,
Fitzpatrick,
Flint,
Fertier,
Fraser (Guysborough),
Godbout,
Gould,
Johnston,
Landerkin,

Russell,
Rutherford,
Scriver,
Semple,
Sutherland,
Talbot,
Tolmie, and
Wood.—49.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, before you declare the motion carried, I would like to have the names read by the Clerk of the House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Before that is done, I should like to say that I was paired with the member for West Bruce (Mr. Tolmie).

Mr. TAYLOR. It is not for that purpose.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The intention is to challenge the right of certain members to vote on this question, and in order to do that, it is necessary to have the names read.

The Clerk of the House having read the names.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of challenging the right of certain hon. members to vote, under the well-known rule of the Canadian House of Commons, following the old order of the English House of Commons, which will be found in Bourinot's 'Parliamentary Procedure and Practice,' at page 455 :

No member is entitled to vote upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any member so interested will be disallowed.

I have no personal feeling whatever in this matter, but I think it is very necessary that the House should understand what the position of members who are interested in this Bill is, and whether they do not come within this rule. I hold that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), and the hon. senior member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), are all disqualified under this rule from voting for a Bill to incorporate a company in which they hold the very important and influential position of directors, and have, therefore, the most clear and decided pecuniary interest in the measure that could possibly be established. I ask therefore that their names be struck from this division.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I wish to say, in reply to the hon. gentleman, that I have no pecuniary interest, in any shape or way, in this measure, never having contributed a cent to this company in any shape or form. My hon. friend says that I am a director. My name is only placed on the provisional board which will have the right to elect the directors. Had I had any interest in the measure that would

Mr. SPEAKER.

have disqualified me from voting, I certainly could not have voted ; but I consider that I have no interest whatever in it that affects my rights as a member of this House.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont). I have only to say, Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned, that when the Bill was placed in my hands, my name was not on the board. At the request of the other gentlemen I allowed my name to go on as one of the provisional directors ; but up to this date—I do not know what may happen in the future—I have no pecuniary interest whatever in this Bill. I have not contributed one single farthing, and I have not been asked to contribute one single farthing. I think, therefore, that I have a right to vote.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I think it is needless for me, Mr. Speaker, to repeat what the other gentlemen have stated. I have not contributed one cent, though, as the promoter of the Bill has stated, I do not know what the consequence may be in the future. I am interested in the Bill going through and the road being built in the public interest, in my interest, and in the interest of my constituents ; and I think it is very small business for any gentleman to take exception to my vote.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. leader of the opposition has quoted correctly the rule of the House :

No member is entitled to vote upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any member so interested will be disallowed.

I am not aware that the question in this particular form has ever before arisen in this House within my parliamentary experience. I hesitate to instruct the clerk to strike the names of the hon. members from the division list when they state that they have no pecuniary interest in the measure. We have always accepted the statements of members.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the statement made by these hon. gentlemen, that they have not contributed anything, was evidently made under the impression that the point was taken on the ground of their having done something to promote the interests of the Bill ; but one of the hon. gentlemen was candid enough to say that while he had not so far contributed anything, he did not know what might be in the future. I want the House to understand that it is in no party spirit that I raise this point ; but because it is very necessary that we should have a clear understanding of what that rule means and whom it includes. I hold that it includes a member of this House whose name appears on a Bill as a provisional director,

and who is in a position to become a permanent director. I have no hesitation in saying that I would regard this Bill with much less favour than I do if the names of these gentlemen were not among the provisional directors, with the possibility of becoming permanent directors and having the permanent influence in the company that such a position would give them. The fact that these gentlemen are in a position to become directors of that company and to receive an annual payment as such, is what brings them within the rule of having a direct pecuniary interest.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Mr. Speaker, this is a point which involves some delicacy, and a cursory examination of the book on the subject adds still more to the doubt which I entertained with regard to it. In May's 'Parliamentary Practice,' the last edition, at page 355, the following occurs:—

The votes of members, who are subscribers to undertakings proposed to be sanctioned by a Bill, or who were interested in private Bills, have frequently been disallowed. In 1800, the votes of three members were disallowed, as having a direct interest in a Bill for incorporating a company for the manufacture of flour, wheat and bread. On May 28, 1825, notice was taken that a member who had voted with the yeas on the report of the Leith Docks Bill, had a direct pecuniary interest in passing the Bill; he was heard in his place, and stated that on that account he had not voted in the committee on the Bill, and that he had voted in this instance through inadvertence. His vote was ordered to be disallowed. Instance also may be given of motions to disallow the votes of shareholders in the company which was the promoter of the Bill on which the division was taken, that have been negatived. And in like manner, on the second reading of the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway Bill, May 15, 1845, objection was taken to one of the tellers for the noes as being a land-holder whose property would be injured by the proposed line. A motion for disallowing his vote was withdrawn. On July 15, 1872, objection was taken to two of the tellers in a division, who had voted against the Birmingham Sewerage Bill, on the ground of personal pecuniary interest; but the Speaker stated that they had no such pecuniary interests in the Bill as would disqualify them from voting against it.

The extent to which the rule of personal interest in a vote given by members against a private Bill, which would create a project intended to compete with an undertaking in which he had a pecuniary interest, is as yet undecided. As the Speaker stated, May 12, 1885, there is no rule of the House on the subject. He recommended that each member should be guided by his own feelings in the matter, and should vote, or abstain from voting, as he thought fit, though the Speaker added to his statement a reminder that members should be aware that they ran the risk of having their votes disallowed by the subsequent action of the House.

I have referred to authorities for the decision of the Speaker, who is in a somewhat delicate position as to whether he should allow the vote to be taken or not. What I would suggest is that the matter be left over for his consideration, and for the

guidance of the House on future occasions. Whether these gentlemen vote or not, the result of the division could not be affected, and, therefore, I think, while not taking this vote as a precedent, we should allow it to stand as it is and let the subject be investigated by Mr. Speaker for the information of the House on a future occasion.

Sir **CHARLES TUPPER**. That is quite satisfactory. These votes do not affect the division, and we will have, no doubt, a more satisfactory settlement of the question, after careful consideration by Mr. Speaker.

Amendment (Mr. Clarke) negatived.

Mr. **CAMPBELL** moved third reading of the said Bill.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. On division.

Mr. **RICHARDSON**. With reference to that, I would like to be recorded as voting for the Bill.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. We all know your sentiments.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the third time (on division) and passed.

The Speaker left the Chair at 6.20 p. m.

AFTER RECESS.

POSTMASTER OF ST. THOMAS, ONT.

Mr. **CASEY** asked :

1. Was the postmaster of St. Thomas, Ont., suspended, and on what grounds?
2. Did any delegation see the Postmaster General about the suspension? If so, what did they ask, and what answer did they receive?
3. Was the investigation held, and by whom? Was it under oath?
4. Has the postmaster been reinstated as the result of such investigation?
5. If so, will the Postmaster General lay on the Table the reports on which the suspension and reinstatements were based?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). Complaint having been made that at the St. Thomas post office only one wicket was kept open in the general delivery, and that the attention of the staff was slow and unsatisfactory, causing annoying delays, Mr. W. E. Bennett, who has been acting as inspector of city post offices, proceeded to St. Thomas to investigate such complaints, and, from personal observations, having become satisfied as to the correctness of the complaint, and having come to the conclusion that the service was negligent, and that the postmaster had been negligent in the discharge of his duties, suspended the postmaster. He further expressed the opinion that the postmaster was indolent, incompetent and negligent in the discharge of his duties, and was entirely to blame for the unsatisfactory condition of affairs which he found on the occasion

in question. The postmaster having taken exception to this finding, the matter was referred to Controller Armstrong and Inspector Henderson, two experienced and reliable officers, who personally attended at St. Thomas and conducted a thorough and careful examination, under oath, and who also personally investigated the books and affairs of the office. They concur in the finding of Mr. Bennett in so far as that officer reported the postmaster as guilty of negligence in not having two wickets kept open, and the public properly attended to; and in not promoting greater activity on the part of the staff; but, they report the rest of the work in that office as being very well performed. They did not concur with Mr. Bennett's finding that the postmaster was indolent or incompetent, or entirely to blame for the state of affairs; and expressed the view that the postmaster is not indolent or incompetent, and was not wholly to blame for the state of affairs complained of; and they further expressed the opinion that one of the officers, who received complaints from the public as to the unnecessary delay in the service, failed to inform the postmaster of such complaints, or to take any means to remedy the same, and was disloyal to the postmaster and to the public. They found the books kept in a neat and careful manner, and that the reports of errors on file at Ottawa and in the office of the post office inspector and of the superintendent of the railway mail service were comparatively few, and that any irregularities which occurred were of a trifling character; and that apart from the complaints made as to the want of accommodation at the general delivery wicket, the work of the office upon the whole appeared to have been conducted in a satisfactory manner. In view of the conclusions of Messrs. Armstrong and Henderson, that the postmaster was not indolent or incompetent, and was not entirely to blame for the state of affairs, that he had not received loyal services from one of his staff, and that the work of that office, upon the whole appeared to have been conducted in a satisfactory manner, I came to the conclusion that the public interest did not call for the dismissal of the postmaster, but that his suspension and the anxiety to himself that must have been consequent thereon was a sufficient mark of the department's disapproval of his shortcomings, and sufficient punishment therefor, and would, in all probability, effectually prevent any such further grounds for complaint. Accordingly, I directed his reinstatement.

Mr. CASEY. The hon. minister has not answered the second paragraph of the question.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. My attention had not been called to that. I can only say, from memory, that I had the advantage of a number of delegations upon

Mr. MULLOCK.

the subject, pressing upon me to reinstate the officer pending inquiry. This I refused to do, but allowed him to remain under suspension until the merits of his case had been finally determined upon. That is the substance of what passed at the interviews, but if I find myself in error my hon. friend (Mr. Casey) will permit me to supplement this answer.

PAYMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ALIEN LABOUR LAW.

Mr. CLARKE asked:

What sums have been paid out of the consolidated revenues of the Dominion since July 1, 1897, in connection with the Alien Labour law?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Amounts paid in connection with the Alien Labour Act from July 1, 1897, to May, 25, 1900, by Department of Justice:

1897-8.	
T. G. Mathers, Winnipeg.....	\$114 00
	\$ 114 00
1898-9.	
T. D. Cowper, Welland.....	\$168 99
R. Rush, Sault Ste. Marie.....	18 00
F. Spain, Bridgeburg.....	219 50
W. B. McMurrich, Toronto.....	371 42
W. Keys, Montreal	192 50
F. C. McBurney, Niagara Falls..	122 97
	1,093 38
1899-1900, to date.	
W. Keys, Montreal	\$405 00
W. B. McMurrich, Toronto.....	23 02
	428 02
Total	\$1,635 40

1897-8.

Paid by Department of the Interior:

W. H. Eaton, McLeod	\$204 00
J. Flanagan, Lethbridge	99 00
R. W. Martin, Port Arthur.....	313 45
W. F. McCreary, Winnipeg.....	107 22
C. C. Stewart, Emerson.....	103 00
H. W. Whitla, Winnipeg	94 20
	920 87

Grand total

\$2,556 27

AN ENGLISH EXPERT ON THE KLONDIKE.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked:

1. Did the government purchase any copies, and if so, how many, of a pamphlet published by A. N. E. Treadgold, M.A., entitled 'An English Report on the Klondike'?

2. If such purchase was made, how much has been paid for it?

3. If the purchase was made, when was it made?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. The government purchased from G. N. Morang Company (Limited), of Toronto, 665 copies of a pamphlet published by that company, entitled 'An English Expert on the Klondike,' by A. N. C. Treadgold, M.A., (late scholar of Hertford College, Oxford), special commis-

sioner of the *Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette*, London, Eng., on the Goldfields of the Klondike. 2. Fifty cents per copy. This work was considered the best of recent publications containing valuable information in connection with the Yukon, and by a man of special qualifications, and, consequently, the department felt that, in the public interest, its publication should be encouraged at the outset. 3. These books were purchased on November 16, 1899.

PAYMENTS TO GLOBE, MONTREAL HERALD, WITNESS, AND WINNIPEG FREE PRESS.

Mr. ROSS-ROBERTSON (by Mr. Clarke) asked :

What sums of money on all accounts have been paid by the Dominion of Canada to each of the following newspaper offices: The Toronto 'Globe,' the Montreal 'Herald,' the Montreal 'Witness' and the Winnipeg 'Free Press,' from January, 1883, till May, 1900?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I have a letter from the Auditor General, that it is impossible to give my hon. friend the whole of the information he asks for, because the information in the Auditor General's office only goes back to July 1, 1883, and not to January 1 of that year. With this explanation, I give a statement of the payments made to the different newspapers, as follows :

Payments to newspapers from July 1, 1883, to June 30, 1889 :

Montreal 'Herald.'			
	Adver- tising.	Print- ing.	Total.
1883-4	\$246 00		
1884-5	226 06		
1885-6	251 83		
1886-7	120 00		
1887-8	4 50		
1888-9	310 41		
1889-90	100 00		
1890-1	25 00		
1891-2	58 33	3 50	
1892-3	30 75	7 00	
1893-4			
1894-5			
1895-6	6 25		
1896-7	994 88	604 79	
1897-8	1,946 37	2,349 70	
1898-9	2,800 58	12,208 42	
	<u>\$7,120 96</u>	<u>\$15,173 41</u>	
			<u>\$22,294 37</u>

Montreal 'Witness.'			
	Adver- tising.	Print- ing.	Total.
1883-4 and 1884-5			
1885-6	\$ 13 20		
1886-7	18 75	*\$ 31 00	
1887-8	5 50		
1888-9			
1889-90	4 00		
1890-1			
1891-2	11 80	26 25	
1892-3	37 70	47 00	

Montreal 'Witness'—Con.

	Adver- tising.	Print- ing.	Total.
1893-4		0 83	
1894-5			
1895-6		2 25	
1896-7	931 30		
1897-8	692 94		
1898-9	694 40		
	<u>\$2,409 59</u>	<u>\$107 33</u>	
			<u>\$2,516 92</u>

Toronto 'Globe.'

1883-4	\$ 5 40		
1884-5			
1885-6	10 88		
1886-7	56 32		
1887-8	37 02		
1888-9	18 21		
1889-90	36 90		
1890-1, 1891-2, 1892-3			
1893-4	36 00		
1894-5	44 40		
1895-6			
1896-7	1,764 95		
1897-8	2,204 91		
1898-9	2,529 89		
	<u>\$6,744 88</u>		
			<u>6,744 88</u>

Winnipeg 'Free Press.'

1883-4	\$ 148 39		
1884-5	74 75		
1885-6	60 00		
1886-7	62 97	*\$ 399 34	
1887-8	13 00	* 2 25	
1888-9	508 50		
1889-90	303 67		
1890-1	647 65	45 00	
1891-2	247 08	44 75	
"		* 418 25	
1892-3	540 57	71 75	
1893-4	268 50	4 00	
1894-5	36 30		
1895-6	52 30	37 50	
1896-7	113 40		
1897-8	93 00		
1898-9	198 20		
	<u>\$3,394 48</u>	<u>\$1,022 84</u>	
			<u>4,417 32</u>

*Voters' lists.

YUKON—THE JOHN C. BARR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

(a) Is there any report from Mr. Ogilvie relating to the ss. 'John C. Barr,' not brought down to the House ?

(b) If so, what is the date thereof ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). There is no report in the Customs Department from Mr. Ogilvie relating to the ss. *John C. Barr*, not brought down to the House.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There is none in the Marine and Fisheries Department.

REPRESENTATION OF THE YUKON DISTRICT.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

1. Is it the intention of the government this session to ask parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon district in the House of Commons ?

2. If not, why not ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). There is no intention on the part of the government this session to ask parliament to provide for the representation of the Yukon district in the House of Commons. The government deem it advisable to wait until the next census, when the exact condition of the population and the condition of the country will be better known.

COMPENSATION TO ROBERT DEWAR.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER asked :

What sum has been paid to Robert Dewar or other party in compensation for loss of mill property at Barney's River, Pictou, Nova Scotia, by the Railway Department ?

To whom was the payment made ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). The sum of \$1,500 was paid to Robert Dewar in settlement of a claim for damages for loss of mill property at Barney's River, N.S. The payment was made to Dewar and to Laura McGregor, who, I understand, has some interest in the property.

YUKON—J. E. WHITESIDE, CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

1. What position, if any, had J. E. Whiteside, in 1898, in the Customs Department at Bennett and at Summit ?

2. What were his duties ?

3. Did he so report to the collector of customs at Victoria, B. C. ?

4. If he did report, will the hon. the Minister of Customs cause his reports to be laid on the Table of the House at an early day ?

5. Did Mr. Whiteside report to Major Walsh, or any other officer, on customs work in detail ; and if so, did this report reach the Customs Department at Ottawa ?

6. If the report last mentioned reached Ottawa, will the hon. the Minister of Customs cause the same to be laid on the Table of the House at an early date ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). 1 and 2. Mr. John E. Whiteside was sent by Collector Milne of Victoria, to Skagway on the 24th February, 1898, and subsequently he was transferred for service at White Pass. On the 27th May, 1898, which was shortly after he had been transferred to White Pass, he resigned his position and his resignation was ac-

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

cepted. 3. Mr. Whiteside may have reported to the collector of customs at Victoria, but no reports from him to such collector are on file in the Customs Department. 4. The answer to No. 3 answers this question. 5. No report to Major Walsh from Mr. Whiteside, when he was a customs officer, appears to have reached the Customs Department. On the 28th June, 1898, however, Mr. Whiteside wrote a letter to Major Walsh, with reference to his actions as a customs officer ; such letter is now on file in the Customs Department.

Mr. PRIOR. Would the hon. gentleman apply to the customs at Victoria and see if there was such a report sent by Mr. Whiteside to him, and if he can get it, will the hon. gentleman lay it on the Table ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I will see when I get it.

EXAMINATIONS FOR RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS.

Mr. MONTAGUE asked :

When were the last examinations held for the railway mail clerks of the Ottawa division ?

What percentage did each clerk obtain ?

Is it the intention of the minister to make promotions on the result of those examinations as the increase of the estimates of 1900 and 1901 calls for ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). In reply to the first question, I have to say that the examinations were held in Ottawa for the Ottawa district in the months of September and October, 1899. In reply to the second question, perhaps the hon. gentleman will be satisfied if I give him the information personally rather than publicly, as it is perhaps of a semi-confidential character. I have no other reason for not placing it upon the Table. To the third question, it is the intention of the minister to live up to the law and the amendments to the Post Office Act, and to have promotions made upon the merits.

MAIL SERVICE, INVERNESS, N.S.

Mr. McLENNAN (Inverness) asked :

1. What was the total cost to the government of Canada of carrying Her Majesty's mails in the county of Inverness, N.S., during the financial years ended 30th of June, 1896, and the 30th June, 1899, respectively ?

2. What was the total cost to the government of Canada of the maintenance of the post offices, including the salaries of postmasters in the county of Inverness, during the financial years ended 30th of June, 1896, and the 30th of June, 1899, respectively ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). 1. Cost of mail service in Inverness County on 30th of June, 1896, was \$14,922.31 ; on the 30th of June, 1899, the cost of this service was \$9,850.93.

THE MARCHMONT PROPERTY, QUEBEC.

Mr. MARCOTTE (by Mr. Morin) asked :

1. Has the government been approached in relation to the purchase of a property in the vicinity of Quebec, situated west of the Plains of Abraham, known as the Marchmont property, and now belonging to one Georges Tanguay, an alderman of the city of Quebec ?
2. Who has applied to the government in relation to this matter ? Is it Mons. Tanguay himself, or Mons. S. N. Parent, mayor of Quebec ?
3. Is it the intention of the government to acquire the said property ?
4. Under what form of title and for what purpose ?
5. What is the price set upon it, and what is the superficial area of the tract of land ?
6. Is the government aware that the Marchmont property is in no sense entitled to be considered historical ground, and that no person, except the parties interested, recommends that it be purchased by government ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The government have not been approached by anybody in relation to the purchase of the property known as Marchmont.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—COMMISSIONS AND PROMOTIONS.

Mr. ELLIS asked :

1. What is the total number of officers from Canada who have received commissions in the forces sent out from Canada by the government and Lord Strathcona for service in South Africa, including officers specially appointed and extra appointments, combatant and non-combatant ?
2. How many of such officers resided in the province of New Brunswick when so appointed ?
3. How many resided in each of the other provinces of the Dominion when so appointed ?
4. Is it the intention of the government to promote officers now serving in the ranks in South Africa to fill present or future vacancies as they may arise, or is it the intention to continue to fill such positions by sending officers from Canada who have not given up their commissions in order to serve with the Canadian forces ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). 1. 146. 2. 5. 3. Ontario, 55 ; Quebec, 34 ; Nova Scotia, 6 ; New Brunswick, 5 ; Prince Edward Island, 3 ; Manitoba, 8 ; British Columbia, 5 ; and the North-west Territories, 30. 4. The question of promotions is in the hands of the officers in command of contingents in South Africa. I may also mention that twenty-four of the Imperial commissions given to Canada have been allotted to Canadians serving in South Africa, regardless of their present rank, and that Lord Roberts has been invited to make the selection. The number of officers and men taken from each military district was regulated by the strength of the militia therein, with reference to the different arms of the service for which volunteers were required in the respective contingents. Lord Strathcona's force was raised exclusively in Manitoba and the North-west and British Columbia, His Lordship having himself imposed this condition.

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. DOMVILLE asked :

Did the Minister of Agriculture, in answer to the following questions:

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. DOMVILLE (by Mr. Fraser, Gusborough) asked:

1. Has the Agricultural Department any knowledge or experience of an English fertilizer known as Basic Slag or Thomas' phosphate powder ?
2. If so, has any of it been experimented with on the government Experimental Farm at Ottawa ?
3. What fertilizers have been experimented with from time to time on the Experimental Farm at Ottawa ?
4. In experimenting with various fertilizers does the officer having charge of such experiments take cognizance of analysis, with a view to ascertain the commercial value of such fertilizers to the various crops ?
5. If so, what steps does he take to verify the analysis of the manufacturer or seller ? Does he keep a record of such analysis ?
6. Has he analysed the Thomas' phosphate powder ; if so, what results did he get ? What percentage did he find of moisture ? Of phosphoric acid citric soluble ? Total phosphoric acid ? Average citric soluble phosphoric acid ? Average of phosphoric acid ?
7. What method did he adopt in his analysis, and for what reason did he adopt such method, and what result ?
8. Did he use the process used by the scientific chemical analysers of London, Paris and Germany, known as the Wagner method, and what were the results ? If not, why not ?
9. Is he aware that there has been in use in the United States a process for determining the available phosphoric acid in bone and mineral superphosphates and mixed manures ?
10. What has been the results of such tests as compared with the Wagner method ?
11. What method do you consider would be in the best interests of the producer, the manufacturer, the consumer and the farmer, and for what reason ?

12. Has the departmental officer above referred to any knowledge of the Wagner method ? Has he any knowledge of Dr. Bernard Dyer, district agricultural analyst for the counties of Bedford, Cornwall, Essex, Hants, Herts, Leicester, Rutland, West Suffolk and East Essex, Analytical Laboratory, 17 Great Tower Street, London ?

Professor Wagner, Ph. D., Privy Councillor of the Imperial Research Station, Darmstadt Germany ?

A. Maret and Ch. Delattre, Paris ?

Dr. Augustus Voelcker & Sons, London, Consulting Chemists of Royal Agricultural Society of England.

13. Is he aware that these chemists sent direct analysis to the Department of the Interior at Ottawa from samples drawn by an officer of the Department of Inland Revenue for the purpose, with the following results:

Analysis of Dr. Bernard Dyer—

Percentage of total phosphoric acid.....	16.77
Including phosphoric acid dissolved by a 2 per cent solution of citric acid, employed precisely according to the method of Prof. Wagner in 1899.....	14.60

Analysis of A. Maret and Ch. Delattre —

Phosphoric acid soluble in citric acid (Wagner's method)	14·71
Total phosphoric acid	16·63

Analysis of Dr. Augustus Voelcker—

Percentage of phosphoric acid dissolved by a 2 per cent solution citric acid (Wagner's method)	14·44
Total phosphoric acid	16·47

Analysis of P. Herlwig—

Percentage total phosphoric acid.....	16·83
Percentage citric acid soluble phosphoric acid	14·53

14. Are these professional chemists well and favourably known in the scientific world and would their analyses be accepted by the department in this case or on an arbitration of analysis generally? And is their professional services in such respect accepted in Europe?

15. Why have they adopted the Wagner method or methods in preference to the method or methods now in use in the United States, or said to be in use?

16. Are the methods said to be in use in the United States applicable to the analysis of the Thomas' phosphate powder to get most perfect results, or has it only been applied to it for reasons that this powder not being produced in the United States, no special analysis was considered necessary? If not, why not?

17. Who are the largest producers of this fertilizer?

18. Is it produced in the United States?

19. With such samples of the Thomas' phosphate powder as you may have access to, would it be possible for analysis to give—

Nitrogen—total including that of nitric acid or ammonia, if present	·16
Total calculated as ammonia	·20
Potash	1·88

Or take another analysis—

Nitrogen, including that of nitric acid or ammonia, if present	·1·81
Total calculated as ammonia.....	2·19
Potash	·14

20. If so, where did the nitrogen and potash arise?

21. If not, how do you account for such analysis?

22. Are you aware that under the Adulteration Act all articles not containing certain percentages are classed as adulterated, whether actually adulterated or not?

23. Are you aware that the Adulteration Act and Fertilizers Act must be read together on percentages to be contained in certain fertilizers?

24. Are you aware that clause 7, subsection 2, chap. 24, 53 Victoria, reads: 'No fertilizer shall be sold or offered or exposed for sale unless percentages to be contained in certain fertilizers?'

25. Are you aware the chief analyst of the Inland Revenue made the following report:

Laboratory of Inland Revenue Department,
Ottawa, September 15, 1899.

Sir,—I return herewith file No. 80772 and have to report that the samples referred to in Messrs. Wallace & Fraser's letter of the 1st instant, have been analysed in this laboratory with the following results:

	Moisture.	PHOSPHORIC ACID.		Total.
		Reverted.	Insoluble.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
No. 17,661	0·14	7·16	5·44	12·60
No. 17,662	0·18	4·75	7·85	12·60
No. 17,663	0·14	6·72	6·40	13·12

26. Under such analysis would it be possible to offer or expose for sale Thomas' phosphate powder in the face of section of Fertilizers Act quoted, which calls for 8 per cent?

27. Why was 8 per cent available made the standard?

28. If it was to protect the farmers, is there any good and sufficient reason why the standard should now be reduced to 5 per cent, except to meet the government prohibitive analysis which brings it under 8 per cent?

29. Is it not detrimental to the farmer and manufacturer that this fertilizer should be branded adulterated in consequence of a difference of opinion as to what system of analysis should be adopted, the Wagner or an obsolete method in use for many years in the United States and Canada before Thomas' phosphate powder was discovered and manufactured, and in no way applicable to the correct analysis of the Thomas' phosphate powder?

30. Is it not in the interests of the farmer that a high grade Thomas' phosphate powder

should be imported and sold, rather than reduce the standard of available phosphoric acid and open the door to low grade fertilizers?

31. To meet the difficulty between the producers of the Thomas' phosphate powder and the farmer who consumes, what system of analysis should be employed that would be in the interests and fair to both and thoroughly in the public interests?

32. Do you see any good reason why this fertilizer should be prohibited from importation and sale, or is it in the interests of the farmer that it should enjoy a portion of the field with other fertilizers?

33. Would the adoption of the Wagner method or any other similar method, lead to confusion? If so, in what way?

34. Have the experimental farms the proper facilities at the experimental farms to carry out such method?

35. Would it not be in the interests of the agricultural community that the actual analysis be given irrespective of any particular

Mr. DOMVILLE.

view of any particular analyst, so that it might be known exactly what the buyer was buying and paying for, irrespective of any personal views on the utilization of antique and obsolete methods of analysis?

36. Did the Minister of Inland Revenue make the following statement: 'The department cannot alter its system at the instance of any special manufacture, but it is ready to adopt the latest and best scientific methods approved by the Society of Public Analysts in England, or recommended by any such body as the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It is also prepared to adopt that system which the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm recognize as giving results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice.'

37. Has there been any protest to the method of analysis adopted by the chief analyst for the determining the availability and total phosphoric acid in Thomas' phosphate powder? If so, when and by whom?

38. When such protest was made, were any steps taken to obtain the opinion of the Society of Public Analysts in England, the Royal Agricultural Society in England, or the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm, as to what method of analysis gave results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?

39. Will the government submit an explanation of the methods of analysis adopted by the Department of Inland Revenue, viz., 'the citrate of ammonia solution,' and forward a copy of the explanation of the method used in England and Europe, viz., 'a 2 per cent solution of citric acid,' to the chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the director of the Agricultural Research Station, Darmstadt, Germany?

40. Will the government submit the following question to such authorities: 'Which method of analysis for determining the availability of the phosphoric acid in basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder would, in your opinion, give results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?'

41. Will the government adopt the system recommended by those authorities as giving results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?

42. Has the Department of Inland Revenue received sample of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder during the month of April, 1900?

43. If any samples were received, have they been analysed by the chemist of the department, and what was the result of such analysis?

44. Who is the consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England?

45. Were certificates of analysis of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder received by the department? If so, by whom were the certificates signed?

46. What was the result of the analysis of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder, as expressed in such certificates?

47. Upon what basis or analysis will the 'relative value per ton of 2,000 pounds,' as given in the bulletin of the Inland Revenue Department, be calculated or determined?

48. Does such relative value so calculated or determined give a fair and correct result of the agricultural value of Thomas' phosphate powder as a fertilizer?—make the following replies?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). 1. Yes. 2. Yes. Experiments

were tried in the spring of 1895. First by applying the Thomas' phosphate powder in the proportion of 400 pounds per acre to half an acre of mixed clover and timothy in the second year's growth. The half acre on which the Thomas' phosphate powder was used gave 1 ton 740 pounds of cured hay, while the check plot adjoining, on which no fertilizer had been used, gave 1 ton 320 pounds, a difference in favour of the crop treated with the Thomas' phosphate powder of 840 pounds of hay per acre. Another half-acre plot of red clover was similarly treated, 400 pounds of the Thomas' phosphate powder being used per acre. In this instance the fertilized plot gave 1 ton 530 pounds per acre, while the untreated check plot alongside gave 1 ton 453 pounds, a difference in favour of the plot treated with the Thomas' phosphate powder of 154 pounds of clover hay per acre. In 1898 and 1899 the Thomas' phosphate powder was used on the Central Experimental Farm on thirty-eight plots, consisting of five each of wheat, barley, oats, Indian corn, carrots and potatoes and four each of turnips and mangels. Particulars of these tests are contained in the Experimental Farm Reports for 1898 and 1899. 3. The number of plots permanently devoted to experiments with fertilizers at the Ottawa Experimental Farm is 105, each measuring one-tenth of an acre. The following fertilizers are used either singly or in combination: Barn-yard manure, fresh and rotted; Thomas' phosphate powder; nitrate of soda; unleached wood ashes; mineral superphosphate; bone, finely ground; muriate of potash; sulphate of ammonia; sulphate of iron; common salt (sodium chloride); and land plaster, or gypsum. 4. The analysis of all commercial fertilizers sold in Canada being made and published annually by the Inland Revenue Department, only occasionally, as our experimental work makes it necessary, are analyses made of the fertilizers employed. 5. The bulletin issued on commercial fertilizers by the Inland Revenue Department is consulted. In certain cases analysis may be made in the farm laboratory. A record is kept of all analytical work done in the farm laboratory. 6. We have not as yet made any official analysis of Thomas' phosphate powder. 7. See answer to question 6. 8. See answer to question 6. 9. Yes. 10. The Wagner method is used solely in the analysis of basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder. The neutral citrate method is used for superphosphate and other phosphatic fertilizers. The latter method would not show as much so-called available phosphoric acid in Thomas' phosphate powder as would be obtained by the Wagner method. The reason of this is that the basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder contains some 15 per cent free lime, and the presence of this interferes with the solvent action of the neutral citrate of ammonia solution on the phosphate. The Wagner solution, con-

taining free citric acid, neutralizes this lime, and thus the difficulty is overcome. 11. The chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farm is of the opinion that a method by which the free lime is first got rid of or neutralized would be, to all concerned, a fair one to use in the analysis of basic slag. He also considers that the fineness of the Thomas' phosphate powder should be taken into account when estimating the fertilizing value of this material. Dr. Bernard Dyer has shown (*Journal of Chemical Society*, March, 1894), that the solvent action of the exudation of plant rootlets is practically equivalent to 1 per cent solution citric acid. It, therefore, seems that the process using such a solvent, after the neutralization of the free lime, would show the amount of phosphoric acid present in a more or less available condition. 12. The chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farm is aware of the details of the Wagner process. He has a knowledge of the chemical reputation of Professors Wagner, Maret and Delattre, and Dr. Augustus Voelcker & Sons. 13. He is not aware that the analysis quoted was sent to the Department of Inland Revenue, as stated. 14. These chemists are well and favourably known, and their work is accepted in Europe as reliable. 15. It must be supposed that they adopted the Wagner method for the reason already stated, viz., that it takes cognizance of the free lime present in the basic slag. 16. If by the methods said to be in use in the United States' is meant the neutral citrate of ammonia method, then it must be stated that owing to the presence of free lime in the basic slag, such a method is not strictly applicable when the percentage of phosphoric acid more or less available is sought. 17. Its largest producers are firms in England and Germany. 18. Yes, in Pottstown, Pa., U.S. 19. Basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder is sold *per se*, i.e., unmixed with other fertilizers, and consequently does not contain any nitrogen or potash. 20 and 21. With regard to the analyses quoted, it is impossible to make a statement without further information respecting the same. 22. Yes, that is, when the percentage of a certain constituent falls below a stated standard, the material is classed as adulterated. 23. No. 24. The words quoted are in the clause, as stated. 25. The chemist of the Experimental Farms has no knowledge that the chief analyst of the Inland Revenue Department made the report, as stated in the question. 26. It could not, if the so-called available phosphoric acid were determined by the neutral citrate method. 27. The Fertilizers Act was framed many years ago, and he has no knowledge as to the reasons for the adoption of 8 per cent available phosphoric acid. 28. He is not aware of any reason, save that it allows the Thomas' phosphate powder to be analysed by the neutral citrate method. 29. Basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder, when pure and finely ground,

Mr. FISHER.

has proven itself to be a useful source of phosphoric acid for crops, especially on peaty and sour soils and soils deficient in lime. 30. There is as yet, comparatively speaking, but little Canadian data as to the value of basic slag as compared with other phosphatic fertilizers, but it is certainly worthy of a trial, especially on such lands as mentioned in answer 29. Any proposed alteration of the Act that would have the effect of lowering the standard would, naturally, require very careful consideration. 31. A fair method of analysis of basic slag would, in the opinion of the chemist, be one that took into consideration the basicity of this fertilizer; in other words, one that dissolved out or neutralized the free lime before applying the solvent for the so-called available phosphoric acid. Dr. H. W. Wiley, chemist to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C., U.S., says: 'A slag rich in calcium oxide (lime) would deport itself differently with a given ammonium citrate solution from one in which the lime had been chiefly converted into carbonate. If possible, therefore, all samples should be reduced to the same state of basicity before the action of any given solution is determined.' 32. There is no good reason why the importation or sale of basic slag should be prohibited. 33. Provided that the nature of the solvent used for dissolving out the so-called available phosphoric acid was clearly stated, there is apparently no reason why the adoption of the Wagner method or a modification thereof should lead to confusion. 34. The laboratories of the Experimental Farms are equipped to make analyses of all fertilizers. 35. As far as possible the analyses should be made by methods giving results in accordance with those obtained by agricultural practices. 36. The chemist believes the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue made the statement. He is of the opinion that a series of methods for the analysis of fertilizers, &c., approved of and issued with the authority of the Society of Public Analysts of England would be of great value to Canada. 37. He is not aware of any such protest. 38. He is not aware of any such steps having been taken. 39, 40, 41, 42, 43. (Evidently not for the chemist of the Experimental Farms to answer.) 44. Dr. J. Augustus Voelcker. 45, 46, 47. (Evidently not for the chemist of the Experimental Farms to answer.) 48. In determining the relative agricultural value of Thomas' phosphate powder it would be necessary to estimate the so-called available phosphoric acid by some method which took into account the basicity of the sample.

INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE ON LETTERS.

Mr. PRIOR asked :

Has the Postmaster General come to any reciprocal arrangement with the United States post office authorities in regard to the collection of

insufficient postage on letters posted in the United States for Canada, so as to obviate the delay which now occurs by letters being held for insufficient postage in the United States?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). Application is being made to the United States to enter into a reciprocal arrangement that will to some extent get over the difficulty that my hon. friend refers to. Of course, it must be reciprocal, we have not control of the matter ourselves. I have asked the Washington authorities to consent to some arrangement in regard to insufficiently prepaid letters between Canada and the United States, the same as obtains between Canada and all countries which are members of the postal union.

INDIAN GRAVES ON SONGHEES RESERVE.

Mr. **PRIOR** asked :

1. Has the attention of the Department of Indian Affairs ever been called by their agent in British Columbia, or by any other person or persons, to complaints about the disagreeable proximity of Indian graves on the Songhees Indian Reserve to some residences occupied by white people?

2. If so, did the department have any investigation made into the matter; and if so, what was the reported state of affairs?

3. Has the department given any instructions to have the alleged nuisance abated?

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. 1. Yes. The attention of the department was called to this matter in the year 1898. 2. The department referred the complaint to the Indian Superintendent for British Columbia for investigation, and received a report from him to the effect that upon inquiry, he found that the cemetery in question is situated at a point at the entrance of Lime Bay, and the houses of the city of Victoria are across the bay, at least one hundred yards distant; that the grounds are tidy and well kept and could hardly be considered in the light of a nuisance; that in the event of interments in the cemetery being forbidden, the Indians have no other plot on the reserve that could be recommended, either for convenience or from a sanitary point of view, and to bury in the public cemetery would cost from \$10 to \$20 for each burial, and that it was not considered that there were sufficient grounds for preventing the Songhees Indians from interring their dead in their burying-ground. 3. In view of this report, the department informed the Indian Superintendent that it was not willing to take any steps at that time to prevent the Songhees Indians from interring their dead in their own burying-ground.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Mr. **BOURASSA** asked :

Has the government, or any of its members, been consulted as to the conditions upon which

the South African war should be settled? Is it the intention of the government to offer any suggestion or opinion on the matter?

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Neither the government nor any of its members have been consulted as to conditions upon which the South African war should be settled. They are not considering the advisability of offering any suggestion or opinion upon the matter.

Some hon. **MEMBERS**. Hear, hear.

QUARANTINE SERVICE AT GROSSE ISLE.

Mr. **TALBOT** (by Mr. Campbell) asked :

1. Does the hon. the Minister of Agriculture believe that he can properly do the quarantine service at Grosse Isle with one crew for two boats?

2. Does he think it prudent and safe to allow one of the boats lying at anchor while the crew go to shore for their meals?

3. Will an economy of one thousand dollars per month be realized by the above arrangement?

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE** (Mr. Fisher). 1. No, the minister has not attempted to do this. 2. No, the minister does not think that this would be safe. 3. No, as arrangements have not been made, no question of the economy has been considered.

BANK ACT AMENDMENT.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved the third reading of Bill (No. 163) to amend the Bank Act.

Mr. **BENNETT ROSAMOND** (North Lanark). Mr. Speaker, I was not present when this Bill was before the Committee of the Whole, as I wished to be, in order to ask for the adoption of an amendment, but, I would like now to ask the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), if he would kindly consent to have the Bill referred back to the Committee of the Whole, in order that I may discuss the amendment which I propose to introduce. If he will not do so, I will have to move the amendment now. The amendment I propose is :

That the Bill be not now read the third time, but that it be recommitted to a Committee of the Whole with instructions that they have power to add the following as clause 45 :

Section 77 of the Bank Act is amended by adding the following clause :

Any bank advancing or lending money upon the security of the goods, wares and merchandise or collateral security or property mentioned in sections 73 and 74 of this Act, shall file in the office of the registrar of the registration division of the county or township where such advance is made and such lien created on the said property pledged to the bank under this Act, a statement describing the said goods, wares and merchandise or property so pledged, the name of the bank and the name of the debtor and the amount of the advance and the date upon which it was made, and unless and until such legislation is effected, the warehouse receipt, bill of lading,

pledge, lien, charge or other security, shall not give to the bank any prior lien or charge upon such goods, wares and merchandise or other property referred to in said sections 73 and 74, notwithstanding the provisions of section 77 to the contrary.'

The object of the amendment is to remedy certain complaints which have been made, as to the evil effects which are felt in the working of the Bank Act. Banks have, under the old system, and under the present Bill, will have the continued right to advance on securities pledged to them, without these advances or securities going to the registrar for registration. As I understand it, no other institution, or no private person, has the right to advance money, or take security, without having the security registered in a certain way in the registration office. It was said before the Banking Committee, that the amendments that were asked for there, involved class legislation. I may say that this is class legislation as far as these advances are concerned. Why should the banks have the right to take security without being registered, when no private person has that right? The effect of it is that creditors are not aware that the banks have taken this security, and they go on giving credit.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). Is the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rosamond), speaking of an ordinary warehouse receipt, or of a special security?

Mr. **ROSAMOND**. Not a warehouse receipt alone, but pledges and liens of different kinds.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. The banks are in no different position from anybody else.

Mr. **ROSAMOND**. The banks take security now without giving any notice as to the persons from whom they have taken security. Take the case of a farmer, for instance; a farmer may sell his produce to a merchant and give him thirty or forty days. He supposes that the merchant is perfectly good, and before the thirty or forty, or sixty days, as the case may be, expire, the merchant fails, and the farmer finds, to his disgust, that the bank has in its control all of the merchant's property. Even the very property that the farmer sold to the merchant, is taken possession of by the bank, and he has no recourse. That is only an example, and the same thing holds good with securities given in different ways. I do not see why banks should be given this power any more than any private banker or institution. Why should banks have the power more than a private individual? Why should this class legislation be given? I think it is an anomaly that should be corrected, and I am proposing the amendment to have it corrected now. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will consent to it, be-

cause I think it is only a fair request, and one that will be in the interest of the public generally.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. I regret that I am unable to agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Rosamond), as to the desirability of having this Bill sent back to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, for the purpose to which he has referred. Where you desire an examination into the details of a measure, the services of a body like the Committee on Banking and Commerce may be usefully employed, but, I think, my hon. friend will agree with me, that, where you are dealing with a matter of principle, as I submit you are in this case, it is better to discuss the question in the open House, than to attempt to refer it back to the committee. The amendment proposes to strike at the root of the system of banking credits, which has, for a great many years, played a very important part in the management of the trade of the country. Whatever may be said as to the desirability of having securities in other transactions registered, it has been admitted for a great many years, that in order to give the necessary facilities for banking, in the carrying on the business of the country—

Mr. **ROSAMOND**. The minister has misunderstood me. I did not mean to refer it to the Committee on Banking, but to the Committee of the Whole House.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. My hon. friend is correct. This is a question of principle, involving no detail, and we might just as well discuss the amendment here. I was proceeding to say that for many years it has been deemed necessary in order to carry on the business of the country, and to facilitate transactions between customers and the banks, to permit these liens to be established without any registry. This principle has been in the Banking Act for a very long time, and I think I may safely say that it has been accepted by parliament and by the country as a necessary element in banking business. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Rosamond) abolishes it as he proposes, and declares that hereafter there should be no such security without registration in the same manner as you are obliged to register bills of sale in some of the provinces, then my hon. friend (Mr. Rosamond) would be striking at the foundation of the system of credit as between the banks and their customers which on the whole has worked successfully for a great many years. Apart from the general principle, my second objection is: That while the clause might be workable in the province of Ontario—and it seems to have been designed with special reference to the conditions in Ontario—yet I am advised that in some of the provinces, (at all events in the province of Quebec), there is no machinery by which this method could be worked out. My hon.

Mr. **ROSAMOND**.

friend (Mr. Rosamond) says he is not aware of any other cases in which parties are permitted to take securities without registration, but I think he will find on inquiry that he is mistaken in that. If this amendment should be adopted, the banks would no longer be permitted to make these advances and take security, although every private individual in the province of Ontario would be permitted to do that which he is not willing to permit the bank to do. In the Ontario Mercantile Amendment Act, we have provisions very much the same as in the Bank Act, and it is set forth that any person, (not any bank), but any person may have priority of lien in transactions of this character. I will quote section 11. of chap. 145, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario :

All advances made on the security of any such cove receipt, bill of lading, specification, receipt, acknowledgment or certificate as aforesaid, shall give and be held to give to the person making the advances, a claim for the repayment of such advances on the cereal grains, goods, wares or merchandise therein mentioned, prior to and by preference over the claim of any unpaid vendor, or other creditor, save and except claims for wages of labour performed in making and transporting such timber, boards, deals, staves or other lumber.

My hon. friend will therefore see that this prior lien exists, outside the Banking Act, in the general business of Ontario—

Mr. WALLACE. Have not they to be registered ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This Act says nothing of registration required. There is a general Act in Ontario about registration, but I am advised that this is excepted from the general Act and that this lien exists without registration. Gentlemen of the legal profession would be better informed as to that, but as I am instructed we have this system in the province of Ontario to-day. Even if it were not so, the experience, one might say of generations, has shown that this system of giving the banks a lien for advances made under the conditions referred to is a very convenient and necessary feature of our banking system. For a man of limited means who requires to go to the bank for accommodation to enable him to carry on his business, it is very necessary. While I quite understand the object which my hon. friend (Mr. Rosamond) has in view, and while I believe that occasionally instances may arise in which the system may seem to admit of abuse, still I hold that the experience of banking and business conditions has shown the present practice to be wise and useful, and I trust that on reflection my hon. friend will not press for so important a change as is contemplated by his amendment.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). There is one class of men in this country who will not offer any violent ob-

jection to the Bill as proposed by the Minister of Finance, and that class comprises the bankers themselves. They will hail with delight the provisions of this Bill from start to finish. Indeed it looks to me as if the bankers had drawn up the Bill and placed it in the hands of the Minister of Finance to carry it through the House. I would not say that, because I know that the Minister of Finance has sufficient ability to formulate a Bill himself, but if he did so, I am afraid he has some way got under the control or domination or influence of the bankers of Canada.

Mr. FOSTER. Malign influence.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, malign influence. The whole Bill is a surrender to the banks. The banks of this country are indispensable to carry on our business, but unfortunately they have too strong a grip upon the members of this House.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Hear hear.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood) at once records his approval of that.

Mr. WOOD. The member for Hamilton did not say a word.

Mr. WALLACE. The members of the House of Commons are like the rest of the community; they are either borrowers or lenders—most of us are borrowers I am afraid—and we are therefore under the control of the banks. Those who are lenders are owners of bank stocks and they are controlled by the bank too, because they are the bankers. Between the bankers like my hon. friend from Hamilton, and those in the other class, this House of Commons has a pretty hard time in putting through effective bank legislation. We see the result of that in the Bill before the House. Under this Bill the banks are permitted to have rights and privileges with regard to securities which are not accorded to any other individual or corporation. Others, except the banks, have to register their liens so as to warn the public that that property is under lien, in order that people may be cautioned against lending money on the same property. The banks have not to do that, and other parties finding nothing in the registry office against the property go on trusting the owners on the strength of that property.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). What security does the hon. gentleman refer to? Is it the chattel mortgage?

Mr. WALLACE. The chattel mortgage is given by the man who has the property in his possession, but a warehouse receipt is not of that class.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Warehouses receipts are not registered whether the bank takes them or any one else.

Mr. WALLACE. I except them, but bills of sale and chattel mortgages are not and have not to be registered. Here is an association formed during the present session called the Bankers' Association, and which is given enormous powers in case of the insolvency of a bank. This Bankers' Association is to act as agents to wind up the affairs of an insolvent bank. They are giving other enormous powers. They are making the banks a close corporation. New banks are almost prohibited from starting. We have increased the amount that is required to start a bank, therefore you have practically a close corporation of the banks already existing in the country.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman is mistaken. We have not increased the amount required for starting a bank.

Mr. WALLACE. The amount was increased at the time the last amendments were made. Though that was done by our own government, I consider that it was a step in the wrong direction. The whole tendency of the legislation, both the last time and more conspicuously in this Bill, is to concentrate power in the banks. I do not remember any banks starting since the last charters were granted.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. One was chartered; none was started.

Mr. WALLACE. That is what I thought, proving practically that the tendency of all the legislation has been to make a close corporation of the banks, to make all of us who want to borrow money more largely under the control of the banks, and to prevent that system of free trade that should prevail.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. Yes, a system of free trade within our own borders. That is the true protective policy; protect us from outsiders, but give us absolute free trade within our own bounds. We do not charge duty on goods going from one province to another or from one portion of the Dominion to another. With regard to the other clauses of the Bill, the banks are permitted to hold real estate for a longer period than they were before, which I consider to be a step in the wrong direction. What reason is there for it? Simply to give the banks further and larger control. It is against the interest of the country for the banks to have power to hold land for what is practically an unlimited length of time. Then, a bank may lend money on the security of standing timber and the rights or licenses held by persons to cut or remove such timber. That is an additional power. Then, in section 17, it is provided:

The bank may also lend money to any wholesale purchaser or shipper of or dealer in pro-

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

ducts of agriculture, the forest, quarry and mine, or the sea, lakes and rivers, or to any wholesale purchaser or shipper of or dealer in live stock or dead stock and the products thereof, upon the security of such products or of such live stock or dead stock and the products thereof.

There is no registration required. That includes the products of everything. You cannot mention anything, I think, that is not included in this clause. I think the government should have restricted the powers of the banks instead of adding to them without limitation. I have no doubt the Finance Minister to-day thinks so, too, and I have also no doubt that these banks were able to present a pistol to his head and compel him to accede to that proposition in the interest of the banks, but not in the interest of the people. These are my objections. The banks are given enormous powers. They are given power to issue circulation up to double the amount of their paid-up capital. A bank with a capital of a million dollars can loan that million dollars; it can then loan another million dollars simply for the cost of the paper in the bank notes; that is, \$2,000,000 which it can loan on a capital of \$1,000,000.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Hear, hear.

Mr. WALLACE. The right hon. First Minister says 'hear, hear.' Is that right?

The PRIME MINISTER. Is it wrong?

Mr. WALLACE. I think it is.

The PRIME MINISTER. I have never seen any evidence of it so far.

Mr. WALLACE. I cannot lend \$200 on a capital of \$100, but a bank can.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. You can if you can get a man to take it.

Mr. WALLACE. It is not getting a man to take it. You make it legal tender; you force it on the people. A bank with a capital of \$1,000,000 is able to lend and get interest on \$2,000,000. I can only say that under such conditions the banking business ought to be the best business in this country, and so it is. I would advise the First Minister, if he desires to accumulate wealth, to go into that business. I would like to be in it myself under the splendid conditions which have been given from time to time, and which are enormously enlarged by the Bill now under consideration.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is nothing to prevent you starting a bank.

Mr. WALLACE. Well, these bankers are the owners of the banks now, and, as I have pointed out, they have put a practical stop to the rest of us starting a bank if we had the money.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is not the point of view at all. The point of view is whether, if the banks had not that power, the facilities for lending or borrowing money would be increased or decreased.

Mr. WALLACE. My opinion is, that where you have close corporations banding themselves together and fixing the rate of interest, and preventing other banks being established, because that is the practical effect of our legislation, you have conditions which interfere with the freedom of trade in that regard, and inevitably raise the rate of interest. I object as one of the payers of interest. Those millionaires across there, like the Minister of Marine, may think this is all right; but I do not. I represent more people than he does in that regard, at any rate. The borrowers are much more numerous than the lenders, and we borrowers want our rights protected and the rate of interest kept down to the lowest notch, which it will not be under the conditions of this Bill, which from start to finish bears the impress of having the combined support of the bankers of this country. I say that that looks a suspicious circumstance and one that we should look more carefully into. The Finance Minister himself should be able to come before this House and say in this Bill: We are giving more rights to the people, we have restricted the power of the banks where it was necessary in the interests of the people, but you cannot point out to a single line where that is being done in the present Bill.

Amendment (Mr. Rosamond) negatived.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY—THE JOHN C. BARR.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER (Pictou). I have once or twice, Mr. Speaker, referred to the precedents laid down by this government—almost before it got into office, and at any rate, just as soon as it obtained the reins of power—in connection with procedure where there was suspicion of fraud. To be precise, I refer to the letter of Mr. Sifton on July 17, 1896, when he wrote to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), that the result of the late elections in some of the constituencies in Manitoba indicated to him that a fraud of some kind had been perpetrated in the interests of the government candidate. He went on to say what he had done, and then asked for help, and the Prime Minister, on the 24th July, promptly assured him that all the funds necessary to unearth these frauds would be forthcoming.

To come down quickly to a more recent date, I would refer to the pledge which the

Prime Minister gave last session, on June 29, 1899, when he said:

We must probe these Yukon delinquencies, so called, to the bottom. No officer of the government must be allowed to rest under any suspicion.

With that introduction, I come to the case of the *John C. Barr*, a case that was prominently brought to the notice of the government on many occasions in the last session, not merely by myself on several occasions, before the formal resolution that I moved, and the formal charge I made, but also brought to their attention by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), also through correspondence addressed to the Department of Marine and Fisheries and the Customs Department, and also by the firm of Belcourt & McDougal, a firm of barristers and solicitors practicing in Dawson City, and of which the senior member is one of the members for Ottawa supporting the government in this House. These charges were pressed in detail; they were not merely general statements emanating from a particular party in the heat of debate, but were pressed in a more serious form.

The charge that I made was coupled also with the very serious statement and charge that the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) had shown great partiality and favouritism to a foreign trading company in Dawson, the North American Trading and Transportation Company, and in connection with that I charge favouritism shown in the permitting, if not directly, the violation of the laws relating to merchant shipping and the violation of the customs laws, for the benefit of that corporation or company.

In this connection I would call attention to the provisions of the law. In the Merchants Shipping Act of 1894, provisions are made respecting a very serious offence—and an offence that the government alone can deal with—namely, where an abuse is made of the flag, where by false declarations of ownership a foreign vessel is enabled to obtain a British register and to fly the British flag. That is so serious an offence that it is punished by confiscation of the vessel and other very serious penalties. Powers are given, of course, to naval officers, but specially given to the collectors and other officers of customs in the different ports, to take these vessels and impose upon them the consequences, the obtaining of a decree of forfeiture. The mere act of obtaining in this improper way the benefit of the British flag ipso facto forfeits the vessel to the Crown. In such a case, no private individual can do more than lay before the qualified officer the information which he has, and it then becomes the duty of the government to sift the charge to the bottom.

In connection with the Customs Act—the Minister of Customs will correct me if I

am wrong—for a vessel to obtain low appraisal, for instance, to be entered by the owners for the purpose of customs, and in connection with this change of flag at an undervaluation—for such fraudulent undervaluation and false representations in that connection, confiscation of the vessel is among the punishments that may be inflicted.

There is another clause under which, it seems, in this case, the Inspector of Customs acted, and that is under clause 8, of the Customs Act, where an additional duty is provided for in case the true value for duty of goods as finally determined has not been stated. In section 172, the penalty of forfeiture is provided in connection with the offence of making false statements or in any way attempting to defraud the revenue or to evade the payment of the duty or any part of it. It would be ridiculous to suppose of course, in the stringent provisions of the Customs Act, there was any doubt of the power to confiscate a vessel where that vessel has been fraudulently entered at a lower valuation than was proper. Bearing in mind these provisions of the law and the general statements in the House of Commons as well as the statements made by the parties interested, we come to the first statement I made. And, as some evidence of favouritism to this company, I may say that it is a matter of general belief in many parts of this country that Mr. Healy, the general manager of the American Trading and Transportation Company, that Mr. Walsh, and Mr. Sifton the Minister of the Interior, were formerly very intimate and close friends, and by the Auditor General's Report we find that this company supplies an enormous quantity of goods to the department presided over by the Minister of the Interior. Each report contains an account. In the last report of the Auditor General at page H-38, we find that \$10,305.60 was paid to this corporation by the Department of the Interior. Among some papers brought down this session, I find mention of an application that Mr. Healy is making—and he or his company will be found making a considerable number of applications in connection not merely with the patronage of the department, but in connection with timber limits and mill sites and things of that kind. In connection with that, the following letter speaks for itself, and while it does not corroborate the statement of the close connection, there is no doubt as to the knowledge of the Department of the Interior of an acquaintanceship between the minister and Mr. Healy :

January 14, 1899.

Hon. Clifford Sifton,
Minister of the Interior.

Sir.—I send inclosed a copy of an application by Mr. J. J. Healy for a mill site on an island near the mouth of the Klondike. As you know, he is manager of the North American Trading and Transportation Company, and already has

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a mill site on the island. I would ask you to hold the documents without acting on them until such time as I can report to you more fully.

It may be asked: Why do you bring in, in connection with a matter relating to the Marine Department and the Customs Department, this reference to a charge of partiality and favouritism toward that trading corporation by the Minister of the Interior? I frankly answer that question by saying that after reading the papers that have been brought down, I can come to no other conclusion than that the partiality shown and the violation of the law committed in this case can only be due to some such reason. I can imagine no other reason that would account for these things being done and the manner in which they have been passed over. In the correspondence that has been brought down and that is now on the Table, we find some points worthy of notice. For the sequence of the statement I had better refer to the charge that was made by me which reference is as follows:—

That official favouritism and partiality had been shown and intended to the representatives and interests of the North American Trading Company, of Chicago and Seattle, in the Yukon district.

That grave and scandalous abuses have occurred in the Department of Customs in the Yukon district, United States vessels having been admitted to the Canadian registry in the said district upon fraudulent undervaluation, as in the case of the steamer 'John C. Barr,' which was worth at least \$60,000, but was allowed to be passed at the customs at a valuation of \$10,000.

We find that the Customs Department sent *Hansard* of May 12, and I think, of another date, to Mr. Ogilvie, the commissioner of the Yukon, who was also an inspector of the Customs Department, with the request to investigate the valuations. Now, I stop just for a moment to call attention to the peculiar instructions given. The instructions are limited to ascertaining and reporting on the subject of valuation. On May 28, Mr. Kersey, the representative of a very energetic and active company there, a gentleman of great experience, who has been the manager of the White Star Line of steamships between New York and Liverpool, for many years and who is manager of this company, writes on May 28, 1899, to the inspector of steamboats at Dawson. In this letter he refers to the *John C. Barr*, being owned by the North American Trading and Transportation Company of Chicago and Seattle. On June 8, 1900, we find from Mr. Ogilvie a report or letter. And I may say that around these reports and letters there seems to have been a mystery. It took nearly all this session to find out exactly what was Mr. Ogilvie's report and what he did under the instructions of May 16. This is all he says in this report to the customs:

There is another boat entered by the North American Trading and Transportation Company,

the 'John C. Barr,' which, I understand, is entered at a valuation of \$7,500. Now, this boat is a large one, 150 feet in length (I would say), with an iron hull. The hull alone I would consider worth that sum at least.

I state these facts without prejudice to any one—

That is a great expression in the Yukon papers.

--simply considering it my duty to do so for your information.

Then, the paper that was brought down in the return and which, on its face, could not have been the report in answer to the instructions to investigate. It did not profess to be the result of any investigation, but is an off-hand statement of Mr. Ogilvie. So that through the courtesy of the Minister of Customs, after considerable questioning in the House, and I am afraid after considerable trouble outside of it, he was good enough to give me the only other report that was sent by Mr. Ogilvie on this subject; and to-day we have been told across the floor of the House that there are no other papers in the Marine or Customs from Mr. Ogilvie that could possibly be in reply to these instructions sent him to investigate.

June 20, 1899.

Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of the 6th—

That must be May 16, as no letter was sent on June 6.

—inquiring the valuation of the 'John C. Barr' for Canadian register. I have already written to the minister on the valuation of that boat, and also on the 'Pingree' and the 'Lowe.'

And here comes another misstatement. I accept in its entirety, the statement of the Minister of Customs, which is as follows:

No letter was received by the minister as referred to. The letter which Mr. Ogilvie, no doubt, refers to was that of June 8th to the commissioner of customs, and that I have already read.

Then this gentleman goes on:

As I have intimated to my letter to the Minister of Customs, it appears to me the value of these steamers is placed very low.

And, mark this, Mr. Speaker, that while I am only asking the House to follow the history of one of these boats, the correspondence shows, as my motion pointed out, that it was not a case merely of one vessel obtaining undue favours and an illegal advantage to the crew to use the British flag in British waters, but there were many United States bottoms there, that were permitted to obtain the use of that flag, by the same means as occurred in this case.

I have asked the minister to have an appraiser sent in here. Mr. Davis simply took the valuation of people whom you might reasonably expect would be fair and exact.

And whom do you suppose these people were? You will see how lightly Mr. Ogilvie

treads upon this subject. There is a responsibility put upon him, he is the chief inspector of customs there, and he is asked by the minister to report on the solemn statements made in the House, and he practically appeals to the minister to get some one else to do the duty. But he ventures to say that Mr. Davis simply took the valuation of people, whom you might reasonably expect to be fairly exact, and those people turn out to be the president of the North American Trading and Transport Company, along with, I suppose, the captain and a pilot, although there is no evidence of that—all in the employ of the company. These are the men who appraised this vessel at that low rate.

This I do not think may have been the case of these three steamers. In my letter to the minister I intimated that these steamers were worth from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

I call the attention of the Minister of Customs to this. The letter that he thinks is the letter that Mr. Ogilvie refers to, as the letter to the minister, cannot have been brought down as fully as it should have been, if this statement of his is correct, for he says that in that letter to the minister that cannot be thoroughly explained, he intimated these steamers were worth from \$25,000 to \$40,000. There is no such reference in the letter of June 8, which the minister has suggested, and the only letter to him must have been that which was addressed to the Minister of Customs.

Of course, I have not had time to go over them personally, and it would take several days to make a detailed examination, so that the above is only an approximate statement. I can only urge you to send in a properly qualified appraiser to deal with these three steamers and any others that may seek admission to the Canadian register.

This is the one that the minister was good enough to send to me, as the only other document he could find bearing on the subject of the *John C. Barr*, and it was after the papers were brought down to the House and printed, that this copy was sent to me. Now, Mr. Speaker, I stop for a moment, to call attention to this: I urged across the floor of this House, as the minister will remember, that it would be a grave injustice to the owners of British vessels there to delay this matter, that if these vessels on these rivers, so close to American waters, into which they could run at any moment, were permitted, while officers were being sent from here, actually to navigate and do business on Canadian waters, half the injury, or all the injury, might be done before any redress could be had. There is the extraordinary thing, that though instructions were sent out and the *Hansard* referred to, Mr. Ogilvie takes a course, weak on its face, perhaps I would be misunderstood if I used the word 'cowardly,' in its tone; but he

says : Let the matter go on, let all these vessels ply backwards and forwards, and send some one out here, do not press me to report as to the reasons for thinking there is an undervaluation, I do not care to be troubled, and I would rather be out of it. That is practically the gist of that letter. Now on June 28, 1899, Mr. Kersey's letter of May 28, was sent to the collector of customs, Mr. Davis, at Dawson, by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and on June 19, 1899, Mr. Davis sends a very meagre report, which is found on page 12 of the return. He has been ordered to report, and he says :

Re file No. 42,568. I beg to hand you herewith report asked for.

That is all. Turn over to page 13, and this is all we find, just the name of the ship, her tonnage, her owner, the appraiser of the hull, \$7,000, engine, machinery, \$3,000, duty paid \$1,456, appraised by J. E. Nansen, M. A. C. Co., Dawson, Captain J. M. Gilham, Dawson. The other names I gave in full from the proper return. That is a nice statement for an officer to give to matters of so serious an import. At any rate, these false statements are made. On June 29, 1899, this matter came up in the House, and was discussed fully. I am not going to repeat it, I am merely showing how often the matter was pressed. On July 21, there is a letter from Belcourt & McDougal, who were acting for these British vessels affected by all this legal business. At page 13, is something I will trouble the House to allow me to read. After explaining for whom they acted, they respectfully wish to call the attention of the Minister of Customs :

To what we believe the serious cases of contravention of the Merchant Shipping Act and of infringement of the customs regulations of Canada by which we believe that the customs of Canada have been defrauded.

The rest of the letter refers to other vessels.

With regard to the 'John C. Barr' the register reveals the fact that this vessel, which is also foreign built, was entered at Dawson in the name of one John Stinehoff, of Dawson, miner, on the 3rd day of June, 1899. The boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale bearing date the 3rd day of June, 1899, one Ely Weare, a director of that company transferred to Stinehoff in his capacity as a 'director.' The appraised value of the boat is \$10,000, although from its size and general appearance it must have cost for construction and delivery at least \$50,000. Our clients believe that the transfer in this case was also a colourable one, and that the beneficial ownership in the boat still remains in the North American Transportation Company, and one reason for believing so, is that in the month of June and after the transfer above referred to, the vessel appeared at the Canadian port of White Horse Rapids, flying the flag of the North American Transportation Company, and bearing on her stern bulkhead the inscription: "John C. Barr," of St. Michaels' although she at the same time flew the Canadian ensign.

In view of the above facts they go on to point out that there is a clear case, or that

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one can be made out, and they refer to the hardship inflicted upon their clients. On July 24, the hon. senior member for Victoria put upon the paper series of questions, and they relate to this ship as well as to others, and to the facts involved. The Customs Department in a letter to Belcourt & McDougal, dated August 12, state that Mr. McMichael left some weeks ago to examine into the valuation, and that the registration is a matter for the Department of Marine and Fisheries. In regard to this matter you will find that there has not been the slightest kind of an attempt to probe that to the bottom. On the 6th of July the matter was gone over in the House and the strongest evidence was before the department of the fraud, as well as circumstantial proof of these serious statements which were being made and not one single attempt to investigate the question of fraudulent ownership, or the declaration of ownership, has ever been made. We will find, and I ask your attention to this important fact, that just as in the case of the *Yukoner*, when Wade & Aikman were against the ship, the law was disregarded entirely, the ship was seized and the wishes of Mr. Wade were carried out. In this case, Mr. Wade was for the ship, and the ship ran through every Act of parliament relating to shipping and the wishes of Mr. Wade were adhered to until it became too scandalous—and scandalous in the extreme it was—in regard to the very low undervaluation which was made and in regard to the punishment which was simply to increase the valuation, still being below the true valuation, in addition to which there was a relatively small fine that would not amount to the proper duty had the vessel been entered at a proper value. These gentlemen have been able not only to run through the hands of Mr. Davis, but they have been able to run the gauntlet of the Department of Marine and Fisheries. On the 21st of July, 1899, there is a full statement of the facts from Belcourt & McDougal, and it will be found on page 5 of the return. I am not going to read it over because I recite a large part of it in the resolution, but I simply call attention to the fact that this firm, representing the parties interested in the other properly registered British vessels, go into the question of the undervaluation and improper registration. They sent a copy of this letter to the Board of Trade in London, and the Board of Trade in London sent it to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, who in Canada are responsible in regard to the question of the nationality. On the 7th of September, 1899, the Department of Marine and Fisheries wrote that the valuation is a matter for the Customs Department, and that in regard to registry there is no evidence but that Mr. Kersey may take such proceedings as he likes—a more extraordin-

any document I never read. Mr. Kersey cannot take any proceedings; he has not the right to take any step. This is the official letter which was not only sent to Belcourt & McDougal, but practically the answer that was sent to the board of trade by the Department of Marine and Fisheries:

If Mr. Maitland Kersey can obtain evidence which he considers would justify him in taking proceedings, I am not aware that there is any legal objection to his doing so.

Here, they are given the strongest prima facie evidences of fraud in that connection that can be produced. It is shown by the firm and the record supports the statement, that the president of the company transfers to some British subject in Dawson, a miner, the title on the registry that the appraisal is allowed by the collector to be made by this man who is the party interested and his captain, and that after the transfer is made that vessel flies the flag of the company of which Mr. Weare, a foreigner, is president. The letter of Belcourt & McDougal, at least should have been investigated. Their circumstantial statements are of the most important character. Mr. Kersey had done all that he could; he had retained these solicitors and asked them to report the facts to the proper department. They report these facts to the Department of Marine and Fisheries, they are turned down in the end with not a particle of investigation and with the statement that if he:

—can obtain evidence which he considers would justify him in taking proceedings, I am not aware that there is any legal objection to his doing so.

There is no court in Christendom where he could take proceedings; there is no court under the sun where Mr. Kersey could enter and produce his evidence. The place for him to submit his case was the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and he did submit it to the Department of Marine and Fisheries. As my hon. friend (Mr. Montague) says, the statements made by these people on the customs side had been shown to have foundation, it had been shown that there had been gross violation and fraud perpetrated on the Customs Department, and with these facts before the department and after the right hon. Prime Minister had pledged himself to probe these matters to the bottom that there should not be any suspicion on the shoulders of these men, we find how they treated the matter. Mr. McMichael, on the 28th of September reports, and what does he say? The case was so bad that it was impossible for him to attempt to whitewash this matter and to report that the vessel had not been undervalued. But, Mr. McMichael's report is remarkable in this respect that it does not give any sufficient reason; it does not even state the manner of the examination which he made or the manner in which he managed to content his conscience after raising

the valuation from \$10,000 to \$25,000. That vessel was, according to reliable information, which can be corroborated by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) who was up there and saw it, worth \$60,000 at Dawson City. But, Mr. McMichael has been able to report that the vessel is worth, at any rate, \$25,000. He does not pretend that he went into a thorough examination in order to see whether there was any foundation for the statements that had been made and pressed in this House. Shipping men will understand something as to what that vessel was worth, leaving aside that under the Customs Act the value is to be considered not what she actually cost to build at a port where ships can be built cheaply, but the law requires that the value shall be the value in the market where she is being entered and not in the market at the time where she was built. Take from Mr. McMichael the different items in regard to this vessel:

The steamer 'John C. Barr,' a stern wheel river steamer, 144 feet 6 inches long, 28 feet 2 inches beam, and 4 feet 8 inches depth in hold, of 546.89 gross tonnage and 315.70 registered tonnage, was entered at customs at the port of Dawson, per entry No. 270, October 6, 1898, by John Steinhoff, as owner, at an appraised valuation made by Ely E. Weare, president of the North American Transportation and Trading Company, J. M. Gilhan, master of the steamer 'John C. Barr,' and J. E. Nansan, licensed master, of \$10,000, subscribed as follows, namely: hull, \$7,000; machinery and fixtures, \$3,000, and the duty to the amount of \$1,450, was paid on such valuation as per copy of entry inclosed.

It appearing to me, in connection with this entry, that the steamer had been erroneously appraised, and allowed entry at an erroneous valuation by the collector of customs at Dawson, I examined the steamer and made careful inquiry and investigation respecting her. I learned that the hull of the steamer was rebuilt in Unalaska, Alaska, in 1898, that her engines were built by J. Reiss & Son, of Pittsburg, Pa., in 1894, and her boilers by Moran Bros., of Seattle, Wash., in 1897; that she was entered at customs at the port of Dawson as above stated for the purpose of obtaining Canadian register; and that she was registered at the port of Dawson as a British vessel on June 2, 1899, in the name of John Steinhoff, a British subject, as owner.

This was an investigation, the details of which he does not report, but which we were entitled to in every sense, in view of the attention that had been given to this question in this parliament. At all events, he reports that after investigation of the hull and appurtenances, and the boilers, machinery and engines, he placed the valuation at \$25,000. Thus, he lets these favoured people off with this valuation of a vessel which is really worth \$60,000 by charging the regular duty on a \$25,000 vessel, and doubling that, and imposing a small fine. There was no suggestion of punishment for false declaration, or for the fraudulent statements that were made in regard to either the flag or the undervaluation. Then, we have a part of the secret of this extra-

ordinary violation of the law on page 19, for when Mr. McMichael has been driven to raise the valuation from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and to impose this small fine—the additional duty being only \$1,800—we find this protest from the gentleman appointed to look after the interests of the Crown, a gentleman who, in connection with these vessels, appears in every case to be simply looking after the interests of Mr. F. C. Wade. On August 16, 1899, this gentleman had the audacity to write, acting for the Trading Company, or Mr. Steinhoff, as follows:

Re Steamer 'John C. Barr.'

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 14th instant herein to John Steinhoff, Esq., registered owner of the steamer 'John C. Barr,' has been handed to us with instructions to reply thereto and to protest against the re-appraisal under the alleged provisions of the Customs Act, and also against the penalty as set out in your said letter.

Inclosed herewith you will please find cheque payable to your order for the sum of \$3,600, being the amount of additional duties demanded by you as per the statement contained in your said letter. This money is paid to you under protest on the following grounds: 1. The steamer 'John C. Barr' was appraised by appraisers duly appointed by you in your capacity as collector of customs prior to the entry thereof in this port. 2. The appraisers appointed by you duly appraised the said steamer prior to the collection of duty thereon, which appraisal was duly ratified and accepted by you as collector of customs for said port.

Yours truly,

Note the first protest, as to the appraisers. These were the president of the company: that is, the real owner, was the real owner, and is undoubtedly the real owner, and, indeed, if you look at that record, the technical owner of the *John C. Barr*, because the whole transfer was irregular and void on its face. The appraisal was, no doubt, accepted by the collector, as advised by this legal representative of the government: the Crown prosecutor of the Yukon. Then, we find at the end of this correspondence, page 10, the wiping off of this from the records of the Marine Department. They ask what they are going to do with this reference from the board as to the fraudulent representations, and a letter comes from the Department of Marine to Mr. Joseph Pope, Under Secretary of State, as follows:

When Dawson City was made a port of registry, the collector of customs, who is the registrar of shipping, was supplied with the Merchant Shipping Act, a book of instructions to registrars of shipping, and all the necessary papers and forms to enable him to register a ship, and he was particularly instructed to be careful as to the ownership of foreign vessels alleged to have been purchased by British subjects for the purpose of registering them as British vessels. The department cannot, therefore, do anything more in the matter, and as far as I can judge, it may now drop. You will, I suppose, as the reference came from you, report back to council in the matter. At all events, I will assume that you take that step.

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That was the extraordinary conclusion of a matter which was brought to the attention of this House solemnly by myself; a charge which I said, if I were given the opportunity that was given to Mr. Sifton on that other occasion, I was warranted in assuming the responsibility of proving up to the hilt. I took that responsibility. I was denied a commission, but was promised by the Prime Minister the pledge I read to-night: That these matters must be probed to the bottom, and that not even suspicion should attach to an officer in the Yukon. Consequently, it is now my duty to deal with Mr. Davis or Mr. Wade. These are officers over whom parliament has no direct control or authority. We can bring scandals to the surface when they exist. We can call the attention of the government, as we have done, to grave injustices suffered by British shipping interests in the Yukon. Consequently, it is not my duty to the part of officials. But, when the opportunity has been enjoyed by the government of probing these matters to the bottom, and they have not done their duty in that respect, and when they retain these officers in their positions and allow these frauds to be perpetrated, then, if the facts are as stated, it is our duty to hold the government responsible and to censure them in order to prevent the continuance of this condition of things. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I propose to move:

That all the words after the word 'That' be left out, and the following added instead thereof: 'on the 6th October, 1898, the United States ss. 'John C. Barr' was entered for Canadian registry at Dawson, N.W.T., before the collector of customs, by one John Steinhoff, and was valued for customs purposes by Ely E. Weare, the president of the North American Trading and Transport Company, J. M. Gilhan, the captain of the said steamer, and John E. Nansan, a pilot, as follows:

Hull	\$7,000
Machinery	3,000

And \$1,450 was paid as duty thereon.

(See Return, Sessional Papers, 1900, No. 107, Ref. No. 120, 1899. Sessional Papers, No. 63a, 1900, Ref. No. 26.)

(See also 'Hansard,' May 8, 1899.)

That on May 12, 1899, Mr. Aulay Morrison, from his place in the House, stated:

'I would go so far as to say, that if the 'John C. Barr,' a boat which I have seen myself, and which I quite agree would be worth \$60,000 or more, if that boat was valued at \$10,000 by that customs officer at Dawson he should be dismissed at once. I am surprised to think that Mr. Davis, the incumbent of the customs office at Dawson, so far forgot himself as to value a boat like the 'John C. Barr' at \$10,000.'

That on May 28, 1899, A. Maitlan Kelsey, manager of the Canadian Development Company of Victoria, advised the inspector of steamboats at Bennett, as follows:

'I would beg to call your attention to the following facts relating to steamboats on the waters of Lake Bennett, the Upper Yukon and its tributaries:

1. There are steamboats owned entirely or practically so by United States citizens and

other aliens that have no right whatever to run on these waters. Some have, no doubt, formed bogus companies registered in Canada; others have made false declaration of ownership; others have taken no such step.

(b) On the lower river there are 'Pingree' and 'Lowe,' now, I believe, called the 'Bonanza King' and the 'Eldorado,' American boats owned by Pingree, of Seattle, and his associates; the 'John C. Barr,' owned by the N.A.T. Co., of Chicago and Seattle; the 'Merwin,' 'Gold Star,' 'Closset' (alias 'Mascot'), 'Clara,' and other American boats, all owned by Americans and all illegitimately running in Canadian waters.

(Return, Sessional Papers, No. 63a, 1900, Ref. No. 26.)

That Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, a member of the Privy Council for Canada, from his place in this House, stated on the 27th day of June, 1899, that among other facts and charges he believed he could establish before a commission of eminent judges, were he given the same co-operation (and through the Department of Justice) as was given the Hon. Clifford Sifton in the case of the Manitoba election frauds, so-called, the following:

'That official favouritism and partiality had been shown and extended to the representatives and interests of the North American Trading Company, of Chicago and Seattle, in the Yukon district.

That grave and scandalous abuses have occurred in the Department of Customs in the Yukon district, United States vessels having been admitted to the Canadian registry in the said district upon fraudulent undervaluation, as in the case of the steamer 'John C. Barr,' which was worth at least \$60,000, but was allowed to be passed at the customs at a valuation of \$10,000.

That on July 21, 1899, the legal firm of Belcourt & McDougal (the senior member thereof being Mr. N. A. Belcourt, one of the members of this House) addressed the following letter to William Ogilvie, Commissioner, Yukon Territory:

Dawson City, July 21, 1899.

Wm. Ogilvie, Esq.,

Commissioner, Yukon Territory.

Dear Sir.—Acting on behalf of the Canadian Development Company of Victoria, who are operating the principal line of steamboats plying on the Upper Yukon River, the British American Corporation, the John Irving Company, and other Canadian steamer lines, we most respectfully beg to call your attention to what we believe to be three serious cases of contravention of the Merchants Shipping Act, 17 and 18 Vic., chap. 104, and of infringement of the customs regulations of Canada, by which we believe that the customs of Canada have been defrauded.

There are three steamers registered as British vessels and doing business in the Yukon River, all of which were until recently foreign-owned. The names of the vessels are the 'Gov. Pingree,' the 'Philip B. Low' and 'John C. Barr.' The first two, viz.: the 'Gov. Pingree' and the 'Philip B. Low' are registered as belonging to one Philip Sheridan, described as a lawyer of Dawson. The dates of registry are respectively May 27 and 29, 1899. The register here shows that Sheridan acquired the steamboats on the 2nd day of April, 1899, from one Nils. Peterson, a foreigner, the consideration for the transfer being the sum of \$100. Sheridan, in his declaration, deposes that he is the owner of the full sixty-four shares in the said vessel or the full vessel, and that no per-

son or persons other than himself has any interest, either legal or beneficial, in the said boats, as acquired by the Act. We have reason to believe that the transfer of April 2, 1899, was a colourable transfer to Sheridan, who is a Canadian, in order to acquire the British national character for the steamboats; that Sheridan is merely an employee of the real owners, and that the true and real ownership is still vested in Peterson and in Pingree, of Michigan, and others, and we submit as a reason for so believing that the steamers in question are so advertised here in Dawson to-day as belonging to Peterson & Co. Under the provisions of 17 and 18 Vic., chap. 104, sec. 111, ss. 1, such a transfer for the purpose of acquiring the British national character is, we submit, punishable by forfeiture. With regard to the valuation of the steamboats in question, the register shows that the appraised value of the two vessels in question is \$8,600 apiece. It is a noteworthy fact, however, that although the boats were so valued in the last days of May, 1899, that on the 8th day of July, or just about six weeks later, we find a mortgage registered against each boat for the sum of \$13,333.33, making in all an encumbrance on the two boats of \$26,666.66, whereas the total appraised value is \$17,200; we submit with all due deference, that circumstances are at least suspicious. Quite apart from the state of the title as it appears on the register, however, we must respectfully submit that considering the size of the steamboats and the fact that they were both built in 1898, and considering the conditions that have hitherto and still prevail in Dawson for placing boats on the river here ready for work, that the appraised value in each case is so notoriously out of proportion as in itself to contain prima facie evidence of fraud. The boats of the Canadian Development Company of equal size, cost in the neighbourhood of \$55,000, and before Mr. Maitland Kersey, the managing director, had his boats here ready for business, an additional \$10,000 was added to the cost of each vessel, and we submit that it is not possible to replace any one of the boats complained of for less than \$50,000.

With regard to the third boat, the 'John C. Barr,' the register revealed the fact that the vessel, which is also foreign-built, was entered at Dawson in the name of one John Steinhoff, of Dawson, miner, on the 3rd day of June, 1899. The last boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale bearing date the 3rd day of June, 1899, one Ely Weare, a director of that company transferred to Steinhoff 'qua' director. The appraised value of the boat is \$10,000, although from its size and general appearance it must have cost for construction and delivery at least the sum of \$50,000. Our clients believe that the transfer in this case is also a colourable one, and that the beneficial ownership in the vessel is still in the North American Transportation Company or in Weare. The boat in question appeared at the Canadian port of White Horse Rapids, after the date of the transfer, flying the flag of the North American Transportation Company, and having inscribed on her stern bulkhead the inscription 'John C. Barr' of St. Michaels, although she at the same time flew the Canadian ensign.

In view of the above facts, we most respectfully submit that a clear case of contravention can easily be made out and that immediate action ought to be taken in the matter, and the penalty for infringing the Merchants Shipping Act be enforced. Our clients, who are Canadian and British companies, and whose boats have been entered at their full value and who have

always and in all respects lived up to every requirement of the law, feel that it is a great hardship on them to have such boats fraudulently undervalued and wrongfully assuming the British national character, contrary to the law in that behalf competing with them, and we therefore pray that immediate action in the matter be taken.

We have the honour to be, &c.,
(Signed) BELCOURT & McDOUGALL.

(Sessional Papers No. 63, 1900. Ref. No. 26.)

That a similar letter was addressed to the secretary of the marine department of the board of trade, London, Eng.

That, as appears by 'Hansard' of May 12, 1899, statements were made in parliament respecting the change of flag and undervaluation of foreign vessels, and referring to the 'John C. Barr,' Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper said: 'Here is a foreign boat, the real value of which is \$60,000, allowed in to compete with British vessels which have complied with all the regulations and that vessel is only valued at \$10,000.'

That the following letter was sent to Mr. Ogilvie (who was clothed with the powers of inspector of customs):
42568.

Customs Department, Canada,
Ottawa, May 16, 1899.

W. Ogilvie, Esq.,
Commissioner of the Yukon District,
Dawson, Y.T.

Sir.—I send you herewith pages 3162 and 3163 of the 'Hansard' of May 12, 1899, containing statements respecting the valuation of the steamer 'John C. Barr' upon application for Canadian register.

Please investigate this matter and ascertain by the best means in your power the fair market value of the vessel at the time of application of Canadian register and report the facts for the information of the Honourable Minister of Customs.

The question of undervaluation can be dealt with in due course under the provisions of the Customs laws.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN McDOUGALD,
Commissioner of Customs.

('Hansard,' June 29th, 1899. Sessional Papers, No. 62a, 1900. Ref. No. 26.)

That Mr. Ogilvie, on 8th June, 1899, reported to the Commissioner of Customs as follows:—

'There is another boat entered by the N. A. T. & T. Company, the "John C. Barr," which I understand is entered at a valuation of \$7,500. Now this boat is a large one, 150 feet in length (I would say), with an iron hull. The hull alone I would consider worth that sum at least.

'I state these facts without prejudice to any one, simply considering it my duty to do so for your information.'

(Sessional Papers No. 87d, 1899.)

That the following is a copy of a further letter from Mr. Ogilvie with notes from the Department of Customs attached thereto:—

Commissioner's Office,
Dawson, Y.T., June 20, 1899.
2656--L.S.

Sir.—I am in receipt of yours of the 6th* inquiring the valuation of the 'John C. Barr' for Canadian register. I have already written to the minister on the valuation of that boat, and also on the 'Pingree' and the 'Lowe.'

As I have intimated in my letter to the Minister of Customs, it appears to me the value of

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.

these steamers is placed very low. I have asked the minister to have an appraiser sent in here. Mr. Davis simply took the valuation of people whom you might reasonably expect would be fair and exact. This I don't think they have been in the case of these three steamers. In my letter to the minister, I intimated that these steamers were worth from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Of course, I have not had time to go over them personally, and it would take several days to make a detailed examination, so that the above is only an approximate statement. I can only urge you to send in a properly qualified appraiser to deal with these three steamers and any others that may seek admission to the Canadian register.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) WILLIAM OGILVIE,
Commissioner.

John McDougald, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

*The letter above referred to is the letter of May 16th, as none was written on June 6th.

No letter was received by the minister as referred to. The letter which Mr. Ogilvie no doubt refers to was that of June 8th to the Commissioner of Customs, a copy of which has already been brought down.

'J. McD.'

That on the 24th July the Honourable the Minister of Customs informed this House that the question of the unfair valuation of the said steamer remains undecided pending the report and action of S. W. McMichael, chief inspector of customs.

That on the 28th September, 1899, Mr. McMichael reported to the Customs Department as follows:

'The steamer 'John C. Barr,' a stern-wheel river steamer, 144 feet 6 inches long; 28 feet 2 inches beam, and 4 feet 8 inches depth in hold, of 546.89 tons gross tonnage and 315.70 registered tonnage, was entered at customs at the port of Dawson, per entry No. 270, 6th October, 1898, by John Steinhoff as owner, at an appraised valuation made by Ely E. Weir, President of the North American Transportation and Trading Company, J. M. Gilham, master of the steamer 'John C. Barr,' and J. E. Nansen, licensed master, of \$10,000 apportioned as follows: namely, hull \$7,000, machinery and fixtures \$3,000, and that duty to the amount of \$1,450 was paid on such valuation as per copy of entry inclosed.

'It appearing to me in connection with this entry that the steamer had been erroneously appraised and allowed entry at an erroneous valuation by the collector of customs at Dawson, I examined the steamer and made careful inquiry and investigation respecting her. I learned that the hull of the steamer was rebuilt at Unalaska, Alaska, in 1898, that her engines were built by J. Roiss & Son, of Pittsburgh, Pa. in 1894, and her boilers by Moran Bros., of Seattle, Wash., in 1897; that she was entered at customs at the port of Dawson as above stated for the purpose of obtaining Canadian register; and that she was registered at the port of Dawson as a British vessel on the 3rd of June, 1899, in the name of John Steinhoff, a British subject, as owner. After investigation and careful examination of the hull and appurtenances and the boilers, engines and machinery, I made a fresh appraisement and valuation of the steamer on the 14th August, 1899, as follows:

Hull and appurtenances.....	\$20,000
Boilers, engines and machinery..	5,000

Total....	\$25,000
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and thereupon instructed the collector to call upon the registered owner, John Steinhoff, to pay duty on the re-appraised value, and as such re-appraised value exceeded by 15 per centum or more the value as stated in the bill of entry, additional duty as required by the provisions of section 8 of the Customs Act.

(Sessional Papers No. 63a, 1900, Ref. No. 26.)

That according to the report of Mr. McMichael, of September 28th, 1899, the firm of Mr. F. C. Wade were legal representatives of John Steinhoff, the registered owner.

(Sessional Papers No. 63a, 1900, Ref. No. 26.)

That Mr. F. C. Wade was appointed Crown prosecutor, clerk of the court and acting Dominion lands agent for the district of Yukon on the 26th day of August, 1897, and was subsequently appointed legal adviser of the executive council.

'Hansard,' 1899, p. 1831, April 19.)

That on September 7, 1899, the Department of Marine and Fisheries wrote Messrs. Belcourt & McDougal, as follows:—

Department of Marine and Fisheries,
September 7, 1899.

Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge receipt of copy of your letter addressed to Mr. Ogilvie, Commissioner, Yukon Territory, dated July 21 last relative to the steamers 'Gov. Pingree,' 'Philip B. Low' and 'John C. Barr.'

I have also been supplied by Her Majesty's Board of Trade with a copy of your letter addressed to the Secretary of the Marine Department, Board of Trade, London, England.

In reply, I have to state as regards the question of valuation of these steamers it is a matter for the Customs Department to deal with.

So far as regards the registry and ownership of these vessel, the department has, so far, no evidence which would warrant it in taking proceedings to have the vessels forfeited to the Crown on account of the ownership being vested virtually in foreign subjects.

If Mr. Maitland Kersey can obtain evidence which he considers would justify him in taking proceedings, I am not aware that there is legal objection to his doing so.

I am, &c.,

(Sgd.) JOHN HARDIE,

For Deputy Minister of Marine, &c.
Messrs. Belcourt & McDougal,
Dawson City, Yukon Territory.

(Sessional Papers No. 63, 1900, Ref. 26.)

That on March 3, 1900, the following communication was addressed to the Under-Secretary of State for Canada:—

(Copy No. 15947.)

Department of Marine and Fisheries,
Ottawa, March 8, 1900.

Sir,—With further reference to your letter of September 30 last in regard to copy of despatch with Privy Council Reference from the Honourable Mr. Chamberlain to His Excellency in regard to alleged fraudulent transfer of the steamers 'Philip B. Low', 'John C. Barr' and 'Gov. Pingree' registred at Dawson City, I have now the honour to state that no evidence have been furnished the department in any way establishing the allegation made in the case of these vessels, and the department has no evidence which would warrant it in taking proceedings against the vessels on account of the ownership being vested in foreign subjects.

When Dawson City was made a port of registry, the collector of customs, who is the registrar of shipping, was supplied with the Merchant's Shipping Act, a book of instructions to

registrars of shipping, and all the necessary papers and forms to enable him to register a ship, and he was particularly instructed to be careful as to the ownership of foreign vessels alleged to have been purchased by British subjects for the purpose of registering them as British vessels. The department cannot, therefore, do anything more in the matter and as far as I can judge it may now drop. You will, I suppose, as the reference came from you, report back to Council in the matter. At all events, I will assume that you will take that step.

I have the honour to be, &c.,

(Sgd.) JOHN HARDIE,

Acting Dep. Minister of Marine and Fisheries.
Joseph Pope, Esq.,

Under-Secretary of State.

(Sessional Papers No. 63, 1900, Ref. No. 26.)

That this House is of opinion that the conduct of D. W. Davis and Mr. F. C. Wade who were at the times aforesaid and are now in the service of the government, or their connection with the entry to British registry of the said United States vessel, and with the undervaluation of the said steamer for customs purposes called for a prompt and searching inquiry under oath.

That this House is further of opinion that the administration by the government of the laws relating to merchant shipping and to the collection of customs has been lax and ineffective in respect of the matters aforesaid and deserves censure.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). I will take but a very short time in replying to the hon. gentleman. The resolution he has proposed is a very long one. I cannot remember all the points, but I think it is largely taken up with a repetition of documents that have been laid upon the Table, some of which are letters from a leading firm, acting on behalf of a rival line to the one that owns the *John C. Barr*. There is very little to be said further than a mere narration of the facts. The *John C. Barr* had been an American boat, and was transferred to a British subject. He had to pay the customs duty in order to obtain a British register, and the Departments of Customs and Marine were both concerned in this matter. The Department of Customs had to see that the proper duty was levied, and the Department of Marine had to ascertain that the parties to whom the boat was transferred were British subjects.

The hon. gentleman says he has reason to believe that the transaction was not a bona fide one, and that the owners of the boat are not British subjects. But there is no proof of his belief. As far as I was able to follow what the hon. gentleman said, I could not find that he had advanced any evidence whatever. The mere statements of a legal firm that they believed so and so, is not proof, and certainly ought not to form the basis of a resolution calling for a vote of censure upon the government.

With reference to the alleged fraudulent undervaluation, the facts are these. Before the hon. gentleman brought up the case at all, the department had instituted inquiries into the values at which this boat

had been transferred to a British register. A letter came from Mr. Ogilvie, the inspector of customs at Dawson, in reply to a communication from the Department of Customs, asking him for particulars with reference to the *John C. Barr*. In this letter he states that he finds there was an undervaluation made, that the hull is entered at \$7,000, but he considered it should be valued at \$7,500. Well, that was not a very great difference of opinion. Subsequently, in replying to a letter which had been sent to him from the Customs Department, he refers to that and to some other boats, but says he is not able to report definitely, because he does not consider himself a judge in these matters; but, in his opinion, they are worth from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Messrs. Belcourt & McDougal, of Dawson, in preferring their complaint of this boat on behalf of the rival line, I think, put the value at something like \$40,000. The hon. senior member for Pictou, when he made his statement to the House or asked his question with reference to it last year, stated, in his opinion, which, I suppose, he got from Mr. Maitland Kersey, that it was worth \$60,000. And the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), who had been there, said he had seen the boat and she was worth \$60,000. Under these circumstances, the House will see that before the hon. member for Pictou brought this up at all, as soon as it was brought to the attention of the department by a letter, I think from Mr. Maitland Kersey, communication was had with Mr. Ogilvie with a view to ascertaining whether these valuations were proper or not. Then, when the hon. gentleman brought the question up in the House and asked questions, those questions were at once forwarded. Subsequently, remarks were made by the hon. member for Pictou, which appeared in *Hansard*, and these were taken and sent to Mr. Ogilvie that he might read them and send replies in reference thereto. Further than that, the Customs Department thought it desirable that these questions, as well as other questions connected with the Yukon district, should be carefully investigated. Prior to that, in the early history of the Yukon, that country was almost wholly inaccessible, and there was not the communication with the customs there by means of inspectors that was thought desirable. The inspector of customs of British Columbia had gone as far as the passes and had made an inspection there. But, when the White Pass Railway was opened last year, the entrance to that country became more easy and more expeditious. It was then thought that the chief inspector, Mr. McMichael, a gentleman who has been long in the service of the government, and who occupies the highest position as inspector—a position that he held under the late government as he does under this—should proceed to the Yukon and inquire into all customs matters in the passes. Yukon and

Dawson, having particular reference to these entries. He was clothed with special power. He possessed sufficient powers by reason of his office, but the letter from the commissioner gave him instructions, that if he found any officer deserving suspension, he had full authority to suspend him. Mr. McMichael went there and examined into this matter. He went carefully into a reappraisal of the *John C. Barr*, inquired into her history, as to when the boilers were built, as to when the hull was repaired, and generally made a searching examination. Mr. McMichael is a Dominion appraiser, and went there with full power to reappraise. He came to the conclusion that the vessel had been entered too low, and the fair value for duty, in his opinion, was \$25,000. This is a considerable difference from the \$60,000 of the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper), or even the \$40,000 of Messrs. Belcourt & McDougal. Section 8 of the Customs Act provides that if goods are entered at more than 15 per cent under value, they shall pay a double duty on the extra value by way of fine. So, Mr. McMichael raised the valuation of \$25,000 and required a double duty on the \$15,000, the difference between the value at which she was entered and the value he appraised here at. Now, hon. members may say that that was a considerable undervaluation. I grant it. Allusion has been made to the gentleman of whose advice the collector of customs availed himself in estimating the value. No matter upon whose advice he acted, he is responsible. But, it must not be forgotten that she was a second-hand boat, with second-hand machinery, and it is not an easy matter to appraise a vessel of that kind.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When was the boat built?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. She was rebuilt, I think in 1894. That is shown in the return which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) has. These are the circumstances in connection with the case. Now then that \$15,000, I grant, looks to be a great difference. If there had been anything in the report of the inspector at all that pointed to fraud, or collusion, or wrongdoing on the part of the collector, then he would have been dealt with at once by Mr. McMichael, because he went up there expressly instructed by his commission that if he found that any officer there had committed any act that warranted suspension he was to suspend him. He reported that he found nothing of that kind, but he found that the collector had committed an error of judgment, and that being the case, he took the power which I mentioned before. There was no danger of the revenue suffering, this boat had become a British boat, if it was not found at Dawson it could have been found somewhere else, a remedy was always available, and wherever found the vessel

would have been liable. But there was no fraud found, as Mr. McMichael reported, merely an error in judgment, as he considered. Now, if we were to dismiss collectors of customs because of errors of judgment, so considered by the Dominion appraisers, I question if there are many collectors in this country who would not have to be discharged. Questions of revaluation and reappraisal are continually coming before us, and the difficulty of reappraisal and revaluation is enhanced when the article is not an original article, but when it has been depreciated in value through wear and tear. Instead of censuring Mr. Davis, I can have no object whatever in trying to shield him. I try to administer the Customs Department without regard to the political views of any persons who are concerned; but if we were to be guided by such considerations, hon. gentlemen opposite would not say I could have any object in shielding the collector of customs at Dawson, who was appointed by themselves, who had been a member of this House and supported them until the close of the session in 1896. They then sent him to Fort Cudahy, and he was subsequently removed to Dawson, to a point almost inaccessible. The late government, in sending him to that country and entrusting him with such powers, at a point from which there was hardly any communication with the outer world, from which the collections came down to us in gold dust months after they had been taken—the late government, I say, in sending a collector up there where he could not be supervised, and when the department was dependent on his character and ability, surely must have believed they were sending there a man in whose ability and honesty they had confidence, otherwise they were very deficient in their duty. I take it that the fact they sent Mr. Davis there was an endorsement of his character, and that they believed him to be a thoroughly honest man. Now, I ask the hon. gentleman what he wants us to do when the highest officer in the department, the chief inspector, goes up there with full power to suspend any one who has done anything wrong, and when he comes back and reports to me that while this was an error of judgment, he believed Mr. Davis, taking all things into consideration, had discharged the duties that pertained to his office under the peculiar and exceptional circumstances that prevail in that country, remarkably well.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Does the hon. gentleman say Mr. McMichael reported that?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Mr. McMichael told me that.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is not in his report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am not sure, but that it is in his report.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, it is not here.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am not sure, but it is, at any rate he told me that. Mr. McMichael went there under instructions from the department that if any officer in the Yukon had done anything that was not right he was immediately to suspend that officer, and the fact that he did not do that, is a proof that in his opinion, while there was an error of judgment in the appraisal and valuation of that boat on the part of the collector, there was no fraud and no collusion in connection with the matter.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. This is still an oral report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, the minister must lay the document on the Table.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I am laying it before the House now so far as I am able, I am telling what the collector reported to me.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. A nice kind of an officer to leave that out of the report.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Now, Sir, I have just related to the House the whole circumstances in connection with this case. If there can be any wrong-doing shown, anything that is improper, of course the officer will be dealt with at once, but nothing of the kind has come before the department. I am not pretending to justify him in connection with this matter. All I can say is that after I had the conference with Mr. McMichael when he came back and told me how the business was conducted up there, the commissioner wrote to the collector there regretting there had been this error of judgment in the valuation of these boats, and hoped that in future in any appraisements he had to make, he would bring his very best judgment to bear upon it, and endeavour to arrive at a fair valuation for customs duty.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. That document the hon. gentleman just alludes to has not been brought down.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That letter was sent, I think, and, I think, it is brought down.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is not in the return.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think it was down, they told me they had sent all the papers. That of course has nothing to do with this case. These were instructions sent to him after the case was settled, warning him with reference to the future to be

more careful in his valuations. In addition to that, we have sent into that country an appraiser, a gentleman who will assume the peculiar duties of appraiser of goods that may go in there. This is more necessary now, perhaps, than it was before. Goods are going in now in greater quantities, entries are going in in greater numbers. Since the railway has been constructed, though goods are not going in in large cargoes as they did when they went up the Yukon River, a greater quantity is going in, and there is now a greater need for a qualified appraiser who is conversant with mercantile work, to assist the collector in his duties. The staff has been strengthened otherwise, and I have reason to believe that Dawson is now being carefully worked. As I say, the inspector reports, that, taking what had transpired into consideration, the exceptional circumstances that prevailed, he considered, taking all things into consideration, that the collector had done his duty fairly well, not only in this matter, but in other matters. I consider it a very unfair thing to place in the hands of the Speaker a resolution, and ask the House to pass censure upon the government upon the strength of a lot of documents among which are to be found letters from a legal firm acting for a rival company in which they state as their belief so and so and setting that up against the ascertained facts by the department through their chief inspector. As to the action of the chief inspector and what he has reported, it is before the hon. gentlemen, it is in the papers in their hands, and, I think, that the hon. member for Pictou was not fair enough in his resolution to put in the report of the chief inspector. I speak subject to correction.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
I read it in full.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. In the resolution ?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER.
Yes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Then, it speaks for itself.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand).
But not the invoices.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Invoices as to what ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. As to the purchase of boilers.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You would not have invoices as to the purchase of boilers.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) has sought to make light of the whole transaction which has been referred to by the hon. member for Pictou (Sir Charles Hib-

Mr. PATERSON.

bert Tupper). I think that any one who has spent a moment upon the return which has been brought down, dealing with this matter, will not, if he desires to offer a fair and impartial judgment upon it, say that it should be passed over in the very light manner in which the hon. Minister of Customs has referred to it. He has treated it with a smile and a toss of the head and he has said that the government are not at all responsible for this matter, that Dawson port is being well worked, and from this correspondence, I am bound to say, that this statement is correct. I think it could not have been better worked than it has been worked by Wade and some other officers, who are defended by the hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches. To come back to my former statement, the hon. Minister of Customs has treated the matter in an exceedingly light manner. I believe that if the evidence which is given to the House were placed before a judicial commission of inquiry they would say there is evidence upon the face of these documents and upon the face of this correspondence of collusion of the very worst kind between two paid officers of this government, one sent there to protect the public revenue, and the other sent there in the pay of the government and of the people of Canada to see that justice is administered in the Yukon territory on behalf of the Canadian government. I am saying what I draw from the return as a layman, having no particular knowledge of the law, and I say that you find these two facts which were mentioned by the hon. member for Pictou, first, that the steamer *Yukoner*. I think she was called, against which Wade was advising the authorities at Dawson, is treated in a most harsh and illegal manner, that he receives a large sum of money for his own work in connection with the *Yukoner*, \$750; then, when you come to the *John C. Barr*, you find this same Crown prosecutor, paid by the money of the people of Canada, not acting against the *John C. Barr*, as he was acting against the *Yukoner*, but acting for the *John C. Barr*, receiving a large fee, I have no doubt, in connection with her advising the collector of customs as to what he ought to decide upon this matter of the *John C. Barr* and the greatest possible favours are granted, allowing her fraudulent registration and allowing her to come in at a valuation that the Department of Customs is now, by the report of its chief inspector, compelled to admit was only about one-third of its proper value. You have these two bald facts, and they are facts that cannot but convince any impartial tribunal that Wade has committed fraud on the Canadian people.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Where is the statement that Wade was instrumental in getting this boat entered at \$10,000 ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is no statement at all, but we have not to state it. The

fact is that Wade was acting on behalf of these people is apparent.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Did he make these entries ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Where would he be acting ? Would he be acting outside in the yard while the entry was being made ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It does not appear to all.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Common sense teaches us that it was he who looked after their interests. He was the attorney of the owners of the *John C. Barr*. He was the man who would make the entry. He would make it with Davis, to whom he was adviser in many respects, under the Crown. He was the Crown prosecutor, it was his duty to protect the public revenue, to see that justice was done, and yet, with the permission of the hon. Minister of the Interior, because we have the statement here in *Hansard*, that he had been instructed that he could practice, we have Wade acting on behalf of the owners of the *John C. Barr* who succeeded, whether by Davis or by Wade, or who else we cannot, of course, find in the return, in getting their boat valued at \$10,000, when it was really worth \$60,000, according to the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison), and when it was worth, at least \$25,000, according to the report of Mr. McMichael, the chief inspector.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has made a very serious statement. He has said that Mr. Wade was the means of entering that boat at \$10,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman may quibble if he likes.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman has the documents before him. Does not Wade simply appear in the case, after the demand is made upon the owners to pay double duty, not only to pay the duty but the extra \$15,000 by way of penalty. Then, the legal firm of Wade & Aikman appear, and in their name a protest is sent in. The hon. gentleman has no authority to say that Mr. Wade was a party to making this entry or that he was a party to a fraud.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman thinks he scores a strong point because Wade only appears when the protest is being made. There is no necessity of him appearing until then. If the hon. gentleman disputes the inference I am drawing I will refer him to the evidence.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The inspector did not so report. The inspector does not say whether it was a fraud or a mistake of judgment.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman for twenty minutes shouted to this House that there was no fraud, but that it was a mistake of judgment. There is not a line of the report which says any such thing. If the inspector makes one report viva voce and another one which can be brought down, the hon. Minister of Customs is wrong.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Does he report that there was a fraud ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. He does not report that there was a fraud, but he does not report that there was not a fraud.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Then, why do you charge it ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. If the inspector made a report that the boat was worth \$25,000 and she was previously entered at \$10,000 has a necessity ever assumed there was a fraud over and above mentioning the mere fact, then I do not understand the meaning of the English language. What else would the minister call it ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I would call it an undervaluation. That is what he termed it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is that what the Minister of Customs would term it ?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is how he dealt with it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. How did he make the mistake ? This boat came in and asked for an entry. I do not know whether Mr. Wade was present to make the entry or not, but I do know that Mr. Wade, the Crown prosecutor of this government, was acting for the American Trading and Transportation Company, which he had no business to be acting for when it had business of this kind with the government. What did the collector of customs do ? He seeks to value the boat, and who in the world suggested to him to get the owner of the boat, the pilot of the boat, and the captain of the boat, to make the valuation ? That looks to me seriously like the advice of Mr. Wade.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). Who was the pilot of the boat ?

Mr. MONTAGUE. You will find it there. He is called a licensed master, I think.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. You are making rash statements.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am not.

Mr. WALLACE. It was made by J. M. Gilham, master of the steamer, and J. E. Nansen, licensed master.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Not of the *John C. Barr*.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Suppose the Minister of Customs was valuing a boat, and there was a dispute, would he go to the captain of the boat, and to the owner of the boat, and to one of the employees to make a valuation, or, would he take an independent man, whose opinion would be a disinterested opinion? Why, the very fact that Mr. Davis went to these men, is almost proof positive that there was intended to be a fraud, perpetrated on the revenue of this country. I say further, that when Inspector McMichael found that these men had sworn to the value of the boat as \$10,000, and that the value was \$25,000, according to his opinion, he ought to have punished these men, as the government would punish any men who undervalued goods brought in by them through any port in Ontario. The Minister of Customs has told us that we had to take with a grain of salt the statements made by Belcourt & McDougal, because they are the representatives of a rival line. That is throwing considerable distrust upon the member for Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt).

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister says that they are the representatives of the rival line and that in effect they are not acting as fair and honourable men. Which was the rival line, I want to know, properly speaking? There was a number of Canadian lines there equal to the task of doing the business, and we find this American line coming in, undervaluing their boat at \$10,000, when it should, at least, have been \$25,000, and when the hon. member (Mr. Morrison), says it should have been \$60,000. We find them taking up the business which could be done by Canadian boats which had observed the law in every particular, according to the statement of Messrs. Belcourt & McDougal, and under these circumstances we had better find the Minister of Customs dealing with the American line as the rival line. Yet the American line is the line which he is defending in the House to-night; whose fraud he is defending—because undoubtedly who ever performed it, it was a fraud upon the Treasury of Canada.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. As well as upon the rival line.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, as well as upon the Canadian line. The Minister of Customs tells us to-night that there is not a word of fraud, or of collusion, or of wrongdoing attributed to Mr. Davis, or attributed to the conduct of the whole affair, at the customs port at Dawson. What evidence of fraud does the minister want? Here we have the evidence that the boat was only valued at about one-third of what they eventually had to pay duty on. That is fraud. Here we have the evidence that the

Mr. WALLACE.

collector of customs (Mr. Davis), advised. I have no doubt—although it does not appear in the return—by Mr. Wade, the Crown prosecutor, who was acting for the owners of this American boat; we have Mr. Davis getting the owner, and the captain, and another employee of the boat to make the valuation.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where is your proof of that?

Mr. MONTAGUE. If that is not collusion, and if that is not wrong-doing, I do not know what these can be defined to be by the Minister of Customs. The Minister of Customs says that Mr. McMichael reports that this was simply an error of judgment. Where does that statement occur? There is no such language in the report of Inspector McMichael. He finds that the boat was grossly undervalued, and that false invoices were statements by the owners of the boat. He found that a fraud had been committed, and that a false oath had been taken as regards the valuation. But why has he not reported more fully upon the circumstances, and reported that severer and sterner justice should be meted out to these men. Sir, there are other government employees in connection with this matter. It is not Mr. Davis alone. I venture to say that Mr. Davis would receive very little sympathy, at the hands of the Minister of Customs, if he came to deal with Mr. Davis alone. But there is another gentleman pretty close to Mr. Davis. That gentleman is Mr. Wade, and he is pretty close to some other gentleman. The minister has refused to investigate the conduct of Mr. Wade, when there can be no doubt about the fact that there was a collusion between Mr. Wade and some one regarding the whole circumstances of the valuation of this boat. Then there comes the other question as to the registration of this boat as a British bottom. She was built at St. Michael's, was undoubtedly an American boat, and before she could do business upon Canadian waters she had to secure British registry. How was it secured? Her record shows that the boat was sold for \$100 to a Canadian in Dawson; a boat that is valued at \$10,000 by themselves, \$25,000 by the government, and \$60,000 by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison).

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where is that evidence?

Mr. MONTAGUE. That is my information.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It was one of the other vessels.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, it was one of the other vessels, and the fact that the other vessel was sold for \$100, and transferred to a Dawson owner, may be taken as evidence, that the same thing was worked in regard to the *John C. Barr*. The whole system was

to get fraudulent registration from these men, by these American owners. Will the hon. Minister of Customs, or the hon. Minister of Marine stand up and say that the profits from that boat did not go to the American owners? Will they say that the Canadian in whose name that boat is registered, has anything more than a pittance of interest in it? The boat is still an American boat, owned by Americans, and they get the advantage of it. That statement has been made by the counsel acting for the other line, and when the inspector, Mr. McMichael went there, he never investigated that matter at all. He might very well have been expected to inquire into these things; but in a report which he makes to the Minister of Customs, there is not a single word as to the national question at all. He never inquired into it; and so we had the statement made by Belcourt & McDougal that this is a fraudulent and colourable transaction.

THE MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They do not say that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. You will see in their letter the statement that it is a colourable transaction, and they ask to have it investigated: and there are other people who wish to have it investigated. The English Board of Trade has been written to; and Mr. Chamberlain, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, thinks it important enough to communicate to the Governor General, and in order that it may be attended to immediately, he sends a copy of his letter to the Department of Marine and Fisheries and asks that a report be made on the matter. What report does he get? The letter of Mr. Hardie, acting Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, in which he says that there is no evidence, when they did not look for evidence—that there are no facts which have been brought out, while the statement has been made that if they will inquire they will find the facts. But the very kind suggestion is made that Mr. Maitland Kersey, the manager of one of the lines, will be permitted to take the matter up if he will. I am told by my hon. friend, who knows the law, that it is impossible for Mr. Kersey or any other private citizen to take up the matter, that the duty and the power remains in the hands of the government, and that only the government can act in such a matter, according to the Shipping Act of Great Britain, which applies here. That is a legal question, into the discussion of which I shall not enter. But there can be no question that the boat was undervalued. The inspector, when he makes his report, fails to give the evidence on which he comes to the conclusion that it is worth only \$25,000. What object would the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Morrison) have in coming into this House and saying that the boat was worth \$50,000 or \$60,000 if that were not the case? He

knows something about shipping. He is not—if I may be permitted to use the word, which I use quite respectfully—fool enough to come into this House and say that a boat is worth \$60,000 if it is worth only \$25,000 or \$10,000. There can be no doubt about the undervaluation, there can be no doubt about the fraud, and, to my mind, there can be no doubt about the fact that Mr. Wade was mixed in it for the purpose of receiving the large fee, and he received that fee while in the pay of the Canadian government as their officer in the Yukon. I want to call the attention of the government to the impudence—and I say it without any stint—of Mr. Wade in his letter of August 16, 1899, which has been read in this House, about paying money under protest and acting for the owners of the *John C. Barr*. What does he say:

This money is paid to you under protest on the following grounds: 1. The steamer 'John C. Barr' was appraised by appraisers duly appointed by you in your capacity of collector of customs prior to the entry thereof in this port. 2. The appraisers appointed by you duly appraised the said steamer prior to the collection of duty thereon, which appraisement was duly ratified and accepted by you as collector of customs for said port.

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It had no legal value.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Wade the Crown prosecutor, and the government's legal adviser up there, seems to think it has. I put the opinion of Mr. Wade against that of the Minister of Customs.

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Which would you take?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I will take the opinion of Mr. Wade, because I think these men were undoubtedly appointed by Mr. Davis for the purpose of acting as valuers, and because the Minister of Customs seems to show that he does not know where there has been an infraction of the law. Therefore, I do not take his opinion as worth anything on a legal question.

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There was an infraction of the law, and the penalty imposed.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And yet the hon. gentleman says there was no collusion and no fraud. If there was not, why should there be any penalty?

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Because section 8 of the Customs Act provides that if there is undervaluation exceeding 15 per cent, whether there be fraud or not, double duty becomes payable.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the minister tell me now whether he thinks there was fraud?

THE MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think there was undervaluation, and it was punished under section 8 by the chief in-

spector of customs, who had full power, and whose duty it was, if there had been fraud, at once to suspend the officer. In his opinion there was not fraud in the sense in which the hon. gentleman is speaking.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Will the hon. gentleman tell me whether the undervaluation was intentional or unintentional?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think it was unintentional. My reason for saying so is that the chief inspector of customs, if he had thought it was intentional, was in duty bound to suspend the officer, he was under express instructions from the commissioner when sent there to do that; and when he did not do it, I feel convinced that he was convinced that there was not fraud in the sense in which the hon. gentleman means it; and when the chief inspector takes that view, I am prepared to follow him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman is going a long way around. He has not given me his opinion yet. He hides himself behind the opinion of the inspector of customs. What I want to ask the Minister of Customs again is, whether he thinks there could have been an unintentional undervaluation of \$15,000 on that boat?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I think it possible, yes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman's judgment, then, I must say, is a very generous and kindly one towards those who make errors of undervaluation. I must accept the hon. gentleman's parliamentary statement; but, at the same time, if it were outside, I would say that the hon. gentleman knows there was a fraud, and could not help knowing it.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The people outside would not pay any attention to that statement.

Mr. MONTAGUE. That may be; but, if you put before any business man in the province of Ontario the bare statement of facts as produced in these papers, that this boat was valued at \$10,000 by Mr. Davis, advised by some of the officers of the boat, and I have no doubt assisted by Mr. Wade, who was paid for the work he undertook in regard to this, when the valuation ought to have been at least \$25,000, and when good men say it ought to have been \$50,000, I believe the most ordinary business man of the country would admit that there has been a fraud, and a great big fraud, as an hon. gentleman suggests.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Then, you condemn the chief inspector?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I condemn not only the chief inspector, but every gentleman who had anything to do with the transaction who has not done his work properly. The inspector may have done his work properly,

Mr. PATERSON.

of course, but the minister cannot hide behind him. I do not rise for the purpose of condemning anybody unnecessarily; but I say that when the chief inspector reported that there was an undervaluation of \$15,000, it was his duty to report specially how that had occurred, if he could find it out, whether it was done intentionally or unintentionally, whether a fraud had been perpetrated; and that he has not done in any shape or form. Whether it was done intentionally or unintentionally and whether a fraud had been perpetrated or not, he did not report to the minister in any shape or form. The hon. gentleman says he got a verbal report, but we have no such report before this House. We have the report which my hon. friend from Pictou has read, which says that there was undervaluation, and that he increased the valuation to \$25,000, imposed a slight penalty and then let the matter at rest. He will find cases in the history of his department in which seizures was made for much slighter offences. He will find confiscation of articles in which the undervaluation was much less than in this instance. The hon. gentleman has not one excuse to make for the easy treatment he meted out to these men. The only excuse that can be made is that Mr. Wade was acting for them, influencing perhaps the Collector of Customs, and the friend and appointee of hon. gentlemen opposite.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The hon. gentleman has waxed exceedingly warm and made very many violent statements, but I do not think he has at all strengthened the case which the hon. member for Pictou submitted to the House. The case is very simple. The hon. gentleman draws certain conclusions from the evidence, and one is that Mr. Wade,—a gentleman for whom he appears to have very special affection—was present acting as attorney for the parties during the entry and registration of the vessel. Well, there is not a scintilla of evidence to justify that statement. There is not a line to show that Mr. Wade was either present or that he advised any of the parties when that vessel was entered and the duty paid. Mr. Wade comes upon the scene many months afterwards. After Mr. McMichael had investigated the matter, Mr. Wade comes in making a protest. For the first time, he appears on August 16, 1899, whereas the vessel was purchased and entered in during the March previous.

The hon. gentleman, not having any case, and not daring to attack Mr. Davis, dragged in an imaginary opponent. Supposing we withdraw that imaginary opponent, that man who was not there at all, what is the hon. gentleman going to say then? The other inference he draws is that because there was over valuation, there must necessarily have been fraud. The hon. gentleman may draw any conclusion he pleases,

but I would ask whether he is as capable of forming a fair conclusion as was the independent officer who was sent to investigate the facts? The chief inspector, Mr. McMichael, a man of great experience and high character, who, for many years, has been engaged in investigations of this kind, was much better qualified to form an impartial judgment than the hon. gentleman, who, from a hasty examination of the papers, draws his conclusion. I hold in my hand Mr. McMichael's report. He does not insinuate that there was fraud. On the contrary he reports to the collector:

It appearing to me, in connection with this entry, that the steamer had been erroneously appraised and allowed entry at an erroneous valuation by the collector of customs at Dawson, I examined the said steamer and made careful inquiry and investigation.

So far as his report goes, he reports that there was undervaluation only.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. minister does not think there was any frauds.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not think it follows at all. I am not able to judge. I have not the facts to enable me to judge. The hon. gentleman draws a very hasty conclusion, and all I have to say is that the officer who went there to investigate concluded there was an erroneous valuation, and a double duty was charged and paid into the treasury.

Mr. WALLACE. Where did they pay the double duty?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. On the additional valuation under section 8 of the Customs Act, \$1,800, and the penalty on undervaluation \$1,800, so that the total they paid, over and above what they have previously paid, amounted to \$3,600. The chief commissioner McMichael made a proper recommendation or he did not. Taking into account his experience and the fact that he went on the spot and examined the vessel, I would prefer to take the conclusion of Mr. McMichael rather than the hasty judgment formed by the hon. gentleman from a hasty perusal of the papers and from his imagining that some party, whom he hates, was there, who was not.

Mr. MONTAGUE. In the case of the *Yukoner*, the charge was more than imaginary.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We are not discussing the *Yukoner* case. The hon. gentleman is not able to form an opinion on this case from the papers and facts, and so rushes off into another case. Because this man Wade appeared in the *Yukoner* case, therefore, the hon. gentleman argues he must have appeared in this case. He does appear, but not until the following August, after the

chief commissioner McMichael had been sent to the Yukon and re-valued the vessel and enforced the double liability.

Mr. MONTAGUE. He is the only solicitor that appears for these people.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was no solicitor appearing at all at the transfer of the vessel and its valuation. The hon. gentleman will find out that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, a solicitor never appears at the transfer of the vessel. There is only one other point. The hon. member for Pictou charges some fault in my department. What has my department to do with it? This vessel was transferred in the name of a British subject. Mr. Davis reported to the department that he was personally aware that the applicant was a British subject. The applicant made an affidavit that he was a British subject. Nobody suggested to us that he had made a false affidavit. All we had was the report of Mr. Davis that this man was personally known to him as a British subject. What evidence have the department beyond that? The only evidence was a letter written on behalf of the Canadian Development Company by Belcourt and McDougal, also of Dawson City. That letter was sent to the secretary of the Marine Department of the board of trade, London, and forwarded by him to the Secretary of State who forwarded a copy to my department. The only statement in that document, which was before the officers of my department, is this:

With regard to the third boat, the 'John C. Barr,' the register reveals the fact that this vessel, which is also foreign built, was entered at Dawson in the name of one John Steinhoff, of Dawson, miner, on June 3, 1899. The boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale, bearing date June 3, 1899, one Ely Weare, a director of that company, transferred to Steinhoff, 'qua' director.

The appraised value of the steamboat is \$10,000, although from its size and general appearance, it must have cost for construction alone at least \$40,000. Our clients believe that the transfer in this case is also a colourable one, and that the beneficial ownership of the boat is still in the North American Company, or in Weare.

Not a scintilla of evidence to show on what they founded their belief. If it was a colourable transaction, as their clients believed, and if the affidavit made by Steinhoff that he was a British subject and entitled to receive transfer, was not in substance true, the law provides that Steinhoff might be proceeded against for perjury. Is the Department of Marine and Fisheries to do that? It is news to me that that is our duty. And there is nothing else in it. Mark you, in reply to that statement the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries wrote to Messrs. Belcourt and McDougal:

So far as regards the registry and ownership of these vessels, the department has, so far, no evidence which would warrant it in taking proceedings to have the vessels forfeited to the Crown on account of the ownership being vested virtually in foreign subjects.

In the face of the report from Mr. Hardie, the acting deputy minister, was there one scintilla of evidence offered to the department? Not a single thing was ever tendered, not a letter was written after that. They simply dropped the matter. Here we had a regular transfer, with the sworn affidavit of the transferee that he was a British subject, and entitled to the transfer—everything correct; the attention of the department is asked to this by two lawyers who say that their clients believe that the transaction is a colourable one; they are told that there is not sufficient evidence in the opinion of the department to justify any action on the part of the department, and they drop the matter and do nothing further.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What could they do?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Bring forward some evidence if they had any. Is Steinhoff a British subject or is he not? Nobody has denied it.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. In every case of fraudulent transfer and obtaining improperly registration under the British flag, the transferee is, of course, a British subject. The question is where the beneficial ownership is.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is another point, and I want to come to that. It is not disputed that this man is a British subject.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Do they raise that point?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, they do not. They say it is a colourable transaction.

Mr. MONTAGUE. They raise the point.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They raise the point that their clients believe it is a colourable transaction, but that is all. I do not know whether they mean that he was not a British subject or that he was not a bona fide purchaser; but when asked for evidence, they do not offer evidence of any description to justify the suspicions of their clients. They never wrote to the department afterwards or made any statement as to what they based their opinion on that the transaction was colourable. Therefore, Mr. Hardie informed them that there was nothing to proceed upon. What could he proceed upon? What scintilla of evidence had he? None whatever. If these rivals of this concern thought that this was a colourable transaction, the courts were open for them to proceed. From the beginning to the end there is in this case but one fact that there was

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

a marked undervaluation of the vessel. But that fact was rectified by the chief inspector of customs who went there to make investigation. He reported that there was an undervaluation, but made no hint of fraud—simply recommended that double duty should be collected, and that was all.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). The line of argument adopted by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries seems to me a remarkable one. When the statement was made, that there is reasonable ground to believe that Steinhoff, to whom the vessel was transferred, did not hold the vessel in his own right, but as trustee for the North American Trading and Transportation Company—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Where is the evidence?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will show you in a short time. The way the hon. minister, who, I presume, has been listening to this debate meets that is by saying that there is no evidence to show that Steinhoff was not a British subject. The whole point is that although he is a British subject, he does not hold this vessel in his own right, but as trustee of this foreign company.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. He swore that he held it in his own right.

Mr. BORDEN. The defence of the minister for the action of his government and his department is simply to say that Steinhoff was a British subject.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was nothing to go upon.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will show the hon. minister that there was before I get through.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There was nothing before the department.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Let me point out another curiosity in my hon. friend's speech. He said that Mr. Wade had nothing to do with this matter until months after the vessel was entered and transferred. He reiterated that and seemed very triumphant over it. But, if he had seen fit to read the evidence taken before the Ogilvie commission of inquiry, he would have found that this Mr. Wade, who held the position of Crown prosecutor, and I do not know how many other offices, had a yearly retainer from the North American Trading and Transportation Company which he says may be called a yearly salary, and which, as he says, would be called large in the east—how large it was he does not say. But he comes just after a witness who tells us that \$10,000 was the amount that Mr. Wade received from Mr. McDonald as a yearly retainer, and Mr. Wade does not regard

that as a large one. He does not regard this retainer as a large one, but he does not tell us what the amount of it is. We have this state of affairs—the president of the North American Trading and Transportation Company, and the captain of this vessel, came over to have the vessel entered and transferred to the British flag. We have Mr. F. C. Wade, the Crown prosecutor and the holder of some half dozen other offices under the government, acting as solicitor—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is not true.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Wait until I get through.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Tell the truth.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.) There is an old expression in use among the boys which I do not want to use, but which I shall have to use if my hon. friend the Minister of Customs does not keep quiet.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Keep within the record.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am keeping within the record.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.) What was I about to say, does the hon. minister suppose?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You said he was acting as solicitor, and we say that is not correct.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies) is excited, and so is the Minister of Customs. They did not wait until I had finished my sentence.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman had finished that sentence.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I had not.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes you had.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I beg my hon. friend's pardon. I said we have this Mr. F. C. Wade acting at that time as the solicitor upon the yearly retainer, which he says is not small, of the North American Trading and Transportation Company. That is what I said or was about to say, if my hon. friends had not been so nervous. What do we have then? We have Mr. Weare, president, I believe, of this company, which is retaining Mr. F. C. Wade at a yearly salary which is not small, coming over to transfer this vessel to the British flag and enter her in the customs. And what have we further? We have Mr. Weare acting

as the agent of Steinhoff, being a director of the company, to whom this vessel purports to be transferred. Now, is there any evidence of that? Let us see whether there is any evidence of that.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. That is all right. That is in the papers which we have been reading half an hour ago, when you were not in.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The minister thinks that is all right. Very well, he can enjoy his opinion with regard to that:

I, Ely E. Weare, do solemnly and truly swear that I am the duly authorized agent and attorney of John Steinhoff.

Now, this vessel formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, for whom Mr. F. C. Wade was the paid solicitor at that time, paid by the year, and Mr. Ely E. Weare acts for the president of that company, attends to the transfer of this vessel to the British flag, attends to the entry in the customs, and swears that he is doing so as the duly authorized agent and attorney of John Steinhoff, who is a director of that company. The bill of sale which transferred that vessel from Mr. Weare to Mr. Steinhoff transferred it to Mr. Steinhoff as director of that company, else the statement made by Mr. Belcourt's firm, which has not been denied in the correspondence, is absolutely false. That is repeated over and over again in his letter to the board of trade which came to the minister's attention, and which he does not seem to have taken the trouble to read. I venture to think he would not have made the statement he made here to-night if he had realized the fact I am now stating to the House, namely, that this vessel was transferred by a director of the company which owned her to another director of the company which owned her, a transfer to him, not in his personal right, but as a director of that company.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I do not construe that sentence to mean that at all.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I say that is the statement of Mr. Belcourt in two distinct letters, one to the board of trade, which came to the minister's attention, and which, I think, he could not have read, and in another letter to the Department of Customs, it is stated twice.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman reads that sentence one way and I read it another. The sentence reads:

The boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale bearing date June 3, 1899, one Ely E. Weare, a director of that company, transferred to Steinhoff, 'quâ' director.

He would not transfer it to Steinhoff quâ director, but quâ director transferred it.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax) reading :

One Ely E Weare, a director of the company, transferred to Steinhoff, 'quâ' director.

It is remarkable English if it means that, because on page 13 exactly the same thing is stated, only more explicitly, in this way :

The boat formerly belonged to the North American Transportation Company, and by bill of sale bearing date the 3rd day of June, 1899, one Ely E. Weare, director of that company, transferred to Steinhoff in his capacity as a director.

Now, if it means what my hon. friend suggests, it seems to me he might pass a very just criticism on the firm of Belcourt & McDougal with regard to their use of the English language.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Did my hon. friend ever hear of an instance in his life where a register contained the name of a transferee quâ director, or in any other trustee capacity ?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). A transferee quâ director, if the English language means anything, means quâ director as applied to Steinhoff.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Do you think they do there ?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would say so, if the English language means anything.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I read it the opposite way. I read it that he other man quâ director transferred it to Steinhoff.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Ely Weare, director of that company, transferred to Steinhoff in his capacity as a director. If the firm of Belcourt & McDougal means what my hon. friend suggests, they would not have expressed themselves that way ; they would have said that Ely Weare, in his capacity as director of the company transferred to Steinhoff.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They could not have transferred to a man quâ director in a foreign company, they could not put it on the register. You cannot put that on the register of a ship.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It is clear that if Belcourt & McDougal are to be believed in this case, that vessel has been transferred by a director of the North American Transportation Company to Steinhoff, when in reality Steinhoff had no interest in the vessel at all, but held her simply as trustee. Now, my hon. friend may say it means that or it means the other thing. You might raise the same difficulty with regard to a single director transferring. How could a director transfer ? I do not know how a single director could transfer. All I can say is, that this vessel could have been forfeited,

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

and there was a case for inquiry by the government in this instance. I say the letter of Mr. Hardie, written, I am sure, without consultation with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, is a letter not justified by the facts. I do not know what evidence the Minister of Marine and Fisheries wants to support the statement of Belcourt & McDougal, whether he wants them to make a solemn declaration or not ; but they state as explicitly as any man can state that after that boat was transferred she continued to be operated by the North American Transportation Company. Now, if that vessel continued to sail under the flag of the North American Transportation Company, and to be operated by that company, if she continued to bear the same name and hailed from the same place, and passed as a vessel of that company subsequently, is not that surely some evidence which would have justified the hon. gentleman in making the further inquiry, or even in bringing proceedings for the purpose of having her forfeited ? What kind of evidence are you to bring to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in a case of that kind if this is not sufficient ? I venture to think that evidence such as that which has been brought out by my hon. friend from Pictou, statements such as those contained in the letter written by a firm of reputable solicitors in Ottawa, the senior member of which is a member of this House, the facts which he brings to the attention of the House with reference to the subsequent operation of this vessel, were all amply sufficient to make it necessary and expedient that the government should have made further inquiries.

Now, so far as the valuation is concerned, I do not know that I can add much to what has already been said. There is a large discrepancy even between the amount at which the collector fixed the value and the amount which Mr. McMichael fixed it at. A difference between \$10,000 and \$20,000 cannot very well have been unintentional. I say there must have been an intentional undervaluation of that vessel. The Minister of Customs very naturally sheltered himself behind Mr. McMichael. I do not care what action Mr. McMichael took or failed to take in Dawson, the responsibility still remains upon the Minister of Customs. The fact is brought to his attention that a valuation of \$10,000 for a vessel worth at least \$25,000 could not have been an unintentional valuation, therefore, he should have taken proceedings for forfeiture, particularly in view of the fact that the valuation of \$10,000 was practically made by the owner of the vessel, and was not really made by the collector of customs at all. The valuation given by the owner was really only 40 per cent of the valuation which Mr. McMichael ascertained, and which does not seem to have been a very high valuation, if we take

into consideration the statements made by Belcourt & McDougal. Now, in view of this, I venture to think that the administration of the law, both with regard to the valuation and to the national character of this vessel has not been prompt or vigilant in Dawson, and that the government, and particularly these two departments are deserving of censure in that respect.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a word or two as to the valuation. I think I can quite understand Mr. Davis's position. Here was a man who knew nothing of ships, a man who had been accustomed to the west where they have no ships, where there is not a man who knows anything about ships, and I can understand that it is very difficult to come at the real value of a ship of that age. Of course, experts can do it, but a man like Mr. Davis, accustomed to the west, I would venture to make the statement would not know as to \$15,000 of a difference between the real and the appraised value of a ship. There is a good deal in a man's view of it. I have seen, for example, a reputable citizen, a clergyman, go into court and swear that a property was worth \$11,000. He believed it thoroughly, and he got witnesses there to support him, and Justice Burbidge found an award against him for \$500, that being the value of the property.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Not against him surely.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, but in his favour. He found that the value of this property that had been placed at \$11,000 was really \$500. Such discrepancies occur, and I will venture to say that a vessel like this coming up to Dawson and coming before a man who knew very little about shipping, it is quite easily understood how he would come to the conclusion that after all \$10,000 was its value. Do not think that Dawson is a port like Liverpool in Great Britain, or Halifax, or St. John, where everybody knows about shipping. I do not know what the ship is worth, but I will venture to say that Mr. Davis honestly thought the vessel was worth no more. Mr. McMichael found that she was worth \$25,000. There is a man who knows all about it. But, will anybody contend that Mr. Davis, who is a reputable citizen, actually, for the difference, between the duty collected on a valuation of \$25,000 and of \$10,000 committed a fraud? If you do you are going to vote that Mr. Davis is dishonest, that he is fraudulent and incapable of holding that position. I do not believe that. I believe that if a man is going to do wrong, he is going to do wrong on a larger scale than that. When Mr. Davis was in this House he was held up to us as a certain Conservative amongst Conservatives who was an honest, outspoken and manly fellow who would not cheat for anything.

An hon. MEMBER. It was the company he got into.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I know that when he was here no member of parliament had a better reputation for stern every day rough honesty than had Mr. Davis. People up in Dawson say that he has not changed. Mr. McMichael went up there, and I ask particular attention to these words:

You are authorized to suspend any customs officer from duty in the Yukon district and frontier when, in your judgment, the public interests so requires.

Hon. gentlemen opposite have not only to come to the conclusion that Mr. Davis committed a fraud, but they have to come to the conclusion, that not only did Mr. McMichael commit a fraud, but, worse than all, that after he discovered a fraud he did not act. Therefore, he must also come in, but he must come before the other man because he is far worse. Mr. Davis, according to the statement of hon. gentlemen opposite, only committed one fraud, but Mr. McMichael, according to their statement committed two frauds. Mr. McMichael has been in the Department of Customs for years. Is it reasonable, or will it appeal to the common sense of this country to believe that Mr. McMichael went up there, that he made an investigation, that he discovered that there had been an erroneous entry of this vessel, that she ought to have been entered at a higher figure and that he would say that no wrong had been committed if there had been wrong doing? We must conclude that he did not find any wrong-doing because the absence of fault-finding shows that everything was all right. Was it to be expected that he would say, for example: I find no fault. Everything is presumed to be right till the wrong-doing is discovered, and his report shows that there is nothing wrong. I do not know but we had better deal with these two men. Not the only legacy are the officers left us by the late government, and they are the men that we should move swiftly at this rate. If their character is so much assailed by hon. gentlemen opposite the government had better perhaps move in the matter because hon. gentlemen opposite appear to have discovered that they are bad men. They have discovered that Mr. Davis, their own chosen friend and brother, wilfully and deliberately commits frauds. If he commits fraud it is only for the purpose of making money. There must be some consideration. Nobody would enter a ship at \$10,000 when she ought to have been entered for \$25,000, and do it for nothing. He must have pocketed the money. There is no other conclusion to be arrived at, and Mr. McMichael must have received something for closing his mouth: men do not act fraudulently for nothing: they get something for it. Is that the position that hon.

gentlemen opposite are going to put Mr. Davis and Mr. McMichael in? Are they going to say that both these men are dishonest and fraudulent, and that they must have done this for a wrong purpose. I decline to believe that these Conservative officers, appointed by the Conservative government, have come to that low pitch. I conclude that when the inspector finds no wrong there is no wrong. As to the case of undervaluation I will make the statement that if you take a sea-captain that knows all about ships and who can tell you everything about a ship as easily as any hon. gentleman in this House can tell the letters of the alphabet, if he went out into the west and you asked his opinion as to the value of a herd of cattle, he would make as great a mistake as Mr. Davis would make in the valuing of a ship. I am perfectly well aware that men make mistakes, and I can understand how Mr. Davis would make this one, but to say that Mr. Davis, the chosen, bosom friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, who supported them right and left would commit a fraud of the difference between \$10,000 and \$25,000 for the sake of the duty collected is to make a statement that I cannot accept. The absence of any statement of wrong-doing in Mr. McMichael's report satisfies me that there is nothing wrong and that there is not much in the homeopathic dose which we have had from the hon. gentleman. I would be pleased to have them in this direction day after day. They are pleasant; they take up our time so amusingly that we ought to be satisfied. It reminds me of the foolish old farmer who thought he could fertilize 100 acres of land with a single barrel of manure.

Mr. WALLACE. I object to the manner in which the hon. member (Mr. Fraser) bandies around the name of government officials, and says that this man is dishonest and that man is dishonest, and that they were appointed by the Conservatives.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I said that the argument of the hon. gentlemen opposite went for anything, that these men were dishonest.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. member (Mr. Fraser) said that they were appointed by the Conservatives, but he did not take the trouble to inquire whether they were or not.

Mr. FOSTER. He is not responsible.

Mr. WALLACE. That is true. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) talks about valuation and he says that if a sailor went to the prairies to value a herd of cattle he could not do so, and therefore a cattle man might be excused for not valuing a ship properly. What had the collector of customs to do in making the valuation? When the owner enters the vessel he makes his own valuation on oath, and the collector accepts it. The whole discussion by the

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

Minister of Marine and the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser) was based on the idea that the collector of customs had made this valuation, whereas the collector of customs had nothing to do with making the valuation. There has been some attempt to cast a reflection on the chief inspector of customs Mr. McMichael. Well, I had a good deal of experience with Mr. McMichael for some years and I know there are few men in any department of the government service that are as capable and as conscientious and as careful as is Mr. McMichael.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He must be the very reverse if what your friends say is true.

Mr. WALLACE. If what is charged on that side of the House be true he is the very reverse. I think the government might be better occupied than in casting slurs upon their own officers and trying to get behind them.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. You are with them, are you?

Mr. WALLACE. With whom?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. With the men who are denouncing Mr. McMichael as a fraud.

Sir CHARLES HIBBEHT TUPPER. Who denounced McMichael as a fraud?

Mr. WALLACE. I say that the members of the government ought to be better employed than in casting slurs on Mr. McMichael and getting behind him for shelter when it suits their convenience to do so.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I might almost say that is not in order.

Mr. TALBOT. It's all right for the Grand Master of the Orange Order.

Mr. WALLACE. It is a post of honour which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Talbot) is not likely to occupy, no more than any other post of honour.

Mr. TALBOT. Do not be alarmed. I would not take it as a gift.

Mr. WALLACE. I said any post of honour. I do not think any one who knows him would select the member who is interrupting for any position of honour. The hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) said the collector of customs was not experienced. What has the collector of customs to do with the case? The owner and the solicitor were the parties who got the valuation through at \$10,000, and it may be that the collector was imposed upon into accepting the false affidavit of these men. Mr. McMichael then comes upon the scene and he is asked to make a valuation. Just as a painstaking business man would do, he takes steps to ascertain what the value is. He gives the dimensions, the tonnage,

the owners, and the valuation when the boat was given British register, and then he goes on to say ;

It appears to me, in this connection, that this entry has been erroneously appraised, and allowed entry at an erroneous valuation.

He said it was a 'allowed' entry. The entry is not made by the collector but by the owner. He says :

I examined the steamer and made careful inquiry and investigation respecting her.

It is asked why the inspector did not do this or that, but the inspector according to this statement did all he was condemned for not doing. Mr. McMichael says :

I learn that the hull of the steamer was rebuilt at Unalaska, Alaska, in 1898—

In face of this statement, we have the excuse made by the Minister of Customs and by the hon. member (Mr. Fraser), that this was an old hulk and that in such a case it was impossible to make anything like a correct valuation. Why the steamer was built just a year before and Mr. McMichael's report continues :

—that her engines were built by J. Reiss & Son, of Pittsburg, Pa., in 1894, and her boilers by Moran Bros., of Seattle, Wash., in 1897; that she was entered at customs at the port of Dawson as above stated for the purpose of obtaining Canadian register; and that she was registered at the port of Dawson as a British vessel on June 3, 1899, in the name of John Steinhoff, a British subject, as owner. After investigation and a careful examination of the hull and appurtenances and the boilers, engines and machinery. I made a fresh appraisement and valuation of the steamer on August 14, 1899, as follows:

Hull and appurtenances	\$20,000
Boilers, engines and machinery..	5,000

Total	\$25,000
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Mr. McMichael increased the valuation two and a half times what was made by the owner. The owner knew what it cost to rebuild the steamer at Unalaska the fall before, and the owner knew what the boilers cost in 1897, a year and a half before. The owner knew what the engines and the other machinery cost, and yet he made a solemn affidavit that the vessel was only worth \$10,000. This North American Transportation Company and these individuals connected with it, got Mr. Wade and he assisted them in getting this false entry through, and they tied up the hands of the collector. The worst I can say about the collector is that this man terrorized him, that Mr. Wade was dominating all the officials there, and was getting fat fees from all companies doing business with the government, so that he had to render a service to these companies, and the service he rendered to this company was, that by some improper influence he compelled the collector of customs to accept this as a proper valuation, by which the government was defrauded out of several thousand dollars.

Mr. WALLACE.

The duty that was paid was \$11,450; the duty exigible, on the valuation of Mr. McMichael would be \$4,875, a difference of \$3,425. These gentlemen say that there was a double duty imposed according to section 8 of the Customs Act; but I am afraid they had not before them the Customs Act which they were quoting so glibly.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Do you know it better than I?

Mr. WALLACE. I think I do, and that is not much of a compliment to myself either. Here is section 8, which says that on an under valuation of twenty per cent or more, a sum equal to the duty and one-half more shall be payable. The minister has been saying that on an under valuation of fifteen per cent or more a double duty shall be payable.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. What is that?

Mr. WALLACE. It is the Customs Act in the Revised Statutes of 1887.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It has been changed since then.

Mr. WALLACE. That is the only Act we have here. At any rate, the inspector of customs increased the valuation two and a half times what it was, and the owner of the vessel had the opportunity of refusing to accept that valuation; yet apparently he did not do so, but paid the double duty; so I am told by the minister.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Yes, but under protest.

Mr. WALLACE. What did he do with the protest?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. He paid the protest. After he had been fined under section eight by Mr. McMichael, he had to pay the full amount immediately. Then they paid the amount under protest. If they had not done so, the ship would have been seized. They do not admit now that Mr. McMichael's dealings towards them were fair?

Mr. WALLACE. Almost a year has elapsed since Mr. McMichael made that valuation. I ask the minister whether anything further has been done about that protest?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. There has been nothing done further. I think; at least, it has not reached Ottawa.

Mr. WALLACE. And I presume it will not. After investigating the boiler, the hull, the steam engine, and all the machinery, Mr. McMichael put down the valuation at \$25,000; and I am quite sure he would make a very conservative estimate. So that there was a fraud practised on the government to the amount of the duty on \$15,000. But the point I want to make is that the owner

of the vessel gave \$10,000 or some other very large sum—perhaps less than \$10,000, or may be more than \$10,000—to Mr. F. C. Wade as a retainer to him to engineer things through for him, and this was one of the things he engineered.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. That is not there.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. It is sworn to by Mr. Wade.

Mr. WALLACE. It was read out to-night.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Not that Mr. Wade had anything to do with the entry.

Mr. WALLACE. I am saying that Mr. Wade's client had to do with the company, and Mr. Wade got a retainer of \$10,000, or less or more, and he had to earn the money, or the man who gave him the retainer would be dissatisfied at the end of the year, and would want to give him a less amount.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. How could he earn the money?

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. By defrauding the revenue.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. How could he do that without the inspector being a party to it?

Mr. WALLACE. The minister gets behind the inspector and stays behind. He says that if the inspector thought there was a fraud, he should have suspended the collector. I ask the gentleman who is placed over the inspector, and who is responsible directly to us, to state what he thought about this matter?

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. I thought that Mr. McMichael had done what he thought was right. I have confidence in him; but I see that the hon. gentleman has not, and the gentlemen about him have not. He talks about my getting behind the inspector. I will not do that, for if I were led to believe that he defrauded the revenue, he would have to go; I would not be behind him or anybody else.

Mr. WALLACE. Evidently the minister cannot answer a question without misrepresenting. I have not said a word to-night to imply that the inspector of customs was guilty of any fraud. On the contrary, I have said that he is an officer who I believe does his duty honestly, conscientiously, intelligently and well.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. Why should not I be guided by his report, then?

Mr. MONTAGUE. His report shows that there was a fraud.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. It does not. If there had been fraud, it would have been his duty to have seized the vessel.

Mr. WALLACE.

Mr. WALLACE. I must insist on the minister paying a little more attention to the rules of order. He has to justify his own course, and it will not do for him to say: I have an officer there, and will get behind him, because he is a capable and honest man. The minister has a duty to perform as well as the inspector. The inspector says: My opinion is that the article, which was valued at \$10,000, should have been valued at \$25,000 at the very least. What does the hon. minister think of that? He will not tell us. Does he think that the man who made that entry should have got clear with the penalties inflicted under clause No. 8? There are other clauses which inflict higher penalty.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The department did not inflict the penalty. It was Mr. McMichael who inflicted it himself.

Mr. WALLACE. That is where the hon. minister makes his mistake. The minister inflicts the penalty.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. You are wrong.

Mr. WALLACE. The report is made to the minister by the inspector, and has to be signed and approved by the minister.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS. The hon. gentleman is wrong. Mr. McMichael went there with full power to deal with the case. If he considered it a case of deliberate fraud, his duty was to have seized the vessel; but from the fact that he did not seize it, but inflicted the penalties provided by section 8, he evidently did not consider it a case of fraud. Mr. McMichael imposed this penalty himself, without the consultation of the department, and the fine was paid before he left Dawson at all.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. minister has told us that half a dozen times already, and instead of adding to our information, is simply giving further proof of his cowardice in having no opinion of his own. He says that he sent the inspector out there with full powers. He cannot clothe the inspector with any powers which parliament does not confer on him, nor can he take away any power that parliament confers. The minister cannot escape his responsibility in that way. He knows that this money was paid under protest, and that everything came before him. The question is whether Mr. Wade, who was found closely connected with other frauds against the country, and his clients were to be punished, or whether the influence of Mr. Wade was so strong with the Minister of Customs, as it had been previously with the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of Marine, that these parties escaped with a punishment altogether incommensurate with their offence.

The House divided on the amendment (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper).

YEAS :

Messieurs

Bell (Addington),	LaRivière.
Bergeron,	McDougall,
Borden (Halifax),	Martin,
Broder,	Moore,
Casgrain,	Morin,
Clancy,	Prior,
Cochrane,	Roche,
Davin,	Taylor.
Foster,	Tupper (Sir Charles
Guillet,	Hibbert). and
Hodgins,	Wallace.—22.
Ingram,	

NAYS :

Messieurs :

Bazinet,	Hutchison,
Beith,	Johnston,
Blair,	Landerkin,
Borden (King's),	Lang,
Brodeur,	Laurier (Sir Wilfrid),
Calvert,	McGugan,
Campbell,	McHugh,
Champagne,	McIsaac,
Cowan,	McLellan (Prince),
Davies (Sir Louis),	McMillan,
Dechêne,	McMullen,
Domville,	Mulock,
Ethier,	Paterson,
Fielding,	Pettet,
Fisher,	Russell,
Fitzpatrick,	Rutherford,
Fortier,	Semple,
Fraser (Guysborough),	Stenson,
Frost,	Sutherland,
Godbout,	Talbot, and
Gould,	Tucker.—43.
Heyd,	

PAIRS :

Ministerial.

Fraser (Lambton),
Holmes,
Lavergne,
Bell (Prince),
Scriver,
Guité,
Belcourt,
Burnett,
Hurley,
Flint,
Parmelee,
McLennan (Inverness),
Casey,
Lewis,
Copp,
Dobell,
Wood,
Ellis,
Bostock,
Carroll,
Dyment,
Préfontaine,
Rogers,
Savard,
Sifton,
Tarte,
Pettet,
Joly de Lotbinière
(Sir Henri),
Edwards,
Proulx,
Davis,
Tolmie,
Snetsinger,

Opposition.

McIntosh,
Klock,
Robinson,
Earle,
Blanchard,
Tyrwhitt,
Gillies,
Wilson,
Kaulbach,
Mills,
Clarke,
Macdonald (P.E.I.)
Sproule,
McAllister,
Bell (Pictou),
Caron (Sir Adolphe),
McNeill,
Powell,
Osler,
McCleary,
McCormick,
Monk,
Kendry,
Marcotte,
Craig,
McInerney,
Henderson,
Haggart,

McLennan (Glengarry),
Quinn,
Hale,
Montague,
Reid,

Ministerial.

Christie,
Featherston,
Cartwright (Sir Rich'd),
Gibson,
Charlton,
MacPherson,
Britton,
Bruneau,
Mackie,
Fortin,
Somerville,
Macdonald (Huron),
McGregor,
Livingston,
Harwood,
Monet,
Angers,
Hutchison,
Maxwell,
Stubbs,

Opposition.

Reddick,
Carscallen,
Tupper (Sir Charles),
Corby,
Tisdale,
Rosamond,
Cargill,
Hughes,
Pope,
Seagram,
Maclean,
Seagram,
Kloepfer,
Robinson,
Beattie,
Chauvin,
Bennett,
Gilmour,
Ganong,
MacLaren,

Amendment (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) negatived.

Motion (Mr. Fielding) agreed to, and the House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Contingencies—Department of the Interior	
—Clerical and other assistance, including \$760 for J. D. Bollard and \$455 for T. W. Hodgins, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act	
	\$5,335
Printing and stationery	8,500
Sundries	7,000
	20,835

Mr. JAS. SUTHERLAND (North Oxford). Mr. J. D. Bollard was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the immigration branch of the Interior Department, and in the transference his salary was reduced from \$700, which amount he received in the Department of Agriculture, to \$500. As the maximum salary of a temporary clerk is \$600, in order to bring Mr. Bollard's salary up to the former amount received by him, his name was included in the vote of civil contingencies, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act. He has received one statutory increment of \$30 and another statutory increment is asked for this year, which will make his salary \$760. Mr. Bollard has passed the civil service examination.

Mr. FOSTER. What about Mr. Hodgins ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. T. W. Hodgins has been in the employ of the department for a number of years. He has not passed the civil service examination, and for that reason his name has been placed in this vote, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Civil Service Act. The usual statutory increase of \$30 is asked for.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). In what year was Mr. Hodgins appointed ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Many years ago, I do not know exactly when.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has he usually been paid in this way out of contingencies?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Every year for the last four years, at any rate.

Government of the North-west Territories—Insane patients \$50,000

Mr. DAVIN. This sum, though voted for the North-west Territories, is really paid to Manitoba, is it not?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, under the same regulations as formerly.

Mr. DAVIN. I think the time has come when the North-west Territories should be put in a position to deal with their own insane patients. Even from the point of view of economy, this should be done. We send, at great expense, insane patients from the North-west Territories to Manitoba. In the present stage of development of the North-west, I think this should be changed.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If it can be done in this way more economically than by establishing an asylum in the Territories, we had better continue it. Still, I agree with the hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) that, as a considerable amount of money is involved, the matter would be worth inquiring into.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Where are the patients sent to?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The asylum is at Brandon.

Mr. FOSTER. What do you pay for them?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. A dollar a day for each patient. Last year the amount paid was \$45,026.13. The average number of patients was 135.

Mr. DAVIS. I understand that it costs the Manitoba government only 54 cents a head to keep these insane patients.

Mr. BERGERON. They are quiet.

Mr. DAVIS. That does not make any difference. The Manitoba government gets a dollar for what only costs them fifty-four cents.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). A dollar a day seems a heavy rate, but if we attempted to run an asylum of our own in the North-west Territories, it is probable \$50,000 would not cover the maintenance. The present arrangement is better, if the price is reasonable.

Mr. FOSTER. The probability is that in the fifty-four cents a day, the cost of the establishment is not taken into consideration—merely maintenance and medical attendance.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). That is quite true—the cost of the building

Mr. MONTAGUE.

and the establishment is not included. This is simply the cost of maintenance.

Mr. MONTAGUE. May I ask the minister whether the insane patients are all provided for at public expense, or whether their friends pay for them when they are able?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My deputy informs me that the government pays for all of them.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the time has come when the public should be relieved of a part of that burden. In the province of Ontario, when the patient has property or his friends are able to pay for him, he is not a charge on the public.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). Practically he is. I have had some cases come to my notice, where the friends of patients had property and were well able to pay, but they declined to do so, and the state had to take care of the patient in the public interest.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister must be mistaken in the majority of cases. There is no question that people who are able to pay do have to pay for the maintenance of patients I know, because, I have examined a large number of patients who were sent to the asylum, and a regular form has to be gone through, and affidavits made, and evidence brought as to the ability to pay.

Mr. CLANCY. The Postmaster General is wrong. In the province of Ontario, there is case after case where the patients or their friends are liable if they are able to pay.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am aware of no law that will make the relatives pay for the maintenance of the patient. Whilst the law may reach the estate of a lunatic, to pay for his maintenance in the asylum, there is no law that I am aware of that can reach the estate of the friends of a lunatic.

Mr. DAVIN. In the Auditor General's Report, page H—26, I notice several cases where the North-west Mounted Police charge various sums for conducting insane patients to Brandon. I say it is not good economy to send insane patients such a long distance. After all, this is North-west money, and it ought to be spent in the North-west Territories. Now that the population is increasing so rapidly, the government should consider whether the time has not come to arrange for the care and maintenance of the insane at a central point in the Territories.

Grant for schools, clerical assistance, printing, &c., to be paid half-yearly in advance \$332,979

Mr. DAVIN. In regard to this item, I am not going to take up the time of the committee protesting against it as too small. At an early period of the session, I have expressed my opinion, that it is quite inadequate.

quate for the needs of the Territories, and I content myself now with simply uttering a protest against it.

Mr. BERGERON. How is that money expended ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is the usual grant made to the government of the North-west Territories. They expend it for various local purposes. This year, in consequence of the increasing population, and the increasing demands in that section, we have increased the grant by \$59,000. But the direct expenditure is in charge of the local government.

Mr. BERGERON. This item for clerical assistance, how is the division made ?

The PRIME MINISTER. This is a subsidy. We have nothing to do with that, no more than we have to do with the expenditure of the subsidies given to Quebec and Ontario.

Mr. BERGERON. No, this is a special subsidy. You pay Ontario and Quebec so much per head, but this is a different thing altogether. We are paying here public money for schools and clerical assistance, and we have a right to know how that money is spent, we want to know if it is spent in a just way, according to the different creeds and nationalities in that part of the country.

Mr. DAVIS. Did you ever hear any complaint in the North-west Territories about the way the money was spent on the schools ?

Mr. BERGERON. I am asking the minister for information. I want to know how this money is spent ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The department is furnished with a detailed report in regard to the expenditure. Before this estimate is asked for, reports are obtained from the officials of the department, showing what they expend this money for. There is an estimate of the expenditure the same as we would have ourselves, if we were to take a sum of money, showing the various services, for schools, public works, and so on. The amount proposed is very much less than the amount they would like to have. I think it has been brought down to the lowest possible amount commensurate with the requirements of the Territories, which are becoming greater in consequence of the increasing population. I think the department receive a very satisfactory statement always in regard to the expenditure.

Mr. BERGERON. What amount of money was asked for by the government of the North-west Territories ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The estimate that they gave was \$535,000.

Mr. BERGERON. And that has been cut down ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The amount is increased to \$50,000 over last year, although it is below what was asked.

Mr. BERGERON. They wanted \$500,000, and you are giving them \$332,000 ? Although this is \$50,000 more than the last year, it is over \$100,000 less than the amount they asked for. What particular service is it that will suffer on account of this reduction ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think it is probably cut off the Public Works Department.

Mr. BERGERON. But it is all for schools ?

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. minister know whether they supplement this grant to the schools by any vote from their own revenues. There is a certain amount of money given, and they ask for \$500,000. Is that \$500,000 the contribution from this government for schools ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. For all purposes.

Mr. FOSTER. What amount is asked for schools ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. They have a system of municipal government to some extent, and they levy a tax for school purposes in addition to this. Their estimate for schools is \$175,000.

Mr. FOSTER. That is, they give for schools out of their own revenues, \$175,000 ?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No, they ask us to give that.

Mr. DAVIS. They put into their estimates something over \$500,000, and they give the minister the items such as schools, public works, and so on. If the minister has that there will he be good enough to give the items ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The recapitulation of the detailed statement is as follows: Civil government, \$40,000; legislation, \$30,000; administration of civil justice and ordinances, \$15,000; public works, \$200,000; education, \$175,000; agriculture and statistics, \$50,000; hospitals, charities and public health, \$15,000; education of deaf mute children, \$10,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the amount for schools ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. \$175,000.

Mr. MONTAGUE. You are giving \$332,000.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No, that covers everything.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, it is wrongly put in the estimates.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It follows the wording of last year, but that word 'etc.' covers a multitude of sins.

Mr. FOSTER. What does that cover ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have just read the items. Civil government, legislation, administration of justice and ordinances, public works, education, agriculture and statistics, hospitals, charities and public health, and education of deaf mutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Are those all included in the \$332,000?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I would recommend the hon. minister to use a little more printer's ink, because it is important that the estimate should show, as nearly as possible, all the different services that it covers. Any one looking at that would think that it is almost entirely for schools.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Suppose we put in 'public works and other purposes.'

Mr. BERGERON. Why not put in all the words which are sent down in the statement of the Territorial government? The wording of this estimate is misleading.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved:

That after the word 'printing,' the following words be inserted: 'civil government, legislation, public works, &c.'

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BERGERON. When the government of the North-west Territories asked for \$500,000, they were supposed to be honest, and I would like to know on what basis the hon. gentleman struck off \$160,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I suppose that any of the provincial or territorial governments might be trusted to ask for a little more. While we have struck off this amount, we are giving them \$50,000 more than they ever had in any previous year. The mere fact that the Territorial government ask for a great deal more, I do not think is conclusive. They might be content to do with \$50,000 more than they ever got before, and to hope for something better in time to come.

Mr. BERGERON. Must it be accepted as granted that they always ask for more than they need?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I would not say more than they need. They might make use of it if we gave it to them.

Mr. DAVIN. Does not the hon. minister think that they are entitled to more than this? Has he gone into the real claims of the North-west Territories? Take the position of the Territories at this time, take their population, take the extent of the Territories that the local government have to deal with, take the area of the land that this government administer, and in regard to which a sum should be put into the estimates, take these things into consideration, and it seems to me that \$550,000 would be a very moderate sum to give them.

Mr. FOSTER.

The PRIME MINISTER. We are giving them \$500,000.

Mr. DAVIN. I say that for the purposes contemplated of this vote of \$332,000, \$550,000 would be nearer the mark. I do not suppose we have any right here to do what my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) would think of doing, namely, to go into the items, because they have practically responsible government now. I do not think we have the right here to inquire into the way that they spend their money.

Mr. BERGERON. Why not if we pay for it.

Mr. DAVIN. If we had the power here I certainly would be inclined to criticise a portion of this item. I find from a return that was brought down this last session at Regina, that there were 500 copies of the Public Accounts Report, ordered in 1898, from one Walter Scott, and the price per page was \$4.80; and there were 2,000 copies of the Public Works Report ordered for 1899 from the aforesaid Walter Scott, and the price per page was \$4.80 with an extra charge for tabular work and use of small type. The Minister of Finance is an expert on a question of that sort, and he will find the Public Works Report and the Public Accounts Report in the Library, and he will see that \$4.80 a page for one and \$4.85 a page for the other is an enormous and monstrous charge; a great deal more than double what any fair charge would be.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is that done by tender?

Mr. DAVIN. I do not know.

Mr. DAVIS. I think it was let by contract. They manage their own business there and you have no right to criticise their action.

Mr. DAVIN. If as some hon. gentlemen seem to think, we could criticise it, we might go into that; but I myself lean to the view that they are in precisely the same position in regard to this vote as the provinces. They have a ministry up there; they have a responsible government, and the government is responsible to the assembly. I do not think it is our part to criticise it.

Mr. FOSTER. It used to be that we administered the money and then we had a perfect right to criticise all the items. We administered it then and the accounts came back and the Auditor General did his duty with reference to them, but an arrangement was made by which we considered this as a subsidy. They have responsible government, they elect their own members, they have not a very flourishing treasury, but their own members and the needs of the country I should think would be a better check upon them that even anything we could do here at so great a distance. From that time on, this has been considered a subsidy and they have been going on spend-

ing it just as they pleased. They are responsible to their own representatives. You will see now in the Auditor General's Report that these items are not audited at all.

Mr. DAVIN. Since 1891 the Auditor General does not interfere with them.

Schools in unorganized districts—Clerical assistance \$2,000

Mr. FOSTER. There was the same vote of \$2,000 last year, and yet there seems to be an expenditure of \$4,276.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The Auditor General must be more lenient with them than with others.

Mr. MONTAGUE. While the minister is looking for that explanation, I should like to say to the Postmaster General, that I have still less confidence in his law after reading the Revised Statutes of Ontario.

The PRIME MINISTER. Let us not go back to that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I intend to do it, because the Postmaster General was not only dictatorial in regard to his statements, but I thought he was impertinent.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I did not intend either.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I suppose not, but the Postmaster General said there was no law by which a relative could be made to pay for an inmate of an asylum in the province of Ontario. He said he knew all about it. Section 220 of the Revised Statutes of Ontario says :

Where any lunatic sent to any asylum is under the age of twenty-one years, and has a father or mother able to pay for his maintenance, or a guardian or committee, it shall be the duty of the bursar and medical superintendent to send a copy of the certificate mentioned in sections 8 to 10 of the order of the lieutenant-governor (as the case may be), attested under their hands, to the father or mother, guardians or committee (as the case may be), of such lunatic, to which copy the said medical superintendent and bursar shall subscribe a certificate of the admission of such lunatic, and of the amount which will become due for him each quarter, the asylum, by the regulations of the asylum made in that behalf. (34 V., c. 18, s. 9.)

It shall be lawful for the bursar, conjointly with the medical superintendent, on the first day of each of the months of January, April, July and October, and during the time the lunatic remains in the asylum, to demand from the father or mother, guardian or committee (as the case may be) of the lunatic, such sum as may be due for the lunatic to the asylum, which sum shall be forthwith paid on such demand. (34 V., c. 18, s. 10.)

On the first of the said quarter days after the admission of the lunatic, such demand shall be for a sum proportionate to the broken period elapsed since the admission of the lunatic, and on the discharge of the lunatic a like demand shall be made for the sum due for the broken period since the then last quarter day. (34 V., c. 18, s. 11.)

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am very sorry that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) drew the inference from my observations that I was either dictatorial or impertinent. I intended nothing of the kind. The statute read by the hon. gentleman covers the case of a father or mother, and the reference to the guardian or committee is as to the estate of the lunatic himself. I made that exception. I spoke of a friend.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I instanced the case of a husband and wife and the hon. gentleman said 'No.'

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I took issue with the hon. gentleman as to friends being responsible. I still say there is no law to compel friends or relatives unless they are in a close relationship like a father or mother. The father or mother would be responsible for a child up to a certain age. However, that is not the case I alluded to at all.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to know about this over expenditure for schools in unorganized districts. There is a vote of \$2,000, which the minister says is expended by the lieutenant-governor. He has no business to spend more than is voted, but last year he did spend \$4,200.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There was a considerable balance at the credit of that fund.

Mr. FOSTER. There cannot be any fund, for our vote is only for one year, and if the money is not expended in that year it lapses.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am informed that it does not lapse in this case, and that they have had the money on hand.

Mr. FOSTER. It is expended under the supervision of the department here.

The PRIME MINISTER. I apprehend that it may be explained in this way. We put so much at their disposal every year, but they have their own estimates, and if they have a balance of one fund in one year, it does not revert to our hands, and in the following year they apply it in some other way.

Mr. DAVIN. I think my right hon. friend is under a misapprehension with regard to this vote. This vote is to the lieutenant-governor, who is responsible to this government for the way he spends it.

The PRIME MINISTER. I understand that my hon. friend is right, and I am wrong.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I have the same difficulty as the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). The deputy minister states that for some reason which is not

clear to me these votes do not lapse. I think the matter should be looked into, and I will look into it.

Grant to the North-west government to enable them to restore public works lately destroyed by floods \$92,000

Mr. DAVIN. I hope that we may consider this vote as a permanent one. I really do not think that there is any great need this year which did not exist in another year, and it would be unfortunate if this vote were regarded as exceptional and temporary. There can be no doubt that the Territories, instead of needing less money than is voted, need more.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the reason given for this vote?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The reason is, that owing to the severe floods of last year, various bridges and dams were carried away or seriously injured.

Mr. FOSTER. This is really an addition to their public works subvention, but for a special occasion?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. For a special occasion. I had a statement in which Mr. Haultain and Mr. Ross have given a list of all the works in detail.

Mr. BERGERON. Does this cover the whole amount passed by the local government?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The amount they have set forth in the schedule is \$92,700.

Mr. FOSTER. That is expended by the local government entirely?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the business for to-morrow?

The PRIME MINISTER. In the afternoon the Elections Act.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not see the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, but it is rather a scandal that that committee has not been called for a long time. I hope the First Minister will see that a meeting is called for Thursday.

Mr. DAVIN. The other night I protested against the long interval, because there are some things being inquired into there with which my name is connected, and I want them to be examined into.

The PRIME MINISTER. All right; I will see the chairman.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday).

Mr. FIELDING.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, June 5, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

JUDGES OF PROVINCIAL COURTS.

Order called for the introduction of a Bill intituled: 'Act to amend the Act respecting the judges of provincial courts.'

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Might I ask the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) when this Bill respecting judges of provincial courts is likely to be introduced?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). It is necessary to have another consultation with the Minister of Justice with reference to the terms of the Act which has been drafted, and I expect to-morrow to bring it down. It will contain a provision with reference to a chief justice of the North-west Territories, and one for the appointment of three additional judges in the district of Montreal.

THE QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL Mr. Fitzpatrick) moved for leave to introduce a Bill (No. 173) respecting the Quebec Harbour Commissioners. He said: The Bill is a very simple one, and is designed merely to meet a difficulty that arose as a result of the legislation of last session. The House will remember that by 61 Vic., chap. 48, it is provided that the Quebec Harbour Commissioners might borrow the sum of \$300,000 to make some necessary improvements in the harbour of Quebec. The statute provided that this amount should be a first charge on the revenue of the Quebec Harbour Commissioners, but by the legislation of last session provision was made for an additional sum to be borrowed, and this additional sum ranks with that borrowed the year previously. This is to restore to the original position the loan of \$300,000.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

PENITENTIARY ACT AMENDMENT.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL moved for leave to introduce a Bill (No. 174) to amend the Penitentiary Act. He said: The object is to amend the schedule respecting the penitentiary employees with respect to certain persons who were omitted from the schedule.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION—JUDICIAL INQUIRY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would like to be permitted to make a few suggestions to my right hon. friend in regard to the very important matter which he submitted to the House yesterday. In arriving at the conclusion that this commission should be appointed, he stated that we must have immediately a tribunal composed of the best judges of the land to make the fullest, most complete and most searching inquiry into all that we know, into all that has come to the attention of the House, and of the press and of the courts. That is a statement which has the entire concurrence of this side of the House, and I am sure my right hon. friend will be glad to receive any suggestions, in a matter of so much importance, in regard to some points that I conceive, having looked over the order in council, need to be considered in order to carry out that which my right hon. friend has promised to the House. The first question that arises is naturally the scope of the commission. That is a most important question, because unless the commission has sufficient scope to enable it to deal with this matter in the spirit in which my right hon. friend has declared his intention to proceed, I am afraid it might fail in accomplishing the object in view. This order in council is made under the provisions of chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, entitled 'An Act respecting inquiries concerning public matters.' The commission goes on to provide afterwards for an inquiry and investigation into :

Any alleged fraudulent alteration, defacing, marking, spoiling, substitution or tampering in respect of election ballots, or by reason of any fraudulent conduct in respect of poll books, ballot boxes, or the lawful contents, or what should have been the lawful contents of the ballot boxes, whether by way of fraudulent alteration, addition, withdrawal or otherwise, during and until the close of the election, and until the return to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Now, that is all very well so far as it goes, but I beg to suggest to my right hon. friend, that in order to give this commission the far-reaching character that is involved in his pledge to the House, it appears to me it would be necessary to add : 'And any fraudulent practices, persons or means connected therewith.' In order to have that complete and searching inquiry that is necessary, the terms of the commission would fall short of what the right hon. gentleman suggests ; to meet what has been indicated by the press of the country in regard to what is admitted to be a question so important as to necessitate a measure of the character now before the House, it would require that we should go a great deal further than to deal with a certain number of individuals who may be either local offi-

cial or parties in their employ, or, perhaps, who have acted in connection with them in pursuing these fraudulent practices. In order to reach and cure the evil we must be able to investigate the means that have been used in order to induce these parties to take such extreme measures in violation of the law of the land, and to discover any persons who may be associated with them for that purpose. I may say that the Act under which this order in council is passed does not seem to me to clothe the commissioners with the authority and powers that are absolutely necessary in order to make their work effective. I shall draw the attention of my right hon. friend to a very high authority on that question, and it is the authority of a gentleman who is recognized in this House as a very eminent authority in all questions of law. I refer to the Hon. Edward Blake. It will be found on the 208th page of *Hansard*, of February 3, 1876. When introducing the Bill in regard to corrupt practices at elections, Mr. Blake used the following language :

The Bill gives full powers for the calling of witnesses and for punishing those who do not attend, and contains also a very ample clause for indemnifying those witnesses who may have answered truly, in the opinion of the judges, all questions put to them on the subject of the election. I may say that the earlier Act of England contains a more limited clause, and it was found wise afterwards to extend it. The object one has in view in an inquiry of this description, where corrupt practices appear to have extensively prevailed, is to get at the proof, to search to the bottom, and ascertain how far corruption has prevailed in the constituency; and I think it is wise, under the circumstances, that a very liberal indemnity clause should be placed in the Bill.

We can see very clearly what the consequence of this may be. In the first place, it adds strength and vigour to his testimony, supposing he was guilty; in the second place, it proves the fact, morally at any rate, that he is guilty, and is consequently some argument in favour of a more extensive indemnity clause.

But whatever the argument may be, it is absolutely essential for this part of the investigation, that there should be a clause to indemnify witnesses who attend and give evidence, but not for witnesses who refuse to speak or who cannot claim a certificate of indemnity on other grounds.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that this language is most pertinent to the present occasion. I am instructed that there is no such clause in the Acts under which this commission is appointed. I have no doubt that the commissioners may undertake that no prosecution should be founded on the testimony of any person who had admitted his own complicity, but it requires, I think, to go further than that. It requires to go the full length that Mr. Blake went in regard to that question in order that the judges may be in a position to absolutely grant immunity from prosecution to a witness. Otherwise, while you do not prosecute him upon the testimony

of the witness himself, he may, in giving his evidence, be obliged to refer to the names of other parties, who can be used, and he can be put upon his trial. I think it does not require, addressing myself, as I am, to gentlemen of standing in the legal profession, any argument to show that this Bill, would, in my judgment, fall altogether short of realizing the far-reaching effects that my right hon. friend has committed himself to, if it did not in some way provide for that. I would, therefore, suggest that it would be necessary to introduce a short Bill that could be passed, I am sure, by common consent of the House, in a single day, that would provide that which, under the authority under which the commission would be acting, would be found to be required. Now, the order in council also refers to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery as a person who is called upon to produce certain ballot boxes and things of that kind, but there is no power, as I am advised, to compel the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to do that which he is required to do in order to prevent the acts of the commission being reduced to a nullity. I do not insinuate anything, nor have I the slightest personal reference to any person holding the office, but I do not think that in a matter of such importance as this, there should be any possibility of any person, whatever might be his position, being in a position to obstruct the work of the commission, and to a large extent, to defeat it.

There is another matter that I think only requires to be mentioned to satisfy my right hon. friend that in order to hope to obtain anything like a vigorous investigation of this most important question, it is absolutely necessary to provide for the payment of witnesses, and their maintenance during the time that the commission may require their services, probably at a considerable distance from their homes. It would be extremely difficult to carry on such an investigation unless provision of that kind were made. That same provision is made in the Corrupt Practices Act, and, therefore, it is establishing nothing that is not already a well known precedent. Then, I may say there is another point, and that is that the statute in the criminal law, which deals with witnesses, does not provide for the punishment of a person refusing to answer. Therefore, it would be necessary for the commissioners not only to have the power to bring witnesses before them, but that the commissioners have the absolute power to compel them to give their testimony, and not simply refuse, which would also, to a large extent, defeat the investigation. There is another matter that I think I may fairly suggest to my right hon. friend, as an act, not only of justice to both sides of the House, to both of the great parties in this country, but as a matter that will be absolutely necessary if this investigation is to be what my hon. friend assures us it is to be, a determina-

tion to have a most searching, thorough inquiry, and probing to the bottom of these practices, and it is that the commissioners should be expected, in the selection of the counsel that are provided for under the order in council, to communicate with my right hon. friend and myself as leader of the Liberal-Conservative party in this House. That is a suggestion that I do not think will be open to any question, because, this is not a party matter at all, and in order that all parties in this country may know that everything that can be done to deal with that which is now recognized as an admitted evil of the gravest and most important character, it is necessary, looking to its effect on the public mind, that there should be entire confidence that both parties have had an opportunity of bringing to the aid of the commissioners, everything that can be suggested in regard to it. I need not remind my hon. friend that no two counsel that could be engaged by the commissioners, could for a single moment, undertake to deal with a question of such gravity, of such far-reaching importance, and extending over such a large surface of the country, unless these two counsel were in a position to call to their aid such assistance as would be necessary to obtain the information and to go to the various points in the country, where it was necessary to investigate matters in such a way as to secure the absolute submission to the commissioners of all the evidence that could be brought forward, touching the important subject with which we are concerned.

There is another matter which makes it also important that we should have a short Act dealing with the scope of this commission and enlarging its powers; and that is the power to examine witnesses as to how they voted. My right hon. friend will remember that during the discussion on the motion of my hon. friend, the senior member for Halifax (Mr. Borden), it was stated to the House that a very serious question arose in the Privileges and Elections Committee as to whether they had the right to ask an elector how he had voted. I believe there are one or two decisions of the courts in Ontario that under the present law there is no power to ask the witness how he voted. In dealing with this question—not a question touching the seat of a member—but in dealing with this question of the prevalence of corrupt practices of a most formidable character, the Prime Minister will see the absolute necessity of giving the commissioners power to ask a man how he voted, because that is the very crux of the question, remembering what has already taken place in the West Huron election inquiry. These propositions which I make are so self-evident that I do not feel it necessary to enlarge upon them. I feel that I have merely to name them to suggest their importance, and I trust their prompt adoption by the right hon. gentle-

man. There is another important matter, and that is as to using the testimony already taken before the Privileges and Elections Committee. It will be remembered that in opposing the motion which led to the appointing of this commission, the Minister of Marine took the ground that some \$10,000 of public money had already been expended in obtaining testimony on oath before the Committee on Privileges and Elections. Now, the question of expenditure is very subordinate to the question of efficiently dealing with this matter, and I think it would save a great deal of trouble and in other ways be found useful, if the commissioners could avail of the sworn evidence already reported to this House by the committee. I especially can urge this upon the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and upon the Solicitor General, and upon the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Russell), because they have stated that in their judgment there was nothing in that testimony of very serious import to the parties who practically were on their trial. Under these circumstances, I hope there will be no objection to utilizing this testimony which would so greatly facilitate the work of the commission.

I have only one more point to add, and that is upon a matter not dealt with at all by the order in council. I suggest to the right hon. the Prime Minister the absolute necessity of dealing with the Brockville and West Huron elections. This commission has grown out of the excitement produced in the country by what has been proven to have taken place in these elections, and we cannot put out of sight the fact that evidence given in the local elections of Ontario has also thrown a flood of light upon this subject, showing how widespread was this particular form of corruption which strikes at the very foundation of what the Prime Minister very properly termed, the sacredness of the ballot. It is this which led the right hon. gentleman to the very sound conclusion, that the time had come when it was absolutely the duty of the government, the duty of parliament, the duty of every person, to take means to secure that electoral contests in Canada shall result in giving the independent verdict of the honest electorate. Every Canadian is bound to facilitate by all possible means the exposure and the prompt punishment of acts that contravene the sacredness of the ballot. I may say to my right hon. friend, that while I feel that as matters stand—this commission having grown out of the discussion of the motion of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) to refer the evidence taken last session, and to continue the investigation before a committee of this House—while I feel that my right hon. friend is warranted in saying that a still more satisfactory tribunal than that, would be a commission of independent judges to deal with the subject; yet I believe I am justified in pressing upon him that in the

present temperament of the public mind the evidence reported to this House should be available to the commissioners. I do not want my right hon. friend to suppose for a moment that any person on this side of the House shrinks from the fullest and most complete investigation, and the going back as far as in the judgment of the commissioners is necessary, to bring to the light of day wrong-doing on the part of any one. If it can be shown that any persons acting for the Liberal-Conservative party have lent themselves directly or indirectly to the perpetration of these frightful frauds upon the independent electors of Canada, I want to see them exposed. I speak in the name of the great party I have the honour to lead when I say, that the commissioners should go back as far as hon. gentlemen may wish, so that the fullest investigation may take place irrespective of who it may strike. On both sides of this House we have a common interest in this: every man in Canada who has regard for the purity of elections; every man who has regard for the character of Canada as a free country; all have a common interest in having this matter investigated in the most complete manner possible, and in having any persons who may have infringed on so vital a law of the land as that which deals with the independence of the electorate, brought to condign punishment whoever they be, and wherever they may be found.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, though I am not prepared to agree in every particular with the remarks which have been offered to the House by my hon. friend, I certainly have no fault to find with the manner and the tone in which he has offered them; and indeed, I may say, it affords me and the government some gratification to find that on the whole the personnel of the commission and the scope of the commission appointed to investigate these electoral frauds, seem to be satisfactory to himself and that side of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. As far as it goes.

The PRIME MINISTER. As far as it goes. The object of this commission, as the hon. gentleman has stated, is to probe to the bottom the electoral frauds which in a free country cannot be tolerated if we are to preserve what is after all the basis of parliamentary government, that is to say, an absolutely free electorate. I am glad to observe, from the remarks made by my hon. friend, that he thinks we have that object in view; but in his opinion this object would be better served if we were to amend the commission in a few particulars. My hon. friend suggested at the outset that the commission should be instructed to investigate fraudulent practices or means connected therewith. I may say that our purpose was to clothe the judges with the amplest powers

possible to reach the object which we all have in view. I will not say at this moment that my hon. friend is perhaps hypercritical. I will simply say that all his observations will be carefully reported to the Minister of Justice for his advice; for I am sure that my hon. friend does not expect me to be prepared at this moment to give an answer, yea or nay, to all his suggestions. All I can say at present is that his suggestions will be conveyed to the Minister of Justice who must be our guide in these matters, and who will determine whether they are acceptable or unacceptable. There are one or two points, however, raised by my hon. friend to which I would briefly refer. With regard to payment of witnesses, this is not a question that comes within the scope of the commission; but it is our intention to ask for an ample appropriation from parliament to meet all the expenses of the commission. There is one suggestion of my hon. friend which I doubt that it will be proper for the government to accept. He said he thought the judges should be instructed to communicate with himself and with myself as to the counsel who are to be appointed. For my part, I have some hesitation about agreeing to this suggestion. We have thought it best, in the framing of this commission, to make the instructions as wide and ample as possible, and not to restrict the eminent gentlemen who are to form the commission, nor to advise them as to how they should discharge their duties. We thought two counsel should be appointed to assist them in the investigation; but we thought it best not to give them any advice as to the particular gentlemen whom they should employ. We thought it preferable to leave that to themselves; and for my part, I may say to my hon. friend that it never entered my mind that I should in any way communicate with the commissioners and tell them that I hoped or desired that Mr. So-and-so would be employed. We thought it better—and I think my hon. friend on reflection will agree with us—that on this point we should trust to the judgment and discretion of the commission. They know the object for which this commission has been appointed. Apart from the instructions which have been given to them within the four corners of the commission, they know what has taken place in this parliament, and they know that the object not only of this parliament, on both sides, but of the country, is to ferret out the system which I am afraid has too long prevailed, and expose it, and make its recurrence absolutely impossible. Under these circumstances we have thought that if we were to offer any advice to the commissioners as to how they should discharge their duties, or as to the appointment of counsel or the registrar or any of the officials, we should perhaps, while desiring to serve a good object, rather detract from the confidence which on all hands ought to be

reposed in this commission. What I say with regard to the appointment of counsel applies also to the last suggestion of my hon. friend, that the commissioners should commence by inquiring into the Brockville and West Huron elections. I doubt whether I should accept that suggestion of my hon. friend. I think we should rather give free scope to the eminent gentlemen who have been selected for this commission, and leave them to approach their task absolutely unfettered with any suggestion whatever, and in the way they think best adapted to meet the justice of the case, and to serve the object for which they are appointed. I have only these observations to offer to my hon. friend at the present time. As to these points I do not know that we are prepared to agree to my hon. friend's suggestions. As to the others, I shall be only too happy to refer them to the Minister of Justice for his consideration, and at a future day I will give my hon. friend the answer.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER. I would suggest that the hon. leader of the opposition put himself in order by moving the adjournment of the House.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. After what the right hon. gentleman has said, I do not expect an immediate answer; but I think my hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Borden) merely desires to make a suggestion which I am sure the right hon. gentleman will be glad to hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I merely wished to make a suggestion, because the right hon. First Minister said that he was going to convey the suggestions of the leader of the opposition to the Minister of Justice, and I would like to have my suggestion brought to his attention at the same time. Chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes provides that no witness shall be compelled to answer any question by his answer to which he might render himself liable to a criminal prosecution. I suppose that has already been brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice; and, as the leader of the opposition points out, that is not a provision which would be very suitable to a government commission of this kind. It may be suggested that any difficulty with regard to that is removed by chapter 31 of 56 Vict., passed in 1893, the Canada Evidence Act. With regard to that, in the first place it is doubtful whether the words, 'criminal proceedings, civil proceedings and other matters respecting which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction,' would apply to a commission of this kind, because the words 'other matters' might be restricted by a well-known rule of construction to matters other than commissions of this kind. Further than that, this Act of 1893 does not contain any repealing clause

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

which would remove from chapter 114, the provision to which I have already directed attention; and it seems to me that in order to get rid of that provision, we should require in the Act of 1893 something which we do not find there. It is true, I do find this provision :

No person shall be excused from answering any question on the ground that the answer may tend to incriminate him.

It might very well be said that that would only apply to investigations not controlled by a special statute. The Act of 1893 does not go so far as the provision contained in section 9 of chapter 10 of the Act introduced by Mr. Blake. That goes further than the Act of 1893, because it provides that no prosecution shall be brought against a witness in respect of any matter as to which he has answered a question. The Act of 1893 does not go that far, because it merely provides that his answer shall not be used in evidence against him, but leaves him still open for prosecution. It would be very desirable that in a commission of this kind, we should have the provisions contained in Mr. Blake's Act, which are wider than those contained in the Act of 1893.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria, B.C.). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I would ask the hon. the Minister of Customs when I may expect the return with regard to applications for a new steamer, a revenue cutter, in British Columbia. The Minister of Marine brought down what was in his department and we are waiting for what is in the Customs Department. I would ask the right hon. leader of the government when we may expect the report on the labour troubles.

Mr. DAVIN. Might I mention that return about the tea.

The PRIME MINISTER. I will try and get it.

SALE OF CREAMERY PRODUCTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I wish to ask the hon. the Minister of Agriculture with regard to a matter of some importance, as to which I have some correspondence from the Kootenay district, British Columbia. The government have taken charge of a number of creameries in the North-west Territories, and their products were supposed to be sold to the general consuming public through various dealers. That was the system under the late government, but I am told that last year a change was made, in consequence of which the whole product is sold in the district to which I refer, to one firm, and I am told by my correspondent that that firm is making a much larger profit than the dealers think it ought to make. The dealers com-

plain that they applied to purchase the butter and were told on May 25, of this year, that they must apply to J. Y. Griffiths & Co., of Nelson, who, for the present, have the exclusive agency for the sale of this butter produced in the creameries under government supervision. They very properly object to that. They object to any combine supported by the government. They say they are willing to pay a fair ordinary price, but not an extravagant price for the purpose of enriching one special firm favoured by the government.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). I have heard something about the question the hon. gentleman has brought up, but was not aware of the facts he has stated. I will inquire of Professor Robertson as soon as he returns from England, which I expect will be this week.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And I suppose that if the hon minister finds one firm selected and others excluded, in short a combine, he will not permit that system to continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I will see that no injustice is done.

INQUIRIES FOR RETURNS.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. Might I ask when we may expect the return respecting Dominion Creek?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Some of the papers are in the Yukon, but one or two are here and will be brought down to-morrow.

ELECTION ACT—AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 133), to consolidate and amend the law relating to the election of members to the House of Commons. He said: The object is merely to consolidate the law as it exists. The only two new features were those applicable to the North-west Territories representation and also with reference to the qualification of certain voters, that is to say, persons belonging to the militia and North-west Mounted Police, and the intention is to eliminate from the Bill all those clauses which have reference to the North-west Territories representation. Further, it is my intention to drop that portion of paragraph 7, which has reference to the disqualification of men in the permanent force and in the North-west Mounted Police.

Mr. MONTAGUE. This is a good day to withdraw that clause.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is always a good time to do what is right. As a consequence of what I have just said, clauses 24, 27, 29, 33, 65 and 78 will require a slight amendment, and also schedule 3, providing for the repeal of the North-west Territories Representation Act.

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorncy). I congratulate the hon. gentleman upon withdrawing some sections of the Bill, especially that section which has reference more particularly to the disfranchisement of the members of the militia, those who are serving now in Africa and the North-west Mounted Police. I am sure, Sir, we are all interested in having a good election law; we are interested from a general standpoint in having elections carried on in as pure a manner as possible, but I take it that every man in this House is personally interested in securing an honest vote from the electorate of this country. It is, unhappily, well known that elections nowadays cost a good deal of money—as one of my hon. friends on the other side so aptly put it, elections are not made with prayers. The object of the several amendments of which I have given notice, and which are printed in the Votes and Proceedings of this day, have these results in view, to banish corruption as far as it can be banished, and to make elections as pure as they can be made. Now, I think that the Bill before the House is a step in the right direction; but it seems to me, on the other hand, there are some parts that could be improved or supplemented by provisions taken from the Imperial statute, and also, I may say, from a statute passed in the province of Quebec in 1895. I may explain that no man gave me more help in passing that Bill through the Quebec legislature than my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick). One good turn deserves another, we know; and, I think that, as I am on this side of the House as he was in 1895 in the local legislature, I can extend to him the right hand of fellowship and help him to make this Bill as perfect a Bill as possible. In a very few words, I may outline the general purpose of the amendments of which I have given notice, because I think it is only fair that the House should know exactly what my object is, and a few remarks from me will enable the House to come to a right understanding of what I suggest. First, I endeavour by certain amendments to preserve, as far as possible the sanctity of the ballot. We have heard a good deal of that recently, but I take it that the provisions of the Bill are not quite strict enough to preserve the sanctity of the ballot in the way it is understood. I propose to ask the House to amend the Bill so as to render it more difficult to forge, alter, or, as the parlance is now, to 'switch' ballots. There is another question also of deep interest to those who have seats in this House and who intend to go again before the electors, and that is the preservation of good order during the elections. There is nothing so conducive to immorality in elections as the use of intoxicating liquor during the time of an election. It is well known that, unfortunately, in some parts of the country,

and probably in most parts, intoxicating liquor plays an all-important or great part in procuring votes or in having men vote, not as their conscience dictates to them, but from other motives than those which should sway them. I propose stringent measures to prevent disorder and intoxication and illegal and immoderate use of liquor during election time, especially on the day previous to the election, and on the day of election. These provisions are taken from the Quebec Act, and I think in the last general elections in 1897 they worked out very fairly. Another point in which I propose to ask the House to amend the Bill is this: While there is no doubt that the man who bribes is guilty of a grievous offence and should be punished, I take it that the man who allows himself to be bribed and especially the man who wants to be bribed is guilty of a greater offence. For instance, the man who waits around until four o'clock in the afternoon, saying: I will not go to the polls unless I get something, should be punished more severely than the man who holds out a bribe. It is well known now that elections have grown so expensive that certain parties vote not because they think one party better than the other, but simply because they are holding themselves out to be bought like so many cattle. This has got to be an abuse—I may call it a crime—which calls for the strictest measures; and if we can put down this kind of thing, we shall not only make elections cheaper, but also banish from our electoral contests much of the corruption which unfortunately exists to-day. It is my object to so amend the law as to punish the man who accepts the bribe, not only the man who accepts money, but the man who accepts drinks, the man who accepts refreshments, the man who holds himself out to the candidate as a tempter, and without whom the candidate sometimes cannot get along. There are abuses in this way, of which, I have no doubt, many of my hon. friends are aware. For instance, on certain days, especially on nomination day and polling day, a great number of electors will hang around the place where the candidate is dining until they are invited to have part of the refreshments that are going. And, if one of these men does not get the invitation he is looking for, he goes away disgruntled, and in many cases, votes for the other candidate. It is this man I want to punish, as well as the man who holds out an inducement to another to vote against the dictates of his conscience.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. You want to punish a man for being thirsty?

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, on election day. He should have a good drink of water before he comes to the election.

Then, as to the matter of election expenses, the keeping of the accounts; I will explain the general purview of the amend-

ments I shall propose when we reach that part of the Bill. The manner in which the accounts are kept by the general agent of the candidates to-day is loose; the accounts are not kept in such a manner that any one inspecting them can see whether corruption has taken place or not. I intend to ask the House to adopt provisions which will cause the accounts to be so kept that any one at a glance can see how much was contributed towards the election and how much the expenses have been. Under these amendments, the agent of the candidate must not only keep a daily account of the moneys he expends in carrying on the organization and in running the election, but he also will be obliged to keep an account of all moneys which he receives for the purpose of the organization of the election; and no money can be expended in the constituency which has not passed through the hands of the general agent, who keeps an account of these moneys. On the other side of the book, he enters the moneys which he has expended; and therefore, it will be seen the agent has to show a clean bill, he has to show that the money he has received and the money he has expended balance each other; and if he cannot show that, he is obliged to explain the difference. It will be seen that this is an effective mode of checking the custom that has prevailed of contributing large sums of money to the election by persons who are not in a position to be able to contribute this money in an honest and straightforward way. It will be seen by this that any moneys that come into the hands of the candidate's agent and are expended in the election, must be accounted for, and persons inspecting the accounts can see where the money comes from, and how it is expended.

I take from the Imperial Act another provision. I propose to establish for each county the maximum expenditure which will be allowed by the law, and also to designate specifically in the Act those persons that can be legally employed in carrying on or organizing an election. For instance, I say that in certain polls so many messengers, or so many secretaries may be employed, so many carters may be employed, and those are the only persons who can be employed legally in the election. Anybody who is employed in any other capacity is illegally employed, and the employer is guilty of a corrupt practice, and the person who allows himself to be so employed is guilty of a corrupt practice also.

Then, again, the amount which can be legally expended in any one constituency is fixed by law, the salaries of those persons are to be determined. For unforeseen expenses a certain amount is allowed, but there is a maximum fixed for each constituency, and the expenditure of any sum over and above that maximum is by itself an illegal payment and a corrupt act, for which those who have taken any part in it

are liable to punishment. These are in a general way the outlines of the amendments which I shall ask my hon. and learned friend the Solicitor General to accept when we come to those provisions of the Bill.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). I am glad my hon. and learned friend has reduced my quantitative interest in this Bill, but, of course, I feel just as intense an interest in it as before. I understand that he does not intend in any way to interfere with the present election law in the North-west Territories. I congratulate him on his sober second thought in retiring from what was certainly a most untenable position, that of disfranchising the mounted police, of disfranchising the permanent corps, of disfranchising many of the very best citizens that we have.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). I have carefully read the Bill introduced by the Solicitor General, and I am prepared to congratulate him on having embraced many new ideas that were not in the old Act. The government have now adopted the several franchises in force in the various provinces as the basis of representation in this House; and I venture to think that the hon. gentleman will find a great many difficulties when he comes to consider the various franchises of the provinces, many more perhaps than he foresees at the present time. We know that the Franchise Act passed in 1898 is largely embodied in this Bill, and when this Bill is passed you are partially taking into it the Franchise Acts of the different provinces. There are in the neighbourhood of some 66 amendments to the old election law, and I am satisfied there will be three times that number of amendments proposed to this Bill before it becomes law. Now, with respect to some changes the hon. gentleman has made, I congratulate him on abandoning section 7 with respect to the North-west; also, for paying more attention than has been paid in the old Act with respect to those who have become criminals by committing frauds in elections. I am glad to notice a provision for the employment of resident officers instead of strangers, as could be done under the old Act. Then there is the important question of marking ballots. Many hon. gentlemen know by experience that not only red, black and blue lead pencils have been used, but pen and ink have been used in marking ballots. This has been the subject of a good deal of controversy in the courts, and I am glad to note that the hon. gentleman has accepted the suggestion that no ballot marked otherwise than with a black lead pencil shall be called a legal ballot.

Now, with respect to the opening of the polls, I propose to move an amendment which shall be a direction to the officials to open the polls at 9 o'clock in the morning. I find that the hon. gentleman has amended

the old Act in a slight degree, but not sufficiently to meet the present requirements. As to the limitation of the granting of certificates, we all know by experience, and it has been found by experience in Manitoba and other portions of the Dominion, that the issue of certificates to the scrutineers in the different polls has been abused, and I notice that the hon. gentleman proposes a remedy for that in his Bill. Then, again, there is one offence that I think has been overlooked by the hon. gentleman, and that is intimidation. There are only two means by which that can be avoided; one is to make the punishment more severe, and the other is to add a section to the Act as it now stands making a half holiday on every election day, so as to allow all persons to vote without being intimidated by their employers. I desire to draw attention to a difficulty that is found to exist under the present election law of Ontario and perhaps in other provinces. This Bill provides that returning officers have a right to divide a constituency into polling divisions. Take, for instance, East Toronto, which, at the last election, which was on the plebiscite, had 114 subdivisions, and in some of those subdivisions there were not more than three votes polled. I say that it is an unnecessary expense to the city. Take the east riding of Simcoe, we find there are 63 divisions, when in my judgment 50 would be ample. I complain of that because it is a source of expense to all the candidates. A returning officer receives \$30 for his services when there are not over 30 polling subdivisions, and \$2 for each additional polling subdivision above 30. Evidently you offer an inducement to the returning officer to create a large number of polling subdivisions. Now, what does that mean to every hon. gentleman in this House, and to every one who has been a candidate? In the constituency of East Toronto where there are 114 polling subdivisions, under the Franchise Act the charge for a copy of the voters' list in each polling subdivision is ten cents, which would mean to a candidate running in East Toronto \$11.40 for a voters' list. You will see that is a large cost for a man to pay for a special voters' list. In East Simcoe a candidate will have to pay \$6.30 for a voters' list. I say it is wrong to offer such an inducement to the returning officer. I think that in a large number of constituencies in the older sections of the country it would be better to pay a lump sum to the returning officer, thereby tending to reduce the number of polling subdivisions, and consequently the cost to the candidates, and to the public who have to pay for the additional officers and polling booths. I do not know what induced the hon. gentleman to change the form of the ballot. My idea always was that it was the duty of parliament, in framing legislation, especially of an election character, to try and frame that legislation in order to prevent fraud. To my mind this ballot which has

been used in the last election or two, is the best ballot we have ever had. I say that for this reason: No fraud can be committed by the use of that ballot if the instructions are properly carried out, because the marking of the ballot is confined strictly to the disc. But, the hon. gentleman has abandoned that ballot, and has gone back to the old form of ballot. Any one who understands or knows anything of the way in which elections have been conducted in the past, will know perfectly well that with this ballot a man who wishes to conduct a dishonest election, will have a large scope to do so. Take that ballot as we have it in the Bill here; you have a space between these two black spaces where the ballot must be marked, in order to be a good ballot, while under the system of the disc ballot, it must be marked in the disc to be a legal ballot. Instead of opening the door wider, by adopting this ballot that is proposed in the Bill, we should confine ourselves to the disc ballot, and make the directions more explicit, showing the form of the ballot and where it is to be marked. As far as I am concerned, I am prepared to do all in my power to oppose going back to the old style of ballot. These are some of the things in the Bill, but there are some things that the hon. gentleman has not seen his way clear to incorporate in it. Proper directions should be given as to the form of the ballot, and provision should be made by the hon. gentleman as to the character of the parcels, how they are to be sealed, and instructions to that effect should be given. Next, provision should be made for the proper return of the ballot boxes. We all know perfectly well that days elapse sometimes without any reason whatever, during which officers, appointed by the government, neglect to return their ballot boxes. The hon. gentleman should have recognized that point and placed something in the Bill that would have done away with this delay. The next point I would speak of, is in regard to withdrawal of candidates. In municipal elections, there is no difficulty about a municipal candidate withdrawing after the lapse of a certain period, from the nomination. I do not see why a candidate for parliamentary honours should be allowed to remain in the field from nomination day, to four o'clock on polling day, and then be permitted to hand in his resignation. A man who is nominated, ought, within a certain length of time to withdraw, if he intends to do so; if not, he should go to the poll. The next subject that I wish to mention is the \$200 deposit. I am opposed to that. The province of Ontario does not require it, and I do not see that any suffering has resulted therefrom. I also object to the provision which requires a \$100 deposit for a recount. I see no use of it. Then, I submit in reference to the statement of deputy returning officers, that more attention should be paid to that, so that candi-

dates and their friends would be able to secure a correct statement of the poll. In respect to the form of ballot, I am sorry that what I suggest has not been adopted, and I trust that these provisions that I have mentioned will find their way into the election law before this Bill is passed.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). Mr. Speaker, in February of the present year, I introduced a Bill to amend the Elections Act, but seeing that the hon. Solicitor General has now introduced a general Bill, I propose to move several amendments when we are in Committee of the Whole, such as are embodied in my Bill. There are two or three very important ones, to which very great attention has been given. One is the abolition of the \$200 deposit, which is something that is very generally asked for throughout the country, and the hon. Solicitor General should be able to advance very good grounds for desiring to retain it. Another important amendment which I suggest is that in electoral divisions containing or being part of a city of 10,000 people and more, the poll should be open until eight o'clock, as it is found absolutely impossible to poll the vote of a city up to five o'clock in the day. I do not agree with the last speaker (Mr. Ingram), that the old disc ballot should have been retained, or that it was a good ballot in any way. But, at the same time, this ballot, which is proposed, still retains one of the very plain objections to the old ballot, and that was that it was distinct on the back of the ballot as on the face of the ballot, the reason for that being that the ballot has a black background. Take the present ballot; you will see that the disc on the front shows clearly on the other side, and that it is plain to see. With the black background of this ballot, it will be just the same, as hon. gentlemen can see here, if they will turn over to the opposite page. On page 60, I see that the city of Winnipeg has still a special note under this proposed Bill, providing for the extra payment of clerks and deputy returning officers. I think that would be worthy of an explanation before we get through with the Bill, because the government refused to pay this extra allowance at the last election.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to take up much of the time of the House just now. I want to express my great satisfaction at the modification which the hon. and learned Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick), has announced, in regard to a proposal which was made at the most inopportune period that could be selected, that the government do not propose doing anything that would seem to interfere with the rights and privileges enjoyed by the mounted police, the permanent force, or any person connected with the militia service of the country. I want simply, in reference to what fell from my

hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain), to express my great satisfaction that he has taken hold of what I regard as a most important matter connected with the election law. The House knows how strongly I was opposed to the very radical and vital change that was made in reference to the franchise of this parliament, resulting in abolishing the franchise of this parliament, and handing all its members over to the tender mercies of the local legislatures of the different provinces. It was a most retrograde step in my opinion; it was a step entirely unjustified on any ground whatever. It was perfectly possible, I am sure, to find some mode of conducting elections without much more cost than really will be incurred under the present system. You may say, it is true, that under the policy of the present government, we have transferred some of the expenditure to the local legislatures and the municipalities, but I doubt very much if we had the right to do that. At all events, it has been attended with very great inconvenience that we had no election law at all. We had the important city of Winnipeg absolutely unrepresented for a whole year, because there was no election law under which an election could be held in Manitoba. That is a matter of the most serious import, but it would naturally accrue out of an attempt to break down the independent franchise of the members of the House of Commons of Canada. Sir, I regard this Canadian parliament as second only to the greatest deliberative assembly in the world, and to break down the franchise under which our members are elected, and to relegate it to the various provinces with all kinds and varieties and shades and colours of franchises, making it a complete mosaic instead of a uniform electoral law, I have no hesitation in regarding that as a retrograde step. It is objectionable, not only because it deprived this House of one of its highest functions, but it has also the very grave objection that gentlemen will sit side by side in this Chamber each elected upon a totally different system of franchise. Hon. gentlemen opposite pledged themselves that they were going to hand over the franchise to the various provinces and to commit the election of members to the Canadian House of Commons to the unrestricted legislation of the different provinces, but they were not able to keep that pledge. They soon found out that the very matters with reference to which they condemned the Conservative party for acting in a partisan manner, they were themselves obliged to adopt. Why, Sir, they enfranchised persons who are disfranchised under the law of the various provinces, and they disfranchised persons who are enfranchised under these laws. They made a mosaic work of the whole thing, and they left themselves dependent upon the action of local officers over whom we have no control. As a fact, there were no means provided in the law by which we

could absolutely compel the local officials to discharge the duties which this legislation imposed upon them. We were thus exposed to the monstrous absurdity of not being able to hold an election in the province of Manitoba for a whole year. On more than one occasion when the government of the day were inclined to take a plunge and appeal to the electorate, they found they had no law under which they could do so, and that if they attempted it they would make confusion worse confounded. It is too late, I suppose, to make an appeal to gentlemen opposite to reconsider this policy, but it is, perhaps, well to point out the unwisdom of the course they adopted, and to suggest to them that the sooner this House of Commons of Canada is in a position to have an independent franchise of its own, the better it will be for the credit and the character of this country. In view of all that has come to light recently, in view of the reports which have flooded the press of the country, the prominent feature of this Franchise Bill ought to be a provision for the purpose of taking every means to secure the purity and independence of elections. In my judgment, offences which formerly were punished with a fine should be made punishable by severe imprisonment without the option of a fine. I say that those who violate and bring into contempt the election law of the land, and who undertake to steal elections from the honest electors, should be in the penitentiary instead of being free men. I hope that by the common consent of the members of this House, before the Bill leaves the Chamber it will be so amended as to inflict most condign punishment upon any man who undertakes to indulge in these fraudulent and frightful malpractices which have so disgraced this country, and have made the fair name of Canada almost a by-word with regard to elections. I trust that the Bill will be amended by common consent that it will be made impossible for any man to be bribed to stoop so low as to commit an outrage on the freedom of our honest electors. I trust that the free men of Canada will be able in the future to feel that it is worth their while to exert themselves in the interests of their country, without the fear that when the poll is closed the election may be stolen from the candidate of the people's choice, and that the man who is the patron—or, if not the patron, the person to be benefited by the acts of a band of ruffians—may be returned to this House. I trust that every stringent provision possible will be adopted to prevent the repetition of these malpractices which have become so common and notorious as to compel the Prime Minister to declare that nothing short of the immediate appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate and prevent these things, if possible, should be sanctioned by this parliament. It will be more convenient to dis-

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

cuss these matters in committee, but I wished before you left the Chair, Mr. Speaker, to say that which I believe is the sentiment predominating in the mind of every man of independent character—and I hope that includes every gentleman on both sides of this House—viz., that full and complete effect shall be given to the will of the people, and that no measure, however severe, will be left untried to bring about that result.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I should like to ask the Solicitor General if he has any reason for changing the present ballot paper. In my experience in elections, this ballot was an improvement on the last, and, on the whole, gave satisfaction. I do not see any improvement, far from it, in the ballot which appears as the model ballot in this Bill. I am afraid the hon. gentleman is restoring the objections which we found in the ballot which was used before the disc was introduced.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. leader of the opposition appears to have not quite understood that we are now dealing with the Election Act and not the Franchise Act. The Franchise Act, as we now have it, by which we adopt the provincial franchise in federal elections, is merely a return to the condition of things that existed from confederation down to 1885. The change made in 1898 is not to my mind responsible for such a condition of things as the hon. gentleman states exists in Winnipeg. There is no reason why, under the Franchise Act as we have it, any electoral division in Canada should be unrepresented for one year. Section 9 of the Franchise Act provides for the very difficulty pointed out by the hon. gentleman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will the hon. gentleman explain, then, why the government which he represents so ably as a law officer of the Crown, should have left the constituency of Winnipeg unrepresented for a year?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As I understand it, the reason the Winnipeg election was delayed was that it would take two or three months to prepare the lists, whereas, as a provincial election was then impending we would have the benefit of the provincial lists as prepared for the provincial election. Under the federal Franchise Act which we had before, the hon. gentleman knows that elections have been held on lists four years old. Surely that condition of things was not to be tolerated or continued if any change for the better could possibly be invented. The hon. leader of the opposition is very keen about the necessity of providing machinery to prevent corruption in elections. In my judgment, an election Act is one that should appeal very strongly to every member of the House of Commons, because it is a matter that

affects every member. Every member should approach such a question with an open mind in order to improve the Act and make it as well adapted as possible to bring about that which we all desire; and I for one approach the consideration of this question with an absolutely free mind and a genuine desire to obtain what assistance I can from any hon. gentleman on either side of the House who has had experience in these matters. It is rather to be regretted that it has been left to this year 1900, to make these changes in the direction of greater severity for offences in elections. It is within the knowledge of all of us that offences in elections are no new affair, but have existed for many years; and this is the first time, within my knowledge, that a serious and honest attempt has been made to provide means to protect the public in such matters. It is a remarkable thing that this attempt should be left till this year 1900 and to this government.

Mr. INGRAM. There have been some new methods since 1896.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If we examine the comments which have been made on elections held in 1896, we find a remarkable family resemblance to those made upon the elections of that year. If you could apply to the Brockville and West Huron elections all that has been suggested by hon. gentlemen opposite, you would find that they are not isolated cases by any means in this Dominion. Dealing with what my hon. friend from Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) said, I shall be very glad to consider all his proposals; but I would suggest that the amendments he desires to make be taken up as each section to which they relate comes up for consideration. Some of his amendments may be adopted, but others I consider unworkable. When the hon. gentleman proposed his Bill in the Quebec legislature, he got more sympathy for it from where I sat on the opposite side than he got from those in his own immediate vicinity. I hope that the co-operation which I gave him on that occasion will bear fruit at the present time, and that I shall have the benefit of his wide experience; because he established a reputation in the province of Quebec as one who desired to improve the Franchise Act and who knew how to go about it. He does not forget, I hope, that some of the amendments he suggests were in his mind at the time the Quebec Election Act was under consideration, and that although in his mind they did not get to the House; and perhaps he will explain why his colleagues were not so anxious to adopt those amendments for the purpose of purifying the elections.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I do not know what amendments my hon. friend refers to. The amendments of which I have given notice come from the Bill passed in 1895.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not all of them.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There is not one of them that does not come from that Bill.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will point out some that come from the Imperial Act, especially that limiting the amount to be expended in an election. That does not come from the Quebec Act.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, it does; it comes from the schedule of the Act.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will accept my hon. friend's correction. With regard to the form of the ballot, that is one of the questions which I think ought to be considered. I am not at all wedded to the form which appears in the schedule. My intention is to produce a great number of forms of ballot which have been suggested to us, and have them placed on the Table here, so that we may consider them in committee and determine which form will best meet the object we all have in view. I have in my mind a form of ballot which will prevent the substitution of ballots. I would like to draw the attention of those in favour of the existing form to the results of the last election. I have taken twenty-two electoral districts in the province of Ontario, in probably the most intelligent portion of Ontario, and what is the result?

Mr. BERGERON. Name the counties.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They begin with Addington and end with Wentworth. As the result, we had in those twenty-five constituencies 3,057 spoiled ballots.

Mr. INGRAM. That is where I find fault with the directions, as given in the old Act, for the guidance of voters in voting. While the mark 'X' is put up in that form 'M.' what I maintain is that the form of the ballot should also be included in the form, so that when the elector came to the poll to vote he would see the proper way to mark the ballot.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will have occasion to consider the improvement of the ballots, because I consider it is very essential that we should first improve the ballot so as to make it almost impossible for an elector to destroy his vote by ignorance. The second thing we should have in view is the prevention of any interference with the ballot that may prevent the voter giving expression to his intention with reference to an election. The total rejected ballots in these twenty-five constituencies in 1887 was 586; in 1899, it was 555; and, curious to say, in 1896, it grew to 3,057, or an increase of 500 per cent. Whether that result was due to the form of the ballot or any other cause, I am unable to say.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It was probably due to the fact that the ballot was then new, whilst in 1887 and 1891, the ballots were the same as those that had been in use for some time. We can discuss that, however, more at length in committee.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I give the statistics to show that the ballot was not perfect by any means since it led to such results.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I do not consider it perfect, but better than the one proposed in this measure.

Mr. C. E. KAULBACH (Lunenburg). I consider this, Mr. Speaker, an opportune time, whilst this Election Bill is being submitted to the House for a second reading, to bring up the subject of the penalties that should be inflicted on election officers who have wilfully violated their duties at elections. I agree with what the hon. leader of the opposition has said with respect to the punishments that should be inflicted. In the last local election in the county I represent, the sheriff was the returning officer, and, as was alleged, was guilty of such conduct in his position as returning officer as to make him an object of reproach by nearly every elector in that county, irrespective of party. I brought it to the notice of this House, on the first opportunity that offered, together with the facts connected with that election, of certain corrupt practices that had been perpetuated. The two candidates were the late mayor of the town and a cabinet minister in the local government. At the close of the poll, it was found that the cabinet minister had been defeated by seventeen votes, but the cry went forth in every quarter that the party supporting the cabinet minister did not care a damn what might happen, as the cabinet minister was bound to be returned anyhow. It became evident to the friends of the late mayor, Captain Wolfe, that a recount would be demanded; and so it was, and in that recount the ballots were so manipulated that instead of a majority of seventeen in favour of Captain Wolfe, the majority was turned the other way. I brought the matter to the notice of this House, and showed the iniquity that was alleged to have been committed by the sheriff, acting as returning officer, and asked for an investigation. I was advised that I had better allow the elections in other counties, in which frauds were committed, to be investigated first. However, I brought the matter to the notice of this government, and contended that it was the duty of this government to investigate it, and if it were found that this sheriff was not worthy of the position he occupied, he should be removed from office at once. All my representations and demands, however, fell unheeded, and this same man is still in office, who is capable of doing almost anything, provided he can see some hole through which he may escape conviction. He will,

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

no doubt, be the returning officer at the next election, and, no doubt, will submit the candidate to whom he is opposed to similar treatment.

I appeal to the government not to reappoint that sheriff as returning officer without first having the charges referred to against him fully investigated. I look upon the conduct of the sheriff as worse than robbery. To deprive a man of his franchise is bad enough, but to rob the electorate of the county and the elected candidate of his right to a county seat is still a worse act, and one that should be met with swift condign punishment. I earnestly solicit the government to investigate the matter. I might give to the House charges which have been brought against this man previously, but, no doubt, I would be ruled out of order in doing so; but, I feel that the government have been remiss in their duty in not bringing this party to justice when they knew the charges that had been brought against him, not only by me in this Chamber, but also some years ago in the Senate by a member of that body. I now repeat my request that the government should not appoint this man again returning officer, but should see that his conduct is investigated first before giving him any further position of trust.

Mr. FLINT. I would like to ask my hon. friend if the protest was not withdrawn, and why it was?

Mr. KAULBACH. There was a protest, but the position in which I was placed—or the party was placed—in connection with that protest, was one that does not reflect a great deal of credit upon the government now in power. I think the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) is aware of the fact; and if he will explain the facts to the House I think they will see very clearly that he had better not have asked that question.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Perhaps, the most of the members of the House would like to know as much about it as the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach), and the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint). I have not the good fortune to know anything about the facts of the case, but I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) is dealing with something that occurred in regard to a recount in a local election. Now, the province of Nova Scotia is one of the most civilized portions of the Dominion, and if any officer engaged in a local election has misbehaved, there is ample machinery in the courts of the country to deal with him; and, if there should be any lack in the local machinery, we have a local government and a local legislature that will deal with the matter. I cannot see what object the hon. gentleman has in dragging in a question of local politics here. If he has a difficulty with the sheriff of the county, I have no doubt that he can find a way to settle that difficulty without asking us to intervene. I

have no doubt that the local government, the local legislature and the courts of Nova Scotia will afford all the remedy that is necessary.

Mr. KAULBACH. I cannot endorse the views of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) as to the certainty that the local government will adjust these matters.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, spoken.

Mr. B. M. BRITTON (Kingston). Perhaps the House will indulge me for a moment, as, perhaps, I may not be here when we are in committee and dealing with section 90 and subsequent sections—

Mr. MONTAGUE. I hope the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Britton) has no intention of shutting off the hon. member for Yarmouth (Mr. Flint) from making his explanation.

Mr. BRITTON. I thought the discussion on that point was out of order, and so I wanted to bring the House back to the Bill under discussion.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If my hon. friend (Mr. Britton) will allow me to make an observation on the question of order, I would just say that the hon. member for Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach) brought to the attention of this government what is notoriously true—the disgraceful conduct of the sheriff of Lunenburg—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has spoken, and I protest against his using—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The hon. member (Mr. Kaulbach) brought up that subject, and he has a right to do it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He has not.

Mr. SPEAKER. I cannot admit that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Kaulbach) has the right to do that.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, I will explain my point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I want to explain this point of order. What was the ground on which my hon. friend from Lunenburg (Mr. Kaulbach) had the right to draw the attention of this government to the conduct of the sheriff of Lunenburg? It is that the sheriff is the person appointed by this government as returning officer, and will be in a position to commit the same frightful frauds in a Dominion election. Nobody knows that better than the hon. Minister of Finance.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) has not stat-

ed his point of order, and I deny his right to be heard.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think there is any ground for impugning here the conduct of a sheriff in a provincial election and bringing in issues of that kind in this House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I do not think, however, Mr. Speaker, that that was the point of order the Minister of Finance raised.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I objected to the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) making another speech, that is all.

Mr. WALLACE. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) made a speech in the middle of the hon. member for Lunenburg's (Mr. Kaulbach's) speech.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He had sat down.

Mr. KAULBACH. By way of explanation—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. KAULBACH. I wish to explain. I say I had the right to bring this matter to the notice of the government—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. KAULBACH. Because the sheriff of Lunenburg—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, chair, sit down.

Mr. BRITTON. The question was discussed a little while ago of the abnormal number of rejected ballots which appeared in the election of 1896. The question came up in my own election, because on the return of the poll, though Kingston is not a large constituency—the total number of votes being only in the neighborhood of 3,200 in the last election, if I recollect aright—it appeared that there were 215 rejected ballots and 23 (if I remember well) spoiled ballots. That naturally suggested the query why it was, that in an intelligent constituency like Kingston and with a comparatively small number of voters, there should be such a large number of rejected ballots; and the natural thing to do in order to discover if possible what was wrong, was to have a recount. I wish to say now, that the deputy returning officers in that city were all, so far as I know, local men, and I have not the slightest suspicion of any of them. Nor have I any suspicion in regard to the scrutineers. They were all men known to myself, and I am quite sure that those appointed by the opposite party only wanted to do what was fair and right, as did the scrutineers on our side. We were not up to the tricks that were alleged to have been perpetrated in other places; so far as I know, we knew nothing of that kind of thing in Kingston. But the question arose

how there came to be 215 rejected ballots, and we felt that a recount would have tended to explain it. This brings me to the point—I wish to point out a defect in the section referring to a recount. As the law is now, and as it is proposed by the Solicitor General in the Bill before the House—

Mr. MONTAGUE. I understand the hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) to say that there were 215 rejected ballots in Kingston. For whom were they marked?

Mr. BRITTON. I do not know; there was no recount.

Mr. WALLACE. What was the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Britton's) majority?

Mr. BRITTON. One hundred and fifty-two.

Mr. WALLACE. Then, we may have the wrong man in the House.

Mr. BRITTON. That is so; and you may have a man in the House returned as only having 152 majority when he had 252 or more. It will be remembered that I or the Liberal party had nothing to say about the appointment of the returning officer or the deputy returning officers.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I thought the hon. gentleman (Mr. Britton) said there was a recount.

Mr. BRITTON. No. I was going on to say that there was a defect in the law in regard to recount. I think the law should be, and I think it is in fact that any candidate has the right to have a recount even if he is returned.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It is only in the local where there is any restriction as to recount.

Mr. BRITTON. If the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) will allow me to make my explanation, he will see the point that I am trying to make. While a recount is open to any candidate, it is contemplated under the law that the only candidate who will apply for a recount is the defeated candidate. As a preliminary to a recount, the candidate who applies for it must deposit \$100. At the conclusion of the recount, if the result has not been altered—I do not mean the result as to majority, but if the same person who has been declared elected by the returning officer, is declared elected on the recount by the judge—the person applying for the recount, even though he may be the successful candidate has to pay all the costs. That is objectionable.

Mr. MONTAGUE. He would rather pay it than have the result changed.

Mr. BRITTON. Yes, but a candidate might wish to ascertain, as in our case, what was the cause of there being so many rejected ballots. But the successful candidate was not in a position to look after these ballots or to find out anything about them, unless he was prepared to sacrifice

Mr. BRITTON.

the cost of a recount. In many cases the successful candidate has no object in having a recount unless it is to increase his majority or to gratify his curiosity to see why certain ballots were rejected. But now under section 90 he cannot ascertain that unless he is prepared to pay \$100, and not only that, but the costs of his own side as well as the opposition side.

Mr. N. CLARKE WALLACE (West York). I am glad to find that the Solicitor General and the government have come down from the position they took in this Bill wherein they say that the following persons shall be disqualified and incompetent to vote at any Dominion election:

Officers and men under the Militia Act in the permanent force, officers and men of the North-west Mounted Police.

The Solicitor General and the government have once more sounded public opinion. But this is no doubt what the government desired to have done. It embodies their idea of what kind of legislation we should have, and what persons should be disfranchised. And who do they put alongside of them?

Persons disfranchised for corrupt practices, persons disfranchised for taking bribes under section 15.

And so on. I do not think it is necessary to use any argument why officers and men of the permanent force, and officers and men of the North-west Mounted Police should be permitted to vote, because the government are now going to remove the disabilities which they had decided to place upon those men. I hope they will go further in the same direction, and will make such a provision as was suggested in the early part of the session, to enable those who are in South Africa to have their names recorded on the voters' list. I would suggest that the names who are already on the list be continued there notwithstanding their absence. Besides, a good many have become of age within the last six or eight months, many of those who have gone to South Africa, and they should be accorded an opportunity of having their names placed on the list. I would, therefore, call the attention of the Solicitor General to the desirability of making such a provision. A little while ago the Solicitor General, in answering the leader of the opposition, said that this was an Election Act and not a Franchise Act. Well, if it is not a Franchise Act, why does he disfranchise men in it? Would he explain that to the House? He proposed, as I have said, to disfranchise all the men in the permanent corps, and all the men in the North-west Mounted Police. I think that would constitute this a disfranchising Bill. Now, I wish to say with regard to this Bill, and with regard to the previous legislation on the same subject, that it is undoubtedly a

retrograde step. It is going backwards in the conduct of elections, and giving control over our franchise to the local legislatures. As has been pointed out in this House, and will be pointed out again, the proposition that a man may have half a dozen votes in one province, and only one in another province, and that for the same parliament, looks so incongruous, so unfair, and so unjust, that we have only to mention it to secure its condemnation by the electorate. Take the last election that was held two or three years ago, that on the plebiscite. In the province of Quebec a voter could vote in half a dozen different constituencies, whereas in the province of Ontario he had only the right to vote once. That is a practical point showing the injustice of the Act. But it is unjust all the way through. We are abdicating some of the important functions that the Confederation Act confers upon us, and we are handing them over to the local legislatures on the plea of economy, or some other plea. It cannot be on any plea of justice or fair-play, because I think that the members of the parliament of Canada are the best qualified to say what the franchise should be for this House, they are the only parties who can make that franchise a uniform one, or as near uniform as possible. It may be said that the last Franchise Act was not uniform. It is true that it was not exactly uniform, but it embodied the principle of uniformity, and where it deviated from that principle, it was because of some practical difficulty. But in this Act there is a deviation in every province, not because of any practical difficulty, but on the pretended plea of economy. You may say that it will work all right while the present government is in power, and while the local legislatures are in sympathy with the present government, and that the Dominion and local legislatures will work hand in glove together. But, Sir, that may not always be the case; in fact the indications just now surrounding us on all sides point to an early change, when not only the Dominion government, but the local government will altogether go Conservative. It looks so much like it on all hands, that I say we have to face that eventually, and in that case the evil that I am now predicting would not be so likely to occur, because the Conservative party, recognizing, as they do, the necessity for a Dominion franchise, would find it to be fair and equitable that they should again adopt a Dominion franchise and have future elections held under some other Act. Difficulties are cropping up; they have had to make amendments to this Act which we will refer to as we proceed, showing the impracticability of the working of the law as laid down by the government of the day. I have no faith that they will do so, but, if they consulted the best interests of the country, if they

consulted the interests of the parliament of Canada, they would go back to the old franchise, to the laws that we had enacted which were not perfect in the working out, but which, if the proposal made by the hon. leader of the opposition had been adopted, would have been made most effective and useful legislation, and would have given us a truer index of the will of the electors of the country than could be obtained by any other legislation.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). Mr. Chairman, I just desire to say a word or two in reply to my hon. friend (Mr. Wallace). I certainly think that the proposed change particularly in the province of Ontario, to one man one vote, is a most desirable one. We know perfectly well that in the suburbs of Toronto, during the last two or three Dominion elections, there has been any number of faggot votes polled for candidates whose constituencies include those suburbs. I do not wonder that my hon. friend should advocate very strongly the continuation of the Act that contributed very materially to his election in West York by permitting of a dual vote. I dare say that he fears a return to the one man one vote principle. The hon. gentleman complains that under the new law electors in Quebec will not be confined to one vote, while in the province of Ontario they will only have one vote and he cites the case of the plebiscite. If there is any case in which an injustice might have been done it might have happened in connection with the plebiscite, but in connection with a general election it cannot happen for the simple reason that the people of Quebec elect a certain number of representatives fixed by statute. They cannot elect any more and they are not required to elect any less. The people of Quebec know best themselves what franchise to adopt for the election of members of this House. I would like to know what difference it makes to the people of Ontario under what system or method the people of Quebec elect the sixty-five representatives that they send here. We elect in Ontario some ninety members, and the people of Ontario have a right to adopt their own franchise. It is a matter of no concern if we elect a certain specified number of members as to how we elect the number that we send here. As far as that is concerned it makes no difference to Quebec. In the republic to the south of us, where they have 70,000,000 people, each state appoints its own franchise, and it is under that franchise that the president is elected. The United States do not make a franchise of their own.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But they have manhood suffrage.

Mr. McMULLEN. Of course, they have manhood suffrage, but they have their

state methods by which the registration is carried out. I look upon it as a desirable thing that we should go back to the system of the provincial franchise. I contend that municipal councils and the men elected by the popular vote of the municipality are in a better position to complete the list of voters of the municipality than a judge or a revising barrister. When hon. gentlemen opposite brought in their election Bill in 1884 they proposed to have revising barristers; they would not even take the judges of the land. My hon. friend characterized it as being absurd and tyrannical when it was proposed to disfranchise the mounted police. Perhaps it was from their standpoint, but when they introduced their franchise Bill they proposed to ignore the judges altogether. They would not take a judge to be a revising barrister; the government would hold it in their own power to say who that revising barrister should be. We fought that, and eventually shamed hon. gentlemen opposite out of it. After three days and three nights' discussion of that point they agreed to come down and appoint judges as revising barristers where they were willing to act, and that a revising barrister should not be appointed except in cases where the judge refused to act or where there was no judge to act. I do not think there is any ground at all for the complaint that the hon. member for West York has made, and I heartily congratulate the government upon the introduction of this Bill. I do not think that there is, at this moment, on the statute-books of Canada, an Act that requires amendment in the direction of purifying our election law more than the Election Act, and I hope now, since we have entered upon the duty of putting through the House a law to cover the irregularities that have taken place under the application of the old Act, we will unite in trying to remove all the objectionable features of the old law, and that we will put the law in such a shape that every man who is returned to the House will be returned by an honest ballot of the electorate without corruption or fraud in so far as it is possible to protect the people against corruption and fraud.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). I want to ask the attention of the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) for one moment to a point in the dealing with which he will perhaps find some difficulty, but, which, if not remedied, will work a good deal of hardship under the local franchise law. The object of the franchise in the province of Ontario is to give every citizen, not specially disqualified, a voice at the polls, but in the working out of the Act, that is not done. The hon. gentleman knows that when the voter goes to the poll the test oath may be put to him as to his

residence, and if he is not resident in the constituency where his name is upon the list and where he seeks to vote, he cannot take the oath and consequently cannot vote. What I would suggest to the hon. Solicitor General is that he would look into the question as to whether he cannot produce some clause which will enable a man either to vote in the constituency where he is upon the lists and from which he has removed, or permit him to transfer his franchise to the constituency to which he has removed. I have an instance in the section of the country from which the hon. the Speaker and myself come. A gentleman owning 200 acres of land in my riding was placed upon the local voters' list. He purchased another 200 acres of land in South Wentworth, still holding the 200 acres of land in my constituency. His name was on the list in the constituency of Haldimand and not upon the list, and he has no means of getting it upon the list of the constituency of South Wentworth. When he came to the constituency of Haldimand, to vote in the local elections, he was, of course, unable to take the oath as to residence, and he was refused the right to vote. That surely is not the intention of the Act. The intention is to give every man the right to speak once at the polls as regards public affairs, but to refuse him the right to speak more than once. The instance I have given is only an example of thousands of instances which might be referred to in the province at large. I was proceeding to say that I recognize there is some difficulty in dealing with the point, but, nevertheless, the government will see that it is a point which ought to be dealt with if possible. There is no reason why any man, and especially a man with large property interests, who happens to remove from the riding in which he was placed on the list, should be refused the right to express his opinion on public affairs at the polls. Yet, under the Act as at present operating in Ontario, he might be owner of half the county for which he was then on the list, and if he removed to another county before the election, he has no right to exercise his vote at all. That is a thing which will disfranchise a number of high-class electors, because they are usually high-class men who own property in one riding and then buy property in another riding. I am sure the Solicitor General does not want to disfranchise these men.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the effect under the provincial Act?

Mr. MONTAGUE. Yes, and you are adopting the provincial Act.

Motion agreed to; Bill read the second time, and House resolved itself into committee thereon.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. T. CHASE CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Before we consider the Bill, I would ask the Solicitor General if he does not think it advisable, that while he is amending the Election Act he should also amend the Controverted Elections Act, because, however severe the provisions of the electoral law may be, if it is possible to pair one controverted election with another, or to 'saw-off' as is generally said, I think the provisions of the electoral law will be nullified. The difficulty that was found in the province of Quebec in carrying out the law that was passed there—and the provisions of which are contained in the amendments I propose to the House—the difficulty was found in the fact that we have no public prosecutor as they have in England. In England the public prosecutor attends all election trials, and ex-officio he takes up the prosecution of any of the offences against the election law. I would suggest, first: That the Controverted Elections Act be amended, and second, if it be found possible, to have such an officer as in England is designated the public prosecutor. Under the Act of 1895, in the province of Quebec, amending the Controverted Elections Act, no petitioner can discontinue an election protest without taking the following oath:

I (description of the petitioner or one of the petitioners), being duly sworn, depose and say:

That in discontinuing the election petition (or the proceeding, as the case may be)—(describe the petition by the names of the parties, the number and date)—I do not act in collusion with the defendant, or with any other person for him or in his interest; nor on account of any undertaking or agreement, express or implied, with the respondent, or with any person representing or acting for him or in his interest; nor on account of any promise, agreement or undertaking, express or implied, by reason whereof I have received, or shall or may receive, any gift, sum of money, reward, profit or advantage whatever; nor on account of any agreement or understanding, express or implied, by reason whereof any election petition that is now pending, or which is to be taken, or any judicial proceeding whatever now pending or to be taken, will be discontinued, abandoned or suspended;

That the only reason for my discontinuing the said petition (or proceeding) is that, after having personally made all possible efforts, I was unable to find and procure proof of the facts alleged in the said petition (or proceeding), and that the efforts that I made to find and procure the said proof are the following: (describe here in detail all steps taken and the means employed);

That, in discontinuing the said petition (or proceeding), I do not act in any way to favour the respondent, but solely in the interests of justice and truth.

No election petition, or proceeding in an election petition, could be discontinued without the following oath being taken:

No election petition or essential proceeding therein, which, being dismissed, would cause the petition to fail, shall be dismissed by the court

or judge, nor taken under advisement, unless the petitioner or petitioners have produced, before the hearing, an affidavit in the following terms:

I (description of the petitioner or one of the petitioners), being duly sworn, depose and say:

That in the prosecution, conduct and trial of the present election petition (or proceeding, as the case may be), I made all diligence in my power to discover and adduce evidence of the corrupt practices alleged in the petition and in the bill of particulars; that I have not acted and do not act in collusion with the respondent, or with any person on his behalf, or in his interest, to shield him from the penalties against him by law enacted, or to favour him in any way whatever, or to maintain his election; that I have taken no part in and have no knowledge of any agreement or understanding, express or implied, by reason whereof the present petition (or proceeding) should be withdrawn, abandoned or dismissed for want of proof or otherwise; that I exerted all my efforts to have the respondent condemned and his election set aside, and that, in the prosecution, conduct and trial of the said petition (or proceeding), I acted in good faith, without fraud or collusion, and in the sole interests of justice and truth.

No petition can be dismissed or discontinued by the judge without that affidavit appearing in the record. Moreover, if an election was controverted the member who was elected, or supposed to be elected, could not take his seat in the assembly without subscribing to and filing with the clerk of the House, the following affidavit, which was immediately transmitted to the court before which the election petition was pending:

I swear that, in the organization, conduct and holding of the election, by which I became a member of the legislative assembly of Quebec, I did not knowingly commit any corrupt practice prohibited by the Quebec Election Act, 1895, nor given my consent to the commission of any such practice by any of my agents or by any person whomsoever, in my behalf, nor personally participate in any such practice; that I have done nothing to delay the trial or hearing of the election petition now pending against me; that I have not entered upon, commenced or concluded any agreement or bargain, express or implied, by reason whereof the said election petition should be abandoned, suspended or settled in any way whatever, and that the trial and hearing of the said petition follow the ordinary course of law.

If it was afterwards found, upon the oath of two persons, that this candidate or member elected had committed any of the offences enumerated in the election law, he was disqualified for five years. I do not say that these are the best provisions that can be made to prevent the sawing-off of election protests, but, it seems to me, that in order to put this Act of the Solicitor General into proper shape for operating it, some provisions should be made on the lines I have indicated.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). My hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) will realize that it is not possible to prepare an amendment to the Controverted Elec-

tions Act until such time as we have this Act in reference to elections passed. The amendment of the Controverted Elections Act will depend, to a large extent, upon the amendments of the Elections Act, which we are now called upon to consider. Dealing with the Act which my hon. friend from Montmorency introduced into the Quebec legislature, I may say that the last general election was held under the election law, which contains very stringent provisions against bribery and other corrupt practices, and yet it is not within my knowledge that any elections were voided; so that in the province of Quebec either the elections have been carried on in such a manner as to be free from reproach, or the stringent provisions of my hon. friend's Bill had not much effect.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I am convinced that there was less corruption in the general elections of 1897 than there has been for a long time. I may give an instance. In my own county, all I spent during the whole time the election lasted, including cab hire, &c., was \$24. I can only say that there was a vast difference between that sum and the sums I had to spend in other counties on other occasions.

Mr. INGRAM. The law should be amended in some way to prevent a combination of men meeting at a central point and entering protests promiscuously against different candidates, for the purpose of trading off, or making a speculation. I think the law should provide that the only person who could enter a protest, would be the defeated candidate.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That would be to provide against an impossible condition of things.

On section 6,

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). What is the reason there is a separate provision with respect to a member of a provincial legislature who is disqualified, which does not appear to apply to others? I imagine there is some good reason, because this provision is contained in the present Act, but it does not occur to me off-hand, why there should be such a distinction.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It does not occur to me either.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The reason of the section will be seen in the last words of it. The question arose, I think, in connection with the election for Queen's County, P.E.I., some years ago, and I think the clause was inserted in consequence of that. The sheriff made a double return of Mr. Macdonald and Dr. Robertson. The one who had received the highest number of votes was a member of the local

legislature. The sheriff did not know whether he was disqualified or not, and he returned both, and this House passed upon the question. The idea of this is to enable the returning officer to ignore the votes polled for a man who was a member of the local legislature, and to return the other man, although he received a minority vote. Otherwise the question might come up whether there should not be a new election altogether.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There would be some danger in this. For instance, suppose a man had been guilty of some corrupt practice and had received the largest number of votes, it would then rest with the returning officer to decide sometimes a question of law as to whether this was one of the corrupt practices which the law provided for, whilst in the case of a member of the legislative assembly there could be no doubt as to his being a member of such assembly. The returning officer would have nothing to decide, but would simply take a record of the facts, and proclaim the minority candidate elected. But, if he had to decide that in a certain case the majority candidate had been guilty of corrupt practices, he would be acting in a judicial capacity. That is, no doubt, the reason for the distinction.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not see why a person disqualified by sections 9 and 10, by reasons of his holding certain offices of emolument, should be in a different position from a man who is a member of the provincial legislature. A sheriff may have personal knowledge of the fact that one of the candidates is a member of the provincial legislature, but he might equally have the same knowledge with respect to some of the matters contained in subsection b, and we should be consistent. If we are going to permit a sheriff to make a finding of the fact that a candidate is a member of the provincial legislature, surely he ought to be able to make a finding of the fact that the candidate holds a public office. The one is as publicly known as the other.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). The criticism of the hon. member for Montmorency is very strong. The holding of an office of emolument under the Crown by a candidate, or his being interested in a contract given by the Crown, would be a matter sometimes difficult to decide. But, being a member of the provincial legislature is such a notorious fact that the sheriff might well be permitted to take judicial notice of it. Everybody knows if a man is a member of the local legislature, but everybody cannot say whether he is holding an office of emolument under the Crown or not.

It being six o'clock, the committee took recess.

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

AFTER RECESS.

(The House resumed in Committee.)

On clause 6,

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). It seems to me that clause 6 is scarcely as definite as it ought to be, inasmuch as it leaves great doubt as to who shall determine whether a candidate is a member of the local legislature or not. It says :

If a member of a provincial legislature, notwithstanding his disqualification, as in the next preceding section mentioned, receives the majority of votes at an election, such majority of votes shall be thrown away, and the returning officer shall return the person having the next greatest number of votes, provided he is otherwise eligible.

I can conceive that a returning officer would be at a loss to know whether a member of the local legislature had resigned or not. Hon. members will recall a case that occurred in the province of Ontario. Mr. Conmee, who was a member of the local legislature, handed his resignation to his solicitor, when he prepared to contest a riding for this parliament in 1896. His solicitor, instead of handing his resignation to the Speaker of the legislature, retained it until after the elections were over, and then returned it to Mr. Conmee, who was defeated in the contest for a seat in this House. Now, had Mr. Conmee been elected, his resignation would have found its way into the hands of the Speaker of the legislature, and he would have been held to have resigned as a member of the legislature, and would, no doubt, have been declared elected to this House. It seems to me the section should be so arranged that there would be no possible doubt as to whether a man had resigned his seat in the legislature or not, in fact that some evidence should be produced to the returning officer at the time of nomination, by any candidate who holds a seat in the local legislature, to show conclusively that he has resigned that seat. I hope the Solicitor General will so frame the law as to make it impossible for such a case as that I have referred to to arise again. I do not claim to be able to suggest the necessary words, but it seems to me that it ought to be possible to amend the clause, for instance, so as to make it necessary for a candidate who is a member of the local legislature to place in the hands of the returning officer a certificate from the Speaker, that he has resigned his seat in that House.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot conceive of any form of clause that would serve the purpose better than the one we have. The fact that a member of the local legislature has been declared elected by the returning officer, does not finally settle the question, it can still be disposed of by the courts.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If a deputy minister, collector of customs, or other well known officer, who is disqualified, were to become a candidate, and receive the majority of votes, it would still be necessary for the returning officer to return him, but it would be possible to unseat him by an election petition. It seems strange that in case of a member of the provincial legislature, the returning officer should be authorized to adjudicate on the question of fact. I think it would be better not to give this power to the returning officer.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think we could overcome the difficulty, by amending the first clause of section 6, so as to read :

If a person declared ineligible by paragraph (a) or (b) of the next preceding section or a member of the local legislature is returned as a member, his election and return shall be null and void.

—and then take out the second paragraph of this clause. Because, if you allow the second paragraph to remain as it is, the same difficulty may present itself. For instance, how is the returning officer to judge whether or not the resignation of a member of the provincial parliament has been made according to law? Some returning officers have sufficient knowledge to enable them to judge of the validity of a resignation, but others have not. I believe that in all the provinces, it is required, as it is by our Act, that a resignation should be signed and sealed. Perhaps the seal may not be affixed. But you leave the returning officer to judge of that matter, which, properly, comes within the purview of the courts of law.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). Under the amendment, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) suggests, the same difficulty would arise—for the returning officer must return somebody.

Mr. CASGRAIN. He would return the man having the highest number of votes.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). But if there was only the first part of the section, he would return a man who was disqualified. It seems simply a choice of evils.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There is an inconvenience either way. But what we are striving to do, is to get the best clause, and the one under which the least difficulty would arise. You would leave it to the courts then to decide whether the resignation is really a valid resignation, as in the case of a man who is disqualified under subsections *a* and *b*.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). You would have to go to the court in the same way if the return is made, so there must be some way for making a return. It would amount

to the same thing if, under the first, you had to go to the court and find out if the second was not here in the return.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would ask my hon. friends to consider, in connection with this clause, section 2 of chapter 13 of the Revised Statutes of Canada. This clause is new in the Election Act. It has been taken from section 2, chapter 13, that we have had for many years. Section 2 reads :

If any member of a provincial legislature, notwithstanding his disqualification, as in the next preceding section hereof mentioned, receives a majority of votes at any such election, such majority of votes shall be thrown away, and the returning officer shall return the person having the next greatest number of votes, provided he is otherwise eligible.

This is simply adopting the law that we have had for the last twenty years ; therefore, I feel some reluctance to make an amendment off-hand without carefully considering the reasons for it. I prefer myself to stand in the ancient ways as far as possible, unless some good reason is pointed out for a change. Persons who are disqualified under subsections *b* and *c*, if they are returned, their election shall be null and void.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). In 1887 we had an instance of that in the North-west Territories where a person who was ineligible, ran. Suppose he had been elected, somebody would have been put to the trouble of taking steps to unseat him, that is, if the returning officer had declared him elected. He was a member of the legislature.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In that case the law says the returning officer could not have declared him elected, he would have had to declare the other candidate elected.

Mr. W. H. BENNETT (East Simcoe). I think the difficulty might be got over by adding to section 4, this clause :

The nomination of any person who at such time is a member of any provincial legislature, shall not be received until the party so offering himself shall have filed with the returning officer a certificate from the Speaker of the local legislature that he has resigned his seat.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That would lead up to the difficulty that occurred in the Baird case, that is to say, the returning officer would be required to pass upon the validity of the resignation.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Further than that, you would be interfering with the mode of resignation in a provincial legislature. It would be better to leave as little as possible to the returning officer except as to questions of fact.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will let that clause stand.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).

On section 9,

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think if some of my amendments are adopted this section will have to be amended. I propose to ask the House to amend the Bill in this way : That if temporary works are commenced during an election with the intent to get those who are working to vote for a certain candidate, they shall be deprived of their vote. If my amendment passes, this section will have to be amended so as to include these persons also. We do not yet know the number of the clause.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As I am allowing other sections to stand, I see no reason why this should not stand.

Mr. HENDERSON. Is it the intention that persons disfranchised for taking bribes or for bribing in the local elections, should be disqualified from voting in Dominion elections ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have not in my mind at the present time any provision which would be applicable to such a case as my hon. friend refers to.

On section 11,

Mr. CASGRAIN. Does not my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) think that it would be well, as far as possible, to appoint as returning officers men who occupy official positions ? I think there is more security in it. In the Act in Quebec we provided that registrars, sheriffs, prothonotaries and clerks of courts should be appointed returning officers. It seems to me that the public would have more security if public officers were appointed returning officers instead of having anybody that the government may choose to appoint. Of course, a public officer has a reputation at stake, and also his office, and therefore he is less liable to commit any frauds, or misfeasance of office, or any other act which is derogatory to himself personally, or in contravention of the law. This is merely a suggestion. I am not prepared to say that it should be adopted, because I am aware that in many parts of Canada it would be difficult to find, in all the constituencies, such men to act. I would suggest that as far as possible these persons should be selected. I think it has worked well in the election of members to the local legislature. I might say that the clause did not come up in the original Bill, but I accepted an amendment from the opposition at the time.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I appreciate what my hon. friend (Mr. Casgrain) says, but I would like to draw attention to the fact that we are now dealing with this amended Act on the assumption that we are going to adopt, as much as possible, the old law, and the old law provides for the issue of the writ to the persons mentioned here. It says the writ is to be addressed to such

person as the Governor in Council may select.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Of course, as we are consolidating the law, it seems to me that if we find something in the law which existed in the old law and which we did not consider to be absolutely correct we could amend it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I quite agree.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There is no prescription which will bind us to accept the old law.

Mr. J. G. RUTHERFORD (Macdonald). I quite agree with the remarks of the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) as to the necessity of having reliable men to act as returning officers. Of course, in some parts of Canada, it would be difficult to find, in every constituency, an official such as he mentions, but there is one amendment I would like to see introduced into this law regarding returning officers. I would like to see some provision in the Act whereby returning officers would be compelled to give bonds for the payment of deputy returning officers and others. I am sure there is hardly a member of this House who has not suffered an endless amount of inconvenience and trouble owing to the failure of returning officers to properly make these payments. I think it is nothing short of a disgrace that a public officer, acting under the Crown, as a returning officer does in elections, should act as many of them do. Not all; I do not mean for a moment to say that there are not many returning officers who act in an honourable and creditable way. But there are numerous instances of returning officers who have failed to pay their accounts, and who have brought the Crown and the government into disrepute, besides causing an immense amount of annoyance. I am in earnest about this matter and I would ask the government to make some provision whereby returning officers could be compelled to act decently and honestly towards those that they employ.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). I would also suggest, in the matter of deputy returning officers, that the various municipal clerks ought to be, by virtue of their positions, deputy returning officers.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). I would suggest that what has been said by the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) as to the appointing of returning officers should be carefully considered. I know, during the past ten years, where men were appointed who could not pay a dollar, and who squandered the money supplied to them by the government before the election was over. In local elections in Nova Scotia we always appoint sheriffs, and everybody has confidence in them. But, in place of these officers, during the last two elections, any person has been appointed. In my county a

man was appointed against whom six judgments were obtained at the instance of the Crown, and who had been in jail six months previously for fraud. He was appointed to hold the election in my district. I had obtained a judgment against him, and he wrote me a letter beforehand in which he boldly made the statement that if I could clear him from the judgment he would see to it that he would make the district right for me.

Mr. A. A. C. LARIVIERE (Provencher). I would suggest that the simplest way is for the government to pay direct to the respective people their accounts. Instead of issuing one cheque to the returning officer the government should issue a cheque to the different individuals who are entitled to receive the money.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I may say that I have made provision for an amendment of the law which will enable us, I think, to reach the returning officer who fails to account for the moneys he may receive. I will take occasion to deal with that amendment when we reach section 148. The provision will be made there to render the returning officer who receives money for disbursement in the election liable to section 66 of the Audit Act, and section 66 of the Audit Act provides that if he fails to distribute the money as he is instructed to do he will be liable criminally.

Mr. LARIVIERE. When the account has been audited in Ottawa by the Auditor General it is returned to the returning officer, and he alone knows the amount which is allotted the respective parties. He only pays the deputy returning officers, and the other officers whatever sum he thinks proper and pockets the rest. They do not know anything about the account. It will be a little more trouble, but it would give better satisfaction if the government, after the account had been audited, would issue cheques to the respective parties in detail for the amount that each individual is entitled to receive and forward them to these individuals. The returning officer would only get his own share.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That point will come up when we reach section 148. I have an amendment prepared for the express purpose of meeting the difficulty which has been pointed out. If the amendment does not go far enough I am in the hands of the House. I may mention that the amendment I have has been prepared by the Auditor General for the purpose of meeting this difficulty, and in view of the experience we have had as a result of the last general elections it is thought to be necessary that some change should be made.

On section 12,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The only change here is in the last clause which adds

an additional disqualification. Any person who has been proceeded against under the Criminal Code is disqualified from acting as a returning officer.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Does not my hon. friend think that goes a little far? It says:

Persons who have been convicted of an offence under the provisions of the Criminal Code, 1892, or any amendment thereof.

Suppose that a man in the heat of passion, strikes another and is guilty of assault and battery, or of common assault and is convicted under the Criminal Code, I think it is rather hard to say that he is disqualified from acting as a returning officer. Could not my hon. friend replace that subsection by one which would provide that if a man has been convicted of an offence for which the penalty is two years imprisonment, he would be disqualified.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It would be better to proceed in this way. Any one found guilty of an offence under special sections of the Criminal Code. The intention is to prevent people with bad records being appointed to these offices.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There are offences in the Criminal Code which should not prevent a man holding an electoral office. He might have been technically guilty of an assault and convicted and fined 25 cents, and that offence should not debar him from acting as returning officer.

Mr. INGRAM. Section 540 of the Criminal Code deals with bribery, undue influence, personation or other corrupt practices, and I notice that the amendments to the Criminal Code are only to take effect on 1st January next. But if this Bill becomes law, it will take effect immediately, and how will you harmonize the two?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If we create a criminal offence by this Bill, the criminal court can take cognizance of it just the same as if it were in the Criminal Code.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. We are proceeding on the Criminal Code of 1892, but if a man had committed an offence in 1891, no matter how great, that would render him ineligible. The man who committed a criminal offence after the Criminal Code came into force would be ineligible to act as returning officer, but not one who had committed an equally serious offence before that code came into force.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is something in the hon. gentleman's objection that we must begin somewhere.

Mr. H. CARGILL (East Bruce). I would like to know why we prohibit ministers, priests, or ecclesiastics of any religious faith or worship from being returning officers? I think that in view of the ballot stuffing and other frauds perpetrated during the

recent elections, it would be advisable, for the proper conduct of elections, to appoint such men.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am afraid I must retort by suggesting that as my hon. friend has been in this House very much longer than I, he might explain how it came to pass that this has been the law for so many years?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It seems to me that what the hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Rutherford) has suggested, has really some point, and his objection could be met by a section framed in this way:

Persons who have been convicted of an offence under the provisions of the Criminal Code or of any offence that would be punishable under the Criminal Code of 1892.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I thought it was understood that we would allow this paragraph to stand.

Section 12 allowed to stand.

On section 14,

Mr. CLANCY. It seems to me that this section is rather indefinite. It provides that town clerks shall be obliged to act as election officers, &c. But in Ontario, the expression 'town clerk' means the clerk of an incorporated town. A municipal clerk would not come under that description, and municipal clerks are the best fitted persons to act as deputy returning officers. They make out the lists and are really trained officers.

Mr. CAMPBELL. They may act.

Mr. CLANCY. Yes, but if we can compel town clerks to act, there is no reason why we should not compel municipal clerks to act. They should be included in the list of persons who cannot refuse to act if called upon.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There will be no objection to adopting my hon. friend's suggestion, and make it town clerk or clerk of municipality, but perhaps we had better allow the section to stand so that I may have an amendment drafted to meet the suggestion of my hon. friend.

Mr. INGRAM. I think the Ontario Act provides that the municipal clerk shall act as returning officer.

On section 18,

Mr. BENNETT. I think this is an objectionable clause. While a thoroughly responsible man might be appointed returning officer, he might appoint as clerk a person not so trustworthy and reliable; and by an arrangement between the two, the returning officer might divest himself of his duties and relegate them to the other party. Would it not be better to strike this out, and rest on clause 11, which provides that the person to whom a writ is issued shall

act as returning officer, and in the event of his refusing or being unable to act, the government may appoint another person?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This has been the law since 37 Victoria, and it is not within my knowledge that any inconvenience has resulted from it.

Mr. INGRAM. That is no reason why we should not change it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think before we change it, hon. gentlemen ought to be able to point out an instance in which some inconvenience has resulted from its operation.

Mr. INGRAM. The same rule applies to the returning officer as to the deputy returning officer; and in West Elgin, a deputy returning officer who was supplied with a ballot box and all the paraphernalia for the election went to the polling booth on election day, and put them in the hands of a stranger, and played off sick. A section like that might be abused in the same way.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The objection seems to be that the returning officer might appoint as election clerk an objectionable person. Suppose the clause were amended by providing that the election clerk must be one of the persons qualified to act as returning officer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That might make it absolutely inoperative. There might be some difficulty in getting another person.

Mr. BENNETT. While the government might in the first instance appoint a thoroughly responsible returning officer, he might by a concerted plan drop out and transfer his duties to a thoroughly unreliable person who would be objectionable to all concerned. If this clause were struck out, then in the event of the returning officer failing to act, the power would remain with the government to appoint a new man.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). An honest returning officer will appoint an honest clerk.

Mr. BENNETT. The hon. gentleman mentioned a dishonest returning officer a short time ago.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). You cannot have a law to meet a special case. I do not think you should anticipate that returning officers are going to act dishonestly. The case I mentioned was not that of a clerk at all, but a deputy returning officer. I never knew a case in which a returning officer did not appoint an honest clerk.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If the conditions were such that it were possible to adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett), there might

be something to be said in favour of it. The election clerk is called upon to replace the returning officer in cases of emergency, such as sickness or sudden death on the eve or on the very day of the election, when it would not be possible for the government to appoint another returning officer.

Mr. BENNETT. Then let the government appoint both officers at the outset.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think what I said a moment ago would apply here. This has been the law for a number of years, and I think my hon. friends have failed to point out a single instance in which it has failed to effect its object.

Mr. INGRAM. I pointed out a case a while ago.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That was a deputy returning officer.

Mr. INGRAM. But the same thing applies to returning officers. How are the election clerks appointed? On the recommendation of the supporters of the government in the constituency; and what is to prevent him recommending some one who would not be acceptable to the opposite party?

Mr. BENNETT. Why not provide that in the writ the election clerk shall be named as well as the returning officer? This would make the government responsible for the appointment of both.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I think there would be great danger in preventing a returning officer choosing his own clerk. In the province of Quebec, the returning officers are guided only by their own judgment in choosing clerks, and I think if you allow the government to impose on the returning officer a clerk of whom he does not approve you are likely to cause trouble.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I think the only thing you could do would be to provide at the end of the section, that wherever practicable, should the returning officer become disqualified or fail to act, the government should appoint another returning officer.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think the law was fairly well framed, and we had better follow it, unless there is some special reason for a change.

On section 20.

Mr. INGRAM. There ought to be imprisonment added to the penalty here. What is the use of a penalty of dollars and cents in the case of these people? They do not consider it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) will bear in mind that in subsequent sections of the Bill we make special provision for deputy returning offi-

cers who are guilty of special infractions of the law. This covers merely general misfeasance or omissions and the penalty seems sufficient.

On section 21,

Mr. INGRAM. This section is not clear enough. We want to prevent such things as took place in East Middlesex, where they ran short of ballots during the election day—as a matter of fact, they had to have the election on the following day. It may come in better on a later section of the Bill, but we should provide that such inspection should be allowed as will offer an opportunity to point out a possible shortage of ballots, so that a sufficient supply may be brought in.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will consider that section when we come to it.

Mr. ALEX. MARTIN (P.E.I.) In portions of Canada where there are voters' lists, this portion of the section would apply, but special provision should be made for Prince Edward Island. I propose to amend this section by inserting after the words 'one copy of this Act,' 'and, in Prince Edward Island, one copy of the Franchise Act of 1898.' The reason for that is that the qualification of electors in Prince Edward Island is decided on polling day, and, to have the qualifications decided, you must have the Franchise Act in the hands of the returning officers. Then, in lines 43, 44 and 45, after 'such instructions by the Governor in Council as are required to carry out the election according to the provisions of this Act.' I propose to add 'such instructions in Prince Edward Island to contain such sections of the provincial law as relate to the qualification of voters and the oaths required to be taken by sections 65, 66 and 67 of this Act, having been made applicable to the elections being held.' Go on a little further to line 50:

A sufficient number of blank poll books and all the blank forms necessary for the purposes of such election.

Insert the following:

Such notice or advertisements regarding the qualification of voters as require to be posted under the provincial law.

If the hon. gentleman will turn to the local statutes of Prince Edward Island he will see there is an election poll notice required to be posted in the neighbourhood of the polling booth. I think this is very necessary, as the qualification is decided on election day. Turn to 56 Victoria, chapter 1, and you will see the qualification of every voter is to be posted up. The voter has the advantage of seeing that notice, and knows how his vote stands. In Prince Edward Island then, all elections will be carried on as in the local elections, the only difference being that one is a vote by ballot and the other an open vote. I know the Solicitor General

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has amended the Bill in some respects to meet the case of Prince Edward Island, but this is an important omission. I beg leave to move the amendment.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As the suggested amendments have reference to the Island of Prince Edward with the local laws, of which I am not familiar, I would invite my hon. friend to allow this clause to stand, and when the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is here, who is better acquainted with those laws than I am, we can discuss his amendments.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). In line 44 it says only one copy of this Act should be sent to a returning officer, and also that one copy shall be furnished for every polling subdivision. These copies that are given for the polling subdivisions are to be kept by the returning officer until the night before election. Therefore, there will only be one copy in the returning officer's hands that will be available. The election will probably follow in a few months after this law is passed, and the amendments will not be generally known, and it will be impossible to procure copies of this Act. That difficulty has arisen before, and I think it could be provided against in this section.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think there will be any difficulty about getting copies of the Act. I presume immediately the Act is passed it will be convenient to have it reprinted together with the Franchise Act for the purpose of distribution. I am sure there will be enough copies of the Act available to meet the difficulty suggested by the member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee).

On section 22,

Mr. BENNETT. I would like to ask the Solicitor General what is contemplated by this clause? In the preceding clause the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery at Ottawa supplies the printed lists, which are prepared at the Printing Bureau. Now, this clause refers to the procuring of such provincial voters' lists which, in the province of Ontario, would be from the clerks of the peace. Now, is there to be an option exercised by the department, that they might supply the returning officer for a riding with printed lists from here, or on the other hand, they might direct that he should obtain his lists from the county authorities?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The returning officer is obliged to obtain the list from the officials who are the legal custodians.

Mr. BENNETT. But in the preceding clause it is pointed out that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall transmit to the returning officer a sufficient number of voters' lists, those are the lists that are

printed here at the Bureau. Now, what is contemplated by this clause? Does it give an option that instead of forwarding printed lists from here, recourse may be had to these lists that are to be found in the office of the provincial authorities?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. For the purpose of a Dominion election, the certified copy which is in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, is the list. He is the legal custodian of it. Look at paragraph 10 of the Franchise Act, and he will find that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery has a copy. The list which has reached the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is the copy which is in possession of the legal custodian, copies of which are to be taken by the returning officer.

Mr. BENNETT. Assuming that the returning officer in my riding had not had sent him, under clause 21, copies of the printed list issued from the Printing Bureau, what would he do? Turning to section 22, he would have received the writ for the election, and he then would have to apply to the legal custodian for such provincial lists. Does that not follow by the reading of this clause 22?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think not. If there is any doubt about that we will let the clause stand for the purpose of considering it. We ought not to allow any doubt to exist on an important matter of that sort.

Mr. BENNETT. It seems to me plain that if the writ is received by the returning officer, and it is not accompanied with the printed voters' list, transmitted from Ottawa, then under section 22 it devolves upon him to apply to the local custodian for such provincial voters' lists as may be in his office. Is that not correct?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. BENNETT. That is a point that should be avoided. The whole stability under the Franchise Act, as we contend, was that the lists should be printed and not the mutilated lists that are in the hands of the clerk of the peace.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The legal custodian referred to in section 22, cannot be the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, because if you look at subsection 2, you will find that it indicates he is not.

Mr. CASGRAIN. In the province of Quebec, the municipal council of each county is obliged, when it makes a list, to divide the municipality into polling divisions, which shall not contain more than 200 votes. I take it that in some provinces this is not provided for, and I would like to know where this Bill provides for the division of the constituency into polling divisions.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think section 23 provides for that.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It seems to me that section 23 leaves too much discretion in the hands of the returning officer, in dividing up these polling divisions. We should provide here that not more than 200 or 300 electors can be comprised within one polling subdivision.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would not object to that.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I wish to call the attention of the Solicitor General to another matter which I would like him to take a note of. There may be some electors whose names by error, are not mentioned in the list, which are forwarded by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. There may be a misprint.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That might happen.

Mr. CASGRAIN. At the last election in Sherbrooke, some twenty prominent citizens could not vote because their names were not upon the list which had been transmitted to the returning officer by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, although their names were upon the official list in the hands of the clerk of the city. It seems to me that some provision should be made in the Franchise Act, so as to remedy this grievance.

Mr. JAMES CLANCY (Bothwell). I would point out to the Solicitor General the danger arising from the word 'extract' in this section, and I would like to know what is the object of providing for an extract of the voters' list. In every case in Ontario, we have a certified list, and that being so, why should any provision be made for taking extracts from it? Now, we have in the province of Ontario, practically three legal custodians of the voters' lists, namely, the county judge, the clerk of the peace, and the clerk of the municipality; and here the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery may be the legal custodian to some extent. It is, therefore, a difficult matter to decide who may be the legal custodian for the time being. I wish to have it made perfectly clear in this law, that in the transcribing of lists or otherwise, there shall be no error, and that nothing but the legal lists shall be in the hands of the returning officer. I do not know what extracts from the list should be provided for, and why that uncertainty should be brought into the law.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You may have in your province as we have in our province, an electoral district with a different boundary in the federal from that in the local election. You would require then to take from that list an extract to make it applicable to the portion which would be in the other constituency. Quebec West for federal purposes extends into the county of

Quebec, and it would be necessary to take out of the list for Quebec West, a certain portion of the voters in the county of Quebec for federal elections.

Mr. CLANCY. I am afraid the hon. gentleman is sacrificing the whole Bill to meet the case he has pointed out. In the province of Ontario, no matter how much a county may be divided, it is supposed that in no case shall the municipalities be divided. When the lists, therefore, are intact for the municipality, the certified lists, and not copies thereof or extracts, are what are needed. There may be the case the hon. gentleman points out, but I am afraid it leads to great difficulties.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There are fifty cases in Quebec, and I venture to say there are almost as many in Ontario.

Mr. CLANCY. Will my hon. friend point out one?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Take the case of Elgin.

Mr. CLANCY. There is registration in the city, and it would not affect that in the least.

Mr. INGRAM. I notice the following section in the Franchise Act, and I suppose this is the reason why it is in the Election Act. Section 13 of the Franchise Act says:

Section 13 of the said Act, as amended by section 1 of chapter 19 of the Statutes of 1891, is hereby repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:

13. Forthwith after the receipt of the writ for a Dominion election, the returning officer shall obtain from the officers who are the legal custodians thereof, or of duly certified duplicates, or copies thereof, such provincial voters' lists or such certified copies thereof or extracts therefrom, and such certified copies of by-laws, orders, proclamations or other documents or proceedings defining the several provincial polling divisions situate either wholly or partially within the territory comprised in the electoral district for which such election is to be held as are necessary, or as he deems necessary, to the performance of his duties as returning officer; and every such officer who omits or refuses to furnish within a reasonable time any such—

And so on, is subject to a certain penalty. I suppose that this is the reason why this section is put into the Election Act?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is a necessity.

Mr. INGRAM. The hon. member for Montmorency draws your attention to certain facts in the province of Quebec in respect to 200 voters' lists in a polling subdivision.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That would come in under the next section. I think we had better let this clause stand because we had better make it absolutely

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clear as to what is the meaning of the words 'legal custodian.'

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). It seems to me a difficult task to make it clear. The difficulty arises from mixing up provincial with federal law. We are taking lists that we do not prepare and with the preparation of which we have nothing to do. It requires a great deal of care, and I confess that I cannot understand what section 22 does mean. It seems to me to be wide and broad enough to cover every possible case. In Ontario, I have no doubt, it is as complicated as it is in Quebec.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It is not complicated in Quebec at all.

Mr. TISDALE. It is complicated in the way that the hon. gentleman speaks of.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. What is the difficulty?

Mr. TISDALE. One of the main difficulties is in regard to the instance that the hon. Solicitor General pointed out. He says that they must have extracts in some cases because one list sometimes covers a provincial election in one case and a federal election in another. The case the hon. gentleman mentioned was that of Quebec city and the county of Quebec. The returning officer may have to take a part of the list, and therefore the returning officer becomes authorized to get these extracts. In other words, in a case of that sort he must, in some way or other, get from the officer not a copy of the list which has been passed and which has been capable of being contested on both sides, but an extract, and the only safety we have is that the officer, the legal custodian, whoever he may be, certifies to the extract. It has never been passed upon by a judge; there has been no chance of appeal or anything else. It is a material matter that I do not see how any legislation can correct unless there is some officer who is authorized to make that extract, and there is chance to appeal from it. But, you cannot do that because there would not be time. This placing of the franchise under provincial law is full of such cases as this. It takes us back to the old question. Here is one of those difficulties that was the cause of one of the objections from this side of the House, to attempting to apply to the federal parliament the acts of others and to be controlled by them in the settling of their vote. Now a case confronts us, according to the hon. gentleman's own showing, in which we have to rely upon a provincial officer to make part of a list without appeal. Suppose he certifies it wrongly there is no remedy.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. When we adopted the Franchise Act last session I understood that

the lists would be printed at Ottawa under the supervision of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and that a compilation of these odd lists or parts of lists, was to be prepared by himself, that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery would be responsible for the legal list for each electoral district. There are cases in my own provinces too where the limits of the local electoral divisions and of those for federal purposes are not coterminous, and, therefore, it will be the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to take from one list and another the necessary number of names to make the list for each electoral district. If the lists for the electoral districts are so prepared by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and are printed here as official lists, I do not see the necessity of making a provision for the returning officer to apply elsewhere for legal or proper lists. I think the returning officer should look to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for the lists, and that he only should be the custodian of the lists of each electoral district. I do not know why there should be any provision to go outside of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Mr. INGRAM. I can quite understand the difficulties you are going to run up against in framing a Bill of this kind. In the city of London, Ontario, they have a system of registration. If the list is not more than twelve months old at the time that list will be in the Printing Bureau, and it will be the legal list for the city of London. Registration applies there, but a portion of the city of London, known as East London, is in the constituency of the hon. member for East Middlesex (Mr. Gilmore). In order to get the list for East Middlesex the returning officer would have to take a portion of the registration list of the city of London, and take from that the portion which belongs to the constituency of East Middlesex. In that case he would have to make an extract from the registration list of London. I have no doubt that cases of that kind will be met in other constituencies which include a portion of a city. Take East York, for instance. St. Matthew's ward, one of the several wards of the city of Toronto, belongs to East York. There is no registration in East York, but so far as the city of Toronto is concerned, registration applies to the whole city. There is another instance where you will have to take these extracts from this portion of Toronto and add them to the list for East York. The same applies in West York. All these difficulties have to be contended with. I say that it is much more difficult to frame this Election Act in view of the provisions of the Franchise Act. These are some of the difficulties we will have to contend with in the province of Ontario.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend (Mr. Ingram) must not overlook the

fact that this is nothing new in legislation. The hon. gentleman would appear to be under the impression that we are dealing with a novelty that never was dreamt of before in Canada. As a fact, we are dealing with a condition of things that existed from confederation up until 1885.

Mr. INGRAM. No. We never had a system of registration in any portion of the Dominion of Canada until quite recently in the province of Ontario, and, therefore, the hon. gentleman's argument does not apply.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am dealing with the question of the overlapping of constituencies as between the federal and the local, and I am also dealing with the question of provincial voters' lists. We had the provincial voters' lists in the Dominion elections from 1867 to 1885, and we had the overlapping of constituencies as we have them now. The only difficulty I can see is that suggested with reference to these migratory votes in the province of Ontario, a voter having to be a resident of the constituency in which he has a right to vote at the time of the election. That is a real difficulty, and one I think we will have to deal with. In view of the real difficulties, I do not see why we should be conjuring up imaginary ones.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). Two sessions ago, the Solicitor General promised to inquire about the matter, and he promised to ask the provincial authorities to help him out of the difficulty.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). There is a difficulty in sections 21 and 22. Under section 21, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall furnish a sufficient number of copies of the voters' lists. I suppose the draftsman had in mind the fact that the certified copy forwarded by the provincial officer to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is to be the original list for Dominion purposes. Therefore, he took section 124 of the Election Act, chapter 8, Revised Statutes of Canada, and he added this particular provision to it which does not exist in that section as it stands in the Revised Statutes. The Solicitor General will see that section 124, from which this is taken, did not provide for forwarding copies of the voters' lists at all.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Because he was not the custodian.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Yes. Then, in 1897 the Solicitor General amended section 13 of chapter 8, Revised Statutes of Canada, providing that the returning officer should, on receiving the writ of election, obtain from the revising officers the electoral lists. You see the difficulty is that you have added to section 124 a provision that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall provide voters' lists; the Franchise Act

having provided that the lists in his possession shall be the original voters' lists for Dominion purposes. But, you have also included in this Act the enactment of 61 Vic., by which you also say that the returning officer shall get the list from some one else. Therefore, it seems to me that you have two provisions which cannot be reconciled. It may be that I am mistaken in my view, but it does seem to me that there is an anomaly between these two sections which should not be permitted to exist.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My trouble arises in paragraph 10, subsection 2, of 61 Vic. I would rather gather from that, that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is the legal custodian, and that the copy in his possession is the original list for Dominion elections.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend will observe that the legal custodian so intended cannot be the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, because the section provides that the legal custodian from whom such documents shall be obtained shall be paid the same fees—if any—as in the case of such document being obtained by a returning officer for the purposes of a provincial election. That clearly indicates that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is not intended.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Under section 22, he would have to apply to the provincial officers to get these other documents, and, of course, that provincial officer would be the person entitled to the fee, if any.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). But, you have a provision that the returning officer should get the lists from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and you have also a provision that he should get them from the provincial authorities.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It says that the returning officer shall obtain from the officers who are the legal custodians thereof such provincial voters lists, and under section 10, the legal custodian for the purposes of a Dominion election would be the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It seems to me that these two sections conflict.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The returning officer, so far as the Dominion list is concerned, would be obliged to obtain it from the legal custodian, and that legal custodian is the person mentioned in subsection 2, section 10, of the Franchise Act.

Mr. BENNETT. In the province of Ontario, the clerk of the peace would be the legal custodian, because he has these provincial voters' lists right in his office. He sends to the Printing Bureau the list that he has in hand, and from it the list is printed which is referred to in section 21,

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

as that to be furnished by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery here.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would suggest that you strike out the words 'such provincial voters' list,' because I do not think they are necessary except in the contingency I will mention in a minute. Under section 21 it is the duty of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery to transmit to the returning officer a sufficient number of copies of the voters' lists, of which he is the legal custodian. As I remember the Franchise Act, the lists in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery are the original lists and the only lists which can be used in the election. Therefore, it seems to me that it is absolutely unnecessary to repeat the words, 'such provincial voters' lists,' in section 22, except in the contingency of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery not having on hand the lists in force. Suppose the clerk of a municipality should neglect to supply the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery with the list; is there anything to provide that the last list in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall be the list to be used in the election? If no such provision exists, then the list to be used is the list in the hands of the clerk of the municipality or other legal custodian, and application would have to be made to him for a copy of it. But if provision is made that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery shall have the custody of the list, then the words I have mentioned should be erased from the section, and the whole thing would be made plain.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend has forgotten that under the Franchise Act the list sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is the legal list. To that list should be added on revision all the names of persons entitled to vote and from it should be struck the names of persons disqualified. The list in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, with these alterations, is the list for the purposes of the election.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Then, what is the use of keeping in section 22 the words, 'such provincial voters' lists'?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I will show where they are useful. In section 10 of the Franchise Act it is provided, that if the clerk of the municipality should not send the list to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in that case the clerk of the municipality becomes the legal custodian, and application can be made to him for a copy of the list.

Mr. MONK. Under section 22 the returning officer is at liberty to apply either to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery or to the registrar for the county in the province of Quebec for a copy of the list. Has he also the choice to apply to the secretary-treasurer of each municipality?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Undoubtedly, under certain contingencies.

Mr. MGOK. I think that would give rise to a great deal of difficulty in the province of Quebec. Suppose the returning officer thinks fit, in the exercise of certain patronage, to get his list from the secretary-treasurer of each municipality. If the secretary-treasurer fraudulently omits names from the list or adds names to it, is there any means of reaching him and punishing him? In the province of Quebec our registrars, who are the legal custodians of the lists after they are completed, deny that they are subject to any control by the Dominion authorities. It is their general opinion that this penalty provided in section 22 is illusory, and that they will never be subjected to a fine if they defy the demands of the returning officers. They go further; they contend that they are not obliged to give copies of the lists to Dominion authorities, or I suppose to the returning officers, unless they are paid previously. I know several instances of that kind. But what concerns me most is to know whether if incorrect lists are furnished by the secretary-treasurers of the different municipalities, we can reach these officers, who are municipal officers under the control of the provincial authorities. I think this is important, because in many instances I am afraid these lists may not be faithful. The returning officer may divide the work and get the lists of certain municipalities from the local secretary-treasurers, and get the rest from the registrar of the county; and here again another element of confusion is introduced. My opinion is that it will be found impossible to provide for many of the cases likely to arise in carrying on the elections under the provincial franchises.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In the discussion which came up in this House in connection with the Franchise Bill, I cited cases to show that we undoubtedly have control over provincial officers, and can force them to give us copies of the lists. My learned friend would oblige me if he would read section 10 of the Franchise Act, which provides that the legal custodian of the provincial list in each province is obliged to send a copy of that list without delay to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. When the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery receives that list, a copy of it becomes the voters' list for the purpose of our Dominion elections.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Do I understand that my hon. friend holds that the term 'legal custodians,' in the third line of section 22 includes the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery? I would add, in addition to the reasons which I previously suggested, why it could not bear that construction, this further reason that the reference to the legal custodian of the provincial voter's lists. These

lists that are in the possession of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery are not provincial lists at all, but Dominion lists. They are copies of the provincial lists which have been forwarded for the purpose of the Dominion elections to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Under section 10 it is provided that the custodian of a provincial list must send a copy within a certain time to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. That copy then becomes a Dominion list. But it may happen that a custodian of a provincial list did not send a copy to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, so that there may be two custodians—the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who is in possession of a certain number of provincial lists and has had them printed, and the clerk of a municipality, who may have omitted to send his list to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. That is the condition we have to meet, and we have to provide that the returning officer may get his lists from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery; and if that official is not in possession of all the lists, then he may go to the person mentioned in subsection 10 and get the lists that are missing.

Mr. DAVIN. There cannot be contemporaneously two custodians. The moment the provincial officer sends the lists to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, the latter is the custodian of that list. The Solicitor General contemplates the possibility of a provincial officer not sending the list to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, but if he does not the latter cannot be the custodian, because he has no list to be custodian of. Then the hon. gentleman contemplates that the only custodian available would be the provincial officer. What a commentary on our legislation is this confused state of things. Comparing sections 21 and 22, it seems to me that the hon. gentleman will have to recast the wording of section 22, at all events, in order to make it fit in with section 21. What should be done would be to legislate in such a way that this confusion could not exist.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Take a constituency in which there are ten municipalities. The clerks of nine municipalities send in copies of their lists to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and consequently for these nine lists that official is the legal custodian. But the clerk of the tenth municipality omits to send in his list. An election comes on. You apply to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for the ten, and he sends you the nine which he has in his possession. Then for the tenth you apply to the registrar or clerk of the municipality, who has it in his possession.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I cannot see how you can say that the Clerk of the Crown

in Chancery is the legal custodian of the voters' lists. It is true that certified copies must be sent to him, but the holder of the original is the custodian of the provincial list. Subsection 2 of section 10, of the Franchise Act, says :

For the purposes of Dominion elections, such certified copy shall be deemed to be the original and legal list of voters for the polling division for which the list of which it is a copy was prepared, so long as that list remains in force, subject, however, to such changes and additions as are, subsequent to revision, made in such list under the provisions of the provincial law.

Then there are further provisions in this Act as to these changes. What I desire to provide for is that the returning officer shall get his list from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, who is the custodian of the original and legal list of voters for the district. You have provided for that in section 21. I understand. Now, if you merely provide in section 22 for the case to which the Solicitor General has referred, the case referred to in subsection 2 of section 10 of the Franchise Act, I agree that that should be done, but it seems to me that you are doing more by this section. You are providing generally that the returning officer shall obtain lists from some person other than the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. If he gets such a list from a provincial officer he is not getting the list referred to in the section of the Franchise Act, and so there would be risk of an election being voided for irregularity. What I would suggest is that you should, in section 22 provide that if the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery does not transmit his lists in time, or if he transmits only a portion of the lists, the returning officer, under such safeguards as may be proper, can complete the lists from the record of the provincial officer, who, in the first instance should have sent them to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. If the section already covers that, it satisfies me.

Mr. INGRAM. In Ontario the duty of the municipal clerk is to prepare the municipal list. He prepares three original copies of the finally revised list, one for the judge, one for the clerk of the peace, and one for himself. The clerk must do that under penalty, and as a matter of fact it is done. Under section 22 you provide that the custodian in the first instance, of the provincial list, shall forward the same to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, under penalty for negligence so far as the Dominion is concerned. If in a constituency of eight municipalities he should send the lists for seven and omit that for the eighth, only one thing could be done besides inflicting the penalty on the clerk—you must fall back upon the last revised list of the municipality in the hands of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. To my mind, this section provides that, and I do not see anything wrong with it.

Mr. BORDEN (Hallifax).

Mr. J. G. HAGGART (South Lanark). I would draw the attention of the Solicitor General to another difficulty in this clause. It is provided that the returning officer shall obtain from the custodian a copy of the list to be used during the election. But take the case of one of the constituencies of York, Ontario. The voters' list there is in two parts, one relating to the county of York, and one to the city of Toronto. Suppose that that for the county of York has been duly prepared and forwarded, while that from the city of Toronto has not been. As I understand the Solicitor General, it is the duty of the returning officer to get a list from the proper party in Toronto to be added to the list which has been furnished by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. But the list to be used for the city of Toronto is the local provincial list, and that is prepared only immediately after a writ for an election, and so there may be no proper list in the city of Toronto.

Mr. TISDALE. I would call attention to section 9 of the Franchise Act in this connection. Still I agree with the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart), that the point is not properly covered by section 52, and I think if the hon. Solicitor General will re-read the section, he will agree with that contention.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The Solicitor General said he would allow this to stand. I think it is well that it should be redrafted in order that it may be more clearly understood by members of the House. It seems to me very clear that the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, in sending these lists, will choose the proper lists to be sent to the returning officer. I take it that the man who is the custodian of the Dominion list is the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. But, of course, he must have the lists which, under the law, are in force in the particular constituency for which the elections are being held. Failing that, then the returning officer has to fall back upon the municipal officers, or those who are the legal custodians of the lists. But it must be made plain in the law, that it is only when the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery cannot send the list which is then in force, that the returning officer shall fall back upon the custodian of the provincial list. This should be made so plain that there could be no misconception on the part of any of the officers who have anything to do with it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There are not two different custodians for the same list, but two different custodians for the different lists which may be in force in a constituency. The Clerk of the Crown in Chancery is the custodian for that portion of the list which has been received by him and the clerk of the municipality is the custodian of that portion of the list which has not been sent forward. Then you have got your list under the Man-

hood Suffrage Act in the province of Ontario, which is prepared on the eve of an election, and which is not in the hands either of the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, or of the clerk of the municipality. I am inclined to think the member for West Elgin is right. If you take the terms of this Act, they are just wide enough to meet all these cases. He is immediately to apply to the legal custodians of all these different lists.

Forthwith after the receipt of the writ for a Dominion election the returning officer shall obtain from the officers who are the legal custodians thereof—

That is to say, the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, the clerk of the municipality, and whoever he may be who has the manhood suffrage voters' list in his possession. These are all legal custodians. I think if you eliminate the word 'provincial' you will meet the whole difficulty. I am anxious to have all the discussion possible on this clause, which is probably one of the most important clauses in the whole Act.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It is possible that leaving out the word 'provincial' might do.

Mr. TISDALE. There is one danger in that. I am afraid if you strike that out, we will be left without any list at all. If you cannot use the provincial lists, what are you going to use?

Mr. INGRAM. Subsection 3, of section 22, covers the point taken by the member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart). When the Franchise Act was before this House in 1898, I drew attention to the short period that is left between the calling together of the board of registrars in the province of Ontario, and the election day. It was the great difficulty the provincial government had to deal with. If some amendment could be introduced in the case of a Dominion election where a list is over one year old, and if more time could be given for issuing the writ by the Dominion government before election day than there is given by the provincial government, then it would be much better for us; because under the provincial Act, after dissolution of the provincial legislature, or after issuing the writ for a by-election, the board of registrars sits when seven days have elapsed.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The concluding lines of section 9 of the Franchise Act gives power to the Dominion government to extend the delay.

Mr. HAGGART. I have not got clearly yet from the Solicitor General what is the legal list for the province of Ontario. What would be the legal list to be used in the city of Toronto, for instance, when you say the provincial list must be used for Dominion purposes, and if there is no list prepared after the writ is issued? The only legal list of voters is that prepared after

the writ is issued under the provincial Act, and how are you to provide for that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We do not require to provide for it. I am sorry I cannot make myself clear on such a simple point. Take the municipal list for the city of Toronto. You have got there the ordinary municipal voters' list, which is in possession of the clerk of the city of Toronto. That is returned by him to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery. But in addition to that list, which is the basis of the election franchise, you have got the manhood suffrage voter. For the manhood suffrage voter a special list is prepared on the eve of a general election. Now, there are two lists, or one list prepared after two different fashions. You have got the list returned by the clerk of the municipality to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, and then you have got the manhood suffrage list prepared on the eve of the election. The returning officer would apply to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery for his list, and he would apply to the revisers, or whoever the parties may be, who are the custodians of the manhood suffrage list.

Mr. HAGGART. But under this clause, the returning officer, immediately on receipt of the writ, shall apply to the proper officer for the provincial list. But the lists are not prepared for three weeks after he gets the writ.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Where does the hon. gentleman get the three weeks?

Mr. HAGGART. Immediately the writ is issued, it may be a week or ten days before the courts, and the court may take a couple of weeks. As a general rule, the list is not ready for about a week before the election. But your direction to the returning officer is that he shall immediately apply to the proper person, and get the list. How can he get it, when the lists are not prepared for three weeks afterwards?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. To be absolutely accurate, he applies forthwith.

Section stands.

On section 23,

Mr. CASGRAIN. Does not the hon. Solicitor General think that he should fix the number of voters in a polling subdivision?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not more than 200.

Mr. INGRAM. Cases have been known where polls have been held, and these polling booths have not been mentioned in the proclamation. Therefore, I say in respect to this provision:

Where under the laws of the province there are no polling subdivisions for the purpose of provincial elections.

It should be made necessary to state in the proclamation where the polling shall take place.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. When we come to have this section properly drafted we can make it read that no polling subdivision shall have more than 200 voters.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think that 200 is sufficient.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I agree with the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BENNETT. There may be added to clause 23, a statement to this effect: 'And all such added polls shall be placed in the proclamation.' It is a well known fact that there are many polling places which are generally known to the public. But, if, on the other hand, the power is vested in the returning officer to designate certain other places which are not generally known it should be insisted upon that they should be stated in the proclamation.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Will my hon. friends draft an amendment to meet that, or will I have to trust to having it done in the department?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER. The section stands.

On section 24,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. As I pointed out when I introduced the Bill it will be necessary to amend this section by striking out all the words after 'British Columbia' in the 45th line to the words 'territories,' inclusive, in the 46th line, which are 'and in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the North-west Territories.'

Mr. T. O. DAVIS (Saskatchewan). I would draw the hon. Solicitor General's attention to another fact. You have made provision in the section for publishing the proclamations in French in Quebec and Manitoba. I want to have the word 'Saskatchewan' put in after the word 'Manitoba.' About half of the constituency that I represent is French, and there are polling subdivisions in which there is not an English-speaking man.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am afraid I cannot put that in here because we are not dealing with the North-west Territories in this Act. It will be necessary to amend the North-west Territories Representation Act, which provides for elections in the North-west Territories. We omit all reference to the North-west Territories here.

Mr. DAVIS. You are going to cut it off.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Everything.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, then, that is all right.

Mr. BENNETT. Were there any ridings outside of Algoma in which the election was held subsequent to the general election?

Mr. INGRAM.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In the province of Quebec there was Gaspé, Chicoutimi and Saguenay.

Mr. DAVIN. What about British Columbia?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is new.

Mr. DAVIN. What is the reason for that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inaccessibility of these constituencies is the only reason I know of. As we have taken out these two districts in the North-west Territories I would like to consult the Prime Minister about these districts in British Columbia before going any further upon that subject.

Mr. DAVIN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether there were any complaints in reference to Burrard, Yale and Cariboo? I never heard of any.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I never heard of any.

Mr. DAVIN. I think it may be laid down as a general principle that it is desirable to have all elections for this House held at the same time, unless, either from distance or some other cause, there are overwhelming reasons against that course.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL moved:

That the words 'and of Alberta and Saskatchewan in the North-west Territories,' in the 45th and 46th lines be stricken out.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I see that subsection *a* fixes the place and time for the nomination of candidates. Has my hon. friend provided in his Bill as to what time shall be taken, whether it shall be solar or standard time, because in many instances conflicting courses have been followed. In our province especially in most places standard time is half an hour different from solar time. In some polling subdivisions they follow solar time and in others standard time. The local legislature have adopted standard time as being the time. I believe some provision should be made that standard time shall be regarded as the legal time. If this is not done for the eastern provinces I would suggest that it should be done for Manitoba and the North-west Territories because there, we follow standard time, and it is the legal time for legal purposes.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was not aware that standard time was not followed in any part of Canada.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. It is not legal unless you make it so.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). They do follow local time in the maritime provinces in a great many of the districts.

Mr. LARIVIERE. In some instances this has created a great deal of discussion and inconvenience, and litigation, in fact.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand that we will remedy it.

Mr. PUTTEE. Why not strike out 'Yale and Cariboo'? Surely we do not want to make any exceptions, if there is no necessity for so doing?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is necessity for this exception in the province of Quebec with reference to Gaspé, Chicoutimi and Saguenay; and as this is a new departure, I do not wish to recede from the position in the Bill without consulting the ministers. Therefore, we will let it stand.

On section 27,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I want to strike out the words 'And Alberta and Saskatchewan in the North-west Territories.'

Mr. BENNETT. That is agreed to.

On section 30,

Mr. CLANCY. I think this is decidedly a bad clause.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Why?

Mr. CLANCY. Because we will have a repetition of what we had in Russell, where the returning officer found it convenient not to get there, and the election was held over practically to make a by-election after the general elections. The same thing happened in Manitoba, and the government that was defeated at the general elections had the control of the elections that were delayed through the negligence of the returning officer.

Mr. CASGRAIN. How can you remedy it? Would you allow the constituency to be without a member?

Mr. CLANCY. There is very little danger of that occurring. I understand this is a new provision in the law.

Mr. CASGRAIN. It exists in the old law, and it exists in the English law, too.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is substantially a provision of the old law.

On section 32,

Mr. GEORGE LANDERKIN (South Grey). Would not the mover of the Bill consent to have the time for the nomination of candidates changed to one o'clock. Twelve o'clock is a very inconvenient hour.

Mr. CASGRAIN. You would have to make it cover two hours, because in some constituencies the people have to come a long distance.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Then, make it from one to three. Many who come to town can-

not get their dinner before the nomination; the consequence is that they meet under circumstances of privation.

On section 33,

Mr. LARIVIERE. Should there not be a time limit for the signing of the nomination paper? Sometimes two or three months before the day of election agents go about to get nomination papers signed, and when the election time comes some people are very sorry to see their names on certain nomination papers, because their candidate has come to the ground. In the province of Manitoba the nomination paper must be signed within a month prior to the day of the election; if it is signed before that, it is not valid. I think that is a very wise provision, because we ought not to accept a nomination paper that has been taken around the riding two or three months before the time of the election. Then, I think names which appear on two or three different nomination papers when there is only one candidate to be elected should not count, but should be struck by the returning officer off all the nomination papers on which they appear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think I would like to interfere with the right of an individual to sign different nomination papers when only one candidate can be elected, because it seems to me that curiosities of that description ought to be encouraged. We ought to know a man who will sign two nomination papers for two rival candidates.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Suppose a candidate whose nomination paper I sign becomes unworthy of my support. I ought to be free to sign the paper of another man.

Mr. CLANCY. A candidate might find that his nomination was rendered invalid by the fact that a person who had signed his nomination paper had without his knowledge signed another. It seems to me it would be very dangerous to enter on ground of that kind.

On section 34,

Mr. INGRAM. I propose to move in amendment to this section:

That all the words of the section be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

2. Upon receiving a nomination paper the returning officer shall give a receipt therefor, and such receipt shall in every case be sufficient evidence of the production or filing of such nomination paper and of the consent of the candidate.

My object is to do away with the deposit of \$200. In the local elections in Ontario at present no deposit is required, and no evil has resulted. Therefore, I do not see why we should be called upon to put up the deposit in Dominion elections. It is provided in section 38, that a candidate may with-

draw up to an hour before the closing of the polls, so that if he should withdraw at four o'clock in the afternoon of polling day he would not lose his deposit.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Try the Auditor General and you will find out that he will. I have a case in Prescott where a man withdrew on the day of a nomination, and the Auditor General refused to return his deposit.

Mr. INGRAM. How does it occur that in the province of Ontario, where no deposit is required, they do not suffer from bogus candidates?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You are extra good people there.

Mr. PUTTEE. I heartily support the motion of the hon. gentleman. I have exactly the same amendment myself, and I believe that this matter is exciting a good deal of attention in the country. The nomination of a candidate should depend only on the signatures to his nomination paper, and I would be willing to see the number increased from twenty-five to fifty or seventy-five. The ideal of an election law is to give the people every opportunity of selecting one of their number to represent them in the Federal parliament, and it is not our business to place any restriction upon the people nominating as many candidates as they choose. This exaction of a deposit also had led to injustice. We all know of a case, which has been referred to several times this session, where the seat was given to the minority candidate because of some alleged irregularities in the deposit of the one who had got the majority of votes. There is something in this deposit altogether opposed to the spirit of our election law. Property qualification has gone, and this deposit will follow soon.

Mr. ANDREW SEMPLE (Centre Wellington). I am in accord with the proposition of the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram), and with the position taken by the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee). I remember when there was no deposit exacted in Dominion elections, and there is none required now in Ontario in provincial elections. No purpose can be served by insisting on this deposit of \$200.

Mr. ROGERS. I give my hearty support to this amendment also. There should be every liberty allowed in the selection of candidates.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would suggest to my hon. friend from East Elgin that he should give notice that he will move his amendment on the third reading. We might then consider it when the House is full, and when he may be able to get more support than he has to-night. My own view is that the deposit of \$200, which is not a large sum, insures a certain amount

of earnestness on the part of those presenting themselves for election. If a man is to be a candidate, it is always easy for him or his friends to provide that amount, and it only means a deposit for a very few days. He runs no risk.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I have known some very serious candidates who lost their deposits, and their seriousness did not decrease. Why not let the clause stand?

Mr. PUTTEE. If the \$200 is any good, why not make it \$1,000. The Imperial parliament get along without a deposit.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It costs more there to be elected than to be elected for the Dominion parliament. Candidates have to provide their election expenses, and it usually costs £500.

Mr. PUTTEE. If there is any virtue in the deposit, let us have more of it. I would prefer that the amount should be raised to \$1,000, so that we might make it an issue, because I am certain the electors do not want that deposit left in the election law. I do not think we have a very sound way of getting at the will of the people, but I believe we will improve on it. The objection to do away with the deposit is that it would open the door to a number of candidates. Well, have we any business to tell the people how many candidates should run. We ought to adopt a method of voting by which, no matter how many candidates may run, the one who stands best in the favour of the people would be the chosen one. If the people want a half dozen candidates to run, we have no right to stop them. If we must have it, why would not \$100 do instead of \$200, or \$25. I do not know a candidate has necessarily friends who will put up \$200. The whole business, when you come to consider it is found to be, if not exactly a return to the idea of property qualification, a provision to keep some people from being candidates. As the Solicitor General has said he has an open mind on this subject, we might let the clause stand over.

Mr. CLANCY. There is no doubt some merit in what was said by the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram), but I am afraid the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee), has entirely lost sight of the primary point—that you must draw an arbitrary line somewhere. He says that this provision has the effect of preventing an expression of the will of the people. In many cases it may have the effect of preventing an interference with the expression of the will of the people. Two or three men may put up a candidate, and his running may be the means of defeating the will of the people. If I should consult my own pocket, I should be glad that no deposit should be required, but I believe the law has a wholesome effect.

Mr. INGRAM.

I am not certain that it is not a good safeguard to prevent men coming into the field to overturn the will of the people. Such a man may get in by a 'fluke,' to use an inelegant, but expressive term, though the people did not want him. It is unreasonable to say that it might as well be \$1,000 as \$25. All the experience goes to show that the figure at which it is fixed is about right. It is pointed out that in Ontario there is no deposit required, but I do not think it will be said that the results have been better than under our Dominion system. It is inconvenient for a candidate to be compelled to put up \$200, but it is a smaller inconvenience than some others that he might have.

Mr. INGRAM. The absurdity of the thing is perfectly plain to me. A man who thinks he can thereby win an election, and who has the money can easily say to a would-be candidate: I will put up your deposit if you will run; if you can get sufficient votes from the other candidate to elect me, I shall not feel sad at the loss of the \$200. I do not know any case in which this deposit of \$200 has prevented any candidate coming into the field; it is a mere myth so far as that is concerned. In my election in 1896, the third man had no hope of election, and he told me on nomination day that he was in the field simply to defeat me. He was man enough to admit that. Do you think for a moment, that he paid that \$200? No, it was paid by my opponent, who was really in the running, or some person on his behalf. There has been a considerable feeling in many parts of the Dominion, especially in the cities, in favour of wiping out this provision for a deposit of \$200 altogether. You have abolished the principle of property qualification, so far as the elector is concerned and so far as the candidate is concerned, why retain the principle under the form of this \$200 deposit. There are men in this country who are not blessed with as much money as some hon. gentlemen in this House, who would make good candidates and who might be induced to become candidates but for this.

Mr. ROGERS. Another argument is that to abolish this, it would do away with the unfortunate demoralizing practice of packing conventions. Those who are guilty of this kind of thing could not work their little schemes, when candidates could come forward freely; and if that were the law, these manipulators, knowing that fact, would leave more to the free choice of the people. But they feel now that the necessity for putting up \$200 deposit will keep candidates out of the field, and so it makes it easier for them to arrange things to suit themselves in conventions.

On section 35,

Mr. TISDALE. Why should not permission be given to make the oath that is re-

quired here before a commissioner, instead of before the returning officer?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If the nomination paper is already attested, the returning officer does not need additional attesting. This is a clause we have had in the election law for some time. It might be changed so as to provide that the person who produces and files a nomination paper shall be ready to declare that either he or some one else has given this attestation. We will get that clause redrafted.

On section 38,

Mr. INGRAM. I propose to move an amendment to that section. I see no reason why a candidate should be given until polling day to withdraw. Why men should be nominated and put the county to expense almost to the last day, and then withdraw, is something I cannot understand. Indeed, he may have got himself nominated for the purpose of selling out. I think the time should be confined to forty-eight hours after nomination. I propose to move to insert after the word 'time' in the first line, the words 'within forty-eight hours'; and to strike out the words 'before the closing of the poll' in line two.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I would prefer that the hon. gentleman should bring up that amendment on the third reading.

On section 41,

Mr. MARTIN. I wish to call attention to the fact that the conditions in Prince Edward Island require an amendment to this section in order to carry out the franchise as it at present exists in that province. I propose to move, after the word 'mentioned,' in line 39, to insert the following words:

And in Prince Edward Island such notice or advertisement regarding the qualification of voters as required to be posted under the provincial law. (See section 43. Act P.E.I., 1893.)

And further on, in subsection c, after the word 'Act,' in line 77, insert the words 'And in Prince Edward Island with a copy of the Franchise Act of 1898.' That is the same as the amendment that I proposed in section 21. Further on, in subsection c, at the end thereof, insert the following words, 'and one copy of the instructions approved by the Governor General in Council, as provided in section 21.' I think these amendments will be required in order to make this Bill applicable to that province.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. For the same reason I gave in regard to the suggested amendment to section 21, I would ask the hon. gentleman to allow this section to stand until the Minister of Marine and Fisheries is present.

On section 42,

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if there is any sanction for

this section, and if so, where is it to be found?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, except the sanction which is provided by section 19. I think it is quite sufficient for the purposes of this section.

On section 44,

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. gentleman to a case that occurred in West Elgin where some of these very clever people went in the morning, and with a piece of iron opened up the mouth of the ballot box, so that they might unfold the ballot and slip it in the box after having held it up between him and the windows to see how it was marked.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Very curious things occur in Ontario, if we are to believe all the things that we hear. I hope my hon. friend is not maligning his own province.

Mr. BENNETT. You drop the box into the cellar in your province.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We only did it once.

On section 45,

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman why he introduces the word 'postmaster.' The ballot box under the old law is deposited with the registrar or sheriff.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We have simply added the postmaster, who is also a government official, to avoid expense. This is a suggestion which was made by the Auditor General. It may not be convenient in a particular locality to deposit the box with the sheriff, so we provide that it may be deposited with the postmaster.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I do not understand how you get it into the hands of these officers.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That will be provided for after this section is passed.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). By a later section?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

On section 48,

Mr. CASGRAIN. I cannot see the usefulness of paragraph 2, of this section:

Where two members are to be elected for the electoral division and there are more than two candidates, the candidates may, within an hour after the time appointed for the nomination, agree to their names being arranged otherwise than alphabetically.

What is the use of it? It is a change in the law, and there seems to be no use for such a change.

Mr. CASGRAIN.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not wedded to it at all. It is one of the devices of experts who have never had an election to run in their lives.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Now, we come to an important clause. I propose, as the hon. Solicitor General will see, at page 561 of the Votes and Proceedings, to amend section 48, by adding thereto the following subsections:

4. The ballot papers must be bound or stitched so as to form a book and be numbered on the annex by the printer from No. 1 to No. 250, which form the book.

5. The ballot shall bear the name of the printer who printed it.

6. The printer shall, upon delivering the ballot papers to the returning officer, file in his hands an affidavit setting forth the description of the ballots so by him printed, the number of ballots supplied to such returning officer and the fact that no other ballot papers have been supplied by him to anybody else.

Under the first subsection that I propose to add, the ballot must be bound or stitched so as to form a book and be numbered by the printer. By this means it seems to me that it would be impossible to import into the polling booth, or put into the box, any other ballot than the ballot the voter receives from the returning officer. Suppose the ballot bears the number on the counterfoil 150; the voter goes into the place where he is to retire to vote and he will come out with the ballot bearing on the counterfoil the same number 150. It will be almost impossible for a voter to guess beforehand what would be the number of the ballot that he would get, or to have such a ballot prepared or printed so that he could come out of the compartment with a spurious ballot, a forged ballot, or a ballot which had been substituted for the one he had received. It would be almost impossible to duplicate that ballot. Then, I may say, that if the ballots are stitched together and form a book it will become almost impossible for anybody to substitute any other ballot for the one which he receives, especially in view of the other subsections which provide that the printer's name shall be printed upon the ballots, thereby showing who is responsible for supplying the ballots to the returning officer; and the affidavit given by the printer that he has printed so many ballots of such a description, that he has delivered so many to the returning officers, and that he has delivered none to any one else. It seems to me that with these provisions it would be practically impossible to substitute spurious ballots. That is, of course, provided we accept one or other of the ballot papers provided in the schedule of this Act.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have had a number of ballots submitted to me which I have placed in the hands of the Clerk of the House. There is one which I think would make it impossible that there should be any substitution. The ballots would be stitched together, and there would be two

counterfoils, on each of which there would be a number. When the ballot is given to the voter, the returning officer would take off one number, which would form part of the book he retains, and, when the voter brought back the ballot, the number on it would have to correspond with the number on the counter-foil retained by the returning officer, and in that way the returning officer would be certain he got back the ballot he gave to the voter. The only difficulty is, that assuming that the ballot is put in the box, we could not be sure that this was the ballot which came out in the recount, although I do not see that the initials could not be put on it.

Mr. INGRAM. There is too much space allowed to mark the ballot. Suppose a person goes to three men and says to one—I will take my own name as an example—I will give you \$5 if you mark an 'X' over the 'I,' and to another, I will give you \$5 if you mark an 'X' over the 'N,' and to another, I will give you \$5 if you mark an 'X' over the 'G,' then the person who would so bribe would be sure the men voted for him, and such a ballot leaves the door open to fraud. The whole ballot should be black, and the name and the disc should be printed in white, and if you do that there is no place else to mark the ballot except in the disc, and there could be no fraud committed. I think that is the best form of ballot.

Mr. BENNETT. Another trouble is, that the white space left after the name is the same length in all ballots, and the white space in the case of a short name will be greater than in the case of a long name. In East York Mr. Frankland was one of the candidates and Mr. Maclean the other, and with the name Frankland the whole white space was occupied, whereas with the name Maclean there was a large white space left. A number of the voters, intending to vote for Mr. Maclean, placed their votes in the white space opposite his name and not in the disc, while in the case of Mr. Frankland there was no white space left to mark the cross. A number of the deputy returning officers threw out the Maclean ballot so marked, but on a recount they were allowed. It is my opinion there is no necessity for putting a candidate's name and his occupation and his place of residence on the ballots. The candidates are well known in the riding, and if you have two men named Brown running, you can simply mark the ballot John Brown or George Brown. If they have both the same surname and Christian name, it might be necessary to describe them, but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the simple names of the candidates would be sufficient, and it would prevent a good deal of mistakes occurring.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I am very much in favour of the black ballot with the name

in white, but I would call the attention of the committee to the danger arising from allowing the deputy returning officer to handle the ballot after the voter has marked it. There is where the difficulty came in in the Macdonald election. If it can be arranged that the voter should put the ballot in the box after the deputy returning officer has identified it by sight, there would be no slipping of ballots, as was done in the Macdonald case.

Mr. INGRAM. What about tearing off the counterfoil?

Mr. RUTHERFORD. It was in tearing off the counterfoil that the trick was done.

Mr. PUTTEE. This question of ballots is very interesting, but the more it is looked into the more we see how hard it is to get a ballot there is no objection to. As to the black ballot with the white name and disc, it should be remembered that all these ballots have to be printed between nomination and election. You cannot print in white, in half the constituencies in this country. There is no such type as that. You would have to get special blocks, and it would be necessary to go to a large city with a well-equipped foundry to be able to pierce blocks for white printing. Then, you could not get your ballot papers bound and counted and circulated in the constituency in time. I do not believe that the black-faced ballot would suit, because the ink would soak through far enough, so that you could see the slightest mark upon it through the paper.

Mr. BENNETT. Fold the ballot to avoid that.

Mr. PUTTEE. Most ballots have only two names on them, and are only folded once. Subsection 3 shows that we have tried before to get a suitable paper, and we have most dismally failed. It states what the weight of the paper shall be; but the returning officers are usually men who understand nothing about paper. They are likely to go to a wholesale house and get the most expensive paper, which is probably the most unsuitable for the purpose. I think we shall never get the right ballot paper until it is issued from the stationery office in Ottawa. It should be specially made, with a watermark, which might be the date of the election or the election year, with some other government mark. This paper should be sent out from the stationery office in reams. The returning officer could then issue to the printer a certain number of sheets. We will say that he issues 500 sheets, or a ream, and that each sheet will give six ballot papers. That would give him 3,000 ballots. The printer would be required to return to him all the ballot papers and all the spoiled sheets as well, so that there could be no chance of a miscount without it being detected. In that

way you could get a suitable paper. There are papers which, when marked on, will show the mark on the opposite side; there are others which will not show the mark, and these are the kind to select. A cheap paper is more likely to be suitable than an expensive paper. The most expensive paper will not fold well; one fold is probably all that it will take, and it will open up unless the deputy takes care to pinch it close before putting it into the box. As to the form of the ballot, I am sure we have not got the right one yet.

On section 51,

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If it is important that the voters should be provided with a black lead pencil, I do not know that the clause makes adequate provision for it. There have been suggestions that information as to the way in which voters have marked their ballots has been given by changing the pencil. That has been brought to my attention within the last year as having actually occurred.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I may say that the Quebec Act provides for that contingency. It says the pencil shall be tied to the table.

Mr. PUTTEE. If a voter goes into the compartment and sees that the point is broken off the pencil, he may use his own pencil, and it may be a blue one.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is his loss.

Mr. PUTTEE. He may do that before the deputy finds that the pencil is not in working order.

Mr. INGRAM. In West Elgin men whose votes were bought were provided with red lead pencils which were marked with the name of the man they were voting for; and it was with the idea of stopping that kind of thing that we provided a black lead pencil.

On section 52,

Mr. PUTTEE. I have a couple of amendments to move to this clause. The first is to insert after the word 'day' in the 21st line, the following:

And in electoral districts containing, comprising or being part of a city of upwards of 10,000 inhabitants, the polls shall be kept open till eight o'clock in the afternoon.

This simply extends the time of polling in cities from nine o'clock in the morning till eight o'clock at night. At present the polls close at five o'clock in the afternoon. It is utterly impossible to poll a city of any size by that time. A large proportion of the people in cities still work ten hours a day. They start work at seven o'clock in the morning, they have the noon hour, and they do not leave till six o'clock at night.

Mr. PUTTEE.

We take the provincial lists and make them the Dominion lists. In some cases they might be two or three years old. Everybody is aware that in two or three years a large proportion of the people in a city change their residences, sometimes across the city, and it is impossible for a man to cross the city in the middle of the day to poll his vote. It is very desirable that we should remove all causes for suspecting an employer of using any intimidation over his employees; but if an employee asks for time to vote, that is brought into question. A man cannot possibly go across a city within a hour or a couple of hours without using a rig, and we want to discourage the use of rigs as much as possible. For instance, the last election in Winnipeg was held in the middle of January when the temperature is sometimes 30 or 40 degrees below zero, and when you could not induce a man to cross the city in the middle of the day. It is now generally held that eight o'clock at night is a fair time to close the polls in the city. I would have made my amendment to include all districts, but I find that the farmers think it would be a hardship for them to have the polls open until eight o'clock. It is exactly the other way in the cities. It is not possible to properly poll the votes before five o'clock. The labouring men should have an opportunity of voting on their way home and on their way to work. It is not in accord with the democratic idea to close the polls at five o'clock, and there is no object in declaring the result of the poll the same night. I hope the Solicitor General will take these amendments into consideration and let the clause stand if he does not choose to accept them now.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I propose an alternative resolution of which I have given notice:

In cities or towns having a population exceeding 10,000 souls, the poll must be open at seven o'clock in the morning, and from that hour until nine o'clock a.m., workmen, artisans and employees in factories shall be given the precedence of other voters in recording their votes.

It would not be advisable to keep the polls open until nine o'clock, because in winter you have hours of darkness between 4.30 and 9 p.m. It is much more difficult to keep good order during those hours than in the day. I also would propose another clause:

Masters and employers and all others who have employees under them, who are electors and live in the electoral district where they are qualified to vote, are obliged to allow, without molestation, or any reduction of wages, such employees reasonable time to vote, under a penalty of \$200.

The hours of polling in all cities, where the population exceeds 10,000, are from seven in the morning to five at night; and if a workman presents himself at a polling booth between seven and nine in the morn-

ing, he passes before anybody else. The other section provides that employers must give their hands sufficient time to vote.

In the province of Quebec these two sections work well and the workmen in the city have come between seven and nine o'clock and have voted.

Mr. PUTTEE. The hon. gentleman is trying to get at the same end as myself, but I think my amendment is the better one. In the winter the morning hours would be very little used. As to the counting of votes at night, in England it is eight o'clock at night when the poll closes, and the ballots may be all taken to one place to be counted, taking sometimes five or six hours, and so in some cases it has become the custom to postpone the counting of the votes until next morning. I would be willing to make a compromise and accept an amendment proclaiming the afternoon of polling day a half holiday.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I would vote for that.

Mr. BENNETT. In view of the fact that there are a number of constituencies which embrace not only cities but rural districts, I think that the proposition of the hon. member for Winnipeg to keep the polls open until nine at night would be a great incentive to bribery and corruption. Yesterday you, Mr. Chairman, were announced as the prospective candidate in West York. In that constituency there is a country vote, and it is quite possible that your opponent might be in the minority in the rural districts at six o'clock. What bribery and corruption might not be resorted to then to secure a majority. Take the case of the Minister of Customs, who intends to desert North Grey for his old love, South Brant. When the news would come from the country districts at six o'clock showing the position of the two candidates, you would have hundreds of men in the cities waiting for the price of votes to go up before recording their ballots.

Mr. CASGRAIN. What are we going to do about these amendments? We have come now to the beginning of the section when the amendments of which I have given notice will come in.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will take up these clauses again, and, on the reconsideration, the amendments can be proposed.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I think my hon. friend from Winnipeg will see the force of the objections made to his amendment by the hon. member for East Simcoe (Mr. Bennett). Suppose the elections between parties were close and the vote of a city constituency like Winnipeg, or Quebec, or Montreal, would decide the election, it would be quite a temptation held out to many electors between six and eight o'clock.

Mr. PUTTEE. I do not know whether the hon. gentleman (Mr. Casgrain) is joking, but I do not see it at all.

Mr. BENNETT. Say that in West York there are four or five townships from which the returns come in after the closing of the poll there. Then the city voters, who have not voted and who are waiting to see, let us say, if there was any money going, would mark their votes according to the result of the elections in the townships.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. As I understand the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee), it applies to the whole constituency, even if part of it is in the country. In that constituency all the polls are closed at eight o'clock. As the hon. gentleman (Mr. Puttee) has shown, this system prevails in Great Britain, and I do not see why it should not be adopted here. The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) is endeavoring to deal with the same difficulty, but the workman who is at work at seven o'clock in the morning, could not vote between seven and nine without the special permission of his employer.

Mr. CASGRAIN. You have to give him time.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. According to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Casgrain's) amendment. But, as the hon. member for Winnipeg has said, the only way a man can vote untrammelled is to vote in his own time.

Mr. INGRAM. I am not in favour of either the proposition of the hon. member for Winnipeg or that of the hon. member for Montmorency. If neither of those hon. gentlemen will move it, I am prepared to move that the government shall declare a half holiday on the day of general election. That would get over the difficulty.

Mr. PUTTEE. My amendment certainly includes the whole constituency, and all the polls in the constituency would close at the same time. But, in any case, three hours is too short a time for correct information as to results to be sent into the city so far as to affect the vote between six and eight. But, in any case, the thing is so important that I think we should make eight o'clock the time for closing the polls in cities. I do not think we should accept any amendment that would make it the law that the employee would have the right to vote on his employer's time. I do not believe in that principle. I would rather keep the polls open from Monday morning to Saturday night, than to make the employer pay for the time the employee uses in voting. Better have the employee vote in his own time and vote as he pleases.

Mr. J. V. ELLIS (St. John). I believe not only that there should be a uniform time of closing, but so far as the cities are concern-

ed, the earlier the better. There are reasons, which dwellers in large cities know, why it is desirable that this should be, the principal being that it would avoid the excitement and worry of the returns coming in late at night. I would greatly prefer to give the time in the morning than to keep the polls open later.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have never observed any difficulty in men having an opportunity to vote in my own city, but even if there were difficulty, I should not favour keeping the poll open until eight o'clock as a means of overcoming it. I would rather see the government proclaim a half holiday on polling day. One great objection to keeping the polls open until eight o'clock would be that you could not get scrutineers to act for you. They must be ready for their work about 7.30 a.m., and if you keep open the polls to eight o'clock they would not get away until ten. Men will not do that.

Mr. INGRAM. The greatest difficulty about workmen is not to have an opportunity to vote, but to have an opportunity to vote without intimidation. If a half holiday were given, say in the forenoon, the workmen could cast their votes in the forenoon and resume work in the afternoon, and there need be no interference by employers or others to see how they voted.

Mr. PUTTEE. I am perfectly willing to accept the half holiday. But to say that in the restricted polling time allowed the vote can be polled is simply to say that you do not believe in every man being able to cast his vote, because you cannot poll a city vote and close at five o'clock. The effect is that you are disfranchising a very large number of men. It may be deplorable but it is true, that the majority of workers are working for ten hours a day, and that means that they are away from their homes from 6 in the morning to 6.30 at night, and they cannot poll their votes unless we give them a half holiday and keep the polls open to eight o'clock.

Mr. INGRAM. I would draw the attention of the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee) to the fact, that when the plebiscite was taken in Winnipeg the polling subdivisions, with one exception, had less than 200 voters on the list. There is plenty of time to poll these votes between nine and five. Therefore, there are 43 polling subdivisions in the city of Winnipeg, and none of them contain over 200 votes except one, 203. No one will pretend that these men could not have an opportunity of voting between nine and five.

Mr. PUTTEE. My knowledge of Winnipeg is gained from personal experience, and I submit that it is not sufficient to take the plebiscite vote as an illustration of the polling strength of the city of Winnipeg.

Mr. ELLIS.

Mr. INGRAM. That is the total vote on the list in your division.

Mr. PUTTEE. If Winnipeg only were considered we should have twelve hours of polling. In the middle of January, when the thermometer may be 35 degrees below zero, it is not always an easy thing to get the votes out. When we voted last January, there was one candidate whose friends had no rigs, and we were very much in the same position as Wellington, we were praying for either rigs or night. I am free to state that if the polls had been closed in Winnipeg half an hour later at the last election, I would not have been here, and if they had been open until eight o'clock at night, I would have had twenty times the majority that I did. We could not get our men out in the afternoon, it was impossible, especially in the winter. I wish further to amend section 52, by inserting the words 'standard time' after the word 'clock' in each instance.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I propose to introduce a special clause which will make standard time applicable to all places. If my hon. friend wants to move his amendment with reference to the extension of the hours for voting, it will be better to move it on the third reading, when we will have an opportunity to discuss it in full House.

On section 64,

Mr. CLANCY. I would like to call the attention of the Solicitor General to subsection 5, in connection with the oath that is prescribed. The hon. gentleman knows that we have absolutely no Dominion revision, they are all provincial revisions. Take a Dominion riding composed of three townships in three separate electoral districts for the local. The local franchise in the province of Ontario is what we call one man one vote. If an elector, previous to 1898, moved from one electoral division to the other, then he might be struck off the list. That is still the case. But by the change that was made in 1898, in Ontario, although an elector is required in order to get his name upon the list to be a resident in the municipality, if his name appears upon the list afterwards moves into another municipality, still a portion of the same electoral district for the local, he remains on the list. Now, the question arises, the voter ceases to reside in the electoral district for the Dominion, but his name cannot be removed from the voters' list, because he still remains in the same electoral district for the local. Could he vote in two electoral districts for the Dominion, namely, in the one in which he is a resident, and in the other by reason of his name appearing upon the list? Now, there is no protection against a person who resides in another electoral district coming in and voting, so far as I can find in the oath, which forms part of the Act. Although he does not reside in the electoral district for the Dominion really, he would be entitled to

vote because he still resides in the electoral district for the provincial, and in that case he would be entitled to vote at the two elections, so far as this Bill appears, namely, for the electoral district of the Dominion in which he resides, and in the electoral district in which he formerly resided. But the change brought him into another electoral district for the local. I hope to make myself clear to the hon. gentleman. It is a very difficult thing to think out the different complications that arise in a case of that kind. If I understand the hon. gentleman aright, his intention is, so far as the province of Ontario is concerned, to endeavour to carry out the principle of one man one vote. Am I right in that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. CLANCY. In this case the hon. gentleman will see the difficulty I have pointed out, namely, that you cannot remove a man's name from the list. If he is still in the local district, because we have absolutely no Dominion lists.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What is your remedy?

Mr. HENDERSON. He could only vote where he resides.

Mr. CLANCY. But that is in the local. He has to be a resident within the Dominion electoral district. There is no provision of the law that prevents him going there and voting, and you cannot get him off the list for the reason I have stated, because he is still a resident of the local district. I point out the difficulty in order that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) may think the matter over. I have no doubt his attention has been drawn to it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No, not in that shape. It is a new difficulty. I would ask the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), and other hon. gentlemen, to meet me in the Department of Justice to-morrow and we might go over this and see if we can draft a clause. I have already asked Mr. Fraser to consider it, and he is all at sea about it. He does not seem to be able to draft a clause that will meet the difficulty that has been suggested.

Mr. INGRAM. Is that the section where voters move from one municipality to another, but not to different electoral districts?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. CLARKE. Before this clause is passed, I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General for an explanation of subsection 3:

If the elector named is found on the list of voters for the polling district of the polling station he shall be entitled to vote.

Does that mean all names on the voters' list given to the returning officer by the legal custodian, no matter where the elector resides?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is my view of it, and I do hope that is going to meet the difficulty that we have had to grapple with in Ontario.

Mr. CLARKE. Is there any oath in the schedule that the voter may be called upon to take that will debar him under this subsection?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not if his name is on the list, except that the ordinary oath may be put to him as to identification.

Mr. INGRAM. Supposing a man lives fifty miles from here, if his name appears on the Ottawa voters' list, you would not pretend to say that he would not be entitled to vote?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Why not?

Mr. INGRAM. Then, he is a non-resident.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It does not make any difference. His right depends on the fact that his name is on the list.

Mr. INGRAM. Then, you are going against the principle of manhood suffrage?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not care anything about manhood suffrage as far as I am concerned. I only adopt it because it is adopted in Ontario. I would not be prepared to adopt it if I had anything to do with it. I believe property has some rights in this country yet. I think we may allow sections 66, 67, 68 and 69 to stand.

On section 72,

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we had better let that stand. It provides for the form of the ballot which we have not yet adopted.

The CHAIRMAN. Stands.

On section 75,

Mr. CLANCY. What is the change in that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Subsection 2 is new:

And in case no interpreter is found, such elector shall not be allowed to vote.

Mr. CLANCY. I know of a case in one of the electoral districts where there are two very intelligent men who are deaf and dumb and who desire to vote. The difficulty has arisen as to an interpreter. No man can take the oath that he interpreted the language. The statute says, the language of such person.

Mr. CLARKE. Can they read ?

Mr. OLANCY. No, they cannot read at all.

Mr. ELLIS. Then, if signs are used for the purposes of language, it is the language.

Mr. OLANCY. But they cannot read, and there is absolutely no language.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We will carry that. Let that go.

The committee rose and reported progress.

Mr. CASGRAIN. When does the Solicitor General propose to take up the Bill again?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If it is convenient to those who take an interest in the Bill, we will say Tuesday next.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Might I ask the minister what business will be gone on with tomorrow ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. We do not know yet, the Prime Minister is not here. Time will tell.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.40 a.m. (Wednesday.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, June 6, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

RETURN ORDERED.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. member for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior), some time ago, called for the production of the report of Mr. Clute. The report was brought down a few days ago. I may say to the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) that the report which he has called for in regard to the purchase of provisions for the North-west Mounted Police is a very long one, but I hope to have it down on Tuesday next.

Mr. CLANCY.

MR. CHARLES R. DEVLIN.

Mr. GILLIES asked :

1. When was Mr. Charles R. Devlin appointed emigration agent for the Dominion of Canada in Ireland?

2. What amount of money has been paid the said Charles R. Devlin in travelling expenses, salary and incidentals since the date of his appointment up to the present time?

3. What has been the total amount paid out by the government of Canada in connection with the agency since Mr. Devlin's appointment?

4. How many emigrants were sent to Canada from Ireland by Mr. Devlin since he was appointed emigrant agent?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. 1. Mr. Devlin was appointed to his present office on March 15, 1897. 2. There has been paid to Mr. Devlin, since the date of his appointment up to April 30 last, for salary, \$6,254.30; travelling expenses, \$2,898.56. 3. The total amount paid out by the government in connection with the Dublin agency, which is in charge of Mr. Devlin, since the latter's appointment, is as follows: Salary, \$6,254.30; travelling expenses, \$2,898.56; all other expenses in connection with the office, including rent, furnishings, &c., \$4,927.87, or a total of \$14,080.73. 4. No record is kept of the number of emigrants sent by each emigration agent in the British Isles, consequently, the department is unable to answer this question directly.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. DAVIS asked :

1. Is the Postmaster General aware that during the present session Tory campaign literature consisting of Montreal Tory campaign sheets entitled: 'Crushing Reply—Hon. G. E. Foster to Canadian Electors.' 'A scathing exposure.' 'Facts versus fiction.' 'Foster, the greatest living orator, annihilates the Grit Pygmies.' 'Sir Charles Tupper, mightiest of thunderers, pulverizes his craven opponents.' 'The Piles of Bones Bard.' 'Sweetest of Pianolas,' &c., and speeches of Sir Charles Tupper, have been franked broadcast to the electors of Prince Edward County, under the frank of H. Corby, M.P., and stamped thereon as sent with the compliments of Mr. Geo. O. Alcorn, of Picton, Ont.?

2. Is the said Geo. O. Alcorn a member of the House of Commons? If not, has he the right to have Tory literature sent through the mails on the frank of Mr. Corby, M.P.?

3. Has any person who is not a member of parliament a right to have his political campaign literature sent through the mails free on the frank of a member of parliament? If not, by what right did Mr. Alcorn obtain free transmission through the mails of his campaign literature?

4. If Mr. Alcorn had no right to escape payment of postage, does the Post Office Department intend to take steps to recover from Mr. Alcorn the amount of postage which he should have paid on his complimentary Tory literature to the electors of Prince Edward County?

5. If one person, not being a member of parliament, is entitled to free transmission of mailable matter through the mails under the frank of a member of parliament, what is to prevent every person in Canada resorting to a similar method in order to escape payment of lawful postage?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mu-
lock). Under the provisions of subsection
2, of section 42, of the Post Office Act, being
chap. 5 of the Revised Statutes of Canada,
letters and other mailable matter, addressed
by a member of parliament at Ottawa, dur-
ing the session, are entitled to free transmis-
sion through the mails to places in Can-
ada. The Act does not appear to place any
limitations on the character of such mail-
able matter.

TIMBER LICENSES COVERING INDIAN LANDS.

Mr. **GILLIES** asked :

1. How many timber licenses are now in force covering land under control of the Indian Department?

2. By whom are such licenses held?

3. Are they renewable yearly; and if so, on what conditions?

4. As a rule, are all the conditions promptly met by each licensee?

5. Are any of the licensees now in arrears for dues, fees, ground rents, &c.? If so, to what extent in each case, by whom payable, and have the licenses been renewed? If so, what is the date of renewal?

Mr. **SUTHERLAND**. 1. Twenty-four. 2. Philetus Sawyer, John Charlton, Cook Bros., Beatty, Wilcox & Beatty, The McArthur Bros. Co., Victoria Harbour Lumber Co., Ltd., No. 1., Victoria Harbour Lumber Co., Ltd., No. 2., W. C. Edwards & Co., Gilmour & Hughson, St. Maurice Lumber Co., Burton & Bro., Hitchcock & Foster, Saginaw Lumber and Salt Co., The Charlemagne and Lac Ouareau Lumber Co., A. J. Beveridge & Co., Geo. T. Baird, The Rathbun Co., of Deseronto, Spanish River Lumber Co., Henry Atkinson, J. R. Booth, Frank Perry, Chew Bros., J. W. Munro and R. H. Klock & Co. 3. Yes; on the conditions that the limits shall have been worked the preceding season or satisfactory reason assigned for not working. That the annual ground rent and renewal fee and all dues on timber cut, as shown by sworn returns, shall have been paid, and that the timber regulations shall have been complied with. 4. Yes. 5. No. There are none of the licensees in arrears.

BASIC SLAG FERTILIZER.

Mr. **DOMVILLE** asked :

1. Did the Minister of Inland Revenue make the following statement: 'The department cannot alter its system at the instance of any special manufacture, but it is ready to adopt the latest and best scientific methods approved by the Society of Public Analysts in England, or

recommended by any such body as the Royal Agricultural Society of England. It is also prepared to adopt that system which the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm recognize as giving results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?'

2. Has there been any protest to the method of analysis adopted by the chief analyst for the determining the availability and total phosphoric acid in Thomas' phosphate powder? If so, when, and by whom?

3. When such protest was made, were any steps taken to obtain the opinion of the Society of Public Analysts in England, the Royal Agricultural Society in England, or the authorities of the Dominion Experimental Farm, as to what method of analysis gave results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?

4. Will the government submit an explanation of the methods of analysis adopted by the Department of Inland Revenue, viz., 'the citrate of ammonia solution,' and forward a copy of the explanation of the method used in England and Europe, viz., 'a 2 per cent solution of citric acid,' to the chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and the director of the Agricultural Research Station, Darmstadt, Germany?

5. Will the government submit the following question to such authorities: 'Which method of analysis for determining the availability of the phosphoric acid in basic slag or Thomas' phosphate powder would, in your opinion, give results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?'

6. Will the government adopt the system recommended by those authorities as giving results corresponding most closely with those obtained in actual agricultural practice?

7. Has the Department of Inland Revenue received samples of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder during the month of April, 1900?

8. If any samples were received, have they been analysed by the chemist of the department, and what was the result of such analysis?

9. Who is the consulting chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England?

10. Were certificates of analysis of Albert's Thomas powder received by the department? If so, by whom were the certificates signed?

11. What was the result of the analysis of Albert's Thomas phosphate powder, as expressed in such certificate?

12. Upon what basis or analysis will the 'relative value per ton of 2,000 pounds,' as given in the bulletin of the Inland Revenue Department, be calculated or determined?

13. Does such relative value, so calculated or determined, give a fair and correct result of the agricultural value of Thomas' phosphate powder as a fertilizer?

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE** (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière). 1. Yes. 2. Objections were made by Messrs. Wallace and Fraser and Mr. Fred T. Wedderburn, St. John, N.B. 3. No. 4. Under consideration. 5. The department proposes to ask the opinion of the Society of Public Analysts in London. 6. The department would be inclined to adopt the system recommended by the above-named Society of Public Analysts. 7. Yes; two. 8. Their analyses resulted as follows :

	No. 1146. per cent.	No. 1147. per cent.
Phosphoric acid, soluble	0·16	0·23
“ reverted	8·19	6·60
“ insoluble....	9·95	10·77
Total	18·30	17·60

9. Not known to the department. 10. Yes; by Augustus Voelcker & Sons. 11. The analysis showed as follows:

	No. 1146. per cent.	No. 1147. per cent.
Total phosphoric acid.....	18·32	18·18
Phosphoric acid dissolved by a 2 per cent solution of citric acid	15·87	15·87

12. Upon the results given above under No. 8. 13. Yes.

INSPECTOR OF BOILERS AND MACHINERY, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. PRIOR asked:

- Who were the candidates who competed at the examination held in Victoria, B.C., in March, 1898, for the purpose of qualifying for the position of inspector of boilers and machinery?
- What were the names of those who succeeded in passing the examination?
- Who was appointed to the position of inspector in April, 1898?
- Had that gentleman ever before held a similar position under the government?
- If so, had he been dismissed, and for what reason?
- On whose recommendation was he appointed in 1898?
- Is he still in the employ of the government in any capacity?
- What candidates appeared at a similar examination held in Vancouver, B.C., in April, 1900, and what were the names of those who successfully passed the examination?
- Who has been appointed in the place of the late inspector?
- How long has the present inspector been a resident of Canada?
- Was Mr. W. J. Cullum one of the successful candidates at the examination held in March, 1898?
- Was he ever officially notified that he had passed? If so, when, and by whom?
- Is the Minister of Marine and Fisheries aware that Mr. Cullum was informed that it was unnecessary for him to go up for examination in April, 1900, as he had already passed in March, 1898?
- Was a petition received by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries at the beginning of this year, signed by some thirty-one British Columbia marine engineers, praying that Mr. Cullum be appointed to the position of inspector?
- Is not Mr. Cullum thoroughly qualified for the position?
- For what reason was Mr. Cullum passed over and the position given to somebody else?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). 1. Nicholas Thompson, Vancouver; William B. Kemp, Vancouver; William James Cullum, Victoria. 2. None of them passed a successful examination, Mr. Cullum showing

Sir HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE.

the best. 3. William A. Russell. 4. Yes. 5. Was dismissed for doing work for outside parties contrary to orders of the department. 6. On the recommendation of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. 7. No. 8. Samuel Baxter, Victoria; Thomas Wyatt, Vancouver; Frank M. Richardson, Vancouver; Frank M. Richardson successfully passed. 9. Frank M. Richardson. 10. Frank M. Richardson produced voucher to show he was in the employ of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., at Vancouver, as apprentice and improver, from October, 1888, to January, 1892, and states previous to his sea service lived in British Columbia, since 1887. 11. No. 12. No. 13. No, chairman having Mr. Cullum's previous examination, and learning that since examination taken he was solely employed as second engineer on the *Quadra*, considered it unnecessary to waste any more time in examining him, he not having had any opportunity while so employed of gaining the essential knowledge in which Mr. Cullum showed his weakness in former examination. 14. Yes. 15. Was not considered as such by the examiners, but they were of opinion he might be trained for office. 16. Showing lack of practical knowledge of construction and staying of boilers.

LICENSES TO CUT TIMBER ON DOMINION LANDS.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

On what date were the regulations of the order in council of July 1, 1898, governing the granting of yearly licenses and permits to cut timber on Dominion lands in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, brought into force in Manitoba?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The regulations embodied in the order in council dated July 1, 1898, governing the granting of yearly licenses and permits to cut timber on Dominion lands in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, came into force on August 13, 1898.

ISSUE OF TIMBER-CUTTING PERMIT TO MR. T. A. BURROWS.

Mr. DAVIN asked:

What is the date of the permit granted to Theodore A. Burrows to cut timber in Tp. 30, R. 21; Tp. 31, R. 21; Tp. 30, R. 22; Tp. 32, R. 23? Did he get more than one permit? If so, what is the date of each? On what date would the permit or permits expire?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Permit No. 33,523 was issued in favour of Mr. Theodore A. Burrows to cut timber on berth 827, comprising lands in the above townships, on January 17, 1899. This permit expired on May 1, 1899, and was the only one issued to Mr. Burrows to cut timber on the berth in question.

ALBERTON HARBOUR, P.E.I.

Mr. MACDONALD (King's) asked :

1. What amount of money has been granted or expended by the government to stop up a break through the Sand Hills, near Alberton Harbour, Prince Edward Island?
2. How was the amount expended, and under whose control and authority, and what rate of wages was the party paid?
3. Is the work still incomplete?
4. Who inspected the work?
5. Is the government aware that nothing was done to secure the brush placed there, and that consequently it has been carried away?
6. Is the party dispensing the grant held responsible for the loss?
7. What does the government intend to do about the break in the said hills, which threatens to lessen the water of the harbour, thus menacing navigation?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mullock). No orders were issued from the Department of Public Works to do this, and no information in department to show that the work is being done. Perhaps the hon. gentleman has made a mistake in the works to which he has alluded.

QUEBEC ELECTORAL LISTS.

Mr. CASGRAIN asked :

1. Have any electoral lists for any constituency or electoral division in the province of Quebec, under section 10 of the Act 61 Victoria, chap. 14, been received by the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery since April 1, 1900?
2. If so, from what constituency or electoral divisions, or parts thereof, have such electoral lists been received?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). 1. Yes. 2. The following lists have been received : Bagot, Beauce (part), Beauharnois, Berthier, Bellechasse, Brome, Chambly and Verchères (part), Champlain (part), Charlevoix (part), Chicoutimi and Saguenay (part), Compton (part), Dorchester, Drummond and Arthabaska (part), Huntingdon, Kamouraska, Laprairie and Napierville, L'Assomption, Laval (part), Lévis, Lotbinière, Mégantic (part), Missisquoi, Montmagny, Montmorency (part), Nicolet, Pontiac, Portneuf, Quebec County, Richmond and Wolfe (part), Richelieu, Rimouski, Rouville, St. Hyacinthe, St. Johns and Iberville (part), Shefford (part), Sherbrooke (part), Soulanges, Stanstead (part), Témiscouata, Three Rivers and St. Maurice (part).

FISH HATCHERY AT SYDNEY, C.B.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I availed myself of the opportunity to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), a question that requires prompt consideration. I am advised :

That the sale of the government fish hatchery at Sydney, C.B., is advertised for Saturday next. The intention is to establish it in Inverness

County. People here protest vigorously against removing the fish hatchery, which is of so much importance to the county of Cape Breton. Sydney Board of Trade and town council forwarding resolutions protesting against it.

If this statement is correct, I would ask the minister to suspend the sale until after he receives the representations of the Sydney Board of Trade, and the Sydney town council.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). I would be glad to do that if it would accomplish any good result. This matter was fully discussed when my estimates were going through. The building, which I am told is old and rotting down, is built on admiralty ground, and the Admiralty is desirous of getting the ground back. I notified the Admiralty that inasmuch as we had determined, upon the advice of Commissioner Prince, to build a new hatchery at Margaree, where the salmon ova could be obtained, we would be in a position, in a short time, to give the Admiralty the ground back. The building is of no use whatever, but such as it is, it is being sold by public auction for whatever it will bring. If the hon. gentleman is really anxious that I should postpone the sale until after I receive the petitions, I will be glad to do so.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. If the sale does not touch the question of removing the hatcheries from Sydney, I do not see that it is so important.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. It does not.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Has the minister made up his mind on the question of removing the fish hatcheries ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, and building a new one at Margaree, on the report of my officers.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I do not refer to the building of a new one at Margaree, but I would ask the minister not to take any action to remove the Sydney hatchery, until he receives these remonstrances which are now on their way.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The decision has been reached some time ago, and this would not affect, it in the slightest degree, because the work will go on at Margaree anyway, and the hatchery will not be opened at Sydney.

Mr. H. F. McDOUGALL (Cape Breton). Is the minister aware that any quantity of salmon ova can be found within a few miles of Sydney, without going to the Margaree ?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The report says to the contrary.

Mr. McDOUGALL. Why, they have been getting the ova there for the old hatchery,

and sending it to the Margaree and other streams in Cape Breton.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. That is directly contrary to the report I received from my officers.

Mr. McDOUGALL. That cannot be possible. There is a salmon river only a few miles from Sydney, where any quantity of salmon are caught.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. My information is not of that character, and the determination to remove the hatchery to Margaree was because of what I have stated.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Would the minister bring down these reports to the House? I do not understand that it is necessary to build the hatchery near where the ova is obtained. One of the greatest fish hatcheries in the world is at Washington, and the ova is brought immense distances. When representing Canada at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, I had the ova taken from Canada to London, and the salmon were hatched out in the exhibition, and raised until they were actually caught with a fly in the place, before the exhibition closed. I should like to see these reports, so that we may have some evidence of the necessity of bringing the hatchery to the ova, instead of the ova to the hatchery.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I am not aware whether the reports may be in writing or not, but they may be. I had a conversation with Mr. Prince about it, and as it is a purely scientific question, I acted upon his advice. If the report is in writing, I will bring it down.

Mr. J. A. GILLIES (Richmond). I can hardly credit that the minister can have such a report from his officer, because I know from my personal knowledge that very many salmon have been taken in a river only six miles distant from the Sydney hatchery, and they have been spawned there for a great many years. I cannot, therefore, understand how any officer can make a report such as the minister mentions.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I again call the attention of the government to a grievance that I have aired on several occasions, and which has now become chronic. It seems to be utterly impossible to get answers to the order of the House for returns, and it will be my duty to lay the case pretty completely before the House. In the first place, I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact, that I have two notices of motion on the paper for returns, and I suppose it will be impossible to reach these. However, before the railway estimates are brought down, I should like to have this information, and as I cannot get

Mr. McDOUGALL.

it by motion, I imagine there will be no objection to having it brought down on this request. Then, I sent to the Postmaster General, a little return, with reference to a postal route in Albert County. I had made a mistake in the name, and after making the mistake good, I sent the return to the minister, and he promised to have a return brought down according to what I intended, and not according to what was on the paper. Will he just make a note of that, and see that it is brought down?

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). I think the hon. gentleman informed me of the mistake, and I gave instructions to have a return made in accordance with his wishes.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman put a tracer on that, and see where it is side-tracked. Then, there was a return ordered by the House on the 7th of February in regard to correspondence with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). Will the hon. gentleman allow me to say a word about that? He mentioned it the day before yesterday. I was under the impression that the return had been prepared and handed in. I know it was prepared and sent to the House, and I was quite certain in my own mind that it had been handed in; but when the hon. gentleman mentioned it, I could not find the copy that had been prepared. Yesterday afternoon I gave instructions that another copy should be prepared immediately, and yesterday evening I was informed by the secretary of the department that it was ready and that he had sent it to the Secretary of State. I expect that it will be here to-day. There has been no delay.

Mr. FOSTER. There has been delay since the 7th of February. Perhaps the hon. gentleman did with that as he once did with another return—brought it down and laid it on the Table here; but I am glad to know it is in esse.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. What return does the hon. gentleman refer to?

Mr. FOSTER. I do not remember. I know it took me a year to find it, and I at last found it in one of the desks in the House.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I would like the hon. gentleman to tell me what return it was, for I have brought down no return except in the proper formal way.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman was younger then. On March 19 the House ordered a return about military canteens. The minister was good enough to bring down the unimportant part of the return, but not the important part. I jogged his memory about

it, but I have not yet got the second part of that return.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE** (Mr. Borden). I made inquiries for the letters which the hon. gentleman refers to, but have not yet been able to find them. They may possibly be among my own private correspondence. I will have another search.

Mr. **FOSTER**. On March 19 the House ordered a statement of the living scale allowed in the Yukon; that has not yet made its appearance. On March 28 the House ordered papers in reference to Col. Domville; they are not brought down. On March 28 it ordered a return with reference to scrap iron sales by the Railway Department; that still remains in the capacious mausoleum of the Minister of Railways.

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. May I ask what return the hon. gentleman refers to in regard to Col. Domville? I was told by my deputy that all the returns ordered had been brought down.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Then, here is a case which illustrates a prevailing characteristic of this government. I want to speak in all moderation and without anger; and I must say that for the right of members of this House to have information, and for the orders of this House to the government to bring down information, this present aggregation shows the most cynical disregard, and is one of the most devil-may-care governments that ever had an existence in this or any other country. Having expressed myself thus moderately, I want to show the reason for this statement. The government commenced a system of commissions to investigate the poor Liberal-Conservative officials who had the good sense to vote for Liberal-Conservative candidates in the election of 1896. They had a double object; they could provide for a good many of their own friends in these commissions, and they could make a good many vacancies to which other and more lucky ones could be appointed.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). The hon. gentleman had better not transgress the rules of the House.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Do not force me to make a motion, and I will not. From the time these commissions were appointed to the 6th of June, 1900, we have been trying anxiously to find out how many have been appointed, what was paid to them, and what were the results as regards dismissals from office. We commenced in 1897 by asking for a return. In 1898 returns were asked for. In neither of these years did we get a satisfactory reply, or even what might be called a partial reply. In 1899 I made the very same motion, and it reads as follows:

For a statement of all persons or commissions of inquiry appointed to inquire into the conduct

of employees of the government since August 1, 1896, giving the names of the commissioners, their rate of pay and allowance, the aggregate paid to each as pay and allowance, also the names and post office addresses of all persons dismissed on the reports of the commissioners.

Last year, towards the end of the session, there came down what purported to be the answer to that inclusive order of the House. Return No. 103 is signed by F. Gourdeau, Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and a note at the bottom says:

The information required by this motion, from August 1, 1896, to April 5, 1897, will be found in the return furnished on June 17, 1897, and which forms the sessional paper No. 73a of the House of Commons.

That is a bulky return of some 300 pages, but from the first page to the last, not a single name of an official dismissed is given. That return gives the papers connected with the appointment of the commissions, and the evidence taken in the course of the investigations; but no name of any official dismissed; and yet Mr. Gourdeau is so lax in his duty, and his minister exercises so little care over him, that they both bring to this House a foot-note saying, 'We have not brought down any information from the 1st of August, 1896, to the 5th of April, 1897, for that is all given in a return brought down on the 17th of June, 1897.' Having made that mistake, the Deputy Minister of Marine and Fisheries goes on to supplement the information from the 5th of April, 1897, up to the date of this. That is given in return No. 103 and seems to be tolerably full; I do not know whether it is complete or not. In connection with that there is a return from the Department of Indian Affairs giving the names of a few dismissals. Shortly after there comes down return 103a, which gives nothing more than a supplement to the information given in No. 103. So that, as far as these returns are concerned, we have only got a return from the Department of Marine and Fisheries and a short return from the Department of Indian Affairs.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). The return of the Department of Marine and Fisheries is complete, if I understood the hon. gentleman right.

Mr. **FOSTER**. So far as I know, it is, with the exception of a very important hiatus from the 1st July, 1896, down to the 5th April, 1897, on which they give no information at all. They told me it was in a return already brought down, but of course, it was not as I have shown. We have no information with reference to that period of about a year. In 103d I have a remarkable document, from the first to the last. We cannot tell where it comes from. It does not bear the sign-manual of any department or of the official of any

department. From what I can make out, I would not be surprised to know that it belongs to the Department of Railways, but I am not sure. It may be the Department of Marine and Fisheries, which seems to be handling this work in sections. Anyhow it is only a fragmentary report.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Not signed by anybody?

Mr. **FOSTER**. No, except the Secretary of State, and it certainly does not belong to his department. There is nothing in it to show whence it came from or whither it was intended to go. 103g bears no signature of any minister or deputy minister, and bears no official stamp to show where it comes from; but by the names that appear in it, I am led to believe that it belongs to the Department of Railways and Canals, but I do not know.

That is all that was brought down in answer to the order of the House for a return from the 1st July, 1896, to the present year. When this session began, I took time by the forelock, and submitted a motion which the House passed, but the government and the department have gone one better than last year. Last year they brought down a few fragmentary reports which were not reliable, but this year they have not brought down one. I have paid out of my own pocket in order to get at what would be a fair approximation of the expenditure of this commission, but as to the dismissed officials, I cannot get any record of them. Is there any reason why the House should not have these returns? None at all. Ought it not to be a point of pride with the ministers to see that the orders of the House are carried out? Is it utter negligence or cynical contempt of the rights of the House that causes this sort of thing to go from year to year? It is simply intolerable. I am not angry, I have used very soft words considering the provocation. There never was a government which so cheerfully drew its salaries and is so negligent in doing its work, and so cynically careless in responding to the orders of the House for information.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I will not imitate the moderation of my hon. friend. I will simply remind him that I believe he has forgotten his deeds when he sat on this side. My hon. friend has referred to this last report, to which he has alluded as a very serious cause of complaint. With regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway correspondence, the Minister of Railways was under the impression that he had taken steps to have it brought down, and he has taken new steps and will have it down to-morrow. The hon. gentleman has given notice as to the military canteen and scale of living in the Yukon, but the Minister of Militia has explained that matter. With regard to the

Mr. **FOSTER**.

investigation, I will call at once the attention of the Secretary of State to the matter. The House is entitled to have returns brought down as speedily as possible, but sometimes delays take place, and the only thing we can do is to bring the matters to the attention of the Secretary of State.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON** (Three Rivers). I must add my quantum of complaint against the government, which my hon. friend has so softly qualified as the devil-may-care government. On the 28th April, I moved for a copy of the contract between the government and the Beaver Steamship Line for the carriage of mails and the orders in council in relation thereto. Also a statement of the lengths of the voyages of these steamships between Liverpool and Halifax and back during the winter season of 1899-1900. I have been patiently waiting for these returns, and they are returns which must be had before the estimates can be passed. The work is not very lengthy and would not take very much time in doing. It seems to me that the clerk in charge of that branch of the Post Office Department could have made out the return in half an hour.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL** (Mr. Mullock). I would remind the hon. gentleman that the contracts for carrying the mails by steamship across the Atlantic are a matter which belong to the Department of Trade and Commerce. At the same time, I will bear a share of any responsibility devolving on the government as a whole, and in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, I will make it my business to see his deputy and have the order of the House complied with.

Mr. **GILBERT W. GANONG** (Charlotte, N.B.) I desire to call the attention of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) to the fact that the return called for of the documents relating to the building of the lighthouse on the Grand Manan has not yet been complied with. Would he kindly look the matter up?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ganong) say that an order was made, and what date?

Mr. **GANONG**. Yes, on the 26th February.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. And does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ganong) say that the return is not yet down?

Mr. **GANONG**. I have not found it.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Does the hon. minister say that it is down?

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I do not.

Mr. **DAVID TISDALE** (South Norfolk). I think I have the greatest reason for griev-

ance of any member of the House. On the 14th of February, I moved for the only return I have ever asked for in the thirteen or fourteen years I have been in this House, and I have not got it yet. I would call the attention of the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) to it. The order was for copies of letters, telegrams, evidence, reports, documents and papers, with reference to or in connection with the investigation and dismissal of Henry Hall from the Customs Department. I am sure that there has been ample time, yet the return has not been brought down.

The MINISTER OF CUSTOMS (Mr. Paterson). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Tisdale) is the last to whom I would show discourtesy, if I showed it to any, which I hope I would not. I am certain that the return was prepared, and, if it is not down, I will see that it is brought down.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—HOISTING OF FLAG ON AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY BUILDING.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I desire to call the attention of the Postmaster General (Mr. Mulock), and perhaps, more particularly the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), to the fact that while every loyal citizen of Ottawa is celebrating the victory of British arms in South Africa—we have an institution, imported here from New York or somewhere else, and getting its living from the people of this country printing the postage stamps and currency bills, that has erected a fine building, and put a flag staff upon it; and I desire to know whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that they have not run up the flag.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The attention of the gentlemen concerned, has not been drawn to the point by the government, mainly for the reason that the government prefers to mind its own business. The concern in question is a private enterprise, and the question whether they fly a flag or not is entirely their own affair, and we would not presume to offer any suggestions. All I know is that we have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars by dealing with that company, and that is what the public are chiefly concerned in. But I may say further that I know that on several occasions of a national character, the handsome building put up by the company was illuminated and adorned in honour of events which all Canadians unite in celebrating.

Mr. MILLS. I suppose it was the business of the Nova Scotia government, at the time of the Queen's Jubilee—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MILLS—that it raised the flag—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order. Sit down.

Mr. MILLS—of a defunct trading company—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MILLS—instead of the Union Jack on the government building of Nova Scotia.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is no question before the Chair.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—VITALINE RATION.

Mr. FREDERICK D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I desire to call the attention of the House and the country to what I consider a very important matter, a matter of grave concern to the whole country. And to put myself in order, I will make the necessary motion before I resume my seat.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I may say to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) that the procedure he adopts is certainly not at all in accordance with the rules of the House. The House will be moved into Committee of Supply during the day, and that will be the proper time to bring forward any grievance that he has.

Mr. MONK. I do not think so. This is a matter more urgent than anything else, and the course I intend to pursue will probably save lengthened discussion at a later stage. I think the matter should be brought to the attention of the House immediately. Perhaps, as I wish to be very brief, the best way in which I can introduce this matter, and bring it to the consideration of the House is to read a short article which appeared in the *Military Gazette* as far back as April 3, last. This will show to the House what is the question I desire to deal with, and I will supplement it by stating some facts which are within my own personal knowledge. I will make no comments—I think the facts speak eloquently for themselves—but will leave hon. members to draw their own conclusions:

Calls for Investigation.

The 'Canadian Military Gazette' has reason to believe that a very serious charge is attributable to the Militia Department, as represented by the minister. The matter is one which, from a political point of view, would be a scandal; but with that the 'Canadian Military Gazette' has nothing to do. Evidence is forthcoming, however, which goes to prove that the question of the comfort and good health, and even the lives, of our troops in South Africa has been sacrificed to consideration which we can only say call for strict investigation.

In a recent issue a remark was made about the extraordinary price which the government was paying for an emergency ration, i.e., \$2 per pound; and attention was called to the fact that the German iron ration is furnished for about 18c. per ration. The price paid for the ration

is not now the point with which we would deal. Two dollars may have been, and we should say was, a very high price to pay for any ration whatsoever; but so long as that ration had been analysed and properly tested as a reliable emergency food, that was all that could be said. A short history of the facts will, perhaps, be to the purpose.

We believe the government some time ago purchased \$5,000 worth of a certain ration called 'Vitallin' or 'Vitaline,' from contractors in Montreal at the said price of \$2 per ration. We believe no tenders were called. We believe the individuals who supplied the ration had no experience as manufacturing food chemists, and have no standing as such. And further, we believe that the ration purchased can be duplicated in the United States and in Canada by any ordinary prepared food—of which the name is legion—for the sum of from 12 to 15 cents. It transpires, moreover, that this food was not given any practical test. It was packed in tins which were not sterilized, with the consequent probability that the tins might burst before reaching Cape Town. Some of these goods have already been shipped, and more are to be sent shortly. So much for the ration which the government has procured for our men on active service. There is another side to the case which would seem to make the matter worse.

One year ago at Kingston the government had a very severe test made of another ration, the name of which is registered at Ottawa. The test was made at the direction of the minister, under the supervision of Director General Neilson, and was imposed upon soldiers of 'A' Batt., R.C.A., and others, whose sworn statements with regard to all particulars connected with the test were afterwards taken, and form documentary evidence as to the genuineness of the article. These men—three normal subjects and two cases of obesity—were selected by the agents of the government, and put for a period of thirty days entirely on this ration, not being allowed to take any other food during that time. The last question put to them, and one which they answered in the affirmative, was as follows: 'Having carefully read the preceding questions, and answers you have given thereto, and knowing fully and realizing that in consequence of this sworn testimony Her Majesty's troops of the different parts of the empire might be sent on active service for a period of twenty-five or thirty days with no other food but the diet you have taken for the last twenty-one (thirty) days, do you swear that your answers contain the truth and nothing but the truth?'

Though the contract had been promised for this food, it was not bought; but, instead, the contract was given to other persons in Montreal. A peculiar circumstance is that the label on the 'Vitaline' ration contains the following words: 'On this diet, with tea and coffee, Canadian soldiers have lived in perfect health twenty-one to thirty days.'

This and other matters are likely to be aired elsewhere; but, in the meantime, it might be explained on what consideration such a contract was taken from a reliable and experienced food chemist, whose ration had been specially tested, and placed in the hands of others who do not possess the same qualification of experience, and whose food was accepted without tender, untested and unanalysed.

All this under the hand of a minister who is himself a medical man, and must have appreciated the facts of the case. What were his reasons?

Now, Sir, I am not giving this explanation vainly. I will not be able to conclude

Mr. MONK.

otherwise than as I announced, but at a later stage, when the House will have had time to think over these facts which I intend placing before it, I will move for a committee of investigation in order that this matter may be sifted to the bottom. I think every member of this House will agree with me that in respect of the Militia Department it must be known throughout the length and breadth of this country that no fraud can go unpunished, and that people who are low enough to traffic in the health of our brave soldiers will see their acts revealed to the world at large, and punished. Now, supplementing the facts which I have read from this article, I will say at once that it seems to me strange that that article, written in the month of April last, should have provoked no investigation, no inquiry. I know as a fact that in certain directions the department, surely aware of this strange revelation, might have made immediate inquiries. Nothing was done, none seems to have been the word. Now, proceeding with the facts, in October, 1898, long before there was any question of this dreadful war which happily is now drawing to a close, Colonel Neilson, the director general of the medical staff of the Canadian militia, wrote to the manager of the Hatch Protose Company, about which I will have a word to say in a moment, wrote to him personally in Montreal, and told him that the Minister of Militia and Defence was very much interested in the Hatch protein food, and was impressed by the favourable results which had been obtained in the hospitals throughout the country. Lieut.-Colonel Neilson asked immediately for samples of this food, and two samples of 80 and 50 per cent protein strength were without delay sent to him. The statement made is that the food which I have just named, the emergency ration prepared by this specialist in Montreal, has been tested in most of the hospitals of this country, in the hospitals of Montreal, in St. Luke's Hospital, Ottawa, and also in Winnipeg; and it has received the commendation of several medical men well known to this House, amongst others, of Sir William Hingston. Well, in February, 1899, the Minister of Militia and Defence promised this company in Montreal, a reliable and solvent company, a responsible company, first a trial order for the mounted police in the Yukon, and inquired from this responsible company if they had a sufficient quantity of this food to deliver to the department should an emergency at any time occur. To this the manager answered that he had the necessary control, and would keep ready for the department from half a ton to one ton of this food over 60 per cent protein strength, like the food samples sent by him to Colonel Neilson. In March, 1899, the manager of this company sent his agent to Ottawa, Dr. Devlin, asking that the Militia Department make a

thorough test of the efficacy of this food, and that that test should be made upon soldiers in active service chosen by the government. The minister then said that he, being a medical man, must insist upon a test of a very severe character, and he dictated himself the conditions which were accepted by the company without hesitation. What were these conditions? Firstly, there were a certain number of questions to which the soldier would have to answer after having undergone this test, which was to last two months; secondly, the test was to last two months; thirdly, the test was to stop at once if a single one of the private soldiers should feel the slightest uneasiness. Then the test had to be controlled by chosen officers of the department. That test was carried out, and in this pamphlet which I hold in my hand, and which I will lay upon the Table of the House, will be found the answers of the soldiers and the reports of the officials, which showed that the test proved thoroughly satisfactory in every respect. Not one of the soldiers was inconvenienced in any way, and although the men, five in number, were of different temperaments, the test was perfectly satisfactory.

The war broke out, and the company I have just referred to communicated with the Minister of Militia and Defence to know whether any of this food which had been so thoroughly tested to the entire satisfaction of the government, would be purchased and placed at the disposal of the troops leaving for South Africa. The answer received from the department at that time was that the government had nothing to do with provisions for the first contingent, and that letter was sent on by the company to the war office in England. In January last the company became aware that a very large quantity of a certain kind of food had been purchased from a chemist by the name of Lyons, in Montreal, supposed to be in partnership with this Dr. Devlin that I have just referred to—I think the value was \$4,000 or \$5,000. This had been purchased at a price of \$2 a pound. No information whatever was given to the parties whose food had been so satisfactorily tested some months before in Kingston. On the 25th of January the Hatch Protose Company, through its manager, sent a registered letter to the Minister of Militia and Defence, a copy of which I have here, inquiring whether it was true that this food had been purchased, and whether the troops had been provided with this food untested and unanalysed, and without anybody having had an opportunity to tender. Strange to say this letter received no answer whatever. The facts that I have stated and everything connected with this affair seem to have been kept secret from the very beginning.

Now, coming to the serious part of this matter, the company having secured this

information, sent a reliable man, whose evidence is easily procurable, to the chemist in question and asked for some of this emergency food which the Militia Department had purchased in such large quantity for our troops. He was given a box of this stuff called vitaline, and he was asked to pay \$3, a dollar more than the government had to pay. Upon his remonstrating as to the price, he was told that the government not only had bought a very large quantity of this food, but that great promises had been made for the future, and that it was in consequence of this that food, in reality worth \$3 a pound, was sold to the government at the low rate of \$2 a pound. However, a sample was procured, and that sample was placed in the hands of one of the most important and reliable analysts of this Dominion. I refer to Mr. Milton Hersey, formerly demonstrator of chemistry at McGill University, and one of the most reliable and best known analysts in Canada. I have here in my hands the result of a very careful analysis made by Mr. Hersey, and that result shows as follows: The sample in question contains 6.27 per cent of moisture, only 17.55 per cent of crude protein, 61.91 per cent of carbohydrates, or expressed as dextrose, 68.79 per cent. Whereas, the food tested at Kingston contained over 60 per cent of nutritive substance, this food analysed by Mr. Hersey is shown to contain scarcely 17 per cent of nutritive substance. It is nothing but an ordinary breakfast food, and, as I am informed, what the government pay nearly \$5,000 for, can be bought retail in New York, not at \$2 a pound, but at from 10 cents to 12 cents a pound. The whole of it, placing it at the highest assumption, is certainly worth less than \$400. But, the price, I consider, is immaterial. What is important, and what I think we should investigate and probe to the very bottom is, that this food, as an emergency ration, was absolutely valueless. It was not even sterilized. The contents of this box opened by the chemist were, to a certain extent, putrid. The box had not been sterilized. A gross fraud had been perpetrated. Upon the large case containing the smaller boxes in which the rations were there was printed these words: 'Upon this food Canadian soldiers have subsisted without any other food during thirty days,' a statement which could only refer to the food tested at Kingston, and not to this worthless stuff, which had no other value than that of ordinary gruel. There is no government that purchases emergency rations for its troops but takes the precaution to open a certain percentage of the tins in which this precious food is contained. In this case no such precaution was taken. The whole of the stuff seems to have been shipped over to South Africa without any preliminary examination whatever, and I feel particularly grateful to-day that Pretoria has fallen into the

hands of the British troops, because we may hope, with some degree of confidence, that our own brave soldiers will never have occasion to use any of these rations. I think the matter calls for investigation, prompt, searching, immediate. I think, as I said at the beginning, that it cannot be known too soon throughout the country, that, whereas, men of broad and liberal mind are prepared to put up with a certain amount of wrong-doing when you come to the health and lives of the soldiers who are fighting for the honour of our country, we will all be severe and merciless, and those who are cold-blooded enough and selfish enough to wish to make money to gain their selfish ends at the expense of the health of our soldiers. They will be held up to the contempt of the country, and will be punished, if possible. As I stated at the beginning, I do not wish to take up the time of the House uselessly. I think there will be unanimity of opinion upon this subject, that the hon. Minister of Militia is gravely compromised in this matter, and that he himself should court investigation, which I will call upon the House to give us the opportunity of going into before the end of the session. I may say that the witnesses, all credible men, all responsible men, are in Montreal, and can be brought up at any time to substantiate the facts that I have briefly stated to the House. I beg to move, seconded by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C., (Mr. Prior), the adjournment of the House.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), I think, has shown to this House how exceedingly well fitted he would be to be a member of the committee which he tells us he intends to propose. The hon. gentleman does not need any committee; the hon. gentleman has settled the question in his own mind. He does not need any evidence. Although he has waited, it seems, for nearly two months, before bringing forward this question—

Mr. MONK. I only learned—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Although the hon. gentleman had in his hands the newspaper which he read to this House, for the past two months—

Mr. MONK. I had not.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It was published in April. The hon. gentleman said it was published in April. This is June, if I do not make any mistake. Let that go for what it is worth, but, let the House and let the country understand, at the very outset, the temper in which the hon. gentleman has proposed to make this investigation. Let the House discount, to a very large extent, the statements which the hon. gentleman has

Mr. MONK.

made under the ill-concealed desire to cast some imputation upon the head of the Militia Department, and in some way, if possible, to damage the government. That is as clear and transparent as anything can be. The hon. gentleman's heart goes out to these troops in South Africa.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman's heart, I say, goes out, but the hon. gentleman has given himself away by his manner here to-day, and has proved to the House that he is far more zealous in his desire to injure his political opponents, to stab them unjustly and unfairly, than he is to do something in behalf of the troops in South Africa. Let me say a single word, at the outset, in reference to the article which the hon. gentleman read with such evident relish. My attention was called to that article, but I took very little notice of it, as I do of all articles which appear in a paper which is published in the interest of the Conservative party. It has long ago lost its respectability, and every claim that it might have had for support from the militia of this country. I find in that article, which I read casually, a misrepresentation and a false statement at the very outset. That statement is that this government paid \$2 per ration for the food sent to South Africa. Now, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that this government paid 50 cents and not \$2 per ration. It was \$2 per pound that was paid, and the ration is composed of four ounces, so that there was four rations in the pound, and the price paid for each ration was 50 cents and not \$2, as the hon. gentleman stated. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), has adopted the article which he has read, and he must take the responsibility. The hon. gentleman stated that there had been no practical test of this food, and I will deal with that later on. He said it had been sent to South Africa in tins not sterilized. How does he know? I can tell the hon. gentleman that there are tins of that food here to-day, and this very day the Director General of Medical Affairs, showed me a tin of that food in an absolutely perfect state of preservation. The food has been issued to the troops in South Africa, and so far as I have heard, there has not been a single complaint in reference to it. Now, although the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), was very zealous to bring this matter forward at the earliest moment, he has waited two months, and I have no doubt he has waited in the hope that something might come from South Africa, which would sustain in some way, the charges which he has made against this department and against the government. He has failed. No charges or complaints have come, and no charges and complaints will come. Then with reference to the practical test. The hon. gentleman said that there

was a certain food which he praised. I think the hon. gentleman might almost—it would not be parliamentary to say such a thing—but if I were as reckless as he is, or disposed to take advantage of my position in parliament, as he has been, it might almost be insinuated that the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) stands here as the paid advocate—

Some hon. MEMBERS. 'Oh,' 'shame.'

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes—of the food which he says was thoroughly tested at Kingston, and which he has no doubt about. No matter what the price might have been, if that food had been sent to South Africa, everything would have been lively, and the hon. gentleman would have patted the Militia Department on the back. Now, Sir, I want to point out to the hon. gentleman that this is the food which the Department of Militia did send to South Africa, and I will prove it by the papers which I have before me.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. By way of preface, let me say this: The hon. gentleman has referred to Dr. Devlin, of the city of Montreal, as the agent of some one else. Let me tell him, that Dr. Devlin, of Montreal—a respected and able physician, I believe of that city—a son of the late Bernard Devlin, a former respected member of this House, with whom I had the honour to sit here many years ago—Dr. Devlin was the first man to call to the attention of the Department of Militia, the food which the department has sent to South Africa. So far as I know and believe, the food which was bought, and which was sent to South Africa, is the food which was examined and tested for thirty days.

Mr. MONK. Surely the hon. gentleman knows that is not so.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman will please wait till I get through. I say by way of preface, that Dr. Devlin came to see me and called to my attention an important food which was being manufactured by him on his premises in the city of Montreal. He brought letters from Sir William Hingston, from Dr. Ruttan, one of the leading chemists in Canada, and a professor in McGill University, and letters from other physicians, which were absolutely conclusive to me as to the value of the food which he asked the Department of Militia to test and examine as to its fitness for an emergency food. On the representations made to me by Dr. Devlin, supported by the distinguished men whose names I have quoted, and upon the recommendation, of course, of the Director General of Medical Affairs, to whom the whole matter was referred, and without whose advice I have not moved one hair's-breadth, the food in question was sent to the Kingston depot to be tested, because I

believed, and still believe, and am more than ever confirmed in the belief, that it was my duty as the head of the department, to adopt the advice given to me by my subordinate officer, the Director General of Medical Affairs, and have a thorough test made. It was a matter not only of consequence to the Dominion of Canada, but of great consequence to the Imperial army, and to humanity at large.

Well, Sir, we agreed that tests should be made. Dr. Devlin furnished the food with which those tests were made at Kingston, and from time to time Dr. Devlin visited Kingston, and, I may say, conducted the experiments which, according to my hon. friend, were highly satisfactory, and which established beyond question the value of this food. I have here the full details of those tests which, however, I will not trouble the House with.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the date of those tests?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The date of some of them was April, 1899.

Mr. MONK. Will the hon. gentleman state what was the name of the food?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The name of the food was 'Protose.' I find that Edmond Ebba, a driver in 'A' Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, was one of the parties who took this food for thirty days. I may explain that there were five soldiers, including, I think, some non-commissioned officers of the Royal Artillery, Kingston, who were fed almost exclusively upon this food for thirty days; and at the end of the thirty days they were able to make affidavits that they had suffered no inconvenience, that they believed the food was such as to sustain life, and in the case of some of them, they had actually improved in physique and condition during that time.

Mr. McNEILL. Does the hon. gentleman say that that food is 'Vitaline,' or whatever it is called?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I said 'Protose.'

Mr. McNEILL. Oh, that is another food.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes. That shows how much the hon. gentleman knows about it. Now, Sir, having spoken to the director general of medical affairs about this matter coming up to-day, the hon. gentleman having called my attention to it. Dr. Neilson wrote me this letter:

Ottawa, June 5, 1900.

To the Hon. F. W. Borden,
Minister of Militia and Defence.

Sir,—Together with Col. Drury, who conducted the investigation, Col. Twitchell, Consul General of the United States, who was throughout much

interested in the test and its outcome, and other officers of the Kingston garrison, I was present at the examination of five soldiers who have voluntarily submitted to the one month test of feeding exclusively on protein vegetal. The examination of each individual was made under oath. I personally knew four of these men, and could have no reasonable doubt as to their veracity. I at the time secured samples, which I have since preserved in my office—this with a view of future test or comparison. When, in January last, it was thought advisable to provide the second contingent five days' emergency for each man of the contingent, for use on occasion of great exertion, short army rations, &c., I could think of nothing more suitable than the protein vegetal I had seen tested at Kingston. When Mr. Devlin submitted samples with his tender, unknown to this gentleman I compared them with the specimens I had preserved since April, and found them identical. The specimen I had kept was perfectly preserved.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant,

F. H. NEILSON,
Lt.-Col. D.G., M.S.

As to the purchase of this food, I do not think I need take up the time of the House to discuss the propriety, the urgency, the necessity, the wisdom of providing for an emergency. We were sending out our second contingent; we had had experience of the trouble and the starvation which in some cases attended our soldiers in South Africa; and therefore, I think even the hon. gentleman will agree with me that it was a prudent thing to provide these men with the very best we could of everything, and we believed we were doing it. This is the authority upon which I did it:

Ottawa, January 4, 1900.

To the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

Sir,—I recommend that the troops of the second contingent be provided with five days rations of protein vegetal, as tendered for by Dr. F. E. Devlin. This substance has been thoroughly tested on five members of 'A' Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, during one month of last year. It proved itself then to be a complete food in a most concentrated form. It is palatable, light, agrees with delicate stomachs, and does not deteriorate if kept dry. As an emergency ration, under conditions of great exertion, fatigue, forced marching, &c., it appears to me to be admirably adapted.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. H. NEILSON,

Director General of Medical Affairs.

And on the side, in my own handwriting, is my approval of the purchase of that food. Here is the tender of Dr. Devlin to supply the Department of Militia and Defence 2,233 pounds of vegetable protein powder; and on the strength of the offer made and of the statement and recommendation of the director general of medical affairs, I authorized the purchase.

Mr. MONK. May I ask the hon. gentleman whom he purchased from?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have already stated from Dr. F. E. Devlin.

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

Mr. MONK. What about the Hatch Food Company, whose food had been tested?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not know anything about Mr. Hatch or his food company. I have only known Dr. Devlin from the first. I believed I was dealing with a reputable member of the medical profession, and I have not yet seen any reason to change my mind. As I said at the outset, Dr. Devlin proposed to the Militia Department the idea of trying and testing this food, and he did it on certificates which he held from Sir William Hingston, Prof. Ruttan, and others. I acted on the advice of my director general of medical affairs, and gave that test and purchased that food—as I supposed and believed, the same food—to send to South Africa; and that is the food which has been sent to South Africa, and which, I believe, when we get the results of the experience there, will turn out to be all that it has been represented to be. At any rate, even the hon. gentleman, with all his zeal for fair-play, his regard for the interests of the soldiers in South Africa, and without any feeling of malice against me or the government, has been unable to bring forward a single tittle of evidence to show that there has been the slightest complaint against this food.

Mr. MONK. Have you any of the present food on hand?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes. Now, I wish to emphasize Dr. Neilson's letter to me, in which he states distinctly that he had kept in reserve, for purposes of comparison, samples of the food which was actually used in 1899 at Kingston, and that unknown to Dr. Devlin, when he furnished the samples of food to be sent to South Africa, he had instituted a comparison and satisfied himself that the foods were identical.

Mr. TISDALE. As I understand the minister, these analyses were made from the samples produced, not from the body of the food purchased.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. We have samples taken from the different large boxes which were sent. Now, I do not know where the hon. gentleman got his information; presumably from Mr. Hatch, if there be such a gentleman. There is some doubt about it, I believe.

Mr. MONK. He is well known.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Not well known. Nobody knows that his name is Hatch. There is a man, I believe—

Mr. MONK. Well known.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Not well known. I want to ask the hon. gentleman where he got this information. He said here that the Minister of

Militia promised Mr. Hatch or somebody else an order forsooth for the North-west Mounted Police. Does not the hon. gentleman know that the Minister of Militia has nothing to do with the North-west Mounted Police?

Mr. MONK. I beg to correct the hon. gentleman. I never mentioned the North-west Mounted Police.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I took the hon. gentleman's words down, and he said that the Minister of Militia promised an order in Montreal for the North-west Mounted Police, and *Hansard* will show whether the hon. gentleman used these words or not. I do not wish to prolong this debate further than to say that I understand the hon. gentleman to adopt the language contained in the article which he read from the *Military Gazette*, and which contains these words: 'What consideration did the people in authority get for this order?' Does the hon. gentleman adopt that language. If he adopts that language and has the courage of his convictions, if he will stand up here and say that he applies that language to me, the hon. gentleman need not wait five minutes for his committee. He can have his commission at once, but let the hon. gentleman understand that when he adopts that language as his own and makes that statement, he is making it with the full responsibility of the place he holds in this House.

Mr. MONK. Will the hon. gentleman allow me? I did not adopt that article, but I asked for an investigation. I make no insinuations against anybody, but I say that this article calls for an investigation.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Then the hon. gentleman does not take the responsibility of the language which, after two months careful consideration, he read in this House.

Mr. MONK. The hon. gentleman is again mistaken. I only became aware of that article and the facts I have stated to the House within the last few days. I wanted to bring them to the notice of the House at once, but at the hon. gentleman's special request, I waited until to-day. I do not adopt that article. I do not insinuate that the hon. gentleman has received any consideration. I would not dream of any such thing, but I ask for an investigation, and I think we must have one.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If the hon. gentleman has not any insinuation to make, he would have done better not to have read that portion of the article, or, when he did read it, to have disclaimed any responsibility. It is only after he has had the opportunity of leaving me under the shadow of an imputation of that kind and after my calling

his attention to the fact, that he states to this House that he did not intend to adopt that part of the language of the article, and I think I have a right to complain of the want of generosity and fair-play on the part of the hon. gentleman.

I have here the words of the hon. gentleman, as taken down by the *Hansard* reporter, and this is what he said: That you promised in Montreal to give an order for the mounted police in the Yukon. I did not promise and never promised an order to anybody for anything. All the promise I made was that I would have this food carefully tested at Kingston, and I had it carefully tested after I was advised to do so by the director general of medical affairs.

The hon. gentleman wants an inquiry. It seems to me he is taking a new departure in this House. I have been a member of it for a good many years, but it is the first time I ever knew of a question of this kind brought up in this way. I have known hon. gentlemen who had the courage of their convictions, who had charges to make against ministers of the Crown and members of parliament, and who had the courage to stand up in the House and make those charges and stand or fall by them. I have known of investigations before the Public Accounts Committee, which is the proper place at any rate to initiate and make the first inquiry into anything that may be considered a questionable transaction. I understand such has been the practice in the past. I understand, too, that heads of departments have received from responsible members of this House, occupying leading positions on the opposition benches, demands that investigation should be made in their own departments as to certain matters going on there. I think that the hon. gentleman might have called my attention to what he says he believes to have been an imposition practiced on the Militia Department. I think that that would have been the wiser course. I believe that this is a proper question for departmental inquiry. I may say on this head, however, that I hold in my hand a report from Dr. Ruttan, Professor of Chemistry, I think, in the University of McGill, and official analyst of the city of Montreal, upon a sample of this food which I believe to be the same as that sent to South Africa. His report is certainly of a most satisfactory character, and perhaps I ought to read it. His test was made on the 18th of May, and he reports as follows:

May 18, 1900.

Dear Mr. Devlin,—I find on analysis of the two samples of food matter submitted that they give the following results:

Sample No. 2867, consisting of a mixture of starch and proteids, was used for the experiments on digestion, and the results of the tests of the digestibility of the proteids and starch in this sample of food were, briefly, that the proteid of the foodstuff was intermediate in ease and diges-

tion between fresh fibrine of blood and white of egg. As an average of three experiments, I found fibrine digested in one hour and ten minutes; the proteids of the foodstuff in one hour and forty-five minutes; white of egg in two hours and twenty minutes.

The starch was, of course, found to be readily digested in any form of diastase after being properly cooked. I examined the sample of pure protied food No. 2868, and found that it contained 88·8 per cent of proteids, which is a larger quantity than I have found in any other proteid food.

I remain, sincerely yours,
R. F. RUTTAN.

Mr. PRIOR. That was not the food sent to South Africa.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, it was. This, mind you, was submitted by Dr. Devlin and not by me. I am going to give the House the full benefit of the facts; I have nothing to conceal. That was submitted to Prof. Ruttan, and this is the letter which he has written to Dr. Devlin, and which was forwarded to Lieut.-Colonel Neilson, the director general of medical affairs—

Mr. MONTAGUE. Was this sample from the ship?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I cannot say.

Mr. MONK. When was this food purchased, or sent to South Africa?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. In January. Dr. Neilson has now in his possession samples of that food.

The PRIME MINISTER. Then the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) misunderstood the minister.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What I wish to ask is whether the minister knew whether the samples on which this report was made was actually from the ship?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The minister has some now on hand.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The director general has some on hand. I think I correctly understood my hon. friend (Mr. Montague). I had already stated to the House that I had not submitted this sample. But Dr. Devlin assures me over his own signature. Here it is in his own handwriting:

2867 is the exact emergency ration supplied to Militia Department for troops.

Mr. MONK. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) give the date of the purchase?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have given it a dozen times already—4th of January. That is, I do not know the date of purchase, but, on the 4th of January, the director general of medical affairs made his recommendation. This

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is the original document, and across it I wrote my approval; and, of course, the food was purchased after that date—I presume very soon after it, because it was shipped in January.

Mr. MONK. As a matter of fact, you do not know the date?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Well, now, with reference to the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Monk's) demand for a committee, I have only to say that he is welcome to any inquiry that he wishes. He can have this committee at any time he wants it, and the sooner the better. That is all I have to say to the hon. gentleman.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I am much at a loss to know the cause of the wonderful heat with which the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden, King's) has approached this question. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier brought before this House in temperate language—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER—in temperate language, language as temperate as such a case would admit of. The statement he made, if well founded, was one of the most startling statements that could possibly be made to the House. It was that the Minister of Militia had had submitted to him by a gentleman an emergency food which this gentleman represented as of great value. The Minister of Militia took the very wise precaution of having that food tested in the most thorough manner by actual test, by putting a certain number of people to subsist wholly upon it. It was found upon analysis that this food contained 60 per cent of nutriment. The result of the tests was to satisfy the Minister of Militia that it was a most valuable food product in cases where circumstances made it necessary to have, in small bulk, nutriment upon which human life could be sustained for a considerable number of days. The hon. member (Mr. Monk) stated to the House that we had reason to believe that a monstrous imposition had been practised, that, instead of having claimed that food so tested and approved, parties had been able to substitute a comparatively worthless article; and that, in fact, the Minister of Militia had been induced by somebody to pay \$5,000 for an article of food for which \$400 would be a large price.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Will the hon. gentleman (Sir Charles Tupper) allow me one moment—I know he would not wish to give the impression without information at any rate, that the Militia Department had declared the label. It was part of the understanding that these packages should be put up in a certain way, and that they should be

labelled by the manufacturers who signed them. The label was entirely made by him, and the responsibility is entirely his.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. My hon. friend (Mr. Borden, King's), has not improved his position at all by his explanation. The question is whether by any means any man living was able to commit such a fraud on the Militia Department, as to have substituted a worthless article, and have it sent for the use of our troops in South Africa, labelled as the identical food upon which a number of persons had subsisted for thirty days. If that were true, as my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has reason to believe it is, instead of the Minister of Militia having any ground for temper or for complaint against the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), he is under the deepest obligation to him for the opportunity to have that story so frightful—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes, is it not a frightful story, if we have had shipped to South Africa material only worth 10 cents a pound which has been represented as an emergency food upon which men have subsisted for thirty days? A more frightful fraud never was brought to the attention of parliament, if true. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier has reason to believe, from the evidence placed before him, that this was the fact; and I would ask the Minister of Militia whether he would have any member of this House so far forget what he owes to the country and to the gallant men who have taken their lives in their hands and gone to fight our battles in South Africa, as to fail to bring the matter to the attention of the minister, and give him an opportunity for explanation. Now, the point in which, it seems to me, the minister has altogether failed to give a satisfactory explanation to the House is this—he says that Dr. Devlin was the contractor from whom he purchased—the party who received the money. Then, I say, that makes Dr. Devlin's certificate and Dr. Devlin's assurances perfectly worthless. And in a matter of such grave moment as this, the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence was bound by the duty of the high position he occupies, and by the relation in which he stood between the vendor of this product and the men who were to use it, to have other and different testimony as to the quality of the material he was buying than any certificate or statement furnished by the vendor. He was absolutely bound to have that examination in such a way as to satisfy himself that he was not sending a worthless product worth only ten cents a pound, and containing 17 per cent of nutriment, instead of an article that he himself had tested and found to contain 60 per cent of nutriment, and to be worth \$2 a pound. Now, what

happened? It appears that the chemist who has produced this article was applied to for a certain quantity of it, and the applicant got a box for which he was asked \$3. Why? Because the chemist said that he had received an immense order from the Militia Department, and had much greater orders in prospective, that he had let the department have it for \$2, but he would not sell a tin of this food containing a pound for less than \$3, and \$3 was paid. And the highest and most respectable chemist that can be found in the country, as the member for Jacques Cartier asserts, examines that tin of food and declares it to be food of the same description as was sent to South Africa, and labelled as the protein upon which men had subsisted for thirty days, and he finds it utterly worthless. I ask the leader of the government whether any man who has such information placed in his hands by respectable parties, by men whose statements he has reason to believe reliable, would not fail in his duty if he did not do what the member for Jacques Cartier has done, that is, give the Minister of Militia and Defence notice that he intended to bring that question up and discuss it, as it has been discussed here. The matter is one of too grave a character to be dealt with by personalities bandied across the floor of this House, or insinuations of any kind whatever. It appears that the member for Jacques Cartier used the words 'mounted police' instead of 'permanent force'; but he referred to the fact of the Minister of Militia and Defence having stated to this party that he intended, having found the food of an admirable character, to send a portion of it to the Yukon, where it would be convenient to have a food of small bulk containing a large amount of nutriment. I do not intend to offer any opinion, but, I say the facts detailed by the member for Jacques Cartier, and the explanations offered by the Minister of Militia and Defence, make it absolutely necessary, in vindication of the character of the Minister of Militia and Defence, and his department, that this matter should promptly be referred to a select committee of this House. It is highly necessary to have testimony taken, not merely ex parte testimony, not merely the personal views of men, however respectable, in order that we may arrive at a conclusion on a matter of so grave moment. When we have these parties brought face to face, and evidence adduced before that committee, let that committee report to this House in vindication of the Militia Department, if it can be vindicated, from one of the most frightful charges that was ever brought against any department or any minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Who makes the charge? Nobody has made a charge up to this moment. A mere newspaper rumour is not a basis for a charge.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I say the bitterest enemy of the Minister of Militia and Defence, the bitterest enemy of this government, would be the man who, in face of the statements made and the names given by the member for Jacques Cartier—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What name? No name is given.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He has given the name of the inventor of the food tested at Kingston, he has given the name of the chemist who examined the food, and the test; he has given the name of a high chemist who has examined the food, and declared it to be a portion of the same food that was sent to South Africa. I say the Minister of Finance would be the bitterest enemy of the Minister of Militia and Defence if, in face of these statements, he was to interpose the slightest difficulty in having such a charge promptly referred to an independent committee of this House.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. On a mere newspaper paragraph.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, it is exasperating to find a gentleman, a member of the government, listening to a detailed statement of the names—

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No names.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER—and all the circumstances connected with this matter, as detailed by the member for Jacques Cartier, and then talk about a newspaper paragraph. Why, Sir, even if it be a newspaper paragraph—and the paper is the *Military Gazette*—if there was no foundation for the statement, the Minister of Militia and Defence ought to have taken these parties into court months ago in order to vindicate his department from the foul aspersions that were made against it, if he was in possession of facts that would vindicate him from these aspersions. I believe my right hon. friend the Prime Minister will be the first to say that this matter cannot be too promptly referred to a committee to be thoroughly investigated.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). I am sorry this matter—which may, perhaps, turn out to be a grave one, but which, up to this time, does not seem to me to be of that character at all—has not been approached in a more temperate manner by the hon. gentleman who brought it to the attention of the House. My hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence, notwithstanding anything that has been said by the leader of the opposition, had only too good reason to resent the manner in which the hon. member (Mr. Monk) brought this charge. The hon. member bases the charge, first of all, upon a newspaper article, which he read from the first to the last line, in

which there was a base insinuation against the Minister of Militia and Defence, in which the question was asked: What consideration has been paid by the vendor of that food to the military authorities to induce them to purchase it? If the hon. member thought proper to bring that matter to the attention of the House, he had no reason to endorse the statement of that paper; he did not at first disclaim responsibility, but, later on, when his attention was called to it, he disclaimed any responsibility; but at first he endorsed it and made it the basis of his charge. Now, I appeal to the sense of justice and fairness of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House if, upon a matter of this kind, too important to be considered as a personal matter, we should not approach it, not for the purpose of trying to make any political capital out of it, but from the point of view of the public interest, and of the interest of the militia, and of the brave men who are now fighting in South Africa. But, no reserve was made by the member for Jacques Cartier—I listened to him carefully, I do not think I lost a word of what he said—I appeal to the sense of every man in this House if the member for Jacques Cartier did not discuss this charge from first to last as if it had been already proved. He discussed the conduct of the Minister of Militia and Defence, not as an accused, but as a culprit. Well, under such circumstances my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence would not be the honest man that he is if he had not resented the manner in which the charge was brought against him.

I will now give to the House what I think myself to be the case, so far as it has been made out. The member for Jacques Cartier evidently thought that the Minister of Militia and Defence had not taken the due precaution which, in a matter of this kind, should have been taken for the protection of the health and the lives of the men who were sent to South Africa. That is the charge. Now, in face of that charge I want the House to remember what was the defence—I will not say 'defence,' because I do not wish even to use that word—but, what was the explanation given by the Minister of Militia and Defence? More than a year ago, he was approached by Dr. Devlin, a reputable physician, a man who, I believe, is one of the leading physicians in one of the leading hospitals in Montreal, to bring to his attention an emergency food, a food which might be found available in circumstances of emergency. He was recommended to the Minister of Militia by whom? By Sir William Hingston; no greater authority exists in Canada than Sir William Hingston on matters medical. He was recommended again, by whom? By Professor Ruttan, a gentleman who is understood to be the leading chemist in this country. With such recommendations

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it was the duty of the Minister of Militia to test the food offered to him. It was tested; it was found to be satisfactory. The test was conducted with great care, to see if protein food would have all the virtues which were claimed for it by the man who had introduced it to the attention of the Minister of Militia. That was some time in the winter of 1899. In the following year, unfortunately, there was a war. Our troops were sent to South Africa, and Dr. Devlin came to the Minister of Militia to suggest the advisability of supplying the troops with the food which he had previously brought to the attention of the minister. The matter was referred to the director general of the medical staff, Dr. Neilson, to report upon it. Dr. Neilson recommended that the Department of Militia should purchase a certain amount of the food for the use of the troops. The Minister of Militia then entered into a contract. Now, it is in the minds of some hon. gentlemen that the Minister of Militia, at the time that he purchased the food, did not use proper care and precaution. That is what the hon. member for Jacques Cartier had in his mind, and that is evidently what several other hon. gentlemen had in their minds. But now, I call the attention of the House to what was done by the Department of Militia. The Minister of Militia referred the samples furnished by Dr. Devlin of the food to be supplied, and which was to be purchased, to the director general; they were found by the director general to be the same as those produced last year, and they were found to have every character of the food which had been examined here. They were found to be absolutely identical. The department took the precaution of keeping these samples, and they are in the Department of Militia to be tested when the time comes to have them tested. I want to know, in the name of common sense, what other precautions the minister could take? That is what has been done. What comes next? The hon. member for Jacques Cartier says the food which was sold has not the character of the food which was tested by the Department of Militia. The food which was sold, therefore, if we are to believe the statement made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, a moment ago, you would have to come to the conclusion, was not the same. He says that a box was purchased, and that the contents were analysed, but he does not give the name of the party who purchased the box and analysed the contents.

Mr. MONK. I gave the name of the analyst.

The PRIME MINISTER. No, but the name of the purchaser, who made the charge. But, now, I go one step further. Dr. Devlin sold a certain quantity of food for which he received \$4,600. He gave the Department of Militia a sample of the food which he sold. The Department of Militia analysed

it. It was found to be good, it was found to be proper, and if that same food has gone to South Africa, there is no complaint to be made.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the whole point.

The PRIME MINISTER. We have to come to this supposition, and the insinuation is, that Dr. Devlin did not deliver to the troops the same food of which he had given a sample to the Department of Militia; that is to say, that Dr. Devlin, who is an honest and respectable man, one of the leading citizens of Montreal, one of the leading physicians of one of the leading hospitals in that city, who was recommended to the Minister of Militia by such a man as Sir William Hingston, one of the most respectable men in public life to-day, one of the most able men in his profession, had committed the unspeakable crime of having substituted other food for that which he sold. That is the charge. There would be no crime against my hon. friend the Minister of Militia if he had been imposed upon in this manner. But, to accept the statement made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, we must assume and believe, not that anything wrong has been done by my hon. friend the Minister of Militia, but that Dr. Devlin, the man who contracted with the government, has been guilty of a crime which would stamp his name with infamy, which would be reckoned as one of the most odious and heinous crimes ever perpetrated in any civilized country. That is the charge that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier makes against Dr. Devlin. Let me say to the hon. gentleman that it is not against my hon. friend the Minister of Militia, that he makes any charge to-day. But he charges Dr. Devlin, upon his responsibility—I do not know if he would go to that extent or not—but, at all events, he has in his speech to-day, charged that Dr. Devlin a respectable citizen, with having committed one of the most infamous, one of the most heinous crimes, ever committed in a civilized country.

Mr. MONK. I never made any such charge.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER. Of course you did.

The PRIME MINISTER. What does the hon. gentleman mean then, when he says that we have sent to South Africa a food that is spurious, stuff which is not worth 10 cents a pound, for which we have paid \$2 a pound? Now, the hon. gentleman says that he never made any such charge.

Mr. MONK. Who did it?

The PRIME MINISTER. The man who sold the stuff to the department. Who else could do it? That is the charge we have before us. If there were such a crime ever committed, there is no punishment in any

penitentiary in this country which would be too great for a man who committed such a crime. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier knows the consequences of his act, and perhaps now he thinks that he has been a little too previous in speaking as he has done. It would have been far better if he had gone a little more cautiously than he has done. Governments can be imposed upon. History has recorded that Sir John Franklin lost his life because a contractor imposed upon the Imperial government. We know that Sir John Franklin lost his life because that which had been supplied to him as food, was not food at all. All governments can be imposed upon, but it is not fair for the hon. gentleman, or even for my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, to assume that there has been any wrongdoing. For my part, I am not willing to do that. I cannot believe that any such crime has been committed, but after all, whenever, and wherever the hon. gentleman brings his charge, it will receive, so far as the government is concerned, the amplest consideration.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) Mr. Speaker, the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), has cleared up some things which seemed to lie in doubt in the mind of the hon. Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden). The hon. Minister of Militia attempted to make capital against the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), by charging him with maliciously preferring a charge against himself. The Prime Minister has devoted the last half of his statement to making it clear to the House that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier never intended to, and in fact, did not bring any charge at all against the hon. Minister of Militia.

The PRIME MINISTER. I did not say that he did not intend to, but that he did not.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. Minister of Militia might be imposed upon or he might not be, but he acquitted the hon. member for Jacques Cartier of bringing any charge against the government because he says, governments may also be imposed upon. That is very true. I think my right hon. friend was very close to the kernel of the question, but it does seem to me that three things were evident. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) is not, I think, an excitable, or a rash or an imprudent man. I will take the sense of the House on that. Since the hon. gentleman has been in this House he has commended himself to both sides as a careful, a very intelligent, and a very honourable member of this House. That is a fact upon which we will all be agreed. I listened very carefully to the representations made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, and from first to last he made no insinuations, and did not intimate that he made any charge of corrupt dealing against the Minister of Militia. The

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only thing that could be tortured into that was the fact that he read an article from the *Military Gazette* in which that paper intimated that some of the authorities may have had some interest in the matter.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Was that a fair thing to read?

Mr. FOSTER. Certainly it was fair to read. And what could be fairer? Do you believe the hon. member for Jacques Cartier or not?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. minister without portfolio from the province of Quebec stands in this House and declares that he will not believe his brother member from Jacques Cartier.

Mr. DOBELL. I did not say that.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the hon. gentleman did.

Mr. DOBELL. I most distinctly did not say so. What I intimated was that I did not believe the statement made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk).

Mr. FOSTER. Well, the hon. gentleman need not believe the statement, but the question I put was whether the hon. member believed the member for Jacques Cartier and I understand the member for Quebec to say he did not.

Mr. DOBELL. I simply intimated that I did not believe the statement.

Mr. FOSTER. The question was this: Do the members of this House believe the word of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk)—my hon. friend (Mr. Dobell) will not say 'no' to that. When it was brought to the attention of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) by the Minister of Militia that the article in the *Military Gazette* imputed improper transactions, my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) rose in a moment and stated that he did not take the responsibility of that article; and he did not make by inference, as he did not make in his speech, any insinuations of corrupt practice against the Minister of Militia, any charge against the government, unless it was the implied charge of negligence in not taking all the precautions that might have been taken to insure that there was no fraud. A sentence spoken by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) at the end of his speech evidently comprised his intention. He asked that the matter be investigated in order that if any person had so imposed upon the brave soldiers who were sent to South Africa, that that person might be exposed and punished. That was the statement my hon. friend intended to make, and that is what he did make before this House. It may have been the Minister of Militia who so did this; my hon. friend did not

say so. It may have been the director general of medical affairs who so did it; my hon. friend did not say so. It may have been Dr. Devlin; my hon. friend did not say so. It may have been the chemist who prepared the food or it may have been any other person whatsoever, but my hon. friend did not make a charge against any one of these. But, having looked into the matter himself, having obtained the evidence he has under his hand, having talked with the men who were the prime actors in this thing, and whose evidence he is prepared to bring before the committee, he considered that his information warranted him in bringing to the attention of the government the facts that he thought he had found out, and he asked that these be inquired into. Now, what could be a fairer position than that? My right hon. friend tried, as the Minister of Militia tried, to throw the onus on the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, of making a charge against a physician in the city of Montreal. The hon. member made no charge against Dr. Devlin. What he simply brought to the attention of the House was the facts as developed under his investigation, in which he says that a spurious food was in some way palmed off upon the soldiers, and that it went to South Africa, and what he wants to know is: Whose fault it is that that took place. Who are the actors in the matter? The prime actor is the Minister of Militia and the Minister of Militia is to be held responsible for everything for which he can fairly be held responsible. He is certainly to be held responsible for the exercise of every possible care, that the troops should not be imposed upon with a spurious food. Every one will agree with that. Was that care exercised or was it not? I will tell you a point in which I do not think it was as well exercised as it should have been. Whenever you are dealing with a man who wishes to be a contractor, and to get money for supplies that he offers, you have to deal with him as a third person and not at first hand. What I mean to say is, that whatever that contractor may be offering the government; whether it be stones for building material or saddlery for the cavalry, or medical stores, or whatever it is, you have no right to make the purchase and pay the money on the word and testimony of the man who is getting the contract to furnish the stores. Where I think the Minister of Militia did not go as far as he might have done was in this: That he cannot stand up to-day and say that he is certain that the last samples that were analysed were samples taken from packet after packet of what was actually shipped to South Africa. The hon. gentleman was fain to say half a dozen times over, that he believes it was the same food that was sent, and he thought it was, but as the Prime Minister says, the Minister of Militia may be imposed upon and it is possible for the substitu-

tion of a spurious for the tested food to have taken place, between the order that the Minister of Militia gave for buying from Dr. Devlin and the placing of the stores so purchased upon the troopships for South Africa. If this evidence is proved to be correct when it comes to be investigated that is where the case lies. We do not know who did it, neither did my hon. friend (Mr. Monk) say who did it. He does not say it was Dr. Devlin, he does not say it was the director general of medical affairs; he does not say it was the Minister of Militia, but his evidence makes it patent to him that there was a substitution of the spurious for the proper material and that it is the spurious material that went to South Africa. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) is perfectly within his right. He makes no charges he ought not to make in this House, he does not go beyond his legitimate duty as a member of this House, and instead of calling down the ire of the Minister of Militia and the First Minister upon him, both ought to thank him for having brought this matter where it can be thoroughly tested by evidence before the committee. After all the main business is as between ourselves and the soldiers who went to South Africa. It is a smaller matter the lapse of the Minister of Militia in the way of carefulness; it is a smaller matter with reference to Dr. Devlin. Let me say that I do not know Dr. Devlin. I should be very sorry to know that it could ever be proved to be true that a medical doctor in Canada, occupying the position Dr. Devlin occupies, could be guilty of substituting a spurious for a tested food, which he had agreed to send to South Africa for the use of the troops. No man in this House has charged that or proposes to charge that; but the question is this: It is believed there has been a substitution of spurious food for tested food, and what the investigation ought to bring out is how that was done, if it was done, and who did it, in order that the proper punishment may be inflicted on the proper party.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that those who have been present throughout the whole of this discussion, and who will take the trouble to compare the speech of my hon. friend from York, N.B., (Mr. Foster) with the speech with which this matter was introduced into the House this afternoon by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), will discover a very wide difference in tone and temper between the two. At an early stage of this discussion, possibly somebody may have thought that something was wrong. My hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) has been for five or ten minutes explaining that there is absolutely no wrong at all, that nobody makes any charge against the Minister of Militia, nor against Dr. Devlin, nor against anybody;

there is nobody at fault, nobody has made a charge, there is no complaint.

Mr. FOSTER. Does my hon. friend think that is a fair statement?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I do. I think that a comparison of the moderate, quiet, analytical, hair-splitting, apologetic speech of my hon. friend from York, with the speech which initiated this discussion this afternoon, will show a wide difference between them. My hon. friend from York has been labouring in vain to help his friend out of the uncomfortable hole in which he has placed himself. I have not been a member of this House very long; but I have come from another arena where party contention is warm and keen, and I say without the slightest hesitation that I have never known a more outrageous proceeding on such a small foundation; and I confess I am surprised that my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier has been the offender. My hon. friend from York was not far astray when he spoke of the moderate and temperate tone which usually characterizes the speeches of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier. There are hon. gentlemen opposite who might have made these statements without our being the least surprised; but I am surprised that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier should so far depart from his usual moderate, fair and generous course, to make the statements he has made this afternoon. Now, let there be no mistake. In dealing with these charges across the House, we deal not with a point here or a point there, but with the whole tone and tendency of the speech; and throughout his whole speech this afternoon the hon. member for Jacques Cartier gave it to be understood that there was a great scandal. He appealed to this House to protect the rights of the troops who have gone to fight the battles of the empire in South Africa; he appealed to it in the sacred name of loyalty and devotion to the Throne, in order that he might cast an aspersion upon my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence. What are the facts?—not the facts, the statements, there are no facts before us. The hon. gentleman has found an article in a Conservative paper; and what hon. member of this House would like to be tried on a mere newspaper article? I suppose that if many of us were to take offence at the statements made from time to time by our opponents in the newspapers, we would have to spend a great deal of time in defending ourselves. Happily, with one or two exceptions, the members of this House do not waste time in discussing these matters. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier took up a vicious and infamous article, and he so far forgot what was due to himself as an hon. member of this House, a fair-minded and generous member, as to read the abominable charge that the Minister of Militia or somebody else in authority had

Mr. FIELDING.

been bribed to send this rotten stuff to South Africa. I ask the hon. gentleman to think the matter over again, and not try to excuse himself with the story that somebody else wrote it and that all he did was to read it in the House. If somebody else starts an infamous slander, and I, knowing nothing about it, take it up and repeat it at the street corners, I am no better than the man who starts it.

Mr. MONK. I will send the article to the hon. gentleman, and he will find that there is no such insinuation in it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The hon. gentleman read the article, and others drew that inference from it. The substance of what it said was: Who is it in the Militia Department who has received the consideration for this fraud? That is the substance of the statement which the hon. gentleman read. I say it was an unfair and unjust thing for the hon. gentleman to introduce this newspaper article at all, and I say he has not done himself justice. Now, it appears that there is a row between two rival food manufacturers in Montreal. One got the contract, and the other did not. It appears, so far as we can judge—because the names have been kept in the background—that the man who did not get the contract wants to make a fuss, and to make it appear that his rival defrauded the public interests of Canada.

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is no ground for that statement.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. If it is not a rival manufacturer, who is it that makes any accusation against anybody? It is not the analyst. All that the analyst certifies is that a certain thing submitted to him gives certain results; but whether or not that is the thing sent to South Africa no one here knows. We have not testimony that one can of that went to South Africa; and in the absence of any testimony it is an outrageous proceeding to make any such charge, and I trust that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier will do, not the Minister of Militia justice, but himself the justice to say that he has made a grave mistake. I admit that in a case of this kind there are some things which an hon. member might bring to the notice of the House. If the hon. member for Jacques Cartier had the information which he claims he had, there are several ways in which he might use that information for the public good. He might, if he wished, make a personal and friendly call on the Minister of Militia and give him the information in a friendly way; but if for any reason he preferred to bring it up in the House, then he might have said that information of this kind had reached him, that he knew nothing of the matter whatever, that he did not wish to make any complaint, but that he would simply call

the attention of the Minister of Militia to these reports and ask him to look into the matter and see if there was any foundation for them. If my hon. friend had proceeded in that way, he would have been within his rights and within the bounds of propriety. I ask him to reconsider the matter now, because I agree with nearly everything the hon. member for York has said as to the manner which the hon. member for Jacques Cartier usually adopts in addressing this House. I ask him not to do justice to the Minister of Militia, who is not assailed any longer, but to do justice to himself by withdrawing the imputation which he has been the means of presenting to the House.

Mr. ALEXANDER McNEILL (North Bruce). I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to follow the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat in his discourse with regard to the manner of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) or the particular form in which he may have framed the observations which he has made to the House. We have something very much more serious than that to consider. We do not intend to be drawn from the question we have to consider by discussions of the kind with which my hon. friend has just favoured us. What we want to know is the truth with regard to this 'emergency ration,' as it is called, which has been supplied to our troops in South Africa. We want to know whether or not those rations were what they professed to be. We want to know whether they contain 60 per cent of proteids. From the evidence laid before the House by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, we have reason to believe that they do not contain anything of the kind. We have reason to believe, on the statement of my hon. friend—and there is no man in this House who will question his statement—we know upon his statement that a reputable person went to the manufacturers and purchased from them a tin of the rations which they said were the same as those supplied our troops, and that that tin did not contain 60 per cent or 88 per cent, as the hon. minister said, but something less than 17 per cent. When I asked the Minister of Militia with regard to the matter, he said I knew nothing about it or words to that effect. I do not pretend to be a chemist, but I do profess to know something about the value of ordinary farm feeds, and I know that pease contain over 23 per cent of muscle-forming food, and this stuff supplied our soldiers contained only 17 per cent, according to this analyst.

The question we want to have determined is what was the nature of this material.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Does the hon. gentleman know that the food supplied South Africa only contains 17 per cent?

Mr. McNEILL. I say that we want to know whether it did or not, and we have reason to believe it did not contain more, and the very strongest reason, on the evidence supplied by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. What is that?

Mr. McNEILL. The evidence he laid before the House was this. On his responsibility as a member of this House, he stated that a person, who, he says, is reputable and reliable, purchased a tin of this food from the manufacturers, which the manufacturers declared to be identical with what the Militia Department paid two dollars for.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. What is the name of the manufacturers?

Mr. McNEILL. I do not care in the slightest degree what the name is. It was the firm that supplied this material to the Militia Department.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. My hon. friend did not say that.

Mr. McNEILL. That is just what he did say; and I want to call attention to this fact, that it does seem a most remarkable circumstance that the Minister of Militia should have purchased another food—a food distinct and different from the food the minister had tested.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He says he did not.

Mr. McNEILL. But he did. He said that it had been examined and reported to be of the same character, but at all events it was not manufactured by the same parties. We will not split hairs about words. As Bacon says, 'words are the counters of wise men, and the money of fools.' We want to get at the facts, and the fact is that this stuff which was supplied to our troops in South Africa was purchased from a different firm from that which supplied the food, a sample of which was tested.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No.

Mr. McNEILL. I say it was. Why, it has even a different name. It is called 'Vitaline,' which was not the name of the material provided to the troops.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The food which was tested at Kingston and sent to South Africa was supplied by the same man.

Mr. McNEILL. I did not say a word about the man, I spoke of the firm, Dr. Devlin is not the manufacturer, as I understand it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes, he is.

Mr. McNEILL. Then he is not associated now with the same persons with whom he was associated before?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. McNEILL. I am not imputing anything improper to the hon. gentleman, but I say there is sufficient evidence before the House to call for a most rigid and thorough investigation.

I want to ask my hon. friend a question. He knows, as he has admitted it, that the firm from which he purchased this food is a different firm from the one from which he purchased the proteid food.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. McNEILL. He said a moment ago it was.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). You are getting mixed.

Mr. McNEILL. Does my hon. friend say that the persons who supplied this food were the same as those who supplied the other? I am not speaking of Dr. Devlin, but of those who were associated with him. Were the same persons associated with him when the food was supplied to Kingston?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have nothing to do with the persons associated with him. I have said that Dr. Devlin supplied the first food, the food tested at Kingston, and he supplied the last food. He supplied the only food that I know anything about.

Mr. McNEILL. Is that what the hon. gentleman means by saying it is the same firm?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I gave the name.

Mr. McNEILL. I do not think he will say that Dr. Devlin is a firm. This food was supplied by different parties.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It seems impossible to make the hon. gentleman understand I dealt with no firm except Dr. Devlin from first to last.

Mr. McNEILL. Quite so, but the food that was supplied was food of a different name manufactured by a different concern.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. No.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Prove it.

Mr. McNEILL. Why was the name of the food changed? Did my hon. friend ask why the name of the food was changed?

Mr. McNEILL.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I had no occasion to ask.

Mr. McNEILL. Did my hon. friend, after he received samples of that food, or after the director general of medical stores had pronounced that it was identical with the other—did he inquire whether he had made a chemical analysis of the sample?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The matter was in the hands—

Mr. McNEILL. I am not asking my hon. friend whose hands it was in. He said it was examined and pronounced to be identical. What did he mean by examining? Was it analysed by the director general?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I have read the director general's statement.

Mr. McNEILL. Exactly, the hon. gentleman knows no further than that. He does not state it was analysed at all. There is no statement at all that it was analysed, and we have no proof that it was. It was simply examined, and the hon. gentleman does not venture to say it was analysed. I want to ask my hon. friend another question.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 116) to incorporate the Acadia Loan Corporation.—(Mr. Russell.)

Bill (No. 158)—from the Senate—for the relief of Gertrude Bessie Patterson (on division).—(Mr. Richardson.)

J. W. ANDERSON'S PATENT RELIEF BILL.

House resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 108) to confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of J. W. Anderson.—(Mr. Cargill.)

(In the Committee.)

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is this Bill?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). A gentleman had a patent, and, by inadvertence, failed to pay the money for renewal at the time prescribed by the law. He lost his patent, and now asks leave to revive it on payment of the money. This Bill went through the committee. We lost two or three days of the committee on it. A number of amendments were moved which were not accepted, and the Bill stands now as it was originally introduced. This is simply a case where a man, in consideration of paying a portion of his premium, gets the time extended for a certain number of

years. At the end of that number of years, if he wants to continue it, he must pay to the Commissioner of Patents a certain amount. He failed to do so on that day, he was a little behind, that was all.

Bill reported; Bill read the third time and passed.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—EMERGENCY FOOD RATION.

House resumed debate on proposed motion of Mr. Monk, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. McNEILL. At six o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I was referring to the fact that it appeared from the statements of my hon. friend that there had been no analysis made of the sample given to the director general, and that, therefore, the statement that this vitaline was of equal value with the protose which had been supplied to the department and had been carefully tested, the statement that it was identical with protose, was a mistake. There has been no analysis of the substance, and it was quite impossible to tell by looking at it whether it was the same substance or not. Now I think there has been a good deal of misconception on the part of members of this House with reference to his protose. I am quite sure the Minister of Militia and Defence (Mr. Borden), had no desire to mislead the House in any way, I do not desire to impute to him for a moment, any desire to mislead the House in reference to this matter, although the answers that he gave to the questions that I put to him before six o'clock were, in my judgment, misleading, though not intentionally so. It was stated over and over again by hon. members on the other side of the House, while I was speaking, that this substance, vitaline, was manufactured by the same people who manufactured this other substance, protose. That, I wish to inform the members of the House, those who desire to know the facts with regard to this matter, as I presume we all do, is not a fact. Those who have manufactured this vitaline are not the people who were manufacturing the protose. The protose was tested by the department in the manner described by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, and also as described by the Minister of Militia and Defence, but the vitaline has never been so tested.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It has been.

Mr. McNEILL. When?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Recently.

Mr. McNEILL. When?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Recently. Later on, there will be

a statement read to the House as to that very point.

Mr. McNEILL. The hon. gentleman says that this vitaline which was supplied to our troops has been tested in the same manner in which the protose was tested at Kingston, that is to say, that soldiers were fed upon it, as they were in the case of protose. Is that the statement the hon. gentleman makes?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Let the hon. gentleman make his speech.

Mr. McNEILL. Well, but I want to know the facts as I go along.

An hon. MEMBER. You should know the facts.

Mr. McNEILL. My hon. friend has interrupted me, and contradicted the statement I made as to a fact. All I want to know is what the fact is that the hon. gentleman states.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). You have no right to interrogate an hon. member across the floor.

Mr. McNEILL. I have a right. I presume that the hon. Minister of Militia does not wish to conceal any of the facts, and if he does not wish to conceal any of the facts I want to know the import of the fact he states. If he does not state the fact I would consider that he wishes to conceal something. I repeat the question. He has stated that this 'vitaline' has been tested, that this 'protose' has been tested, and I want to know whether they have been subjected to the same test.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Go on and make your speech.

Mr. FOSTER. Surely the hon. minister does not object to answer a question put in that way.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I want to say just one thing. In my whole experience I never knew of such an attempt made as the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) is trying to make here to put an opponent, a minister, in a false position by throwing questions across the House, trying to get from me partial answers. I have made my statement; I shall be prepared to make statements later on when the opportunity offers. Let the hon. gentleman go on and make his statement, and he will be answered.

Mr. McNEILL. Never since I have had the honour of a seat in this House have I heard such an extraordinary statement. The hon. gentleman says that I want to get partial answers.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Yes.

Mr. McNEILL. I am asking him to give me a full answer, and his objection is that I want a partial answer. That is what I am objecting to. He interrupted me, and said that this 'vitaline' has been tested, and that 'protose' had been tested, and I asked him to explain that statement and to give a full answer to my question. Yet, he says that I want a partial answer.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The hon. gentleman wants to get answers.

Mr. McNEILL. I will ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), who seems to be very much stirred up in regard to this matter, to preserve order. I have not asked him to interrupt me while I am speaking; I have submitted to his interruptions, but I would feel obliged to the hon. gentleman if he would now be kind enough to preserve order in this House. The hon. Minister of Militia does not venture to say that the same test has been applied to this 'vitaline' as has been applied to 'protose.' He cannot make that statement, or, I am sure, he would make it. The facts of this case seem to me to be very grave. I am very sorry that the hon. minister should have accused me of desiring to put him, or any other member of this House, in a false position. I have no desire to do anything of the kind, but I have a desire, and I think there is a desire and a determination on the part of hon. members on this side of the House to have the fullest information in regard to this matter. If this information exonerates the hon. minister from any blame, all the better, but, at all events, it is right that the country should know what the truth is in regard to this matter, and we intend to know. I am sorry for the minister if an exposure of the truth and a knowledge of the truth should place him in a false position before the people. The fact is that the hon. minister purchased and tested a certain quantity of this substance called 'protose.' He obtained that from Dr. Devlin. He also obtained from Dr. Devlin another substance called 'vitaline.' I wish the House to understand that this 'vitaline' is not manufactured by the people who manufacture 'protose.' It is manufactured by a different firm altogether. The people who manufacture 'protose,' which had been so fully tested and approved by the department, are a firm well known in Montreal who are registered and who are responsible. The people who manufacture this 'vitaline' are an unknown firm comparatively, they are not registered, they are not responsible, and it is not possible to obtain any recompense or redress, if it be proved up to the hilt that they have been defrauding, in the manner in which we could have obtained redress from the other firm. There was a good deal of confusion in reference to this matter before six o'clock. The position of

Mr. BORDEN (King's).

things is that the minister purchased this other substance, this 'vitaline,' and he did not purchase, for some reason or other the substance called 'protose,' which he had thoroughly tested and approved. That is the fact that stares us in the face to begin with. Then, there is another fact; we know that this new substance, 'vitaline,' which has been purchased, is submitted to the director general of military stores, and that he pronounces that it is identical with the 'protose,' but, he makes that statement without having analysed the substance. I say that any such statement without an analysis is of no value whatever. There is no man living who, by merely opening a case of this kind and looking at it, can say whether it is identical with the other substance or not. It is only by a careful analysis that that can be discovered. We find that the hon. minister, on a statement of that kind, without having had any analysis, determines that he will purchase this new, unknown substance 'vitaline,' and reject the well-tested and approved substance 'protose.' I think this is something that requires an explanation without going any further. Now, we have something more. The people who manufacture this 'protose,' a substance which has been tested and approved by the department, but which, for some absolutely unexplained reason, has now been rejected by the department, are people of standing, people well known to the medical profession, as food specialists, men who had been recommended by the highest medical authorities in the country. We find, if my memory serves me right, that on the 25th of January, this firm addressed a registered letter to the hon. Minister of Militia calling his attention to the fact that this new substance which he has purchased is a fraud, that it is not of the nature which he supposed it to have been when he made the purchase. The writer of this letter gives him a most explicit warning of that fact. I will read the letter:

I just happened to hear of a large purchase of 'proteide food' from Messrs. Devlin & Lyons, of this city, for the Canadian contingent. If such is the case, I consider it to be my right and my duty to inform you that such a supply can only rest upon a poor and fraudulent adulteration of my 'protose,' as it is done without my knowledge, and has nothing in common with the product tested in Kingston last spring. This will be easily detected by analysis of the food supplied, to which end I intend to take the necessary steps in order to protect my interests. A sample of mine could, of course, have been easily obtained from any druggist, but the articles, if already supplied, are not mine, and cannot be identical with those used at the military test. This I thought advisable to bring to Your Excellency's knowledge for any emergency.

Your humble servant,

Some hon. MEMBERS. Who signs that?

Mr. McNEILL. That is signed by 'H. H.:' by Mr. Hatch, the manufacturer of the protose, the substance which had been ac-

cepted by the department, and which had been tested and thoroughly approved. Now then, what I want to know from the minister is this: Whether, upon the receipt of a warning of that kind—which he might fairly, without any impropriety, assume was not altogether an unprejudiced statement, because it would be reasonable enough to suppose that the man who had not succeeded in getting the contract might feel a certain amount of jealousy with regard to the person who had got the contract—but, on the face of a statement of this kind, from a thoroughly respectable and reliable firm, which has been recommended to the minister by the highest medical authorities in Canada, as he himself said, whose products had been tested by the minister himself, what I want to ask the minister is this: Whether, having received that warning, he did take any steps to have this substance analysed? I would like to have an answer from the minister.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. McNEILL. Will the minister answer that question?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on with your speech.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. He is afraid to answer it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Thank you.

Mr. McNEILL. I must say that I think this is a very disgraceful exhibition.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I agree with you.

Mr. McNEILL. In my judgment, it is a most disgraceful exhibition. The people of this country have a right to have an answer to that question. Here was this new substance, this untested substance, this unanalysed substance, purchased, or about to be purchased, by the minister, and he received from this thoroughly reliable company a solemn warning that it is a fraudulent substance, and is not of the nature that it was described to be—I say that the country has the right to know whether the minister had that substance analysed before he sent it out to be used by our soldiers in South Africa. If the hon. minister refuses to answer the question, he is within his right, but I do not think it is either very courteous or very candid.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I cannot learn courtesy from you.

Mr. McNEILL. If my hon. friend will tell me in what respect I have been discourteous to him, then I shall be very glad to apologize to him. But, Sir, I do not think it is want of courtesy to state facts, and I have stated nothing but facts. I have made no imputation whatever in re-

gard to the minister, except that if he has not had the substance analysed, I impute to him very great negligence at the least; I would call it criminal negligence in a case of this kind. If the minister considers that discourtesy, then I must say that I repeat the statement. Now, the hon. minister refuses to say whether this substance was analysed or not at his request, and we have the right to assume—unless he states to the contrary before the conclusion of this debate—that it was not analysed at his request. I would like to ask the minister another question, but I suppose it is almost useless. I would like to ask the hon. minister whether he knows if there was any analysis made of this substance either at his request or otherwise?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Answer.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on with your speech.

Mr. McNEILL. Very well. The minister will neither say that he had the substance analysed at his request, nor will he say that there was any analysis made of it in Ottawa at all. We are, therefore, face to face with this most extraordinary condition of things: That our Canadian volunteers are being sent out to South Africa to be supplied with those emergency rations, which I have the right to assume under the silence of the minister, were not analysed, notwithstanding the solemn warning he had received that it was a fraudulent compound. What are emergency rations? Emergency rations, as we all know, are rations that are to be used in case of extreme need at the very time when it is most important of all that they should be thoroughly reliable, and here are these rations, which had been sent out to South Africa and which the analysis of a gentleman in Kingston proves were not nearly as valuable for sustenance as is pea-meal. The value of pea-meal in muscle-forming food is twenty-three and a fraction, and this substance is less than seventeen. That statement is made on the evidence of an analyst in Kingston—

Mr. FOSTER. Montreal.

Mr. McNEILL. That statement is made by an analyst in Montreal, who is one of the most famous analysts in Canada. The substance which was analysed was bought from the company manufacturing it by a Mr. Moore of Montreal, a gentleman who, I am informed, is thoroughly reliable and above suspicion or reproach. We learn, therefore, that the men who went out from Canada, taking their lives in their hands, to fight the battle of equal rights, and to fight the battle of equal justice, and to fight the battle of our own empire in South Africa, we learn that the men who have covered this country with honour, have been treated in this manner by the head of the

Militia Department in this country. If the hon. gentleman would have done me the courtesy to answer the question I put to him, it would have been more satisfactory, but, in the absence of his answer, in the absence of his statement that there has been any analysis, I must assume that this substance was purchased and sent out there for our brave soldiers without analysis, so far as the minister is concerned, and in the face of this solemn warning he had received. Under these circumstances, it is surely only right and just that we should have a full and searching investigation into this matter. If any one was ever justified in bringing a case before the House, I think the hon. member for Jacques Cartier was justified in the course he pursued to-day. When I sit down my hon. friend the Minister of Militia would not do me the courtesy of answering the question while I was on my feet. I would like him to give me an answer, as to whether or not, in the first place, he ordered an analysis of this substance, and if he did not, whether he knows if any analysis at all was made of it after delivery in Ottawa. I think the country has a right to know.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). Mr. Speaker—

Mr. McNEILL. Is my hon. friend going to allow the Minister of Militia to answer that question?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In January last, a certain quantity of this food, called emergency food, was bought by the Militia Department, for the purpose of being served to the contingent, then on the eve of leaving for South Africa. The contingent left for South Africa, and after arriving there, took part in what has been described as the biggest forced march on record, from Beira to Mafeking. This shows what the Canadians were able to do; and without any complaint from any of the soldiers of the quality of the food provided for them, my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), this afternoon proceeded to make a charge against the Minister of Militia, taking for his text an article published in the *Canadian Military Gazette*, in April last; and, in order that the House might thoroughly understand the nature of the charge he made, he proceeded to read from this article, among other things, the following paragraph:—

Though the contract had been promised for this food, it was not bought; but, instead, the contract was given to other persons in Montreal. A peculiar circumstance is that the label on the 'Vitaline' ration contains the following words: 'On this diet, with tea and coffee, Canadian soldiers have lived in perfect health twenty-one to thirty days.'

Here is the paragraph on which most emphasis was placed by my hon. friend.:

Mr. McNEILL.

This and other matters are likely to be aired elsewhere; but, in the meantime, it might be explained on what consideration such a contract was taken from a reliable and experienced food chemist, whose ration had been specially tested, and placed in the hands of others who do not possess the same qualification of experience, and whose food was accepted without tender, untested and unanalysed.

My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier made this article his own; he took it as the text from which he delivered his oration to the House. What was the result? The leader of the opposition, after having heard the statement of the Minister of Militia, got up and apologized for the hon. member for Jacques Cartier.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker. I give the hon. gentleman a full and flat contradiction. On the contrary, I said the very reverse. I said that the member for Jacques Cartier would have failed in his duty to the House and the country, if he had not done exactly what he did.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Take it back.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I accept the contradiction of the hon. leader of the opposition, and I am content to find that as usual, hon. gentlemen on the other side approve of it. But I was dealing, not with the contradiction which the hon. leader of the opposition has now made, but with the speech which he made; and I am certain that I simply interpret what is now uppermost in the minds of all those who heard him, when I say that previous to his contradiction, I would have repeated what I have just said, that he apologized for the hon. member for Jacques Cartier.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Not a word.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. And now I proceed to say that the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. Foster), amplified the apology made by the hon. leader of the opposition, which he did not find full and sufficient enough. The hon. member for York proceeded to say that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier did not attack the Minister of Militia nor the director of medical supplies, nor Dr. Neilson, nor the contractor. Then, whom does he attack? What are we discussing?

Mr. McDougall. Tell us something about the stuff.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have no doubt my hon. friend is anxious that I should go on to something that perhaps would be more agreeable to him, than to hear pointed out the delinquencies of some of those for whom he is responsible as his leaders. I say the hon. member for York, who appears to be the only one who has dealt with this matter, as one who wanted to reason it out, apologized for the

attack on the Minister of Militia, apologized for the attack on the contractor, apologized for the insinuation made against the director of medical supplies.

Mr. FOSTER. Now that the hon. gentleman has made all his statements. I beg leave to give them a most unqualified and courteous denial.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. When he went on to say what is in the minds of all—and they will appreciate the value of the denial—that the only thing he would deal with, was the possibility of the contractor having substituted for the material purchased, some spurious article to send to South Africa.

Mr. FOSTER. If my hon. friend will allow me, I beg leave to say that he has misrepresented again, unwittingly, my position in this respect.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not going to say anything further than this: what I have said will go on *Hansard*, side by side with what the hon. member has said, and I am content to allow the House to decide between us.

Mr. McDOUGALL. What about the country?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Some hon. gentleman may interrupt once too often. I was going to say, dealing with the matter in hand, that in the month of April, 1899, this material, which has been called in the course of this debate, emergency food, was tested by the Department of Militia, at Kingston.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Which food is that?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman has made a statement, and we have a right to ask a question. Which food does the hon. gentleman refer to?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This food known as emergency food was tested in the month of April, 1899.

Mr. MONTAGUE. May I ask the hon. gentleman whether he refers to protose or vitaline?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was about to say, when I was interrupted, that the food called emergency food was tested in the month of April, 1899.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Both foods were emergency foods, so-called. Was the vitaline tested in Kingston, or was it the protose?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I was about to say, when I was interrupted, Mr. Speaker, that in the month of April, 1899, this food which has been known throughout this discussion, as emergency food, was tested at Kingston.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPEAKER. I shall have to ask the House to come to order. We cannot make any progress in this way.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I rather like this sort of thing, myself, Mr. Speaker. It was tested at Kingston, and found to be eminently satisfactory. I am now dealing with that substance which has been called throughout this debate 'emergency food.'

Mr. FOSTER. Which branch of it?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. On the 27th of November, 1899, Dr. F. E. Devlin wrote the following letter to the Minister of Militia:

Having made a food test last spring, at the instance of the Department of Militia, through your kind permission, upon Her Majesty's soldiers of 'A' Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery, and the Royal Military College of Kingston, Ont., the official evidence of which at the time I had the honour of submitting to you, I would now call your attention to the same, as I am desirous of bringing to the attention of the Home War Office the value of the food I used on that occasion for the further service of Her Majesty's troops elsewhere.

This was written on the 27th of November, 1899, and signed by F. E. Devlin. In that letter he referred to the official test which had been made at Kingston by the director general of medical stores in the month of April preceding. On the 4th of January following, the director general of medical stores gave this certificate:

I recommend that the troops of the second contingent be provided with five days' rations of Protine Vegetal, as tendered for by Mr. F. E. Devlin.

The examination or the test made in the month of April, 1899, was made without reference to any contract then foreseen or intended to be entered into with the government. The test was then made in the abstract, merely for the purpose of testing the quality of the food. This test was made by the director general of medical stores, who reported as follows:

January 4, 1900.

I recommend that the troops of the second contingent be provided with five days' rations of the Proteine Vegetal, as tendered for by Mr. F. E. Devlin. This substance has been thoroughly tested on five members of 'A' Battery, R.C.A., during one month of last year, that is to say, the month of April, 1899. It proved itself then to be a quality of food in a most concentrated form. It is palatable, light, agrees with delicate stomachs, and does not deteriorate if kept dry. As an emergency ration, under conditions of great exertion and undertaking, forced marches, &c., it appears to me to be admirably adapted.

There is a report made by the director general of medical stores to the Department of Militia on the 4th of January, 1900. Acting

on the report of the director general, based upon previous examination in the month of April, 1899, a contract was entered into on or about the 29th of January. So that you have got these three facts. First, that without reference to any contract which was then in contemplation, this food was submitted to a thorough test by the officials of the Militia Department. It was tested in Kingston in April, 1899, and in the month of January following the official who was at the head of the medical stores department, reported that that test was eminently satisfactory, and it was thought proper by the Department of Militia to make the purchase.

Mr. MONK. Will the hon. gentleman lay that contract on the Table?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I did not refer to the contract, but simply gave the date.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The contract was entered into towards the end of January, 1900, as a result of the test made in the month of April of the year preceding, and in consequence of the report of the natural adviser of the head of the Militia Department.

Mr. MONK. Will the hon. gentleman give us communication of that contract?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Now, you have got the fact that the food was tested in 1899, that the proper adviser of the Militia Department represented that that test was in every respect satisfactory, and that, as a result of that advice, a contract was made. But you have more than that. You have got this further certificate.

Mr. MONK. With whom was the contract made?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. You have got this further fact, that in the month of February—

Mr. MONTAGUE. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman surely is compelled to answer a question that is material. I do not think we have ever had such an exhibition as this before. We are only asking for information, and the hon. gentleman who is at the head of the Justice Department, surely ought to give us this information.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on the point of order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. When a minister of the Crown refers to a public document, he is bound by the rules of the House to lay it on the Table. He has been asked to lay on the Table the contract to which he has referred.

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

Mr. McMULLEN. I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I submit that by the rules of parliament, a minister of the Crown or a member of the government, using a public document and referring to it in a speech, is bound to lay it on the Table.

Mr. McMULLEN. I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question raised by the hon. member for Haldimand was how far a member having the floor is required to answer questions, and the hon. the leader of the opposition is out of order in discussing the point whether he is bound to lay certain documents on the Table. That is an entirely different question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Will you allow me, Sir, to point out—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, order.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The question arose as to with whom that contract was made, and it was relevant to that question that I rose to ask that the rules of the House be enforced requiring a member of the government, using a public document or referring to it, to lay it on the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER. The question raised by the hon. member for Haldimand had no connection with public documents whatever. He asked a question once or twice of the Solicitor General regarding certain statements he was in the act of making.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And the contract.

Mr. SPEAKER. No, the point raised was the right to ask and have a reply to a question.

Mr. MONK. I asked the hon. gentleman to furnish the contract.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. leader of the opposition raised a point which is not in issue before the House. Now, with respect to asking questions across the floor of the House, I am obliged to say that in all my experience I have never listened to a debate where there seemed to be so much disposition to interrupt members who are speaking as in this discussion. If I may be allowed to say so, it seemed to me not so much discussing the question as endeavouring to inquire from speakers what were the conditions in the case. It is clearly the right of a member of this House to make his speech without interruption. If he chooses to answer the questions, he may do so; he is the judge whether these questions interfere with his statement. Members, by courtesy, are allowed to ask questions;

but if the hon. member who is speaking does not see fit to answer them, I have no authority to make him answer them. Now, my hon. friend (Sir Charles Tupper) desired to raise a question.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I raise a question of order, Mr. Speaker, and that it is the rule of parliament that when a member of the government refers to a public document, he is bound to lay that document on the Table. And I ask you to rule that the Solicitor General, having referred to a contract in this discussion, and having founded an argument upon it, he is bound to lay it on the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER. I undoubtedly agree with the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) in this case. I think that any member of the cabinet in possession of an official document has no right to quote from it without putting the House in possession of it at the earliest opportunity. I am sure the House does not wish to interfere with the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Fitzpatrick's) use of the document, but I think that the rule is clear that these documents this discussion began.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I did not quote from any document. I merely referred to a contract that was entered into towards the end of January, 1900—

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I am afraid Mr. Speaker, before we proceed further, my hon. friend the Solicitor General must say that he will comply with the ruling of the Chair, and, having referred to a contract, that he will lay it on the Table. But the hon. gentleman, instead of complying with the ruling of the Chair, evades your ruling, or attempts to evade it by saying he has not done certain things.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have done nothing of the sort, Mr. Speaker; I had not sought to evade your ruling, nor have I read an extract or referred to any extract from any public document, nor have I done anything that can be considered as having founded an argument on a public document.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Then the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) refuses to obey the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Perhaps, it would be simpler to let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) complete his statement. He is not bound to lay the document on the Table before he has completed his argument. Perhaps, the Minister of Militia being the legal custodian of such documents, he might be the proper party to look to for them. But I think there is no doubt that the House is entitled to the document.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot say, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot say I object to these interruptions. There must be some reason for them. If there was so much force in the position taken by hon. gentlemen opposite through the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), they would not be so irritable. But, Sir, it does seem to me that it is time to ascertain whether the majority in this House have any rights, or whether the House is to be governed by the minority that sits on your left.

Mr. MONK. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) comply with your ruling?

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member (Mr. Monk) is out of order.

Mr. MONK. But, I would like to ask—

Mr. SPEAKER. My hon. friend (Mr. Monk) is out of order in raising that question.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This exhibition of temper is admirable evidence in support of the position taken by the Minister of Militia. As I said a moment ago, in the month of April, 1899, this food was tested. In January, 1900, application was made to the Department of Militia for the purchase of some portions of that food. In January, 1900, before this contract was entered into, the director general of the medical staff again examined the food and ascertained that the food which it was proposed should be purchased was the same food as that which had been tested in April, 1899. But that is not all. We have a letter of date 23rd February, 1900, from Mr. Cotton, hospital sergeant, addressed to Lt.-Col. Neilson, director general of the medical staff, which says:

I beg to certify that I have tested the vegetable protein powder, made by the Vitaline Company, of Montreal, marked 'emergency ration,' and find it exactly the same as the vegetable food taken by me in Dr. Devlin's test in Kingston, beginning in March last, for a period of four weeks.

This is the statement of a gentleman who was used as a means of making the test which was made in April, 1899, and he declares that it is the same food. But we have, besides this, evidence from a source absolutely beyond the control of the Department of Militia. We have evidence furnished by the chemical analyst of McGill University, Montreal, who made an analysis of this food and came absolutely to the same conclusion as that reached by the director general of the medical staff in January, 1900.

Mr. MONK. Will my hon. friend (Mr. Fitzpatrick) allow me. Will he say on his responsibility as a minister, that the food tested in Kingston was the food supplied to our troops in South Africa?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am now discussing the question of the contract—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Hon. gentlemen opposite may imagine that they can badger me to such an extent that they will prevent me from making the speech that I intended making in this House. They may succeed in many things, but they cannot succeed in that.

Mr. MILLS. Brave boy.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not lay any special claim to bravery. But that is not a thing that ought to be tested here; there are other places where that can be tested.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, you will soon be a baron.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the sort of thing that one might expect from the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster). That is what one might expect from the chairman of the nest of traitors—from the presiding genius of that combination. Now, when that contract was entered into in the month of January, 1900, the Department of Militia had taken all the precautions I have pointed out; and it seems to me that, up to that stage, it is impossible to lay any blame at the doors of the department. The only question here is—and it is a serious question to be considered—whether or not, this contract having been entered into in the manner I have indicated, and surrounded by the precautions I have indicated, was not carried out by the contractor, because he substituted one article for another. That is the point, that is to say, whether we are now face to face with a contract similar to the one that we are now dealing with in the Exchequer Court, in which a contract was made by which it was agreed that steel engraved stamps should be supplied to a department of the government, and lithograph stamps were supplied instead—whether we are face to face with another fraud of that description. Now, I say that the hon. gentlemen opposite dare not make that charge; they dare not make the charge that the contract entered into for one species of food was filled by the contractor who supplied an entirely different quality of food. I say they dare not make that charge, because it would imply a criminal act on the part of the contractor that they dare not charge him with.

Mr. MONK. I here state to the hon. gentleman that I intend to make that charge.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is a brave act, and worthy of the commendation

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

of hon. gentlemen opposite. As the hon. member sits here securely where he enjoys immunity, he makes a charge which I repeat he dare not make without those walls.

Mr. MONK. If I must now declare positively what my charge is, I will do so. I am satisfied from the statements that have been made from the other side of the House this afternoon, that the food supplied to our troops in South Africa was not the food tested at Kingston. That is my charge. Who are the guilty parties, I do not know. I will refer to that presently. But, I do charge that the food tested so carefully at Kingston, under the direction of the military authorities, was not the food, not one ounce of it, that was given to our troops in South Africa. That is the charge I now make, and I make it with the full sense of my responsibility as a member of this House.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman makes that charge with the full sense of his responsibility as a member of this House, and surrounded with the immunities that his position gives him, but I say he dare not go outside and make that charge. I dare him to make that charge face to face with Dr. Devlin.

Mr. MONK. I claim no immunity whatever in making this charge.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is a brave thing to do. I say that no man who knows Dr. Devlin and who knows the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, will believe the charge. I repeat that no man would believe it, and I defy the hon. gentleman to go outside the doors of this Chamber and repeat that charge in a newspaper, where he may be held liable for it. Now, we have got the charge narrowed down to this, that the hon. gentleman charges a contractor instead of the department. He relieves the Militia Department from all responsibility.

Mr. MONK. I rise to a point of order. I think, at this stage of the proceedings, when the Solicitor General has referred to this contract so often, and to the contractor, that we should have that document laid upon the Table of the House. We should know who is the contractor, for I do not know yet who he is.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Driven from corner to corner, starting out with a charge that some one in the Militia Department, or some one in authority had received a consideration for this contract, he is now reduced to making this cheap charge against the contractor.

Mr. MONK. I made no such statement in this House, there is no such statement in the newspaper from which I quoted.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman says he made no such charge. This is what he read to the House:

This and other matters are likely to be aired elsewhere, but in the meantime it might be explained on what consideration such a contract was taken away from a reliable and experienced food chemist, whose ration had been specially tested, and placed in the hands of others who did not possess the same qualification and experience.

I appeal to every rational man within the sound of my voice, not those who are carried away by passion, not those who appear to be unable at the present time to appreciate what is coolly said to them, but I appeal to all those who are still in possession of their rational common sense, to say what is meant by this paragraph :

This and other matters are likely to be aired elsewhere, but in the meantime it might be explained on what consideration such a contract was taken away.

What is the meaning of that? What is implied therein? What is the covert insinuation that is there intended to be conveyed by the use of those words? I say that the hon. gentlemen brought face to face with the Minister of Militia and Defence, having made their charge, are obliged to withdraw it, and they now come and make this cheap charge against a gentleman who is not within the precincts of this House, who cannot defend himself, who is not in a position to defend himself, against the attacks that are made upon him. They first begin by attacking the Minister of Militia and Defence, but they soon have to retreat, they soon knew what was in store for them; and now, they adopt the other and cheaper method of attacking a man whose hands are tied behind his back. That is a braver method, and better suits the hon. gentleman opposite.

Now, my hon. friend the Minister of Militia and Defence referred to a letter received from the director general of medical stores, dated June 5, 1900, in which he says again that the food that was purchased for the use of the contingent that went to South Africa is absolutely the same food that had been previously tested in the month of April previously. He says it is the same food that was purchased, and about the identity of that food there can be absolutely no doubt. So, you have got this food tested by a gentleman occupying the responsible position of Dr. Ruttan, chemical analyst of McGill University, Montreal; you have got that food tested also by the director general of medical stores at Kingston, in April, 1900; you have the examination of that food made again in January, previously to the passing of this contract, which reveals the fact that the food is the same as was tested in Kingston. You have the further fact that of all the food sent to South Africa, samples have been preserved here, and those samples have been examined within the last few days, and they are found to be exactly the same as those that were examined in April, 1899,

and in January, 1900. So, you have got all these facts; and now, the hon. gentleman, driven from one corner to the other, takes refuge in the cheap charge that the contractor substituted for the food that he promised to supply under his contract to the Department of Militia, another and entirely different article. That is the charge they make against the contractor, who is not here to defend himself, and they make the charge because they know full well that he cannot defend himself, because they know that no civil responsibility attaches to those who make the charge, because they know full well that the contractor is not in a position to hold them responsible for it. In conclusion, I repeat the challenge that I made before, that the charge they make here they dare not repeat outside this House of Commons, because they would not enjoy the same immunity as they enjoy here.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask for the enforcement of the decision of the Chair that the documents shall be laid on the Table to which the hon. gentleman has referred in his speech.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair chair.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not know that there is any regular form of contract, but so far as the correspondence in reference to the purchase of this food is concerned, there is not the slightest objection in laying it on the Table of the House, and all the papers that I read or used in my argument, I am prepared to bring down.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. We are entitled now to have the contract referred to by the hon. Solicitor General. The Chair has ruled that he must lay it on the Table of the House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Mr. Blair). Let me say one word in answer to the hon. gentleman.

Some hon. MEMBERS. The Speaker has ruled.

Mr. FOSTER. Chair.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order, Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I rise to a question of order. I wish to point out the fact that when the hon. Minister of Militia made his statement he made it perfectly clear that there was no expressed written contract, but that there was an approval endorsed upon the paper. He read no other papers. There was no other paper embodying the terms of the arrangement.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I rise to a point of order. The hon. Minister of Railways and Canals has not risen to a point

of order. Mr. Speaker, you have ruled that the paper that the hon. Solicitor General referred to as a contract in this discussion should be laid on the Table. We should not be told now that there is no contract. We should have the paper referred to by the hon. Solicitor General, and which you have declared he was to lay on the Table of the House.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order; chair, chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order, I think it is a matter of courtesy to the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals that the House should allow him to make his statement.

Mr. MONTAGUE. When the document is laid on the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. minister ought to be allowed to make his statement. I have allowed the hon. leader of the opposition to speak several times to-night.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is for Mr. Speaker to say whether I shall sit down or not.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think it is only fair to the House that whatever papers the hon. Minister of Militia has that fix the contract, whether it is in the form of a contract or of an endorsement of the offer, should be in the possession of the House. If he has a copy here that he could give the House I think he should give it at once.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. The Minister of Militia is prepared to lay on the Table of the House every document from which he has read and to which he has referred. I do not think that he has referred to a written contract embodying all the terms of the arrangement, but such papers as he has he is prepared to lay on the Table.

Mr. FOSTER. I imagine the reason of the rule is that a minister may have no unfair advantage over any other hon. member of the House. We are discussing this question to-night, and other hon. gentlemen are to speak on this side. Some of us, unfortunately have spoken already, and we cannot avail ourselves of this information. The information which the hon. minister has is information which the next man who follows him has a right to have on the Table of the House, so that he may not be at an unfair disadvantage. That is what we require.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. There is no objection to it.

Mr. FOSTER. We want it now.

Mr. MONTAGUE. As the hon. Solicitor General constantly referred to the contract

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

and made reference over and over again to the contract it should be placed on the Table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. Whatever was the nature of the arrangement between the two parties I think it should be laid on the Table of the House, whether you call it a formal contract or simply the endorsement of the proposition.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. These papers are the original papers, and I read portions of them. I read the whole of the letter of the director general, and I read the principal part of the offer of Dr. Devlin. The only paper which I did not read is a letter of the deputy minister accepting the offer. Perhaps the better way would be to read the whole of it.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me, your ruling is not that the minister shall give a viva voce explanation. We want the papers ourselves. The hon. Solicitor General has the papers in his hands that he quoted from and that he referred to.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. When the Speaker says that you shall have them you will get them and not before.

Mr. FOSTER. We have a perfect right to insist that you shall obey the Speaker. There is no man in this House big enough to defy the Speaker and the rules of the House even if he be the representative of justice, as the hon. gentleman is purporting to be here. There is no man big enough to do that.

Mr. SPEAKER. This is an unnecessary discussion.

Mr. FOSTER. The Speaker cannot enforce the rule if the ministry propose to give the spectacle to the House and to the country of defying the Speaker.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is an unprecedented thing in this House for hon. gentlemen on the Treasury benches to set the Chair at open defiance.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the House will come to order I think we can settle this matter; if the House will give the hon. Minister of Militia an opportunity of presenting his papers to the House.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. In reference to these papers—

Mr. MONK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of order—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order; sit down.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, chair.

Mr. MONK. I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. State the point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. We must keep order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) state his point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MONK. Reference has been made—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. SPEAKER. What is your point of order?

Mr. MONK. This is my point of order. Reference has been made to a contract you, Sir, ruled that it should be produced. I ask that your ruling be obeyed.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MONK. We cannot go on until I have been heard.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is no point of order in the statement of the hon. gentleman. I hope the House will accept my ruling.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will you give the hon. Minister of Militia an opportunity of presenting the papers?

Mr. MONTAGUE. My point of order is this.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order; sit down.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am quite in order, and I stand here until I state my point.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). With the Speaker rising?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am quite in order because no Speaker has the right to prevent me raising a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I am quite in order, because no Speaker has the right to prevent me raising a point of order, neither when he is backed up by the ministers or opposed by the ministers. My point of order is this: That the question was raised as to whether the Solicitor General or the Minister of Militia should lay upon the Table of this House the document to which he referred in the House, and the Speaker decided and decided definitely that he was compelled to do so, and my point of order is that no business can be proceeded with in this House at any time whatever until the ruling of the Speaker has been complied with.

Mr. TAYLOR. And it will not either.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Do I understand that the ruling is, that if an hon. member refers to a contract, simply as giving the date of a contract, without making an extract from it and without referring to its contents, that he is obliged to produce the document?

Mr. FOSTER. And the hon. gentleman founded an argument upon it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And the ruling of the Speaker has been made.

Mr. FOSTER. They are afraid of the contract, they dare not bring it down.

Mr. SPEAKER. If the House will come to order we may be able to do something. In this case the ruling has been made and the Minister of Militia, who is the custodian of the document, was proceeding to comply with the order of the House when this discussion began.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. We should give the Minister of Militia an opportunity to speak.

Mr. FOSTER. Not to speak but to lay the document on the Table.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask for your ruling, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I will ask my hon. friend to sit down for once and respect the Chair.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask your ruling, and I am perfectly in order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I ask the hon. member (Mr. Montague) to take his seat.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And I ask for your ruling on my point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I would ask the hon. member to take his seat.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask your ruling on that point of order and the Chair must give a ruling.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will hon. gentlemen come to order. We cannot proceed with business amidst all this confusion. If the hon. member for Haldimand is not satisfied with my ruling he has the alternative of appealing to the House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I ask the hon. gentleman to accept my ruling.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Speaker has not ruled on my point of order, and I therefore cannot appeal to the House against it, even if I desired to do so.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask for a ruling as to whether there can be a discussion before—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Chair, sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. I ask the hon. member to come to order. I do not propose to discuss the question with him.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And I ask for your ruling.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The Speaker has no right to ask me to sit down. The Speaker has not decided my point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. My view is that the hon. gentleman has raised no question in the present discussion, and I ask him to accept my ruling.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I accept your ruling, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. FOSTER. May I rise to a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the hon. gentleman allow the Minister of Militia—

Mr. FOSTER. May I raise a point of order?

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, sit down.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it possible that things have come to this pass, that a member of this House cannot stand in his place and raise a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I ask the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) not to press it.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to raise a point of order. Have I the right to do it or not?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. It seems to me, if the hon. member for York will allow me, that it will be better to allow the minister to produce these documents and let the business proceed.

Mr. MONTAGUE. But he must not discuss the papers.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Bring down the documents.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hand them over.

Mr. SPEAKER. The minister had better lay the documents on the Table of the House.

The Minister of Militia having laid documents on the Table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the House now come to order?

Mr. DAVID TISDALE (South Norfolk). Mr. Speaker, I regret very much that the discussion of this important question has unfortunately strayed over a very wide range—

Mr. MONK. I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I regret to interrupt the hon. member (Mr. Tisdale), but it seems to me that some documents are missing here. Something has been detached from these papers.

Mr. SPEAKER. The minister must be allowed to use his own judgment.

Mr. MONK. I think we must have them all.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Have you not ruled, Mr. Speaker, that we should have all the documents?

Mr. SPEAKER. Not all the documents, but all the documents in connection with the matter that were read from.

Mr. FOSTER. Here are some more coming out.

The Solicitor General having laid a document on the Table of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. Have you any more?

Mr. SPEAKER. I trust the business of the House will proceed.

Mr. TISDALE. I am in favour of the wisdom of the rule which I am glad to see the Speaker has upheld, that these documents should be laid upon the Table of this House, because I could not come to a conclusion on this matter without being able to see what are in these documents. This is not a question of making a charge against any one, but it is a question as to whether it is a case for investigation. I think that it displays a weakness on either side of the House when gentlemen in discussing a subject like this wander away from the subject. There is a very serious matter underlying this whole question and I think we should deal with it seriously. Now, as to the manner in which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) introduced this question, I must say that I was surprised to hear hon. gentlemen opposite attribute to him any unfairness. In justice to him and in justice to myself, I must say that I had not the slightest idea that when he read that article from the paper, he did it for any other purpose than by way of introducing the matter to which he wished to refer. The whole course of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) was proper and dignified. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier was bringing to the attention of the minister the grave things he found charged in that paper. True, as some hon. gentlemen have said, a newspaper article by itself does not amount

to much ; but the hon. member, in introducing it, explained that it would give the gravamen of what was represented in regard to the transaction, and he read it in that spirit. Then he went on to state the circumstances and facts in regard to the transaction, and what he thought was the offence or the fraud committed ; and if he showed any indignation or excitement, the last thing I would attribute to him, would be that he showed it in any spirit of attack. On the contrary, as I understood him—and I agreed with him that far—his indignation was at the fraud, if a fraud had been perpetrated. If the hon. gentleman's statement had been accepted in the same spirit, and the discussion carried on in that spirit, we would probably have had this debate closed long since. Some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side, notably the hon. Minister of Finance, and the hon. Solicitor General, did not acquit themselves in the way they usually do in discussing questions before this House. I thought both those hon. gentlemen exhibited an undue amount of excitement over the simple question, whether a case existed, which under the circumstances would make the Minister of Militia or the government feel that they should grant a committee. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier stated that he intended later on to move for a committee, and that in bringing the subject up now, it was with no idle view of airing his own views by moving a motion to adjourn. I am sure there is not an hon. gentleman on either side of the House, who will not agree that if a fraud has been committed, it should be investigated, and that no matter who is to blame, punishment should follow. I think, in justice to the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence himself, it certainly ought to be investigated. The instant it was suggested that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier was making a charge against the minister, he rose and relieved the minister. Do you want me to believe that that is not the proper course for a member of this House to take, or that it ought to be called backing down or making charges which he is not prepared to maintain ? I say it requires more courage, and more sense of what is proper, to at once get up and relieve an hon. member under such circumstances, than not to do so. The minister himself acknowledges his responsibility as head of the department, whether he was personally to blame or not. Therefore, what more manly or commendable course could any hon. member take than at once to say frankly that he did not intend in any way to make a charge against the minister further than that ? He stated the facts and gave the names of the parties except one, and that name was subsequently supplied, with his permission, I believe, by the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill). Therefore, he backs up the statements he made with the facts, so as to

enable the minister and every other member of this House, to judge whether he has made out a well-founded case on which to ask for an investigation.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Will my hon. friend allow me to intervene just there ? He has stated correctly, I think, that the single issue before the House is whether an inferior kind of food was substituted for the food which the minister thought he was buying. Will he state what scintilla of evidence is given to show that an inferior kind of food was substituted ?

Mr. **TISDALE**. Though I prefer to make my speech without interruption, I am always willing to allow pertinent questions to be asked. I do not quite agree with the hon. gentleman, that that is all there is to be investigated. If there has been gross fraud, it goes a little further. The bottom question is: Did the Militia Department, or did they not supply an inferior article of food ? There are two things to investigate. The first is whether there was any fraud or not in a criminal sense. That is a matter serious enough for an investigation ; because, as the hon. member for North Bruce has said, there might be gross negligence amounting to criminal negligence. I hope sincerely that if an investigation is granted, it will be found that there has been a mistake somewhere, and that this food is good. I hope, for the sake of Canada, and the brave boys we sent to South Africa, that the food will be shown to be good. For one, I am sure I would rather forego the greatest possible political gain to be derived from any such matter, for the sake of having everybody cleared of blame, and the food proved to be good. Since the question was raised in the press, and with the evidence which my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier had, it was his duty to follow it up, and ascertain, if possible, whether or not there was any basis for the statement made. I hope the Militia Department will, at all events, be cleared from any charge of negligence ; and if fraud has been perpetrated, I hope the department will have surrounded themselves with such safeguards that it will be somebody else who will have the blame. I want to say to the Solicitor General that he did not do himself justice to-night. He said the hon. member for Jacques Cartier had gone from one charge to another, and from one corner to another. The Solicitor General knows the use of language, and he knows as well as I know, that there was no charge made against any particular person. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier would not make a charge against any individual—and I thought the Solicitor General was a man of the same sort—when he had not sufficient evidence to sustain such a charge. Do we want any better argument than the speech of the Solicitor General to-night, to show that this

matter ought to be investigated? Because we requested and demanded information to enable us to understand this question. When he got through, I must say I was more confused over the subject than I was before he spoke. It did seem to me that his attempt to-night, instead of being logical and judicial, as his speeches generally are, was a lamentable failure, in respect to enabling us to understand the question any better than we did before. I confess I understood it less. I confess that I have not been able, from what the Minister of Militia or the Solicitor General, or any other hon. gentleman speaking on that side of the House, has brought before us, fully to understand what the minister admits and what he denies. I was grieved to see the manner in which the hon. Minister of Militia dealt with the question, whether it was from loss of temper, or because he thought members on this side were hardly fair in the way they plied him with questions. I was surprised that he did not do what he generally does when similar questions come up, that is, give us all the information possible. My hon. friend from Jacques Cartier only stated certain facts which he gleaned outside. He took the usual course, and would have been unworthy of his position as a member of parliament if he had not brought this matter before the House. He notified the hon. the minister of his intention, and that hon. gentleman had all the information at his hand to furnish the House with a proper explanation. During the short time I had any connection with the Militia Department, I always endeavoured to keep politics out of it as much as I could. The militia of Canada is now prominent in the eyes of the world as one of the great defences of the empire, and it behooves this House, in matters connected with that department, to display as little party politics as possible.

Mr. McNEILL. I rise to make an explanation. My hon. friend has said that no charge has been made with regard to any individual. I do not want to have any misapprehension on that point, and therefore, wish to say that I did make a charge and now repeat it. I charged distinctly that if the Minister of Militia did not have an analysis made of the new food which he was providing for our soldiers in South Africa, after the letter of warning he received from a gentleman who had supplied the food which had been thoroughly tested, he was guilty of gross negligence.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. There was no new food. The food which we had tested in 1899 was the food which we bought and sent to South Africa.

Mr. McNEILL. I simply want to explain.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. TISDALE.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman is out of order.

Mr. TISDALE. I quite agree in your ruling, Mr. Speaker, that when a member is asked a question, it is quite within his province to reply or not. But the case is different with regard to public documents. If these papers had been laid on the Table before recess, I would have been able to get at the exact facts. What is the trouble? The charge we wish to have investigated is whether this food is genuine emergency rations or not. An emergency ration is a prepared article which contains, in very small compass, an enormous amount of strengthening food, and such an article would be worse than nothing if it did not, because the men would go on long marches relying on its being up to the mark, and if it were not, the disaster would be great indeed. There is no dispute that the Hatch Company is the well-known and well-established firm that my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier alluded to, and the word 'protose' used by them to describe the article they sell is their trade mark. 'Protose' is the trade mark and 'protein' is the article itself. There is no question that it was the Hatch article, which was tested by the authorities at Kingston. If the second food supply was guaranteed to be the same article by the contractor, then it would be the right article. If on the other hand the minister knew, as I understood him to admit, that the second was another article, did the hon. minister know that while the director general reported to him that the second article was equally good or the same sort of article, it was not from the same maker and the same firm as the first?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The whole dealings of the department with reference to this matter from beginning to end were with one gentleman. That gentleman is Dr. Devlin, and he provided the food which was tested at Kingston and sent to South Africa. These vegetable active principles are described by different names. I do not set very much store by that, and did not inquire particularly into it. That is a matter of detail left to the director general of the department. But I believe that the food supplied Kingston was the same, and it was stated by the director general to be the same as that furnished the second contingent.

Mr. TISDALE. I understand then that the defence of the minister is that the director general said it was equal in quality to the first, but did not examine it to see whether it was made by the same firm. So, I understand, we are still in the dark as to which article was bought, that is whether it was the article of Hatch & Co., that was first tested, or the article subsequently made by some other gentleman and called 'vitamine.' I understand further—and I should

like to be right about this, because much turns upon it, that the analytical and chemical test made in January or April, 1899—the Solicitor General at one time said one, and at another time the other—

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were two.

Mr. TISDALE. I prefer the Minister of Militia (Mr. Borden) should tell me. I understand that only one test was made, whether in April or in January.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The Kingston test was made in March and April, 1899.

Mr. TISDALE. And what other test was there?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I think this other test was made about a year later.

Mr. TISDALE. I understand that there was a report of an examination made by the director general of the medical staff.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I do not know what tests were made. I have his letter here, and would like to lay it on the Table.

Mr. TISDALE. A great deal turns upon this, and we should understand it clearly. When I speak of a test, I mean a chemical test, or, what is still more important in a military sense, such a test as that made by the soldiers, which was an excellent test, and one that every fair-minded man would be satisfied with if properly made, as I am sure it would be in the Kingston schools. This letter which the minister has just laid on the Table is dated June 5, 1900.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. That is the letter I read.

Mr. TISDALE. This is just a letter. Then, as I understand the minister, the only soldiers' test was the test in January or April, 1899. Afterwards, when the purchase was made, he relied entirely on the report of his director general, and no test, either by the soldiers or by a chemical analyst, was made—only the test by the director general, if he made one. Now, let me ask: Did the director general communicate to the minister whether he had made a medical test? And is he capable of making such a test—for very few medical men are chemists in the sense of being able to make an examination of this kind? Is there any other report than this letter before the House?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Take the letter of the director general of January 4, 1900, which is among the papers laid on the Table.

Mr. TISDALE. Here it is:

Ottawa, January 4, 1900.

To the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence.

Sir,—I recommend that the second contingent be provided with five days' rations of protein vegetal, as tendered for by F. E. Devlin. This substance has been thoroughly tested on five members of 'A' Battery, R.C.A., during last year. It proved itself to be a complete food in the most concentrated form. It is palatable, light, agrees with a delicate stomach, and does not deteriorate if kept dry. As an emergency ration, under conditions of great exertion, fatigue, forced marching, &c., it appears to me to be admirably adapted.

Now, I think we have got to the bottom of it at last. The only test relied upon was the test made in the Kingston school. The article there tested was the Hatch protose. This letter that I have just read renders it, in my opinion, beyond all question that we must have an investigation, because the papers submitted by the minister shows that he acted upon a report from his director general referring to a test of the year before, and that this was the same article. So far, there is evidence of good faith in the conduct of the Minister of Militia that he took the precaution to have his director general make a report which was in favour of it; and I have no doubt that the director general did not take the responsibility without believing that this article was good. We find that the person who went to the place where this vitaline is sold, and it was found that on the packages in which it was kept there was printed the boast—and it was a good one, if true, and of great value to their article—that it was the article that the Militia Department had tested so thoroughly. But, it has been stated that this was examined analytically by one of the greatest chemists on this continent, and was found to have only 17 per cent of nutriment. Now, I am not saying that convicts the minister, because, unless we are refused an investigation, I do not wish to make any inferences. But if the government take the responsibility of saying that, under these circumstances, it is not due to us, it is not due to the department, it is not due to the people of this country, it is not due to our brave soldiers in South Africa, that the facts should be brought out, then an inference would arise in my mind that I do not feel it proper to say anything about at the present time. But I do say that there is room for an important difference. This director general is not a skilled scientist, and he might be honestly mistaken, believing that this other article under a different name was an equally good article. I would not like to impute any motives to him, on the contrary, I believe up to this time that he is a straightforward man. But that is not the point. The point is: Shall we have an opportunity to vindicate the Minister of Militia and Defence, to vindicate the department, and more than that, to vindicate the government and parliament,

and the country, and to relieve the people from uncertainty in regard to it. This matter has been brought up in no light spirit, and so far as I am concerned, I would not tolerate its treatment in any but a serious way. I believe that the members on both sides of the House, after we get over the somewhat rough and violent way in which we sometimes discuss matters, are in the bottom of their hearts desirous only of getting at the facts. Inasmuch as this matter affects the health of our dear ones that we have sent to South Africa, I hope the government will not rest a moment longer under the breath of suspicion. I am not prepared to make any charges except on evidence; but it looks very much as if somebody had either made a great mistake or possibly had committed a fraud. The investigation may show that though this food was inferior, there was no corrupt motive in supplying it, and it may show that the food is not inferior at all. But to my mind there has more than enough come out already to warrant an investigation, and I trust the government will grant one. But if the investigation is not granted, I believe, speaking politically, that no course the government could take would do themselves more injury. I believe the honest-minded people of the country as well as responsible members of parliament on both sides are of the opinion that this matter should be probed to the bottom.

Mr. R. R. DOBELL (West Quebec). I think that when the members of this House in their calmer moments begin to analyse this debate, they will be ashamed at the manner in which it has been carried on and at the way in which it was introduced. The hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale) spoke of the unpleasant duty that the member for Jacques Cartier had to perform, but I think it was apparent to every one that when the member for Jacques Cartier read that article in the paper it was with a feeling very different from pain. He evidently showed that he was pleased to think that he had found a mare's nest. I followed very carefully the statement made by my colleague the Minister of Militia and Defence, a statement clear and distinct, wherein he showed every step that had been taken in respect to this protose, or vitaline, or whatever it may be called, showing how carefully it had been tested, and stating that the department had samples put away which could easily be produced and tested again. Why, Mr. Speaker, do you think that those of us who have friends or relatives in South Africa could for a moment excuse any negligence on the part of the Militia Department in selecting food for their use in that campaign? I think when this debate is read in the *Hansard*, hon. members will be ashamed that it has taken up so much valuable time, and they will wish that the member for Jacques Cartier had adopted the

Mr. TISDALE.

suggestion of the Premier and introduced this question in another way and at another time. There was no necessity for hasty action, because nothing can be gained in testing the food now that our troops will soon be back again from South Africa. After listening to the statement of the Minister of Militia and Defence of the care he took to have this food tested, and to prove that it was really the right kind of food, and not what the member for Jacques Cartier called spurious stuff. I want to ask where is the legal acumen of those gentlemen who see a fraud in the fact that some one bought a box at some shop for which he had paid \$3. Who bought that box? Was he a responsible party?

Mr. MONK. His name was given to the House, Mr. Moore.

Mr. DOBELL. Well, it might have been Smith or Jones. Is it on such a flimsy circumstance that so grave a charge is made? I think the hon. member for Jacques Cartier should join with the leader of the opposition, and with the member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) in yielding to the invitation of the Solicitor General, and apologize for the time of the House, that they have taken up in making and pressing this charge. I believe they will, because I think some times they have a sense of doing what is right, and I am positive that if they want to do what is right they will say that they have done wrong to-night. That article in the paper—I have gone over it—is full of errors. It states there that we paid \$2 for a ration. We paid only 50 cents for a day's ration. How do you account for an error of that kind? In that article it states distinctly that the hon. Minister of Militia paid \$2 for a ration, whereas, instead of paying \$2 for a ration he paid 50 cents for rations for twenty-four hours. I do not see why hon. gentlemen should challenge the accuracy of the test made under the orders of the hon. Minister of Militia, but, they take for granted this cock and bull story of a box being bought and taken to some chemist. We do not know the name of the chemist.

Mr. MONK. I rise to a point of order. I do not think that the hon. gentleman has a right to qualify a statement of mine as a cock and bull story. I gave the name of the party who went to get this box, and the party who analysed the contents of the box—Mr. Milton Hersey, the well known analyst of Montreal. The hon. gentleman does not seem to know what he is talking about.

Mr. DOBELL. I know very well what I am talking about. Who is Mr. Moore? What guarantee have we that Mr. Moore may not be the agent of an opposition company?

Mr. MONK. You will very soon see when he comes as a witness.

Mr. DOBELL. The hon. gentleman has made his charge. He has made a charge against Dr. Devlin. He has said—

Mr. MONK. I never charged Dr. Devlin with anything at all.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. DOBELL. I will appeal to my hon. friend the Solicitor General. You stated distinctly—

Mr. MONK. I cannot allow the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) to attribute language to me that I never used.

Mr. DOBELL. You distinctly made the charge.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. DOBELL. We have already proved the hon. gentleman to be inaccurate. He said that the hon. minister had promised an order for the North-west Mounted Police, and you denied that you had said so.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. DAVIN. Address the Chair.

Mr. DOBELL. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk) had to take that back.

Mr. MONK. I never did.

Mr. DOBELL. Well, then you should have. I am not going to say another word to prolong this discussion. I claim that the hon. Minister of Militia has proved, to my mind, distinctly, that every care was taken to test this food, and we have not the slightest evidence that any care was taken to test this box that was bought by Mr. Moore and analysed by some one else. I have no doubt that the analysis of it was quite correct, but as to who Mr. Moore is, and whether he tampered with the box or not we have no evidence.

Mr. MONK. I can tell the hon. gentleman that he is just as good a man as the minister is.

Mr. DOBELL. We can talk over that when the trial comes. The hon. Minister of Militia offers you an inquiry.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is all we want. I do not know what all this discussion is about.

Mr. DOBELL. This is nothing more than a mare's nest founded on an article in the reptile press. Slander will grow; it will do harm. It has done this House harm to-night by wasting very valuable time, and I have no doubt that we shall all feel ashamed of ourselves for having wasted it.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, I am sure that in the presentation of the case which has been made by the hon. member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) there can be very little doubt, that there is a great deal of mixing and mud-

dling of this question, even in the minds of the members of the government themselves. I do not know that we have ever had a more painful exhibition than the hon. gentleman has just given in attempting to make an argument in defence of the Militia Department, and in explanation of that charge made here this afternoon. However, I was very glad to hear the hon. gentleman utter what may be a promise in his closing sentence: as I understood it, that we should have a committee to investigate, and I am sure that the hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Militia and the Solicitor-General will hardly for a moment recede from the position that has been taken by our good natured friend who treats us with such condescension, and who instructs us upon matters of deportment as well as upon matters of law sometimes in this House. We have been rebuked by the hon. gentleman as to the manner in which this debate has been conducted, and I should like to ask the hon. gentleman how he likes the manner in which it has been conducted by hon. gentlemen on his own side of the House, how he likes the hon. Minister of Militia, for instance, sitting still in his place and stubbornly refusing to answer the most civil question asked in the most civil way by a prominent gentleman, speaking from the front ranks of this side of the House; how he likes, for instance, the exhibition of the very genial, the very good-natured, Solicitor General who has a judicial air, whose face was white, whose temper was hot, but who, challenged us to say that he was not treating it in a very judicial manner, and I am bound to say, to borrow the words of another hon. gentleman, that he did not do his record for fairness and his record for geniality in the House justice by the exhibition which he made here to-night, and which, I think may be attributed to the weakness of his case, a weakness which he knew, from the moment he stood up until the moment he concluded? The legal representative of the government made an argument in which there was not one single logical conclusion drawn and not one single answer made to the statements which had been made by hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. Now, we are asked to apologize. To apologize for what? Apologize for offering a criticism upon the manner in which this food was purchased by the Minister of Militia? Apologize for demanding our rights in this House? We were charmed with the simplicity with which the hon. Solicitor General turned to his friends and said: Have the majority no rights in this House? The majority have rights, but the minority have rights as well, and we propose to assert these rights, notwithstanding the anger of the hon. Solicitor General, and notwithstanding the platitudes of the hon. gentleman who has distinguished himself for rapid transit across the Atlantic. What is the ar-

gument of the hon. member for Quebec West? He agrees that the food should not have been purchased until it was thoroughly analysed and the answer is given that this food was purchased without having been tested or analysed. I challenge him now to stand up and say that this protoid 'vitaline' was never tested.

Mr. DOBELL. I said most distinctly that it was tested; not only so, but we have samples now which can be compared with the cases that have been sent to South Africa. I stated also that no doubt some of these cases could be sent back and tested with the samples that are now in charge of the Minister of Militia.

Mr. MONTAGUE. My challenge to the hon. gentleman was to show that before this food was purchased it had been tested or analysed.

Mr. DOBELL. Certainly.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Where is your answer?

Mr. DOBELL. I said it was tested some months before.

Mr. MONTAGUE. By whom?

Mr. DOBELL. By some one under the charge of the Minister of Militia.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) has demonstrated either that he is bound to mislead the House—and I do not desire to charge him with that—or that he is totally and absolutely ignorant of it. There is not a word of evidence in these papers that proto-vitaline was ever tested by the department or for the department, or under the direction of the department. I will tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dobell) how the test was made, but I must first refer him to the refusal of the Minister of Militia to say to this House that the proto-vitaline has been tested. The Minister of Militia will not stand up in his place now and give me the name of the tester, the date of the testing and the circumstances under which proto-vitaline was tested or analysed by his department before it was purchased. He will not do it, because he knows it never was tested. And yet, here were the lives of men who were defending the integrity of the empire, depending upon this food, and the hon. gentleman purchased it without a test, or, if a test was made, he has never given it to this House, and it is not contained in the various documents which we have before us. It is a grave and important matter. The purchase of any supply for the militia use is a grave and important matter, but this is still more important than the ordinary, when we come to consider that the lives of our soldiers might depend upon it. I say to the members of the government, I say to the Solicitor General, and I say to the Minister of

Mr. MONTAGUE.

Militia: That when a suggestion was made that a fraud had been practised upon the government of this country—whether with or without collusion—that might have brought death to our soldiers who are fighting in South Africa, it was their duty, without a moment's hesitation, to stand up for the honour of the government and for the honour of the country, and to say: We will have the question investigated to the fullest extent, and will punish the wrong-doers, if wrong has been done. Instead of that, what have we had? We have had an exhibition of temper from beginning to end; an exhibition of temper rarely equalled in this or any other parliament, and we have had the refusal of the minister to bring down information until compelled by the ruling of the Chair to lay upon the Table the public documents which, under the ordinary rules of the constitution, are the property of this parliament, and not the property of the government of Canada.

Now, Sir, what is the fact? The fact is, that an article called protose was tested in Kingston. This article was manufactured by Hatch & Co. It was shown that 60 per cent of protose was albuminoid or protoid food. We have the evidence here as to who did the testing. Mr. Hatch was the manufacturer of that food. The agent that he employed to negotiate with the government was a gentleman named Dr. Devlin, of Montreal. He was employed by Mr. Hatch to request that the government should test this food, and to take charge of the questioning of the men in 'A' Battery, Kingston, who had subsisted on that food. We have had the member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell) declaring that the proto-vitaline was tested in Kingston, but I tell him that there are no records of any test but that of protose. The questions that were asked of the soldiers in Kingston were asked by Dr. Devlin, of Montreal, the agent of Mr. Hatch, who was endeavouring to get his food adopted by the Canadian government, and what is one of the questions put by Dr. Devlin, of Montreal? The question, No. 9, is this:

What has been the nature of the solid food you have taken for the last twenty-eight days?

And the answer of the soldier is:

Hatch's protose, bread, butter and biscuits, and one pound of butter in twenty-eight days.

Where is there any proto-vitaline in that? Proto-vitaline is never mentioned, and in every one of the affidavits which were brought to the attention of the Minister of Militia, there is not a single mention of proto-vitaline, but the mention is once, twice, and all the time, of Hatch's protose food, which I want to state here, once for all, was the only food tested in Kingston upon soldiers or upon any one else. But, the hon. minister comes behind that and he says: Oh, but we had a test made of proto-vitaline by the medical director general,

and upon his report we go a great deal. A report made on June 5, 1900, he was asked by the government to test proto-vitaline, was he? Well, if he was asked by the government to test proto-vitaline he never tested it; he never analysed it, and no member of the government will stand up now and say: that they have a certificate from the medical director general as to proto-vitaline. The Minister of Militia will not do it.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman has under his hand a statement of the director general that the food which was furnished by Dr. Devlin and which was sent to South Africa is identical with the food which was tested in Kingston.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Now, I want to read the opinion of the director general. It is of date June 5, 1900.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Yesterday.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Is there not one in March?

Mr. MONTAGUE. This report was evidently got up for the purpose.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES: Is there not a report of March or April under your hand?

Mr. MONTAGUE. I have not seen it, but if it is here I am perfectly willing to read it. This letter was got yesterday, and what does it prove. It proves a fraud somewhere, and by some one from beginning to end. Does the director general say that he tested proto-vitaline? Not at all. He says he compared protose that was left over on his shelves from a former test in April, 1899. He says he had two cans left; that he tested these two cans, and on June 5th, only yesterday, he gave this opinion:

I at the time secured samples, which I have since, together with Col. Drury—

Mr. FOSTER. What time?

Mr. MONTAGUE. It says:

—which I have since, together with Col. Drury, who conducted the investigation, Col. Twitchell, Consul General of the United States, who was throughout much interested in the test—

Mind you this is a test of protose, and when you come to get at the bottom of the matter, it was the hospital experience of protose that ever put this in the mind of the Minister of Militia at all. He saw the reports of the wonderful success which protose had as a food in the hospitals of Montreal and elsewhere, and he immediately set about—and I commend him for the speed with which he did it—to investigate that food and the result of his investigation was the test which was made at Kingston subsequently. What do we find? We find that the test was made of protose in Kingston and protose is mentioned all through, but never proto-vitaline.

I was present at the examination of five soldiers who had voluntarily submitted to the one month test of feeding exclusively on protein vegetal. The examination of each individual was made under oath. I personally knew four of the men, and can have no reasonable doubt as to their veracity.

Now, listen to this statement, which proves what I have said:

I at the time secured samples, which I have since preserved in my office; this with a view of future test or comparison.

So that the letter which was got yesterday from the medical director general to bolster up this case, evidently is an opinion as to protose, and has nothing whatever to do with protoid vitaline, which was by order of the Minister of Militia and Defence sent to South Africa.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Will the hon. gentleman read the last sentence of that letter?

Mr. MONTAGUE (reading):

When, in January last, it was thought advisable to provide the second contingent with five days' emergency for each man of the contingent, for use on occasion of great exertion, short army rations, &c., I could think of nothing more satisfactory than the protein vegetal I had seen tested at Kingston.

That is, protose—

When Mr. Devlin submitted samples with his tender, unknown to this gentleman I compared them with the specimens I had preserved since April, and found them identical. The specimens I had kept were perfectly preserved.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I ask the hon. gentleman if there was an analysis? There was no analysis, and the minister will not say that there was any. The next question is: Supposing he did have an analysis made, which food was submitted? Does he know that it was the food that was sent to South Africa? I say, without hesitation, that upon a question of so much importance as this, upon which life depended, it was the bounden duty of the Minister of Militia to see, when these goods were supplied to the department, without any putting up of samples by Dr. Devlin, or anybody else, that they should be examined—a case taken here and a can there indiscriminately—in order that a sure and certain test might be made as to the albuminous strength of the food purchased by this government at \$2 a pound. Will the minister say that any such test was made? We observe as much care in the shipment of butter to the old country, in which the trade and commerce of the country and the honour of our producers are concerned. We have had a Bill recently introduced even to measure the size of our apples, in order that our credit may be maintained among the traders of Great Britain. How much more important was it that in regard to this food to be supplied to sol-

diers, when other food was absent—emergency food on which life was to depend—the minister should have made the most careful test of the samples selected by himself or his agents, when the food was supplied under the order given to Dr. Devlin. Now, Sir, there are some very peculiar things in connection with this contract. First of all, such an important matter as this is not usually dealt with in an hour. A government usually takes some time for the consideration of the purchase of supplies such as these. What time was taken for the consideration of this subject? When was the tender of Dr. Devlin put in? The tender of Dr. Devlin was put in on January 5, and the contract was given to Dr. Devlin on January 5. What time was there for tests? What time was there to exercise care and to make an examination? Why was the thing rushed through so quickly? Were the public interests served or guarded, or did Dr. Devlin come to Ottawa and pull his wires with the Department of Militia and Defence, and get the contract put through in a few hours, in a matter where serious care and consideration should have been given for the protection of life as well as for the protection of the treasury of Canada? Another thing: Under ordinary circumstances, after having purchased this food, after it had been supplied, it would have been the duty of the minister to examine some of the cases, and take samples; but there was a very special reason why he should have done it in this case. Here we have a letter from a reputable firm in Montreal, written to the Department of Militia, in which the minister is addressed as 'His Excellency'—I suppose that refers to the future—and in which he is told over the signature of Mr. Hatch, a responsible trader in Montreal, that the food he had purchased and was being supplied, was a fraud—that instead of containing 66 per cent of albuminous food, it only contained from 16 to 17 per cent. What is the answer? The answer is that there is no investigation, that it is passed over in silence, that the account of Dr. Devlin was rendered to the department, and in four days was paid. I say, Sir, that the hon. member for Jacques Cartier has done a public duty. There can be no more serious matter than a fraud practised on a war department, at a time of danger and a time of national calamity; and whether the charges are against Dr. Devlin, or the officer of the department, or any one else, the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, upon his responsibility as a member of this House, has said to the government: Here are the facts; I believe a fraud has been practised; if you will appoint a committee, I am prepared to establish my charges. I hope, Sir, we have not come to that condition of public sentiment and public feeling in Canada, when a government, however it may quibble, will refuse the request of a responsible mem-

M. MONTAGUE.

ber of this House upon a matter affecting life and death among the soldiers of the Canadian people.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. (Sir Louis Davies). I regret that I cannot congratulate my hon. friend on having made either a calm or a logical speech. I want to call the attention of the House to the marked contrast between the sensible, calm, judicial speech made by the hon. member for South Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), and the wild, unreasonable, declamatory speech made by the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague). The hon. gentleman, I think, was convinced, when we adjourned for dinner, that a more painful and pitiabie exhibition never was made, than that made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. Members on both sides felt sorry for him.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. There are one or two very extreme men who say no, but his best friends were sorry for this reason. Heretofore the hon. gentleman enjoyed the character of being a quiet, calm, judicial, fair-minded man, but after he had made the speech he did, one was either obliged to come to the conclusion that he had lost his head or completely changed his character. He indulged in vituperation, invective and unfounded charges, in a manner never surpassed by any hon. gentleman on the other side. In the first place, he opened his speech by making an utterly unjustifiable charge, which he was afterwards obliged to retract.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He read an extract from a newspaper.

Mr. PRIOR. He did not make a charge.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. I would ask my hon. friend to have the courtesy not to interrupt. He read a newspaper extract, and made it the basis of his charge, and the only reason which would justify his reading that extract was the sentence on which he laid particular emphasis, namely, that my hon. friend for some consideration had entered into this contract. The only conclusion to be drawn was that my hon. friend had made this contract for a consideration, and unless he made that charge—a charge which outside this House would be described as cowardly—he had no reason for reading the extract from that newspaper, which I am told is a vile Tory sheet. The hon. gentleman made that article the basis of his charge, and when shown that the charge had not the shadow of foundation, and when asked: Are you prepared to take the responsibility of making it? He replied:

I made no charge. And when the matter was pressed to him still further, and he was asked: Do you then make a charge against Dr. Devlin? He said: No, I do not. And he made this denial after he had taken up three-quarters of an hour of the time of this House making a statement which, if it meant anything at all, meant that Dr. Devlin had been guilty of one of the greatest crimes a Canadian could commit against his fellow citizens. What was the reason of his speech if he did not charge either the minister or Dr. Devlin, or both with wrong-doing? Was the whole thing a farce? Then we had the spectacle of the leaders of the opposition, recognizing the pitiable exhibition which the hon. member for Jacques Cartier had made, coming to his rescue, and endeavouring to get him out of the hole he had fallen into. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) made a clever attempt to drag him out of the hole by saying: You are bound to accept his statement, that although he brought this matter before the House, he made no charge of any kind against the Minister of Militia or Dr. Devlin, or the director general of medical staff. So that we have the hon. gentleman from Jacques Cartier crawling into a hole and saying: I make no charge against anybody. And then you have the hon. member for York saying: Let us accept the declarations made by the hon. gentleman who introduced the resolution, and see what it all amounts to. And what it comes down to is this, that while there was a proper test made in the first instance to ascertain whether that was good food or not, the question is whether or not there was a fraud practised in the substitution of some inferior article for that which the minister thought he was buying. The hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), who has had himself the experience of administering the Militia Department, saw that point, and with a manliness which did him credit, and which he often shows in this House, said: This is a question on which I decline to make a charge against anybody, but the whole question is, has there been a fraud practised on the department by the substitution of an inferior article to that which had been tested. I ask hon. gentlemen to go back over the facts and see whether there is any ground on which the scintilla of a charge can be built up against the department. Let me repeat what the Minister of Militia was obliged to say, not once but two or three times over, that in this matter, from beginning to end, he had no dealing, direct or indirect, with Mr. Hatch, who appears to be a rival of Dr. Devlin in the production of a rival food.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Dr. Devlin was his agent.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Minister of Militia

knows nothing about Mr. Hatch, and never saw him or had any communication with him. All he knew was that Dr. Devlin came to him in the spring of 1899 and claimed that he had discovered what was called an "emergency food," which would enable soldiers to sustain life for a great length of time on a small package of compressed food. That was tested in a way that the ex-Minister of Militia and other gentlemen have said fulfilled every condition the House could desire.

Mr. DAVIN. That was the first test.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Yes, no one complains of that. We need not trouble our minds with the technical name of the food at all. There was only one man that the Minister of Militia ever dealt with, only one man who brought a food to him to test. That food was tested in a way that everybody approved of and with the most satisfactory results. The Minister of Militia did not immediately enter into any contract for the purchase of that food, but when the second contingent was going away, in January, 1900, Dr. Devlin said: Now is the time for you to purchase some of my food, a sample of which you tested last April. The head of the department referred the matter to the director general of medical stores, and that gentleman, in January, 1900, in a very strong letter, strongly advised the department to purchase that food.

Mr. DAVIN. It does not say that there was any test made.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. No, but it referred to the test which had been previously made, and there could be no other test.

Mr. McNEILL. But the food supplied in January, 1900, was called vitaline.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I am astonished, and almost ashamed of my hon. friend in making this trivial interruption, when I am trying to put the point that there was a test in April, 1899, which proved satisfactory, and that in January, 1900, when the second contingent was going off, the owner of that food which had been tested came to the department—

Mr. McNEILL. No.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The only man whom the department had ever known in connection with that food was the man who came to them in January, 1900. I am taking the statement of the Minister of Militia, and I presume he knows more about what took place between himself and Dr. Devlin than the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) does. The Minister of Militia says he never saw this man Hatch, never saw anybody in connection with the matter but Dr. Devlin, and when the doctor on the

going away of the second contingent asked the head of the department to purchase some of this food, the hon. minister at once referred it to the director general, who reported that the tests showed such excellent results, that he advised that a purchase should be made.

Mr. McNEILL. That is, of Hatch's food.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. There is no mention of Hatch in it.

Mr. McNEILL. Hatch's food was the one tested.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. So far from that being the case, the director general recommends, as shown by his letter, that the troops of the second contingent be provided with five days' rations of protein vegetal as tendered for by E. E. Devlin. So, not only was the hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) wrong in introducing Hatch's name, but it is clear that Dr. Devlin's name was put in as that of the man who owned the food which the director general recommended as that which he had tested. The contract was made in January, 1899. The hon. member for Haldimand tried to make a point out of that. Why was there such a hurry? he asked. I felt ashamed of the question. My hon. friend knows that only ten days was allowed to send off a contingent, and there was no time to be lost. To talk about another test of 30 days on living subjects is trifling with the intelligence of the House. Surely, having made the test in April, 1899, unless there was a fraud being practised upon you by the men who pretended to provide the same article, you were justified in saying: Yes, if it is the same food that we tested last spring we will buy it. And the director general assumes and states it to be the same. The contract was not made hastily: it was made in the only way in which it could be made. The troops were going away in ten days and the food had to be taken with the troops if it was to be of any use. If you speak of a chemical analysis of the samples produced, what evidence would that be that it was the same food tested in 1899? It is simply a question of bona fides—was there or was there not a fraud committed? You come back to that every time. We have here Mr. Cotton's letter, and he was one of the very men upon whom the experiment was made, one of the men who used the food in 1899.

Mr. McNEILL. Hatch's food?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The hon. gentleman (Mr. McNeill) seems to be mad on the subject of Hatch. Nobody else ever heard of Hatch. There is not a document produced by the minister that has Hatch's name in it, and yet the hon. gentleman repeats that it is

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Hatch's food. Now, on the 23rd of February—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. This year.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. This year, Mr. Cotton writes to Lieut. Colonel Neilson, director general:

I beg to certify that I have tested the vegetable protein powder made by the Vitaline Company of Montreal, marked 'emergency ration,' and I find it exactly the same as the vegetable food taken by me in Dr. Devlin's test—

Not Hatch's—

—in Kingston, beginning in March last for a period of four weeks.

What I am leading up to is that there is not a thing to justify the assertion that there is a fraud. No letter or any other document can be produced to show that the food supplied was not the food that was ordered. There is not an hon. gentleman in this House who will stand upon his feet and take the responsibility of asserting that there was evidence of a fraud—not a man is in a position to say that the food supplied is not in every respect the same as that tested in April, 1899. Yet, though there is not a scintilla of evidence, the House and the country are asked to believe that one of the foulest frauds that a man could commit has been committed by the substitution of innutritious food for the nutritious food that should have been supplied to our troops to be used in a great emergency. To quote the language of the right hon. First Minister, a more heinous crime could not be committed than to substitute a fraudulent food for that ordered by the minister. I ask hon. gentlemen, in heaven's name, on what do they base this foul charge? The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) took twenty minutes to declaim—for he did not argue—against the government on the assumption that this charge was proved, though there was no scintilla of proof whatever.

Some hon. MEMBERS. He has gone away.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Of course, the hon. gentleman (Mr. Montague) went out. I hope he was ashamed of the charge he made. Then, we have further the letter sent to the minister immediately the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) gave notice that he would bring this up, and this letter states that exactly the same food was sent to Africa as was tested in April, 1899.

Mr. PRIOR. He had not analysed it.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. How does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) know that?

Mr. PRIOR. He does not say he analysed it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. He had before him the letter of Mr. Cotton, one of the men who took the food, and he says it is the same.

Mr. PRIOR. How does he know? No one can tell by eating it.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Of course, my hon. and gallant friend (Mr. Prior) is in a better position to judge than the director general who examined it and kept the sample, and Mr. Cotton, who lived on the food for thirty days. I will tell the hon. gentleman (Mr. Prior) what he knows about it—he knows absolutely and literally nothing, and the reason why I say so is that he has never examined it, he has never tested it chemically and is no more capable of testing it chemically than I am. He never tested it personally—he certainly never lived on it for thirty days—yet he is prepared to get up here and contradict both the director general and Mr. Cotton. That shows what fair-minded men we have on the other side of this discussion. They are prepared to assume fraud against the minister, they are prepared to assume fraud against the director general, they are prepared to assume fraud against Mr. Cotton, they are prepared to assume that Dr. Devlin was in that fraud—they are prepared to assume fraud all round if thereby they can smirch the government. That is the one point that they had in view, and I am sorry for it. With one or two rare exceptions, the debate on the other side has been conducted on that line, and apparently with that object, not to discover a great fraud, if there was a fraud, but if possible to throw some blame upon my hon. friend, and upon the government of which he is a distinguished member. I say, therefore, that the only question before the House is, whether there was a fraud by the substitution of a food different from that which was submitted to the Minister of Militia and Defence, and tested in April, 1899. I say that up to this moment, and I followed the debate very closely, there has not been one fact, chemical, chronological or other, stated by any one gentleman on the other side, which would lead an honest man to come to the conclusion that there had been a fraud committed. In point of fact, Mr. Speaker, if one may be allowed to repeat himself, I say that there has been no evidence at all to justify anybody in coming to any other conclusion than that the food that went out was the identical food that was tested in 1899. What does it all come to? It comes to this, that there was a rival who, after the food went away, and I believe after Dr. Devlin was paid, wrote a letter, signed H. H., saying that there was something wrong about it, and in which he stated that his food should have been taken, and not Dr. Devlin's. That is all there was in it from beginning to end. I am the last man in the world, when any evi-

dence whatever is given to show fraud, that would shrink from having that fraud thoroughly investigated and sifted to the bottom. But I say it is disgraceful that ministers of the Crown, officers holding high positions, directors general, physicians, such as Dr. Devlin, should all be subjected to this attempt to take away their characters by statements made in this House, by men who are not responsible for their statements out of the House, and when there is not a shadow of foundation to justify these statements.

Mr. C. KLOEPFER (South Wellington). I have listened very carefully to this discussion on both sides of the House, and I am prepared to draw my own conclusions. I find that Dr. Devlin went to the government, taking some samples with him, which the government had tested at Kingston, and found it to be a good article. Then Dr. Devlin went to the government and made arrangements to supply a large quantity of food. He went to work and manufactured this food and put it into boxes. I do not know where it is made, that is something we cannot ascertain from the Minister of Militia and Defence. But this food was boxed up and shipped away to South Africa without being analysed at all. It seems to me as though the government had entirely failed to handle this matter in a business-like manner.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Would the hon. gentleman permit me to recall his attention to the letter the Minister of Militia and Defence read in the afternoon, produced by Dr. Devlin at the time he sold these articles to the Department of Militia, containing a certificate from the eminent chemist, Dr. Ruttan, of McGill College, Montreal, that he had analysed the food, and found it to be the same.

Mr. KLEOPFER. He analysed samples only. During this session of the House, I bought \$4,000 to \$5,000 worth of goods of a certain party on samples be produced. I looked over the samples and bought several car-loads of goods, which I assumed to be like the samples, but when the goods arrived they were not at all like the samples. When I found the goods were not like the samples, I put them back in the car, and returned them, and the party wrote to me saying that his warehouseman took them off the wrong pile. Well, it may be that Dr. Devlin took this food off the wrong pile. When a farmer buys a horse, he never pays the money until he has examined the horse from its ears to the tail. These foods were never examined at all, they went away to the ship just as they were. That is where I consider that the government acted in a very unbusinesslike manner. Before sending off the goods, they should have sent a man to examine a can here and there in

the shipment. Why, when you send a shipment of apples to the old country, you cannot get paid your money until every third barrel has been opened and examined, and the government ought to have acted likewise in this case. Therefore, I claim that the department has not looked after this business properly. These goods were not properly examined, they were not up to the mark, otherwise the member for Jacques Cartier would not have made this charge. Whenever anything leaks out, there is always something wrong. A bell does not ring for nothing. For all these reasons, I come to the conclusion that this thing ought to be investigated.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). After the most cogent speech that has been made by my hon. friend from South Wellington (Mr. Kloefer), who has given us his business experience, showing how very easily a fraud might be committed, it will be easier for me to answer my hon. and learned friend, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. It is extraordinary that there has been so much heat amongst the ministerial party in regard to this debate, and so much incredulity as to the possibility of fraud, when it is notorious that in England, in the United States, in France, in Germany, there has to be the most sleepless watchfulness, and even then they cannot prevent frauds being perpetrated upon the war office in respect of provisions and materials of war. We know that in a trial that took place some years ago, it came out that cutlasses sold to the English navy by English firms of highest repute, were found of no more value than pasteboard. In the recent war that took place between Spain and the United States, we had the head of the American Army, General Miles, giving his evidence that the food supplied to his army by reputable firms was utterly unfit. Therefore, there is no reason to doubt the suggestion that something might be wrong in the supply of food to our war department. I think you will agree with me that our colonels are not strong either in the defence or in the offensive movement they make. Now the Solicitor General was, in my opinion, very instructive. He was angry; he was inconsequential; he was, contrary to his usual practice, discourteous, he, one of the most courteous men in this House, as a rule. As the Hon. member for Norfolk (Mr. Tisdale), has said, it is impossible to complain of the usual demeanour of the Solicitor General. Why was the Solicitor General angry? I think if we could see into his heart we should find that he was not angry with this side of the House, but he was angry with his own friends who had given him such a bad case to defend. And what was the defence? It was the same kind of defence that has been made by the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, harping on the fact that the Department of Militia

Mr. KLOEPFER.

dealt all the time with one man. Why, Sir, that is not the thing that we have to consider. It is not whether they dealt with one man but whether they got the same food. Nothing could be easier than for a woman to go with a basket of good eggs at one time to a house, and be told to come back and the eggs would be bought at a certain hour, and she comes back, not with the same eggs, but with eggs that have passed beyond the period of their sublunary existence. The suggestion is that Dr. Devlin, having negotiated with the department, originally for protose, for the goods manufactured by Hatch, at another time comes and says to the department—we have his letter here—he does not say in a word that it is protose, but what he says is that he will supply a certain prepared powder food. At that time it was most necessary to be quick, to use despatch. No one can read these letters, all of the same date—there is no evidence whatever that any chemical test was made—without feeling that there was a volatility on the part of the Department of Militia, that, to say the least, is not very creditable to us. This is the justification of some of the remarks which have fallen from this side of the House as to the manner in which that contract was made. There was fraud, possibly, if fraud was intended. Let me say one word in reference to the statements made in regard to the speech of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). He was accused, I think, in a very harsh and unjust manner by the hon. Solicitor General of making charges, and when he repudiated that he had made these charges the proof advanced was that he had read an article from the *Militia Gazette*. Why, Sir, I read the article, and the parts that were marked and the sentences that were emphasized did not amount to the charge that was attributed to the hon. gentleman. The hon. Solicitor General fell into a very curious lapsus, because he defied the hon. member for Jacques Cartier to go outside and make the same statement as was made in the *Gazette*, presumably threatening an action, but the same charge was made in the *Gazette* months ago, and no action has been taken. Now, here is this precious letter on which the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries lays so much stress, the letter of Mr. Cotton. It is a most charming document. It is dated St. John's, Que., on February 23, 1900, and it arrives in the Department of Militia in May, 1900:

(From Hospital Sergeant Cotton, R.C.R.I., to Lieut.-Col. Neilson, Director General Medical Staff.)

St. John's, Que., Feb. 23, 1900.

Sir,—I beg to certify that I have tested the vegetable proteid powder, made by Vitaline Company, Montreal, marked 'emergency rations,' and find it exactly the same as the vegetable food taken by me in Dr. Devlin's test in Kingston,

beginning in March last, for a period of four weeks.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd. A. COTTON,

Hospital Sergeant, R.C.R.I.

What happened when the test was made at Kingston was that he had been placed under scientific experiments for a protracted period. He was constantly under the care of scientific men, he was under their surveillance, and he was able to take an oath, that, having taken that food for a protracted period, it produced certain results. All that there is any evidence that he did on the second occasion is that he tested the food, that he found that it tasted somewhat similar, but there is no evidence that the food had the same nutritive properties that the food tested at Kingston had. Then, we have Mr. Moore. I suppose the word of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier will be taken as soon as that of any other hon. member of this House, and he tells us that Mr. Moore is a responsible person, that Mr. Moore went and got a case of this food, that he had it tested, and that it only tested 17½ per cent in those properties in which the other had tested over 70 per cent. What is the use of a trumpety letter like that on which the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries laid so much stress? The hon. minister gave the thing away when he said that the whole matter was a question of bona fides. If it is a question of bona fides on the part of Dr. Devlin, or of somebody in or near the government he operated with, then, this contention on the part of a distinguished member of the government shows that the Department of Militia was very far aside of its responsibilities, and that it had not been mindful of the trust imposed upon it when making this contract. I was surprised, however, to hear so humanitarian a gentleman as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and one who bears Imperial honours, rebuke the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Montague) for referring to matters of life and death in regard to a question of this kind. Could there be anything more proper than to remind the House and the country and the government that in a matter of this kind it was a question of life and death? Suppose that the war had been protracted, suppose that our victorious troops, instead of being in Pretoria, were sitting down before it, and that the war had been protracted for months, was it not on the card that the second contingent that went out there, and which had the honour of the empire and of Canada upon its shoulders, might be placed in a position in which a question of food would be of vital importance, and in which it would not only be a question of life and death, but it would be a question of importance that every man should have that strength and power and valour which, after all, are in-

timately connected with a well-nourished physique, to fight the battles of the empire and uphold the honour of Canada. So, I say, that the reference of the hon. member for Haldimand is perfectly germane, and I say further, that this question is now in this position that the hon. Minister of Militia, nay, that the government of Canada, cannot do other than institute an inquiry, unless, indeed, they should feel, and I would be sorry to believe it, that there is something to cover up, something that the eye of heaven must not pierce. Let the government have an inquiry, let them probe this matter to the bottom, and if, probing it to the bottom, it should be found that everything has been plain and square, no one would be more rejoiced than myself.

Mr. JAMES DOMVILLE (King's, N.B.)
Mr. Speaker, I have listened attentively to this debate. It is a great mixture—one that I might call kaleidoscopic in its character. My hon. friend from West Assiniboia has used the word 'suppose' very often. I think it is a word used in the North-west Territories among the Indians. They say out there that 'they suppose.' The hon. gentleman has dealt a great deal with the question of adulteration. How can you adulterate that food? What could you put into vegetables to make the food cheaper than it is? Suppose they had wanted to adulterate it, how could they put anything in it cheaper than the real article which is made out of vegetables. My hon. friend from York (Mr. Foster) spoke about bravery and theology—perhaps I had better not call him my 'hon. friend,' and perhaps if I call him the 'hon. member,' it will be more parliamentary—he spoke about bravery and about what the newspapers said, but he is the last man in the House that dare take up what the newspapers say, and he would not like me to quote them. Very often the newspapers speak the truth, and very often they do not, but anyhow wherever there is smoke there is some fire. The hon. gentleman from York (Mr. Foster), who ran off from King's with a carpet bag in the last hour, he should not stand up and talk about bravery. If he is a brave man he should stand up and take his punishment. The hon. gentleman from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) talked about the troops suffering, but how could they perform these glorious acts of bravery if that food was bad. They would have wilted under it if the food were bad, but we have not heard a complaint in regard to it. The truth is that hon. gentlemen opposite have so failed in everything they brought forward this session, that at the last moment they have to resort to this question of dried vegetables to detain parliament in discussing something that is not pertinent to the hour. If they were so anxious in regard to the matter why did they not bring it up earlier in the session. It just shows that they are anxious to

grapple with something that they think will bring discredit on the government. My hon. friend (Mr. Davin) spoke about chemical tests. What chemical tests could be applied to vegetables. Are you going to look for sugar in them? I am addressing my hon. friend from West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) and I ask him, would he test them for alcohol.

Mr. DAVIN. Does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Domville) want an answer?

Mr. DOMVILLE. Yes.

Mr. DAVIN. I would if I were making a post mortem upon you.

Mr. DOMVILLE. The hon. member (Mr. Davin) always falls back upon something that is offensive when he fails in argument. I would not be so rude as to make any remarks about what a post mortem test would show on him. I would not be so rude as to talk about a man being taken home on a wheelbarrow. I am more gentlemanly than to insult any gentleman or acquaintance of mine or to intimate that in a moment of weakness he has been trundled home in a wheelbarrow. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Davin) poses as a leader here and we have been compelled to listen to his abuse in speech after speech. We have all seen the play of Punch and Judy where Punch knocks Judy over and Judy knocks Punch over, and finally the clown gets up and rules. If the hon. gentleman sticks to something that is not offensive, we will all be glad to assist him in endeavouring to do something that is right, and if he thinks he is doing what is right to-night we will assist him in that or any other good cause. I do not think this debate is going to be productive of much credit to this House of Commons. We shall see to-morrow in the newspapers big black headlines: 'Disgraceful conduct in the House of Commons.' 'The Right Hon. Sir Charles Tupper rises in his seat and the leaders of the government quailed before him in fear.' 'The hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster) threatens.' Well, he put his two fingers out and he said something, but there was such a row that we could only see him gesticulating. The hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) talked about the English government and the American government. Does he pretend to be able to put the whole world right. We know that in England the contractors made bayonets and sabres out of pot metal, but was the government of England to blame; was the government of England to inspect every sabre and every bayonet? Certainly not. The hon. gentlemen opposite cannot hold the government responsible for what occurred even though there should have been something wrong. I point out again that when you endeavour to substitute something that is cheaper than vegetables you will find it hard to do so, and so would the contractors find it diffi-

Mr. DOMVILLE.

cult. Here you have potatoes worth half a cent a pound, and how could the contractor put anything in the place of potatoes that would be cheaper. If he had taken starch, it costs more; if he had taken sugar, it costs more; if he had taken molasses, it costs more. Tell me what article of human food he could have used in compressed form which would have been cheaper than the material used. I have seen the stuff and worked with it, and I do not think there would be any object in adulterating it. The hon. member for York talks about theology. I am not as well up in that subject as he is. I have never had the chance of going around the country as a theological exponent of right and wrong, as he has. I have met my hon. friend on many occasions and heard him discuss a great many questions, but I have never had the pleasure of being present when he discussed theology, although I believe he did very well. Now, I think the country will view this as a lost day, as a vast expense on nothing, as a charge made against somebody but with no basis. It can only be summed up in the words of a poet whose name I forget:

What caused the Adullamites to rise,
And fill the butcher shops with large blue flies?

Mr. T. D. CRAIG (East Durham). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who has just taken his seat says this is a most trifling question. I do not think the country will agree with him. He thinks the country will say that a day has been lost. I do not think the country will agree with him in that either, except in regard to speeches like his, which have wandered all over creation and discussed the real subject very little. It has been rather amusing to-day to hear members on the other side, most of them cabinet ministers, charging members on this side with being excited and violent and partisan, when the fact is that if they could only have sat here and seen themselves, they would have said that they were what they described members on this side to be. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) was very violent and extreme. Indeed, it would strike an independent observer, one not interested at all in politics, that there must be something wrong when members on the government side were so excited and discussed the question with so much heat. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier was charged with having made a most violent speech. I think I am a judge of a violent speech, and I do not think he made a violent speech at all. I do not think that his speech could compare with the speech of the Solicitor General for violence, or for partisanship either.

An hon. MEMBER. Or the speech of the Minister of Finance.

Mr. CRAIG. I will not say that, because I do not think the speech of the Minister of

Finance was quite as bad as that of the Solicitor General. But I thought the hon. member for Jacques Cartier made his statements calmly. It is true, he spoke rather strongly at times; but that was when he said that if this fraud was committed on the country, it ought to be condemned by every one, because it was a most serious thing to send food to our troops which was not up to the standard, and would not do what it was claimed to do in a case of emergency. The Minister of Militia said there was only one man known to him in the matter, and that was Dr. Devlin. If I thought there was anything wrong in this matter, I would say that was a suspicious circumstance. Dr. Devlin first came here handling the food known as Hatch's protose. That was the food that was tested at Kingston on the soldiers there, and pronounced a very good article. Well, it has been brought out conclusively to-day that the food purchased by the government for South Africa was not Hatch's protose at all, but a compound known as vitaline, manufactured by the Vitaline Company. It may be claimed that this is just as good; but there is no proof of that. Protose was tested by the government; vitaline was not tested, and, more than that, it was not analysed by the Militia Department. It seems to me that the real question is this. Here was nearly \$5,000 worth of this vitaline bought as an emergency food to be sent with our troops to Africa. The question is, did the government inspect any of that food, and find out whether it was up to the standard or not? I hold that the government had no right at all to take the word of Dr. Devlin, because he was the man who was selling this food; and it is a most unbusinesslike method—and hon. members, if politics were left out of the question, would say so themselves—to accept the statement of the seller as to the quality of the goods he sells.

Mr. CAMPBELL. What does Cotton say about it?

Mr. CRAIG. Sergeant Cotton is only one man; and I do not know whether he knew what he was using when he made the test. We have only his own word for it, and I am not satisfied to accept the word of only one man on a question of this kind. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries asks, what time was there to make this test? It may be that there was no time to make the same kind of test as was made at Kingston; but there was ample time for the Minister of Militia to see that certain samples were taken out of the different boxes shipped, and were analysed and found to contain 60 per cent of food. That is what I would have done, and what the Minister of Militia would have done if he were sending this food out to any one in whom he took a great interest. Here were our soldiers going to Africa, and here was a food which

was not bought as an ordinary food at all, but as emergency food, only to be used by the soldiers when they could not get any other, and when, without it, they might be liable to starvation. Here was a food tested at Kingston and found to contain 60 per cent.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. The hon. gentleman is mistaken in saying that. It was tested at Kingston purely as food to see how it would sustain life.

Mr. CRAIG. Yes, I made a mistake there. I was going to say that this protose which was tested at Kingston was analysed afterwards and found to contain 60 per cent of real food products.

Mr. McNEILL. The minister said 88 per cent.

Mr. CRAIG. I say 60 per cent. While the Minister of Militia accepted the word of Dr. Devlin, and the word of some of his officers, who said this was just as good, I say he should not have been satisfied without making a test of samples taken from the cases that were being shipped to South Africa, and finding from analysis whether they contained the same amount of food as the protose that had been tested at Kingston. The department is charged with negligence in not doing this. The Minister of Militia states that he saw this article published in the *Military Gazette* on April 3, stating that this vitaline was not as good as the protose, but he paid no attention to it. I think that in that he was negligent, too; because, while it may be as he says that the *Military Gazette* is a Conservative paper—

Mr. PRIOR. It is not a Conservative paper.

Mr. CRAIG. I do not know anything about that. It is said by hon. gentlemen on the other side that it is; but even in Conservative papers there are statements made which the government ought to pay attention to, and this is one of them.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. If the hon. gentleman will allow me, I might, perhaps, make a statement in this connection which I did not think it worth while to make in my general statement, and it is this, that the owner of the newspaper, Mr. John B. McLean, spoke to me some time after that article was written, and informed me that he did not know anything about it at the time or it would not have appeared, and that he had satisfied himself it was not well founded, and that the individual who wrote it was no longer connected with him or that newspaper.

Mr. CRAIG. I think the hon. minister owes me thanks for having drawn that out. I am very glad to hear that statement, but

I go further. I notice that there was a letter written, I presume, by Mr. Hatch, since it was signed 'H. H.' with reference to this food. While it might be known that he was a rival manufacturer, still we sometimes find out things even from our rivals, and I think the hon. minister should have looked into this matter and investigated it. But that he did not do. When this matter was first brought before the House by my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, he did not make a charge; but, on being challenged by the Solicitor General, he did make one. Of course, the Solicitor General then ridiculed him for making a charge in the House under the protection of parliament. He challenged my hon. friend to make a charge, and then, when the charge was made, ridiculed him for having done so, and paid no attention to it.

I really did think, when the statement was made first, that the Minister of Militia should have at once asked for the committee, both for his own sake and that of the country. The statements of the hon. member for Jacques Cartier are serious, and for the honour of the country and the Militia Department they should be investigated. I am not saying this from a political point of view, though it may seem idle for any man in this House to say he is not speaking politically, for nobody seems to believe him, either in the House or in the country. But, I do say this frankly, if I were on the opposite side, and statements of this kind were made on a matter of life and death—for the lives of our Canadian soldiers were dependent, in a great measure, on the quality of the food supplied to them—I think I would have been in favour of a committee, and I hope that even now the government will see their way to grant one. If nothing is proved, all the better for them and the country. I hope that nothing wrong will be proved. I should be only too glad to learn that this food was up to the standard and that the statements concerning it were wrong in every respect. I hope, for the sake of the country and the government, that we will be given a committee of investigation.

Mr. JAS. McMULLEN (North Wellington). I have listened very attentively to every word spoken on that side on the subject brought before us by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier. If that hon. gentleman had thought calmly over the whole subject, if he had considered the position in which he was placing himself by the course he has adopted, I am convinced that he would never have brought the matter before this House. It is to be regretted that such a matter should have been brought up just at this juncture. Our troops are in South Africa, where they have so far discharged the duties devolving upon them with honour and credit to themselves

Mr. CRAIG.

and the Dominion. They have been now four months in South Africa, and yet, we have not heard a word of complaint, by private letter or otherwise, of the quality of the food supplied them. We have not heard one word of complaint that the viteline is not up to the standard. But if, after the troops return, we find complaint that it was not what it was represented, or if we find before they return that any complaint is made of the inferiority of this food and the food supplied generally, it would be then quite proper for the government to investigate the whole question. My hon. friend said that a sample was got in Montreal and subjected to a test and proved inferior. This very statement showed that the foundation of the whole trouble is the jealousy between two rival companies in the city of Montreal. The men who did not get the contract became exasperated and felt bound to have revenge in some way or other. With this view, they rushed into print, and published an article in the *Military Gazette*, which the owner of that newspaper told the Minister of Militia he was sorry had ever found its way into that paper. And he stated further that if the writer himself had to pen the article over again, he would not do it. He says that he regrets the article was ever published. We have the hon. member for Jacques Cartier bringing forward a charge against the minister and then withdrawing it, and afterwards making a charge against Dr. Devlin, and then withdrawing it. So that, we have nothing but insinuations that something may have been wrong. I do think that we have spent the whole day very unwisely. The hon. member for Haldimand blamed the Minister of Finance for waxing warm in his address, but that hon. gentleman himself was perfectly wild before he got through. You would fancy he was addressing a gathering of back-country hoboos, with empty heads, ready to swallow everything he said. Then, the hon. member for Haldimand did a thing I was a little surprised at, but not very much. When he began to quote a document which had been sent to him, he quoted a portion to suit his object, and it was only after continual forcing that he was got to read the balance of the document, and when he did so, the bottom was knocked completely out of his argument.

Mr. MONTAGUE. It was not forced out of me. I was asked to read it, and immediately did so. I had never read it before, but it had only been placed into my hands a few moments, and the portions marked I read.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman read the portion so far as it suited himself, and then he stopped.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I did not know that the other part was there.

Mr. McMULLEN. I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but it just shows with what little information hon. gentlemen opposite will try to make out a case. When a member gets up to read a paper before the House, he should give its full contents. I do think that the hon. the Minister of Militia has come so far very creditably out of the whole charge. The hon. the leader of the opposition complains that a test of the food was not made before it was shipped to South Africa. Yet, this is the same hon. gentleman who got up here day after day and belaboured the government for being so tardy in sending off the troops. If the Minister of Militia had waited to test every article of food and to shoot off every gun to see that it shot straight, and make an examination of all the material sent, the men would not have got started yet. But, hon. gentlemen opposite are bound to condemn the Minister of Militia, no matter what course he has taken. They are evidently badly in need of political food—

An hon. MEMBER. Emergency food.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, emergency food. They thought there was something in this case, but after threshing it out for five hours, there is nothing proven, there is no charge even made; it simply ends in wind. I think they might have allowed the troops to return without raising a trouble of this kind in parliament, simply because there was an article in the *Canadian Military Gazette*, and because there was rivalry between two companies in Montreal, both of which wanted the contract that only one could get. It is contended that we should investigate matters of this kind. But if we were to investigate every lie published in the *Mail and Empire*, the *Montreal Star*, and other newspapers, we would be sitting here all the year around. As the leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) says, if he allowed himself to be troubled by the statements made concerning him in the public press, he would soon be a candidate for a lunatic asylum. He appears to have the faculty of allowing the papers to talk as they like, and that is a grand thing. This is like other insinuations made in the Tory press. I hope that there is nothing in it. Hon. gentlemen should have waited until the troops returned and the food was analysed, if any of it is left, or until some complaint is made by the officers—

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Or the men.

Mr. McMULLEN. Yes, or the men. But no private letter that has come to Canada since they went away has contained a single suggestion that there is anything wrong with the food, or with anything else that was supplied them. But, hon. gentlemen make one charge, and then they take that back and make another, and so they have gone on withdrawing them, until now there is no charge and nothing to investigate.

Mr. E. G. PRIOR (Victoria). At this early hour of the morning, I do not intend to trespass long on the patience of the House. But, having been connected with the militia for some years, I may be allowed to make a few remarks on this question. I was much struck by the statement made by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). Hon. gentlemen on the other side seemed to think he showed great temper in bringing this matter forward, but I think he spoke in a most moderate manner, and laid his case before the House in an able way. And, as this is a matter of importance to every man who is interested in the country, and especially in the militia, and should be thoroughly ventilated, I think the hon. gentleman deserves great credit for bringing it forward. I have listened to the speeches made on both sides, and I must say that I can come to only one opinion, and that is that the food that was so successfully tested at Kingston, was not the food that was sent to our soldiers in South Africa. I do not believe that hon. gentlemen opposite have contended that it was, but have only said that it was just as good. I would draw attention to the fact that the food tested at Kingston was a registered food, and a registered food cannot be copied, without the man who copies it laying himself open to a penalty. This food was made by the Hatch Protose Company, and the man who brought it to the notice of the minister was Dr. Devlin, who came as the company's agent. The next thing we hear of Dr. Devlin is that he has nothing to do with the Hatch Protose Company, but he comes before the department on his own account and tries to sell a food, which he succeeds in doing, and he names it viteline. Evidently he appears in two capacities—first he acted as agent for the Hatch Protose Company, and then for himself. First he acts as for a registered company and subsequently for what we must look upon as an imitation of their food. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), stated that he did not think there was a scintilla of evidence to prove that the food was not the same. Well, we were told by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier, that a Mr. Moore went to Mr. Lyons, who had put up the food sent to South Africa, and obtained a tin of the same, and took it to a good analyst, and the result of his analysis was to show that there was only 17½ per cent of crude protein in it, whereas in the Hatch Protose Company food, which was used by the men in the Kingston test, there was 84.78 per cent of crude protein. Surely that proves that the food was not the same. It has been stated that charges of fraud were made against the Minister of Militia and Defence, and that the same charges have been made against almost everybody whose name has been brought forward. I have sat here all day long, and I have yet to hear the first man make a charge of fraud against the

Minister of Militia. I say distinctly that I believe there has been fraud somewhere, but I do not say that the minister is guilty of it. But, I do say that he is guilty of culpable negligence in not having the food tested, as the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Kloopfer) said in his businesslike speech, it should have been. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), saw fit to chaff me on my utter ignorance of this food. He said that I had had the effrontery to put my opinion before that of the medical director general, and that of Sergeant Cotton. Why, Sir, I think my opinion about that food is just as good as that of those two gentlemen, for the reason that neither of them have made an analysis.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. It is a good food, I have eaten it.

Mr. PRIOR. Well, if he has eaten it, I hope it did him good. But even a medical officer could not tell from looking at or even by eating it whether it was the same food.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You have neither eaten it nor seen it.

Mr. PRIOR. I dare say it is a very good food. Perhaps it might not do me any harm. But I will say this to the Minister of Militia and Defence, that if he can assure the House that his deputy has been fed on it, we will agree that it is good stuff to send to South Africa, for, if there is anywhere a good-natured, jovial man, who has his wits about him, I think the Deputy Minister of Militia is the man. In that case we would have no fear for our troops in South Africa.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. I will ask him.

Mr. PRIOR. There is one more matter that I shall mention, and that is a remark made by the Minister of Militia and Defence in regard to the *Canadian Military Gazette*. He saw fit to state, if I took his words down correctly, that it was a Conservative paper, that it had lost its respectability and influence in Canada. The hon. minister without portfolio (Mr. Dobell) also spoke of it as a reptile press, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries said it was a Conservative paper. Now, I challenge all these statements. I say distinctly that the paper is not a Conservative paper, it is a thoroughly independent military paper, and always has been. Some times it sees fit to criticise the Minister of Militia and Defence or any other member of the government, and it did the same thing when our party was in power. I have taken it for many years, and I know it has always been a thoroughly independent paper, and is looked on as such by militia men on both sides of the House. It sees fit sometimes to criticise men on either sides of politics. Instead of the paper having lost its influence,

it is gaining in influence every month. I do not think there is a paper printed in Canada whose issue is looked forward to with so much expectancy by the officers and men of the militia of Canada, as the *Canadian Military Gazette*. Its columns are open to every man, be he Conservative or Liberal, officer or private. You will see in it all kinds of opinions about military matters, properly written by men who know what they are talking about. If the Minister of Militia and Defence thinks that that paper has lost its influence, it shows how little he is in touch with the men under his direction, for if he were in touch with them he certainly would have known that they are heartily in accord with the leading articles that appear in that paper. If it is a Conservative paper at the present time, and if the articles that appear have mostly a Conservative tendency, it must be owing to the fact that the minister stated the other day in this House, that at least 90 per cent of the militia men of the country are Conservatives. I know the owner of the paper, Colonel McLean is a high-minded gentleman, and one of the very best and smartest officers that we have in Canada. He has the respect and esteem of every officer who has ever come in contact with him. The editor of that paper, I think it is Capt. Macdonald, is a gentleman of character and ability, and I cannot believe that he ever wrote that article. I am glad to hear that Colonel McLean has stated that he did not think that article should ever have appeared in the paper. As I said before, I do not believe anybody has charged the Minister of Militia and Defence with fraud in this matter, but I do believe in my heart that the food that was shipped to South Africa was not the food that the Department of Militia thought they were buying. I have nothing more to say except that I think an investigation should be held for the sake of the Militia Department, for the sake of the militia, and for the sake of the good name of Canada.

Mr. T. B. FLINT (Yarmouth). I think that independent members of the House, anxious to arrive at a fair conclusion on every matter submitted to their attention, may justly complain of the member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) for the way in which he chose to bring this important matter before the House. In the first place he makes a motion to adjourn the House in order to bring it up, and although a majority of the members at this hour would be inclined to support his motion to adjourn, they are unwilling thereby to indicate any endorsement of his views. There are so many other ways in which he might have brought this question before the House that I am surprised that an hon. gentleman of the ability and experience of the member for Jacques Cartier had not chosen some other form of bringing it up. He could

Mr. PRIOR.

have waited until the House was in committee on the militia estimates, when there would have been an admirable opportunity for a full inquiry into every possible phase of this question without any hon. member trenching upon the rules of the House, as we have seen done too often during this debate. We have seen hon. members attempting to cross-examine and catechise the Minister of Militia and Defence, which he of course, standing upon his rights as a member of this House, properly resented. It was impossible for him to reply to all the questions put to him other than by a brief answer. In the next place, if one hon. gentleman had the right to ask him one question or half a dozen questions which called for a brief answer, then every other hon. gentleman would have the same right. The hon. member for Jacques Cartier could also have brought this matter before the country by way of a letter addressed to the department or to the public press, asking the Minister of Militia and Defence to make an explanation upon the question in writing. I think that we must all be gratified to see that at last the more serious phases of the charge made by the member for Jacques Cartier have disappeared. I am certain from the solemn manner in which he insisted upon going on with this question, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the hon. leader of the House, claiming that it was a matter of great emergency, of vital importance, and that it must not be delayed for a single hour, every one expected that there was something of a very grave and serious character impending, and the House listened with great gravity to the statement of the hon. gentleman. Perhaps the hon. gentleman was not conscious of it—it may have been unconscious—but there was a tone running through the whole of his speech as if the case that was quoted from the *Military Gazette* had been proved, and the comments which were made upon it were based upon the assumption that the charge had been proved. The House was treated to eloquent periods portraying the suffering of our gallant lads in South Africa owing to the neglect of the government of the country. I am certain that a tone of that kind in discussing a question of the nature of that which is before the House is highly improper. At any rate, I now ask the House: What does the question present for the consideration of the House, or for the consideration of an inquiry that may subsequently be made, because we are all aware that the Minister of Militia informed the hon. member for Jacques Cartier that if at any time, if now or later, he chooses to make a charge of any kind in connection with this matter he will be granted a proper inquiry into it? It all depends on these alternatives; either that the hon. Minister of Militia is guilty of grave wrong-doing, almost sufficient to justify his impeachment at the bar of the House, or that he is guilty

of neglect in the management of his department which would justify a severe censure being passed upon him by the representatives of the people in this House, or, if the hon. minister is acquitted of any negligence, then, an important functionary of his department must be charged with a grave offence, and if he is acquitted, a reputable citizen and a professional man of eminence in Montreal is charged with a criminal offence of a serious nature. As far as the discussion has gone the more candid gentlemen on the other side of the House seem inclined to minimize the whole gravaman of the charge down to the fact that in purchasing the concentrated vegetable food which the hon. minister ordered, and which he supposed that he was obtaining for the contingent in South Africa, he was imposed upon by the contractor. That is the whole question now before the House. It has been proved from the records, as they appear, here, that the emergency food which was tested at Kingston, and which was brought forward by Dr. Devlin as a candidate for a contract, which was included in the contract and which was charged to the government, is the identical food which was tested at Kingston and which was subsequently compared with the food sent to South Africa by the medical director. Several hon. gentlemen have used a phrase, intimating that the hon. minister or his advisers had said that the food which was sent to South Africa was just as good. No such phrase as that appears in the documents presented to the House or in the remarks made by hon. gentlemen who are defending this transaction. The phrase in every one of these reports is that the food is identically the same. Mr. Cotton says that this is the vegetable food which was tested upon him personally, and the medical director says that it is the identical food which was tested in Kingston. Now, we come to this other phase of the question. What evidence is there to go before a committee, assuming that they have a case for inquiry, that the food purchased by a certain Mr. Moore, of whom further identification has not been furnished, was identical with the food sent to the troops in South Africa. There is no evidence to identify what I may call that fraudulent food with the food that the soldiers in South Africa received. I would be disposed to distrust any complaint coming from South Africa from any quarter, at any time, unless it happened to come from a professional man or an officer. I think that no statement, coming from a non-professional man ought to be received as any evidence whatever as to the character of this food. Apart from the fact that no private soldier is at all competent to tell whether the food is of good quality or not except by reason of his having made a careful study of the subject, and apart from an officer or a professional man such evidence ought not to be received. Apart from the painful epi-

sodes of the discussion I think we should all feel gratified to realize that at least, as far as any officer of the government is concerned, no charge has been made against any one for anything more, perhaps, than negligence. I do not say that there has been any negligence in this matter. If the minister has been deceived, if the medical director has been deceived, either of them must have been deceived deliberately by the man who fraudulently intended to palm off upon the government an article that the government had not bargained for. I trust that if the hon. member for Jacques-Cartier still believes that he has any reason for making a charge that the charge will be inquired into. I hope that in justice to himself, to the government, to parliament, as well as to the hard-working officers of the department who discharge their duties, as far as I know, in a painstaking and honest manner, he will bring this charge in such a form that it can be fairly investigated to the satisfaction of the public.

Mr. MONK. I am now in a position to speak more positively than I did this afternoon in respect to this matter. I made no charge. The right hon. leader of the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with a want of logic, which, I think, I am justified in saying is characteristic of him, insisted that I had made a charge against Dr. Devlin. I made no such charge. I brought to the notice of the House certain facts which I think call for investigation, and I am now more than ever satisfied that we must have such an investigation. I stated during the speech of the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) that I was prepared to give certain information in my charge in this respect, that I said that the food tested at Kingston was not the food supplied to our contingents, and that is my charge.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Not the same manufacture?

Mr. MONK. By no means, not the same manufacture, not the same ingredients. That is my charge, and I ask for an investigation upon that charge. I will go farther and say that the hon. Minister of Militia and Defence has been guilty of gross negligence in regard to emergency rations supplied to our troops, and I think I will be able to justify the charge if a commission of inquiry is granted. There were very kind observations made by gentlemen on the other side in respect to my conduct as a general rule in this House, and I feel grateful for these remarks, but at the same time I am bound to say that this is a matter which calls for serious investigation. I may have been heated in some respects when I made this charge. I am familiar, as every member of this House, no doubt is, with every form of human perversity, and reluctantly do I believe that people will be found low enough, and greedy enough to wish to take advantage of the military en-

thusiasm in this country over the war, in order to make money for themselves. It is difficult for me to believe that, but still I think I will be able to produce evidence before this committee that this is a case of that kind. Regretfully and sadly do I believe it is a case of that kind. It has happened before, it happened in France in 1870. We had there military contractors who did the most shameful things to betray the interest of the French troops and the French government was not to blame.

Mr. TALBOT. It was not in the way of food; it was clothing.

Mr. MONK. Not only in the way of food, but in every way, and the boots and shoes which the troops wore in 1870 were not according to contract. The food was not according to contract. The French troops were betrayed in every way, and the United States in the recent Spanish war had similar examples. It seems incredible, but it is the case, that very often people avail themselves of these circumstances to make contracts with the government and to supply articles which were not as they should be. Now, Mr. Speaker, this tender of food was made on the 4th January, and it was accepted on the same day. The House will note this. It was accepted on the same day and there was no analysis. There is no question whatever about that. The protose food is a registered food, and it is well known. The hon. Minister of Finance said I gave no names. I give names.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I said my hon. friend gave no names of any person becoming responsible for the charge.

Mr. MONK. I will give names at once to the House. Mr. Hatch is a man well and favourably known in Montreal. He is a food specialist, a man who is responsible, and if he had not supplied the government with such an article as was analysed and tested in Kingston, he would have been able to make good any damage which the government would have incurred. The Minister of Finance, or some gentlemen on the other side, very unjustly hinted that I was the paid advocate of this company.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I made no such assertion.

Mr. MONK. I do not know them. I had clients in 1896, but I have lost most of them through the fact that I have been obliged to attend to my duties in this House. As regards this company, I never had any dealing whatever with them. I know it is a most responsible company, and the information which was given to me was given by a physician of Montreal, who occupies a good position, and who can be summoned before the committee, if the House decides to have a committee. He gave me the facts and asked me to seek confirmation of his statement with the Hatch Company itself.

Mr. FLINT.

I applied to this Mr. Hatch, who is a well known man in Montreal, and he confirmed these facts, and he is the principal witness that I would summon if an investigation is granted. I would summon the gentleman who went to Mr. John T. Lyons, who purchased the sample of this very food which was supplied to the troops and sent to South Africa. I would summon assuredly this most respectable chemist, Mr. Hersey, who is well known in Montreal, and who would give his testimony as to what the food was that he analysed. Assuredly, I would summon Dr. Devlin. I have nothing against Dr. Devlin, and from what has been said in this debate, it seems to be evident that he has played a very important part in these negotiations, and we would summon him, and summon Mr. Lyons. Therefore, the Finance Minister is mistaken when he says that I give no names and make no charge. I make this charge against the Minister of Militia: That he has been grossly negligent of his duty in regard to the selection of this food, and the making of this contract. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that strong evidence would have to be adduced before me, before I would reluctantly admit that any member of this House would be a party to such a fraud as that. It would have to be absolute proof to me that the Minister of Militia or anybody connected with that important department had really been a party to this. I never charged anything of that kind. What I said was that the Minister of Militia himself had insisted long before the war broke out, that this protose food should be tested. It was tested, but subsequently he bought an unregistered food, an article which has no reputation whatever from the Vitaline Company, a company which has no existence in the province of Quebec, and from which he could claim nothing.

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to interrupt him. I bought no food from any Vitaline Company. The papers have been laid on the Table of the House, and there cannot be any excuse for that statement. The food was bought from Dr. F. E. Devlin, the only man with whom the Department of Militia had any dealing from beginning to end with reference to this food.

Mr. MONK. I place myself in the hands of the House when I say, that it seems most extraordinary that the Minister of Militia, upon a tender made on the 4th January, should have on that same day concluded a contract—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. You are straying from the point that was raised.

Mr. MONK. It seems a most extraordinary circumstance that on the same day he should have purchased nearly \$5,000 worth of this food from parties who had nothing

at all to do with this food that was tested. He had before him the Hatch Protose food, a registered food, well known in Montreal, but on the same day, the hon. gentleman made a contract with these other men, without taking the trouble to ascertain whether this was really the food tested at Kingstou in April, 1899. That seems strange. I must say. As to myself, Sir, I can only say this: For four years I have been familiar, to a certain extent with the members of this House, and I do not believe there is one who would take any part in such a transaction and if the investigation, which I have asked this House to institute, proves that no member of this House has been a party to such a shameless transaction, a transaction which we cannot condemn too strongly. I shall be glad to go before my constituents afterwards, and state that nobody who represents the electorate of Canada in this House has had anything to do with this nefarious transaction, for such I believe it to be; and I have no fear that my electors will condemn me on that point. I have fulfilled nothing but a duty in bringing this matter before the House, and I think the government have not at all taken my suggestions in the spirit in which I made them. It is more than possible that the hon. Minister of Militia has been deceived; and if he has been, we will exonerate him; but it is most important at this moment, when this country, as one of the great dependencies of the empire, has so to speak, entered upon a military career, that everybody should know that while we are prepared to tolerate a great deal in other departments, a great many small affairs, we will not, for a single moment, tolerate any nonsense in the Department of Militia, but will bring to the knowledge of the country those who are cold-blooded enough to wish to speculate upon the soldiers who have been sent to the Transvaal in this war.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed a word before the vote is taken, I should like to hear from the First Minister, whether he proposes to carry out what was promised, I think, by the Minister of Militia and by the member for Quebec West (Mr. Dobell), or whether he will say to-night that he will take the matter into consideration, and let us know at an early day, whether a suitable and adequate committee will be granted for the probing and investigation of this matter. I think any person who has listened to my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier, either in his opening remarks, or certainly in his closing remarks, must believe that he is honestly endeavouring to trace what he believes to have been a fraud. I think a motive of that kind backed by his statements and by the investigation which he has personally made, demands that it be met by the government and parliament, with a thorough investigation before a competent committee. A select committee

of this House, I should think, would be quite competent to deal with it.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If the hon. gentleman remembered the remark I made this afternoon, he would not take the useless trouble of putting to me the question he has done, because I answered this question in the closing remarks I addressed to the House. If the hon. member for Jacques Cartier makes a statement upon his own responsibility that he has reason to believe that a fraud has been committed, he shall have his remedy; but I am not prepared, either now or at any other time, for my part, to consent to the appointment of a committee to investigate any charge based on mere newspaper rumour or report.

Mr. **FOSTER**. I would like to ask the Minister of Militia if he would bring down all the papers connected with this matter. There is no opportunity for giving formal notice and moving for the papers; but this matter has assumed an importance which I think makes it necessary that all the correspondence, reports and papers connected with it be laid before the House as soon as possible?

The **MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE**. I will do it to-morrow.

Motion (Mr. Monk) to adjourn, negatived.

SUPPLY—THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORSHIP OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved that the House again resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Mr. **E. G. PRIOR** (Victoria, B.C.) Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the right hon. leader of the government to a telegram which I have just received, as follows:

Victoria, B.C.,
June 6, 1900.

To the Hon. E. G. Prior,
House of Commons, Ottawa.

W. W. B. McInnes has stated his father desired the government to relieve him for past two years. Get government to state if true.
Answer.

(Sgd.) T. EARLE.

The gentleman who has signed this telegram, is Mr. Thomas Earle, the junior member for Victoria City, in the British Columbia Legislature. The W. W. B. McInnes mentioned in this telegram, is the late member for Vancouver, in this House, and his father is the present Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia. The gentleman who signs this telegram seems anxious that the government should state whether the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia has been trying for the last two years to be relieved of his office. If the right hon. gentleman can give me the information, I am sure it will be gladly received in British

Mr. **FOSTER**.

Columbia, and if there is any correspondence in regard to this matter, between the government and the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, I trust that he will see fit to have it laid on the Table as soon as possible.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. I have read in the press, a telegraphic summary of the remarks made by Mr. W. W. B. McInnes. I do not think they will bear out the construction which my hon. friend has just placed upon them. Of course, he has to take what is given to him by his correspondent. The remarks made by Mr. W. W. B. McInnes were to the effect that the Lieutenant-Governor had been anxious to be relieved of the duties with which he is now entrusted as Lieutenant-Governor of the province. I do not remember at this moment that there is any correspondence on this subject; I do not believe there is; but if there is any, I have no objection at all to bring it down.

Mr. **PRIOR**. Might I ask whether the Lieutenant-Governor, when he was here a few months ago, applied to the right hon. gentleman to relieve him of the office?

The **PRIME MINISTER**. If there is correspondence, I can bring it down.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Can you not bring down the oral correspondence?

Motion agreed to, and House resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Exchequer Court—L. A. Audette, increase of salary from July 1, 1900, to June 31, 1901 \$275

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL** (Mr. Fitzpatrick). I have a statement from Mr. Audette explaining this increase, in which he shows that the late Sir. John Thompson had decided to increase his salary by an addition of \$50 per year up to a maximum of \$2,500. This takes the place of the statutory increase.

Kingston Penitentiary \$190,400

The **SOLICITOR GENERAL**. In the salaries there is an increase of \$1,900, due to the adoption of the amended schedule of the Penitentiary Act by the Act of last session. It is due to that alone. There is \$7,000 to provide for new electric plant. The old plant had become useless, and it is proposed to replace it by up-to-date plant. Circulars were sent to the electric plant manufacturers in Canada, as well as the Canadian representatives of American establishments. The Royal Electric Company of Montreal, the General Electric Company, of Toronto, the United Electric Company of Toronto and Hamilton, Messrs. Ahearn & Soper, the Northern Engineering Company of New York sent in tenders, but the latter company withdrew its tender. The tender

of the Canadian firms are now under consideration and will be decided upon as soon as the appropriation becomes available. The different tenders sent in are for different systems of electric lighting. This \$7,000 will provide a completely new electric light plant. There is a decrease of \$1,000, due to improvement in the heating system. There is an increase of \$17,000 in industries, due to the advance in the cost of fibre for binder twine. Last year the cost was \$30,000 more than the appropriation, and it will be necessary to take a vote for that amount in the supplementaries. This year the shortage is less owing to the fall in price.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) How many persons are employed in this industry?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Forty. They are employed practically the whole year round. There are 579 male inmates of the Kingston penitentiary.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the others kept at to give them the reasonable healthy exercise they ought to have? If the binder twine industry has provided good employment for forty, could it not be extended?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am not sure that the experiment, up to the present has been so successful in its financial results as to justify the extension of it. A considerable loss has been suffered since 1894, when the system was inaugurated, and though the loss now is considerably smaller than it has been, if we succeed this year in having our income balance our expenditure, that is as much as we expect. As to the occupation of the other inmates I would draw the hon. gentleman's attention to the report of the Minister of Justice, page 143, where he will find the different items representing the value of labour of the carpenters, blacksmiths, masons, quarrymen, shoemakers, printers and others who are employed.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose that the shoemakers do the work in their line for the inmates?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the intention. Except in the binder twine industry, the object is not to enter into competition with outside industries. Perhaps I should say that the total annual value of labour in the penitentiaries is \$40,836.10.

Mr. FOSTER. What proportion of supplies other than food are supplied by prison labour? Is it a considerable percentage?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It must be, if you add the products of the farm.

Mr. FOSTER. What are they?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The report of the farm instructor, found at page

209 of the minister's report, shows the total revenue to be \$4,627.59, and the expenditure in connection with the farm, \$4,096.60, balance, \$530.99.

Mr. FOSTER. What does the expenditure on the farm include?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Farm implements, hardware, freight charges, seed, and so on, and then I see that the convict labour is charged up, 2,851 days, which, at 30 cents a day, will give \$855.30. That is to be added to the balance of \$530.99, making a total balance of about \$1,400, if you include convict labour. I should explain, in speaking of the binder twine industry, that the convict labour is charged at 30 cents a day.

Mr. FOSTER. Under the present condition of things, are the convicts kept fairly well employed?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the intention, and I understand it is fairly well carried out by the employments to which I have referred.

Mr. FOSTER. As the object was not to make money in the binder twine business, but to give helpful and remunerative employment to the convicts, if, in the past, the accounts have balanced or nearly balanced, I do not see why it is not considered successful, and why, if more work is necessary, the industry should not be extended.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The extension of this industry would call for space which, perhaps, could not be afforded. Then, it would mean, I understand, the installation of an entirely new plant. These would throw additional burdens upon the debit side of the account and might make the industry, which is not now profitable, very unprofitable.

Mr. FOSTER. In the calculation that is made is interest included?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand that interest at 3½ per cent on the capital is charged, and that the capital would represent mainly the outlay in machinery. But, I cannot say whether 3½ per cent is allowed—as it ought to be—on the money used in the purchase of the raw material.

Mr. PRIOR. Where do the government buy their manila and sisal?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In the open market, wherever it can be got to the best advantage. Whatever may be said on other points, I think there can be no reproach so far as the purchase of the raw material is concerned, because it has been reduced rates as compared with the rates paid by our competitors in the market, because it was purchased when it was most plentiful.

Mr. PRIOR. Do the government buy it at first hand or do they buy it through some commercial house?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand it was bought at first hand; the manila is bought in England and the sisal in New York.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the buying officer?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector. I think the inspector has an absolutely free hand.

Mr. D. D. ROGERS (Frontenac). I think it is time for the government to increase the manufacture of binding twine rather than to decrease it, also manufacture other cordage. They sometimes get manila or sisal that is very suitable for twine, and this they could use just as well for the manufacture of cordage. I feel that we are sent here to legislate for the greatest good to the greatest number, and the consumers of binder twine are the greatest number. We know that enormous profits have been made in that line by manufacturers within the last three or four years. We realize that there has been a combine of the strongest character which has succeeded in closing up seven or eight factories, and the consumers cordage company and some of the manufacturers are paying these factories a heavy rental yearly to keep them closed. Of course, the consumers of twine have to pay that rental in the end. Now that these facts have been brought to the attention of the government, I think they will be justified in increasing the output of binder twine. The manufacturers have no reason to complain when they are able to make 100 per cent. I think the government, instead of manufacturing 500 tons, ought to manufacture 5,000 tons, and break up that combine. We hear a good deal said against touching vested rights or vested capital. I claim that the farmers of this country have the greatest number of vested rights of any people on the face of the earth.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Would the hon. gentleman tell us how he is getting on with that farmers' combine, in which he has a certain amount of stock?

Mr. ROGERS. Farmers would be fools if they did not take stock in a concern offering so many advantages. I have every reason to believe, by the experience of the past, that the cordage company is a very heartless lot. It was reported a few years ago that they made 300 per cent. That has been stated on the public platform, and has not been denied, and that was when they had a protection of 25 or 30 per cent. The Binder Twine Company of Brantford made 100 per cent. If that company could manufacture 1,000 tons, and make 100 per cent on it, it is natural to suppose, that these other companies would make double that,

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

manufacturing 3,500, especially when they had 25 per cent protection on other cordage.

Mr. DAVID HENDERSON (Halton). I do not always agree with the member for Frontenac (Mr. Rogers), but it appears to me that the manufacture of binder twine is one of those industries that can be carried on in the penitentiary, and in which the prisoners can be furnished with an abundance of labour, without interfering materially with the industries of the country. Now, we have put binder twine on the free list, with the result that a large proportion of the twine used in this country comes in from the United States. There can be no possible objection to our engaging our prison labour in the manufacture of an article which is not made in Canada. If we manufacture brooms, boots and shoes, or other such articles that are made in this country, then our prison labour is brought into competition with our own working men. But in the matter of binder twine, very largely, that is not so, because the bulk of our twine now, I think, is made in the United States, and consequently our working men are not going to suffer much by reason of that class of work being done in the penitentiary. I therefore, think it would be wise on the part of the government, if they are carrying on any other industries there which would compete against honest labour outside, to reduce that class of work and increase the work that does not come so much into competition with the honest labour of the country. I think it would be advisable for the government to put in a much larger plant, and increase the output of binder twine very materially, yes, even to ten times the amount they manufacture at present. I believe it will do no harm, but it will prevent the combining that we see at the present time between such companies as the Brantford Company and the agents of American companies. I am sure it will help to maintain a level of prices.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is no industry to compete with outside labour in the penitentiary except the binder twine industry. The only boots and shoes made there are for the inmates.

Mr. TAYLOR. What disposition has been made of the binder twine this year, or has it been contracted for?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This year there has been a new departure. We are offering binder twine in small lots to the farmers, and it is being disposed of as orders come in. Up to a few days ago when I addressed the House on this subject, I think about 140 tons were disposed of.

Mr. HENDERSON. Could the Solicitor General say about what quantity has been made this year?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The average output of the Kingston plant is in the vicinity of 500 tons.

Mr. ROGERS. If the seven other factories were running as they should be there would be none coming from the States at all.

St. Vincent de Paul \$113,600

Mr. FOSTER. Why do the salaries go up so high ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The first item of increase on account of salaries is \$5,400. That results first from the increase that is brought about by the schedule to which I referred in connection with Kingston penitentiary. That represents \$2,200. I may explain that there are two items, one in reference to the school instructor, and another in reference to the engineer which are still in abeyance, and that sum is outside of these. We have not yet determined as to whether these two salaries will be increased. In justification of the increases at St. Vincent de Paul, I may say that a new stonecutter instructor and five additional guards have been appointed. This is due to the increase in population.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the increase in population ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is in the vicinity of 50.

Mr. FOSTER. That would be one guard to every ten convicts.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The general allowance is one guard to 12. The intention is to have one guard to 12 convicts in that penitentiary.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the actual allowance at Kingston ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know, but it is somewhat larger at St. Vincent de Paul because of the fact that there is more outside work done at St. Vincent de Paul. The work done there is on the farm to a large extent, and it is necessary to have a greater number of guards because the men work outside.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What are the industries at St. Vincent de Paul ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The only thing that may be called an industry is the farm work. Whatever other work is done inside is work done for the use of the convicts.

Mr. FOSTER. A large number of convicts are really idle, are they not ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. At page 143 of the report, of the Minister of Justice it shows the different heads of employment at St. Vincent de Paul. I find that the quarry absorbs 5,481 days in the year.

Mr. FOSTER. Where does the stone go ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is used for building purposes, largely in connection with the penitentiary.

Mr. FOSTER. Have they yet completed the work on the wall ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand the wall has been completed. The inspector tells me that the whole of the wall is now complete with the exception of the front gate. The tailor shop absorbs 10,579 days making clothes for the inmates.

Mr. FOSTER. Do they make sufficient clothes for the inmates ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The clothes for the inmates are made in addition to the discharge clothes and officers' uniforms. The stonecutters' work takes up 10,000 days, and the work in the stonebreakers' shed 11,000 days.

Mr. FOSTER. What is done with the broken stone ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is used for the purpose of levelling up the yard ; none of it is disposed of outside. Two or three years ago some stone was disposed of to the harbour commissioner of Montreal.

Mr. FOSTER. Does not the hon. gentleman think that a great deal of the trouble they have had at St. Vincent de Paul is due to the fact that they have not the whole of the people employed ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is a farm which employs a great number of the inmates in a useful and healthful occupation, and the intention is to extend the farm premises so as to provide additional employment for a great number of convicts. The question of employment of convict labour is one of the most serious questions that can engage the attention of those who have to deal with penitentiaries.

Mr. FOSTER. Is there any attempt made to solve it ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector has made a report in which he states that convicts may be usefully employed in making bags for the Post Office Department and in making other things that are used in connection with the administration of the government. That is a matter that has been suggested by the inspector and it is engaging the attention of the hon. Minister of Justice.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. Minister of Justice show any evidence of an intention of carrying it out ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is a matter that is engaging the attention of the minister. The inspector has looked into the matter closely and has made valuable suggestions in the direction that I have mentioned. I am not in a position to make a statement as to how far these suggestions will be carried out.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not know why a number of supplies such as post office bags,

uniforms for troops and the like of that could not be made by the employment of convicts.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Still, you must remember that this is coming into conflict with honest labour in the cities.

The PRIME MINISTER. There is nothing in that; if they do not work in the penitentiary they will work outside.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They are now in competition with honest labour.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). I would like to ask the hon. Solicitor General if the entire expenses of the members of the commission named to investigate the condition of affairs at St. Vincent de Paul have been paid?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. MONK. There was one commissioner who charged something like \$2,500, another who charged, \$2,500, and a third who charged over \$7,000. In that connection I asked a question some two years ago, and the Solicitor General answered that the account was still in abeyance. Has that account, exceeding \$7,000, been paid to this third commissioner? Mr. Lafortune was the one who was so much in excess of the other commissioners.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A claim was made, exactly as stated by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Monk), for \$20 per diem allowance by Mr. Lafortune. This account was not allowed, and was eventually paid at exactly the same rate as the two other members of the commission received, \$10 per diem. The position of Mr. Lafortune was somewhat different from that of the other commissioners. The other commissioners were appointed to investigate the affairs of the Kingston penitentiary at the outset, and it was then stated in the commission that they should receive a per diem allowance of \$10 per day. When they got through with the Kingston investigation they were appointed to investigate the affairs of St. Vincent de Paul. As they were both gentlemen from Ontario, and neither could speak French, it was desirable to appoint a man who knew the French language. The gentleman who was appointed was Mr. Lafortune, a member of the Montreal Bar. He received no notice about the per diem allowance. He accepted the commission, and he made his claim for \$20 a day, which was not an unreasonable claim in view of the fact that he was a barrister in Montreal. Unfortunately for him, the government could not see its way to make a distinction, and he was obliged to accept the same allowance as the others.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the total amount for this investigation into St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. \$18,372.20.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the Solicitor General show where \$18,000 could possibly have been spent in any reasonable and businesslike investigation into the affairs of that penitentiary? It seems incredible.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot just now give the details, but I can say from general knowledge that the condition of things which existed at St. Vincent de Paul required investigation. For instance, prisoners were constantly employed in the neighbourhood of the prison without any reference to prison rules and the warden at that time used the penitentiary to a large extent as his own private property. There was a yacht built by the officials out of material supplied by the penitentiary; and in one case there was an account which was paid twice over to the same firm in Montreal. There were on the whole gross irregularities which necessitated very close inspection. The charges against the warden were so grave that he applied for what was practically a trial, after the ex parte examination, and considerable expense was incurred in that.

Mr. FOSTER. As a business man the Solicitor General knows that he could have sent down one or two men who would have done everything at a trifling cost that this commission did at a cost of \$18,000. I assume that the whole investigation into these penitentiaries, cost about \$25,000 and a large amount of the money has been wasted.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is quite \$35,000.

Mr. MONK. The result obtained did not justify such an expenditure. I believe if the Solicitor General had gone down himself he could in two days have discovered all there was to discover. Can the Solicitor General tell us what was the practical result of this inquiry? What was found out that could not be found out by the officials of the department. I heard that these commissioners sat and sat and adjourned and adjourned from day to day, and that a great deal of time was lost.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The commissioners made a report which was distributed amongst the members of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, but what action did the department take?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The warden, and the surgeon, and the warden's clerk, and the clerk of industries, and eight or ten guards were dismissed.

Mr. TAYLOR. Here we had three commissioners at \$10 a day each, and if we allowed the secretary \$10 a day, that would be \$40 in all, and they would have to sit for 450 days, or a year and a half of working days, to get away with \$18,000.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were other expenses incurred. There were yards and yards of stone and an immense quantity of cement that had disappeared and had to be traced.

Mr. FOSTER. Did the commissioners make detectives of themselves to do that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They probably employed other people to do that for them.

Mr. FOSTER. Why could not the superintendent of penitentiaries do that instead of having three men at \$30 a day?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think the superintendent of penitentiaries should be employed to ferret out these matters.

Mr. MONK. I have been informed that the commission used to meet in St. Lawrence Hall, Montreal, and repeatedly, on the most trifling pretext, adjourn to another day, and this cost the country \$40 each day. I am far from saying that there were no abuses; but I really believe the superintendent of penitentiaries or any other official of the department could have done this whole work without it costing the country a dollar. I am informed that there were formal adjournments from time to time, when the commission did not sit for more than twenty minutes or half an hour.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were certainly very grave abuses at St. Vincent de Paul. This fact was admitted long ago, but nothing appears to have been done. With reference to the adjournments, if the hon. member for Jacques Cartier makes that statement of his own personal knowledge, I would admit it; but I would scarcely think that the gentlemen on that commission would do what he says.

Mr. FOSTER. Who were the commissioners?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. Noxon, inspector of prisons in Ontario; Mr. Fraser, a lawyer of Brockville; and Mr. Lafortune, a lawyer of Montreal.

Mr. FOSTER. I have no doubt they would like to nurse the job as long as possible.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I am satisfied that Mr. Noxon would have no such desire, and Mr. Fraser and Mr. Lafortune, are both men of standing in their profession, to whom \$10 a day could not have been an inducement.

Mr. FOSTER. Would the Solicitor General get for us an itemized statement of the number of sittings they had, and the length of each sitting?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We can easily get the number of sittings. I will ask the commissioners for the other.

Mr. MONK. Does the Solicitor General think the charges made in the case of St. Vincent de Paul could not have been disposed of by the department without the expense of this commission?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot help admitting that the expense is very large; but the commission was necessary, and it revealed a condition of things which it was absolutely necessary to change. There were not only irregularities, but absolute plundering going on, which could not be tolerated.

Mr. FOSTER. Is there anything of that kind going on now?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know. It seems very hard to keep the penitentiaries in any sort of order, but we are trying to bring about reforms.

Mr. HENDERSON. If it is the intention of the Solicitor General to have another commission appointed to ascertain what is being done now, I think it would be well to enlarge the scope of that commission and have it investigate the doing of the last commission.

Mr. FOSTER. There is an increase of \$3,000 for the maintenance of convicts at St. Vincent de Paul.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is to make provision for an additional population of seventy-five.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the cost of maintenance per capita?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The gross cost at Kingston is \$237.49, at St. Vincent de Paul \$233.50, at Dorchester \$216.44, at Manitoba \$416.03, and at British Columbia \$456.13.

Mr. MONK. There is contemplated at St. Vincent de Paul the installation of an electric plant. Have tenders been invited for that? As the penitentiary can be supplied with electric light from Montreal, why should it have a special plant?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I think we can do it to greater advantage by having an electric plant of our own. The motive power is already in existence, and all we require is the generator and the wire.

Mr. MONK. Is there a special amount for the installation of the electric plant?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The increase of \$8,000 in the vote for prison equipment is for that purpose. I believe the intention is to take the tenders already sent

in, in answer to a circular sent out with reference to Kingston, and after a selection is made for Kingston, to take out of those tenders one for St. Vincent de Paul.

Mr. MONK. I am inclined to believe that the electric light could be supplied more economically from Montreal.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It is always useful for the government to be absolutely independent of an outside corporation because otherwise it is not dealt with as private individuals are. Our intention is to acquire about forty acres of land in the immediate vicinity. An offer has been made of the property at \$100 an acre, which we refused. We have another offer of \$75 per acre, which we also declined, and we have one at \$55 an acre. We think the land could be got at \$50 per acre, which is not high for land in that district.

Committee rose and reported progress.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 2.10 a.m. (Thursday).

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THURSDAY, June 7, 1900.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

OTTAWA AND HULL FIRE RELIEF FUND.

Mr. N. A. BELCOURT (Ottawa) moved :

That all the rules and orders be suspended in relation to the Bill entitled 'An Act to incorporate the Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund,' and that leave be given to introduce said Bill.

Motion agreed to; Bill introduced, and read the first and the second time.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—RECENT VICTORIES—ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, in view of the recent events which have taken place in South

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

Africa, and the successes which have crowned the forces of Her Majesty, I have the honour to submit to the House a motion which, I hope, will commend itself to the favourable judgment of every member thereof. I beg to move, seconded by my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), that the following address be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen :

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty:

Most Gracious Sovereign,—We, Your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Senate and House of Commons of Canada in parliament assembled, desire to offer to Your Majesty our heartfelt congratulations on the approaching termination of the war in South Africa, as foreshadowed by the recent successes, culminating in the fall of Pretoria, which have attended the British arms.

The feelings of pride and satisfaction with which we hail every fresh addition to the long and glorious roll of deeds wrought by British valour and resource are enhanced on the present occasion by the proud consciousness that through the active co-operation of her sons on the battlefield, Canada is entitled to share in a new and special manner in the joy of the present triumph.

We rejoice that the conflict, now happily drawing to a close, will result in the removal of those disabilities under which many of our fellow-subjects have laboured for so long, and we cannot doubt that the extension of Your Majesty's gracious rule over the whole of South Africa will be attended by those blessings which flow from a wise and beneficent administration of just and equal laws.

We pray that for your people's sake, the blessings of Your Majesty's reign may long be continued.

The language of this address, Mr. Speaker seems to me to be sufficiently explicit, and I have but few observations to offer in support of it. We British subjects of all race origins in all parts of the world, are inspired with sentiments of exalted and chivalrous devotion to the person of Her Most Gracious Majesty. This devotion is not the result of any maudlin sentimentality, but it springs from the fact that the Queen, the sovereign of the many lands which constitute the British Empire, is one of the noblest women that ever lived, and certainly the best sovereign that England ever had, and the best that probably ever ruled in any land. War is abhorrent to the delicate nature of woman. We may safely assume, indeed we know, that the present war was particularly painful to Her Majesty. She had hoped that the closing years of her long and prosperous reign would not be saddened by such a spectacle, but it was not in the decrees of Divine Providence that this hope and wish should be gratified. War came, and it came with the surroundings of horror, of grievous sufferings, and of blood-shed. It came with alternating periods of successes and reverses. But, Sir, happily the end is now within sight. The troops of Her Majesty are now in Pretoria, and the British flag, which is to us the emblem of liberty, is floating over the public

buildings in that far-famed city. This happy result is due, above all, to that fine soldier, who has proved himself a great general, and who, on this occasion, has, as ever before, raised himself to the greatest expectations that the people of the empire entertained of him. Lord Roberts is the great leader of whom each soldier can say, as the soldiers of Napoleon said in the campaign of Austerlitz: 'He won battles, not so much by making use of our weapons, as by making use of our legs.' The recent British victories are due to the fine character, to the solid qualities of the troops, who, under the command of their victorious general, have proved themselves ready for every emergency, ready to do everything that was expected of them; ready and anxious to do their duty to the empire, and in this way we may, perhaps, remark with pardonable pride, that on more than one occasion, when the fate of battle was trembling in the scales of destiny, the scales were turned in favour of the British arms and the victory decided by the dash of our Canadian soldiers, who proved that though many years have passed since last they were called upon to take the field against a foe, they are yet worthy of the races from which they have sprung, and that the blood which courses in their veins is the same as that which inspired their ancestors to gallant deeds.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. Happily, as I said, the end of the war is in sight; though we cannot hope that the war is finished. Many battles have, doubtless, yet to be fought, and indeed we may say that when the war is terminated greater problems will face the British authorities. But, even though the campaign is not finished, we to-day utter the hope and the prayer that the long reign of Her Majesty may nevermore be disturbed by war, and that what remains to her of her natural life may now flow in peace. We pray that when the end of this long and glorious reign comes, the subjects of Her Majesty in South Africa shall have learned to appreciate these British institutions which in this age and in every land signify liberty and equal rights.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

The PRIME MINISTER. We hope and pray that when the end of this long and glorious reign comes, it shall close upon a united empire wherein peace and good-will shall prevail among all men.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It gives me great pleasure to second the address which has just been moved in such fitting terms

by the right hon. the leader of the House, and the government, and to associate myself in warmest manner with the eloquent terms in which he has moved that address. Attention has been drawn by my right hon. friend to the glorious reign of Her Majesty the Queen, and while, no doubt, it was a matter of great regret that war should at this late period of her reign, disturb the peace of any portion of the empire, I do not think it can be a source of unqualified regret that that war has taken place. It has been the boast of the empire that that illustrious reign has never been surpassed by that of any other sovereign in the world, either in regard to the qualities of the sovereign, or the great events that have occurred, or the great expansion of the empire over which Her Majesty has been called to rule. One of the most signal and important events connected with the expansion of the British Empire was the confederation of Canada. That was an event that is now regarded, and will continue steadily to be regarded in every section of the empire, as a very great and remarkable step in the unity and consolidation of the empire. The condition of British North America, where on half a continent Her Majesty reigned, not over the united and consolidated country, but over a wide expanse of territory, in which several provinces were separated and dis severed from each other by hostile tariffs, and by want of adequate means of intercommunication, has all been changed. We have had, since Her Majesty ascended the Throne—in fact, within comparatively recent years—the consolidation of the whole of British North America, with the exception of the Island of Newfoundland, which I trust will at no distant day become a portion of the Dominion. We have not only that consolidated and united country, but we have reached a position enabling us to give most important material aid to Her Majesty's troops in South Africa. That example of Canada has just been followed by the great island continent of Australia, where the various provinces under an Imperial Act soon to be passed, will shortly be united in a strong and powerful confederation—another great step towards the complete consolidation of the empire. But in regard to the unity and consolidation of the empire, there was a cloud on the horizon in the condition of South Africa. To-day we have fairly in sight, as my right hon. friend has well expressed it, the complete consolidation of South Africa under British rule; and then we shall have three great kindred nations—the Dominion of Canada, the commonwealth of Australia, and at an early day, the great dominion of South Africa—all consolidated under the same wise and happy British institutions that have made Canada and Australasia the flourishing countries that they are. My right hon. friend has referred to the position of the Boers, which is a most

important consideration. When, on a recent occasion, I was invited to deliver an address in Tremont Temple, in the city of Boston, to a large body of persons of the strongest British sympathies, who had formerly been, and many of whom were still, British subjects, and entertaining the warmest and strongest feelings towards the great empire of which we have the pleasure to form so important a part, I was enabled to draw the attention of that great and enthusiastic audience to the very important position which the Boers would occupy; and I ventured to say that in my judgment what has taken place was the substitution of the civilization of the nineteenth century for the civilization of the seventeenth century, which hitherto was all that the Boers enjoyed; and I was able to show by the most cogent evidence what the natural effect of that great change would be upon the inhabitants of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, which had previously enjoyed the position of comparatively independent states under the suzerainty of Great Britain. When the question is asked, what is to be the position of the Boers? My answer is that history teaches by example, and I am able to point to an illustrious example within the knowledge of those who are here present, as to what that position will be. When some 140 years ago, France ceded Canada to the English Crown, the entire population of Canada was French, and that population from that hour came under British institutions. With what result? With the result that one of the most eminent French Canadians, the late lamented Sir George E. Carter, when asked by Her Majesty the Queen, 'What are French Canadians?' his answer was, 'Your Majesty, they are Englishmen speaking French.' And when, on another occasion, at a great banquet in London, the late Sir Etienne Taché, had occasion to refer to the position of the French in Canada, he ventured upon the prophecy that the last gun that would be fired in Canada in defence of British institutions, would be fired by a French Canadian—and why? Because under these British institutions, they enjoyed freedom, progress, prosperity and everything else that could make life dear to a citizen, in such an eminent degree that they felt that no change of allegiance could benefit them. And I said, if you want to understand how completely freedom is enjoyed and how thoroughly satisfactory British institutions have been to the French Canadian race, I need only point to the fact that although the French population has attained to about 2,000,000 out of nearly 6,000,000 British subjects who inhabit Canada, the Prime Minister of Canada is at this moment an eminent French Canadian. Therefore, you can have no anxiety as to what the position of the Boers will be. They will have a freedom which, under the corrupt oligarchy

Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

that was carried on under the name of a republic, they had no knowledge or conception of; and the result will be, as my right hon. friend has eloquently expressed it to-day, that at no distant day we shall see a united South Africa, in which all races, all classes, all creeds will enjoy equal privileges in the eye of the law—a united, happy, loyal population sustaining the Crown of England. I have adverted to this, because I feel that it can scarcely be a matter of regret that the later years of our illustrious Sovereign should have been clouded by war, when out of that war has grown such beneficial results, not only to the British Empire, but to the whole civilized world. I may say that the British Empire is greatly indebted to the late President Kruger, whose unhappy action, so far as his own interests are concerned, left no alternative to Great Britain, but to accept the gage of war, which he threw down. By that act he accelerated the accomplishment of that unity of the British Empire which it would have taken many long years to bring about under any other conditions.

But there is another feature of this war that I regard as of the utmost importance, not only to the British Empire but to the whole world, and that is, it has demonstrated that the power of England, the might of that great empire, of which we form so important and conspicuous a part, is appreciated to-day as it was not appreciated by the nations of Europe six months ago. Had any one then ventured the prediction that England, powerful as was her navy, would, in a few short weeks, certainly in a few short months, land an army of 200,000 men on a territory separated from Great Britain by something like 7,000 miles of ocean, he would have been laughed to scorn. That great feat has been accomplished, and it has not only demonstrated to the world that England is admittedly the greatest naval power, but has established her position as one of the greatest military powers.

That is not the only happy result of this war, although it is one of the greatest, because I believe that this demonstration of the might and power of England is going to contribute to the peace of the world and prevent the interruption of that peace to an extent nothing else could. But, there is another element in this matter, one with which we are intimately associated, and that is, that not only has England shown her might and power and prowess, but she has shown the world that she has the great Dominion of Canada, the great island continent of Australasia and South Africa at her back. She has shown that she has what will, in a very brief period now, be three great practically independent nations, but bound to her by the closest ties that can bind one section of country to the other in maintaining the might and power and prestige of the great empire to which we belong.

That is one of the most important features, and deeply as we lament, deeply as at this moment every one in Canada laments, the sad fact that the blood of Canadians has been shed, that many of the gallant yeomanry of Canada who volunteered their services to aid Her Majesty the Queen and British arms in South Africa, have visited that country never to return, we feel that that sacrifice has not been in vain. Just contemplate the report of Colonel Otter, that at this moment the first Canadian contingent, which went away something like 1,050 strong, has only an effective strength of 450 to-day, and you can in a moment realize the suffering that has been occasioned, as well as the loss of valuable lives, by engaging in that conflict; but never has anything occurred more calculated to cement and bind together and promote the unity of this great empire. No event in our past history has ever occurred more conducive to that unity than the glorious part which Canada has taken in this struggle. The fact that men of all races and parties and classes have shown their utmost readiness to give up their lives, if necessary, in the defence of British institutions, has given us a position and prestige of the greatest possible importance. We have the proud satisfaction of knowing that we have sent 3,000 of our men to aid Her Majesty's arms in South Africa. We have the satisfaction of knowing that in all the heroism, gallantry and bravery, which has been exhibited by the best troops of England—great as has been the gallantry and the heroism of the men who fought England's battles on the plains of South Africa—none have surpassed the valour, gallantry and bravery of our Canadian troops.

I may say that in this struggle you look across the whole of this great empire in vain to find one subject of Her Majesty in any part of the empire playing a more noble, disinterested and generous part than an eminent Canadian has played, namely, Lord Strathcona, the representative of Canada in the mother country. I do not believe that there is a man or woman throughout the whole Dominion of Canada who does not sincerely rejoice that Her Majesty has marked her appreciation of the patriotism of that eminent Canadian by providing that the title which he wears with such honour to himself and to Canada is to descend to those who come after him—his children and his children's children.

I shall not say more than express the pleasure which it gives me on this occasion to heartily support the appropriate address moved by the right hon. the leader of the House. This is an occasion on which I believe every portion of the empire is to be congratulated upon what has been done as the result of this struggle, in which it has been our pride and pleasure to take so important a part.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). I regret that I cannot agree in the sentiments that have been expressed by the right hon. the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition. Of course, I know very well that what I am going to say is not in accordance with the feelings, or at least with the apparent feelings, of all the members of this House. But since the opening of this unfortunate war, I have made up my mind that I was not siding with any popular cry or any mob or crowd, and therefore I will still upon this occasion express the views which I have already stated. I will make the protest which I think is the expression of a large proportion, if not of the majority of the Canadian people; and not only of the French Canadians, but of all the nationalities and creeds of the Dominion.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. BOURASSA. Hon. gentlemen may say 'no' if they like, but I know the popular feeling as well as they do.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. BOURASSA. Anyhow, that is my opinion, and I am going to express it. As to the bravery of the Canadian as well as of the British soldiers, during this war, I cannot but agree with the right hon. the Prime Minister, and the hon. the leader of the opposition. The bravery of the soldiers, the courage of their officers, have nothing to do with the cause of the war, and, therefore, I can heartily join with the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition in congratulating the gallant men who have fought the battles in South Africa. But, as to rejoicing in the results of the war, as to congratulating Her Majesty, or rather Her Majesty's government, upon the causes of this war, upon the policy which has brought this war upon England and upon the empire, I cannot agree with them, because, to my mind, these causes were unjust and success does not make them just. It has been said by the leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper) that before this war the might of England was unknown to the world, and that one of the results upon which we should congratulate ourselves as British citizens is that now all nations of the world acknowledge the power of England. Sir, I am not a prophet any more than the leader of the opposition; I have not the experience in politics that the honourable gentleman has; but, I think I can venture to say that future events will prove that this war is one of the most unfortunate events of English politics during this century. What has it proved to the world about the power of England? Why, as the leader of the opposition has said, the British government sent to South Africa an army of two hundred thousand men, composed not only of the best regiments of England, Scotland and Ireland,

but including also the best soldiers that could be gathered from the British colonies; and it took eight months for that powerful army to conquer a gathering of poor peasants drawn from a total population of two hundred and fifty thousand souls. I acknowledge the power of England, I admire the might of England, I admire many and many of the deeds that England has done throughout the world—but, Sir, this war will not add an ounce to the glory of the English flag—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame!

Mr. BOURASSA—and to the greatness of England—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame! Shame!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). This is a free country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame! Shame!

Mr. BOURASSA. Is this a free parliament? Is free speech allowed here?

Mr. FOSTER. Such a speech from a member of this House! Shame on him!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This is a free parliament.

Mr. WALLACE. Not for traitors.

Mr. FOSTER. Shame on him!

Some hon. MEMBERS. Shame!

Mr. BOURASSA. I have just heard the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) speaking of treason. Never in any part of Canada has my voice been raised to ask any portion of the Canadian people to rise in arms against the British government and the British Crown as the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Wallace's) has.

I will maintain in this parliament, as well as in this country, the opinion that has been upheld in England, Ireland and Scotland by men who have proved themselves as loyal British subjects and as ready to maintain British rights as any of the Tory and Jingo members who sit in this House. I have said, and I repeat, that I regret that this war took place; I regret the policy which, I will not say the British people, I will not even say the British government, but the Jingo wing of the Tory party in England has followed, bringing upon England and upon the British Empire this unfortunate war. What will be the outcome of this bloody contest? It will at first have the result of forcing England to keep in South Africa a standing army of over 100,000 men for years and years. It will force on the British colonies in South Africa a policy of hatred amongst races which the broad-minded men of both parties had succeeded in removing, not only in South Africa, but throughout the British Empire. I have

Mr. BOURASSA.

always believed, and still believe, whatever the crowd may shout to-day, that the true British policy must be founded on respect of all nationalities, must proceed upon the principle, not of forcing British institutions upon an unwilling people, but of making them accepted freely and willingly. That policy had succeeded in winning to the love of the British flag and British institutions the Dutch population of Cape Colony and Natal, and the same force would have won to the same side the Dutch population of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. I cannot approve a policy that goes back on the best traditions of England; a policy that will, probably, leave race hatred for years and years in the newly-conquered states, and renew it in Cape Colony and Natal; a policy that may bring trouble throughout the British Empire by spreading a spirit of jingoism and pride, which is certainly not a sign of strength and generosity. Such a policy I cannot approve; I cannot join hands with the great majority of this parliament who wish to congratulate—who wish to congratulate Her Majesty? No, this war is not the deed of Her Majesty; it has not been brought on as a tribute of love to her or an addition to her glory. It is a war that has been forced on Her Majesty, as well as on the free people of England and the colonies, by the ambitious men who joined hands with financiers who are anxious to increase their dividends in South Africa. We are asked to pass this address as a compliment to Her Majesty? No, Sir, I cannot agree to that.

The leader of the opposition has reminded this House of a word attributed to Sir George Etienne Cartier, that the French Canadians of the province of Quebec were Englishmen speaking French. I do not know whether Cartier said that; but, if he said it, he said what was not true. I think I can speak in the name of my countrymen, as well as any other member of this House—

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. BOURASSA. Yes, I can; I express their feelings—not with more eloquence or capacity—but with more sincerity than many men who are withheld by other reasons from saying what they think. When I speak of the feelings of the French Canadians, I think I can venture to say that they are amongst the most loyal of British subjects, but they are not Englishmen. They are French-speaking British subjects: they have accepted loyally those British institutions that were offered to them as a protection for their rights and their traditions. So long as those institutions were imposed upon them by the will of the British government and by the strength of the sword, they resisted, and they did well to resist. The unfortunate policy that kept Canada in rebellion for fifty years, is the policy that Mr. Chamberlain and his followers are try-

ing to impose upon South Africa. As a representative of the French Canadians, I declare in this House that for any sound British policy extended to South Africa, I am ready to join with any government of Canada that will support any British government in that good work. But, again, as a representative of the French Canadians, remembering the past, remembering the nefarious policy that sent to the gallows free men asking for their countrymen the rights of British subjects, I protest against the same policy which to-day those who happen to be in power are trying to impose in South Africa.

I say, therefore, I regret that I cannot join with the majority of this House in voting for this address.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I think the best answer we can make to the hon. gentleman is to give three cheers for Her Majesty the Queen.

(Cheers for Her Majesty having been given, and God Save the Queen having been sung.)

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). After listening to the remarks of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), I feel called upon to present my own opinion with regard to the matter dealt with by that hon. gentleman. I think, Mr. Speaker, that when the hon. member has a greater weight of years resting upon him, and acquires a larger amount of experience, he will be able to see matters in a different light from the light in which he evidently sees them to-day; and in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for a gentleman to be more utterly, more radically wrong and misinformed than the hon. gentleman is upon this occasion. Sir, this crisis that Great Britain was called upon to face, this crisis through which she has passed, or very nearly passed, so triumphantly and with such great credit to herself, is an epoch in her history, and it is useless for any member to rise in this House, or for any speaker to rise elsewhere, and attempt to belittle the achievements of British arms, or to belittle the importance of the struggle in which those achievements have been attained.

The hon. gentleman tells us that he recognizes the bravery of the British troops. Well, nobody can fail to do that. It is unnecessary for the hon. gentleman to say that, and it would be an evidence of an utter want of appreciation on his part not to have been able to say it. He tells us that he cannot congratulate the country and rejoice at the result of the war. Now, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, we have never had greater cause for rejoicing and for congratulation than we have over the results of this war in South Africa. He tells us that the causes of this war were unjust. Why, is not the hon. gentleman aware that the Boer

forces had invaded British territory; that the governments of the two African republics had annexed British territory; that they had declared war upon the British Empire; that the governments of these two republics had issued an insulting ultimatum to Great Britain forbidding her to land troops, forbidding her to exercise the attributes of sovereignty in her own colonies, issuing an ultimatum which, if England had accepted or bowed to it, would have made her the laughing stock of the world? And was England to bow to the dictation of oligarchs like Paul Kruger of the Transvaal and Mr. Steyn, of the Free State, who led their brave but misguided men to their ruin?

It was necessary that England should assert her sovereignty, it was necessary that England should assert her power and rights in South Africa. England has purposes in South Africa. Providence has purposes in South Africa, and makes England its instrument. Providence has purposes in other lands, and England is the instrument of Providence. It is evidently the intention of Providence that the English-speaking race shall exercise a great influence upon the affairs of this world. It is evidently the intention of Providence that great nations shall be founded in different quarters of the world, such as the Dominion of Canada, the commonwealth of Australia, and the Dominion of South Africa. English statesmen realized the importance of the issue that was at stake. They realized that a great prize had either to be won or lost at this time. It was a question whether Dutch civilization or English civilization should prevail in South Africa. It was a question whether it should be a civilization characteristic of the seventeenth century, represented a slave holding, marauding population under an old oligarch who had no respect for the rights of men, or whether it should be the beneficent, the just, the righteous rule that prevails under Queen Victoria and under the British flag.

What sane man, Sir, can throw his sentiments, his aspirations, his desires, his hopes, in favour of the Boer and against the British in this struggle? What had the world to gain by the success of the Boer? Nothing to gain, everything to lose, the cause of civilization ruined in South Africa, the hopes of humanity blasted, all the aspirations of a great country—the railroad from the Cape to Cairo, the civilization, the evangelization and the redemption of a continent, all swept away, all lost by this rebellion, if this rebellion had been successful. No, Sir, we cannot, I cannot, look upon this war in the light of an unfortunate event. I think it is a most fortunate event. I agree with my hon. friend the leader of the opposition that the fruits of this war are commendable, and are of a character to make us realize that the war was not a misfortune, but was on the contrary, something that led to the development of our power, and to the break-

ing down of the rebellion against that power. I thought at the outset, and I said at the outset, that this war—it is not a little war, although it is not a great war—that this war would serve a most useful purpose, that it would enable the British Empire to test her military strength, and to adapt her modes of warfare to the changed conditions as to armaments and so forth, and put us in a position where, if a great crisis confronted us, and a life and death struggle should overtake us, we would not be striking blows in the air, but we would have acquired through this war the knowledge of the conditions of modern warfare that would enable us to plant our blows in any part of the world where they would tell. In that respect the war is a blessing to us. The war has not only saved us an empire, but it has taught us the necessary conditions of success if we are confronted with a greater crisis, as we may be in the near future.

The hon. gentleman tells up that we have nothing to boast of when, with over 200,000 men in South Africa, we have succeeded in overwhelming 50,000 peasant Boers. Why, Sir, the conditions of this contest have not been unequal. These men knew their country perfectly. The British troops had to overrun almost half a continent, they had to overcome the greatest natural obstacles, they had to contend with a foe thoroughly conversant with the country, they had to move their supplies hundreds and thousands of miles into the interior with a single slender thread of communication, they had to maintain that line of communication, they had to maintain their position, they had to assume the offensive in every case, and to meet troops armed with modern rifles, entrenched and on the defensive, so that in reality the balance, so far as military advantage was concerned, was in favour of the Boer. There has never been in the whole history of warfare, a more magnificent series of strategic movements than those of Lord Roberts in his flanking operations, as he enveloped time after time the Boer forces, and as he forced them to retire from positions that were well-nigh impregnable. We are told by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), that the result of the victory is to place upon our shoulders an intolerable burden, and that we must keep in Africa, a garrisoning force of 100,000 men, to suppress the Boers. Well, it may be necessary to keep some soldiers there, and the question is whether the possession is worth the cost. The question is whether England can better afford to keep 100,000 in South Africa, than to lose Cape Colony, than to lose her prestige, and to have her flag trailing in the dust. If it takes half a million men, I say, send them rather than surrender. But, the hon. gentleman overrates the difficulties, in my opinion. The

Dutch Boer element in South Africa is capable of being made just as loyal as the Dutch Boer element in Cape Colony. A Dutchman is the Premier of Cape Colony to-day. These men will speedily realize that they have been deceived. They will speedily realize when England offers them magnanimous treatment, the protection of British laws, the rights of British citizenship such as are given to any other British subject, that they had no cause to go to war, that they had no cause for any complaint against or hostility to England. The result of this war will be like a storm in the atmosphere, which is necessary to settle the elements, and they will have the peace and stability of English institutions in that country. I believe that the actual cause of the war rendered it a just measure. I believe the prize at stake was infinitely more valuable and worth infinitely more than the cost of the war. I believe that the war is one honourable to England, that she had treated these people with forbearance, with magnanimity, that she disliked to take up arms, and she permitted them to acquire a position of great advantage before she would engage in the business of coercion. And, at last, after she had to do it under circumstances which placed her at a disadvantage, many loyal friends of England in this House and elsewhere trembled for the result. But, everything has come all right, England is victorious, the honour of the empire has been saved, the result of the war is pleasing to England, and pleasing to humanity, and if the result had been otherwise, the world might have had reason to lament that such was the case. For these reasons, I could not refrain from rising in my place to protest against the utterance of sentiments such as the hon. member for Labelle has uttered to-day. I think he is honest in these sentiments, but he could not be farther from the truth, or farther from a sound position, than that in which he stands at the present moment. I shall most cordially support the motion moved by the hon. leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), and seconded by the hon. leader of the opposition (Sir Charles Tupper), for an address to Her Majesty, and I shall, in doing so, feel that I cannot go as far as I wish to go, in congratulating her and felicitating the English people, and the people of Canada, upon the result. I cannot take my seat without saying that, as a Canadian, I feel great pride in the record that our own sons have made in South Africa. I feel that the world has looked upon this struggle, and has learned a lesson, and that we, ourselves, have learned a lesson. We have learned that this bond of sympathy, which unites the colonies with England, which is not on the statute-book, which is not obligatory, is stronger than bands of steel, that it unites all of the colonies with the motherland in one great homogeneous, Imperial power, and that these colonies are

prepared in case of a great crisis confronting us, to spend the last dollar and send the last man for the purpose of maintaining the British Empire, and British institutions. And, Sir, the world understands that. The world looks on, the world sees what is the result of this war, and the world realizes that England's basis of military strength is infinitely greater than ever before. It embraces the four parts of the United Kingdom, it embraces all her colonies, and she can, if necessary, draw from the millions of India, and arm and place millions of soldiers in the field. England to-day is the greatest military power on the globe. There is no doubt about that. She has not the millions of men that Russia has enrolled, she has not the number of men that Germany has enrolled, she has not the number of men that France has enrolled, but she could put them in the field and she has resources and money to keep them in the field, and that is her source of strength. With her overpowering navy, with her power to place soldiers in the field, and with the demonstrations of this war, we, recognizing the fact that all the colonies will stand at her back, may felicitate ourselves on the result of the war. I assert freely that the war was one which was in the highest sense conducive to the forwarding and advancement of British interests, that the war was just, that the war redeemed South Africa from the rule of a slave-holding oligarchy, and that it will bring it under free and progressive institutions in the future.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House to preserve its calmness under these circumstances. This is a free country; this is a free parliament. My hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) and myself differ in toto upon this question. He thinks this war was not just; I have stated my opinion before, and I believe in my heart that England never fought a more just war than this. I will not debate the question over again with my hon. friend, but I will simply ask this of him. He has a right to his opinions like every British subject.

An hon. **MEMBER**. No.

The **PRIME MINISTER**. Yes, he has a right to his opinions. It is the right of every man in this country to have his opinions, but though my hon. friend has a right to his opinions, I ask him if this is the occasion to utter them? What is the object of this motion? Is it open to controversy of any kind? There is no controversy. The man who thinks this war just still regrets it just as much as the man who thinks it unjust. Where is the man, I want to know, who would allow his convictions upon this subject to prevent him from rejoicing to-

day that the war is coming to a close? Where is the man who does not rejoice that in a few days, we hope, peace will be proclaimed and liberty, civil rights and equality of all races will be proclaimed once more in South Africa? We are offering simply our congratulations to Her Majesty, that the day is dawning upon us, and to her we address our congratulations. Is there, to-day, in the world, a more august person than Her Majesty the Queen of England? The hon. member for Labelle spoke as a French Canadian. I have the right, as he has, to speak as a French Canadian. As a French Canadian, I say that the occasion is badly chosen to utter the expressions of opinion which my hon. friend has uttered. The day is past for controversy upon this question. We are here simply to proclaim that we all hope that this war will soon be at an end, and that the result will be what it was not before—liberty, justice and an equality of rights for all men.

I beg to move, seconded by Sir Charles Tupper:

That a Message be sent to the hon. the Senate requesting their Honours to concur with this House in the said Address of congratulation to Her Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 176) to incorporate the South Shore Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Britton.)

THE CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANKS, AND LA CAISSE D'ECONOMIE DE QUEBEC.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 177) to amend chapter 32 of the Statutes of 1890, respecting certain savings banks in the province of Quebec. He said: This Bill relates to two old savings institutions in the province of Quebec—one, the City and District Savings Bank of Montreal, and the other, La Caisse d'Economie de Québec. Unless this legislation is adopted their charters will expire at the same time as the ordinary bank charters. This Bill, therefore, follows the Bank Act with a proposal to extend these charters for a further period of ten years, just as in the case of the banks. The directors of these companies desire some extension of their privileges with regard to the investment and lending of moneys, but that had better be considered when the Bill comes to committee, and, at the proper stage, I will move that the Bill be referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee for consideration.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the first time.

MANITOBA SCHOOL QUESTION.

Mr. CASGRAIN (by Mr. Bergeron) asked :

1. When the right hon. the Premier used the following expressions on May 30, 1900 (see revised 'Hansard,' p. 6253) : 'Had I had notice I could have brought numerous resolutions of other meetings of Catholics expressing their satisfaction with the settlement of the school question,' did he have in view any other resolutions than those which have already been laid on the Table of the House and printed ?

2. If so, how many such resolutions have been received by the right hon. the Premier or the government ?

3. By whom are such resolutions signed, and from what part of the province of Manitoba do they come ?

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). When the Premier made use of the language quoted in the question, he had in view the resolutions that have already been laid upon the Table of the House, and which are to be found in sessional papers No. 35, of 1897.

FENIAN RAID MEDALS.

Mr. DUGAS asked :

Whether the widows of colonels, majors, officers of every grade, soldiers, &c., who almost at their own expense, furnished the means of living to the regiments ordered to the front, or concentrated in the several towns of Canada, to protect the country during the Fenian raid, are also to receive the medals of honour awarded to those who were sent to the frontier and who served during the said campaign ?

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE (Mr. Borden). The warrant of Her Majesty under which the medals were granted, did not contemplate bestowing the medal upon the persons mentioned, and, therefore, neither the government nor the department has power to do so.

MAIL SERVICE IN PROVENCHER.

Mr. LaRIVIERE asked :

Is it the intention of the Postmaster General to, at an early date, reorganize and enlarge the mail service east of Red River, in the electoral district of Provencher, by securing railway transportation instead of the present mode along the line of the Manitoba and South-eastern Railway and the Emerson branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in accordance with requests made to that effect in several petitions and letters addressed by the people interested in the change asked for ?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). The question of using the Manitoba and South-eastern branch of the Canadian Northern Railway for mail purposes is now receiving the attention of the department. The use of the Emerson branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the conveyance of mails has already been authorized, and will go into operation so soon as the necessary contracts have been made. The petition asking that this railway be used for mail purposes was received at the department on the 5th instant.

Mr. FIELDING.

PAYMENT OF SESSIONAL CLERKS.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). Before the Orders of the Day are called, I wish to ask the government if any understanding has been arrived at with the Senate so as to pass unopposed the estimates which are required to pay the clerks and the messengers of the House. I trouble the government with this matter because there are real cases of very great hardship. Some of the employees have not been paid for a length of time, and in order to enable them to keep their families alive, they have had to pay usurious rates of interest. I know some of the men here who are not in a position to stand that much longer, and I trust the government will take immediate steps to remedy the evil.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). I propose that we shall proceed, on government orders to-day, with the necessary steps to give effect to the passing of the estimates, and I have no reason to think there will be any difficulty in the Senate. An interim Supply Bill will be sent to the Senate without delay.

ELECTORAL FRAUDS—JUDICIAL INQUIRY.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER (Cape Breton). I ask the Prime Minister when we may hope to have the decision of the government on the points I raised in connection with the Royal Commission to inquire into election frauds.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). At the latest, on Monday.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) I ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) to facilitate the order of the House moved by Mr. Hale with reference to the purchase of hay by the Agricultural Department, as agent for the British government. That order passed some weeks ago, and on behalf of Mr. Hale, I should like to ask the minister to hurry it down.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher). Arrangements have been made for the copying of that correspondence. It is very voluminous and if the whole correspondence is required it will take some time. I could not find, from the language of the hon. member who made that motion, just what it was he wanted, and it would take some time before the whole correspondence could be brought down.

Mr. FOSTER. What more particularly is wanted is the correspondence, and the results with respect to the actual purchase of the hay—the parties who purchased it, from whom it was purchased, the price paid, where it was delivered, and the like of that.

The **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**. I will try and sift that out.

Sir **ADOLPHE CARON**. Might I ask the hon. Postmaster General, who was kind enough to say that he would attend to the matter, whether he has been able, in the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, to get the papers relating to the contract with the Elder-Dempster Line, so as to lay them on the Table.

The **POSTMASTER GENERAL**. I did as I promised my hon. friend yesterday, and in reply to an inquiry, I received a letter to-day from the Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce, in which he says :

With reference to the order of the House of April last for copy of contract with the Beaver Line, I find that the order was received at this department on May 3; a return to the order was sent to the Secretary of State on the same day, and was acknowledged by him on the same day.

I find, upon inquiry at the office of the Secretary of State, that it was sent to council on the following day (the 4th); and upon further inquiry at council, I find that it was sent from council to Sir Richard at the House of Commons the same day; and as Sir Richard is out of town, I have no means of tracing it further.

My impression from this letter is that the papers have been laid on the Table, but I will make a search among the records and see if I can find them.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES**. Mr. Speaker, I desire to call the attention of the hon. member for Charlotte (Mr. Ganong) to the fact that yesterday he complained to the House that a return which he had moved for last February had not been brought down to the House. I at the time thought he was entirely wrong, because I had a very strong recollection of having brought down that return a short time after it was moved. I immediately made inquiries, and I found that that return has been down two months, and the hon. member has never taken the trouble to look for it.

Mr. **GANONG**. I think the difficulty arises from some other source. However, I am obliged to the minister. It must be a surprise to the whole House that the government have succeeded in bringing down a return when it was asked for.

SUPPLY BILL.

Resolutions 280, 281, 282 and 283, reported from Committee of Supply, read the second time and agreed to.

House resolved itself into Committee of Ways and Means to consider the following resolution :

Resolved, that a sum not exceeding \$96,618 be granted to Her Majesty out of the Consol-

idated revenue fund of Canada for the financial year ending June 30, 1900.

Resolution reported, read the first and the second time, and agreed to.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding) moved for leave to introduce Bill (No 178) for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending the 30th of June, 1900.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first and the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT.

House again resolved itself into committee on Bill (No. 110), to amend the Weights and Measures Act.—(Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière).

(In the Committee.)

On section 1,

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. This question has come so often before the committee, that I think all the members are now familiar with it. I have listened with the greatest attention to the remarks and suggestions which have been made by my hon. friends on both sides of the House, and I will now ask leave to propose a few amendments which I think will meet exactly the different opinions expressed in the committee. I propose that the words 'for export' be inserted in the clause, and I propose that at the end of the clause, after the dimensions of the barrel are given, the following words be added: 'representing as nearly as possible the capacity of ninety-six quarts, or three bushels.' The next clause, as amended, provides that when apples, pears, quinces, or potatoes are sold by the barrel, as a measure of capacity, such barrel shall not be of lesser dimensions than those specified in the previous section. In other words, we do not limit the capacity so that any barrel of larger capacity, such as has been used in Ontario and Quebec, and flour barrels can still be used under this law.

Mr. **HENDERSON**. Ninety-six quarts and three bushels of potatoes are not the same thing. Potatoes are sold by the heap measure, and you cannot put three bushels of potatoes in ninety-six quarts. It would just be as well to leave the second definition out, and there will be no contradiction.

Mr. **J. B. MILLS** (Annapolis). If the hon. gentleman will look at the Dominion statutes he will see that the measure is fixed by statute.

Mr. **CLANCY**. A bushel of potatoes is sixty pounds, and the capacity which the

hon. gentleman gives, will not give three times sixty. It will not be three bushels. It takes a bushel heaped to weigh sixty pounds, and when sold by the bushel there is sixty pounds.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think that perhaps the objection will be met if we strike out the words 'when potatoes are sold by weight,' and say 'when potatoes are sold by the barrel,' the contents shall be considered equivalent to three bushels. This would bring us in line with the old Act.

Mr. HENDERSON. That would not meet the difficulty. You say that a barrel of potatoes is to have a weight of 174 pounds. The weight of a bushel of potatoes is sixty pounds. A barrel containing three bushels of potatoes would contain 180 pounds. You have a direct contradiction. You had better leave out the latter part altogether. There would be no difficulty in simply saying that a barrel of potatoes should be 174 pounds, and a bushel sixty pounds.

Mr. MILLS. I do not agree with the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Henderson). The addition made by the minister seems to me a perfectly proper and correct one. It is to protect the farmers against the speculators, because if that is not in the Act, the farmer will be selling his barrel of potatoes sometimes three and a half bushels, or three bushels anyway, and will not get the full value for his potatoes. If you specify that the barrel shall contain ninety-six quarts or three bushels, the same as the law in the United States—and that is where we have to meet the competition—the farmers of Canada shall be trading on an even basis with the farmers of the United States.

Mr. CLANCY. Suppose a man entered into a contract to deliver 300 bushels of potatoes. By the Weights and Measures Act, that would mean 300 times sixty pounds. And if he put them in 100 barrels and delivered them, there would not be 300 bushels of potatoes, because a barrel has not sufficient capacity to hold three bushels. If you leave it at ninety-six quarts, and omit the reference to the bushel, there is no opportunity of evasion. It does not alter the capacity.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If we can meet the difficulty that way, I can see no reason why we should not do so. Every one knows that ninety-six quarts make three bushels.

Mr. CLANCY. But the reference to the bushels is simply superfluous; it does not alter the capacity, because the ninety-six quarts is an inflexible rule.

Mr. MILLS. That is all right.

Mr. ROGERS. You cannot get thirty-two quarts of potatoes out of a bushel. The finer you divide it up, the harder it is to

Mr. CLANCY.

get the measure. It would be better, with potatoes, to fix a weight, and not mention the measure.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The people of the maritime provinces ship enormous quantities of potatoes to the West Indies and to England, and it is very important to them that this should be set right.

Mr. HENDERSON. Leave it as it is; it will save trouble.

On section 2,

Mr. McMILLAN. I gave notice of an amendment, and I may say, for the information of the House, that when I first introduced the Bill, it read that unless otherwise specially agreed upon by buyer and seller, eggs shall be sold by weight, the weight of a dozen being one and one-half pounds. There was a little difficulty in regard to understanding that clause, and notice was given of an amendment, which will read:

When eggs are described as sold by the standard dozen, the dozen shall mean one pound and a half.

Eggs may still be sold by the dozen, and the Bill will make no difference in such cases, but will only affect cases where the agreement is to buy and sell by the standard dozen. The egg trade between this country and Great Britain is a growing one, and in England, eggs are sold by a standard dozen, the weight of which is one and one-half pounds. The men who deal in eggs in this country desire that there should be a standard dozen for this country, so that there may be a better basis for their transactions in England.

Mr. WALLACE. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. McMillan), allow me to ask him a question? Suppose that the weight of a counted dozen was say, 25 per cent more than a pound and a half, would the seller get the benefit of that?

Mr. McMILLAN. Certainly, when the dealers sell in England, they sell by weight. Dealers in the old country buy by the standard weight, they weigh the eggs there in bulk. This is not intended to interfere with the single dozen, but it is only intended to regulate sales of eggs made, perhaps, in western Ontario to be sent to Montreal; but if the parties do not agree that they are to be sold by the standard dozen, this does not interfere with them. It is only where they agree that the eggs shall be sold by the standard dozen that the packages are to be weighed. I had a long conversation with a gentleman in Liverpool who buys a large quantity of eggs, and he stated that it would facilitate trade and make it much easier between the dealers in this country and the dealers in Great Britain, if such a provision was adopted. It does not inter-

ferre at all with the local trade, and unless a bargain is made that the dozen shall be the standard dozen, it does not interfere. I hope therefore the committee will allow this to pass. I have no personal interest in it, but I am well acquainted with a good many egg dealers, and every one of them has asked me to put this through if possible.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. My hon. friend introduced successively two Bills to which I saw some objection. But as he has prepared one now to which I see no objection. At first it contained this provision :

Unless otherwise specially agreed upon between the buyer and seller, eggs shall be sold by weight.

I saw a serious objection to that, I could not see how you could expect people to make a special agreement every time a person sold half a dozen of eggs. But now as my hon. friend has framed his amendment that objection disappears completely, because he says now :

When eggs are described as sold by the standard dozen, the dozen shall mean one pound and a half.

This is perfectly fair. It is only when the parties agree to sell and to buy by the standard dozen that the weight of the dozen shall be fixed.

Mr. HENDERSON. I do not wish to oppose the clause, because I understand it is desired by exporters of eggs to the old country. I would like to ask, however, if that is the standard in Great Britain ?

Mr. McMILLAN. That is the standard in Great Britain. They are exactly the same.

Mr. HENDERSON. Then I do not see that we can raise any objection to the amendment. I only wished it to be distinctly understood that we have the same standard as in Great Britain.

Mr. HOLMES. I desire to move an amendment to the Weights and Measures Act in accordance with a notice given by myself :

Section 1 of chapter 25 of the Statutes of 1888, intituled: 'An Act to amend the Weights and Measures Act as respects the contents of packages of salt,' is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:

'1. Every barrel of salt packed in bulk, sold or offered for sale, shall contain 280 pounds of salt, and every such barrel or sack of salt, sold or offered for sale, shall have the correct gross weight thereof, and in the case of a barrel the net weight also, marked upon it in a plain and permanent manner.'

Section 3 of the said Act is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:

'3. The name or the registered trade mark of the packer of the salt, if it is packed in Canada, or the name and address of the importer, if it is packed elsewhere than in Canada, shall be marked, stamped or branded on every barrel or sack of salt sold or offered for sale in Canada.'

The Act at present requires that the net and gross weight shall be stamped on the barrel of salt. The amendment is simply to provide that sacks shall be included as well, and that the gross weight shall be stamped on the sacks. I am not asking that the net weight shall be stamped. A sack as known to the trade is supposed to contain 200 pounds of salt. I am given to understand that some sacks have been put on the market of considerably less weight, and the amendment is to provide against an imposition of that nature. It has the full approval of the Minister of Inland Revenue and also of the largest dealers in salt in the province of Ontario. It is intended entirely for the benefit of consumers.

The **MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE**. I have considered the amendment carefully. The only change it makes is to add the word 'sack' for the word 'barrel.' When the Bill was passed in 1888 it appears that salt was shipped in barrels more generally than at present, whereas the greatest part of the salt is now shipped in sacks.

Mr. HENDERSON. I remember when the Bill fixing the weight of the barrel of salt was passed in 1888, and it was given very full consideration. I hope that an amendment brought in at this late date will not undo the careful work that was done at that time. I desire, however, to draw attention to this point. We all know that salt will lose weight after it is packed, that a barrel of salt put up with 280 pounds seldom reaches its destination having that weight. Now, if there is a penalty attached, if you have in your possession a barrel that has less than 280 pounds, it might become a serious matter. I hope the matter of shrinkage has been carefully considered, and that some percentage has been allowed to cover that point.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). In regard to the marking of salt it simply means this, that the salt is marked with the original quantity that is put into the sack or barrel, but the net weight is placed upon the barrel, because a barrel is not supposed to lose any of its weight. Sometimes a sack may be exposed to rain, and may lose part of its weight therefrom, or from other causes. The mark on the sack will indicate that the original quantity was put in when the sack was filled. That is what salt buyers are anxious to know. It is charged that sometimes sacks are put upon the market which contained a less weight than 200 pounds when they were filled, and there is the additional loss that takes place subsequently. We simply desire that the original quantity shall be marked upon the sack.

Mr. HOLMES. Mr. Chairman, I fail to see where there can be any valid objection to

placing the gross weight upon the sack, more especially when it has the sanction of those who are the producers of salt. It is in their interest. They are desirous that it shall be put on, and it is the desire of men who are interested in the business that the gross weight of salt shall be put on the sack. The amount of loss by shrinkage or from dampness is very trifling from a bag or a barrel of salt. All that we are asking, and it is asked really in the interest of the consuming class, although we are asking it at the instance of the manufacturers, is that the gross weight shall be stamped on the sack just the same as it is on the barrel at the present time.

Mr. McMILLAN. I do not think this interferes with the weight that was arranged in 1888, as it refers entirely to sacks or bags. To my own knowledge, bags that were marked as containing 200 pounds have been sold containing only 140 and 150 pounds. This is unjust to the honest dealer. This amendment is asked for by honest salt men and they are men who would scorn to do an act that is not honest. It is in favour of the honest dealer and of the consumer that the sack which is marked 200 pounds should at least weigh 200 pounds. I have weighed a sack marked 150 pounds and found that it only weighed 110 pounds. This law is in favour of the honest salt manufacturer, and in favour of the consumer of salt throughout the country.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think there may, perhaps, be an objection, which strikes me all of a sudden, and which we could get rid of at once. The amendment says :

Every barrel of salt packed in bulk, sold or offered for sale, shall contain 280 pounds of salt. That is all right.

And every such barrel or sack of salt, sold or offered for sale, shall have the correct gross weight thereof, and in the case of a barrel the net weight also, marked upon it in a plain and permanent manner.

Evidently the intention of the amendment is not to affect in any way the weight of a barrel of salt, but, if we do not explain it it may be assumed that a sack of salt should be of the same weight as a barrel of salt. I do not understand that a sack, according to the hon. gentleman's amendment, must contain 280 pounds. That cannot be the intention.

Mr. HOLMES. No.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I think we can meet the difficulty by adding the words after the word 'salt,' 'whatever the weight of its contents.'

Mr. HOLMES. The whole intention of the amendment is simply that the gross weight shall be stamped on the sack. It may be put on the market as a 150-pound sack, but

Mr. HOLMES.

all we want is that 150 pounds shall be stamped upon the sack, and the same thing applies to a 200-pound sack.

Mr. MacLAREN. Does that apply to English salt also ?

Mr. HOLMES. It applies to all salt sold here. The object is that the gross weight shall be stamped upon the bag.

Mr. McMILLAN. I would say that it should apply to a sack, or bag, because there are bags of salt which hold five, ten, twenty-five or fifty pounds, and every bag or sack should have the quantity legibly stamped upon it.

Mr. CLANCY. I do not think that the 280 pounds mentioned as the contents of a barrel touches the question of sacks. I understand that the promoter of the amendment does not attempt to fix the size of the sack, but that he asks that the weight shall be stamped upon the sack. The hon. member for Halton asks what would be the consequence if a sack is found to be short of weight. Everybody knows that salt will vary a good deal according to the condition of the atmosphere, so that, I do not think there would be any serious ground for complaint in that way.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The law provides for variations in weights according to the condition of the atmosphere. It says :

But no deficiency in the weight of the salt contained in any package shall be deemed a contravention of this Act, unless such deficiency exceeds 5 per cent.

Mr. HENDERSON. I want to know if that 5 per cent will apply to the sack as well as to the barrel ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Certainly.

Mr. ELLIS. Do I understand that the hon. minister consents to this ?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Yes.

Mr. ELLIS. Well, then, I beg to congratulate him, because last year I endeavoured to get the minister to consent to an amendment providing that the weight should be stamped on canned goods, and he resisted me with the whole strength of the government. I am glad to learn that he is making some progress, and next year, I hope the minister will have advanced so far in knowledge and light that he will sanction the legislation which I proposed, because it is of the same character as this.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I have been ready for my hon. friend (Mr. Ellis) since last year. I have here the very notes I took last year when I was going to oppose his Bill. I kept them in my desk expecting that the hon. gentleman would

once more bring forward the Bill that he proposed last session. I beg leave to remind him of a letter I sent last year, a copy of which I have here.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Carried.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. I want to explain that I am not dealing unjustly with my hon. friend. After he introduced his proposed legislation in connection with canned goods, I was obliged to explain to my hon. friend the reason why I would have to oppose the Bill, and here are the reasons summed up in few words. I will take the opportunity of reading them.

Mr. COCHRANE. The hon. gentleman is out of order. Canned goods has nothing to do with salt.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Here is the letter :

In respect to the proposal to affix on cans the exact weight of their contents, I have before me the opinions of several boards of trade. The board of trade of the maritime provinces has passed a resolution in favour of making the weight on each can. I have also a resolution of the board of trade of St. John to the same effect, which opinion the Ottawa board seems to endorse.

The Montreal board approves of the marking of weight on packages containing dry products, such as tea or coffee, but not for cans the contents of which are not all dry matter, and naturally of a varying specific gravity. The Halifax Board of Trade does not recommend the legislation proposed by the St. John Board of Trade. Those of Quebec, Hamilton, Vancouver, New Westminster, Victoria and Toronto are not in favour of it, on the ground that it is apparently utterly impossible to put goods, other than dry goods like tea or coffee, in exactly uniform weights, solidity of contents, air space, &c., making it almost impossible to conform to an absolute weight test.

It appears to me that they are logically right in coming to that conclusion.

I have kept the resolutions of all these boards of trade, so that my hon. friend will not think I am treating him unjustly, when I refuse to support his views.

Mr. F. T. FROST (Leeds and Grenville). Before the Bill is reported, I have an amendment which I wish to propose in the interests of the consumers of binder twine. As hon. members are aware, for many years the raw material for the manufacture of binder twine was obtained in Manila, but during the last couple of years the price has increased so rapidly that manufacturers have been going to other countries in search of a suitable material, out of which to manufacture twine, and for the past year they have been obtaining a considerable quantity from Mexico and New Zealand. The result of that has been the production of many varieties of binder twine, and many varieties too, in regard to the number of feet of twine to the pound. This is creating a certain amount of confusion, and I believe also a loss to the farmers of Canada, and in order to give

the farmers an idea of precisely what they are purchasing, I move the following amendment, seconded by Mr. Cowan :

Said subsection 1 of section substituted by section 2 of chapter 28 of the Statutes of 1899, as aforesaid, is hereby further amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

'18a. Upon every package, ball or parcel containing binder twine offered for sale, there shall be a stamp, or a stamp shall be attached thereto, stating the number of pounds in such package, ball or parcel, and the number of feet of twine per pound in such package, ball or parcel.

'Every importer, agent or dealer who neglects to comply with the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$20 for each offence, to be recovered under the Summary Convictions Act, but no deficiency in the number of feet contained in any such package, ball or parcel shall be deemed a contravention of the above section unless such deficiency exceeds 5 per cent of the amount or length stated upon such stamp. Any proceedings under the above section shall be taken within thirty days from sale of any such package, ball or parcel.

This subsection to come into force upon the 1st day of September, 1900.

In view of the fact that a majority of our farmers, with the exception of those in the west, have already purchased their twine, and as the stock of twine for this season's harvest is distributed generally throughout the country, I thought it only fair to add a rider, that the section should not come into force until September 1 next, so that it will not apply to the harvest of this year. This amendment is in the interest of the consumers of binder twine. I know of my personal knowledge, that some balls of twine weighing the same, have from 25 to 40 per cent more of length, and consequently the farmers do not know that they are being defrauded.

Mr. M. K. COWAN (South Essex). I rise to second this amendment, which I believe must commend itself to every member of this House. Some farmers in western Ontario, have drawn my attention to the fact that prior to the Philippine war, all balls of binder twine were practically of the uniform length of 600 feet to the pound. At the present time, in consequence of the substitution of raw materials other than manila in the manufacture, in some instances, a ball of twine weighing four and a half pounds, has only 400 feet per pound of twine. The result is that the farmer accustomed to the purchase of binder twine made from manila, which may be considered a standard, is getting in four and a half pounds of manila twine, at say 10 cents per pound, being 45 cents, he is getting 2,700 feet, while if he buys other twine, with only 400 feet to the pound, then in point of fact, he is only getting 1,800 feet in the four and a half pounds. The result is that the 2,700 feet of manila costs 45 cents, while the twine not made of manila, would only amount to 1,800 feet for the same weight

and price, and the farmer would pay 60 cents for 2,700 feet of that instead of 45 cents for the other. Under these circumstances it is desirable that the farmer should know the exact number of feet per pound in the article they purchase. This amendment compels the manufacturer, the importer, or the dealer, to attach to every ball of twine, the number of pounds within the ball, package or parcel, and the number of feet per pound.

Mr. HENDERSON. That is all right.

Mr. DAVIN. I think so.

Mr. CLANCY. The amendment is in the right direction. I would point out, however, that there are no new conditions existing now to what there were previously, because if any gentleman goes to the library, he will find the report of a thorough investigation made in Toronto some years ago, which shows that the higher grade of manilas will spin finer and, therefore, to each pound there will be a greater number of feet, than in the lower grades. The lower the grade of manila, the greater the bulk, and the greater the weight without any corresponding number of feet. I see no objection to the amendment. I think it is in the right direction, and if it passes, the farmers in future will pay for whatever twine they get and no more. They will know, when they are buying a ball of twine, that they have at least some security from the manufacturer that it contains so many feet to the pound. The number of pounds to the ball may or may not be useful. What the farmer wants in any case, is to get as many feet to the pound as he can of a class of twine that will stand sufficient tension to run through his binder. If it is surrounded by these safeguards, I heartily agree with the object of the measure.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I quite agree with my hon. friend who has just taken his seat. I think the Bill is in the right direction; but that, while it makes provision for putting on the ball the number of pounds and the number of feet to the pound, there may be a little confusion. I think it would be better to give the weight of the ball and the number of feet in the ball. There should also be some provision made for reaching the manufacturer who violates the law by putting a false stamp on the ball.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The amendment proposes a penalty.

Mr. McMULLEN. It will not do simply to provide a penalty for the man who sells the twine. When any twine is found not to contain the number of yards represented by the stamp, I think the consequences should fall upon the man who manufactured the twine, and not on the retail merchant.

Mr. COWAN.

Mr. HENDERSON. The hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) has anticipated a portion of what I intended to say. I think the hon. gentleman is quite right in holding that in the event of the twine not turning out to be of the requisite length or weight, the penalty should be visited not on the country dealer, but on the manufacturer. If it were visited on the dealer, you would not be able in country places to get a man to handle twine at all. The result would be that the trade would be thrown back into the hands of the manufacturer or such men as the hon. gentleman who moved this resolution, who, I understand, handles twine in pretty large quantities, as all implement men do. These men make an arrangement with the manufacturer as to the weight and measurement of the twine; but the ordinary dealer in a country village or at a corner, who handles one or two tons, would have to take the whole risk. The result would be that men would not engage in the trade, and farmers would not be able to get their twine unless they bought it from two or three large dealers in the country. A farmer may not know in the morning how much twine he will require during the day, and he is obliged to stop his machinery until he gets it. If he has to send to Toronto or Kingston to buy it from a large dealer, he is going to be greatly hindered in his operations. I fear that this matter will require a little more consideration than we are able to give it this afternoon. It may have been very well thought out by the hon. gentleman who introduced the motion, but I conceive that it will be a very mischievous amendment so far as the farmers are concerned. The intention to secure to the farmer the right quantity and weight of twine is all right. To that extent I am with the amendment; but if the man who handles the twine is to be held responsible for any shortage, and is therefore compelled to abandon the business and leave it in the hands of a few large dealers, it will be a very serious matter. With regard to the suggestion of the hon. member for North Wellington that the dealer would fall back on the original manufacturer; suppose the dealer imports flax twine from Belfast or other twine from Plymouth, Massachusetts, or from any other part of the United States, how are you going to reach the manufacturer in those places?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Would you substitute the word 'manufacturer' for 'dealer'?

Mr. HENDERSON. The manufacturer may be living in Ireland or in the Western States, and may not have any brand on the twine which he sells.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. If you substitute the word 'manufacturer' for 'dealer' then you bring it home

to the importer, his agent and the manufacturer.

Mr. HENDERSON. I would certainly want to leave out the agent or dealer, so as not to make these men liable.

Mr. GEORGE TAYLOR (South Leeds). I would like to ask the hon. member for North Leeds and Grenville (Mr. Frost), who proposed this motion, how he buys his twine. He receives an invoice for so much twine. When that twine arrives, the first thing he does is to put it on his scales and compare its weight to see if its weight as shown on his own scales agrees with the weight given in the invoice. He buys it by the pound, as every merchant does. It is impossible for any manufacturer to run his twine so as to make every ball the same weight. My hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) said that according to the quality of the material used, there was a greater or a less number of feet to the pound. So, that, if the manufacturer is using a fine grade of raw material, his pound of twine will make more feet, but he cannot get that to the exact inch or foot so as to make it weigh two pounds or four pounds. It is probably put up in four-pound balls, but you will find balls of $3\frac{1}{4}$ pounds and 3 pounds, and the country merchant puts the twine on the scale to sell to the farmers just as my hon. friend puts it on a scale and weighs it when he buys it from the manufacturers in large quantities. Compel the manufacturers to say how many feet of twine, each ball of twine runs per pound, but to brand the quantity of pounds in each ball, you would have to weigh each ball separate, because you cannot make each ball weigh to the fraction of an ounce the same weight. Besides, it is sold at so much per pound, and each ball is charged for according to its weight. It is not necessary to put the pounds on the ball, because the ball is put on the scales and weighed by the dealer. I think it well worthy of consideration to compel the number of feet per pound to be stamped on the ball, but not the weight.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). The great difficulty is the working out what seems to be a very useful measure. We have to take good care that we do not injure those we are now endeavouring to protect. It is an easy thing to compel the manufacturers to stamp on each ball of twine the number of feet to the pound, but the great difficulty is with the large importations of foreign twine, principally from the United States. Out of some 12,000,000 or 13,000,000 pounds consumed in Canada, over 10,000,000 pounds is brought from the United States. It is impossible for us to reach the United States manufacturer by any legislation we pass here, but I would suggest that it is an easy matter to deal with our own manufacturers by providing that each ball of twine shall have stamped on it the number of feet

to the pound without mentioning how many pounds are in the ball.

If foreign twine imported is found to be short—laying down the same standard for foreign importations as for our own products—let it be subject to confiscation. I would suggest that all foreign twine should be stamped before it is admitted into the country, and if any be found short it should be confiscated. It would be a difficult task to impose on the farmers the obligation of measuring their twine. That could not be carried out. Men buy their twine and use it and have not time to detect the fraud; but if the fraud is detected and punished by our own officers in the way I have suggested, our farmers would be protected against fraud.

Mr. FROST. Binder twine is sold in balls, and these balls are generally supposed to contain four and a half pounds. They do contain four and a half pounds when they leave the factory, but, perhaps before the season is over, there might be a quarter or nearly a half a pound of shrinkage. But it is a four and a half pound ball. We sell it at so much per ball. We never put a ball of twine on the scales and weigh it, and a farmer never asks to have it put on the scales and weighed, so that the hon. member for South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) is a little astray. As the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) says, the object of the amendment is to define the number of feet to the pound. The balls are marked, say $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and we buy in boxes of twelve balls, making fifty-four pounds. You know that in buying a bar of soap, you buy a box of sixty-four pounds, or a 4-pound bar ordinarily, but that bar weighs only $3\frac{1}{4}$ pounds on account of the shrinkage, although it weighed four pounds when it left the factory. In like manner the ball of twine weighs $4\frac{1}{2}$ pounds when it leaves the factory, but three or four months in the warehouse will cause it to shrink a quarter of a pound by the evaporation of the oil. The newer qualities of raw material that have been coming into Canada during the past year or two have caused a variety of twines to be put on the market, some of which are not very good. As one hon. member has said, it is lumpy and coarse, and sometimes it will knot in the knotter of the binder and break, and compel the farmer to come off his seat and come down and tie his twine again. And there is no thing that annoys a farmer more than to have to fix the knotter in the machine.

Mr. COCHRANE. Your amendment will not take the knots out of the twine.

Mr. FROST. No, but it will compel the seller to show how many feet there are in a ball, and when you reach that point, you will save the farmer many hundreds of dollars in this country. The hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan) put the case.

very plainly. A man has two balls of twine which look very much alike, and they are both ten cents a pound. One ball has 600 feet to the pound and the other may have but 400 or 450 feet to the pound. The man who buys a ball of twine with 600 feet to the pound is getting 25 per cent more twine than the man who buys the other ball. A large farmer in Manitoba will buy \$100 worth of twine on an average for his harvest. It usually takes about two pounds to the acre, and if he has 160 acres in wheat, he will have to buy 320 pounds of twine, which, at ten cents per pound, amounts to \$32. If he buys the poorer twine, he would practically be giving \$40 for it, and would be out 33½ per cent. But he does not know that.

Mr. COCHRANE. You must think our farmers are mighty ignorant.

Mr. FROST. He does not know how many feet to the pound are in a ball, and consequently he is buying in ignorance. He is buying a pig in a poke. This amendment is intended to give exactly the number of feet to the pound that is in the ball, so that he may know what he is paying for. That is the object of the Bill. It has been said that perhaps the manufacturer in the United States will not brand the ball with the number of feet to the pound. So far as I know, manufacturers everywhere observe the requirements of the law in the country in which they do business. Personally, I do. Goods shipped to foreign countries, for instance, Germany and Spain, have to be marked in a peculiar way under their laws. We conform to those laws. The manufacturers of binder twine are not going to lose the trade of this country, amounting now from eight to ten thousand tons, for the lack of making a plain honest statement. They know the number of feet in a given weight of twine, because their reels register it as it is going through. I have no fear but that the law will be carried out. If the amendment passes, as I hope it will, I think it will be found workable and be very much in the interest of the farmers of this country.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I agree with a good deal of what has been said in criticism of this amendment. It says that every package or ball of twine shall be labelled. I think the provision for branding packages should be eliminated, because it includes the original package in which there are, perhaps, a dozen balls making up 56 pounds, and the brand would not be on each ball, for the man could comply with the law by simply branding the weight and length on the outside package. Then, I think the amendment should be made to apply to every manufacturer or importer, and not to dealers and agents. We cannot get at the foreign manufacturer but we can get at the importer and

Mr. FROST.

compel the observance of the law by him. I think we should give more careful consideration to the amendment with reference to these points, so that if it is passed, it may be as efficient as possible. It seems to me that in its present form, it will not meet the case.

Mr. EDWARD COCHRANE (East Northumberland). I am very much pleased to see the anxiety displayed by the manufacturers in the interest of the farmers. I wonder if the hon. gentleman is as much interested when he makes farm machines. I have used machines made by a firm I need not mention that were not just what they were represented to be by the agent. Some hon. gentlemen seem to think that the farmers are bigger fools than I take them to be. I admit that they hardly establish a claim for intelligence by some of the men they send to represent them here. I am a farmer, and I know, as my hon. friend from South Huron (Mr. McMillan) knows, what I am buying. We generally know by the brand of twine how many feet to the pound it runs. The farmer who does not know whether he gets the number of feet in each package that are represented to be in that package will not be long using the machines for which the twine is intended—he will be at some other business that he is better fitted for than farming. I do not object to the Bill, but I do not want to injure the farmers through it. It is a question that needs to be carefully considered, otherwise we may hamper the trade and put difficulties in the way of the farmer getting his twine that will do him more harm than having a stamp on the ball will do him good. I agree with the hon. gentleman from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen)—I do not agree with him often—that it would be sufficient to have the importers who bring the twine into the country made responsible for the branding, and also to brand each ball of twine.

Mr. FROST. The amendment provides for that.

Mr. COCHRANE. I have not had the advantage of seeing the amendment, but the hon. member for North Wellington says that the amendment does not provide for that, but that it provides that the brand is to be put upon the package.

Mr. FROST. It provides for branding the package as well.

Mr. COCHRANE. It will not do any harm to put it on the package too, if you put it on the ball. It seems quite reasonable that we should know how many feet we are getting when we buy a ball of twine, because twine is of use to the farmer, not according to its weight, but according to its length. Now, it is generally understood that one brand of twine contains more feet to the pound than another brand of twine. But I

think that would be a very prudent regulation so that the farmer may know when he is buying a ball of twine, how many feet he is getting. I think if that can be done, it will be a great protection to him, that is to say, if it can be done without hampering the trade, and without doing more harm in one direction than we are doing good in another. But I do not see why the manufacturers who send goods into this country should not be compelled to comply with the laws of this country. If we can make them do it, let us make them do it, and so protect our own people.

THE MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Evidently this amendment deserves serious consideration, and I would not like to hurry it through the committee until it has been well considered by both sides of the House, seeing that it affects so many different interests. Therefore, I move that the committee rise, report progress, and ask leave to sit again.

Motion agreed to.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

AFTER RECESS.

PATENT ACT AMENDMENT.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. Fisher) moved the second reading of Bill (No. 168) to amend the Patent Act. He said: Perhaps it would be well, before going into committee, that I should give a little explanation of this Bill. I have had a number of communications in regard to it, which show that not only amongst members of the House, but in the country at large, there is a little misapprehension in regard to the scope of this Bill. It is designed to amend the Patent Act in only one particular, that is, to provide a machinery by which, under certain circumstances and conditions, an extension may be made to the life of a patent in this country. By our Patent Act, a patent is issued for a term of eighteen years, divided into three periods of six years each. The patentee, on obtaining his patent, may pay a fee for the whole eighteen years, \$60, and get a patent for the whole period at one act; or he may pay one-third of the fee, \$20, and obtain a patent for six years, and before the expiry of the six years, he may pay another \$20 and get another six years life for his patent, and before the expiry of that second six years, twelve years from the beginning, he may again pay \$20, and get a third term of six years, making in all the eighteen years for the life of a patent in this country. There have been brought to my attention, and in some measure to the attention of the House, certain cases in which an apparent hardship may exist from the fact that the patentee has not been able to make any practical use or profitable use of his patent

until a time very near the end of the life of the patent, and the consequence is that the inventor, from circumstances entirely beyond his control, and through no fault of his own, has failed to obtain any remuneration for his invention. When these representations were first made to me, I felt that it was a thing which should be very carefully considered, and it was not until it was pointed out that in the Imperial Patent Act, there are the provisions which are contained in this amendment, that I concluded to ask for this amendment. In the United Kingdom, under certain circumstances and conditions, and with a certain procedure, the life of an English patent may be extended for a further term than the ordinary life of a patent under their law. I have examined the provisions of the Imperial Patent Act, and it seems that under that Act, careful provision is made against abuses of this privilege, and the public interest is carefully protected. I therefore agreed, on the representation of those who asked for it, that I would introduce a Bill which practically embodies in the Canadian patent law the provisions of the Imperial Patent Act. It enables patentees in this country, having fulfilled certain conditions and having given certain proofs, upon application, to have the life of their patents extended. I fully appreciate, that, without safeguards, this provision would be, perhaps, a dangerous one. The patent law is practically a law which gives to certain inventors the exclusive privilege of and right in their own inventions. The reason of the existence of this law is that people may be encouraged to invent, and to publish their inventions so that the public at large, the whole community, may reap the advantages of them. Before patent laws were in existence inventors maintained secrecy, they carried on the manufacture of their inventions with the utmost secrecy, and the public at large were prevented, to a considerable extent, from reaping the benefit of the inventive genius of the patentee. Under our patent laws the inventor is tempted to place his patent at the disposal of the community, because he knows that he has protection under the patent law for his patent, and that he may reap the full advantage which the law of supply and demand will grant him from his invention. The reason why the patent may, on certain occasions, be extended, is that by reason of circumstances over which the patentee has no control, reasons which were not personal to him or particular to his invention, he has not been able to receive a fair reward for his invention. Such conditions may be these, as I have instances brought before me: The patentee has invented something and has failed to bring it to the attention of those who are engaged in the business in which this patent would be useful. He has failed sometimes from lack of means, sometimes

from the fact that those engaged in the business do not recognize early in his life of his patent the value of the patent, and consequently are not willing to take it up. Sometimes the patentee has had to go through a long term of perfecting his patent and applying it to the particular industry or manufacture for which it was intended and it took him a long time, a large portion of the life of his patent to bring it to the attention of that portion of the public that might be interested in it or might use it with the result, that, although the patent had existed for anywhere from ten to twelve, or fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen years, the public had reaped no advantage from it and the patentee, himself, had reaped no advantage from it, but on the contrary, he had spent large sums of money, as well as having put into it his own inventive genius. Under these circumstances, it seems as though it would be a fair thing that the patentee should have a further extension of the life of his patent so that he might enjoy the fruits of it and reap some profit and advantage from it. This is the general reason for this Bill. I may say in explanation of the number of letters I have received that this Bill grants to no individual patentee or corporation any extension of the life of his or their patent. It simply provides machinery as follows: The patentee must apply to the Governor in Council, before the expiry of the life of his patent and upon explaining that he desires an extension, the application will be referred to the judge of the Exchequer Court, notice will be published to the community at large that the application is being made, and when the cause will be heard. Anybody taking exception to the application of the patentee will be heard just as the patentee himself will be heard in the advocacy of his cause. The judge of the Exchequer Court, after having heard the case, will report to the Governor in Council, and the Governor in Council will act upon that report. The action, therefore, is taken, practically, entirely, out of the hands of the Governor in Council, and put into the hands of a judicial tribunal which is given the opportunity of hearing the case, of dealing with it on lines of proper investigation and of making a report which will have a judicial character and bear the weight of a judicial opinion. Under the Imperial law, it is the same procedure, with the exception that under that law the case is referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which reports to the Queen in Council, who then issues the order. The Bill, as before the House, contains exactly the same provisions with, I may say, one single exception. Subsection 5. of section 2, of the Bill reads :

Mr. FISHER.

The court shall, after hearing the persons interested, report upon the petition to the Governor in Council.

Under the English law there is a condition and direction as to the nature of the report, and I think probably it would be well that the Bill should be changed so as to conform to that condition of the Imperial law. The section of the Imperial Act reads :

If the Judicial Committee report that the patentee has been inadequately remunerated by his patent, it shall be lawful for Her Majesty in Council to extend the term of the patent for a further term not exceeding seven, or in exceptional cases, fourteen years; or to order the grant of a new patent for the term therein mentioned, and containing any restrictions, conditions and provisions that the Judicial Committee may think fit.

This provision somewhat limits the ground on which the court may recommend the extension of the patent inasmuch as it requires that the Judicial Committee must report that the patentee has been inadequately remunerated by his patent. The intention of the Bill was that that should be a condition of his getting the extension. It does not say so in the Bill, and I think, perhaps it would be well that it should say so as it does in the Imperial Act. The Imperial Act, however, goes a little further than this does, and prescribes that the report may contain any restriction, conditions and provisions which the Judicial Committee may think fit. The Bill, as it stands before the House to-day, does not give that power to the Governor in Council, and it may be better that the Governor in Council should have that power; that is to say, to give an extension of the patent subject to certain conditions and restrictions. The Bill, clause 7, on the second page, says :

If the court reports in favour of an extension of the patent, the Governor in Council may extend the term of the patent for a further period not exceeding six years.

It does not give the Governor in Council the right to impose restrictions or conditions. On these two points I am quite open to change the Bill in the same way, and I would submit the Bill with the expectation that in Committee of the Whole we shall have a full discussion and a full ventilation of the whole question which is a new one in our patent legislation, and which, therefore, deserves and requires the full consideration of the House before being proceeded with. I venture to say that the provisions that are submitted are fair and just to the patentee that they are safe and careful and provide against any improper exercise of these powers as against the public at large. Therefore, I think that the extension provided for can be fairly and justly given to the patentee with safety to the public at large. Under these circumstances, I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

Mr. JAS McMULLEN (North Wellington). I have listened carefully to what has fallen from the hon. Minister of Agriculture, and while, perhaps, there are, under certain circumstances, grounds upon which a renewal of a patent might be fairly considered, I think we should legislate very slowly in this direction. A man who has enjoyed a monopoly of a patent for eighteen years, whether he took out his patent for that number of years at first, or extended it by stages of six years, has had during that time an absolute monopoly of the patent right, and it is rather hard that the public should still be subjected to that monopoly six years longer. I am not disposed to extend the lives of patents, but rather to shorten them. All those patents tend to create monopolies. I am quite willing, when a man by his ingenuity has produced something that is an advantage to the public, that the public should be asked to pay some reasonable remuneration to the inventor. But, by this Bill, after a patent has been in existence eighteen years, a petition for its extension may be referred to the Exchequer Court, and any person objecting to the extension, is called upon to show that the patentee has made a sufficient sum out of his patent. If the person objecting fails to prove that, then the patent right may be extended. How are you going to prove that? Suppose a man enjoyed a patent for eighteen years, and then applies to have the monopoly continued, we know well how ready people are to present a case in the very best light in their own behalf. They will, no doubt, plead very strongly to have the renewal for six years more, and will, no doubt, represent that they have made little or nothing out of the patent. How are you going to prove that they have made a sufficient sum? What sum is to be considered sufficient? I do not know that you can make any fixed standard by which the courts can be guided. While I have always great respect for the opinions of the Minister of Agriculture, and while, no doubt, he is actuated by a desire to do justice, still I am inclined to question the propriety of extending the life of a patent. I do not care what the rule is in England, we live in an age of progress, and it may not suit us to treat patents here as they are treated in England. And it might likewise be very unwise for us to follow the policy of the United States. With all due deference to the opinions of the Minister of Agriculture, we should go exceedingly slow in the direction of extending the life of patents. Canada has suffered seriously in many lines of manufacture by the exorbitant imposition and the extortionate demands of the owners of patent rights. In many cases they ask very much more than a fair remuneration for the use of their inventions. In place of legislating to extend that condition of things, we should legislate in the other direction, and give all owners of patent rights to understand that, under no circum-

stances, will their patent be extended after the eighteen years. If you once initiate a system of extension, you will not have a patentee in Canada who will not, at the end of the eighteen years, demand another six years, and then the onus of proving that he is not entitled to that renewal will fall upon those who are averse to paying the excessive charges they had to submit to. He will plead poverty and try to show that he is entitled to the renewal, and it would be difficult to prove that he is not. I have several letters with regard to this Bill. There are several patents to-day in existence with regard to which the public are looking forward to being released from the extortionate charges levied by the owners of these patent rights, and to allow such patents to continue six years more would be most objectionable. For my part, I cannot say that I am in favour of legislation along these lines.

Mr. WILLIAM GIBSON (Lincoln and Niagara). In the early part of the session, I gave notice of a Bill to amend the Patent Act. In view of the statements then made by the Minister of Agriculture, I am rather astonished to find that instead of trying to protect the interests of the general public against the encroachments of patentees, he is proposing a Bill that is entirely in the interests of the inventors and not of the public. One of the reasons he gave for the extension of the patents was, that many patentees had received no benefit from their patent until almost the close of the time allowed under the Patent Act. But, let me call attention to a company that has had more than a sufficient monopoly under this Patent Act. I put on the Order paper a question asking if there had been any complaint with regard to the use or abuse of the patent rights held by the Auer Light Company. The Bill I introduced, and which I hope the hon. minister will see fit to accept as an amendment to his Bill, is one that does not specifically deal with any particular company, but is intended to protect the public generally against extortion. Its purport is to this effect, that any party complaining of an overcharge, under patent rights, could apply to the Exchequer Court to have a reasonable price fixed, provided he gave a month's notice in the official *Gazette*, and deposited in court a sufficient sum to cover the costs. As the law stands now, I believe the judge of the Exchequer Court has the right to annul a patent when he considers that an exorbitant price is being charged for the patented article. If power were given to the judge to say what would be a reasonable price to charge, and then give the owner of the patent the option to sell at that price or have his patent annulled, I think the amendment which I have before the House would meet the case. With regard to the Auer Light Company, what we

have been trying to find out has been when the rights of this company under the patent law would cease. Under the present law the Minister of Agriculture says that the extension of time can be made in three periods of six years each. I find that the Auer Light Company first obtained a patent for the usual period of eighteen years. That particular patent would have expired long ago owing to the irregularities in its renewal; but parliament in 1892 passed the Act 55 and 56 Victoria, chapter 77, under which, in effect, the patent was allowed to be extended for a period which would have expired on 2nd of March, 1901. Pending the renewal the Auer patentees obtained another patent for improvements, No. 26162, expiring 7th March, 1902, thus indirectly gaining another year. Then in 1896 they obtained further patents, expiring in 1914, Nos. 5165 and 5174, for further improvements, and again in 1897 still another patent, expiring in 1915, No. 57558, for further improvements, so that virtually a patent can be made perpetual by taking out further patents for alleged improvements. Time and again this company has been asked, not only by the consumers of gas, but by the gas companies to place a reasonable price on the Auer light. The same article which can be purchased in the United States for 25 cents and 50 cents each, the people of Canada have to pay \$2.50 and \$3.50 for to the Auer Light Company; that is, a lamp for burning two and three feet of gas per hour. As I do not wish the Bill of the minister to be sent to a committee, I would like to give an object lesson to the House with regard to the Auer light patent. The lamp which I have in my hand was purchased in the city of Chicago for 50 cents retail; it has a three-foot burner. Mr. Holt telegraphs to me from the city of Montreal as follows:

Bill (No. 168) to amend the Patent Act, will give the Auer Light Company an extension of six years. It is most important for gas companies that they should not receive this extension, as they are charging \$3.50 for burners that we can buy for 35 cents. Will be much obliged if you can help us in this matter.

H. H. HOLT.

I may say that at Niagara Falls on the American side, any person can go to a retail store and buy for 35 cents this article for which the people of the city of Montreal have to pay \$3.50. The fact is that the patent has long run out in the United States; and yet the Canadian government allows this company an extension of time to make the people of Canada pay \$3.50 for that which can be purchased in the United States for 50 cents. For the mantle alone the Auer Light Company of Canada charge 50 cents, whereas in the United States it can be bought for 15 cents retail.

Mr. PRIOR. In Victoria it is 75 cents.

Mr. GIBSON. The Auer light is not one of the cases which the minister spoke of

Mr. GIBSON.

in which the owners of a patent are obtaining a benefit from their patent only at the end of the life of the patent; because, I can point back to the first time the Auer Light Company were asked to sell one of their burners. There was a lawsuit, because the company charged \$100 for the mantle and the lamp; and to-day they will not sell this article to the gas companies at a less rate by the thousand than \$2.50 each. The following letter was addressed on June 8, 1898, by the Hamilton Gas Light Company to the Auer Light Company of Montreal:

Dear Sirs,—We shall be pleased to have you quote us your lowest prices on mantles, to be used for incandescent gas lighting, in lots of 1,000.

If we can buy them at a reasonable price, we propose to apply them to burners we shall make or have made for us, guaranteeing the burners we propose to use to be more artistic in design and equal in efficiency to those supplied by you.

We are satisfied, with a good incandescent burner to handle, and placed before the public at a reasonable price, we should boom incandescent gas lighting business; of course, with the primary object of pushing our own business, in fact, we feel there should be a closer business relationship between the two interests, and if you can see your way clear to meet us, we will in return do our best to sell your mantles. But, under any consideration, this company, with others, have decided to push the gas business with the assistance of a good incandescent burner, and as already stated, would prefer to do the business with you, and which I believe would be mutually beneficial.

A reply at your earliest convenience will oblige.

To this the Hamilton Gas Company received the following reply:

Montreal, June 11, 1898.

The Hamilton Gas Light Co.,
Edmond Cathels, Supt.,
Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 8th inst. is at hand. We note that your gas company, in connection with others, have decided to push their gas business with the assistance of a good incandescent burner.

These we can supply you in lots of any size per complete light, including gallery, mantle, shade and chimney, at \$3.50 each. We note your opinion that you could boom the incandescent gas lighting business, provided we sold you the mantles at an exceedingly low price, but this, we are advised, we need not do at present.

Without going into the matter at any length at this writing, it must be evident to you that there is no object in our assuming 'closer business relationship' with your company and the other which you do not mention on the plan which you refer to, viz., of your selling mantles alone to the gas interests at low prices.

We should be glad to meet you or any other representatives of the companies which you do not name, in order to ascertain upon which basis the two interests could be brought together in a mutually profitable manner.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) W. R. GRANGER,
Superintendent.

Notwithstanding that they only have a patent on the mantle, yet as far back as 1898, this company refused to sell a thousand of the mantles and burners, complete with shades and chimneys, for less than \$3.50 each. Every gas consumer knows that with the Auer light he can save from 30 to 50 per cent in the consumption of gas, in addition to getting a better light. The gas companies now have to meet strong opposition from the electric light companies who can produce their power very cheaply at the present day, and the result is that the gas companies are being forced out of the business. They feel that if this article were placed at a reasonable price that they could, for their own preservation, place Auer lights in the houses of consumers of gas. Of course they cannot do that at the present price charged for the Auer light. When I call the attention of the House to the fact that in most houses, people use from five to ten burners, you will see that they would have to pay \$35 for the use of ten mantles, which practically do not belong to them.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The company rents them.

Mr. GIBSON. They practically rent them. They are of such a fragile nature that the sudden slamming of a door will destroy them, and you will readily see what the objection is to paying \$3.50 for replacing an article which, as Mr. Holt says, is in reality worth only 33½ cents. This company has no patent on the shade or burner, and yet this article, which is sold retail in every store in the United States for 50 cents, is charged \$3.50 for here. The patent given to the Auer Light Company, and extended from time to time, enables them to perpetrate this injustice. In the interests of the general public, I would ask the minister to consider the provisions in the Bill I have introduced, and to see if they cannot be incorporated as an amendment to the Bill which he has now before the House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I heartily sympathize with what has fallen from the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson). I have no special knowledge of the subject, except that I am compelled to pay the prices to which the hon. gentleman has referred. There is no question that you can buy upon the American side of the line, these mantles for from 7 to 10 cents, which are charged 60 cents for by the Auer Light Company. In fact you cannot buy the right to use this system of lighting at all. They simply rent you the lamps and the right to use, and charge you an exorbitant rate. If there is any remedy which the government can apply, it is their duty to do it, in the interests of the gas consumers of Canada.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I can corroborate the statement made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson), in reference to these Auer lights. On the recommendation of the

president of the Hamilton Gas Company, I bought several of these mantles for \$2.60 each, and they certainly afforded a splendid light. But in consequence of their fragile nature, I found it more profitable to continue to pay the high price for the gas, than to renew these Auer lights every time they got broken. If they were at a reasonable price, one could afford to renew them and they would afford a very excellent light, with a much smaller quantity of gas than is consumed in the ordinary way. I hope the suggestion of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Gibson), will be entertained by the Minister of Agriculture.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Mr. Fielding). The hon. gentlemen who have spoken, have made out a somewhat strong case against the price charged by the Auer Light Company, but I do not think they have made a strong case against the proposal of the minister to amend the Act. Under this Bill it appears to me to be perfectly clear that the Auer light would not receive an extension of their patent.

Mr. CLARKE. Under what provision of this Bill could the Auer Light Company not apply for an extension of their patent?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We cannot prevent any one applying for a patent, but if the facts are as stated, and if they are charging \$2.50 for what can be bought in the United States for 25 cents, or thereabouts, I do not imagine that the court which has to pass on the facts of the case, would recommend a renewal of their patent. I know nothing about it personally, except that I have had to pay for a good many of these broken mantles. The Minister of Agriculture thinks that he himself, as the executive of the department, should not have the right to determine whether or not the patent should be extended, and so in this Bill, he provides for an inquiry before the Exchequer Court, as to the facts, and the court may determine, after full examination, whether the parties interested have received a fair compensation for their patent.

Section 2 says :

The patentee or the assignee of any patent may, after advertising in the manner directed by any rules made under this section his intention so to do, present a petition to the Governor in Council, at least three months before the time limited for the expiration of the patent, praying that his patent may be extended for a further term.

Any person may enter a caveat, addressed to the commissioner of patents, against the extension.

The Governor in Council may refer any such petition to the Exchequer Court of Canada, and the said court shall proceed to consider it, and the petitioner and any person who has entered a caveat shall be entitled to be heard, by himself or by counsel, on the petition.

The court shall, in considering the petition, have regard to the nature and the merits of the

invention in relation to the public, to the benefits conferred on the public by such invention, to the profits made by the petitioner, and to all the circumstances of the case.

The court shall, after hearing the persons interested, report upon the petition to the Governor in Council.

If the court reports in favour of an extension of the patent, the Governor in Council may extend the term of the patent for a further period not exceeding six years.

It is quite clear that if the company referred to had been making the extravagant profit that was represented by my hon. friends who have spoken, they would have no case to lay before the Court of Exchequer and that no extension would be granted under my hon. friend's Bill.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). It seems to me that this is a step in the right direction, as it provides a place where patents can be inquired into more efficiently than before parliament. It cannot affect such a case as that brought forward by my hon. friend from Lincoln (Mr. Gibson). These people have their patent for a certain length of time, and can well understand that if they make an application for extension, as the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) has said it would not be listened to. This is exactly the English law. And under that law, it is necessary for a petitioner for the extension of a patent to show how the invention has paid, and what is the prospect of its paying in the future. He must show year by year, without inaccuracy or discrepancy how the profits have been made, and what prices he has charged. And so, everything must come before the court, and the Bill of the hon. minister is exactly a copy of that law, except that the tribunal before which the case is tried is different. The extension of a patent is a matter of favour and not of right, and it is for the petitioners to prove distinctly how much the public has paid. The onus is upon the petitioner to satisfy their lordships that, when all the circumstances are considered, his remuneration is less than he is entitled to. I understood from my hon. friend from North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) that it was for the public or somebody else to show the profits that had been made. On the contrary, it is the man who is seeking the extension that must satisfy the court that he has a claim. But that is only one part of it. I am sure members will agree, in consideration of the Bills that we have had before the committee, that it is high time that we had a way of equitably and upon proper evidence deciding these questions. They come before us year by year, and we have to inquire into them. But nobody can say that we are as well able to inquire as a court would be, where witnesses would be heard, and where parties who were interested could appear to oppose the application if they wished. I should think there would be no objection to reading the Bill the second time and

Mr. FIELDING.

letting it go into Committee of the Whole where it can be discussed fully. I admit that in such a case as that cited by my hon. friend from Lincoln, the parties should be debarred from getting an extension. If there could be no other way, if an Act could be passed having that effect, I would vote for it. But we must not think that one case of wrong-doing is a sample of all the cases that would come up in which an extension would be sought. The patentee is entitled to some rights, and if he goes before a proper court and shows, upon all the evidence, that he has not received all that he should have received, it is no wrong to the public to grant him an extension. However, these are matters that can be better discussed when we get into committee on the Bill.

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE (Sir Richard Cartwright). I am inclined to think that the case mentioned by my hon. friend from Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), which is, undoubtedly, *prima facie*, a case that requires investigation, would be met by clause 37 of our existing Patent Act, which provides that every patent granted under the Act shall be forfeited unless two conditions be complied with, one being that the manufacture of the article shall be established and carried on in Canada within a period of two years, and the other being, as stated here, that the construction or manufacture of the invention patented shall be carried on in such a manner that any person desiring to use it can obtain it at a reasonable price. And if any one chooses to apply, to the minister under this Act, for the forfeiture of the patent, it appears to me, looking at the clause I have referred to, the patent could be declared null and void. The words are tolerably express, and though I do not presume to give a legal opinion, and though I am not aware that the power here granted has been invoked under the late government or under ourselves, it seems to me that it provides a means of preventing exorbitant charges such as the hon. gentleman has referred to being made under a patent.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the minister the judge?

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE. Yes, the words are—section 37:

If any dispute arises as to whether a patent has or has not become null and void under the provisions of this section, such dispute shall be decided by the minister or the deputy of the Minister of Agriculture, whose decision in the matter shall be final.

It appears to me that cases such as that referred to by my hon. friend from Lincoln, which do, undoubtedly, deserve attention, are met under the existing law. As I said, I do not offer that as the legal opinion, but clause 37 appears to be expressly intended to prevent such abuses as he has called to the attention of the House.

Mr. T. DIXON CRAIG (East Northumberland). It seems to me that this Bill introduced by the Minister of Agriculture is rather retrograde, and I do not think there is any special need for it. Patents to-day are used more generally and more quickly than they used to be. If a patent is worth anything people now are enterprising and are willing to use it and pay for it, so that if it is likely to be of any use to anybody, the patentee is sure to receive ample reward in eighteen years. If we are going to make any change—I do not say we should, as the country may be satisfied with the present time allowed—instead of increasing from eighteen years to twenty-four years, we ought to cut it down from eighteen years to twelve years. While we must not do injustice to a patentee, we must remember that the interests of the great body of the people are more than the interest of any one man. As a rule, those who have patents take all they can get out of them and do not require much sympathy from the public, and as a rule they do not get much either. I think the cases which this law would affect would be very exceptional, and when there is an exceptional case of that kind, let the patentee come before this parliament, and if he shows that he has not derived as much profit as he should have derived from his patent, he will be sure to be given an extension by this parliament.

But I do not believe in making a general law of this kind for the sake of one or two cases. I do not know whether there are any cases just now, it may be that there are some who are anxious to have the law amended in this way, and they may have urged this matter on the Minister of Agriculture. But if there are such people, that is no reason why we should amend a general law in the direction indicated, but let these parties come before parliament and state their case, and I am sure they will get justice. With reference to this Auer light, the Minister of Finance said that after all that was no argument because he felt that they would not get an extension of time if the matter was brought into court. I am not so sure of that. The Auer light people are making large sums of money, and they would engage an eminent lawyer to start with. Now, who is going to engage the lawyer to compete with him? This lawyer would come into court and urge his arguments, and bring many witnesses to show that the prices were not exorbitant, and to show perhaps that they had not made any more than they should have made. Now, who is going to the expense of engaging an eminent lawyer to oppose this application? That is the great trouble. People generally do not combine to do these things, and that is the reason why corporations have such great power. But in a case of this kind I imagine some eminent lawyer would be engaged to go before the court and persuade the court to

grant this for reasons, some of which, perhaps, might be very good reasons, and the party opposing might not be able to engage a lawyer as eminent, and we know that would make a good deal of difference. So, I do not think the argument of the Minister of Finance is very strong, or affects the question very much. I think we ought not to pass this law at all. I think that eighteen years is long enough for patents as a general rule; and, as I said before, if there is any exceptional case I am sure the applicants could get justice if they came before parliament.

Mr. NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN (West Assiniboia). Just one word to show that I entirely agree in the criticisms that have fallen from my hon. friend the member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), and from the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). It seems to me this Bill is unnecessary, and it is vicious. It is a Bill that does not look to the public interest generally, but looks to the interest of a few, and these a rich few. If I might make a suggestion to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher), after the criticisms that he has heard from some such weighty quarters around his own desk. I think that the best thing he could do would be to withdraw his Bill.

Mr. E. F. CLARKE (West Toronto). I must confess that I do not know enough about the operation of the patent law or the merits of the case which has been presented here to-night, to form a very definite opinion about it; but I do know that I have had a great deal of correspondence from persons who are interested in this matter, and who have asked me to oppose the Bill which has been introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, the objection being to the exorbitant prices which are being charged, as is alleged, by the Auer Light Company. I have used these lights myself for several years, and after having used them I certainly would not like to be compelled to read by gas light without them. They have become an absolute necessity, and if the company have enjoyed the privileges and immunities which are secured to them under the patent law, I think that in view of the transition state in which the methods of artificial lighting are at the present time we ought to be very careful before we extend the privileges that the monopoly now enjoys. I understood from what the minister said in presenting the Bill for the second reading that the law in England is that the Judicial Committee have to determine whether the patentee has been inadequately remunerated for his patent, if he applies for an extension of it, before they grant it. It seems to me that if applications of that kind are to be made to the Exchequer Court of Canada the least that should be done is to make a provision that in the case of this company under consideration, or of any similar corporation seeking for an ex-

tension of their patent, counsel should be employed by the government to represent the public, and witnesses should be called, and the expense in connection with contesting the right of the patentee to an extension should be borne by him. At present, as I understand, we have an opportunity, if an extension of a patent is asked for, of hearing something of the merits or demerits of the case before parliament. But it seems to me if some provision is not made in this Bill whereby the public shall have a right to be heard, any wealthy corporation, as has been pointed out by the member for East Durham (Mr. Craig), will be able to employ the very best counsel, and all the best counsel that are available, to make the strongest possible case before the judges for an extension of their patent. What is everybody's business is nobody's business, and the public generally will not have their side of the case as strongly and as fully argued before the court as they would have a right to expect. It seems to me that the suggestion is a good one that instead of extending the life of a patent, the trend of legislation should be to reduce the time for which it is given, and if it is found that the patent is of great value to the public, some provision ought to be made in the law whereby the government should have the right to assume the patent for the whole or a portion of the unexpired time, so that by its abolition, or the abolition of the restrictions connected with it, the public generally might get the advantage that is given entirely to the patentee now.

Then again who is to determine after all whether the patentee has been sufficiently remunerated? It seems to me this legislation will have a tendency to cause the patentee not to push his business to the extent that he ought to be expected to push it, because having in view the possibility of getting a further extension of his patent for six years, he might fail to exercise the same vigilance and to expend as much energy in pushing the patent as he otherwise would. There may be reasons why legislation of this kind should be passed, but speaking of the case which has been specially mentioned here I can say that I have received several communications directing my attention to the fact that under the operation of this Bill, if it becomes law, it is possible that this Auer light, which is looked upon now as a monopoly, will be able to get an extension of its patent for a further term, and will be able to charge for that length of time prices that are considered exorbitant by those who are compelled to use that light on this side of the line. It seems to me that in view of the statements that have been made as to the cost of the mantle, which is the only part that is patented, there should be some special provision made exempting the Auer Light Company from the privilege of obtaining an extension of their patent, so that

the public will be able to get the advantage of a substantial reduction in the price of these mantles as compared with what they have to pay for them now.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.). I would ask the hon. minister whether, in the amendment, comparing this section with section 8 of the old law, any change is made in the relative position of patents running both in foreign countries and in Canada as to their expiry or the like of that?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. At the end of section 8 there is a clause which says that a Canadian patent shall expire at the same time with the expiry of the patent of the same articles in any foreign country. Foreign patents are not generally granted for so long a period as ours, and if we extend our patent as it is proposed to do under the provisions of this Bill, it is necessary that the patent should not expire at the same time the foreign patent expires, and in that way section 8 will have to be amended to conform with the other provisions of the Act. That amendment has been asked for for some years, and in the opinion of the judge of the Exchequer Court, is a very necessary amendment, as difficulties are constantly arising leading to litigation, which is very inimicable to the patent law. This is almost the only country in which that provision of our Patent Act exists, other countries having eliminated it out of their law.

Mr. FOSTER. Leaving out, then, that proviso would give the inhabitants of a foreign country a cheap right of user for a patented article which would not be enjoyed by the inhabitants of this country. As far as I remember, this has been the law ever since the Patent Act was a patent Act in Canada. I have never yet heard that there were any strong objections to that so far as the right of people to the use of a patent is concerned. It certainly does look an unfair thing that when a man patents his invention in a foreign country, say the United States, and patents it here, and the two patents are running concurrently, that, in a country like the United States, when the term of the patent has expired the people there get the benefit of the user of the patent, while the people of this country can be obliged to pay more. That is an unfair case which was brought up by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Gibson), that, in the United States, a man who wants an Auer light gets this mantle for ten cents or fifteen cents while we have to pay fifty cents. It strikes people of this country as a very great injustice. I think it is generally understood that eighteen years of the life of a patent to-day is worth more than thirty-six years of the life of a patent ten or fifteen years ago. With the tremendous rapidity of this age, with the capital and combinations of capital, with the facilities for manufacturing and the great enter-

prise with which capital seizes hold of every new invention which has profit in it, and the more common the article which is patented the greater the profit which is to be derived out of the manufacture of it under the patent right, a patent for eighteen years is more valuable now than one for thirty-six years at the period I have mentioned. It seems to me that all these things make a difference, so that the keeping of the usual length of time gives to the inventor, whose rights should be protected, almost double the chance that we were giving to the inventor, as far as the time limit is concerned, ten or fifteen years ago. I think there is a pretty strong case against giving a longer term than eighteen years. Eighteen years is a mighty long time. It is half of a man's lifetime, and be as generous as you like as to the reward which should be given to the inventor, you are doing far more than you did if he has eighteen years in which to utilize his invention. But, is it not a well known fact, that in nine cases out of ten it is not the man who spends his long years, who makes the invention himself, who reaps the benefit, but, for one reason or another, the product of that man's intellect passes into the hands of capitalists who never spent an hour's labour of intellect or travail of mind on the invention, but, simply by means of their capital, are enabled to work it and to work it to very great financial advantage. Whilst I want capitalists, like my hon. friend in my eye, to have a fair share of all it is worth, I think eighteen years for a patent they may get hold of, or ten, or twelve years give them a pretty fair chance of getting the full advantage out of it. I think we have had very few difficulties or complaints under the old patent law, and I think we should be pretty well certain that there is an absolute call for this change before we interfere with the present Patent Act. I do not like that feature by which you eliminate what has been the practice in Canada for all these years, that when a patent right in a foreign country goes out it also goes out here, and puts our people on an exact parity with the people of the foreign state.

Mr. ALVIN H. MOORE (Stanstead). Mr. Speaker, the objections which have been urged by previous speakers are, perhaps, all the objections that are necessary to convince the House of the impropriety of this proposed legislation. I have received a communication from parties that are interested in the Auer light. This is a foreign patent by an Austrian, owned by an American, and any extension of time given to the Auer light would be taking so much out of the people of Canada and putting into the pockets of foreigners. There comes to my mind the principles of the Liberal party while they were in opposition. They were opposed to combines and monopolies, and they accused the Conservative party of legislating in such a manner as to encourage

them. When they came into power they availed themselves of the opportunity of passing an Act under which, when a combine existed which enhanced the price of anything to the consumer in this country, they had the right to take off the duty if it were an imported article, or to reduce it. They were very much elated over this invention of theirs to prevent monopolies and combines, and I think that if they had the same opinion now they could well leave this matter in the hands of the House and of the government, because it evidently is designed to encourage the combines contrary to the interests of the consumers of this country. We wish to protect our own people and our own consumers, which we would not be doing if we granted further extensions to eighteen years, when my hon. friend to my right says, that twelve years is sufficient. I appeal to the business men of this House not to place the power in the hands of the Exchequer Court to increase monopolies that are burdensome to the people of the country.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Sir Louis Davies). There is just one observation that I would like to make, and that is as far as the second section of the Bill is concerned. It proposes that instead of the patentee, or assignee, of the patent coming to parliament after his patent has expired, or is about to expire, and asking for a special Act to extend it, before such an extension can take place, there shall be a judicial inquiry into the matter, and I ask hon. members of the House whether it would be better to have a haphazard vote in the House or to adopt the English practice and have the application judicially determined upon. It would appear to me that this would be the more reasonable course to take in the interest of the public. The patentee who applies for the extension of his patent cannot hope for success unless he is enabled to satisfy the court to which the case will be referred, the judge of the Exchequer Court, that he has a thoroughly good case, and that for some reason or other, although he has had his patent for twelve or eighteen years, the circumstances have been against his deriving any material benefit from it. If he proves sufficient facts to the court to satisfy the judge that he has not been able to get any advantage from the patent, the court makes a report of the facts and the government may act. That is the English way of proceeding. That is the method which has been in vogue in Great Britain for thirty-six years, and I have never heard the suggestion made on the part of any person in England that the law should be repealed.

Mr. FOSTER. Is the government to adjudge finally?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The Act merely says that

upon the report of the judge the government may then act. The judge reports the facts, and that in his opinion the circumstances justify the extension, and then the government may act. To-day we find ourselves confronted with numerous applications for the extensions of these patents.

Mr. FOSTER. Not many.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. On one ground or another we passed two or three Bills this year and two are pending. Is it not better to trust to a judicial report upon facts than to trust to the perhaps hasty decision of the Private Bills Committee, where there may be eight or ten men and where very rarely evidence on oath is taken.

Mr. CLARKE. Is there not this advantage, so far as the public are concerned, in the present method: That when these applications for Bills are made to parliament, the constituents of a member have an opportunity of writing and placing before him the facts as to why or why not the patent should be extended. How is that information going to be communicated under this Bill?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. The very best way to do that is before a court. The Bill provides that the application for an extension shall be advertised three months before, and any person may enter a caveat, and he will be entitled to be heard. Ample notice is given by public advertisement and they can go before an exchequer court and be heard. It does appear to me that every precaution is taken to ensure that the public interest shall be looked after. I am pointing out the distinction between the present procedure where a Bill has to be passed through this House, and the procedure provided for under this law. The course set forth in the Bill is the one that commends itself to me. If we had a Judicial Committee to sit as a court and take evidence well and good, but every hon. gentleman knows as a matter of fact that it is not so in this House.

Mr. CLARKE. I believe that the persons applying for an extension of a patent will be in a much more advantageous position before a court than before a committee of parliament. The machinery provided in this Bill is that any person may write an objection to the government, but he will be in a much worse position than now, because he will have to attend before the Exchequer Court at his own expense.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON (Three Rivers). I must dissent from the view of the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies). A patent is given for the purpose of protecting, for a certain number of years, the inventive genius of the man who devises something that may be useful to the public. Eighteen years is a very long period to

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

protect any invention, and it occurs to me that if you extend that period, then instead of giving a protection, you will be giving a monopoly that will prevent further inventions to develop the thing already patented. If a man enjoys his patent for eighteen years, why should the person who objects to the extension be under the necessity of putting in a caveat and opposing the extension at his own expense. Parliament has provided in its wisdom that eighteen years should be the period, and in my opinion it is long enough. I cannot agree with the minister that the applicant had better apply to a judge than to this parliament, because here you have the highest court in the land, and my hon. friend (Sir Louis Davies), who so well represents the government in the Private Bills Committee knows that there have been very few applications of this nature, and that the law as it stands has not been fraught with any disadvantages. When the Conservative government was in power I represented the government on that committee, and during a period of many years I can hardly call to mind more than two or three applications for extensions of patents. That proves that the law as it stands to-day provides quite a long enough period for the patentée to bring his invention to a successful issue. If you are going to allow these extensions to be obtained by application to a court, or by any other means outside of parliament, I think you will be opening the door to so many applications for extensions, that it will be almost impossible to control them. My hon. friend has given the only reason that I have heard in favour of an extension, and I believe it is the reason given in the case of the Bill now before the Private Bills Committee. My hon. friend has said that the patentee may not have succeeded, during the period of eighteen years, in working out his problem, or in making it remunerative. But if he has found it impossible during eighteen years to convince the public that his invention is a good thing, an extension would be keeping out of the field competitors who might, and probably would, succeed in bringing before the public other inventions which would be very much more useful.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Suppose he had only succeeded in inducing the public to believe in his invention in the last year or two of the eighteen years, and suppose he was able to show that he had not really made any profits out of the patent for twelve or fourteen years, but that on the contrary, it had lain fallow, that nobody had taken it up, and that only during two or three years had he derived any profits from it.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. My hon. friend has given exactly the reason why the matter should not go before a court of justice. Parliament has granted that man a patent,

which has remained idle for fifteen or sixteen years out of the eighteen years, and if the man comes before the Committee on Private Bills, that committee will understand his case far better than a judge would. I think you are introducing an element into our legislation which, instead of being useful, will be very detrimental in more ways than one. I believe it is a mistake to saddle the judiciary with questions which really do not appertain to the bench. This is a question which properly comes before parliament. Patents are connected more intimately with business than with law, and commercial and industrial men understand these questions far better than any judge on the bench. My hon. friend says that we very seldom examine witnesses under oath in our committees; but what is to prevent us examining witnesses if we require evidence? We have the power, and it is for us to decide whether we shall call witnesses or not; and if we do not call them, it is simply because we are convinced of the goodness or badness of a cause, without examining witnesses at all. I believe it would be a great mistake to introduce that amendment into the law. I think the law as we have it is a very good law, and should not be interfered with.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). It seems to me to be always a doubtful thing to consider the extension of a patent under any circumstances whatever. The moment you commence to extend one man's patent, you open the door to every other man to come and urge the same thing in his case. A man gets a patent in Canada for eighteen years. This gives him protection for that length of time; on the sole ground that the invention shall become the property of the people at the end of the eighteen years. If we accept it as a reason for extending the patent that the owner of the patent has not made any profit on it, I know of no enterprise that could not come to parliament and ask for an extension on the same ground. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries stated that some one might protest. I would like to know who is likely to protest? This is the business of the people. It is the parliament of Canada and not the courts who are to protect the people. It is the business of parliament to see that no such extension is made—why? Because it would be an invasion of the rights of the people. I have no hesitation in saying that the fact that a man's patent has not paid him, is no ground for granting him an extension. It may be said that this has been done in England; but we are not bound to adopt it for that reason, if it is a bad thing. Parliament and the courts cannot undertake to take care of men's failures. It is not the business of this parliament to relegate to the courts the question whether a man has been successful or unsuccessful.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. But I put this to my hon. friend: If you do not go against extensions altogether, is it not better to refer the facts on which extensions should be granted to the courts, rather than to the haphazard decision of one of our committees?

Mr. CLANCY. The question in this case, is not whether it is in the public interest or not, but whether the man has profited by his patent or not—an entirely different question. The courts should not be called upon to consider whether a man has been successful or not. That is the only question involved in this case, and I say that parliament should protect the people, and has no right to consider that question. I could understand the justice of extending a patent in a case when, owing to some oversight, the life of the patent had been cut short, but when the owner of a patent has enjoyed it to the full extent of the eighteen years, it is absurd to give power to refer an application for an extension of that life to the court.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Has the hon. gentleman read subsection 4 of section 2:

4. The court shall, in considering the petition, have regard to the nature and the merits of the invention, in relation to the public, to the benefits conferred on the public by such invention, to the profits made by the petitioner, and to all the circumstances of the case.

Mr. CLANCY. The moment you relegate such cases to the court you deprive a poor man of this remedy. The poor man cannot go to the court, because it is too expensive. It is only the wealthy men and corporations, the wealthy monopolists, who will benefit by this. It is no ground for an extension of time, that the patentee has not made money out of his invention. A man who had leased a piece of land and paid a certain rent, and made no money out of it, might as well come to this parliament and ask to have an Act passed extending his lease.

Mr. A. B. INGRAM (East Elgin). Is it not a fact that a large element of the people of this country are opposed to having their grievances submitted to the Railway Committee of the Privy Council solely because it entails too heavy expenses? But in this Act we are providing precisely for something on the same line. The evidence has to be produced before the Exchequer Court, and that court reports. But supposing that court reports in favour of the extension of the patent, and the Governor in Council should nevertheless refuse to grant it, what would happen?

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. They would not get the extension.

Mr. INGRAM. Then what was the use of sending them before the court. If the Governor in Council is not going to adopt the recommendation of the court, why put the parties to the expense of going to the court at all? This measure will entail very heavy expense on any one who wants to proceed against any corporation owning a patent right. It would be much better that parties desiring an extension of time should apply to the representatives of the people. Let them come before the Private Bills Committee and in that committee state their case, and I have failed to find any case in which that committee has done injustice to any one seeking an extension of the life of a patent.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I regret, when I explained the provisions of this measure, on moving the second reading, that so many of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken were not present, and consequently failed to catch the explanations I then gave. I would like, in the first place, to say a word in reply to the hon. member for York, N.B. (Mr. Foster). He spoke about the expiry of a foreign patent. At present our patents are given for eighteen years, but most foreign patents are given for periods varying from fourteen to seventeen. The result is that Canadian patentees get their patents in Canada before taking them out in foreign countries, and the foregoing patents generally expire about the same time as the Canadian. At the same time there has arisen, in consequence of the expiry of foreign patents, owned by foreigners, who sold to Canadians their patent rights taken out in Canada, a great deal of litigation, and in many instances great injustice was done to the people in Canada who purchased patents obtained in Canada by foreign inventors, without knowing when the foreign patents would expire. Some of the foreign countries give very short terms of patents, and a foreign patentee may obtain a patent in Canada for an invention which has been also patented in one of the foreign countries which gives short terms. He then enters into a bargain with the Canadian and sells his patent right in Canada. The Canadian is very often deceived with regard to the right of the foreign patent, and the result is that the Canadian purchaser suffers a great injustice.

Mr. CLANCY. Has he not a means of learning the life of a patent before investing his money?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He may have, but at the same time it is frequently very difficult, and the vendor may frequently omit to give the purchaser a full list of the foreign patents which cover the invention.

Mr. CLANCY. He is not dependent on him.

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. He would have to examine the records of all countries where patents are issued, a very difficult and expensive operation, one which, I grant, is quite within his powers, but still, a difficult thing for him to do. And the result has been, in actual experience, that it is not done; and I have been appealed to by the judge of the Exchequer Court, in consequence of the difficulties, to amend that section and eliminate or make clear the condition that the Canadian patent shall expire on the expiry of the foreign patent on the same article. It is reasonable that that provision should be repealed. It was expunged from the United States patent law in 1898, as it has been from the patent law of England, France and Germany. So far as I know, Canada is the only country in which patents expire on the expiry of the patent on the same article in a foreign country. The hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) explained the necessity for the patent expiring here when the foreign patent expired, on the ground that it would not be fair for the Canadian people using a patented article to be obliged to pay the price for a patented article, while in other countries it sold at a lower price. But, if you follow that out logically, you reach the conclusion that an article should not be patented in Canada unless it is patented everywhere else. Suppose an article to be patented here and not patented in the United States, the Americans have the benefit of the free use of it, while we must pay the price for a patented article.

Mr. CLANCY. But, the inventor can protect himself by getting the article patented elsewhere.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. But he may not have done so, and, under the present law, that does not invalidate his patent in Canada. While the patent law is generally considered to be a law of monopoly, it is not fairly to be considered such. The law is for the purpose of encouraging invention by protecting the inventor in the enjoyment of the benefits of the product of his genius. It is well known that in the United States and in Canada, where patents are more easily procurable than they are in many foreign countries, the effect has been to stimulate inventions to such an extent that these countries are the homes of a larger number of inventions than others. We must not forget the aim, the avowed intention of the legislature in making patent laws, and that a great many of the most beneficial inventions of modern days would not have existed, nor would the enormous industrial progress which is the particular sign of the age in which we live have been made but for these laws.

Mr. CLANCY. But the extension of patents defeats the very object for which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) is arguing.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Not under the conditions imposed by this Act. The object of the Bill is simply to extend patents where the inventors are able to show that they have not reaped adequate advantages from their patents.

Mr. CLARKE. When does the Austrian patent of the Auer light expire?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I cannot say. While the Auer light seems to fill the mind of most hon. gentlemen who have spoken on this Bill, it has nothing to do with this Bill. Many of my correspondents seem to imagine that it is a Bill to extend the Auer light patent. As a matter of fact, the Bill is brought forward in consequence of various applications that have been made for the benefit of the law of this kind, of the fact that my intention has been drawn to the existence of similar provisions in the English Patent law, and of the fact that the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Fraser) introduced into this House for the purpose of giving one individual company the privilege which, under this Bill, will be given to the public generally, under definite conditions and with well-considered rules of procedure. I believe that, under certain circumstances, it is right that an extension of patents should be granted, but, as the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) has just explained, the present law has this effect—that individuals who are able to secure the passage of an Act through parliament are able to secure this privilege and its consequent benefits, but those who are not able to do so cannot secure the same concessions. I believe it is better that parliament should pass a general law, a law which will safeguard the public interest, which provides rules of procedure just and fair to both sides, rather than to go on as we have been doing dealing with these matters in the Committee of Private Bills. Sometimes they have to be dealt with with few members of the committee present. With certain members of the committee who are desirous of putting through a certain Bill present, that Bill will go through, while, with other members present, such a Bill might be rejected. In fact, we are now dealing with these matters in an uncertain, unfair and hap-hazard manner, while under this Bill the procedure will be regular and similar in every case, and the judgment will be the judgment of a court dealing with the matter in a judicial spirit, and recommending to the Governor in Council the action that ought to be taken.

Mr. CLANCY. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fisher) allow me to ask him a question? Does he think it a sound principle that either the courts, under powers relegated by parliament, or parliament itself, should prepare to consider such questions, or that these cases should be treated as the rare exceptions?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I think it better that they should be referred to a court such as I have described. And to prove the reasonableness of my position, I refer to the present patent law, which provides that the Commissioner of Patents when he exercises his judicial functions, may refer to the Exchequer Court any questions in regard to the expiry of patents under section 37 of the Act. The reference of the matter to the Exchequer Court is merely an extension of principles already embodied in the Patent Act. It is for that reason that the Exchequer Court was chosen for the reference of these questions.

Mr. CRAIG. How many applications for extensions of patents have been made during the present parliament?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Only one, I believe. But, I have had two applications asking that it should be done during this very session, and the question has been discussed by patent solicitors and others interested in the working of the patent law for a year or two back.

But there were one or two other points I wish to touch upon. I may say that the question of the Auer light seems to be misunderstood by members who have spoken of it here. If the patented article which is sold in the United States is exactly the same as the patented article sold in Canada, the patent in the United States cannot have expired. It must be sold in the United States under the United States patent, because if the United States patent for the Auer light has expired the Canadian patent for the Auer light must have expired also under the present patent law. I have not studied this Auer light question, that has not been before me in my discussion of this question at all; I simply take the statements that have been made here this evening. But if the Auer light patent in the United States as sold there is identical with the Auer light mantle and burner as sold in Canada, either one of two things must be the case: The Auer light patent in the United States has not expired, or else the Auer light patent in Canada would have died a natural death in consequence of the expiry of the United States patent; because under our present law a patent expires in Canada at the same time it expires in a foreign country, if the article is the same. But, I believe the fact is that in the United States the Auer light company are manufacturing under their patent an article on a large scale, and perhaps are manufacturing it in competition with other things of a similar character, and therefore sell it more cheaply than they do in the smaller market of Canada. I have no other explanation of the fact. But, I know that if their patent is identically the same in the United States as it is here, it has not yet expired in the United States. Therefore you see that the question of

price in regard to the Auer light is not a question of a patent monopoly, but must be controlled by something else than a patent monopoly; and if they are selling an article under greater control in Canada than in the United States, it must be a control by something else than their patent monopoly. Now having dealt with the various points that have been brought up, and having tried to explain some of the reasons for the introduction of this Bill in the earlier part of the evening, I now beg to move that the Bill be read the second time, and that it be referred to a select committee who will take into consideration the various suggestions that have been made and report to the House.

Motion agreed to, and Bill read the second time.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. I move to refer this Bill to a select committee composed of Messrs. Borden (Halifax) Casgrain, Clarke, Fielding, Fraser, (Guysborough), Gibson, Russell and the mover, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY.

House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

Dorchester Penitentiary \$53,600

Mr. G. E. FOSTER (York, N.B.) We were not through with the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary. What we wanted was the details with reference to the \$18,000 which was spent on that commission.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL (Mr. Fitzpatrick). The amount really expended in connection with that commission appointed to investigate the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary was \$17,208.63. The payments are: James Noxon, commissioner, 252 days, and \$643.58 for disbursements; O. K. Fraser, 241 days, and for disbursements, \$591.11; Mr. Lafortune, 234 days, and for disbursements, \$39.75. Clerical assistance and other expenses, \$8,664.19, making a total of \$17,208.63.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Solicitor General give us an idea of what those other expenses were?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were expenses connected with bringing witnesses before the commission, there were two secretaries, and it was necessary of course to have a stenographer to report the evidence. The secretaries got \$6.50 a day. I apprehend the limit of their employment would be the 252 days which appear to be the number of days Mr. Noxon was employed.

Mr. FISHER.

Mr. FOSTER. What record has the Solicitor General as to the number of meetings?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is to be inferred from the report made by the commissioner. On the first page of the report it will be found that the sittings began on April 19, 1897, and continued to August 24, in the same year. There was then an adjournment at the request of the warden, who wanted time to explain certain charges made against him. The commission resumed on the 22nd, and sat until September 30. Then, there was another adjournment to October 25, when the commission resumed and sat until October 29. There was an adjournment to November 12, when the commission resumed and sat until November 20. There was an adjournment to December 4, when the commission resumed, and sat until December 7.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The number of hours they sat each day?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot give that from the report, but the report of the Minister of Justice for 1898, page 221, says that the adjournment took place from the middle of August to the month of September for the purpose of enabling evidence in his defence to be produced by the warden.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not giving us any idea as to the number of hours they sat each day.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I presume the number would be ten hours a day.

Mr. CLARKE. Who were the stenographers employed—the *Hansard* staff?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, I think Mr. Duggan was one of the stenographers. But, in the meantime, I will get the names.

Mr. TAYLOR. Who were the secretaries?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector informs me that the Auditor General's Report will show in detail how this amount was expended which is mentioned, \$8,864.19, for clerical assistance and other expenses. That is the report for 1897-8.

Mr. CLARKE. Were the stenographers members of the *Hansard* staff?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is my impression. There were two stenographers, one English and the other French. I am almost absolutely certain that the English stenographer was a member of the *Hansard* staff. I think that has been the rule followed, as far as I am concerned, in connection with all these investigations.

Mr. FOSTER. The Solicitor General does not propose to say that every day these men met they spent ten hours at their work?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not mean to say that, but I assume that they could not possibly have given less than eight hours a day, and charge \$10 a day for their work. That is the least they possibly could have given.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the least they should have given. What is the evidence upon which the Solicitor General bases his conclusion that they sat ten hours a day?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I base that conclusion on the assumption that it would be the part of honesty to do so.

Mr. FOSTER. If the Solicitor General has no better evidence than that he might as well keep his mouth shut.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have just to give the evidence that I have got.

Mr. FOSTER. It is the duty of the Solicitor General to have the information here for the House. He has had plenty of time to get it, and he is not going to carry on in the same way that he did last night, and get his estimates through. When he is asked a question he is not to turn his back on the question and say that is the way he deals with such cases. He is to give the information. He has had fair notice that he would be required to give us some idea based upon facts as to how many hours these men sat. The statement is that the commission met, spent an hour, adjourned, and charged \$10. If so, that was not an honest thing to do.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not understand that any one made the statement that these gentlemen met for an hour and charged for a full day's work.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, that is the statement.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. If that is the case, if they have acted in that manner, then I say that they have not dealt honestly with the government. No one could pretend that under those circumstances they have. I did not understand that I was asked to state to the House how many hours these gentlemen sat each day. In so far as the records of the department go they do not give such information, and the only way to obtain that information would be to apply to the commissioners themselves.

Mr. FOSTER. Was no record kept? You had two secretaries and paid them \$6.50 a day to keep a record of the proceedings. Do you mean to say that the hour at which this commission met and adjourned was not noted in the minutes, and have not these minutes been forwarded to the department?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The minutes were not kept in the manner suggested by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster). It is not to my knowledge that any such minutes will be found in connection with any investigation that I have found to have taken place in connection with the Department of Justice. The return upon which we have to rely is the report made by the commissioners. I know no other minutes than the report.

Mr. FOSTER. The minutes and proceedings have not been reported to the Department of Justice?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. FOSTER. You came before the House and asked for an amount to investigate St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary. You insisted upon \$6,000 or \$7,000 at the very outset. You go on and you appoint a commission to do work that the highly paid officers of your department might as well have done, and you allow them to go their own way. Then, you come down and ask this House for \$18,000. There is not a man in this House who will attempt to get up and justify that expenditure with the results you have got out of the investigation. I am quite sure the Solicitor General will not attempt to do it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We are not asking for that vote now.

Mr. FOSTER. But you have got the money.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We have the money, and the money has been disposed of. I am asked to explain transactions that occurred in 1897, and because I cannot give detailed information I am reproached. I am willing to apply to the commissioners and ask them by telegraph, each one, to say how many hours they sat each day. I cannot do better than that, because I have not the minutes, and there are none that I know of.

Mr. FOSTER. It is a strange thing that you have commissioners doing this work, paying them by the day, expecting them to do the work in a businesslike way, with two secretaries who are to attend upon these commissioners, and that you have no minutes of the proceedings.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is the fact.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, it is a fact that does not reflect very much credit on the Department of Justice. Whether the Solicitor General is responsible for it or some one else, I do not know. I think this is an enormous expenditure for what has been accomplished, and it is only one of many instances of the lavish and useless expenditures of this government to appoint com-

missions largely for the sake of giving fat fees to their friends.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The condition of things that existed in St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, and which was tolerated for years, certainly was a disgrace to this whole country. For instance, at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, with the knowledge of the government, or, at all events, with the knowledge of the officials, it was proved that a quantity of stone to the value of \$65,662.52 was paid for and not one inch of it can ever be traced as having entered into possession of the government. It was proved, for instance, that flour was bought in 1889 and paid for at the rate of \$8.75 per barrel, when at the same time flour was selling in Montreal for \$4.89 per barrel.

Mr. FOSTER. That is in the report of the commission?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. PRIOR. At what page is that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. This is the report of the Minister of Justice for the year ending June, 1898. There is, in addition, the report of the commission. At page 223 of the report of the Minister of Justice will be found the reference to the flour, and the reference to the stone will be found at page 224. I will read exactly what they said:

The prices paid for goods purchased by public tender are invariably higher than similar goods could be purchased by large private consumers in the open market. In some instances the price paid for goods purchased by public tender, notably in the case of flour at \$8.75 per barrel in 1889, is so greatly in excess of the market value which in Montreal averaged \$4.89 per barrel for the year, as to indicate wilful disregard of the public interest in awarding the contract. It is also shown that provisions and other goods, the property of the penitentiary, were in some cases given away to the officers, and in other cases sold to officers, not only of the penitentiary but to the ex-inspector of penitentiaries, at prices less than was being paid by the institutions for similar goods. The practice has likewise been permitted of allowing officials to sell supplies to the institution using the name of others to conceal the transactions, and on one occasion the warden had been a serious offender in this respect.

Mr. FOSTER. Does that refer to the same quality of flour?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There would be no value to the statement by the commissioners unless it did.

Mr. FOSTER. That is true, but it is unfortunate they did not mention that. Now, the idea is to justify the expenditure of \$18,000 on this commission by reciting that there were irregularities, one of which was that flour was paid for by contract higher than it could be bought for at the current market prices. In the name of goodness

Mr. FOSTER.

what are your inspectors and accountants of penitentiaries for if they are not capable of going to the books of the institution and finding out that such prices have been paid, and that they were above the market prices. Why get three ten-dollar men for 152 days hunting up facts like that. As for the stone, any intelligent inspector keeping himself en courant with the affairs of the institution ought to know that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I should say that the present inspector of penitentiaries is not responsible for this condition of things.

Mr. FOSTER. I quite understand that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I want to speak as to the present inspector. He is certainly not responsible for that. I would not like the impression to prevail for a moment that the present inspector is responsible for the condition of things to which I refer.

Mr. FOSTER. That is all right.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. My hon. friend said that the officers should have discovered these things and reported them. Let me say that as far back as 1882 an investigation was held by Messrs. Tache and Miall for the purpose of ascertaining the condition of things in that penitentiary, and they made a report charging a man named Daignault with conduct so gross that it practically amounted to larceny. This man was dismissed as storekeeper but he was taken back immediately as head of the public works. That is what investigation resulted in in these days.

Mr. FOSTER. What does the Solicitor General deduce from that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That the investigations then were held by apparently competent men, but as I say had no result.

Mr. FOSTER. And if the fact as stated be correct, it simply proves that it was the fault of some one who had the appointing power. Surely the government in 1897, does not propose to say that it would follow out the plan of dismissing an officer for an offence and then put him in another place. That argument of the hon. gentleman is simply against the government of the day. When was the present inspector of penitentiaries appointed?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. In 1885.

Mr. FOSTER. He was the officer when my hon. friend went into office, and the hon. gentleman will not say that it was not possible to have sent the inspector down there and with a proper staff have him find out these things and correct the abuses.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector, with the ordinary duties he was

obliged to perform from Dorchester to Westminster, could not give time to this investigation, and further, there was a natural hesitation and reluctance on his part to investigate those who had gone before him, unless it was made absolutely necessary by the head of the department he should do so.

Mr. FOSTER. Reluctance of a man to undertake the work is not quite a reason, why, if he is paid for the work and has the capacity he should not do it.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There was the question of want of time.

Mr. FOSTER. But these commissioners took a much longer time than the Solicitor General thought they would, and after the inspector had done his duty at Westminster and Dorchester he could have gone to St. Vincent de Paul. Or, if that were impossible, any honest, square man could have found out everything at the cost of a couple of thousand dollars.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The hon. gentleman, I think, minimizes the difficulties of the position. If he has the leisure to read the report he will find that there was an absolute conspiracy at the penitentiary to prevent the commissioners arriving at any result. For instance, it was discovered that where the officials of the penitentiary desired to purchase a piece of land they made an offer and it was not carried out. The property was valued at \$3,000, another person bought it for \$6,000, and inside of twelve months it was sold for \$18,000 to the penitentiary. The investigation showed that the discipline of that penitentiary was such that we had two revolts there within two years.

Mr. FOSTER. It was bad enough, I have not the least doubt. Now, will the hon. gentleman tell us what was done with the perpetrators of the stone and cement business?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It was impossible to reach the particular individual. Many years had elapsed. But those who were in charge at the penitentiary, and who could be held in any manner responsible either for the laxity of discipline or for any of these irregular transactions, were dismissed.

Mr. FOSTER. They could not have been very grave abuses, or the government did not do its duty.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It was ascertained that the government paid \$107,796.25 for 539,435 feet of stone, and that only 215,448 feet, worth \$42,000, could be accounted for.

Mr. FOSTER. Did this commission find out where the rest went?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They could not find it out. There was absolutely no

record to show how anything had been done at that penitentiary. The explanation given was that the stone had been supplied, but had been wasted by the convicts and prevented being utilized. If the facts are as stated, that explanation, of course, cannot stand for a moment. With respect to the cement for the same work, that is, the wall, it was ascertained that 1,367 barrels were paid for by the Department of Public Works, and only about 650 barrels were accounted for. If these are facts, as I have no doubt they are, even if you look at the evidence given by Warden Ouimet and other officials, there was clearly some justification for this investigation. Then, there were two revolts in the space of a few years, in one of which one of the officials was killed and the warden severely injured; and in the Senate an attack was made on the Department of Justice by Senator Bellerose, who said that this revolt had been fomented and brought about by one of the officials at the time, Mr. Ouimet, who was afterwards made warden.

Mr. FOSTER. After all the expense of this commission, they have not been able to apportion the blame and allot the penalty.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They have apportioned the blame, but they have not gone beyond that. It is a question for every one to consider whether, after all these facts, other steps should not have been taken.

Mr. FOSTER. We have spent a lot of money, we have found that there was blameworthy work, we have found out the persons who were blameworthy, and we have stopped short of punishing them.

Mr. JAS. CLANCY (Bothwell). Admitting, perhaps, the necessity of a commission of inquiry, I think all must admit that the commission was unduly prolonged. There was one thing to which the hon. gentleman made reference that was not a matter for the commission to report on. They reported that \$8.75 per barrel was paid for flour at St. Vincent de Paul in 1889. That was no new matter at all, because it was in the Auditor General's Report. At the same time, at the Dorchester penitentiary, flour was bought for \$5.50 per barrel. I have no doubt there was a wrong; but these things are so palpable that it is not necessary to have a commission to sit for four years to find them out. I do not say that there was not wrong-doing which ought to have been ferretted out and punished; but hon. gentlemen have not even adopted the report of the commission. Many of the suggestions made in the report of the Kingston penitentiary commission were entirely disregarded. I am not going to say whether the government were wise in that or not; but it casts a degree of discredit on the commission; either the government or the commission was wrong. After a com-

mission has made a report, to say that a great part of it is utterly useless is, I think, a pretty strong case that a great deal of time was spent for nothing.

Mr. FOSTER. Can the Solicitor General say whether any improved methods have been adopted in that institution to avoid in future the evils which the commission brought out? I think that is really an important point, and on that we have had no information as yet.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. A number of the officials have been removed, and the methods which have heretofore been pursued at St. Vincent de Paul have been changed, and a more careful supervision is now exercised over the penitentiary by the inspector. The result is that there is certainly a great improvement in the discipline. There is no more trading of employees with convicts such as formerly prevailed.

Mr. CLANCY. Is the contract system followed in all these penitentiaries?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Absolutely. The result has been that last year, for instance, we bought goods at the different penitentiaries at prices far below the market rates which have prevailed ever since. Notwithstanding the fact that this system of purchasing supplies by contract appears to have been in existence some time previous to the coming into office of the present government, that system did not obtain at St. Vincent de Paul. It appears to have been practically impossible to have it carried out there. According to the report of the commission, although tenders were called for and the lowest tender was initialled for certain classes of goods by the Minister of Justice, the contract was given to the highest tenderer.

Mr. CLANCY. Has the hon. gentleman been able to reduce the cost of maintenance of the prisoners generally in all the prisons?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector informs me that they have succeeded in reducing the cost to some extent, notwithstanding the increase in the price of articles used in the penitentiary. They have reduced the cost of maintenance, by obtaining more advantageous terms in the purchase of supplies.

Mr. FOSTER. How many grades of prisoners are there now?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is no difference in so far as the grading of the convicts are concerned. They have done away with that system.

Mr. CLANCY. I observe in the Auditor General's Report, giving the per capita cost for Kingston, that it is probably the highest that has ever been. In 1887-8, the cost was 56 cents; in 1897-8, it was 68 cents, and in 1898-9, it was 78 cents.

Mr. CLANCY.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is a local reason which applies to Kingston penitentiary. When estimating the per capita cost, they take into account everything purchased, including the binder twine, and there has been a considerable increase in the cost of the latter. The fairer way would be to take the average cost throughout all the penitentiaries. In 1895-6 it was 61 cents; in 1896-7 it was 70 cents; and in 1898-9, it was 53 cents.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman will remember that Mr. Hughes gave evidence before the Public Accounts Committee. He said that after keeping a very careful account of the binder twine business, and after charging for depreciation of machinery and so on, there was \$5,000 to the credit of the binder twine business last year.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That is not possible.

Mr. CLANCY. My hon. friend was present when Mr. Hughes gave the evidence. It may, or may not have been true.

Mr. TAYLOR. Might I inquire from the hon. the Solicitor General, the names of the two secretaries at St. Vincent de Paul?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. Ellbeck, was the English secretary, and Mr. Errol Bouchette, was the French secretary.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the cost of the Dorchester Commission?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There was but one commissioner, Mr. E. M. Bill. He charged 140 days, and he was allowed \$15 per day, making \$2,100. He made a charge for disbursement, which was allowed, amounting to \$632.18. He charged for secretary and other expenses, \$1,475.05, making a total of \$4,207.23.

Mr. FOSTER. Who was Mr. Bill?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. He was a barrister and a judge of probate in one of the counties of Nova Scotia.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He made a report which will bear favourable comparison with any of the others. He succeeded in showing that he made an examination for the purpose of ascertaining the truth with reference to the charges against the wardens.

Mr. FOSTER. What were the changes?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They are on the first page of his report. The first charge is the usual political charge.

Mr. FOSTER. Unusual—it is a new crime that has been made under Liberalism.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That may be. The second charge was:

The said warden is charged with using his position as warden for his own private gain and

advantage by availing himself of convict labour without accounting therefor, and also of the guards, trade instructors and others under his jurisdiction as warden of the penitentiary.

That charge is proved. Then, there is the charge :

That the said warden has appropriated to his own use and benefit property belonging to the institution without paying therefor; that a farm called 'Willow Farm,' owned by him, has been worked by guards and prisoners without a full and accurate account of such work being rendered to the department; that stock belonging to his farm has been fed free of charge at the government farm, which farm is held in connection with the penitentiary; that all sorts of swaps and exchanges have been made between the warden and the government farmer at the penitentiary, of the warden's cattle, horses, machinery, &c., for those that were the property of the government.

The result of the finding on that, as I read it, is that, so far as appropriating government property to his own benefit is concerned, there is no absolute proof. But, the relations of the penitentiary to 'Willow Farm' were evidently of a character not to be encouraged. The warden was virtually the contractor with reference to the supplies from Willow Farm. As to the charge respecting the feeding of stock, I think that was fairly established, though the warden makes a counter claim for supplies that he says he supplied the penitentiary. He virtually says: While I was feeding your stock at 'Willow Farm,' you were feeding mine at the penitentiary. The balance of evidence goes to show that if his stock got into bad condition he would send them up to the government farm, where they would be looked after, while he would take the well-fed government cattle down to 'Willow Farm.' I think that charge is fairly well made out. There were a lot of charges of the same general character.

Mr. CLANCY. I see that Mr. Bill is credited with 140 days at \$15 a day. This appears at page 1-42 of the Auditor General's Report. He also has board and laundry, and a parlour—which costs \$64—making a total, exclusive of his salary, of \$239.69. Is Dorchester a large place ?

Mr. FOSTER. You could go through the whole of Dorchester penitentiary and trace the history of every man in it, back to his great grandfather, in thirty days.

Mr. CLANCY. Can the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fitzpatrick) say what other cases there were that practically six months were occupied ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There were fifteen charges made against the warden.

Mr. CLANCY. How many of them were made out ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The fourth charge was :

That the warden built barns for himself out of the materials which belonged to the government, and that the convict labour for which no value was returned or payment on account of the same was made by him was supplied at his instance.

And so on. So far as the material is concerned, I do not consider that that was made out. But, it appears quite clear that convict labour was used to build barns, for which no account was rendered.

Mr. CLANCY. What was the amount involved ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot give the figures accurately. But, the amount is indicated by the fact that before the investigation began the warden attempted to explain how this convict labour was given and made up an account of \$340.

Mr. FOSTER. When did Mr. Bill commence his work ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It appears by the Auditor General's Report that he began on December 12, 1897, and ended on June 29, 1898.

Mr. FOSTER. Was he at Dorchester all that time ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It would appear by the Auditor General's Report that he was at Dorchester during 100 days, as he charges for board during that time.

Mr. FOSTER. What check was there on Mr. Bill's time ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The account was sent in to the department of justice certified by Mr. Bill and handed over to the Auditor General. I presume the Auditor General would take such steps as were necessary to ascertain whether the account was correct or not.

Mr. FOSTER. What seems strange is that a man should occupy nearly half a year of working days to investigate a report on charges against the warden. For, as I understand it, there was no investigation into the discipline or management of the penitentiary.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is a reference at page 40 of the report to the general management, and at page 41 there are recommendations with regard to the reduction of the staff. I gather that there must have been some investigation into the general management to justify a reference to that subject.

Mr. FOSTER. How did the political charge turn out ?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There are two pages with reference to that. That seems to be summed up in the fact that he sent one of the rigs of the penitentiary to drive a man from the penitentiary up to a political meeting. In addition, there are

two of the guards who say that on one occasion the warden sent for them, had some conversation as to how they were to vote. But the warden denies that.

Mr. FOSTER. It seems too bad that a man like that should be allowed to walk about this green earth. How many witnesses were examined?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot tell that at the moment, it does not seem to be in the commissioner's report. But, of course, he returned the evidence with his report, and, of course, the number of witnesses and their names could be ascertained.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Solicitor General please ascertain that?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the warden of the penitentiary now?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Mr. J. A. Kirk.

Mr. FOSTER. Where is he from?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He was formerly member for Guysborough.

Mr. FOSTER. He has come to his reward at last, has he? That is a case of final perseverance. It is not many years ago when he and some others were around these corridors, and I do not think that the objurgations of Mr. Kirk were at all gentle with reference to the conduct of the Liberal party as regards their recognition of the merits of an old servant. But better times seem to have come for these wanderers in the desert, and old Liberals at last have been getting a little of their due. And so Mr. Kirk has been translated to Dorchester, not inside the penitentiary but on top of it. What salary does he get?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. \$2,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, he is a good man. I do not know whether he knew anything about prison work. But what was the age of Mr. Kirk when he was appointed?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Supposed to be about 54.

Mr. CLANCY. Does Mr. Kirk not know his own age?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not think he has ever been asked. The inspector informs me that it is not customary, when the individual is known to the department, to ask for his age.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it not an advantage to put into offices like that men who have comparative youth on their side, so that, unaccustomed as they are to that kind of work, you have the advantage of their riper years after they have become more adept in the work. It would seem as if there ought to

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

be some system by which the officers should be graded up into higher departments of that work, which is a very responsible work, and requires skilful men. This, of course, was merely a political appointment.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They have all been, unfortunately. The inspector informs me that the grading up applies to subordinate officers, but when it comes to higher officers they have been political.

Mr. FOSTER. That is so, I am sorry to say, but I think age should be considered.

Mr. CLANCY. Who formulated these charges?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot say. Certain specific charges were made against the warden, and the department assumed the responsibility, on proper evidence, of stating these charges for investigation.

Mr. CLANCY. Have the following charges been made good?

1. The warden, John B. Forster, has been charged with subordinating his position to the furtherance of the interests of the Conservative party in both federal and provincial politics by warning certain guards or other officers that were suspected of being Liberals against voting on that side under pain of being dismissed from the penitentiary service; that certain trade instructors were likewise threatened; that in all transactions of buying and selling in connection with the institution he favoured unduly, and to the prejudice of the public interest, tradesmen of the Conservative party to the exclusion of tradesmen of the Liberal party; and that since the accession to power of the present government he has caused the dismissal from office of those to whom he was politically opposed.

Now, was the charge sustained that he had bought from Conservatives in preference to Liberals?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. CLANCY. Was it investigated?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. It must have been, because the commissioner finds that it was not substantiated.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That would not have been a very high crime.

Mr. CLANCY. The man who made the charge considered it a sufficiently high crime to cost him his position.

Mr. FOSTER. It was not the man who charged it, it was the government that took the responsibility of making that charge so the Solicitor General says.

Mr. CLANCY. I was asking my hon. friend if it is a crime in the Liberal party or in Mr. Kirk to give the preference to Liberal tradesmen?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I understand that the principle now adopted is to

buy by tender, and no matter who happens to be the lowest tenderer, he gets it. That is the rule that is followed out.

Mr. CLANCY. I ask if the Liberal party have laid it down as a policy that it is a crime to purchase from the Liberal party or to give them the preference in buying in open market?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The word 'unduly' there governs. We had to pass an Act to strike that out of another statute.

Mr. CLANCY. I want to ask the hon. gentleman how it came that Mr. Bill charges 160 days in Dorchester for board, while he puts in 140 days for which he receives \$15 a day?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The only explanation that occurs to me is that he would naturally make his charge simply for the working days, and of course he would be entitled to his board on Sundays when he would be in Dorchester.

Mr. CLANCY. Then he charges for trips to Halifax and Amherst. Does the hon. gentleman know whether he was paid for Sundays?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I cannot say that he was. I do not think it possible that the Auditor General, with the knowledge that I have of him, would pay for Sundays. The inspector informs me that the attention of the Auditor General was naturally drawn to the fact that the same account charges for remuneration for 140 days, and board at Dorchester for 160 days. Some satisfactory explanation was given to him, but the explanation I have not got, and cannot give to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. CLANCY. At which of these three places, Halifax, Yarmouth, or Amherst, does he live?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. He lives at Shelburne.

Mr. FOSTER. Oh, oh; now, it is coming out.

Mr. CLANCY. He lives at Shelburne?

Mr. FOSTER. That is as good as a post office.

Mr. CLANCY. What would take him to these places, for which he charges \$80.74?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Looking over the report, I cannot find any reference to anything that could have taken place at any of these three places. But, I would say that the accounts sent in to the Department of Justice are not dealt with by us. They are transmitted to the Auditor General who takes the necessary precautions to see that nothing is paid except what is proper.

Mr. CLANCY. If these accounts were sent in, under the scope of the commission, it

would be hardly within the scope of the Auditor General's duties to find out what had taken him to these places.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Before accounts are paid by the Auditor General, it is certainly his duty to see that they are properly verified.

Mr. CLANCY. I understand that there is a credit granted by the Auditor General.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The Auditor General paid the accounts directly by his own cheque. There is no credit, as far as expenses are concerned, in any of these cases we are considering now.

Mr. CLANCY. There was no investigation held at any of these places?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No.

Mr. TAYLOR. If I understand the Solicitor General correctly a few moments ago, he said that the commissioners appointed to inquire into the affairs of the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, were paid for 252 days. I see that the commissioners were handed their commission on the 12th April. Their first meeting was on April 9, and they sat continuously until August 24. From April 12. to the end of the month would leave eighteen days in April; there were thirty-one days in May; thirty days in June, thirty-one days in July, and twenty-four days in August, making 134 days including Sundays. Then, in September they sat nine days, in October, four days, in November, nine days, and in December, three days, making, in all, 161 days. Yet, the Solicitor General says that they were paid for 252 days. This makes a difference of ninety-one days, for which they have been overpaid. I want the Solicitor General to explain that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have absolutely no evidence in reference to the number of days occupied by the commission, except what I find in their report.

Mr. TAYLOR. Then, I want my hon. friend to count it up, as I have counted it up, and I want him to tell me how it is that while they sat 161 days, they charged for 252 days?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They may have been employed in the interval preparing their report, and making the investigation. This statement in the report refers to the number of days they sat taking evidence.

Mr. FOSTER. That would give them about ninety days for making their report.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Ninety days for making their report and making investigations, and doing one thing and another, outside of the time taken up by the examination of witnesses.

Mr. FOSTER. I think the Solicitor General should bring an explanation of these

charges by the commissioners to investigate Dorchester penitentiary, for travelling to these points.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have made a note of it.

Manitoba Penitentiary..... \$52,500

Mr. FOSTER. Would the hon. gentleman explain the \$9,000 increase there?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The intention is to purchase a quantity of grazing lands, and erect new stables and a stock barn. This money is taken for the purpose of incurring this expenditure.

Mr. FOSTER. What arrangement has been made in reference to this vote of \$9,000? Have any negotiations taken place?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. No arrangements have been made for the purchase of the land, but there is land in the vicinity of the penitentiary which we have reason to believe is available, and can be acquired.

Mr. FOSTER. Does it lie up against the penitentiary?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Immediately adjoining. It is grazing land. In reference to the stables and stock barn, the estimate is \$4,000. The intention is to have a stone foundation with a wooden superstructure.

Mr. FOSTER. Is a stock farm, a part of the industry carried on there now?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. To what extent?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. They now have a herd of fifty, and the intention is to add to it by natural increase until they are able to supply all the meat consumed in the penitentiary. The inspector tells me that the present stable building has practically fallen into decay, and this vote is to replace it.

Mr. FOSTER. What has been the success of the experiment of stock-raising so far?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector says that in the opinion of the warden it has been successful. They grow enough wheat there to supply flour to the penitentiary; but the question of supplying milk and butter has not been considered.

Mr. CLANCY. How many acres in the penitentiary farm?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. 800 acres, two hundred of which are not arable land, and the other 600 is not good grazing land. The intention is to buy 640 acres of good grazing land.

British Columbia Penitentiary \$48,000

Mr. PRIOR. Is there not more accommodation needed in that penitentiary than is at present provided?

Mr. FOSTER.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes. We have been obliged to transfer several convicts from British Columbia to Stony Mountain penitentiary, because of lack of accommodation. The inspector informs me that the intention is to start this year by adding new buildings to the British Columbia penitentiary.

Mr. PRIOR. It will be cheaper and better to do that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes. The extra expense of the cost of transportation would justify that, independent of any other consideration.

Mr. PRIOR. Is it not a fact that the inspector has not been out there for quite a number of years?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The inspector has not been there since 1895, and the explanation is that he is so busily engaged in one direction and another endeavouring to bring order out of chaos, that he has not been able to get there.

Mr. PRIOR. The government ought to see that the inspector should visit the British Columbia penitentiary this year.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I agree that if we are to have an inspector at all he should go there at least once in five years.

Mr. PRIOR. The doctor in British Columbia penitentiary only gets \$600 a year, and the doctors in the other penitentiaries get from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Yes, but the other doctors are obliged to devote their attention exclusively to the penitentiaries.

Mr. PRIOR. The cost per year per capita for each convict in British Columbia is \$436.11, which is more than double that of some other penitentiaries. I am aware that things cost a good deal more in British Columbia, but that seems an enormous amount.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There have been a great many internal improvements which have been all charged up to the British Columbia penitentiary, and as the result the cost of maintenance has been increased. The other institutions are more or less producing something.

Mr. PRIOR. In British Columbia the net per capita cost is \$436, and in Kingston it is \$173.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. Of course, where there are a greater number of convicts they could be maintained at a less cost.

Mr. PRIOR. I see there is an increase of \$1,200 for discharging convicts.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. That would be accounted for by the cost of the transfer of prisoners to Manitoba. Before I leave

I want to understand exactly what is expected of me. Will it be necessary for me to telegraph to the commissioners to ascertain the number of hours per diem they sat at St. Vincent de Paul? I do not think that any information which they could give us now without the minutes would be of much avail. At the same time, I want to do it if necessary.

Mr. FOSTER. I understood the Solicitor General to say that the minutes are not in the possession of the department.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. There is nothing but the evidence and the report, which has been printed.

Mr. FOSTER. Were the minutes ever in the possession of the department?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not believe they were. I have no knowledge of ever having seen them.

Mr. FOSTER. I will not press for that.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. The other matters are the number of witnesses examined at Dorchester and their names, the amount of travelling, &c., and the visits to those three or four places.

Government of the Yukon Territory—
Salaries and expenses in connection
with the administration of the territory \$235,000

Mr. FOSTER. Are there any details given?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There is an increase of \$22,800. That is accounted for altogether by the increase for living allowances, and for the transport and maintenance of lunatics in the Yukon.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the acting minister give us a complete account of how he proposes to expend the \$235,000?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The amount required for salaries and living allowances of officials is \$160,000; that is, only the officials of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. FOSTER. This is not the complete cost of the government of the Yukon territory. It does not touch the judges, nor the militia, nor the public works, nor the mounted police, nor the customs, nor the post office. Will the acting minister group these officials and tell us how many there are in each group, who they are, and what salaries they get?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The total for salaries is \$83,720, and the total for living allowances \$74,360. The commissioner receives \$6,000 salary and \$2,000 living allowance. The gold commissioner receives a salary of \$5,000 and a living allowance of \$1,200. I may say that the living allowances of all the officials, with the exception of the timber rangers, is at the same rate, namely, \$100 per month.

Mr. PRIOR. Does the commissioner get any other salary or allowance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No other that I know of. The assistant gold commissioner gets a salary of \$4,000; the legal adviser, \$5,000; the comptroller, \$2,000.

Mr. FOSTER. Who is the legal adviser?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. W. H. P. Clement.

Mr. FOSTER. What salary had he to start with?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. My recollection is \$2,500.

Mr. FOSTER. What reason is there for making his salary \$5,000?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I understand that he was at first allowed to practice his profession and engage in other business; but last year he was required to devote his whole time to the work of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. Have there been any letters of complaint with reference to Mr. Clement since he was first appointed, addressed either to the department or to the minister presiding over the department or to the Prime Minister?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I understand from the deputy minister that there were some complaints with regard to fees.

Mr. FOSTER. What was the nature of the complaint, and what were the replies?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It was as official administrator that he got fees, and these were fixed by the court. The only complaint was that the fees allowed were too excessive. There was only one complaint, and it was in connection with an estate. The next is the comptroller who gets \$2,000, Mr. Lithgow, financial controller.

Mr. FOSTER. What is his status? It was said that he countersigns with the commissioner all cheques for payments, so far as concerns moneys disbursed belonging to the Dominion. It was also stated that he countersigns cheques for all disbursements of local revenue as well. Does he do the latter by instructions from the government here or by virtue of regulations of the council itself?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is by regulations fixed by the local council.

Mr. FOSTER. He has no status as representing the government, so far as the expenditure of the local revenues of the council is concerned.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not think so. He is accountable for the moneys that go through his hands. He has practically control of the books.

Mr. FOSTER. He is responsible to the Yukon council alone for all that part of the

expenditure which is taken out of the local revenues ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That is correct.

Mr. FOSTER. So far as the other is concerned, he is responsible to the government here. So that the council there may, if they wish, have another person countersign ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. That is the way I understand it. In addition to that there is the accountant, Mr. Montgomery, who gets \$1,200 a year. He is under Mr. Lithgow, and performs all the duties required of him.

Mr. FOSTER. Only with reference to Dominion moneys.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There are three clerks in the commissioner's office—one at \$900, and the others at \$720. They all get the living allowance of \$1,200. There are seventeen clerks in the gold commissioner's office.

Mr. FOSTER. You mentioned three.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. They are in Mr. Ogilvie's office, not the gold commissioner's office. In the gold commissioner's office, seven receive \$900, and ten receive \$720. Mr. Gosselin, Crown timber and land agent, gets \$1,800, and the same allowance, and there is a clerk who gets \$900. There is a clerk to the mining inspector at Dominion Creek who gets \$720. Then there are three stenographers—one at \$1,200, another at \$1,080, and a third at \$900. They are employed in the gold commissioner's office. There is the stenographer to the commissioner, who gets \$1,200. There are two stenographers in the territorial court, getting \$1,200. One in the police court gets \$1,200. Then there is one in the Crown chamber who gets \$1,200. There are two draughtsmen getting \$1,200 each. Then we come to the registrar, who gets \$4,000. Mr. J. E. Girouard is registrar.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that the M.P.P. for Quebec ? The acting minister with his business instincts, repudiates the idea that an M.P.P. would go up there and be an official. He evidently had not then the advantage of a conference with the First Minister. Would it not be well for the First Minister to give us his reasons why he thinks it good policy to get local members and send them to the Yukon, keeping them away from their duties as members, and paying them large fees as officials in the Yukon.

The PRIME MINISTER (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). We appointed Mr. Girouard to go to the Yukon in the fall of 1898. At that time the Yukon was very new and it was felt imperative that the government should have a man of some experience to go there. Mr. Girouard was sent for. We would not appoint him permanently. He is paid by the month simply, and I have been expecting, in fact, I think information has been re-

Mr. FOSTER.

ceived, that he would return. He has remained longer than I expected. As to his qualifications, they are unimpeachable. My hon. friend (Mr. Foster) knows that the case is not without precedent. Local governments have been employing members of this House, such as lawyers, to do work which properly belonged to the local government. For instance, it is not an infrequent thing for a member of this parliament to be employed by the local legislature to be Crown prosecutor. I think it is not without precedent that members of this parliament should be inspectors of schools. And I do not know that any particular inconvenience has resulted to the administration of justice or to the school system. In this case, likewise, I do not know that any particular bad results to this government have followed. If any people have suffered, they are the constituents of Mr. Girouard, who were left unrepresented in the legislature during last session. But if they choose to put up with that inconvenience, I do not know that my hon. friend (Mr. Foster) has any right to find fault.

Mr. FOSTER. What were Mr. Girouard's special qualifications for a registrarship in Dawson ?

The PRIME MINISTER. He is a member of the Quebec bar and a good business man, a man whom I look upon as possessed of very superior practical ability.

Mr. FOSTER. I do not think the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has undertaken any elaborate defence of the principle—for he has now established it as a principle—that it is perfectly proper for the government of the Dominion to take hold of their friends and make them officials in the pay of this government. The case he cites of lawyers whose professional skill is enlisted by a local government, I think is hardly a case in point. A lawyer's profession is a very wide profession, and his clientage is taken wherever he can get it. Because the local government uses the professional services of a legal man, who is a member of this House, on the ground that he is the best man you can get, that is hardly a justification for taking the offices of the Dominion government and bestowing them on members of the local government. See just what may come from it—if it is perfectly proper for the Dominion government to put Mr. Girouard, a member of the provincial parliament, and belonging to the Prime Minister's own party in the province of Quebec, into an office in the Yukon at \$6,000 a year, it is equally proper for the government to take any member from any local legislature belonging to his own side. Everybody knows that these selections are made for party considerations. And once that principle is adopted, what an engineeryou place in the hands of the Dominion government. You put a piece of machinery into

their hands by which they can build up their party and sap the independence of party men and make them subservient to the aims of this government. If you admit the principle, you can carry it to any extent; you can make all the Dominion patronage an organized system by which you can sap the independence of members of the provincial legislatures. All sorts of political combinations can be made, all sorts of political schemes can be carried out. Appointment to office can be given wherever it will do the most good. And wherever you have a local government of the same stripe as the Dominion government aiding and abetting and winking at that sort of thing you do not have a healthy condition of public matters. Do you think that for a single instant it would be allowed, if a Liberal-Conservative government were in power in Quebec, that a member would absent himself under pay of the Dominion government? But it is allowed because the whole force of the party is used to uphold it, simply because Mr. Girouard is a party man. Here is Mr. Girouard, a good party man, a good supporter of Mr. Marchand. While he represents the county, Mr. Marchand cannot have an opponent from that county, and, if he has a sufficient majority without him, Mr. Girouard can serve him just as well by staying away as he could by being in the legislature. Let these instances be multiplied, and you put into the hands of the government here a tremendous power in the chance it gives for the collusion between the local and Dominion governments, a power which, I think, does not make a healthy and honourable political life in this country. What a scandal it is, too, that a man should go to the people of the country and, backed by the force of a party strong enough to elect him, gets the votes of that county on the representation that he is going to do what—carry out the duties of registrarship in the Yukon? Not at all, he would have no chance of being elected if he told the people that that would be done; the implied contract is that the member is to serve the people in the local legislature. He is helped into that position by the force of the party, he is kept there afterwards by the strength of the party; but the implied contract he entered into with his own constituents has been violated. If I am correctly informed, Mr. Girouard has been two sessions in the Yukon instead of attending to the duty of his constituents in Quebec, and all because he is a party man and a tacit agreement has been made between the party here and the party in Quebec that Mr. Girouard should have this plum. His party in the legislature is able to get along without him, and he is simply keeping the seat warm and preventing an opponent getting in. No man would have been more vehement in his denunciation of that kind of thing if it had been carried out by the Liberal-Conservative party and hon. gentlemen opposite were in

opposition, than would the right hon. gentleman who leads the government in this House. And I think he would be right in denouncing it. I do not think he would go before the people of this country and uphold that as a proper principle to be carried out. The patronage question is a difficult one enough, even if you confine local patronage to local members and Dominion patronage to Dominion members. But to carry out the system of which this is an example is to put into the hands of the Dominion government an engine that is liable, to put it mildly, to lead to the gravest kind of abuse. It is a power which I think a party would be better not to exercise, and a power the temptation to exercise which is great. In a way it is not for the good of public life. Take the case of Prince Edward Island, that lamentable exhibition of political—I do not like to trust myself to give it a name, but it is an exhibition of practical politics that is doing immense damage to public life, not only in the province of Prince Edward Island, but everywhere. There is a man who was elected by a party against the whole opposition of the opposite party to support a certain side of politics, elected and sent to the legislature to support that party, and he is found turning suddenly around and supporting the opposite side, and by the force of this one vote keeping in power the party which he was selected by his constituents in a party fight to oppose and turn out. Now, grant that a good deal has been said backwards and forwards that Dominion influence was brought in there. I am not going to say how much was or was not, but I think you cannot help but conclude if you read between the lines of what has been said, that Mr. Pineau had an idea that he was going to get some kind of benefit in some way or other from the fact that the Liberal party was in power in this Dominion. Whatever may have gone crosswise to prevent that from being carried out, it is evident that something like that was quite near. Now, how easy it would be for the party in power here to seduce him from his allegiance if it were necessary, in the first place, and after he had once left his allegiance to keep him there, and so by that manipulation to keep a party in power which, on a straight verdict of the people, should not have been kept in power by that man's vote.

The PRIME MINISTER. I certainly have no fault to find with the criticisms which the hon. gentleman has offered on the appointment of Mr. Girouard. They have been temperate, and, on the whole, I think pretty well founded. I agree with a great deal of what he has said, and for my part I have thought for some time that Mr. Girouard should be made to elect either to serve the federal government in the Yukon or to serve the people of Quebec in the local legislature. I think that is a fair principle, and

ought to be acted upon. I may remark to my hon. friend that if the thing were to become, as he said, a general practice, it would be most objectionable. He says that this may be, perhaps, the introduction of the thin edge of the wedge. I would not say that, because the wedge has been introduced long ago. This is not the first time that things of that kind have occurred. Let me call his attention to a case nearer home. There is a member of this House who, when the former government of Quebec was in office under the premiership of Mr. Flynn, was Crown prosecutor for the city of Montreal. That is an office to which a yearly salary is attached. For some time he occupied the position of a member of this House at the same time that he occupied the position of Crown prosecutor. When a change of government took place, he was replaced as Crown prosecutor by another gentleman, though, no doubt, he would still have retained that office had not the change of government taken place. Doubtless there have been transgressions of this principle on both sides, and I do not say that by way either of excuse or explanation. I fully recognize that my hon. friend's criticisms are, to a large extent, well founded, and I say frankly that if Mr. Girouard does not choose to make the choice himself, he will be asked to elect for one position or the other.

Mr. FOSTER. The deputy registrar in the Yukon gets how much?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. \$720. The next are the mining recorders. There are three mining recorders. One at Tagish gets \$1,500; one at Fort Selkirk, \$900; and one at Stewart River, \$720. There are two inspectors of mines, one at \$1,800, and the other at \$1,500. One is Mr. William Madden, and the other is Mr. R. W. Cautley. The clerk of the court gets \$900; the private secretary to the commissioner gets \$1,200; acting assistant gold commissioner, \$1,200; three timber rangers receive \$1,200 each; one surveyor, who receives \$1,500.

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Cautley seems to be put down as a surveyor as well as a mining inspector.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, Mr. Cautley is a surveyor. James Gibbons is the surveyor. There are five janitors who receive \$720 each. Then, there is a messenger and a night watchman, \$720 each; matron court-house, \$840; housekeeper to commissioner, \$720; and housekeeper to gold commissioner, \$900.

Mr. FOSTER. Do they get \$1,200 living allowance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The messengers and janitors have their living allowance, the housekeepers have no living allowance.

Mr. FOSTER. On what basis were these living allowances placed?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The living allowance was first fixed at \$75 a month. On the representation of the commissioner himself and other officers there, who stated that they could not live at that rate, we have allowed \$100. I have received some representations that at some points they cannot live even at that rate. Some of these officers have to live at hotels. Those who live outside of Dawson cannot get board for less than \$100 a month.

Mr. FOSTER. When you give a man a salary of \$5,000 down here, he pays his living expenses. You give him \$5,000 up there, and you pay all his living expenses as well. It does not seem to me that under the present circumstances the whole of his salary should be given, and then the whole of his living allowance. He is making as much here in point of salary as he would have to pay all of his living expenses, there you pay all his living expenses. The living expenses must be getting lower there year after year.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The hon. gentleman will see that there are only four high salaried officials in the whole lot.

Mr. FOSTER. There are only a few down here that are high salaried.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I dare say we will have more knowledge as to what the living expenses are, but we have a full report from Mr. Ogilvie. In some cases outside of Dawson he says, that the allowance ought to be increased, because they cannot get board at \$100 a month.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the government provide a house for the commissioner?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Besides the \$2,000 living allowance?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Do other officers have their houses as well?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No special houses are provided, but I think some of them live in what they call the barracks, or over their offices.

Mr. FOSTER. I notice that there are accounts for the building of houses, and the like of that.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Has Wade a house?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). Yes, he has a very nice house of his own.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He is not a salaried officer of the department.

Mr. FOSTER. Which of these officers have houses as well?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am almost certain that the commissioner is the only one provided with a house.

Mr. FOSTER. Has he a housekeeper?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that provided by the government?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. I want to know what the commissioner is getting. He has \$6,000 salary, \$2,000 living allowance, making \$8,000, and he has a housekeeper. Has he any servants besides?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No servants.

Mr. FOSTER. What does the housekeeper cost?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. \$720 a year.

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the rent of the house?

Mr. FOSTER. The rent will be a couple of thousand dollars a year, the way rents go there, so that Mr. Ogilvie is getting about \$10,000 a year.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It just depends on how you look at it. He gets a free house and \$6,000 a year salary.

Mr. FOSTER. He gets a free house, a salary of \$6,000 a year, an allowance of \$2,000 a year, and a housekeeper, and the housekeeper gets her living allowance.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not suppose the commissioner could live on \$2,000 a year there.

Mr. FOSTER. That is all according to his scale of expenses. I do not suppose that he has any royal state—if he does not go out too often and stay out too long.

Mr. D. C. FRASER (Guysborough). I might just give a little explanation of that, because I have been on the ground. As to living expenses, I may say that one of the inspectors and I went up Dominion Creek. For a very ordinary room, with just two boards standing up between the rooms, you pay \$3 a day. Sometimes one of these men is sent 100 miles, and he pays \$3 and \$4 for a meal. You can get, in Dawson, a very fair meal for \$1, but nothing less than that, and if you go to the leading hotel, you pay \$2, and you will very likely see on the wall a notice that potatoes are 50 cents extra. Two thousand dollars will not pay the expenses of the commissioner. A large number of English gentlemen come in there, engineers and men who are interested in mines. Now, there is a fairly good hotel which was being put up when I was there, but the commissioner has to pay them some attention, and he has to have them at his house. I do not want to say anything about the house, except that it is a very ordinary

house, although it is the best than can be got. Food is very dear, and to give you an idea of the fearful cost of food, I may say that I went in there with a San Francisco gentleman, who owns some land in the Yukon. He took in some fruit, which he had bought in San Francisco for \$250. We went to Dawson together, and the next morning I saw him, and I said: Mr. Johnston, how did you come out with your fruit? He said: I have disposed of all my fruit. I will pay the freight, the duty, my own expenses coming in, and I will have a little more than \$2,000 to the good on the transaction. That will give you an idea of the cost of things in the Yukon. Eventually, when the railway is finished to Whitehorse, you will get things somewhat cheaper, but nothing is grown there at all, and you will have to pay dearly for taking it in. Averaging everything, living there is between three or four times dearer than it would be in Ottawa. A pound of ordinary fresh meat there costs between 25 cents and 50 cents, and everything is in proportion. I thought it was very extraordinary at first, when I learned of the prices that were paid there. I used to think they could live cheaper there, but if you go in, you will discover that it is the dearest country you ever saw to live in. There is not a man in the Yukon who can live on the allowance granted to him. Any man that is in there with a salary will have to pay more than the living allowance granted by the government for clothing and other things in that country. Judge Dugas, who gets \$4,000 salary and \$2,000 living allowance, I will venture to say, will not begin to be as well off at the end of the year, as a judge in Nova Scotia, or in Ottawa, who gets \$4,000 a year, and has to support himself.

Mr. FOSTER. You will not go up there, then?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). No, I have no need of it. Of course, a man does not take such a position as that for the money there is in it, but for the honour there is in it. When you pay a man the same salary as you pay here, and give him his living allowance, he is not in as good a position as a man on the same salary in any other part of Canada, except British Columbia. There is a rise in expenditure as you go west. The first blow I got, was that a man carried a little luggage about 100 yards for me, and he charged me 75 cents.

Mr. FOSTER. He charged according to your size. Does the government own the house in which Commissioner Ogilvie lives?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No. They pay \$250 a month rent. This is only a temporary arrangement and the intention is to build for ourselves.

Mr. FOSTER. Who owns the house?

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). It is owned by a Catholic clergyman who was there.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Ogilvie gets \$3,000 for rent, \$6,000 for salary, \$2,000 for living allowance, and \$720 for a housekeeper.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If he entertains many friends like the hon. gentleman (Mr. Fraser), who has spoken so highly of him, he will not have much left.

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, but we all have to take in our friends and we get low salaries. Under what conditions was Mr. W. H. Lynch sent on to the Yukon?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was sent to make a report with regard to the working of the mining regulations and the royalty, &c. He was allowed \$200 a month and expenses.

Mr. FOSTER. Has Mr. Lynch's report been brought down?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No. The report was mislaid, but I have ordered a copy and hope to have it in a day or two.

Mr. FOSTER. Is Mr. Lynch now in the employ of the government?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No. He was only employed for a few months, and was not employed after he came back.

Mr. FOSTER. Has the department carried out the recommendations in his report?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Not that I am aware of.

The PRIME MINISTER. I know Mr. Lynch for a long time. When he returned and filed his report, the Minister of the Interior, at my suggestion, sent it to me and I read it. I was under the impression that I returned it to the minister, but when the report was called for I received notice that it was in my hands. I made a search but could not find it, and Mr. Lynch is making another copy of the report which will be laid on the Table of the House.

Mr. FOSTER. Is that only a partial report or does it cover the whole investigation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The full report, I believe, so far as it goes.

Mr. FOSTER. Has Mr. Lynch been settled with, and all his claims been paid?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, so far as I know, and there are no claims pending. He was paid \$1,400 for seven months.

Mr. CLANCY. And \$679 travelling expenses besides. There are some clerks here, who are not mentioned by the hon. gentleman. I see Mr. Gross was paid over \$600, what was that for?

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He was a detective in Montreal who was sent over the Edmonton route.

Mr. CLANCY. For what purpose?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. On special service.

Mr. CLANCY. What was it?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I hope my hon. friend will not press that.

Mr. CLANCY. No, I will assume that he was a friend who had to get something. Who recommended him? Perhaps the Solicitor General can give the information?

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I know who Mr. Gross is very well. He was for many years employed by the Canadian government in connection with the detective service. He is at the head of a detective bureau in Montreal, but I know nothing about his going to the Yukon.

Mr. BERGERON. He went there on his own hook, and not as an employee of the government.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I do not know about that.

Mr. BERGERON. He is not in the detective service any more. He is a theater manager.

Mr. CLANCY. Then he never was in the employ of the government at all.

Mr. BERGERON. He went there as the head of a company.

Mr. CLANCY. And yet he was paid \$638.15. What service was given for that?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am not able to give the information just now, but if the hon. gentleman wishes, I will make a memo.

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman can give that later.

Mr. FOSTER. What amount of this \$235,000 is for expenses outside of salaries? Is this simply for the salaries and expenses of officials?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Practically so. There is about \$10,000 for the transportation and maintenance of lunatics. The department made an arrangement with the province of British Columbia to maintain them at the same rate as in Manitoba, but the expense of sending them down is very heavy. Then, there is \$6,000 for printing and stationery, and a grant of \$10,000 to hospitals.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the government have a hospital of its own?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. No. This covers grants made for destitute and sick people. There has been a great deal of sickness.

Mr. FOSTER. What hospitals are there ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have not the details of the grant. The deputy informs me that this payment was made on account of officials in the hospitals.

The PRIME MINISTER. I may say, without having any official knowledge, but from what I have been told by travellers who have been there, amongst others Mr. Girouard, whom I spoke of a moment ago, that about the time of the rush to the Yukon, a Jesuit father, whose name I forget, established a hospital. He had no resources of his own, but a local committee, consisting of officials and miners, helped him, and have contributed, from time to time, to carry on the hospital.

Mr. BERGERON. Do we subscribe that \$10,000 for our officers ?

The PRIME MINISTER. Not only our officers. There has been a good deal of typhoid fever and other sickness, and everybody who is sick is taken to the hospital.

Mr. FOSTER. Suppose we pass this item with the understanding that any general remarks to be made with reference to the Yukon can be made on some of the other items for the Yukon. We have let the acting minister off very mildly and softly, because we simply understood that he did not know anything about the matter. I am not saying that in a deprecatory sense. He could not know, because he has not been connected with the management of the Yukon since the beginning. There is where we feel the absence of the minister himself. But, there are some things with reference to the general management of the Yukon which it is too late to discuss to-night.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I quite appreciate that position, as I naturally could not be familiar with all the details. I would like to state for the information of the committee, from a statement which I have had prepared, that the local revenue of the Yukon, from July 1, 1897, to December 31,

1899, was \$3,869,930.70, and the total expenditure, \$2,215,765.01, an excess of revenue over expenditure of \$645,165.69.

Committee rose and reported progress.

ADJOURNMENT—RETURNS, ETC.

The PRIME MINISTER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I would like to say, with regard to a return which the hon. member for York (Mr. Foster) asked for yesterday, that I made inquiries to-day personally, and I found that it had left the department on March 26 and the Secretary of State's office on March 28. I am unable to find what became of it. It has not been laid on the Table as it should have been. I ordered a copy to be made, which I would like to lay on the Table of the House now. That is with regard to living allowances in the Yukon.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not official.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The other seems to have got lost, and cannot be found. The clerk told me that this is properly endorsed. There is also the report of Mr. Ogilvie. As the report asked for from Mr. Ogilvie for publication in the annual report of the department, and with regard to which the department has been in communication with him, has not been received, in the absence of an answer, I gave instructions that a copy of a report sent by Mr. Ogilvie last autumn, which was not considered by the department in proper form for the annual report, not being sufficiently concise or up to as late a date as was wished, be prepared, as I am desirous of giving to the House the fullest information in the possession of the department on the business transactions of the territory, and would ask to lay the report on the Table of the House.

Motion agreed to, and House adjourned at 12.50 a.m. (Friday).

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FIFTH SESSION—EIGHTH PARLIAMENT, 1900.

Abbreviations of well known words and Parliamentary expressions are used in the following:—1°, 2°, 3°, First Reading, Second Reading, Third Reading; 3 m. h., 6 m. h., 6 w. h., Three Months' Hoist, Six Months' Hoist, Six Weeks' Hoist; *, without remarks or debate; Accts., Accounts; Adjn., Adjourn; Adj., Adjourned; Amt., Amendment; Amts., Amendments; Amalg., Amalgamation; Ans., Answer; Ass., Assurance; B., Bill; B. C., British Columbia; Can., Canada or Canadian; C.P.R., Canadian Pacific Railway; Com., Committee; Co., Company; Conc., Concur, Concurred, Concurrence; Consd., Consider; Consdn., Consideration; Cor., Correspondence; Deb., Debate; Dept., Department; Depts., Departments; Div., Division; Dom., Dominion; Govt., Government; His Ex., His Excellency the Governor General; Hse., House; H. of C., House of Commons; Incorp., Incorporation; Ins., Insurance; I.C.R., Intercolonial Railway; Man., Manitoba; Mess., Message; M., Motion; m., moved; Neg., Negatived; N.B., New Brunswick; N.W.T., North-west Territories; N.S., Nova Scotia; O.C., Order in Council; Ont., Ontario; P.E.I., Prince Edward Island; P.O., Post Office; Par., Paragraph; Prop., Proposed; Q., Quebec; Ques., Question; Recom., Recommit; Ref., Refer, Referred, Reference; Rep., Report, Reported; Reps., Reports; Res., Resolution; Ret., Return; Ry., Railway; Rys., Railways; Sel., Select; Sen., Senate; Sp., Special; Stmt., Statement; Sup., Supply; Suppl., Supplement, Supplementary; Wthdn., Withdrawn; Wthdrl., Withdrawal; Y.N., Yeas and Nays; Names in *Italic* and parentheses are those of the mover.

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McLellan, Mr. B. D., West Prince (P. E. I.)

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Ry. Act Amt. B. 132 (Mr. *Blair*) on M. for 2^d, 4687 (ii); in Com., 9357 (iii).

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- Beet Root Sugar, Cor. *re* Bounties, on M. (Mr.
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- Ry. Act Amt. B. 132 (Mr. *Blair*) on M. for 2^d,
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 — Can. Contingents, Vacancies, &c. (remarks)
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Madore, Mr. J. A. C., Hochelaga.

- Judges of the Provincial Courts Act Amt. B. 189
 (Mr. *Fitzpatrick*) on Sen. Amts., 10043 (iii).

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- South African War—Can. Contingents, Pay to
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Marcotte, Mr. F. A., Champlain.

- Aberdeen SS.*, Special Trip to Les Eboulements,
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Marcotte, Mr. F. A.—Con.

- I. C. R., Ouellette, Mr., Report *re* Work performed (Ques.) 4070, 5245 (ii).
 — Pichette, Mr., Privileges at Lévis Station (Ques.) 4069 (ii).
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Martin, Mr. A., East Queen's (P.E.I.)

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- Fruit Inspection and Marking, Exportation B. 127 (Mr. *Fisher*) in Com., 5111, 5882 (ii).
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- Admiralty Act Amt. B. 138 (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*) in Com., 5106 (ii).
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- Pilotage Act Amt. B. 11 (Sir *Louis Davies*) in Com., 5062, 5071, 5087 (ii).
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- BILL (No. 20) Respecting the British Yukon Mining, Trading and Transportation Company, and to change its name to "The British Yukon Railway Company."—(Mr. *Fraser*, Guysborough.)
1°*, 470; 2°*, 589 (i); in Com., and 3°*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 53.)
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1°*, 471; 2°*, 589; in Com., and 3°*, 1511 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 60.)
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1°*, 471; 2°*, 589; in Com., and 3°*, 1511 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 108.)
- BILL (No. 23) To incorporate the Alaska-Yukon Railway Company.—(Mr. *Logan*)
1°*, 471; 2°* 589 (i).
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1°*, 471; 2°*, 589; in Com., and 3°*, 2670 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 111.)
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1°*, 471; 2°*, 589; in Com., 1511, 2406, 2617; 3°*, 2783 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 51.)
- BILL (No. 26) Respecting the Kaslo and Lardo-Duncan Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bostock*)
1°*, 471; 2°*, 589; in Com., and 3°*, 1725 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 61.)
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1°*, 471 (i).
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1°, 471 (i).
- BILL (No. 28) Further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Mr. *Britton*)
1°, 471 (i).

- BILL (No. 29) To amend the Dominion Elections Act.—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1° 472 (i); 2° m., 4793; amt. (Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*)
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1°*, 471 (i).
- BILL (No. 31) To amend the Land Titles Act, 1894.—
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1°, 475 (i); 2° m., 4799; in Com., and 3°, 4799
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- BILL (No. 33) Respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Prior*.)
1°*, 577; 2°*, 777; in Com., and 3°*, 1725 (i). (63-64
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1°*, 577; 2°*, 777; in Com., 2626; 3° m., 2654,
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- BILL (No. 35) To incorporate the Comox and Cape Scott Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)
1°*, 577; 2°* 1005; in Com., 3209 (i), 3418; 3° m.,
3441 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 57.)
- BILL (No. 36) Respecting the Arrowhead and Kootenay Railway Company.—(Mr. *Morrison*.)
1°*, 577; 2°*, 777; withdn., 1975 (i).
- BILL (No. 37) Respecting the Dominion Oil Pipe Line and Manufacturing Company.—(Mr. *Fraser*,
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1°*, 577; 2°*, 1005 (i).
- BILL (No. 38) To regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. *Davin*.)
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- BILL (No. 39) To amend the Act respecting the Senate and House of Commons.—(Mr. *Domville*.)
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1°*, 649; 2°*, 1005; in Com., 1685; 3°*, 1725 (i).
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- BILL (No. 42) To incorporate the Alaska and North-western Railway Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)
1°*, 649; 2°*, 1005 (i).
- BILL (No. 43) Respecting the Grand Valley Railway Company, and to change its name to the Port Dover, Brantford, Berlin and Goderich Railway Company.—(Mr. *Charlton*.)
1°*, 649; 2°*, 1246; in Com., and 3°*, 2670 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 73.)
- BILL (No. 44) Respecting the Canada Southern Bridge Company.—(Mr. *Ingram*.)
1°*, 649; 2°*, 1005; in Com., and 3°*, 1685 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 91.)
- BILL (No. 45) Respecting the Pontiac Pacific Junction Railway Company.—(Mr. *Poupore*.)
1°*, 649; 2°*, 1005; in Com., and 3°*, 2670 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 72.)
- BILL (No. 46) Respecting the Canada and Michigan Bridge and Tunnel Company.—(Mr. *Cowan*.)
1°*, 649; 2°*, 1005; in Com., and 3°*, 1685 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 90.)
- BILL (No. 47) Respecting Labour in Mines.—(Mr. *McInnes*.)
1°, 737 (i).
- BILL (No. 48) Respecting the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company.—(Mr. *Monk*.)
1°*, 777; 2°*, 1005; in Com., and 3°*, 1725 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 66.)
- BILL (No. 49) To amend "The Dominion Elections Act."—(Mr. *Puttice*.)
1° m., 864 (i).
- BILL (No. 50) Further to amend the Canada Temperance Act.—(Mr. *Flint*.)
1° m., 937 (i).
- BILL (No. 51) To incorporate the Holiness Movement (or Church) in Canada.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)
1°*, 1109; 2°*, 1686; in Com., 2667; 3° m., 2670;
3°*, 2783 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 101.)
- BILL (No. 52) To incorporate the Morris and Portage Railway Company.—(Mr. *Macdonnell*.)
1°*, 1109; 2°*, 1686; in Com., and 3°*, 2783 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 67.)
- BILL (No. 53) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Orford Copper Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)
1°*, 1109; 2° m., 1725, 1728 (i).
- BILL (No. 54) Respecting the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company, and to change its name to "The Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada."—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1°*, 1109; 2°*, 1686 (i); in Com., and 3°*, 4478 (ii).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 112.)
- BILL (No. 55) To incorporate the Canadian Bankers Association.—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1°*, 1109; 2°*, 1728 (i); in Com., and 3°*, 5751 (ii).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 93.)
- BILL (No. 56) To determine the length of the working day for workmen and labourers.—(Mr. *Beattie*.)
1° m., 1109 (i).
- BILL (No. 57) To amend the Dominion Elections Act.—(Mr. *Erb*.)
1° m., 1109 (i).
- BILL (No. 58) To supervise and control the warehousing, inspection and weighing of grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories.—(Mr. *Douglas*.)
1°*, 1207 (i).
- BILL (No. 59) To provide for the Expenses of the Canadian Volunteers serving Her Majesty in South Africa.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
Prop. Res., 261; M. for Com. on Res., 350, 657, 868,
1058, 1124; in Com. on Res., 1155; 1°*, 1212;
2°, and in Com., 1643, 1686, 2000; 3°*, 2009 (i).
(63-64 *Vic.*, c. 6.)

- BILL (No. 60) To amend the Militia Act.—(Mr. *Domville.*)
1° m., 1286 (i).
- BILL (No. 61) To amend the Militia Act.—(Mr. *Prior.*)
1° m., 1286 (i).
- BILL (No. 62) To amend "The Criminal Code, 1892." (Mr. *MacLaren.*)
1° m., 1287 (i); 2° m., 4800 (ii).
- BILL (No. 63) To amend the Criminal Code, 1892, as to marks on merchandise.—(Mr. *Russell.*)
1° m., 1287 (i).
- BILL (No. 64) To amend the Weights and Measures Act as respects the sale of fish.—(Mr. *Ganong.*)
1° m., 1287 (i).
- BILL (No. 65) To incorporate the Quebec and New Brunswick Railway Company.—(Mr. *Costigan.*)
1°*, 1381; 2°*, 1686; in Com., and 3°*, 2783 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 75.)
- BILL (No. 66) Respecting the Cowichan Valley Railway Company.—(Mr. *McInnes.*)
1°*, 1381; 2°*, 1728; in Com., and 3°*, 2783 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 58.)
- BILL (No. 67) Respecting La Banque Jacques Cartier, and to change its name to Banque Provinciale du Canada.—(Mr. *Penny.*)
1°*, 1381; 2° m., 1685; in Com., and 3°*, 2948 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 102.)
- BILL (No. 68)—Respecting the Nickel Steel Company of Canada.—(Mr. *MacPherson.*)
1°*, 1381; 2°*, 1686 (i); in Com., and 3°*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 109.)
- BILL (No. 69) To incorporate the Kettle River Valley Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bostock.*)
1°*, 1381; 2°*, 1686 (i); withdn., 3255 (i).
- BILL (No. 70) To incorporate the Gaspé Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. *Lemieux.*)
1°*, 1459; 2°*, 1686; M. for Com., 2998; in Com., 3003; 3210 (i), 3372; 3° m., 3413, 3611 (ii).
- BILL (No. 71) Respecting the Dominion Cotton Mills Company.—(Mr. *Quinn.*)
1°*, 1553; 2°*, 2109; in Com., and 3°*, 4479 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 98.)
- BILL (No. 72) Respecting the Merchants Bank of Halifax, and to change its name to "The Royal Bank of Canada."—(Mr. *Russell.*)
1°*, 1553; 2°*, 1933; in Com., and 3°*, 2948 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 103.)
- BILL (No. 73) Respecting the Restigouche and Western Railway Company.—(Mr. *McAlister.*)
1°*, 1641; 2°*, 1933 (i); in Com., 3372; 3° m., 3415 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 78.)
- BILL (No. 74) Respecting the Northern Commercial Telegraph Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Domville.*)
1°*, 1641; 2°*, 1933; in Com. and 3°*, 2783 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 110.)
- BILL (No. 75) To incorporate the Quebec Southern Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bernier.*)
1°*, 1641; 2°*, 2109 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4479 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 76.)
- BILL (No. 76) To incorporate the Canadian Loan and Investment Company.—(Mr. *Clarke.*)
1°*, 1641; 2°*, 1933; in Com. and 3°*, 2948 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 95.)
- BILL (No. 77) To incorporate the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.—(Mr. *Quinn.*)
1°*, 1641; 2°*, 1933; in Com. and 3°*, 2670 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 96.)
- BILL (No. 78) To amend the Gas Inspection Act.—(Sir *Henry Joly de Lotbinière.*)
1°*, 1641 (i); 2° m., 4669; in Com., 4669; 3°*, 4671 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 41.)
- BILL (No. 79) To amend the General Inspection Act, so as to provide a grade for Flax Seed.—(Sir *Henry Joly de Lotbinière.*)
1°*, 1641 (i); 2° m., 4671; in Com., 4672; 3°*, 4672 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 38.)
- BILL (No. 80) Respecting the members of the Northwest Mounted Police Force on active service in South Africa.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier.*)
1° m., 1642 (i); 2° m., 3610; in Com. and 3°*, 3611 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 19.)
- BILL (No. 81) To incorporate the Accident and Guarantee Company of Canada.—(Mr. *Penny.*)
1°*, 1713; 2°*, 2156 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 5751 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 87.)
- BILL (No. 82) To incorporate the Crown Life Insurance Company.—(Mr. *McCarthy.*)
1°*, 1713; 2°*, 2157; in Com. and 3°*, 2948 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 97.)
- BILL (No. 83) Respecting the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company.—(Mr. *Haley.*)
1°*, 1713; 2°*, 2783 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 5162 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 59.)
- BILL (No. 84) Respecting the Bay of Quinté Railway Company.—(Mr. *Hurley.*)
1°*, 1713; 2°*, 1933 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 3373 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 50.)
- BILL (No. 85) To provide for the establishment of a Government system of Telegraphs.—(Mr. *Cusey.*)
1° m., 1713 (i).
- BILL (No. 86) Respecting the Thousand Island Railway Company.—(Mr. *Taylor.*)
1°*, 1786; 2°*, 2109 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4022 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 83.)
- BILL (No. 87) Respecting the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway Company of Canada.—(Mr. *Roche.*)
1°*, 1786; 2°*, 2109 (i).
- BILL (No. 88) To incorporate the Ste. Mary's River Railway and Colonization Company.—(Mr. *Oliver.*)
1°*, 1786; 2°*, 2109 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 3373 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 79.)
- BILL (No. 89, from the Senate) to amend an Act to provide for the Conditional Liberation of Penitentiary Convicts.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier.*)
1°*, 1877 (i); 2° m., 3607; in Com., 3610; 3° m. 4666 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 48.)

- BILL (No. 90, from the Senate) Respecting the Supreme Court of the North-west Territories.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*.)
1°*, 1877 (i); 2° m., 3607; in Com., 3607; 3°*, 3607 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 44.)
- BILL (No. 91) Respecting the Oshawa Railway Company.—(Mr. *Burnett*.)
1°*, 1877; 2°*, 2109 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 3373 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 70.)
- BILL (No. 92) To incorporate the Royal Marine Insurance Company.—(Mr. *Penny*.)
1°*, 1877; 2°*, 2109 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4478 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 118.)
- BILL (No. 93) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Servis Railroad Tie Plate Company of Canada, Limited.—(Mr. *Fraser*, Guysborough.)
1°*, 1975; 2° m., 2670 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 8709 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 121.)
- BILL (No. 94) Respecting the Schomberg and Aurora Railway Company.—(Mr. *Landerkin*.)
1°*, 1975; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 7652 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 81.)
- BILL (No. 95) Respecting the Kingston and Pembroke Railway Company.—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1°*, 2072; 2°*, 2157; withdn., 3255 (i).
- BILL (No. 96) Respecting the Quebec Bridge Company.—(Mr. *Talbot*.)
1°*, 2072; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 3373 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 116.)
- BILL (No. 97) To incorporate the Portage du Fort and French River Railway Company.—(Mr. *Mackie*.)
1°*, 2072; 2°*, 2673 (i); ref. to Sel. Com., 4142, withdn., 4332 (ii).
- BILL (No. 98) Respecting the Yarmouth Steamship Company, Limited. (Mr. *Fliné*.)
1°*, 2147; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4479 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 124.)
- BILL (No. 99) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Miami Cycle and Manufacturing Company.—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1°*, 2147; 2°*, 2673 (i).
- BILL (No. 100) Respecting the Buffalo Railway Company.—(Mr. *Gibson*.)
1°*, 2147; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 5751 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 54.)
- BILL (No. 101) Respecting the Nipissing and James Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. *Klock*.)
1°*, 2345; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 5162 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 68.)
- BILL (No. 102) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of James Milne.—(Mr. *Clarke*.)
1°*, 2345; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4950 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 105.)
- BILL (No. 103) To incorporate the Port Arthur Railway and Terminals Company.—(Mr. *Dyment*.)
1°*, 2345; 2°*, 2673 (i); withdn., 4554 (ii).
- BILL (No. 104) Respecting the Montfort and Gati-neau Colonization Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bourassa*.)
1°*, 2345; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 3373 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 65.)
- BILL (No. 105) To amend the Franchise Act, 1898.—(Mr. *Carroll*.)
1° m., 2347 (i).
- BILL (No. 106) To amend the Patent Act.—(Mr. *Gibson*.) 1°*, 2457 (i).
- BILL (No. 107) To make further provision respecting grants of land to Members of the Militia Force on active service in the North-west.—(Mr. *Sutherland*.)
1°*, 2457 (i); 2° m., 4667; in Com., 4669; 3° m., 4811 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 17.)
- BILL (No. 108) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of J. W. Anderson.—(Mr. *Cargill*.)
1°*, 2560; 2°*, 2783 (i); M. for Com., 5162; ref. to Sel. Com., 5168; in Com., 6920; 3°*, 6821 (ii); Sen. Amts., 9689 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 88.)
- BILL (No. 109) To incorporate the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dyment*.)
1°*, 2560; 2°*, 2673 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 5162 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 64.)
- BILL (No. 110) To amend the Weights and Measures Act.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière*.)
1°*, 2560 (i); 2° m., 4672; in Com., 4675, 4812, 5969, 6918 (ii); 7125, 7422; 3°*, 7423 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 37.)
- BILL (No. 111) Respecting the St. Clair and Erie Ship Canal Company.—(Mr. *Fisdale*.)
1°*, 2827; 2°*, 3033 (i); in Com. and 3°*, 4069 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 119.)
- BILL (No. 112) To incorporate the Quebec and Lake Huron Railway Company.—(Mr. *Belcourt*.)
1°*, 2827; 2°*, 3033 (i); in Com., 5169, 3°*, 5230 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 74.)
- BILL (No. 113) To confer on the Commissioner of Patents certain powers for the relief of the Frost and Wood Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Cowan*.)
1°*, 2827 (i); 2°*, 3373; in Com. and 3°*, 4950 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 100.)
- BILL (No. 114) Respecting the Toronto Hotel Company.—(Mr. *Oster*.)
1°*, 2827 (i); 2°*, 3373; in Com., 4951; 3°*, 5162 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 122.)
- BILL (No. 115) To incorporate the Canada National Railway and Transport Company.—(Mr. *Campbell*.)
1°*, 2827 (i); 2°*, 3373; in Com., 6489; 3° m., 6571; agreed to (Y., 59; N., 37) 6607 (ii).
- BILL (No. 116) To incorporate the Acadia Mortgage Company.—(Mr. *Russell*.)
1°*, 2827 (i); 2°*, 4479; in Com. and 3°*, 6820 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 86.)
- BILL (No. 117) Respecting the National Sanitarium Association.—(Mr. *Maclean*.)
1°*, 2827 (i); 2°*, 3373; in Com. and 3°*, 4069 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 107.)

- BILL (No. 118) Respecting the Timagami Railway Company.—(Mr. *McHugh*.)
1^o*, 2827; 2^o*, 3033 (i); in Com. and 3^o*, 7552; Sen. Amts., 8837 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 84.)
- BILL (No. 119) To incorporate the Canadian Nurses Association.—(Mr. *Roddick*.)
1^o*, 2827; 2^o*, 3033 (i); withdn., 4554 (ii).
- BILL (No. 120) To incorporate the Ottawa, Brockville and New York Railway Company.—(Mr. *Frost*.)
1^o*, 2827 (i); 2^o*, 3373 (ii); in Com. and 3^o*, 7031 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 71.)
- BILL (No. 121) Respecting the Ontario Power Company of Niagara Falls.—(Mr. *Flint*.)
1^o*, 2827; 2^o*, 3033 (i); in Com., and 3^o*, 4069 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 113.)
- BILL (No. 122) Respecting the Lake Erie and Detroit River Railway Company.—(Mr. *McGregor*.)
1^o*, 2827; 2^o*, 3033 (i); in Com., and 3^o*, 4069 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 62.)
- BILL (No. 123) To incorporate the Yale Mining District Railway Company.—(Mr. *Bostock*.)
1^o*, 2827 (i); 2^o*, 3373 (ii).
- BILL (No. 124) To incorporate the Lake Superior and Hudson Bay Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dyment*.)
1^o*, 2827 (i); 2^o*, 3373 (ii); in Com., and 3^o*, 7552 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 63.)
- BILL (No. 125) Respecting the Algoma Central Railway Company.—(Mr. *Dyment*.)
1^o*, 2827 (i); 2^o*, 3373; in Com., and 3^o*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 49.)
- BILL (No. 126) To amend the San José Scale Act.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o*, 2827; 2^o m., 3164; in Com., 3166; 3^o*, 3168 (i). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 31.)
- BILL (No. 127) to provide for the marking and inspection of packages containing Apples and Pears for export.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o*, 2827 (i); 2^o*, 5107; in Com., 5107, 5124, 5827.
- BILL (No. 128) To amend the Weights and Measures Act as respects the contents of packages of Salt.—(Mr. *Holmes*.)
1^o*, 2907 (i.)
- BILL (No. 129, from the Senate) To incorporate the Canadian Steel Company.—(Mr. *Calvert*.)
1^o*, 2994 (i); 2^o*, 3373; in Com., and 3^o*, 4069 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 94.)
- BILL (No. 130, from the Senate) Respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company.—(Mr. *Edwards*.)
1^o*, 3140 (i); 2^o*, 3373; in Com., and 3^o*, 4479 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 106.)
- BILL (No. 131, from the Senate) For the Relief of Edwin James Cox.—(Mr. *Montague*.)
1^o*, 3330; 2^o*, 4069; in Com., and 3^o*, 4950 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 125.)
- BILL (No. 132) To amend the Railway Act.—(Mr. *Blair*.)
1^o m., 3256; 2^o m., 4684, 4695 (ii); in Com., 9342; 3^o m., 9365; Sen. Amt., 10421 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 23.)
- BILL (No. 133) To consolidate and amend the law relating to the Election of Members of the House of Commons.—(Mr. *Fitzpatrick*.)
1^o m., 3258 (i); 2^o m., 6702; in Com., 6725 (ii); 7322, 8090, 8796, 8840, 9064; 3^o m., 9472; Sen. Amts., 10454, 10508 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 12.)
- BILL (No. 134) Respecting the incorporation of Live Stock Associations.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o*, 3478; 2^o*, 5099; in Com., 5099; 3^o*, 5124 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 33.)
- BILL (No. 135) To amend the Experimental Farm Station Act.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o*, 3478; 2^o*, 5099; in Com., 5099; 3^o*, 5124 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 30.)
- BILL (No. 136, from the Senate) Respecting the Ontario and Rainy River Railway Company.—(Mr. *Gibson*.)
1^o*, 3673; 2^o*, 3804; in Com., and 3^o*, 4479 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 69.)
- BILL (No. 137, from the Senate) Further to amend the Criminal Code, 1892.—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*.)
1^o*, 3575; 2^o*, 4700; in Com., 4700, 5176, 5251, 5701, 5922, 6063; 3^o m., 6309; recom., 6321; 3^o, 6323 (ii); Sen. Amts., 8949, 10453 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 46.)
- BILL (No. 138, from the Senate) To amend "The Admiralty Act, 1891."—(Sir *Wilfrid Laurier*.)
1^o*, 3575; 2^o*, 5103; in Com., 5103; 3^o*, 5144 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 45.)
- BILL (No. 139) To amend the Land Titles Act, 1894.—(Mr. *Sutherland*.)
1^o*, 3758; 2^o, and in Com., 5177; 3^o*, 5181 (ii); Sen. Amts., 8089 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 21.)
- BILL (No. 140) Respecting the Parishes of St. Eugène de Grantham, in the County of Drummond and St. Nazaire d'Acton, in the County of Bagot.—(Mr. *Lavergne*.)
1^o m., 4144 (ii.)
- BILL (No. 141) Respecting the grain trade in the Inspection District of Manitoba.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière*.)
1^o*, 4333; 2^o m., 5757; in Com., 5763, 5809; M. to ref. back to Com., 6258; in Com., 6284; 3^o M., 6298 (ii); Sen. Amts., 8936 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 39.)
- BILL (No. 142) Respecting the Inspection of Foreign Grain.—(Sir *Henri Joly de Lotbinière*.)
1^o*, 4333; 2^o m., 4681; in Com., and 3^o, 4684 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 40.)
- BILL (No. 143) To amend the Act respecting Securities for Seed Grain indebtedness.—(Mr. *Sutherland*.)
1^o m., 4333; 2^o m., 5034; in Com., 5037; 3^o m., 5142; agreed to (Y. 50; N. 26) 5143 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 16.)
- BILL (No. 144, from the Senate) For the Relief of Catherine Cecilia Lyons.—(Mr. *Mills*.)
1^o*, 4554; 2^o, 4695; in Com., and 3^o*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 128.)

- BILL (No. 145) To incorporate the Toronto and Georgian Bay Short Line Railway Company.—(Mr. *Britton*.)
1^o*, 4436; 2^o*, 4695 (ii).
- BILL (No. 146) To enable the City of Winnipeg to utilize the Assiniboine River water power.—(Mr. *Puttee*.)
1^o*, 4436; 2^o*, 4695; in Com., and 3^o*, 6276 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 123.)
- BILL (No. 147) For granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending June 30, 1900.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
Prop. Res., 4338, 4458; 1^o*, 2^o*, 4458; in Com., 4458; 3^o m., 4466 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 1.)
- BILL (No. 148, from the Senate) Respecting the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company.—(Mr. *McAlister*.)
1^o*, 4662; 2^o*, 4734 (ii).
- BILL (No. 149) Respecting Inscribed Stock of Canada in the United Kingdom.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o*, 4662; 2^o m., 5960; 3^o*, 5969 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 11.)
- BILL (No. 150) Respecting the Salisbury and Harvey Railway Company.—(Mr. *Lewis*.)
1^o*, 4722; 2^o* 5230; in Com., and 3^o*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 80.)
- BILL (No. 151) To amend the Act relating to Ocean Steamship Subsidies.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
Prop. Res., 4333, 4811; 1^o*, 4812; 2^o m., 5251; in Com., and 3^o*, 5251 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 9.)
- BILL (No. 152) To authorize contracts with certain Steamship Companies for Cold Storage accommodation.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
Prop. Res., 4662, 4822; 1^o m., 4898; 2^o*, in Com., and 3^o*, 5827 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 10.)
- BILL (No. 153, from the Senate) Respecting the Western Alberta Railway Company.—(Mr. *Richardson*.)
1^o*, 5513; 2^o*, 5751; in Com., and 3^o*, 6276 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 85.)
- BILL (No. 154, from the Senate) To amend the Loan Companies Act, Canada, 1899.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o*, 5020; 2^o, and in Com., 5181; 3^o*, 5182 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 43.)
- BILL (No. 155) To amend the Militia Act.—(Mr. *Borden*, King's.)
1^o m., 5224; 2^o, and in Com., 6453 (ii), 9838; 3^o*, 9844 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 18.)
- BILL (No. 156) To amend the Civil Service Act.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o m., 5226 (ii); 2^o m., 6996; in Com., 7007, 7031, 7656, 8160; 3^o*, 8161 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 14.)
- BILL (No. 157, from the Senate) To incorporate the St. Lawrence and Terminal Steamship Company.—(Mr. *McIsaac*.)
1^o*, 5513; 2^o*, 5922; in Com., and 3^o*, 6488 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 120.)
- BILL (No. 158, from the Senate) For the relief of Gertrude Bessie Patterson.—(Mr. *Richardson*.)
1^o*, 5513; 2^o*, 5922; in Com., and 3^o*, 6820 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 129.)
- BILL (No. 159, from the Senate) For the relief of Gustavus Adolphus Kobold.—(Mr. *Bennett*.)
1^o*, 5293; 2^o*, 5446; in Com., and 3^o*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 127.)
- BILL (No. 160) To amend the Expropriation Act.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o*, 5513; 2^o*, 5757; in Com., 5757; 3^o*, 5757 (ii). Sen. Amts., 8083 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 22.)
- BILL (No. 161) To amend the Acts respecting Interest.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o m., 5514; 2^o*, 5756; in Com., 5757; 3^o*, 5757 (ii); Sen. Amts., 7423 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 29.)
- BILL (No. 162, from the Senate) Respecting Money Lenders.
This Bill was not introduced in the House of Commons.
- BILL (No. 163) To amend the Bank Act.—(Mr. *Fielding*.)
1^o m., 5728; 2^o m., 5960; in Com., 6502; 3^o m., 6626 (ii); Sen. Amts., 7656 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 26.)
- BILL (No. 164, from the Senate) Respecting the Great Eastern Railway Company.—(Mr. *McAlister*.)
1^o*, 5884; 2^o*, 5999 (ii).
- BILL (No. 165, from the Senate) Respecting the Montreal Bridge Company.—(Mr. *McAlister*.)
1^o*, 5884; 2^o*, 5999 (ii).
- BILL (No. 166, from the Senate) To incorporate the British North America Pulp and Paper Company.—(Mr. *McCarthy*.)
1^o*, 5883; 2^o*, 6502 (ii); in Com., and 3^o*, 8471 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 89.)
- BILL (No. 167) To amend the Copyright Act.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o m., 5887; 2^o m., 6506 (ii); in Com., 9148; 3^o*, 9149 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 25.)
- BILL (No. 168) To amend the Patent Act.—(Mr. *Fisher*.)
1^o m., 5887; 2^o m., 6933 (ii).
- BILL (No. 169) To incorporate the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association.—(Mr. *Borden*, King's.)
1^o*, 5960 (ii); 2^o m., 7135; in Com., and 3^o*, 7136 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 99.)
- BILL (No. 170) To amend the Act respecting the Merchants Bank of Halifax, and to change its name to the Royal Bank of Canada.—(Mr. *Russell*.)
M. to introduce B., 6247; 1^o*, 2^o*, 6247; in Com., and 3^o*, 6488 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 104.)
- BILL (No. 171) Respecting the Central Vermont Railway Company.—(Mr. *Gibson*.)
M. to present Pet., 6244; 1^o*, 6349; 2^o*, 6502 (ii); in Com., 9396, 9686; 3^o*, 9688 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 56.)
- BILL (No. 172) Respecting the Canada Mining and Metallurgical Company (Limited).—(Mr. *Penny*.)
1^o*, 6567 (ii); 2^o*, 7091; in Com., and 3^o*, 8103 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 92.)

- BILL (No. 173) Respecting the Quebec Harbour Commissioners.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)**
1°^a, 6692 (ii); 2°^a m., 10189; in Com., and 3°^a, 10190 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 116.)
- BILL (No. 174) To amend the Penitentiary Act.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)**
1°^a, 6692 (ii); 2°^a, 8083; in Com., 8083; 3°^a, 8088 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 47.)
- BILL (No. 175) To incorporate the Ottawa and Hull Fire Relief Fund.—(Mr. Belcourt.)**
1°^a, 2°^a, 6899 (ii); in Com., and 3°^a, 7652 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 114.)
- BILL (No. 176) To incorporate the South Shore Line Railway Company.—(Mr. Flint.)**
1°^a, 6914 (ii); 2°^a, 7341; in Com., and 3°^a, 8837 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 82.)
- BILL (No. 177) To amend Chapter 32 of the Statutes of 1890, respecting certain Savings Banks in the Province of Quebec.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a m., 6914 (ii), 2°^a m., 7221; in Com., 8082; 3°^a, 8083 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 28.)
- BILL (No. 178) For granting to Her Majesty, certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial year ending the 30th June, 1900.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a, 2°^a; in Com., and 3°^a, 6918 (ii). (63-64 Vic., c. 2.)
- BILL (No. 179) For granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial year ending the 30th of June, 1900.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a, 2°^a and in Com., and 3°^a, 7220 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 3.)
- BILL (No. 180) Respecting and Restricting Chinese immigration.—(Sir Wilfrid Laurier.)**
1°^a m., 7406; 2°^a, 8162; in Com., 8182, 8189; 3°^a, 8285; Sen. Amts., 9525 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 32.)
- BILL (No. 181, from the Senate) For the relief of William Henry Featherstonhaugh.—(Mr. Gibson.)**
1°^a, 7511; 2°^a, 7652; in Com., and 3°^a, 8103 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 126.)
- BILL (No. 182) Respecting the construction of a branch railway from Charlottetown to Murray Harbour.—(Mr. Blair.)**
1°^a m., 7647; 2°^a and in Com., 8937; 3°^a, 8949 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 7.)
- BILL (No. 183 from the Senate) To amend the Companies Clauses Act.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a, 8062; M. for 2°, 8935; 2° and in Com., 8951; 3°^a, 8952 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 42.)
- BILL (No. 184) To amend the Tariff of Customs, 1897.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a, 2°^a, and in Com., 8089; 3°^a, 8160 (ii). (63-64 Vic., c. 15.)
- BILL (No. 185) To authorize the sale of the Yarmouth Steamship Company property to the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company's.—(Mr. Flint.)**
M. to receive Pat., 8278; 1°^a, 2°^a, 8280; in Com., and 3°^a, 8709; withdn., 8332 (iii).
- BILL (No. 186, from the Senate) Respecting the Red Deer River Valley Railway and Coal Company.—(Mr. Semple.)**
1°^a, 8524; 2°^a, in Com., and 3°^a, 9396 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 77.)
- BILL (No. 187) To aid in the prevention and settlement of trade disputes and the publication of statistical and industrial information.—(Mr. Mulock.)**
1°^a m., 8399; 2°^a m., 9368; in Com., 9392; 3°^a, 939 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 24.)
- BILL (No. 188) For granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service, for the financial year ending the 30th June, 1900.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a; 2°^a; in Com., and 3°^a, 8796 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 4.)
- BILL (No. 189) To amend the Act respecting the Judges of Provincial Courts.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)**
Prop. Res., 8794; 2° of Res., 8836; 1°^a of B., 8836; 2° m., 9083; in Com., 9146; 3° m., 9338; Sen. Amts., 10035, 10507 (iii).
- BILL (No. 190) Respecting the preservation of Game in the Yukon Territory.—(Mr. Sutherland.)**
1°^a m., 9059; 2°^a; in Com., and 3°^a, 9494 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 34.)
- BILL (No. 191) To amend the Post Office Act.—(Mr. Mulock.)**
1°^a m., 9332; 2°^a m., 9689; agreed to (Y. 79; N. 27) 9701; M. for Com., 9799; in Com., 9812; 3°^a m., 9836; 3°^a, 9838 (iii).
- BILL (No. 192, from the Senate) To amend the Bank Act Amendment Act.—(Mr. Fielding.)**
1°^a, 9903; 2°, 10188; in Com., 10188; 3°^a, 10189 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 27.)
- BILL (No. 193) To authorize the granting of subsidies in aid of the construction of the lines of railway and other works therein mentioned.—(Mr. Blair.)**
Prop. Res., 9333; M. for Com. on Res., 9906; in Com. on Res., 9960; 1°^a of B., 10029; 2°^a, and in Com., 10185; 3°^a m., 10190 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 8.)
- BILL (195) Further to amend the Act respecting the Judges of Provincial Courts.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)**
Prop. Res., 10304; 1°^a of B., 10304; 2°^a, in Com., and 3°^a, 10420 (iii).
- BILL (No. 196) For granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service, for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June, 1900, and the 30th June, 1901, and for other purposes relating to the Public Service.—(Mr. Paterson.)**
1°^a, 2°^a, in Com., and 3°^a, 10495 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 5.)
- BILL (No. 197) To amend the Dominion Controverted Elections Act.—(Mr. Fitzpatrick.)**
1°^a m., 10506; 2°, and in Com., 10506; 3°^a m., 10507 (iii). (63-64 Vic., c. 13.)
- BILODEAU, L. P., PAYMENTS TO: Ques. (Mr. Casgrain)**
3766 (ii).

- BINDER TWINE : in Com. of Sup., 6890 (ii), 8132 (iii).
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 — EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PURCHASE BY FARMERS :
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 — PRICE OF RAW MATERIALS : Ques. (Mr. McMillan) 2746 (i).
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 — PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS QUOTED FROM :—
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- BLOEMFONTEIN, CAPTURE OF, RAISING OF FLAG ON PARLT. BUILDINGS (Mr. Taylor) 1927 (i).
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- BLUE ROCK BREAKWATER : in Com. of Sup., 9895 (iii).
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- BOILER INSPECTION, PURCHASE AND SALE OF OLD BOILERS, &c. : (Mr. Taylor) 1474 (i).
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 — LEASE, REP., &c. : Ques. (Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper) 5894 (ii).
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 — INSUBORDINATION PRESS REPS. : Ques. of Privilege (Mr. Borden, Kings) 321 (i).
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- BRANCH LINES, P. E. I. RAILWAY, PETS., &c. : (Mr. Martin) 9060 (iii).
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- British Yukon Ry. Co.'s B. No. 20 (Mr. Fraser, Guysborough) 1^o*, 470 ; 2^o*, 589 (i) in Com., and 3^o*, 5922 (ii). (63-64 Vic., c. 53.)
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- **Featherstonhaugh, Wm. Henry, Relief B. No. 181** (Mr. *Gibson*) 1^o, 7511; 2^o, 7652; in Com., and 3^o, 8103 (iii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 126.)
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- Dom. Cotton Mills Co.'s B. No. 71** (Mr. *Quinn*) 1^o, 1553; 2^o, 2109 (i); in Com., and 3^o, 4479 (ii). (63-64 *Vic.*, c. 98.)
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